

2019 Creative Change Retreat Participant Bios:



phillip agnew co-founded the Dream Defenders in 2012 after the murder of Trayvon Martin and has been dubbed “one of this generation’s leading voices.” He has been recognized by both *EBONY* magazine and *The Root* as one of the 100 most influential African Americans in the nation. In 2018 he transitioned from his role as co-director of the Dream Defenders and now travels the country training and organizing where “the movement” hasn’t touched. He is the co-founder of Miami’s Smoke Signals Studio—a community-based radical artistic space—with his partner, poet Aja Monet. Smoke Signals Studio is a space where those invested in using art, sound, and music as a meeting place for transformation and liberation can come to create together. He is a nationally recognized educator, strategist, trainer, speaker, and cultural critic and was a featured speaker at TEDxWomen and SXSW in 2019.



Jodely Baker curates discussions to encourage women of color as they define their own success stories, emboldening them to push back against harmful social norms. She has cultivated a #SmartBrownGirl movement that provides a safe space to tackle complex cultural issues through dialogue that meets at the intersection of pop culture and political history.



Marya Bangee is the Executive Director of Harness, an organization started by America Ferrera, Wilmer Valderrama, and Ryan Piers Williams to center the stories of underrepresented communities in Hollywood. Through her work at Harness, Marya works with networks, studios, and culture shapers to promote new narratives within popular culture. She started her journey as a community organizer in the Muslim American community, where she often represented Muslim Americans in national media, such as *The New York Times* and NPR. She has served as a Project Director at UCLA, working to increase access to higher education in impoverished areas of the city. Seeing the need for communal solutions to the challenges posed by poverty, she completed a 6-month residency with the Industrial Areas Foundation. Marya was also a Coro Fellow, where she worked on a national Senate campaign, staffed California’s Speaker of the Assembly, and worked for the Executive Vice President for the California Community Foundation. Marya graduated as a Dean’s Merit Scholar from the University of Southern California (USC) with her Master’s in Public Administration in 2015, specializing in nonprofit management and public policy. In 2017, she was selected by the Ford Foundation as a Public Voices Fellow.



Cleo Barnett is a New Zealand American curator, artist, and creative director. Currently based in Seattle, Washington (Duwamish/Coast Salish land), her practice explores the relationship between public space, storytelling, and human rights. Since 2016 Cleo has been a core member of the Amplifier team, a nonprofit design lab that builds art and media experiments to amplify the most important movements of our time. As the Deputy Director, Cleo co-produces and co-creative directs the organization’s campaigns including the iconic We The People campaign and the education initiative We The Future. The result has been millions of iconic artworks distributed in streets and classrooms across the United States in collaboration with hundreds of renowned artists and thousands of movements and building the nonprofit into a globally recognized art and social justice organization. Cleo holds an M.A. in Art and Public Policy from New York University and a double B.A. in Political Science and International Business from the University of Auckland. Alongside her curatorial practice, she is an active working artist. You can learn more about Cleo’s work at cleobarnett.com.



Dante Barry is a nationally recognized, award-winning strategist, community organizer, and writer. He is committed to strengthening the progressive movement’s capacity to develop the next generation of leaders and win policy victories that transform communities over the long term. A millennial trailblazer, Dante is widely respected for his creativity and bold leadership at Million Hoodies Movement for Justice. There he has a track record of building effective social change campaigns that have advanced human rights and the movements to end



gun violence and for police accountability. He is currently featured in the Museum of the City of New York's #ActivistNY exhibit for his transformative contribution to modern-day social movements.



Ruhi Bhalla, a graduate of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, currently works as a Campaign Coordinator in the Social Impact Department for MTV, Vh1, CMT, and Logo. Ruhi's passion for advancing social justice through media is rooted in her experiences as an organizer. She first used film and music as teaching tools when she worked at an incarceration facility. During her time at Viacom, she has worked on various campaigns and shows, including: *+1 the Vote*, *Save Our Moms*, and *Are You The One?*



Maria Blanco is a civil rights attorney who has worked for many years on issues of voting rights, immigrant rights, and racial justice. She is a painter whose most recent exhibition, "Borders and Walls," consists of oil paintings of the border between the southern-most beach in California and the Mexican border. Originally from San Diego the paintings are both personal and social commentary.



Caty Borum Chattoo is Director of the Center for Media & Social Impact (CMSI), an innovation lab and research center at American University that creates, showcases, and studies media designed for social change; she also is assistant professor at the American University School of Communication in Washington, DC. Caty is an award-winning documentary producer, scholar, professor, and strategist working at the intersection of social change communication, documentary, and entertainment storytelling. Her book about the role of mediated comedy in social change, *A Comedian and An Activist Walk Into a Bar: The Serious Role of Comedy in Social Justice*, with co-author Lauren Feldman, is forthcoming from University of California Press (2020). Her documentary book, *Story Movements: How Documentaries Empower Social Change*, is forthcoming from Oxford University Press (2020). In 2017, she launched The Laughter Effect, a research and creative initiative that examines the role of comedy in social change. In 2016, she launched Story Movements, a biennial national convening at the intersection of civic storytelling and social change. Her social justice documentaries have aired internationally and nationally, and in the U.S. and around the world she is a featured speaker and workshop leader on the intersection of storytelling, communication, and social justice. Her research and creative work has been supported by the MacArthur Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Gates Foundation, and others.



Courtney Bowles is an artist, educator, and community organizer who uses art as a vehicle for connecting diverse communities to amplify, celebrate, and power social justice movements. Her projects combine organizing strategies and urgently needed services with collaborative, poetic, and performative actions that connect diverse and often antagonistic actors (abolitionists, police, service providers, and those impacted by the system). At the core of her practice is the belief that those most affected by systemic social issues are the experts society needs to listen to and that by connecting those directly affected with a multitude of community experts and political stakeholders, change can be created on personal and systemic levels. She currently co-directs the People's Paper Co-op in Philadelphia, PA with her partner Mark Strandquist, and, building on fellowships from A Blade of Grass and Open Societies Foundation, they began The Reentry Think Tank.



Maurice BP-Weeks is the Co-Executive Director of ACRE (Action Center on Race & the Economy). He works with community organizations and labor unions on campaigns to go on offense against Wall Street to beat back their destruction of communities of color. He was previously the Campaign Director of the ReFund America Project and worked as the Wall Street Accountability and Housing Justice campaigner at the Center for Popular Democracy before that. Maurice serves on the Advisory Council of Black Organizing for Leadership and Dignity (BOLD). He graduated from Swarthmore College.



