



# RISING SUN

## CENTER FOR OPPORTUNITY

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### Rising Sun Center for Opportunity Announces New CEO

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA – February 25 - Rising Sun Center for Opportunity is pleased to announce the selection of Julia Hatton as the organization's new Chief Executive Officer. Hatton, who most recently served as Rising Sun's Interim Co-Executive and Director of Strategy Development & Policy, assumed the post on February 20.

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Hatton joined Rising Sun in 2012 and directed the organization's workforce development efforts for over five years as Director of Youth Programs and Director of Programs before taking on its policy and strategy work around equity, climate, and workforce. Hatton has been a strong voice for ensuring that green jobs are quality jobs that provide accessible pathways out of poverty, and that climate investments and programs prioritize underserved and hard-to-reach communities. Says Hatton, "Our climate crisis both highlights and exacerbates economic and racial injustice, as low-income communities and communities of color are hit first and worst. This also means that we have an incredible opportunity – and, I'd argue, a moral and economic imperative – to build an inclusive, sustainable, regenerative economy that works for everyone. But we need to lead with equity at the center."

In 2018, Hatton became the organization's first Director of Strategy Development & Policy, responsible for raising Rising Sun's visibility, building meaningful relationships with partners, and advocating for economic, racial, and gender equity through a climate and workforce lens. In 2019, Hatton also acted as interim Director of Development and Communications before becoming one of Rising Sun's interim Co-Executives from August 2019-February 2020.

Over the past fifteen years, Hatton has worked across the public, private, and nonprofit sectors, focusing on workforce and economic development and environmental justice. Immediately prior to Rising Sun, she designed and implemented the Connecticut Efficient Healthy Homes Initiative, the nation's first utility-funded healthy homes and weatherization program for low-income families. Hatton grew up in Chicago, where she graduated summa cum laude from Northwestern University before completing the Coro Fellowship



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in Public Affairs in St. Louis. Today, Hatton lives with her husband and their daughter in the East Bay.

"I found my passion and my purpose when I joined Rising Sun in 2012. I couldn't be more excited by this next step. It's an honor and a privilege to do this work with our exceptional staff, Board, program participants, stakeholders, and local communities. Through these partnerships, Rising Sun is positioned to drive a just transition in the Bay Area and beyond, putting people first," said Hatton.

Hatton's selection comes during a year of momentous change and opportunity for Rising Sun, which relied on a dedicated Board of Directors-led Transition Committee to reach this decision.

"The Board and our Transition Committee are thrilled to announce Julia Hatton as the next CEO of Rising Sun. Julia has been a critical member of the leadership team at Rising Sun and we are confident the organization will continue to thrive under her direction," said Melissa Koenigsberg, Rising Sun's Board Chair and head of the Transition Committee.

### About Rising Sun Center for Opportunity

Rising Sun Center for Opportunity empowers individuals to achieve environmental and economic sustainability for themselves and their communities. By integrating workforce development with climate and social justice, Rising Sun paves pathways to the middle class in disadvantaged communities and addresses the effects of climate change on the most vulnerable. Since its founding in 1994, Rising Sun has prepared more than 2,800 youth and adults for high-road employment and helped over 50,000 households in the Bay Area and San Joaquin County reduce their carbon footprint.

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