



**IBO BALTON TRICIA**  
**COMMUNITY DIETZ**  
**PLANNER AWARD** ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER,  
HOUSING INCENTIVES, HPD

The past several years have been a period of unique strain on New York City's public agencies, who rely on devoted public servants to keep programs and processes working in the face of often immense challenges. **Tricia Dietz**, Assistant Commissioner for Housing Incentives at the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development, embodies this dedication to the mission of public service, and the type of leadership needed to build the ranks of committed housing professionals within the city.

Tricia has made numerous contributions to the city's affordable housing landscape over the past decade, foremost through her work on the Inclusionary Housing program. She approaches her career with the conviction that housing is both an intrinsic human need and a cornerstone of strong communities. Her passion lies at the intersection

of economic development, urban planning, and affordability, and is aimed at improving the lives of city residents. Although still relatively early in her career, Tricia has already earned a stellar reputation within the affordable housing industry and among her colleagues and staff.

Tricia grew up in Tustin, California, but it was her frequent childhood trips to China with family that sparked her fascination with cities and urban development. Her curiosity was ignited by witnessing the rapid expansion of second-tier cities and the inattention of government policies to issues of resident displacement. During her undergraduate classes at the University of California, San Diego, she studied Economics and Urban Studies, bridging the gap between economic theory and its real-world effects on people, communities, and the lifecycles of cities. She delved deeper by pursuing a Master's degree in Urban Planning at the NYU Wagner Graduate School of Public Service. Graduate school and her experience working at the NYU Furman Center sparked her specific passion for housing and its impact on both residents and the life of a city.

Tricia's initial role at HPD as an Inclusionary Housing Project Manager, at a time when the City's Mandatory Inclusionary Housing program had just been adopted, provided a foundation for her career by familiarizing her with the process and nuances of public-private collaboration to create affordable housing. After a brief sojourn as a Senior Analyst at HR&A Advisors, she returned to HPD's Office of Development as Chief of Staff through the COVID-19 pandemic, a time when the agency confronted unprecedented challenges, burdened by increased workloads and a pressure to produce more housing all while resources were thin.

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Tricia became Assistant Commissioner for Inclusionary Housing, a team with an 80 percent vacancy rate at the time. Rebuilding the Inclusionary Housing team was Tricia's first priority and accomplishment within the role. She learned the importance of good management and of balancing the needs of supporting staff with the desire to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of programs.

In July 2022, she assumed leadership of both the Inclusionary Housing and Housing Incentives divisions, taking on additional vacancies and leading the rebuilding and consolidation of tax incentive programs and Low Income Housing Tax Credits. Since then, Tricia has focused on promoting and improving these non-capital tools to support the development and preservation of all types of housing necessary to ensure that the City can remain a diverse, affordable city.

Tricia thrives on complex problem solving and seeing issues through to their conclusion. She finds immense satisfaction in collaborating with her talented team, empowering them by fostering connections, providing resources, motivating them to excel and value the significance of their work for the city. The Ibo Balton Community Planner Award recognizes often unsung heroes in the public sector who significantly improve the lives of the city's residents through their housing, planning, and community development careers. CHPC is delighted to honor Tricia with this award.