Stephen Brackett has been rhyming words as a calling and profession for the past 12 years. He has toured the world with his band Flobots, using music as a platform for engagement and collective empowerment. The band's platinum hit, "Handlebars," has allowed Stephen to share the stage with many of his heroes, including Desmond Tutu, the Dalai Lama, Rage Against the Machine, Public Enemy, Bernie Sanders, and Emily Keys. His time as a philosophy student at CSU nurtured his life-long love affair with the arts, education, and activism. Blending his passions he co-founded the nonprofit Youth on Record. Youth on Record exists to empower Colorado's youth to achieve their academic, artistic, and personal best by employing local, professional artists as their educators. To date, Youth on Record has impacted the lives of thousands of young people. Stephen comes from a family that modeled using your gifts to benefit others. He gives credit to his mother, Ava Malloy Brackett, for setting a precedent that allowed no label to define her outcome. Stephen lives in his hometown of Denver, Colorado with his brilliant wife, Jennifer; dog, Scout; and beloved cat, Puma.



Ellen Bravo helped found Family Values @ Work, a network of 27 state coalitions working for affordable time to care, and serves as co-director. Previously she was the director of 9to5, a national group of low-wage women workers. Ellen has written several non-fiction books, most recently Taking on the Big Boys, or Why Feminism is Good for Families, Business and the Nation. She served on the bi-partisan Commission on Leave appointed by Congress to study the impact of the Family and Medical Leave Act. Described as "moving, witty and sometimes bawdy," she is regularly interviewed by the media and is a frequent contributor to Huffington Post, the Ms. blog and other sites. The documentary Zero Weeks featured Ellen as the agent of change. Among her commendations are a Ford Foundation Visionary award and the Francis Perkins "Intelligence and Courage" award. Ellen lives in Milwaukee with her husband; they have two adult sons. Her novel on date rape and politics Again and Again was published in 2015.



Ellen Buchman is The Opportunity Agenda's Acting President. She is trained in social work and organizing, and brings to the organization a breadth of expertise, knowledge, and many years of experience working among social justice leaders at the local, state, national and international levels. Her professional and personal theory of change is that when we marry effective communications and organizing strategies to further power for social justice and shifting policy, we win. Ellen is a nationally recognized trainer of effective and collaborative campaigns, and she considers her DNA makeup to include the values of inclusive coalition. For 15 years prior to coming to The Opportunity Agenda, Ellen served as a member of the leadership team of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, the nation's oldest and largest civil and human rights coalition. She is an award-winning baker and known for her affinity for farm-to-table food preparation. And she is marrying her partner of 25 years in October 2019.



Layel Camargo (pgp: They/Them/Theirs) is an indigenous descendant of the Yaqui and Mayo tribes from the Sonoran Desert and is always envisioning about our adaptive, very brown, and joyous future! Layel, a gender nonconforming person, graduated from the University of California, Santa Cruz; has been involved as an actor in both theater and video since 2008; and has most recently been involved with production, directing, and writing. Layel has brought queer characters to light throughout their involvement with performance art. Their most recent work was through their participation in the artist-in-residency “Las Hociconas Lab” produced by Sarita Ocon. Layel was the keynote address to Another Word for Gender, hosted by the Centre for Gender Advocacy in Montreal, Canada, and has been featured on Feministing Five, an online journalism website. They currently contribute cultural strategy to Movement Generation, an ecological justice organization; serve as acting Impact Producer for The North Pole Show; and work as Creative Director for Climate Justice through CultureStrike, an artist and cultural organization. Throughout their work, they like to explore intersectional issues surrounding disposability and the “in between” existence of gender nonconforming people. A quirky fact about Layel is they have been a zero waste and vegan for 4 years and are a strong advocate for collective and individual waste reduction.



Maha Chehlaoui is a creative producer and consultant. She has developed and produced films, plays, and events and worked on campaigns for clients in the arts, environment, and other advocacy spaces. Maha's latest endeavor, Pass the Mic Media, focuses on developing work centered on underrepresented artists and their stories. Collaborations include short films “Brothers” and “Ubuntu” with Mike Mosallam Productions and “Jo” with Play Mountain Productions. Additionally, as a member of the Pop Culture Collaborative 2018 cohort of fellows, Pass the Mic was tasked with examining alternate pipelines for writers from traditionally marginalized backgrounds. Maha has almost 20 years of experience sourcing, developing, and producing emerging storytellers, beginning with her work building out the Middle Eastern theater community in the United States. In 2016, Maha received the prestigious OBIE theatre award together with Lameece Issaq for their work with Noor Theatre, a company focused on artists of the Middle Eastern diaspora co-founded along with Nancy Vitale in 2008. www.passthemicmedia.com



Joey Clift is a comedy writer and enrolled member of the Cowlitz Indian Tribe who has written on *Wabbit* and *Lego Ninjago: Decoded* for Cartoon Network; *OMG, Swamp Talk with Shrek and Donkey*, and *What They Got Right* for DreamWorks; and *Camp Nick* for Nickelodeon. His satire zine about Native American representation in media called *The American Indian Ready To Wear Catalog 2018* was nominated for a Broken Pencil Zine Award in the Political category, his animated short film “Telling People You’re Native American When You’re Not Native Is A Lot Like Telling A Bear You’re A Bear When You’re Not A Bear” is currently going through the festival circuit, and his satire digital series pitch about racial microaggressions called “Going Native” was a 2019 Yes And Laughter Lab winner. The A.V. Club called him an “Internet troublemaker extraordinaire” after he hijacked an official Garfield Twitter Q and A in 2016, and his podcast 25 Minutes of Silence was named a podcast of the week by Splitsider. More important, he is the admin of the LA Underground Cat Network, a 9500-member-strong Facebook group for Los Angeles comedians to share pictures of their cats. He’s kind of a cat guy.



Wyatt Closs has more than 20 years of creative advocacy and organizing for social justice and political progress experience. In the past 4 years, he has focused exclusively on the intersection of pop culture, politics, digital strategies, and social justice with his small shop called Big Bowl of Ideas. Clients range from PolicyLink to Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and Grand Performances to the “Stop Telling Women to Smile” art awareness project. A former Visual Fellow for Upworthy, he also has blogged for Huffington Post and has written articles for *Ebony* and *LA Weekly*, among other outlets. He’s worn several hats at the SEIU; he served as Government Affairs Director and drove work in politics, strategic planning, social justice, communications, and coalition building in other roles there. He's managed more than 15 political campaigns. As a consultant, he focuses on creative and strategic communications, branding, influencer engagement, and cultural organizing, bringing creativity to each step of the journey. A North Carolina native, he’s now in Los Angeles, spending whatever other time is left writing screenplays, tricking out his bike, searching for the perfect beat, blogging, and watching every movie under the sun with his wife, Roshin.



