



The **Opportunity** Agenda

*Building the National Will  
to Expand Opportunity in America*

# PARTICIPANTS

## **J. Bob Alotta, Executive Director, Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice**

A lifelong activist and accomplished filmmaker, J. Bob Alotta is the new Executive Director of the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice, a global foundation that provides crucial financial and technical support to lesbian-led, trans, LGBTI and progressive activist organizations. As a filmmaker, Bob has used the medium to elevate the experiences of LGBTQ communities. Bob's documentary, narrative and experimental films have aired on Democracy Now, GRITtv and PBS and have screened at festivals in the U.S., Canada, Europe and the Middle East.

## **Jason Michael Aragón, Pan Left Productions**

Jason Michael Aragón is a member of the video collective Pan Left Productions. His video work has been appeared on PBS, Democracy Now, and CNN, and in festivals such as the AFI Film Festival. He's also co-recipient of the MAP fund. Aragón lives and documents in the border region of Tucson.

## **Andrea Assaf, Arts2Action**

Andrea Assaf is a writer, performer, director, and cultural organizer. She was the Artistic Director of New WORLD Theater from 2004-09, and Program Associate for Animating Democracy (2001-04). She has a Masters degree in Performance Studies (NYU) and is a 2010 Princess Grace Awardee. Memberships: CAATA Board of Directors, Alternate ROOTS, and RAWI.

## **Orlando Bagwell, Director, Ford Foundation**

As Director of the Just Films media content fund at the Ford Foundation, Orlando Bagwell is responsible for the Foundation's global program in this field. He has a distinguished career of over 25 years as an independent filmmaker and producer. His long list of achievements includes over ten feature length documentaries, four multi-part series and numerous museum exhibitions and installations for the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C., and the Simon Wiesenthal Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles.

## **Robert "Biko" Baker III, Executive Director, League of Young Voters Education Fund**

Rob "Biko" Baker is a nationally recognized leader. He has organized town hall meetings and used social networking to motivate young people to get involved in the civic process. He has appeared on C-SPAN, Fox News and MSNBC; has interviewed luminaries Cornell West, Russell Simmons, and Howard Dean; and has also written a number of articles for America's biggest online outlets, including the Huffington Post.

## **John Bare, Vice President, The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation**

John Bare is Vice President of The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation in Atlanta and Executive in Residence at Georgia Tech's Institute for Leadership & Entrepreneurship. A former journalist and media consultant, John holds a Ph.D. in Mass Communication Research from the University of North Carolina.

## **Ann Beeson**

Ann Beeson is a social justice lawyer and a zealous advocate for the transformative power of culture. Having worked as an executive in law and philanthropy for many years, Ann is dedicating the next phase of her career to pursuing two of her passions – expanding support for the role that culture plays in social change, and building the progressive base in her home state of Texas.

## **Joan Blades, Co-Founder, MoveOn.org and MomsRising.org**

Joan Blades is co-founder of MoveOn.org and MomsRising.org. She is also co-author of *The Custom-Fit Workplace* and *The Motherhood Manifesto*. Joan is co-creator of Living Room Conversations, a software entrepreneur, a former attorney/mediator, author of *Mediate Your Divorce*, an artist and a true believer in the power of citizens and our need to rebuild respectful civil discourse and embrace our core shared values.

## **Andrew Boyd, Co-Founder, The Other 98%; Agit-Pop Communications**

Andrew Boyd is an author, humorist, and 25-year veteran of creative campaigns for social change. He led the decade-long satirical media campaign "Billionaires for Bush" and co-founded The Other 98% and Agit-Pop Communications. He lives in New York where he's cranking away on *Beautiful Trouble*, a how-to-think manual for creative action design.

## **Stephen Malloy Brackett, Flobots**

Emcee, educator, and constant student, Stephen Malloy Brackett constantly explores means by which creative expression can be turned into compassionate action. He currently is the board chair of Flobots.org, and as Brer Rabbit is member of the group Flobots.

## **Adrienne Maree Brown**

Adrienne Maree Brown is a facilitator, doula, organizational healer, artist, pleasure activist, and writer living in Detroit.

