

Speaker Spotlight



ANNA LEE Vice President, Initiatives & Public Programming United Way of Metro Chicago

Anna Lee is United Way of Metro Chicago's Vice President of Initiatives and Public Programming. In this role, Anna works with community leaders, public sector partners, donors, and academic institutions in innovative efforts to build a stronger region. Anna holds a deep understanding of United Way's core work as she co-managed and served as the Chicago Community Trust's point person on the Chicago COVID-19 Response Fund, a partnership between the two organizations, which raised over \$35 million to support the region's residents most in need of support amid the COVID-19 crisis.

Prior to United Way, Anna was at the Chicago Community Trust as a Senior Director of Community Impact. She led the Trust's Addressing Critical Needs strategy which included change-making efforts in building pathways to stability, promoting well-being and strengthening social cohesion. Under Anna's direction, this grantmaking strategy responded to the region's most urgent needs and, advanced policies and practices in strengthening the human service sector.

Before her time at the Trust, Anna was the Director of Operations for Year Up Chicago, leading strategic planning efforts and overseeing day-to-day operations for the organization. She also held leadership roles in the public sector, including the Director of Research, Reporting & Communications and, later, the Director of Strategic Partnerships and Management at the Chicago Housing Authority. Anna also directed the contracting process at the City of Chicago's Department of Family and Support Services and oversaw community development grants at the City's Office of Budget and Management's Empowerment Zone.

Anna earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Boston College and master's degrees in divinity and public policy, both from the University of Chicago. Anna is a Leadership Greater Chicago Fellow and serves on the boards of Forefront and Disability Lead.

Anna is a proud daughter of Korean immigrants. She enjoys exploring and learning from cities, especially her beloved Chicago. She resides in the West Ridge neighborhood with her family.