

Meet Our Senior Leaders



Smitha Seshadri

Executive Vice President of Development



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Q Tell us a little about yourself. What led you to your role at BRIDGE?

I grew up in India and Kenya, and was fortunate to visit many countries and experience many cultures at a young age. These experiences exposed me to how people in various parts of the world have shaped their built environments over time. I’ve always been intrigued by the way housing can create communities and influence culture. That set me on a course towards a career in affordable housing development.

BRIDGE co-founder Don Turner’s spirit of social entrepreneurship and his vision resonated with me and brought me to BRIDGE. Our mission to strengthen communities and improve the lives of our residents aligns with my values and provides me with a sense of purpose.

Q What is your role at BRIDGE today?

I am responsible for real estate development in Northern California and the Portland metro area. I feel lucky to work with a team of brilliant people at an organization with the resources and capability to execute large, complex developments that impact a lot of lives.

I also oversee construction and design quality throughout our portfolio. With development costs rising, BRIDGE is focused on construction innovation and becoming even more nimble and cost effective in our work.

Q Please tell us about a BRIDGE project you have found particularly meaningful.

I’ve had the opportunity to work on many complex and interesting projects at BRIDGE. My first project was the adaptive reuse of St. Joseph’s, an underutilized, 100+ year-old campus in East Oakland with several commercial office tenants. We acquired the nearly 3-acre property and converted it to a multi-generational affordable housing development for seniors and families, preserving the historic buildings while adding new buildings with compatible architectural details. The site is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. As someone fascinated with history, architecture, housing and community development, working on this project with an exceptional design team was a very satisfying experience.

Q Is there anything you find encouraging about the future of affordable housing?

I am excited about a number of recent bills that California has passed to streamline and expedite high density housing production, particularly in urban areas near transit. We desperately need to increase housing supply, and seeing the State take these positive steps to support housing development is encouraging.