## **Tania Bruguera, Immigrant Movement International**

Tania Bruguera is a political and performance artist. Bruguera's work researches ways in which Art can be applied to the everyday political life; creating a public forum to debate ideas shown in their state of contradictions and focusing on the transformation of the condition of "viewer" onto one of "citizenry." Bruguera uses the terms ARTE DE CONDUCTA (conduct/ behavior art) and ARTE UTIL (useful art) to define her practice.

## **Rashida Bumbray, Associate Curator, The Kitchen**

Rashida Bumbray has previously served as Curatorial Assistant and Exhibition Coordinator at The Studio Museum in Harlem (2001-2006). Outside of The Kitchen, Ms. Bumbray is currently a new member of the Bessies: The NY Dance and Performance Awards committee and an active participant on juries and panels nationwide for both the visual and performing arts.

## **Jeff Chang, The Culture Group**

Jeff Chang is an organizer with CultureStrike and The Culture Group. He wrote the American Book Award-winning *Can't Stop Won't Stop* and *Who We Be: The Colorization of America*, and edited *Total Chaos*. This fall, he becomes the Executive Director of Stanford University's Institute for Diversity in the Arts.

**Ken Sanway Chen, Executive Director, The Asian American Writers' Workshop**

Ken Chen is the Executive Director of The Asian American Writers' Workshop, the preeminent arts nonprofit dedicated to writers of Asian descent and arguably one of the most prominent literary arts organizations dedicated to anti-racist programming. He is the 2009 recipient of the Yale Series of Younger Poets Award, the oldest annual literary award in the United States. His debut poetry collection *Juvenilia* was selected by Pulitzer Prize-winner Louise Gluck.

**Eleanor M. Cleverly, Assistant Director, Harmony Institute**

Eleanor Cleverly supplements the research and consulting services of the Harmony Institute with a Masters in Media Studies from the New School University. In addition to her academic work, Cleverly contributes to various online and print publications covering contemporary design and technology. She recently authored *FTW! Net Neutrality For The Win: How Entertainment and the Science of Influence Can Save Your Internet*.

**Michelle Coffey, Executive Director, Lambent Foundation**

As the Executive Director, Michelle Coffey designs, implements and furthers the strategic agenda, leadership and vision of the Lambent Foundation. Through innovative grant making, Lambent Foundation supports the intersections of arts and culture as critical strategies for social change. Prior to the creation of Lambent Foundation in January 2009, Michelle was Director of Starry Night Fund and Senior Philanthropic Advisor at Tides Foundation.

**Steve Colman, Co-Founder, Bum Rush the Stage**

Steve Colman is an award-winning writer, producer, and director. He co-wrote and co-starred in the Tony Award-winning *Russell Simmons' Def Poetry Jam on Broadway* and co-conceived Sarah Jones's Tony Award-winning Broadway hit *Bridge and Tunnel*. He is the Co-founder of Bum Rush The Stage

**Kelly Creedon, Documentary Photographer and Multimedia Producer**

Kelly Creedon is a documentary photographer and multimedia producer based in Somerville, Massachusetts. In her work, she explores social issues including economic and housing justice, labor rights, and immigration. She is currently engaged in a multimedia project entitled *We Shall Not Be Moved* about the grassroots struggle against foreclosure.

**Timothy Dorsey, Program Officer, Open Society Foundations**

Timothy Dorsey is Program Officer for the Strategic Opportunities Fund of U.S. Programs at the Open Society Foundations, where he facilitates grantmaking and R&D work related to cross-cutting social justice concerns. He serves as an advisor for the NoVo Foundation's Move to End Violence initiative and is active in the Art & Social Justice Working Group.

**Shawn Escoffery, Director, Surdna Foundation**

Shawn Escoffery is the Director of the Strong Local Economies Program at the Surdna Foundation. The Strong Local Economies Program provides support for communities that seek to increase access to opportunity for all residents to build their wealth in a sustainable manner by funding programs that create economic opportunities and connect people to economic opportunities. Mr. Escoffery also has a strong background in community and economic development policy and workforce development.

**Negin Farsad**

Iranian-American Negin Farsad was named one of the *Top 50 Female Comedians* by Huffington Post. She has

written for/performed on MTV, Comedy Central, IFC, and PBS shows, among others. She directed/produced the recent feature film release *Nerdcore Rising*. Her next film *The Muslims Are Coming* is currently in production.

