

## 2022 Creative Change Retreat Participant & Staff Bios:



### Alex Albadree (They/them)

Alex Albadree is a BIPOC queer immigrant who divides their time between DC and Istanbul where they create art for social change. The pieces Alex creates aim to engage with current and historical events to raise critical consciousness and call individuals to take action for social transformation. Alex applies an intersectional approach to the issues they amplify, highlighting the ways that oppressive systems rooted in white supremacy and capitalism degrade our empathy, dignity and environment. Through beautifully crafted digital illustrations, Alex invites us to take a hard, honest look at our world and at ourselves. And then to imagine a better world. And, most importantly, to fight for it.



### Maytha Alhassen (She/her)

Maytha Alhassen, Ph.D. sees her work in the world as an engaged wit/h/ness. Dr. Alhassen received her Ph.D. in American studies & Ethnicity. As a journalist and academic, Alhassen appeared as a co-host on Al Jazeera English and The Young Turks, co-edited the book *Demanding Dignity: Young Voices from the Front Lines of the Arab Revolutions*, and authored the report "Haqq and Hollywood: 100 Years of Muslim Tropes and How to Transform Them" for a Pop Culture Collaborative Fellowship. alhassen co-founded Occidental College's Social Justice Institute, Believers Bail Out, Arabs for Black Lives collective, and sits on the Feminist Studies in Religion online's editorial board. As an artist, she has performed "A Poem for Syria: Beyond A Geography of Violence" for her TED Residency. Currently, Alhassen is a Co-Executive Producer for Ramy and serves as an Executive Producer for the docu-project "American Muslims: A History Revealed." She is Religion + Public Life Fellow in Media + Entertainment at Harvard University, a Pop Collab Pluralist Visionaries Fellow, and a Pillars Muslim Narrative Cohort Fellow.



### Macky Alston (He/him)

Macky Alston is directing *ACTS OF REPARATION* with Selina Lewis-Davidson, a documentary & impact campaign following US-based reparations initiatives aimed at healing historic injury caused by slavery & the Native American genocide.



### Nando Alvarez (He/him)

Nando Alvarez is an Ecuadorian artist based in Washington DC. As a Latinx immigrant, he tries to connect a wide range of experiences and traditions into an always developing language to talk about the profound crisis we are in, trying to put the human being at the center of his narrative. His work combines and experiments with various mediums and platforms, such as screen-printing, painting, digital illustration, murals, photography, etc. He has worked closely with local communities and organizations to create art for transformation, to accompany their struggle for social justice. His core belief is that art is at the center of the human experience and

has the potential to transform individuals and whole societies because art can open the future. Nando recently has served as an artist in residence for Empower DC, a local grassroots organization and was awarded with the Arts and Humanities Fellowship 2022 by the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities.



### Rupa Balasubramanian (She/her)

Rupa is Vice President of Field Resourcing at the Pop Culture Collaborative. She spent two decades working at the intersection of philanthropy, policy advocacy and social movements. She began her career in politics and crisis management, working in the Press Secretary's office at the White House and then spent a decade at philanthropic and political consulting firm, Margery Tabankin & Associates, where she launched innovative strategies for private and family foundations. In 2013, Rupa helped launch Fundamental, a boutique philanthropic consultancy, where she helped individuals in the entertainment community deploy resources to support organizations focused on building equity and expanding justice. Rupa graduated from the University of California, Santa Barbara and earned her Masters degree in Public Administration at the UCSB School of Policy, Planning and Development. She serves on the board of directors of Vote.org, Planned Parenthood Los Angeles, and Demos, a think tank of the progressive movement.



### Maurice BP-Weeks (He/him)

Maurice fights corporations and their exploitations for a living. He's deeply committed to racial justice movement, and has worked with organizations on campaigns of all types for over a decade.



### Sheri Bradford (She/her)

Sheri Bradford is a graduate of Emerson College and has been working in the Film and Television industry for the past 13 years. She started her career working at William Morris Endeavor as an assistant in the MP Literature department, and has since worked on Films and TV Shows for many major Studios (DreamWorks Animation TV, ViacomCBS, and Mattel to name a few). Bradford is also a 2018 Film Independent Project Involve Fellow, a 2018 21st Century Fox Global Inclusion Fellow, a 2021 Yes And... Laughter Lab Winner, and a 2022 Opportunity Agenda Culture & Narrative Fellow. Bradford currently works in Animation and continues to create and develop her art wherever she can.



### Ellen Buchman (She/her)

Ellen Buchman was appointed President of The Opportunity Agenda in August 2019. She is an organizer, trained social worker, advocate, trainer and communicator with more than 25 years experience as an internationally-known trainer and practitioner of organization and coalition building, campaign initiating and implementing, advocacy and training in the intersection of organizing, advocating, and communicating for social justice. Her work centers mainly on skill-building, community building, and systems and cultural strategies toward social justice, such as starting up and/or supporting field and organizing entities, organizational structures and opportunities for uplifting equity in advocacy and organizing.

Ellen divides her time between New York City and Takoma Park, MD, outside of Washington, DC, where her home, wife, and enthusiastic and exuberant puppy reside.



