

## LEADERSHIP PROFILE

Washington Center  
for Equitable Growth  
*Evidence for a stronger economy*

### President and CEO Washington Center for Equitable Growth Washington, DC

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*“The Washington Center for Equitable Growth is a non-profit research and grantmaking organization dedicated to advancing evidence-backed ideas and policies that promote strong, stable, and broad-based economic growth.”*

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### A UNIQUE AND TIMELY OPPORTUNITY

At a time of growing economic inequality, the ravaging economic impact of the pandemic, declining economic mobility, and persistent structural racism, the work of the Washington Center for Equitable Growth is more vital than ever. Its fundamental purpose is to examine how economic inequality – in all its forms – affects economic growth and stability, and what policymakers can do about it.



With the recent appointment of the Founding President and CEO, Heather Boushey, to the Biden Administration’s Council of Economic Advisers, the Board seeks a new leader to take this vital and unique organization to its next level of impact.

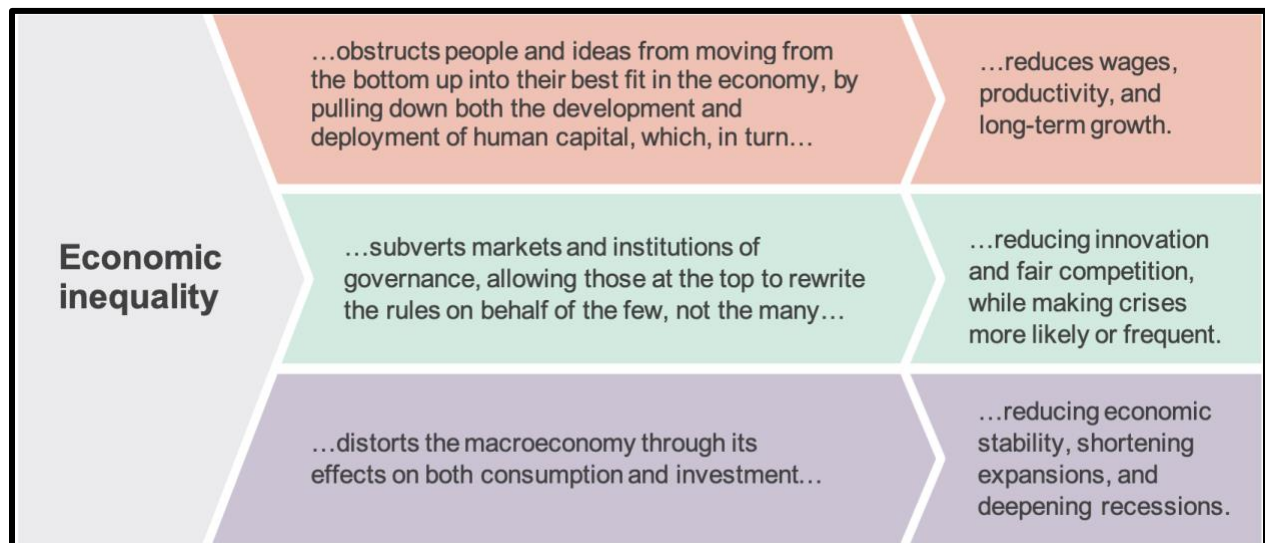
Equitable Growth is well positioned for this moment. Through cutting-edge **research**, vigorous **policy** analysis and sophisticated **communications**, Equitable Growth tells a larger story about how a new set of economic policy

choices, based on fact, not ideology, can not only reduce inequality but create strong, stable, and broad-based economic growth for more Americans.

## A COMPELLING MISSION

Since its founding in 2013, Equitable Growth has worked to build a bridge between academics and policymakers to ensure that research on equitable growth and inequality is relevant, accessible, and informative to the policymaking process. A new Administration creates opportunities for Equitable Growth to share the learnings from its broad academic network to key policymakers, as well as continuing to support compelling new academic research that will be important to policymakers now and over time.

Equitable Growth has the knowledge and infrastructure needed to deploy a wide range of experts to help diagnose how we got here and what is needed to address the fundamental weaknesses in our current understanding of what makes the economy grow. More than just a menu of tactics, Equitable Growth has a robust strategy and framework to communicate to policymakers, and an organizational model that provides a clear path forward.



Equitable Growth is a leading institution focused on the intersections between inequality and growth. For decades, many academics and policymakers have put too much weight on the view that equity must be sacrificed for growth and that lower taxes and deregulation will generate growth that trickles down to the rest of society. Equitable Growth's work is building a wave of evidence that inequality negatively affects our economy, that there are a wide range of solutions that can reduce economic inequality and support economic growth, and that the economy can be more stable and resilient with lower inequality.

The President, and organization, has the support and counsel of many advisors, including a Research Advisory Council consisting of academics across the country and a Steering Committee comprising leading scholars and former government officials. Steering Committee members have included Melody Barnes, Alan Blinder, Raj Chetty, Lisa Cook, Janet Currie, Karen Dynan, Jason Furman, Hilary Hoynes, Atif Mian, John Podesta, Emmanuel Saez, Robert Solow, Laura Tyson and Janet Yellen.