**Ken Foster, Executive Director, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts**

Ken Foster is the Executive Director of Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, a multi-disciplinary contemporary arts center in San Francisco that engages art, artists and communities as a social practice. He is a founding member of The Africa Contemporary Arts Consortium and has a strong interest in contemporary performing arts in non-Western cultures. In 2009 he published “Thriving in an Uncertain World: Arts Presenting and the New Realities” and has led several workshops on this topic.

**Michael John Garcés, Artistic Director, Cornerstone Theater Company**

Michael John Garcés is the Artistic Director of Cornerstone Theater Company, a community-engaged ensemble based in Los Angeles.

**Benjamin Gass, Account Executive, Spitfire Strategies**

Benjamin Gass is an Account Executive with Spitfire Strategies, a national consulting firm offering nonprofits and foundations top-notch strategic communications and campaign planning, training, counsel and tools to make a real impact. He previously served as a Program Coordinator with the leading international conflict resolution nonprofit, Search for Common Ground.

**Theaster Gates, Director of Arts Program Development, Faculty Artist in Residence, University of Chicago**

Theaster Gates is an artist, musician, and "cultural planner" as well as Director of Arts Program Development at the University of Chicago. If pressed to describe his work in a single word, it would be "transformative." In his performances, installations, and urban interventions, Theaster Gates transforms spaces, institutions, traditions, and perceptions.

**Rha Goddess, Move the Crowd**

Rha Goddess is a cultural innovator and social entrepreneur who brings over two decades of transformational “crowd rockin’” in the name of social change. In her newest venture, Rha combines her hard-earned business savvy with her longstanding passion for creative social change to launch Move The Crowd, LLC, a professional development training company dedicated to teaching Conscious Urban Entrepreneurs how to “Stay True, Get Paid and Do Good.”

**Gan Golan, Writer and Artist**

Gan Golan is a New York Times bestselling writer and artist who, after having spent many years as a community organizer, then academic, has come to believe that creative storytelling might in fact be the most profound method of producing social change. Also, being funny doesn't hurt either. (Books: *Goodnight Bush*, *The Adventures of Unemployed Man*).

**Inez Gonzalez, Executive Vice President, National Hispanic Media Coalition**

Inez Gonzalez is the National Hispanic Media Coalition’s Executive Vice President, based in the organization’s Pasadena headquarters. She joined NHMC in 2005 as the Media Policy Director. In 2008, Inez moved to the East Coast to open NHMC’s virtual office in Washington, D.C. Now back in California, she acts as NHMC’s Chief Operating Officer.

### **Javier Gonzalez, Project Manager, Sound Strike**

Javier Gonzalez is the Project Manager of Sound Strike, a coalition of artists that have come together in an economic boycott of Arizona in the wake of the passage of SB1070. Javier has previously worked as a community, labor and political organizer. As the founder and Executive Director of SOL, Javier raised millions of dollars to get out low-income Latinos to vote and registered over 110,000 new voters. For years, Javier has been active in the fight for immigrant justice and in the Los Angeles Area Chicano cultural scene.

### **Ken Grossinger, Chairman, CrossCurrents Foundation**

Ken Grossinger is the Chairman of the CrossCurrents Foundation (CCF), a non-profit foundation promoting social and economic justice. Prior to his philanthropic work, Grossinger worked in the labor movement for more than 20 years, initially at SEIU and then directing Legislative Field Operations for the AFL-CIO. Grossinger is a commissioner on the Washington, DC Housing Authority Board of Commissioners and serves on several boards, including the Alliance for Justice, State Voices and the New School Vera List Center for Art and Politics.

### **Lani Guinier, Lawyer, Scholar, Civil Rights Activist**

Lani Guinier has been a law professor for over 20 years. Before that, she was a litigator with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Inc. At LDF, her docket focused on voting rights litigation and legislation.

### **Lori Hanau, Founder, Global Round Table Leadership**

Lori Hanau's work is guiding and supporting individuals on their paths toward the artistry that comes through increased consciousness and in living in greater connection with self, community and the Mystery. She works similarly with organizations, groups and networks as a community builder and facilitator, supporting the emergence of healthier, more meaningful collaborations and developing high performance teams.