Tanya Coke is a lawyer, philanthropy executive, writer, and cartoonist. She is interested in the various ways that art can fuel social justice. At the Ford Foundation, Tanya serves on the Programming Board of Art for Justice, a 5-year initiative that leverages the creative power of artists and writers to accelerate an end to mass incarceration.



Luisa Dantas is a Brazilian American mediamaker who works at the intersection of storytelling, social justice, and cities. She produced and directed the multi-platform documentary *Land of Opportunity*, which chronicles the reconstruction of New Orleans through the eyes of those on the frontlines. The project includes a feature film and groundbreaking interactive web platform produced in conjunction with partners in six cities. Luisa also co-produced the documentary *Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price*. Luisa is currently spearheading an innovative storytelling initiative funded by the Ford Foundation, designed to train organizers and advocates in cities across the United States to harness the power of narrative in the fight for justice. She is also a narrative consultant for Ford's Cities and States program. Luisa's first fiction film, *Bolo*, was produced in Brazil and screened in several international festivals. She has also written for the animated series *Go, Diego, Go!* for Nickelodeon Television. She received a screenwriting fellowship from the National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts and Disney/ABC. She received her B.A. in English and Latin American studies from Brown University and an M.F.A in Film from Columbia University. She was awarded a Rockwood Leadership Institute/ JustFilms fellowship for 2017–2018.



Ty Defoe (Giizhig), from the Oneida and Ojibwe Nations, is a Grammy Award winner and an interdisciplinary-hyphenated two-spirit artist, activist, writer, environmentalist, cultural worker, and shape-shifter. Global highlights include the Millennium celebration in Cairo, Egypt with the Call for Peace Drum and Dance Company and Turkey for the Ankara International Music Festival. Ty frequents his own community where he learns his language and cultural arts. Awards include a Robert Rauschenberg Artist in Residence, 2019 TransLab Fellow, and 2017 Jonathan Larson Award winner creating book and lyrics. Highlights include *The Way They Lived* (co-collaboration with Micharne Cloughley and The Civilians at the Met Museum) and writer and co-director of *Ajijaak on Turtle Island* (Ibex Puppetry at La MaMa Theater, NYC, Chicago International Puppet Festival, New Victory Theater, NYC). Ty is a co-founder of Indigenous Direction (with Larissa FastHorse) and is an artEquity facilitator. His work has been published in the *Pitkin Review*, *Woody Guthrie Anthology*, *Thorny Locust Magazine*, and *Howl Round*. Degrees: CalArts, Goddard College, NYU's Tisch. Guest appeared, Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt and Broadway debut in Young Jean Lee's *Straight White Men* (dir. by Anna Shapiro). Lives in NYC. Pronouns: He | Him | We | Us tydefoe.com



Bridgit Antoinette Evans is widely recognized as one of the foremost thought leaders in the culture change strategy field. A professional artist and strategist, she has dedicated her career to the relentless investigation of the potential of artists to drive cultural change in society. Fifteen years of work at the intersection of pop culture storytelling and social change has evolved into a vision for a new, hybrid culture change field in which creative and social justice leaders work together to create and popularize stories that shape the narratives, values, beliefs, and behaviors that define American culture. In 2016, Bridgit was a Nathan Cummings Foundation Fellow, piloting *Culture Changes Us*, a coordinated learning system designed to accelerate the social justice sectors' understanding and use of culture change strategy. For Unbound Philanthropy and the Ford Foundation, she has led multi-year culture change research and strategy design projects aimed at unearthing breakthrough narrative and engagement strategies for the immigrant rights and gender justice movements. In 2008, Bridgit founded *Fuel | We Power Change*, a culture change strategy studio in New York City, as the home for her collaborations with leading social change innovators. Through this work she designed long-term culture change strategies for social movements that used transportive story experiences, often in the pop culture realm, to shift the thoughts and feelings of mass audiences. She often points to her roots as a professional Off Broadway actor and devised theater producer as the source of her deep passion for culture change strategy. She received her MFA from Columbia University and BA from Stanford University.



Adey Fisseha joined Unbound Philanthropy in 2012, where she helps develop, implement, and evaluate Unbound Philanthropy's grantmaking strategies in the United States. Adey previously worked for 10 years at the National Immigration Law Center (NILC), most recently serving as a policy attorney and campaign coordinator. She worked on a wide range of federal policy issues at NILC, including, notably, as lead lawyer on a national advocacy campaign to pass the Dream Act. Adey was a compelling media spokesperson on the effort and led a coalition of more than 100 national faith, education, labor, and immigrant/civil rights groups on the campaign. She also has served as a legislative aide to Congressman Howard Berman (D-CA). Adey graduated from Harvard University with a bachelor's degree in government and a certificate in African studies and earned her law degree at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, where she was a Cardozo Public Service Scholar. Adey is a refugee and immigrant from Ethiopia.



Miriam Fogelson brings more than 15 years of leadership experience in the social change nonprofit, philanthropy, cultural, and progressive political sectors. Miriam joined Harness as the Director of Operations in March 2019. Previously she worked as a consultant providing strategy, management, and producing services for early-stage ventures, frontline organizations, and artists working at the intersection of culture and social impact. Her clients included Storyline Partners, For Freedoms, Caring Across Generations, Center for Community Change, and The People PAC. Miriam's immersion in the culture change sector began as the Senior Associate at Moore + Associates from 2012 to 2016. During her time at M+A she produced high-profile, award-winning culture change campaigns for Everytown for Gun Safety and We Belong Together, as well as some of the most highly viewed videos of Obama's 2012 election cycle featuring artists such as Samuel L. Jackson, Sarah Silverman, Rosie Perez, W. Kamau Bell, and Cher. She is also the associate producer of *Halal in the Family*, a Peabody Award-winning web series with Aasif Mandvi that challenges stereotypical narratives about American Muslims. Miriam's work has appeared in prominent media outlets such as *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Guardian*, *Rolling Stone*, *TIME*, MSNBC, CNN and NPR. She has a bachelor's in photojournalism from Boston University and a master's in international affairs from The New School.



Vicki Gaubeca currently directs the Southern Border Communities Coalition (SBCC), which brings together organizations from San Diego, California, to Brownsville, Texas, to ensure that border enforcement policies and practices are accountable and fair, respect human dignity and human rights, and prevent the loss of life in the region. Prior to joining SBCC, Vicki directed the ACLU Border Rights Center for 9 years when it was founded and based in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Originally from Mexico City, she has more than 20 years of experience in policy advocacy, organizing, and strategic communications related to LGBTQ, immigrant, and human rights.