Equitable Growth is currently engaged in the following program areas to advance its mission:

- Family Economic Security
- Raising Wages
- Inequality and Mobility
- Market Structure and Competition
- Taxation
- Macroeconomics
- Measuring Economic Progress

In its program areas, Equitable Growth seeds new research, supports and engages networks in the academy and in policymaking circles, translates evidence-backed ideas so they are more accessible to policymakers and the public, and advances policy ideas.

The next leader of Equitable Growth has an opportunity, building upon a strong framework of research and policy initiatives, to influence the new Administration to drive broad-based growth, and to continue to foster cutting-edge research and policy ideas to address inequality.

Opportunities include:

- Building on seven years of investments in research, people, networks, and policy ideas to reshape economic debates.
- Influencing the output of official growth statistics, including the adoption of new measures (referred to as GDP 2.0) that focus on how economic growth is distributed across income brackets and subgroups.
- Exploring additional program areas that examine the nexus between equity and growth, including racial inequality and climate change.
- Understanding and applying the lessons from COVID re: equity and growth.
- Building capacity to strengthen the organization's influence, including bringing in new allies and engaging with state organizations.

## THE ORGANIZATION

Equitable Growth has grown from a start-up, incubated initially at the Center for American Progress, to an outstanding and engaged professional staff of 43, many of whom are represented by a newly formed union. Equitable Growth has grown steadily to operate with an annual budget of approximately \$10 million, facilitated by successful fundraising and stewardship led by the President, a professional development team, and the stable support of a broad and growing base of nationally recognized philanthropic supporters.

Equitable Growth has awarded more than \$6 million in grants to more than 200 grantees in seven years. It has a track record of supporting some of the nation's best up and coming scholars, as well as established scholars. For example, in 2018 *The Economist*, released their pick of the [decade's eight best young economists](#), which included five Equitable Growth grantees.

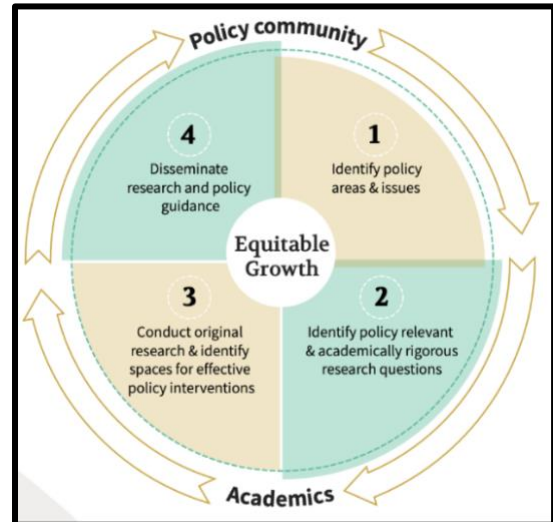


The in-house Equitable Growth team, comprised of highly skilled research, policy, and communications experts, support and elevate research to tell a new story regarding what we know about rising inequality and what policymakers can do to promote a stable and growing economy that advances equity for all, including people of color and others who have been historically marginalized and most adversely affected by inequality.

In addition to the core work in its primary program areas, Equitable Growth has produced or supported several major research products in recent years, including:

- [\*Recession Ready: Fiscal Policies to Stabilize the American Economy\*](#), a book with The Hamilton Project that advanced a set of evidence-based policy ideas for shortening and easing the adverse consequences of the next recession.
- [\*Vision 2020: Evidence for a Stronger Economy\*](#), a book consisting of 21 essays from leading academic economics and other social scientists containing ideas aimed at shaping the 2020 policy debate.
- [\*Unbound: How Inequality Constricts Our Economy and What We Can Do About It\*](#), a book by Heather Boushey that summarizes how economic inequality has become a drag on growth and identifies policies that can reduce inequality and boost growth.

Equitable Growth's comprehensive communications program is central to how it uses evidence to shape how the media, policymakers, stakeholders, advocates, and the broader public think about the impact of inequality on economic growth and mobility. Equitable Growth's media strategy goes beyond a simple focus on media hits to one that emphasizes building long-term relationships with journalists. Through earned media, elevation of its grantees, its dynamic digital presence including the website, blog, social media channels and continuous engagement with journalists, Equitable Growth is a go-to resource for journalists on inequality, in all of its forms, and how it affects economic growth and stability.



Equitable Growth's theory of change is in service of creating stronger knowledge feedback loops between the research and policymaking community to highlight the best evidence available in support of equitable growth and ultimately, increase adoption and implementation of mobility-enhancing economic policies that address rising inequality and support more broadly shared economic growth.

Policymakers and advocates seek evidence-based research to understand current challenges and to share with wider audiences. Equitable Growth is their go-to resource for advancing a new vision for our economy. For example, many of the policy proposals from Equitable Growth were incorporated into the early pandemic relief legislation this past spring. Among them were the provision of paid leave boosts in unemployment insurance, small businesses relief, and ensuring that corporate assistance benefited workers.

