

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

NATASHA SIM

CDFI Program Manager,
National Community Reinvestment Coalition



Natasha Sim | CDFI Program Manager, National Community Reinvestment Coalition August 2022

Hometown

Auckland, New Zealand

Employer and Position

Attorney, NCRC

Describe your journey in the financial services industry and how your career has evolved to your current position.

I developed an interest in policy and finance early on and have managed to carve out a career that incorporates both. Currently, I support NCRC's CDFI in both a lending and regulatory/compliance capacity. I also work closely with NCRC's policy team to advocate on consumer lending and fair housing issues. Before starting with NCRC, I worked at a consumer finance advocacy organization on mortgage policy. In addition to my J.D., I also obtained an LL.M. focused on financial regulation.

What do you love most about what you do?

I love the team I work with. People are great at identifying strengths and talents in colleagues and creating an environment for those to flourish.

Hobbies?

I love being active. Especially since starting remote work, I'm really focused on making sure I still incorporate a lot of movement into my day. I do strength training regularly and also try to incorporate Pilates a couple times a week. It keeps my energy up and it's a great mood booster.

How long have you been a member of WHF?

Since I met Kara Ward in 2019 through a WHF talk. She got me involved with the Symposium Committee and I've been part of WHF ever since.

Please describe your involvement with WHF.

I have served on the Symposium Committee since 2019. And served on the Membership Committee last year. This year, I am thrilled to serve as a Board Member.

What have you gained from being a member?

A great network of colleagues, friends, and mentors. I have also received great opportunities to moderate conversations with some of the most influential people in finance and housing.

How do you make the best use of your day?

I'm an early riser, so I like to get some work done while people are still offline, and I can zone into my work before the influx of emails. I also try to simulate a commute through activity at the beginning and end of the day, which really helps with switching off and disconnecting. Spending time with friends is also always recharging. And I can't forget to include my cats, who add immense levity to every workday.

Who or what inspires you?

Someone once told me that "you either win or learn—you never lose." I incorporate this philosophy into everything I do. With this mindset, it's much easier to push yourself out of your comfort zone and pursue your ambitions.

What's the best advice you have ever received?

Much of success is down to luck and hard work, but it's also down to having the courage to go for it. Even if you don't know if you can do it. Even if you have never done it before. Even if you don't know anyone who's done it. Instead of asking "Why Me?", ask "Why Not Me?".