

Professional Bio



Vong Thao

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Vong Thao joins Rooted Philanthropic with an extensive career in the nonprofit, government, and private sector including 15 years in economic development work.

In the mid 2000's, he was a Project Technician for United States Department of Agriculture-Farm Service Agency. Vong began his career assisting farmers to navigate federal farm programs in the Pacific Northwest. Thereafter, he joined Kraft Foods, now Mondelez, as a Sales Rep overseeing southern parts of Minnesota. Later in life, he joined a few nonprofits in Minnesota developing their Economic Development departments by building out their business technical assistance and lending services.

He spent over 5 years with municipalities overseeing multimillion dollar development projects and managing business loan portfolios for the City of Saint Paul and City of Brooklyn Center.

Vong has a Bachelor of Arts in Society Ethics and Human Behavior from the University of Washington and an Master in Business Administration from the City University of Seattle. Vong also holds an Economic Development Financial Professional Certification from the National Development Council and is currently in pursuit of an Economic Developer Certification from the International Economic Development Council. He was selected as a presenter for Enactus representing City University of Seattle in 2010, Kraft Diversity Council in 2011, Community in the Capital fellow with National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development in 2017, Emerging Leader Mentorship Program in 2018, an Emerging Brooklyn Center Leadership Fellow in 2022 and completed the Shannon Leadership Institute in 2022. Vong is on the board of Hmong Cultural Center, serving as Treasurer.

He's also a Peony Farmer in Mora, MN. During the Spring and early Summer weekends, he spends his time tending to his two acre farm of peonies, specializing in selected color varieties such as white, pink, red, and coral. As a 2nd generation US farmer, Vong takes pride in his agriculture endeavors and would like to be a more sustainable agriculture producer for years to come.

Vong currently resides in Fridley, MN and spends his free time training his homer pigeons.