### **Taryn Higashi, Executive Director, Unbound Philanthropy**

Taryn Higashi is the Executive Director of Unbound Philanthropy, a private foundation that seeks to ensure that migrants and refugees have access to justice, education and other fundamental human rights. She currently serves on the Advisory Committee for the International Migration Initiative at the Open Society Foundations. With Geri Mannion of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, Taryn received the Council on Foundations 2009 Robert W. Scrivner Award for Creative Grantmaking. They used the award monies to raise funds and to create the Freedom From Fear Awards, which honored 15 people who have committed extraordinary acts of courage on behalf of immigrants and refugees; the winners were announced at Netroots Nation this year.

### **Ian Inaba, Co-Executive Director, Citizen Engagement Lab**

Ian Inaba is an accomplished filmmaker, organizer, and new media expert. As Co-Executive Director of Citizen Engagement Lab, he has guided the incubation of various projects including Presente.org. Previously, he co-founded VideoTheVote.org, a nationwide network of citizen journalists that monitor election irregularities, and has aided the growth of ColorOfChange.org, the largest online constituency representing the concerns of Black America and GetEQUAL.org, an organizing project calling for LGBTQ equality. Ian also directed and edited the 2006 Sundance award-winning documentary American Blackout, chronicling voter suppression.

### **Jayson Jackson, Bum Rush the Stage**

Jayson Jackson has spent 17 years in the entertainment space and has a wealth of ideas he is looking forward to sharing.

### **Maria Rosario Jackson, Director, Urban Institute**

Maria Rosario Jackson is Director of the Urban Institute's Culture, Creativity and Communities Program. Her research expertise includes neighborhood revitalization, race and ethnicity, and arts and culture in communities. Her work has appeared in journals and edited volumes in the fields of urban planning, sociology, community development and the arts.

### **Beth Janson, Executive Director, Tribeca Film Institute**

With Tribeca Film Institute since 2004, Beth Janson, now the Executive Director, oversees the artist-support, youth, professional development, and grant-giving initiatives. Prior to joining TFI, Ms. Janson was Programming Director of the Newport International Film Festival and worked with HBO Documentary Films/Cinemax Reel Life as part of its programming team.

### **Shalini Kantayya, Creative Director, 7th Empire Media**

Shalini Kantayya is a New York-based filmmaker, educator, and eco-activist. A William D. Fulbright Scholar, her work has received recognition from The Jerome Foundation Centennial, the New York Women in Film and Television, and Media Action Network for Asian Americans, among others. She is currently a TED Fellow.

### **Maurine D. Knighton, Director, Nathan Cummings Foundation**

Maurine Knighton is the Nathan Cummings Foundation's Arts and Culture Program Director and is Executive Producer for dance and be still arts, Sekou Sundiata's literary and performing arts organization. Before NCF, she was Senior Vice President for Program and Nonprofit Investment at the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone, where she oversaw its Cultural Industry Investment Fund.

### **Todd Lester, Founder, freeDimensional**

Todd Lester is the founder of freeDimensional (fD) and more recently the Creative Resistance Fund, which helps culture workers-in-distress with residency placement and emergency grants. Todd is active as an advisor to several residencies, artist-led projects and networks—Res Artis, Sangam House, Pirogue Collective of Gorée Institute, Guapamacátaro Interdisciplinary Residency in Art and Ecology, HomeBase Project and the Flux Factory—and is a Senior Fellow of the World Policy Institute.

### **David Lubell, Executive Director and Founder, Welcoming America**

David Lubell is Executive Director of Welcoming America, a national, grassroots-driven collaborative working to create a welcoming atmosphere in which immigrants are more likely to integrate into the social fabric of their adopted hometowns. David is former Executive Director and founder of the Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition (TIRRC). He is a recipient of the Cornerstone Social Justice award from Jewish Funds for Social Justice and the Community Change-Champion Award from the Center for Community Change. He is currently a Draper Richards Social Entrepreneurship Fellow.

### **Liz Manne, Executive Director, FilmAid International**

A long-time studio executive, independent producer and social change agent, Liz Manne was recently appointed Executive Director of FilmAid International, a humanitarian organization that harnesses the power of film to educate and bring hope to refugees and other communities in need around the globe. Previously, she was the co-founder and Executive Vice President of Marketing, Fine Line Features; Executive Vice President Programming and Marketing, Robert Redford's Sundance Channel; co-founder Duopoly; consultant, HBO Films. Member: President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, Mountainfilm in Telluride Board of Directors, Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

### **Cassandra J. Medley, Playwright**

Cassandra is a New York City playwright, screenwriter, teleplay writer. She has had productions of plays all around the United States. Her most recent play, *Cell*, portrays African-American female guards working for a corporate Immigrant Detention Center. *Cell* was produced in June 2011 at the Ensemble Studio Theater in NYC.

