

Catherine Merlo, CFRE, Board Member, Co-Chair of Forum on Strategic Fundraising

Senior Individual Giving Officer, Seattle Opera

Preferred Pronouns: she/her/hers

Catherine Merlo is the Senior Individual Giving Officer at Seattle Opera, serving as a bridge between donors and their shared mission to make opera accessible to all. In her current role she partners with board leadership and major donors to raise resources that allow Seattle Opera to connect hearts and minds through thought-provoking productions and intentional community programming. During her time at Seattle Opera, Catherine has built and implemented a comprehensive mid-level donor program, led an internal Tessitura user group to establish company-wide database best practices, and serves on their Equity Team. She believes in the power of musical storytelling to provide a place for both deeply personal exploration and community building.

Catherine is a graduate of Northwestern University's School of Communication and serves as the president of the Northwestern Alumni Association Club of Seattle. When she is not building relationships or traveling, Catherine can be found baking, reading, or practicing Forrest yoga.