



community news | april 2019



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We're delighted to introduce you to our newest borrower, **Moniker Group!** You might only know Moniker for the fantastic coffee they serve at Moniker General Liberty Station, but they're actually a family of seven companies and eight brands unified by a desire to create a lasting, meaningful impact in the community.

Working closely with Carrie, our Senior Manager of Impact & Borrower Services, Moniker Group founder and CEO Ryan Sisson was able to put his passion for improving communities to work and crafted a strategic plan for intentional impact, beginning with Moniker's cafe and event space in Liberty Station.

Inspired by Liberty Station's history as the former Naval Training Center - San Diego where his grandfather was a boot camp instructor and his uncle went through training, Ryan committed to providing **quality jobs for military spouses and veterans**. San Diego has the nation's highest concentration of military families, and military spouses face disproportionately **high rates of unemployment** and underemployment.

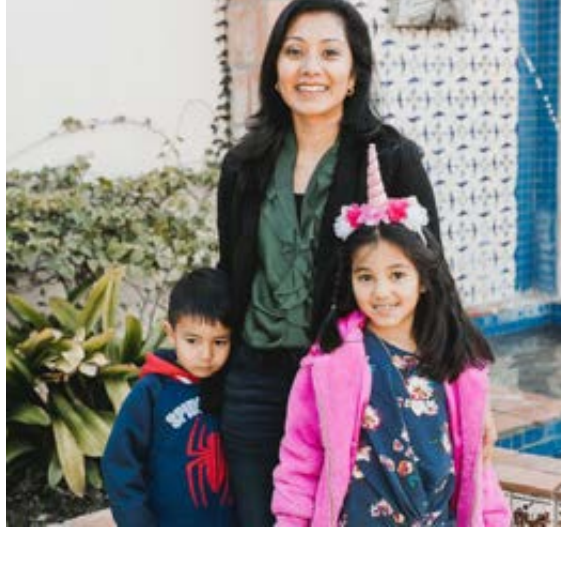
[Read on to learn more about Moniker Group and our investment.](#)



"Our heart is to leave a lasting impact in our community. Partnering with Mission Driven Finance will help us make that a reality."

- Ryan Sisson, CEO & Founder of Moniker Group

If you know a tenacious, mission-driven business owner like Ryan, **[send them our way.](#)**



Laying the foundations of community

This month, we sat down to interview our Chief Operating Officer, Shreya Shah Sasaki, about her work on the MAAC board. Learn more about what **MAAC** is doing to improve family health outcomes, support recovery from addiction, create affordable housing, and more **[on our blog.](#)**

Meet the team

Investing in economic opportunity is truly a team effort. Meet the brains and passion behind the scenes.

Tyana King Smith

Community Communications Coordinator

Originally from Milwaukee, WI, Tyana can discuss different varieties of cheese for hours and has very strong opinions about the proper terminology for a drinking fountain (hint: it's bubbler). Since November, Tyana has shared her love of storytelling and racial and gender equity with our team as she executes our communication initiatives.

Since graduating from Arizona State with a Business Communication degree and joining our team, Tyana's already begun working on her master's degree in Nonprofit and Corporate Communication at Johns Hopkins (and is expecting baby #2!).

In addition to a non-linear career trajectory which includes five years working as a traveling technician for Nielsen TV Ratings and communications contract work with a local nonprofit, Tyana has strong personal ties to the San Diego military community as a Navy spouse and daughter of two Navy veterans who met in Imperial Beach.



- ★**[Breaking the cycle of disinvestment in lower-income communities](#)**★ [NPR]
- [San Diego receives \\$3M investment from JPMorgan Chase's AdvancingCities inclusive growth challenge](#)** [San Diego Regional EDC]
- [A new explanation for the stubborn persistence of the racial wealth gap](#)** [Washington Post]
- [The myth of the subprime mortgage crisis](#)** [Duke]
- [Cultivating the next generation of women on Forbes Midas list](#)** [Forbes]
- [How to funnel capital to the American Heartland](#)** [Financial Times]
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