### Elizabeth Cahill (She/her)

Elizabeth guides Surdna's communication strategies and efforts to promote just, sustainable communities in the U.S.

She has 15+ years of experience helping foundations and nonprofits use strategic communications and digital engagement to bring about positive social change. Most recently, she served as Chief Communications Officer and previously Director of Digital Communications at The Atlantic Philanthropies.

Prior, she worked at the New York Philharmonic, BRIC, and the Consortium for Worker Education—promoting the arts and civic innovation, connecting communities, and organizing workers. She began her career teaching at Homes for the Homeless.

Elizabeth previously served on the board of the Narrative Initiative. She graduated from Georgetown University and holds a specialization in social impact strategy from the University of Pennsylvania. She lives in Montclair, New Jersey with her husband and three teenagers and enjoys hiking, biking, and cooking.



### Arnell Calderon (She/her)

As the Development Associate, Grant Writer for Institutional Giving, Arnell Calderon supports the Institutional Advancement team in foundation research, drafting and submitting grant reports and proposals, record keeping, and database management. Prior to joining TOA, she has professional and academic experience in education, publishing, academic libraries, writing, and transformative justice work. Arnell holds a BA in Literary Studies with a concentration in Literature from The New School.



### Lorrie Chang (She/her)

Lorrie Chang centers an arts and cultural-based approach to community development as a path to collective liberation. At PolicyLink, she designed and evaluated the nation's first Creative Placemaking technical assistance program for The National Endowment for the Arts, served as the research partner for ArtPlace's experiment to integrate arts and culture strategies into community development orgs, and supported arts orgs advancing equitable policies. In East Portland, she led community engagement rooted in storytelling for The People's Plan— a plan by and for the people projecting a vision for a thriving Black community. As a Yerba Buena Center for the Arts' Truth Fellow, she explored, "How do we find and empower TRUTH?". Last year, in stillness, she humbly pursued, "What does liberation look like for me?". She now seeks to alchemize her journey of personal liberation to serve collective liberation. Lorrie holds a Master's in Urban and Regional Planning and resides in San Francisco.



### Laura Collins (She/her)

Laura, a first-generation college graduate, grew up in a working class home and witnessed first-hand how the struggles of working paycheck-to-paycheck can negatively affect working families. Once she realized that a great deal of the suffering endured by her family and community was a direct result of policy choices, she jumped into organizing to build the power it takes to push legislators to make better choices. As a state organizer at Family Values @ Work (FV@W), Laura works directly with their 27-state Network to support state coalitions to build the power required to win universal access to paid sick days, paid family & medical leave, and affordable child care. FV@W, a women of color led organization, operates with the recognition that valuing caregiving and enabling people to be good providers and good family members is key to achieving racial, gender and economic equity. Before joining FV@W, Laura led digital outreach for the Congressional Progressive Caucus Center.



### Russell Craig (He/him)

Russell Craig is a New York based artist originally from Philadelphia whose art work and activism deals with the criminal justice system and social injustice in America. Russell is also the co-founder of Right of Return providing opportunity and assistance to other formerly incarcerated individuals looking to pursue their art career all over the United States for the last four years.



### Michael Crawford (He/him)

Michael Crawford is a cultural and communications strategist. He is a VP at Spitfire Strategies. He was Director of Marketing at MoveOn. He also led the Digital and Creative team at Freedom to Marry.



### Margaret Crisostomo (She/her)

Margaret's event expertise is in front-of-house management, as well as ticketing, seating, guest management, and sponsor activations. She has produced events large and small, for as few as 300 guests to as many as 3,500, in both banquet- and theater-style seating.

Prior to co-founding STAMP, Margaret spent five years at GLAAD overseeing the corporate fundraising program, growing the revenue for special events to close to half of the organization's annual operating budget. A UCLA graduate, she also worked for an LA-based event coordination company, and the Children's Action Network, a national non-profit.

Margaret's clients include ADCOLOR®, Tony Awards, ACLU, and Broadway openings such as Moulin Rouge! The Musical.



### Annie Del Hierro (She/her/ella)

Annie Del Hierro (b. Quito, Ecuador) is a community-engaged visual artist, organizer and educator based in Brooklyn- the ancestral and unceded land of the Lenape. Her work explores history, individual and collective memories, and identity. She is interested in continuing to create collaborative public art projects as platforms for community engagement and cultural interchanges to reflect a collective identity and belonging. Annie usually collaborates with artists from different disciplines and the public who are not involved in traditional art settings. She is the founder and creator of Killa Collage.



### Julie Fisher-Rowe (She/her)

Julie Fisher-Rowe directs The Opportunity Agenda's narrative strategy, research and evaluation efforts. In this capacity, she leads a team of communications and research experts who conduct narrative and communications research and craft narrative strategies. Together with groups around the country they identify opportunities and strategies to amplify narratives that promote liberation and equity, and challenge white supremacy. Julie has worked with a range of non-profit groups and social justice organizations on narrative and communications strategy, messaging, framing and media outreach. She holds a B.A. from Grinnell College and a M.A. in journalism from the University of Iowa.



