**May yer (“mine-za”) Thao** is the President and CEO of the Hmong American Partnership (HAP) and its national subsidiary, the Hmong National Development, Inc. HAP is the largest Hmong-led nonprofit in the nation, serving immigrant and refugee communities for over 30 years in direct social services, workforce development and economic development. HAP ECDC is a certified Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI).

Prior to her leadership at HAP, May yer was the Governor-selected Assistant Deputy Director for the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA). In this leadership role, May yer advanced equity, diversity and inclusion and culture strategies to impact all areas of WHEDA, including organizational infrastructure, supplier diversity, emerging developers, and greater investments into Wisconsin’s CDFIs.

For over five years, May yer led the Hmong Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce (HWCC), where she rebuilt the statewide CDFI from the ground up, deploying the most business microloans to Hmong, and other diverse, businesses in the organization’s history. Through her leadership, she put HWCC on the map of Wisconsin’s economic development world.

For over a decade, May yer has elevated the visibility of the Hmong, Southeast Asian, and immigrant/refugee communities in the Midwest. Her career spans many years of investment in community and bridge building across multiple sectors, including economic development, community development and housing.

May yer has received numerous honors and awards for her heart work, including recognition as the Hmong Woman of the Year in Wisconsin, Milwaukee Business Journal Woman of Influence in Public Policy, the Governor’s Community and Economic Development Award and the Small Business Administration – WI Minority Business Champion Award.