

Annika Lescott-Martinez

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Annika Lescott-Martinez is a dynamic leader with a demonstrated history of excelling at the intersections of community, government, and non-profit organizations. She has a proven track record in complex financial management and budgeting, non-profit strategy development and operations, fiscal and housing policy, leading large teams to efficiency, and compliance with federal regulations. A former Presidential Management Fellow, she was named “40 under 40” by *Crain’s New York Business* (2022) and a “Young Leader” by *Affordable Housing Finance Magazine* (2023).

WORK EXPERIENCE

New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), New York, NY **December 2018 - Present**
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer *February 2020 - Present*

- Actively manage the \$5 billion operating budget and \$1 billion investment portfolio to meet the organization's strategic goals.
- Implement a collaborative and transparent budgeting process that includes input from executives and 150 Property Managers and interactive financial management training for over 500 property management staff and resident leaders.
- Create financial decision-making models and cash management strategies to allocate resources supporting the mission.
- Assess management outcomes and recommend strategies for operational efficiency to property managers and executives.
- Represent the Authority under oath at City Council hearings and advocate for funding and policy changes with local, State, and Federal lawmakers.
- Create professional development opportunities and training curriculum for 150+ employees in the Finance Department to strengthen core financial and managerial competencies.
- Craft procedures and revise processes to safeguard funds, promote staff accountability, and mitigate potential fraud, waste and abuse of taxpayer monies.
- Produce award-winning annual financial statements for NYCHA and its subsidiaries per GAAP accounting principles. All financial statements during my tenure have received a clean opinion.
- Closed on \$400 million of municipal bonds (refunding and re-issuance), and reviewed financial conditions of real estate development deals to ensure favorable terms and long-term sustainability.

Senior Advisor to the Chief Financial Officer *December 2018 – February 2020*

- Negotiated the terms and programmatic focus of grant agreements and intra-agency memorandums totaling \$500 million.
- Made recommendations to senior leadership on budget, hiring, and program management to improve service delivery.
- Served as a liaison between critical back office functions and property management operations to improve agency collaboration.

Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, Washington, DC **July 2015 – November 2018**
Presidential Management Fellow, Housing Branch

- Oversaw a \$10+ billion portfolio of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs, including Public Housing, Housing Choice Vouchers, the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative, Jobs-Plus, and the Moving to Work demonstration.
- Designed the operating agreement, grantee requirements, applicant selection criteria, and evaluation framework to expand the Moving to Work demonstration from 39 to 139 Public Housing Authorities.
- Coordinated across the Executive Branch to develop the Making Affordable Housing Work Act of 2018, a bill that proposed amendments to the Housing Act of 1937 to reform rental assistance programs and improve national housing outcomes.
- Partnered with the Domestic Policy Council to issue policy guidance to advance White House priorities on housing reform.
- Evaluated HUD’s annual budget submission to the President, negotiated programmatic funding allocations, and created 10-year financial projections for the President’s Budget.

Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), New York, NY **September 2010 - August 2013**
Community Development Associate

- Engineered solutions to emerging housing preservation challenges in partnership with City agencies and nonprofit affordable housing developers across the five boroughs.
- Generated annual grant proposals for existing public and private donors, and developed pitch documents for new funders.
- Crafted technical assistance plans to address the financial and organizational challenges of 30 nonprofit housing developers.
- Devised a capacity building strategy to utilize \$300,000 in federal funds to target nonprofits serving low-income neighborhoods.

COMMUNITY AND PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP

Board Member, Public Housing Preservation Trust, New York, NY **June 2023 - Present**

- Appointed to the inaugural board of the State-created public entity tasked with rehabilitating and modernizing 25,000 public housing units.

Trustee, The Hotchkiss School, Lakeville, CT

January 2021 - Present

- Co-Chair of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee; Member of the Admissions & Financial Aid Committee; and Member of the Finance Committee.

Presidential Management Fellow, Washington, DC

July 2015 - July 2017

- Awarded a competitive fellowship in the United States government's flagship leadership development program.

EDUCATION

Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs, New York, NY

May 2015

Master of Public Administration | Public Policy, Urban Politics and Governance, and Financial Management

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC

May 2010

Dual Bachelor of Arts in International Studies and Romance Languages | International Politics and Latin America