

Black History Month

Ricky Scipio: Chief Executive

The staff team is led by Chief Executive Ricky Scipio, who joined the organisation in 2001. Ricky is responsible for the performance, development and financial viability of the Association within the strategic direction set by the Board. Prior to joining Westway, Ricky was Housing Director for a leading London Association responsible for over 5,000 homes. His portfolio covered, tenancy management, income collection, asset management, supported housing and community development. Ricky is also a board member of one of the largest RP's in the country



An MBE for Leslie

Longstanding Westway resident Leslie Palmer, who lives at Westhill Court, gained an MBE in October 2017, for services to the modern Notting Hill Carnival. Leslie is Trinidadian and has a passion for community and Caribbean culture.



Dr. Edwin Sawacha, MBE is a highly qualified civil engineer by background, currently a project management and construction management advisor

Westway Housing Association's former chair, **David Mark**, was awarded an MBE for services to the community in the 2014 New Year Honours list. As a founding member, David was central to the setting up of Westway Housing Association as a small, black-led, community organisation that could help meet the housing needs and aspirations of local people – particularly those from the black and ethnic minority communities.

Previn Tailor: Director of Financial Service

Previn joined Westway HA in November 2014, and has previously held senior finance roles in a diverse range of organisations including 'blue chip' private sector companies.

He is a seasoned, results driven CIMA qualified accountant with extensive experience in providing inspirational leadership and strategic guidance to staff, management and Board on all financial and related matters. Demonstrated ability to streamline business operations through change improvement to increase efficiency. Responsible for ensuring timely and accurate preparation and presentation of financial data in accordance with the overall strategy of the Association.

Previn is also a voluntary Board member and Chair of Audit & Risk Committee in a small BAME housing association.



Why is black history month celebrated?

Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing the central role of blacks in U.S. history. Also known as African American History Month, the event grew out of "Negro History Week," the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating black history.

The Fair Housing Act of 1968 prohibited discrimination concerning the sale, rental and financing of housing based on race, religion, national origin or sex. Intended as a follow-up to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the bill was the subject of a contentious debate in the Senate, but was passed quickly by the House of Representatives in the days after the assassination of civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. The Fair Housing Act stands as the final great legislative achievement of the civil rights era.



Meet our board and committee



Debra Redhead-Allen (Treasurer)



Meera Bedi



Robert Greene (Chairman)



Chinyere Ugwu (Vice Chair)



RHODAN GORDON

Formed **Black People's Information Centre**. Mr Gordon was a member of the Mangrove Nine, a group of British black activists tried for inciting a riot at a 1970 protest against the police targeting of The Mangrove, a Caribbean restaurant in Notting Hill, West London. Their high-profile trial in 1971 at the Old Bailey lasted for two months finishing with five of the defendants being completely acquitted.



Adeleye ('Leye') Agbede



Leroy McKenzie (Tenant Representative)



Addy Olubajo