Meredith Goldberg-Morse is the Social Impact Manager for MTV, VH1, and Logo, where she develops multi-platform social change initiatives that empower audiences to have a positive impact on the biggest challenges facing the nation today. Prior to her current role, Meredith worked on the social impact team at Participant Media, where she collaborated with a diverse slate of nonprofit and advocacy organizations to mobilize viewers around issues ranging from gender equality to social justice. She also develops educational programs with the nonprofit organization 826LA, where she leads youth workshops on activism, creative writing, and journalism. Meredith holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Screenwriting from the University of Southern California and strongly believes in the power of storytelling to contribute toward positive social change.



Rachel Grow is pleased to be on staff at The Opportunity Agenda after switching careers to be involved in social justice work that will create meaningful change in this country. Previously, she spent thirteen years working in the entertainment industry in front of the camera and behind the scenes with some of Hollywood's biggest names. On the side of her daily work, she is developing a passion project, titled *Project Survivor*, that integrates all of her skills and is geared towards supporting adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse through storytelling using a variety of artistic expressions including drama, dance, and film. Rachel holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from NYU Tisch School of the Arts.



Mychal Guyton is the Manager of Campus Operations and Production for ARRAY. Mychal previously worked as Ava DuVernay's assistant on *A Wrinkle in Time* and has several years of communication experience within the radio, broadcast news, television, and film production industry. Mychal received his education from American University; the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, and Bluefield State College.



Bethany Hall is thrilled to work as Comedian in Residence at American University, where she strives to make comedy for social change. She's currently developing a buddy comedy entitled *The Fourth Trimester* about the ungodly task of raising a baby human. It is "not" autobiographical. She spent 9 years as a cast member on TruTV's *The Chris Gethard Show*, and she co-created the series *Thanksgiving* starring Amy Sedaris and Chris Elliott. Bethany has appeared in bits on *Late Night with Conan O'Brien* and as the TGS writer, Bethany, on NBC's *30 Rock*. Her passion to influence change led her to work on the communications team at the Atlantic Philanthropies for several years. She's a graduate of Middlesex University in London, England.



Amy Kenyon is a senior program officer on the Cities and States team at the Ford Foundation, where she leads the work on housing and land. She has supported the Just Cities narrative shift project, which focuses on narrative shift at the intersection of racial justice and the built environment. Previously to Ford, Amy worked in the nonprofit sector and as an entrepreneur in sustainable agriculture and rural economic development.



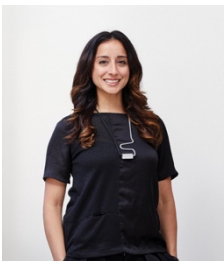
Jesse Krimes is a Philadelphia-based artist whose work explores how contemporary media influences our perceptions—and how those perceptions, in turn, shape or reinforce societal mechanisms of power and control. While serving a 6t-year prison sentence, he produced numerous bodies of work and established prison art programs. After Krimes's release in 2014, he co-founded Right of Return USA in partnership with The Soze Agency, the first national fellowship dedicated to supporting formerly incarcerated artists. His work has been exhibited at venues including the Palais de Tokyo, International Red Cross Museum, Zimmerli Museum, Goethe Institute, Aperture Gallery, and other venues. He has received public commissions from the Ford Foundation, Amnesty International, Mural Arts Philadelphia, and Eastern State Penitentiary. Krimes was awarded fellowships from the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation "Artist as Activist" (2017), the Independence Foundation (2017), and the Ford Foundation's Art for Justice Fund(2018). He is represented by Burning in Water Gallery in New York and recently co-curated HBO's *The O.G. Exhibition* featuring formerly incarcerated artists. In addition to his independent work, Krimes successfully led a class-action lawsuit against JPMorgan Chase for their predatory practice of charging people released from federal prison exorbitant fees.



Kathy Le Backes is currently the Vice President of Research & Development at Wise Entertainment. She oversees integration of social issues into Wise Entertainment's creative IPs and manages relationships with nonprofit organizations that serve on the company's advisory committees. Kathy is also a producer whose credits include Wise Entertainment's six-time Emmy-nominated Hulu original drama *East Los High* as well as various transmedia and social media campaigns. Prior to joining Wise Entertainment, Kathy served as the Digital Campaign Manager for the Entertainment Industry Foundation's Stand Up To Cancer program. In that role, she oversaw and produced multi-platform digital and social media campaigns to help raise awareness for cancer research. Before her role at the EIF, Kathy served as Program Manager at The Norman Lear Center's Hollywood, Health & Society program, where she worked closely with writers and producers from hit shows on top networks to facilitate storylines that educate viewers on social issues. Kathy holds an M.P.H. degree from the Keck School of Medicine at USC and a B.S. in Biological Sciences from UC Davis.



Jean Little leaves her sailboat on the Connecticut River and job managing a yacht club with warm heart and cold hands to return to Creative Change to assist with stage management and audio-visual needs.



Jackie Mahendra is a Senior Advisor at Luminate. Based in San Francisco, she makes civic empowerment investments in the United States, with a special focus on communities under threat. Prior to joining Luminate, Jackie was a senior fellow at MoveOn.org, specializing in immigrant and refugee rights and protection. She was previously Executive Director at Citizen Engagement Lab, a nonprofit social change incubator, and Director of Storytelling at Change.org, the world's largest campaign platform. Jackie serves as an advisory board member of several social good startups, including Co-Chair of the Full Circle Fund's Civic Tech Accelerator.



Kristen Marston has dedicated her career to creating positive and long-lasting change within the entertainment industry. In her current role as Culture & Entertainment Advocacy Director at Color of Change, she works closely with Hollywood insiders who want to change standards and practices from within and facilitates creative consultations to support accurate, inclusive, and empathetic portrayals of Black people on television and in film. Previously, she served as the Entertainment Media Manager at Define American, where she worked on projects ranging from asking Hollywood to stand with undocumented actor Bambadjan Bamba (*Black Panther*) in a viral coming-out campaign featured in the *LA Times* to producing the Define American Film Festival (DAFF). She has consulted on more than 30 television shows and documentaries, including NBC's *Superstore* and ABC's *Grey's Anatomy*. Kristen's commitment to changing entertainment industry standards began during her tenure as Diversity Associate at the Director's Guild of America, where she fought for equal employment opportunities for directors of color. Kristen holds a B.S. degree in Advertising from Metropolitan State University. She also holds an M.P.S. in Organizational Development, Training, and Learning and a Graduate Certificate in Project Management from the University of Denver.