### **Cara Mertes, Director, Sundance Institute**

Cara Mertes has a career spanning over two decades in independent media as an award-winning Executive Producer, director, broadcast programmer, teacher, journalist and independent film advocate, with a focus on social issue documentary. She joined Sundance Institute in 2006 as Director of the Documentary Film Program.

### **Alexis McGill Johnson, Executive Director, American Values Institute**

Alexis serves as the Executive Director of the American Values Institute, a consortium of researchers and social justice advocates exploring the role of bias in our society. She is the former Executive Director of Citizen Change where she launched the Vote or Die! Campaign for Sean Combs and has served as Political Director to Russell Simmons.

### **Michelle Miller, Creative Projects Director, SEIU/Strategic Productions**

For nearly 10 years, Michelle Miller has worked with SEIU to magnify the voices and stories of working people through arts, media and culture.

### **Eddy Morales, National Field Director, Voto Latino**

Under his leadership, Voto Latino hired and trained a robust field team that registered over 10,421 new voters in a record-breaking four weeks. Eddy now serves as Voto Latino's Deputy overseeing the organization's strategy and its day-to day operations. Prior to joining Voto Latino, he served as the Electoral Field Manager for the Center for Community Change. He was charged with managing its \$3 million campaign for voter registration. Eddy has also consulted NCLR and managed the organization's Community Based Organization affiliate outreach for new citizens.

### **Amy Morris, Program Officer, Surdna Foundation**

Amy Morris is a Program Officer for Foundation Initiatives at the Surdna Foundation where she focuses on research and development and cross-programmatic collaboration. Currently, she is collaborating on an inquiry related to cultural organizing. Previously, she was a high school teacher, a union researcher, and a human rights activist in Latin America. Amy ran two college study away programs, one located on the US-Mexico border and the other focused on the labor movement in NYC.

### **Scott Nielsen, Founder, Alexander Nielsen Consulting**

Scott Nielsen is founder of Alexander Nielsen Consulting. Working with donors, ANC provides: grantmaking, issue and field research, program design, evaluation, and communications assistance. Nielsen was a program officer for 13 years at the MacArthur Foundation, including in the MacArthur Fellows Program. He is a graduate of Macalester College and holds a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago.

### **Maria Gabriela "Gaby" Pacheco**

Gaby Pacheco is an undocumented student leader from Miami, Florida. In 2010, she walked 1,500 miles in support of the DREAM Act, just and humane immigration reform, worker rights, and to urge President Obama to halt deportations. She worked with Presente.org as an online organizer and is currently a consultant to the END (Education not Deportation) Project for the United We Dream network. She recently wrote two children's books.

She plays the viola and aspires to be a musical therapist.

### **Anne Pasternak, President and Artistic Director, Creative Time**

Anne Pasternak's goal has been to present some of the most adventurous and historically important art in the public realm. Under her leadership, Creative Time's programming has extended nationally and internationally from the historic Brooklyn Bridge Anchorage, Grant Central Station, Governor's Island, The Highline and Coney Island to New Orleans, Haiti, Lagos, and beyond. In addition to her work at Creative Time, Pasternak occasionally curates independent exhibitions, consults on urban planning initiatives, and contributes essays to cultural publications. She lectures extensively throughout the United States and Europe, and she served as a guest critic at Yale University.

### **Erin Potts, Executive Director, Air Traffic Control**

In her early 20s, Erin Potts created the Tibetan Freedom Concerts with the Beastie Boys that produced international awareness, mobilized hundreds of popular musicians, raised over \$5 million, and turned tens of thousands of young people into activists for Tibet. Her work with culture makers melds music and activism into increasingly compelling, creative, and effective engagement strategies.

### **Toshi Reagon, Singer, Songwriter and Musician**

Toshi Reagon is a talented, versatile singer, songwriter and musician with a profound ear for sonic Americana—from folk to funk, from blues to rock. While her expansive career has landed her comfortably in residence at Carnegie Hall, the Paris Opera House and Madison Square Garden, you can just as easily find Toshi turning out at a music festival, intimate venue or local club. Toshi has been the recipient of a NYFA award for Music Composition. She co-composed music for two Peabody award-winning films and won The Black Lily Music and Film Festival Award for Outstanding Performance. She is a National Women's History Month Honoree and is the 2010 recipient of OutMusic's Heritage Award.

