

Education

Master of Urban and Regional Planning, Portland State University (candidate, 2023)

B.A. Anthropology, Reed College

Years in Industry: 1

Areas of Expertise

Housing Planning and Policy

Financial Analysis

Community-Owned Land

Amanda Ufheil-Somers, Research Analyst

Amanda Ufheil-Somers is a research analyst at ECONorthwest who specializes in housing planning and policy, development feasibility, and alternative land and home ownership structures such as community land trusts and real estate cooperatives. She has supported a variety of projects related to affordable housing and transit-oriented development through qualitative research, code review, financial analysis, and writing.

REPRESENTATIVE PROJECTS

Amanda has served as a research analyst on the following projects, unless otherwise noted:

- **Better Red Station Area Planning, TriMet—Portland, OR (Ongoing).** The overarching purpose of the Better Red Station Area Planning project is to stimulate catalytic projects that will shape growth on the MAX Red Line extending from the Portland International Airport through Downtown Portland to the City of Hillsboro. These projects will build on TriMet's long tradition of Transit-Oriented Development (TOD), with a focus on equitable development outcomes. ECONorthwest is leading a team to complete a range of station area planning projects for prioritized MAX Red Line stations, in partnership with TriMet. These projects range from joint development feasibility analysis and massing studies to development barriers and community gap analyses.
- **Los Angeles Westside Cities Regional Affordable Housing Fund (2022-Ongoing).** ECONorthwest is assisting the Westside Cities Council of Governments (WSCCOG), a joint powers authority representing the cities of Beverly Hills, Culver City, Santa Monica, West Hollywood, and the western portion of the City of Los Angeles and the County of Los Angeles to develop a comprehensive subregional approach to accelerate housing production and evaluate the feasibility and design considerations for a regional affordable housing fund to establish a dedicated and ongoing revenue stream for gap financing. As part of this project, ECONorthwest is conducting interviews with both active affordable and market-rate developers and Housing and Community Development Officials from each jurisdiction to identify barriers and challenges to development as well as inform the potential fund structure. The final

proposed program will fund activities that support new housing development as well as acquisition and rehabilitation of existing affordable units. The program would also help leverage state and federal funds, establish low-cost loans for construction and development, and possibly more. ECONorthwest is evaluating regional and jurisdictional strategies including a housing land trust, tax increment financing tools (e.g., Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District), housing land bank, local linkage fees, and more. The final deliverable will provide a detailed strategy, recommendations, and fund design that will be presented to the WSCCOG Board for review and adoption.

- **NeighborWorks ADU Model—St. Paul, MN (Ongoing).** ECONorthwest is researching and developing a local navigator or referral model based on best practices in active ADU markets to assist potential ADU owners as they discover, explore, and evaluate the viability of an ADU on a current or future property.
- **Washington Department of Commerce Condominium Conversion Study—Olympia, WA.** ECONorthwest reviewed issues associated with the conversion of multifamily buildings to affordable condominium ownership for first-time homebuyers. This work included an assessment of the current housing market and ownership patterns; statutory, regulatory, financial, or other barriers to condominium conversions; impacts to tenants caused by conversion, and the adequacy of programs and resources for tenant rental relocation and other assistance; and issues related to condominium governance and homeowners' associations.
- **Tucson Equitable TOD Strategic Plan—Tucson, AZ. Intern.** As part of a consultant team, ECONorthwest supported the development of an equitable Transit-Oriented Development strategy for a future bus rapid transit line along a 14.5-mile corridor by evaluating development opportunities to defined station area typologies and exploring TOD funding options.