Greisa Martinez is the deputy executive director of United We Dream—the largest immigrant youth-led network in the country, with more than 400,000 members. In this capacity, Greisa serves as UWD strategist and implements UWD's vision as the organization continues to build power throughout the country. Greisa began organizing in her hometown of Dallas, TX in 2006 to help young Latinos in Texas register to vote, and she has since become a fearless defender of her undocumented community and advocate for the rights of women. Originally from Hidalgo, Mexico, Greisa migrated to the United States with her parents at a young age and grew up in Texas. While studying Biology at Texas A&M University, she co-founded the Council for Minority Student Affairs (CMSA). CMSA is the first undocumented youth-led organization in the conservative university's more than 100 -year history. Greisa has been featured as a leading voice in the progressive movement and has been featured on many of the top outlets,



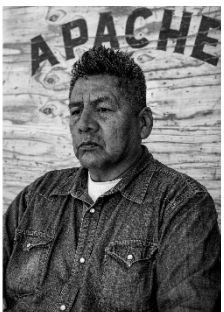
such as CNN, MSNBC, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, BBC, Telemundo, Univision, among others. Greisa is the living embodiment of the United We Dream spirit—transforming personal adversity into personal power and hope that has inspired thousands into action.



Elizabeth Méndez Berry leads the Nathan Cummings Foundation’s investments in the arts and media. Prior to joining Nathan Cummings, she worked at the Ford Foundation, focusing on its journalism portfolio, and then at the Surdna Foundation, where she led the Artists Engaging in Social Change portfolio. Before working in philanthropy, Elizabeth was an award-winning journalist and cultural critic whose work appeared in *Vibe*, the *Village Voice*, and the *Washington Post*; her work was twice featured in Da Capo’s *Best Music Writing* anthology. In Jay-Z’s book *Decoded*, he cites one of her essays as inspiring a line in the song “P.S.A.” from The Black Album. The country’s first-ever city council hearing on street harassment was held in New York City after Queens council member Julissa Ferreras read Elizabeth’s Spanish-language op-ed in *El Diario* on the topic. Her work has been included on syllabi at colleges around the country, and she has lectured at Princeton, Duke University, Texas A&M, Jackson State, and Hunter College. Méndez Berry serves on the board of Hedgebrook, which supports women writers, and the board of Grantmakers in the Arts.



Paola Mendoza is a film director, activist, author, and artist working at the leading edge of human rights. A co-founder of The Women’s March, she served as its Artistic Director and co-authored The New York Times best seller *Together We Rise: Behind the Scenes at the Protest Heard Around the World*. Paola’s most recent book, *Sanctuary*, will be released by Penguin in 2020. Mendoza is also a critically acclaimed film director whose works have premiered at the most prestigious film festivals around the world. Her films have thoughtfully tackled the complex issues of poverty and immigration facing women and children in the United States. She was named *Glamour*’s Woman of the Year in 2017 and one of *Filmmaker Magazine*’s 25 New Faces of Independent Film. She is a Tribeca All Access, Film Independent and Independent Film Week fellow. She is a co-founder of The Soze Agency and has been the creative director for campaigns fighting for immigration reform, criminal justice reform, and incarcerated mother’s and women’s rights. She is a co-founder of the Resistance Revival Chorus, the critically acclaimed women’s chorus that believes “joy is an act of resistance.”



Douglas Miles is from the San Carlos Apache Nation in Arizona. He’s an artist, designer, photographer, filmmaker, muralist, public speaker, and founder of Apache Skateboards. Using street art forms, he creates work that simultaneously deconstructs stereotypes and emboldens Native people in the 21st century. His renegade ethos at work creates a new iconography in art, photos, and film. Miles’s work has been exhibited at Princeton University, Columbia University, the DeYoung Museum, and the Museum of Contemporary Native Art in Santa Fe.



Douglas Miles Jr. is The Rez Skateboarding Expert who has traveled across America holding skate contests on indigenous reservations, documenting along the way and using social media platforms as an outlet.



Fawzia Mirza is a Pakistani, Muslim, queer woman and a writer/producer/performer (and former lawyer) who believes in the power of comedy and art to tackle divisive topics and breakdown stereotypes. She's made award-winning web series, short films and documentaries that have screened around the world. Her first feature film, *SIGNATURE MOVE*, which she co-wrote, produced, and stars in, world premiered at SXSW, was named one of the "Most Anticipated Films of the Year" by Filmmaker Magazine, screened at over 150 film festivals around the world, won 14 awards including the Grand Jury Prize for Best US Narrative at Outfest, stars Indian film legend Shabana Azmi, and is available on Amazon. Fawzia has done stand-up comedy, written sketch, emceed the Chicago Women's Marches, hosted The Moth storytelling, spoken at TEDx, Nat Geo and Chicago Ideas Week and her first short story appears in the South Asian anthology, *Good Girls Marry Doctors*. She was the featured Canadian artist in the Chicago episode of the Canadian Emmy-winning doc series, *INTERRUPT THIS PROGRAM*, on CBC. She wrote on the new CBS limited event series *THE RED LINE*, executive produced by Greg Berlanti and Ava DuVernay. She also has two new short, queer, Muslim, WOC films, set to world premiere this summer: *I KNOW HER* and *FIVE TIMES A DAY*.



Mamoudou N'Diaye is a Mauritanian American former educator, writer, comic, DJ, and activist. After graduating from the College of Wooster in 2014 with a degree in Neuroscience, he moved to Brooklyn to pursue a comedy career. He performs stand-up all around the country; has been featured as a guest on MTV News's *Decoded* with Franchesca Ramsey; has consulted on an untitled Michael Moore project; was formerly a video correspondent for Mic and Seeker, blending social commentary, psychology, sociology, and comedy; and wrote for the Refinery 29 show *After After Party* with Sonia Denis and Roy Wood Jr's Radio and TV Correspondents Association speech. In 2019, he released *Bodegaverse*, a web series about working in a bodega, which he co-created and co-wrote with frequent collaborator Karen Sepulveda; was selected as a finalist for Comedy Central's Yes And Laughter Lab for his half-hour pilot *Franklin* about the Black kid from the Peanuts comic; and will be releasing his writing and directorial debut, *hashtag* (stylized "#"). Alongside that, keep it peeled for a sketch collaboration with Comedy Central.



Sahra Nguyen is a filmmaker, director, and entrepreneur passionate about increasing diversity in media and amplifying stories from the Southeast Asian American community. She has created two documentary series for NBC Asian America: *Self-Starters*, which profiles five Asian American trailblazers around the country, and *Deported*, which follows the grassroots fight to end deportation and revise the Repatriation Agreement between the United States and Cambodia. *Deported* won the 2018 National Association for Multi-Ethnicity in Communications (NAMIC) Vision Award for Best Digital Media, Long Form. In 2017, Nguyen was selected to join the Google Next Gen Fellowship to explore creative solutions at the intersection of tech policy and racial justice. In 2018, Nguyen co-founded Listening Party, a podcasting company dedicated to uplifting diverse voices in audio through talent development, and a community podcast studio in Chinatown, New York. Nguyen is the founder of Nguyen Coffee Supply (NCS), the first importer, roaster, and distributor of specialty Vietnamese coffee in the United States. NCS establishes ethical direct-trade partnerships while championing diversity and representation in the coffee industry. Nguyen earned a Bachelor's degree from UCLA with a double major in Asian American Studies and World Arts & Cultures.