### **Damon Rich, Designer and Artist**

Damon Rich is a designer and artist. His work represented the United States at the 2008 Venice Architecture Biennale, and has been exhibited at PS 1 Contemporary Art Center, Storefront for Art and Architecture, SculptureCenter, the Canadian Centre for Architecture, and the Netherlands Architecture Institute.

### **Alex Rivera, Digital Media Artist and Filmmaker**

Alex Rivera is a digital media artist and filmmaker. For fifteen years he's produced work that addresses concerns of the Latino community through a highly stylized cinematic language. His first feature film, *Sleep Dealer*, premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2008 where it won multiple awards.

### **Rashad Robinson, Executive Director, ColorOfChange**

For well over a decade, Rashad Robinson has helped to mobilize communities across the country to create more inclusive cultural and political institutions. A recognized expert on how popular culture impacts American attitudes and values, he has served as a thought leader, widely sought-out speaker and strategist on utilizing media to shift public opinion concerning progressive and civil rights issues. In 2010, Robinson was selected as one of "The Root 100," a list of emerging and influential African Americans. He has previously held leadership roles at GLAAD, the Right to Vote Campaign, and FairVote.

### **Favianna Rodriguez, Visual Artist**

Favianna Rodriguez is a visionary artist on a mission: To create profound and lasting change in the world. She is renowned for her cultural media projects dealing with social issues such as war, immigration, and globalization, as well as for her leadership in establishing innovative institutions that engage new audiences in the arts.

**Raymond Roker, URB Magazine / Red Bull Media House**

Raymond Leon Roker is a seasoned media producer of progressive culture via print, images, events and video. His 20-year career started with co-founding the pioneering URB magazine. This grew into helping launch Toyota Scion in the early '00s. Roker is currently consulting with Red Bull Media House on multichannel content.

**Philip Sanchez, Manager, Philanthropic Initiatives, Time Warner, Inc.**

Philip Sanchez is currently the Manager of Philanthropic Initiatives for Time Warner Inc.

**Carlos Sandoval, Producer/Director, Camino Bluff Productions, Inc.**

Carlos Sandoval is the co-producer/director of the award-winning documentaries, *A Class Apart* (American Experience 2009, Imagen Award) and *Farmingville* (P.O.V. 2004, Sundance Special Jury Prize). Sandoval holds a law degree and served as a member of the U.S. delegation to the United Nations. He is currently working on a documentary about Arizona's controversial immigration law, SB1070.

**Ellen Schneider, Executive Director, Active Voice**

Ellen Schneider works at the intersection of story and strategy. After executive producing POV, she founded Active Voice in 2001 to help change agents reach "beyond the choir" with character-driven content (features, documentaries, online video, etc.) about today's big issues. Active Lab for Story & Strategy is her new venture.

**Rinku Sen, President and Executive Director, Applied Research Center**

Rinku Sen is the President and Executive Director of the Applied Research Center (ARC) and Publisher of Colorlines.com. A leading figure in the racial justice movement for the last twenty years, Rinku has positioned ARC as the national home for media, research and activism.

**Yosi Sergant, Task Force**

Yosi Sergant builds cultural programming designed to raise awareness and build momentum for organizations tackling our world's most pressing challenges. During the 2008 Presidential campaign, he engaged artists in a vast viral movement in support of Barack Obama, the most prominent of which is the now ubiquitous "HOPE" campaign he created with artist Shepard Fairey. Yosi served in the White House Office of Public Engagement before accepting an appointment as the Director of Communications for the National Endowment for the Arts.

**Jose Serrano-McClain, Queens Museum of Art**

Jose Serrano-McClain is an artist, community organizer, and economist. He co-founded Trust Art to advance the economic sovereignty of artists. He joined the Queens Museum of Art to launch a public art program called Corona Studio and works with Queens College on an MFA in social practice.

**rashid shabazz, Program Officer, Open Society Institute**

rashid shabazz is a Program Officer with the Open Society Institute's U.S. Programs Campaign for Black Male Achievement. He has over 15 years of experience as a grassroots and community organizer, youth media advocate, and anti-prison activist. Prior to his work at OSI, rashid served as a senior strategist with Fenton Communications.