Equitable Growth has also played a central role in advancing a new measure, called *GDP 2.0*, which shows how growth and prosperity are distributed across the income ladder. Based on research developed by economists Thomas Piketty, Emmanuel Saez, and Gabriel Zucman, Equitable Growth translated and presented the GDP 2.0 idea to congressional leaders, coordinated hearings and legislation, and advocated for congressional appropriations to support production of the relevant data. As a result, the Bureau of Economic Analysis released its first disaggregated national income measure in March 2020.



## MANDATE FOR THE PRESIDENT

The President will continue to foster and safeguard Equitable Growth's reputation as a trusted source of high-quality academic research and data-driven, credible policy analysis for policymakers and their staffs, the media, partner organizations, opinion leaders, and the general public.

The President will work with a committed, exceptional Board and an engaged, diverse, and highly talented team, which includes a newly formed union. The President will:

**1. Advance the unique mission.**

- Embrace, embody, and advance all the components of the mission – bridging research *and* policymaking and exploring the connections between equity *and* growth.
- Determine how Equitable Growth can best engage the policymaking community.
- Position Equitable Growth as a thought leader and catalyst for change both within the research and policy communities.

**2. Raise institutional funds.**

- Have the aptitude and desire to be the principal fundraiser for Equitable Growth, in partnership with the development team and other stakeholders.
- Convincingly communicate Equitable Growth's unique story and value proposition with a wide range of foundations and major donors.

**3. Be the primary spokesperson and a credible ambassador to a broad range of external stakeholders.**

- Engage as a respected peer and thought leader with academic economists and the economic policymaking community.
- Compellingly and concisely tell the story of Equitable Growth, its theory of change, and its work product to the key audiences of academia, policymakers, opinion leaders and the media.
- Diplomatically foster collaboration within and beyond the Equitable Growth community, and value working with a diverse network.

**4. Provide strategic leadership and vision.**

- Provide a clear and ambitious vision for the future, and for the organization, that inspires the team, partners and key stakeholders.
- Collaborate with the staff, Board, and others to identify opportunities to expand Equitable Growth's impact and influence in shaping the narrative about what makes the economy grow.
- Identify and prioritize emerging issue areas.

- Define strategic goals and oversee the translation into day-to-day work.

**5. Lead and manage a high-performing and diverse team.**

- Attract, develop, retain, and lead a senior team and staff.
- Exemplify and promote organizational values of integrity, innovation, equity and inclusion, accountability, respect and collaboration.
- Foster strong management practices, including setting objectives and priorities, ensuring budgetary oversight and alignment of resources, growing the management competency of the staff, and fostering communication and collaboration across the organization.
- Continue and advance the diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts underway, both internally and as a substantive component of the work.

## THE CANDIDATE

**The President will be an accomplished, credible peer and thought leader among academic economists and the economic policymaking community, committed to the unique mission of Equitable Growth.** The President will have:

- A PhD in Economics and/or significant economic policymaking experience.
- A demonstrated commitment to Equitable Growth's mission of advancing evidenced-backed ideas and policies to promote strong, stable, and broad-based economic growth.
- Relevant experience in the academic and policy realms.
  - Familiarity with academic research related to Equitable Growth
  - Demonstrated performance of influencing policy outcomes
- Experience advancing a mission through public speaking, writing, and media exposure.
- A commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion in policy and in practice.
- The cultural competency and emotional intelligence to engage in relevant conversations around race and equity with a wide variety of stakeholders and staff.
- A strong political antenna, including a sophisticated understanding of political dynamics and opportunities. Relationships with elected and appointed leaders are a plus.
- Experience building and working effectively with teams, partnerships, and coalitions, and a collaborative style that values and includes people and ideas.

- Management experience of a senior leadership team, ideally in a nonprofit. Experience working with a union is a plus.
- Respect and commitment to Equitable Growth's values:
  - Innovative. We seed and support new and bold economic thinking.
  - Integrity. We approach our work with intention, transparency, and rigor to achieve outcomes that reflect the complexity facing U.S. communities.
  - Equity and Inclusion. We strive to understand and embrace equity and diversity in our culture through continuous learning and reflection.
  - Accountability. We hold ourselves responsible for creating the change we want to see in the world.
  - Respect. We welcome diverse contributions, experiences and expertise in our work.
  - Collaboration. We create pathways for partnerships among internal and external stakeholder to deliver better results.

## THE RELATIONSHIPS

The President and CEO reports to the Board of Directors and has four direct reports, which include a Vice President, Director of Development, Research Assistant and Special Assistant.

The President will have an opportunity to maintain critical relationships with a consortium of leading national philanthropic funders and proactively interact with a wide range of donors and prospects.



## THE LOCATION

The Washington Center for Equitable Growth is located in Washington D.C., blocks away from the White House and a short cab ride from the nation's capitol.



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To suggest a prospect or for potential consideration, kindly email a cover letter and resume, to: [EquitableGrowth@BoardWalkConsulting.com](mailto:EquitableGrowth@BoardWalkConsulting.com), or call

**Crystal Stephens or Patti Kish**  
404-262-7392

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