Porshéa Patterson is the public opinion research associate for The Opportunity Agenda. She consults with allies in the field to identify and obtain pertinent research needs in the areas of immigration, criminal legal reform, and poverty. Porshéa holds an MA in international educational development at Teachers College, Columbia University, and a BA in political science from Lincoln University, Pennsylvania. She also volunteers as Research Team Lead for the Harry Potter Alliance, co-hosts Castle Black (a podcast on the Loudspeakers Network), and is a frequent contributor to Black Girls Create.



Amber Phillips is a comedic storyteller, Reproductive Justice activist, and multimedia creative who deeply believes in the restorative power of Black Joy. Also known as the High Priestess of Black Joy, she co-created and co-host The Black Joy Mixtape podcast, a news and politics show that uses comedy and grit to break down the trending stories in news, politics, and pop culture through a Black feminist lens. The Black Joy Mixtape has been critically acclaimed as a leading podcast in politics and humor by *Teen Vogue*, Saint Heron, Refinery29, Feministing.com, *The Root*, Bitch Media, and ESSENCE.com. Her musings on Black women, politics, pop culture, and reproductive justice have been featured on ESSENCE.com, Huffington Post, Rewire, and The Breakfast Club, and Amber has been a former contributing panelist on Roland Martin's NewsOne Now. Her talent for creating culture has most recently led her to be a founding Annenberg Participatory Media Innovation Fellow at the University of Southern California with the support of the MacArthur Foundation. Amber also serves as the Creative Director of the Midwest Culture Lab, engaging creatives to build political power and tell untold stories in the Midwest.



Josue Ramirez is a multidisciplinary artist living and practicing in the Rio Grande Valley. He is the cultural organizer for Neta, an online platform and organization focused on telling the narratives of the Rio Grande Valley and highlighting culture makers of the region.



Amy Redford is currently the Artist in Residence at the Utah Film Center, and is consulting for media companies and various organizations. She has also just formed a production company with Katy Bettner called BetRed Stories, currently producing scripted and unscripted projects for big screens and small. She is in development for the feature *Cowboys and Indians* that will be shot in Queens, New York and Southern Utah in 2019. She made her directorial debut with *The Guitar*, that had a theatrical release and did the festival circuit. She has also directed and produced short films including *DeLiVeRy* with Ethan Suplee and Lukas Haas. Recently Amy produced the feature film *Professor Marston and the Wonder Women* for Annapurna and stage six. She directed Jeff Buckley music videos for Sony Music, as well as Television including *Law and Order SVU*. Previous to that she was acting on the stage, in television, and in film. She is on the boards of the Sundance Institute and The Opportunity Agenda. She recently acted in a holiday video for ENCIRCLE, an Utah organization supporting LGBTQ+ youth, and she did a PSA for the Utah Film Society in support of independent cinema. Amy and her siblings are actively involved in the Sundance Resort, and Sundance Preserve in Utah.



Rachel Reyes is the digital communications manager for The Opportunity Agenda, where she leads the creation, development, and implementation of dynamic digital strategies across all online platforms and social media networks. Previously, she served as communications director for the Center for Migration Studies of New York for 7+ years. She is licensed to practice law in the State of California.



Betsy Richards leads The Opportunity Agenda's Creative Change efforts with artists, influencers, and advocates to shift narrative, culture, and policy toward greater and more equal opportunity for all. Betsy brings more than two decades of experience in philanthropy, performing arts, Indigenous cultures, museums, arts education, media, and community advocacy to her role. Before joining The Opportunity Agenda, Betsy spent more than 7 years as a Program Officer in Media, Arts, and Culture at the Ford Foundation, overseeing a national portfolio on Native American and place-based cultural communities. While at Ford, she initiated the creation of the unprecedented Native Arts and Cultures Foundation and served as the global chair of its Committee on Indigenous Peoples. Previously, she was the inaugural Director of Public Programs for the Mashantucket Pequot Museum, the country's largest tribal museum and research center. In addition, she has run two theater companies; served as a Fellow at the New York Shakespeare Festival/Public Theater; and has directed on stages in New York, Los Angeles, and

Canada. Betsy served on the team for the groundbreaking narrative change research project Reclaiming Native Truth. She holds degrees from NYU and Yale University and is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation.



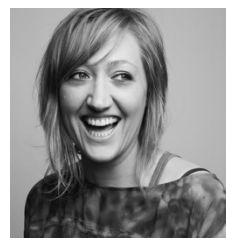
Gibrán Rivera is an internationally renowned master facilitator who has devoted his life to the development of leaders and networks of leaders. His work is anchored by the idea of Evolutionary Leadership—consciousness, culture, and action through relentless experimentation. Gibrán’s commitment is to bring great people together to do work that changes everything. It is a commitment to justice and creative possibility. Convinced that the next evolutionary leap depends on love and the currency of trust, Gibrán’s work seeks to harness the power of authentic human connection. He wants to be a part of defining new ways of being together in this world. This work is meant to help us thrive in a “post-normal” world, a historical moment defined by volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity (VUCA). Our times demand a new leadership posture, one that allows us to shift away from an industrial paradigm defined by large-scale extraction and toward an emergent paradigm defined by networks, relationships, and the need for a sustainable human presence on the planet.



Nayantara Sen is a narrative and cultural strategist, network builder, oral historian, creative writer, and racial justice educator. She is the Manager of Narrative and Cultural Strategies and a Senior Trainer at Race Forward. At Race Forward, she develops narrative and cultural strategy projects and curricula for racial justice and organizes the arts sector for cultural equity. She is the creator of the Racial Equity in the Arts Innovation Lab, an intensive racial equity lab for theatres, performing arts organizations, and museums in New York City. Nayantara is the Co-Founder and Principal of Art/Work Practice (AWP), a consultancy focusing on cultural strategy and arts-integrated practices for change. She is the author of *Cultural Strategy: A Primer* and the documentarian for *Until We Are All Free*. As a strategist and educator, she has trained thousands of change agents, students, teachers, funders, and organizers. In addition to working at the intersection of racial justice, narrative, and the arts, Nayantara worked in arts administration and public engagement in film, oral history, and community theatre. She has curated interdisciplinary programs on race, gender, media, environmental and reproductive justice, and immigration. A fiction writer and poet, she writes short stories about themes of migration, nostalgia, home, and belonging. Her graduate research focuses on the role and craft of fictional storytelling in racial and political discourse.



