

**Candidate Name:** Tamara Hamai

**Board Position Candidacy:** AEA Board Member-at-Large

**Title:** President

**Affiliation:** Hamai Consulting

**Discipline:** Management consulting, business coaching, organizational strategy, organizational behavior, leadership, operations management, child and youth development, health, behavioral health, public health, education, collaborative evaluation, utilization-focused evaluation, culturally responsive and equitable evaluation, trauma-informed evaluation

**Practitioner and/or Academic Focus:** Practitioner – Consultant

**Geographic Representation:** Located in California, but my work is primarily in the United States and is not geographically limited

**Area(s) of Work Application:** Small and medium for-profit businesses, public agencies, nonprofits, foundations, child and family services and systems

**AEA Member Since:** 2012

**AEA Positions Held:** I have served in leadership positions with several TIGs, including with the Independent Consulting TIG (Program Chair, Chair Elect, Chair, and Outgoing Chair), Nonprofit and Foundations TIG (Leadership Council member and Program Co-Chair), and Leadership and Organizational Performance TIG (Program Co-Chair). Additionally, I served on the TIG Scan Task Force, supported the Systems in Evaluation TIG with their website, and was a reviewer for many years for different groups, such as the Quantitative Methods TIG and the Professional Development Workshops. Although not officially part of AEA, I serve as the Co-Coordinator of the Local Affiliate Collaborative and lead the San Francisco Bay Area Evaluators Affiliate.

**Statement:**

*My Background and Qualifications*

I have received so much from the AEA community that I am deeply motivated to give back and help the association grow into the future. Prior to joining AEA, I had launched my evaluation consulting firm in 2008 after leaving a government job as a community action researcher. I first connected with AEA in 2011 when my faculty at Claremont Graduate University encouraged me to attend, and I became a member the next year. The people I met and relationships I have built through AEA gave me an informal community of practice, to explore and work through what evaluation is, isn't, and should be.

I have been an active AEA member and am committed to the evaluation community outside of the AEA organization. I served in leadership positions with several TIGs, including with the Independent Consulting TIG, Nonprofit and Foundations TIG, and Leadership and Organizational Performance TIG. I served on the TIG Scan Task Force, and supported the Systems in Evaluation TIG with their website. Outside of AEA, I coordinate the San Francisco Bay Area Evaluators affiliate, co-coordinate the Local Affiliate Collaborative (a community of affiliate leaders), and coordinate the First 5 Bay Area Evaluators group (a group for people in evaluation roles with First 5 County Commissions).

Beyond AEA and its affiliates:

- I am a business owner and business coach. I have grown and maintained my own consulting business for 18 years. I have worked with organizations of varying sizes, helping them with their leadership and sustainability.
- I am a Board Member for nonprofits. I am currently Treasurer for the San Mateo County Asian American Pacific Islander Alliance. I also served on the

Board for the National Partnership to End Interpersonal Violence Across the Lifespan (as Board President, as well as other positions).

- I have supported planning for conferences. I served on the Planning Committee for the annual San Diego Summit for the Institute for Violence Abuse and Trauma for multiple years.

#### *My Vision for AEA*

For years, I have been grappling with and tackling the topics that AEA is dealing with today. If you elect me to the AEA board, I will advocate for the following issues:

**Evaluating evaluation:** As a field, we struggle to communicate the value of evaluation with coworkers, funders, program staff, and clients, especially with people who do not already know what evaluation is. This became more explicit as federal funding sources constricted and increased competition for resources. Our work is about exploring what we do and why we do it, identifying intended and desired value and outcomes, measuring impact and the context of impact, and using the results to drive change. Yet, we do not evaluate evaluation. For people outside of our field to understand and value our work, we must change this. It is overdue for us to challenge ourselves as an association, community, and profession about what our identity, role, and purpose are and will be in the future.

**Expanding who identifies as an evaluator:** AEA has an opportunity to recognize and embrace people who are engaged in evaluation without the evaluation label. As I have expanded my practice to serve for-profit businesses, I have seen how even small businesses impact their workforce and customers, and how they benefit from and value evaluation. If we expand beyond our roots of academia, philanthropy, and government, there is a world of potential members who engage in evaluative thinking and evaluation without knowing that it's called evaluation. Private business shapes our social realities beyond what falls under corporate social responsibility.

**Shifting AEA programming beyond academic activities:** AEA's programming is heavily influenced by academia. We advance evaluation best practices and the profession through training, formal conferences and institutes, and written publication, with connection opportunities that depend on the ability of members to commit unpaid time to lead and/or engage. Expanding programming to focus on relationship building, sharing new approaches, and co-creating new things can create a new, more connected and sustainable future for AEA and its members. For example, we can re-imagine the role of TIGs to focus on community building, and partner with affiliates to provide localized opportunities to connect more intentionally and purposefully through venues such as regional conferences and events, facilitated discussions, writing and co-creation retreats, collective care and rest, and job fairs.