

**Biographical Statement**  
**Annetta Seecharran**  
**Executive Director, Chhaya Community Development Corporation**

Annetta Seecharran has spent more than 25-years breaking down barriers and creating opportunities that rebalance power and access for marginalized communities. She began her career as a youth organizer in the Bronx, where she grew up. She navigated her way through international development work, but was pulled back to New York City to serve her own community, for whom there were limited culturally or linguistically accessible social service programs.

Annetta is currently the Executive Director of Chhaya Community Development Corporation, a housing and economic justice organization serving Indo-Caribbean and South Asian New Yorkers. Previously, Annetta was the Director for Policy & Advocacy at United Neighborhood Houses, advocating on behalf of 500,000 low-income New Yorkers served by New York City's settlement houses. From 2001 – 2009, Annetta served as the Executive Director of South Asian Youth Action (SAYA), the pioneering organization dedicated to ensuring success of low-income South Asian and Indo-Caribbean youth in New York City.

Before SAYA, Annetta spent five years at the International Youth Foundation, where ran YouthNet International, a best-practices network of youth development organizations in over 30 countries, and created YouthActionNet, now a leading global initiative promoting youth social entrepreneurship.

A Guyanese immigrant, Annetta holds an M.A. in international political economy and development from Fordham University, a B.A. in political science from Manhattanville College, and Executive Management certificates from Harvard and Columbia business schools. She served on the 2018 New York City Charter Revision Commission and currently serves as a New York City Civic Engagement Commissioner. Annetta is also a long serving board member of the New York Immigration Coalition, a founding board member of NYIC Action and a member of numerous other boards and advisory councils.