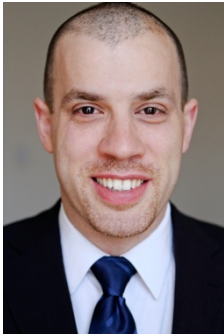
Kashif Shaikh is the Co-Founder and Executive Director of the Pillars Fund, an organization that invests in and amplifies the talents, narratives, and leadership of American Muslims. Under Kashif’s leadership, Pillars has grown from a volunteer-led community fund to a fully-staffed, nationally recognized foundation that has invested more than \$3.5M into nonprofits working with and alongside the American Muslim community. With 13 years of experience in the philanthropic sector, Kashif is a leading voice in the field of philanthropy and the important role it plays in empowering vulnerable communities. Prior to launching Pillars, Kashif was a Program Officer at the Robert R. McCormick Foundation, where he managed a portfolio of more than \$5M and helped scale some of the most promising nonprofits in Chicago, working at the intersection of racial justice, poverty, and education. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of 826CHI, an organization that was founded by acclaimed author Dave Eggers and is dedicated to supporting students ages 6 to 18 with their creative and expository writing skills along with the Chicago Theological Seminary. He was also recently named to the East Coast Board of Directors for the Peabody Awards. In 2017, he was selected for the Crain Chicago Business annual “40 Under 40” list. Originally from Cincinnati, OH, Kashif holds a Bachelor’s Degree from Ohio State University and a Master’s in Public Policy and Administration from Northwestern University.



Marika Shaw played the viola as a touring member of the Grammy award-winning band Arcade Fire for 9 years. She also led the band’s philanthropy and community outreach. While playing on stages around the world, Marika and her fellow band members could feel the incredible energy of thousands of people coming together to experience something profound. Motivated by this potential, Marika dedicated herself to building a new organization, PLUS1. PLUS1 empowers artists to partner with their fans to drive awareness, advocacy, and resources for organizations doing proven, measurable work to increase equity, access, and dignity for all. Marika was raised in B.C. by her mother—a linguist and academic who works with First Nation communities in language revitalization and who taught Marika the value of identity and the power of language. Marika has degrees in Music Performance and Education from McGill University. She sits on the Board of Directors of Partners in Health Canada and on the PIH Board of Trustees in Boston. She frequently advises and speaks on the power of collective impact and the intersection of effective philanthropy, art, and social justice including at C2 Montreal, the Forbes Under



30 Summit, universities, and other engagements globally. She lives in Montreal with her husband, record producer Marcus Paquin, and their young daughter.



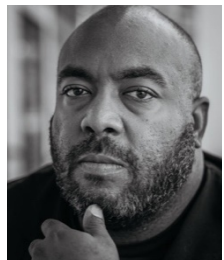
Michael Skolnik is a partner and co-founder of The Soze Agency, a creative agency that works with companies, nonprofit organizations, and movements to create campaigns rooted in compassion, authenticity, and equity. Michael's profile in *The New York Times* identified him as "the man you go to if you want to leverage the power of celebrity and the reach of digital media to soften the ground for social change." Earlier in his career, Michael served as President of Global Grind, a media company focused on a millennial audience. Prior to that, he spent more than a decade as an award-winning film director and producer. Michael serves on the Board of Directors for Rock the Vote, the Trayvon Martin Foundation, PolicyLink, The Gathering For Justice, and the Young Partners Board of The Public Theater. Michael is the proud father to Mateo Ali.



Frisly Soberanis is a director and video artist from Queens, New York via Guatemala. He grew up filming quinceañeras and bodas and is now working in New Media and Film. Frisly is interested in migration and borders, sci-fi, space, and masculinity and other gender expressions, and he wishes to explore ideas of how the immigrant experiences might look in the next 200 years. He loves thunderstorms and family, loves chilaquiles (but can't take the heat), is fascinated with light and sound, and loves to play video games, especially ones with a great story.



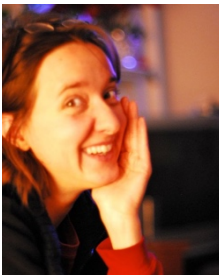
Ishita Srivastava is a digital producer and cultural strategist who believes in the power of storytelling and pop culture to move hearts and minds and transform social norms to create lasting social change. With 8 years of experience working at the intersection of social change movements, media, and pop culture, Ishita came to lead the culture change strategy work at Caring Across Generations in 2017. She previously worked at Breakthrough, a global human rights organization, where she produced digital campaigns and projects spotlighting immigrant rights, racial justice, and gender justice, most notably THE G WORD, an interactive storytelling platform showcasing people's personal stories about gender norms and gender-based violence. In producing innovative projects that inspire and move people, she has brokered and managed partnerships with multiple organizations, in the United States and internationally, as well as artists, storytellers, and strategists from the worlds of advertising and entertainment. Born and raised in New Delhi, she holds a BA in English literature from St. Stephens College (Delhi), a BA in media and communications from Goldsmiths College (London), and an MA in cinema studies and culture and media from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. Her documentary film, *Desigirls*, examines the intersection of gender, sexuality, and immigrant culture as it follows two women as they negotiate their varied and often fraught experiences as queer Indian women in New York City.



Shawn Taylor is a writer, a university lecturer, and a highly sought after public speaker. He is a founding author of the pop-culture site www.thenerdsofcolor.org and is a founding organizer of the Black Comix Arts Festival. He completed a Senior Fellowship with the Pop Culture Collaborative, where his work focused on the political and social power of fandom. He is President and the Chief Creative Officer of Drum and Gourd Wonder Lab, LLC.



John-Michael Torres uses communications and digital media to organize for improvements and policies that allow border communities to decide how we live and thrive. Over his 18 years of experience, John-Michael has been inspired by and organized alongside poor musicians, immigrant farmworkers, students, and colonia residents. John-Michael began organizing in high school, when he and fellow musician friends pooled resources to coordinate practice space, share equipment, and rent venues in order to carve out a space for low-income youth musicians to participate in the local punk and metal scene. He attended the University of Texas at Austin, where he got involved organizing students in solidarity with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, a group of farmworkers transforming the fields of Florida. After graduating, he returned home and joined local organizing efforts for farmworker rights and against corporate-led globalization. For the past 9 years, he has worked as communications coordinator for the nonprofit La Unión del Pueblo Entero, where he helps colonia residents and immigrant community members use the media in combination with organizing to win improvements in their neighborhoods and fight for more just immigration policies.



