

## **Rahwa Ghirmatzion**

### **BIO**

Rahwa Ghirmatzion is the Deputy Director at People United for Sustainable Housing, Inc. (PUSH Buffalo), a local membership-based community organization that combines green affordable housing construction, community-based renewable energy projects, housing weatherization, green jobs training, green infrastructure, and vacant land restoration projects toward the goal of creating pathways to employment for neighborhood residents while, reducing our carbon footprint. Rahwa was born in Asmera, Eritrea in the middle of a civil war. She came to WNY at the age of 8 by way of Sudan as a refugee. She was educated in Buffalo Public Schools and then the University at Buffalo. Over the past fifteen years, Rahwa has worked with community-based organizations throughout WNY that promote community development across sectors. Working in primarily underserved and underrepresented communities to ensure that alternative voices are heard, fostered and encouraged to participate in building a more just, equitable and civically engaged community. In addition to her work at PUSH Buffalo, Rahwa also serves as the executive director of Ujima Company, Inc. (aka Ujima Theatre) a political and activist theatre company now in its 37<sup>th</sup> year and a founding board member of the Partnership for the Public Good (PPG), a local think and do tank.