**Andy Shallal, Busboys and Poets**

Andy Shallal is the owner of Busboys and Poets, a group of progressive gathering spaces in the Washington, DC area.

### **Tayyib Smith, Owner, Little Giant Media**

Tayyib has long been a successful conduit between artist, niche brands, and industry, earning the respect of corporate brands for unique ability to connect with the hearts and minds of the trendsetting youth market via facilitation of successful relationships. Tayyib is a trusted consultant to brands such as Bull, Heineken USA, Vitamin Water, Remy Martin USA and the Greater Philadelphia Tourism and Marketing Corporation.

### **Leslie Stem, Transformazium**

Leslie Stem works with the collective Transformazium in North Braddock, PA. Their work is rooted in the specificity of that place, yet strives to be a replicable model of creative transformation. Some of their work can be seen at [www.transformazium.org](http://www.transformazium.org).

### **Lynn Stern, Program Officer, Surdna Foundation**

Lynn Stern is Program Officer for Thriving Cultures at the Surdna Foundation, a family foundation based in New York City with national grantmaking programs in environment, economy, and culture. Fluent in Russian, Lynn is a specialist in cultural exchange between the United States, Central and Eastern Europe, and Russia.

### **Molly Sturges, Artistic Director and Co-Founder, Littlelobe**

Molly Sturges, a New Mexico based composer, artistic director, performer, and mom, is best known for her work integrating intermedia performance, community dialogue, and social and environmental equity and healing. Sturges is a United States Artist fellow in music and is the Artistic Director and co-founder of Littlelobe ([www.littlelobe.org](http://www.littlelobe.org)).

### **Vicky Holt Takamine, Kumu Hula**

Vicky Holt Takamine is the kumu hula (master teacher of Hawaiian dance) of Pua Ali'i 'Ilima, a hālau hula (traditional school of Hawaiian dance) which was established in 1977. She has extensions of her hālau on the islands of Kaua'i and in New York City.

### **Catherine Tambini, Producer and Filmmaker**

Catherine Tambini is the co-producer/director of *Farmingville*, and winner of numerous awards including the 2004 Sundance Film Festival's Special Jury Award. Ms. Tambini co-produced the Academy Award-nominated documentary film *Suzanne Farrell: Elusive Muse*. She was field producer/cinematographer for portions of *I'm From Rolling Stone* for MTV and *Pageant Perfect* for TLC.

### **Jenny Toomey, Program Officer, Ford Foundation**

Jenny Toomey joined the Ford Foundation in 2008 after eight years as the Executive Director of the Future of Music Coalition, where she worked to include diverse artists' voices in policy decisions affecting the ownership, distribution, and use of their work. She wrote numerous articles and op-eds, and testified before the copyright office, both branches of Congress, and the FCC.

### **Roberta Uno, Senior Program Officer, Ford Foundation**

Roberta Uno is Senior Program Officer for Arts and Culture, in the Freedom of Expression unit of the Education, Creativity, and Free Expression program of the Ford Foundation. She headed the development of and programs the new Arts and Culture initiative in the United States, "Supporting Diverse Arts Spaces." The initiative is focused on identifying and supporting exemplary facilities-based arts organizations that are national exemplars of artistic

excellence, cultural diversity, innovative and equitable space development, and social justice. This line of work is also the focus of Ford Foundation Arts and Culture work in Egypt and Mexico.

### **invincible (Ilana Weaver)**

Detroit based hip-hop artist and activist invincible makes music and media that amplifies social justice issues and projects visions for transformation. Her work in the community with Detroit Summer and Detroit Future Media goes beyond music towards actualizing the change she wishes to see.

### **Elon James White, Host, This Week in Blackness**

Elon James White is a Brooklyn-based comedian, writer, and host of the award-winning web series *This Week in Blackness*. He has been a featured commentator on *Countdown* with Keith Olbermann on MSNBC and on VH1's *Black to the Future & The Great Debate*. His commentary on race and politics has been featured on Salon.com, The Huffington Post, Alternet, and The Root.

### **Timothy Wilkins, Partner, Freshfields Bruckhaus-Deringer**

Timothy Wilkins is the Chair of the Steering Committee of The Opportunity Agenda and a corporate partner in the New York office of Freshfields Bruckhaus-Deringer. He has extensive experience representing European, Asian, and U.S. multi-national corporations on cross-border M&A, private equity, and joint ventures. He lectures frequently on topics of international law and policy.