Janelle Treibitz is a cultural strategist, political organizer, and puppeteer. In her role as Creative Engagement Coordinator, she organizes The Opportunity Agenda's Creative Change events, convenings, and collaborations. She oversees The Opportunity Agenda's 500+ network of artist activists and helps design and implement long-term cultural strategies for narrative and cultural change. Janelle has 15 years of experience collaborating with local, national, and international social justice organizations, helping them to incorporate cultural strategies and creative tactics into their work. She co-founded Puppet Underground in Washington, DC, a cultural organizing collective that worked across a wide spectrum of issues in partnership with grassroots organizing campaigns. She has worked as a campaign organizer, facilitator, and creative direct action trainer and has collaborated for more than a decade with the Bread and Puppet Theater. Janelle is a contributor to the book *We Are Many: Reflections on Movement Strategy from Occupation to Liberation* (AK Press).



Angela Tucker is an Emmy-nominated producer, writer, and director. Her directorial work includes *Paper Chase*, a teen comedy in development; *All Styles*, a dance movie currently airing on Showtime; *All Skinfolk Ain't Kinfolk*, a short documentary about a runoff election in New Orleans; *Black Folk Don't*, a documentary web series that was featured in *Time Magazine's* "10 Ideas That Are Changing Your Life"; *Intersection*, a short film that looks at diverse identities that was funded by Frameline and premiered at American Black Film Festival; and *(A)Sexual*, a feature-length documentary about people who experience no sexual attraction that streamed on Netflix and Hulu. She is in her seventh year as Series Producer of the PBS strand *Afropop* and is producing *Belly of the Beast* (directed by Erika Cohn). She was Co-Producer on *The New Black* (PBS's Independent Lens). Previously, she was the Director of Production at Big Mouth Films, a social issue documentary production company. There, she worked on several award-winning documentaries. Her production company, TuckerGurl, is passionate about telling stories that highlight underrepresented communities. Tucker was a Sundance Institute Women Filmmakers Initiative fellow. She received her MFA in Film from Columbia University and her BA from Wesleyan University.



Tracy Van Slyke, through her work at the intersection of media production, cultural strategy, and movement building, has worked with a cross-sector of content producers, social justice organizers, and philanthropic leaders to help them develop the profound storytelling and experiences that can catalyze mass audiences for social change. Tracy is currently the Strategy Director at the Pop Culture Collaborative—a philanthropic resource and funder learning community that uses grantmaking, convening, narrative strategy, and research to transform the narrative landscape around people of color, immigrants, refugees, Muslims, and indigenous people, especially those who are women, queer, transgender, or disabled. She is also the co-executive producer/host of the culture change strategy podcast WONDERLAND. Previously, she was the director of the Culture Lab, which, through rapid prototyping methodology, built programs and products to help social justice leaders quickly advance their ability to use pop culture strategies. As an Opportunity Agenda fellow, she authored the 2014 report "Spoiler Alert: How Progressives Will Break Through with Pop Culture." Previously, she was the director of the New Bottom Line, director of The Media Consortium, and publisher of *In These Times*. She is the co-author of the book *Beyond the Echo Chamber* (New Press, 2010).



Val Vilott is a Program Officer for culture change and communications at a private family foundation based in Omaha, Nebraska. She is an expert in abortion rights and passionate about community building for social justice, particularly in more conservative areas of the country outside of the coasts. Prior to joining the philanthropic sector, she held several different roles in Washington, DC, including running a local nonprofit abortion fund that helped low-income patients access abortion care.



Vince Warren is the Executive Director of the Center for Constitutional Rights. He oversees CCR's groundbreaking litigation and advocacy work, which includes using international and domestic law to hold corporations and government officials accountable for human rights abuses; challenging racial, gender, and LGBT injustice; combating abusive immigration policies and Muslim profiling; and stopping the illegal expansion of U.S. presidential power and policies such as illegal detention at Guantanamo and torture. Prior to his tenure at CCR, Vince was a national senior staff attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union, where he litigated civil rights cases, focusing on affirmative action, racial profiling, and criminal justice reform. Vince was also involved in monitoring South Africa's historic Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings and worked as a criminal defense attorney for the Legal Aid Society in Brooklyn. He is a graduate of Haverford College and Rutgers School of Law.



Leslie Weber brings to The Opportunity Agenda a broad range of nonprofit executive and development experience. She has been instrumental in expanding revenue for organizations as diverse as the American Place Theatre; the National Council for Research on Women; and the Prospect Park Alliance, where she served as Vice President of Development and played a key role in the Park's \$74 million Lakeside Campaign. Prior to joining TOA, she was Deputy Executive Director for External Relations at Hudson Guild, a 120-year-old Settlement House in Manhattan. She is responsible for all facets of strategic resource development. In addition, Leslie currently serves on the Board of the Brooklyn Arts Exchange.



Tunde Wey is a Nigerian-born, New Orleans-based artist, chef, and writer who uses food and dining spaces to interrogate structures of power. Wey has been featured in *The New York Times*, NPR, *GQ*, *The Washington Post*, *VOGUE*, *Black Enterprise*, and *Food and Wine*, and his writing has appeared in the *Oxford American*, *Boston Globe*, and *San Francisco Chronicle*.



Erika Williams is the Director of Human Resources and Operations at The Opportunity Agenda, where she oversees the administration of policies, implementation of recognition programs, management of staff training and professional development initiatives, as well as other HR and operational functions. Erika is a certified human resources professional and holds an MA in industrial and organizational psychology with a focus on human relations and organizational behavior.



Caira Woods, Ph.D., is Senior Program Officer at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. In this role, she develops and advances the foundation's U.S. Economic Mobility and Opportunity strategy, a national effort to increase the number and range of actors committed to dramatically increasing mobility from poverty. She oversees investment portfolios dedicated to improving public understanding of mobility barriers and solutions as well as enabling greater coordination in the field.



Bethany Yellowtail is a fashion designer from the Crow & Northern Cheyenne Nations. She is the designer and CEO of the B. Yellowtail clothing brand, which also sells and promotes handmade, heirloom-quality jewelry, textiles, and accessories crafted by carefully selected artists from indigenous North America. Bethany's artistic vision and work is irremovable from her social justice vision for her community: not only does she provide employment for dozens of artists, Bethany was active in the no-DAPL and women's rights movements, creating a silk scarf to represent the Women's March on Washington. She's raised thousands of dollars through apparel sales and teaches sewing workshops on site at the water protector camps and in her tribal communities. In a world where indigenous images are often stolen and misappropriated, Bethany serves as an unapologetic arbiter of authenticity—a genuine voice who seeks to empower her people through design and representation.



Ernesto Yerena is an artist currently working in Los Angeles. His work has supported popular people's movements including indigenous rights, immigrants' rights, and workers' rights. Ernesto has collaborated with many important artists including Shepard Fairey, Zack De La Rocha, and Bethany Yellowtail. He is best known for creating the Stand with LA Teachers! and We The Resilient posters and collaborating on the We Are Human campaign with Shepard Fairey.