

The Project 1.2.6 Team



Christopher Cutter

Christopher Cutter, Program Officer and Chief Advisor to Project 126, has significant experience in community-based non-profit work. Prior to joining the Elmezzi Foundation, Chris designed a civic engagement volunteer network for downtown Los Angeles while under the tutelage of nationally-recognized community development expert Bill Watanabe at Little Tokyo Service Center. Chris' previous experience also includes: serving as evaluation consultant for Washington University in Saint Louis' social entrepreneurship competition, co-designing a non-profit in Lusaka, Zambia serving street children, directing an 80-member community service program, serving as consultant to HIV/AIDS-related non-profits throughout Africa, and working directly to improve life for low-income college students, the chronically mentally ill, and persons with physical and mental disabilities. Chris has a Master's Degree in Social and Economic Development from Washington University in Saint Louis, and is originally from the Berkshires in Western Massachusetts.

Angela Ongoco

Drawing on her background in both public and private sectors, Angela Ongoco leads the Elmezzi Foundation's community development initiative Project 1-2-6. She has experience in economic consulting. She has also lived and worked in Western Kenya for the Sauri Millennium Village Project; Beijing, China for the United Nations Development Fund for Women; and the Philippines for Innovations for Poverty Action. Angela co-founded and led the Bergen County Academies Habitat for Humanity Campus Chapter, as well as the Barnard-Columbia Undergraduate Public Health Society. Her interest in social and economic development led her to found a t-shirt company that donates its profits to organizations that promote sustainable solutions to end poverty. She is a graduate of Barnard College with a combined degree in Economics and Human Rights.



Jose Rivero

As President of the Thomas & Jeanne Elmezzi Foundation, Jose Rivero brings over 35 years of executive-level management skills (and good looks!). He has extensive experience developing and growing all aspects of organizational operations. As Vice President of Operations for two leading computer consulting firms, Jose draws upon his proven team building skills with strong client orientation. With a certification in Project Management, Jose has a keen understanding of the need for innovative and strategic planning. Jose has been on the Board of Directors of the Elmezzi Foundation for over 7 years. He takes a hands-on approach in leading the Elmezzi Foundation, actively participating in various grantee programs.

Ellen Marrone

Ellen Marrone, summer fellow with Elmezzi Foundation's Project 1-2-6, is a recent graduate of Columbia University. She majored in Urban Studies, exploring urban policy and society through both practical and theoretical approaches. For over five years now, New York City has been her home and subject of the majority of her research and work, including involvement on such issues as public housing, neighborhood economic development, and urban "marginality." This past year, after assisting anthropologist Dr. Janice Perlman publish a 40-year study of families living in Rio de Janeiro's slums, Ellen traveled to Rio, Brazil where she worked with local and international NGOs.



Vidur Chopra

Vidur has joined the Elmezzi Foundation as a Summer Fellow for Project 1-2-6. In the past, he worked with a non-profit in the field of education research and assessment in rural India. He also has experience in the field of early childhood development where he worked with a team of other consultants at UNICEF, Syria for refining their early childhood development vision and strategy. He has substantial experience in stakeholder management and fund-raising for non-profits. He has also worked as a youth trainer for leadership development and has facilitated at youth conferences and forums in India and abroad. Vidur graduated with a Masters in Development Economics from Yale University and is originally from New Delhi, India.

Lin Zhang

Now working as a Summer Fellow for Project 1-2-6, Lin Zhang just received her Master of Science in Urban Planning degree from Columbia University. Lin is from Shanghai, China. Before this volunteer fellowship for Elmezzi Foundation, Lin's internship experience includes, assistant architect for Architectural Design & Research Institute, Tsinghua University, research assistant for Vernacular Architecture Studio in School of Architecture, Tsinghua University, and assistant project manager in Urban Technical Assistant Project (UTAP), a studio affiliated to Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation (GSAPP), Columbia University. She finished her undergraduate study at Tsinghua University and received Bachelor of Architecture degree in 2007.