### **Billy Wimsatt, Strategic Partnerships Director, Rebuild the Dream**

Billy Wimsatt is a former graffiti artist, author, journalist, and movement builder.

## **FACILITATOR**

### **Melinda Weekes, Senior Associate, Interaction Institute for Social Change**

Melinda brings a diverse set of skills to her work at IISC from professional experiences in law, community development, urban ministry and nonprofit consulting. As a Senior Associate, she is engaged in facilitation, training and process design consulting. In her native New York City, Melinda practiced law before moving to Boston to pursue additional graduate work and ministerial training. Before joining the staff of IISC, her consulting clients included the Boston Capacity Tank, the Pine Street Inn, the Social Innovation Forum, and the United Way of Massachusetts Bay. Her areas of concentration at IISC include policy development, the arts, faith based initiatives, and practical applications of design thinking for social change.

## **STAFF**

### **Cindy Lou Cuesta, Development Associate, The Opportunity Agenda**

As the Development Associate at The Opportunity Agenda, Cindy Lou provides fundraising support with an emphasis on foundations and grants management. Since high school she has worked almost exclusively in the social justice nonprofit realm and has volunteered extensively in local communities and in the Philippines. She is currently pursuing her J.D. part-time.

### **Jason P. Drucker, Director of Development and Operations, The Opportunity Agenda**

Jason P. Drucker is the Director of Development & Operations at The Opportunity Agenda. In that role, he serves as chief fundraiser; oversees finance, accounting, and human resources; and develops arts and culture work that integrates into social justice initiatives. He has over 12 years experience as a development professional, working at the Rudolf Steiner School of New York City, Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law, and the Legal Actions Center. He holds a Ph.D. in European Philosophy from DePaul University, and B.A. in Literature from Bard College.

### **Alan Jenkins, Executive Director, The Opportunity Agenda**

Alan was Director of Human Rights at the Ford Foundation, managing over \$50 million in grant making annually in the United States and 11 overseas regions, before joining The Opportunity Agenda. Previously, he served as Assistant to the Solicitor General at the U.S. Department of Justice. Prior to that, he was Associate Counsel to the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., where he defended the rights of low-income communities suffering from exploitation and discrimination.

### **Ross Mudrick, Development Coordinator, The Opportunity Agenda**

Ross has provided strategic development consulting to a wide variety of New York non-profits, including Northside Center for Child Development, Jewish Association for Services for the Aged (JASA), and Issue Project Room. His background in advocacy and strategic communications includes work on campaign finance reform, young voter turnout, and a number of state and local electoral campaigns in San Francisco and Wisconsin.

### **Betsy Richards, Creative Fellow, The Opportunity Agenda**

Betsy is The Opportunity Agenda's inaugural Creative Fellow. As an arts administrator, theater director, and writer, Betsy has spent the last 20 years advocating for emerging and underserved voices in the arts. Most recently, she served as a Program Officer at the Ford Foundation in Media, Arts and Culture overseeing a national portfolio on indigenous and place-based arts organizations and cultural communities. Prior to that, she was the Director of Public Programs for the Pequot Museum, the country's largest tribal museum and research center.

### **Julie Rowe, Framing and Messaging Coordinator, The Opportunity Agenda**

Julie has over ten years of experience working with non-profit groups on communication strategy, messaging, framing and media outreach. At The Opportunity Agenda, she works with partners to translate public opinion research and communications theory to practical messaging strategies. She works on a variety of issues, including immigration, racial justice, human rights, and health.

### **Juhu Thukral, Director of Law and Advocacy, The Opportunity Agenda**

Juhu Thukral is the Director of Law and Advocacy at The Opportunity Agenda. She has been an advocate for the rights of low-income and immigrant women in the areas of sexual health and rights, gender-based violence, economic security, and criminal justice for over 15 years.

### **Robert Valencia, Web Strategist, The Opportunity Agenda**

As The Opportunity Agenda's web strategist, Robert brings more than five years of experience in communications, online strategies, and public advocacy. An avid public policy blogger, Robert has written online materials ranging from immigration, labor and business issues, and U.S.- Latin American relations for the Center for American Progress, the Council on Hemispheric Affairs, and the World Policy Institute.