### Adey Fisseha (She/her)

Adey Fisseha is US Senior Program Officer at Unbound Philanthropy, where she helps develop, implement, and evaluate the Foundation's grantmaking strategies in the United States. Adey joined Unbound in 2012, after working 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 is a refugee and immigrant from Ethiopia.



### Daniel French (He/him)

Mohawk/Chicano in LA. Composer for stage & film, MC, music producer, educator, cultural strategist, & a founding member of LA band Las Cafeteras. Working at the intersection of party & politics.



### Sarah George (She/her)

Hailing from Florida, Sarah is an Independent Producer with experience in events, music, theater, print, and film.

She provides project-based support to those in the creative industry and has worked with artists such as Esperanza Spalding, Allison Janae Hamilton, Terri-Lyne Carrington, and more.

As a friend of STAMP Event Co., Sarah has been fortunate enough to work with clients including Ms. Foundation for Women, Google, GLSEN, and, of course, The Opportunity Agenda.



### Mark Gonzales (He/him)

Architect. Currently building ecosystems.



### Emily Goulding (She/her)

As an Irish/Latina native of the eastside of LA, Emily is keenly interested in how the stories we tell shape our collective identity.

She is currently the Executive Director of Amplifier, a design lab that amplifies the most important social movements of our times. In this role, she blends her interest in storytelling and journalism together with her background in education and the arts (teaching college writing and dancing professionally). Over the course of her career, she has secured over 16 million in funding from over 100 grantors to launch large-scale, mostly curriculum based arts and humanities projects about public life.

Emily has served as a panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts' Folk and Traditional Arts grants program and spoken about narrative shift and culture change at Johns Hopkins University, George Washington University, and on ABC and FOX news. Emily holds a master's degree in Journalism from Georgetown University and an undergraduate degree in Modern Literature from UC Santa Cruz.



### Ginna Green (She/they)

Ginna Green is a strategist, writer, movement-builder, consultant, and Partner and Chief Strategy Officer at Uprise, where she co-founded the Media Badass Masterclass. She is also the co-host of A Bintel Brief: The Jewish Advice Podcast from The Forward.

At Uprise, Ginna leads the practice on diversity + equity + inclusion + justice and philanthropic advising within the Jewish community, and is a principal strategist for its progressive movement media and messaging clients. She has worked as Chief Strategy Officer at Bend the Arc: Jewish Action, Managing Director of the Democracy Program at ReThink Media, and in multiple roles at the Center for Responsible Lending.

In addition to serving as President of the Women's March Win PAC, Ginna sits on the boards of Bend the Arc, Political Research Associates, the Jews of Color Initiative, the Jewish Social Justice Roundtable, and Jewish Story Partners. She is a proud South Carolina native, and the mother of four kids from college to first grade.



### Maritza Guzmán (She/her)

Maritza Guzmán is a philanthropy consultant with experience across large national foundations, corporate philanthropy, government agencies, and the nonprofit sector. Over the course of her career, Maritza has worked at a range of organizations, including NEO Philanthropy, the I Have a Dream Foundation, the F.B. Heron Foundation, the Freddie Mac Foundation, and the DeWitt Wallace Reader's Digest Fund. Reflecting her passionate belief in opportunity for all, Maritza has focused on advancing equity and social justice through her work. As the first member of her family to attend college, Maritza began her career in philanthropy working on issues of educational access.

Maritza has served as a National Advisory Committee Member for the College Board Prepárate program for Latinx students, and as a Board Member for AYUDA, Inc., an immigrant assistance organization.

Maritza has a BA from Yale University and a Master's in Public Administration from Columbia University.



### Meklit Hadero (She/her)

Meklit Hadero is an award-winning Ethio-American vocalist, composer and cultural strategist. She is known for her electric stage presence, and deeply personal Ethio-Jazz songs. Her music has been featured by the New York Times, NPR, BBC, CNN, Vibe and many more.

Meklit is co-founder/host of Movement, a new radio series, podcast and live show exploring the intersection of global migration and music. Grounded in her experience as a refugee in her youth, Movement aims to inspire narrative change and shift public imagination around migration. Movement airs regularly as a special feature of PRX's The World.

Meklit is Head of Creativity and Impact at YBCA, as well as a National Geographic Explorer. She has collaborated with Kronos Quartet, Andrew Bird, and the late musical legend Pee Wee Ellis. Meklit has been commissioned to create new work by Lincoln Center, UCLA, MAP Fund and more. She is co-Founder of the Nile Project, and a voice in UN Women's theme song.



### Carly Hare (She/her)

Carly Hare (Pawnee/Yankton) is committed to advancing equity and community engagement. She is a proud mother, daughter, sister, auntie, partner, ally, friend, and equity advocate. Her Pawnee name is <i>kita u hoo <i>ja hiks, 'kind leader of men'.

Hare currently serves as the first executive director of Culture Surge. She is serving as chair for the Highlander Research and Education Center and for Impact on Education. She also serves on the Pawnee Evening Star Fund and for the Boulder County Marshall Fire Recovery Fund boards. In 2021, Hare chaired the Colorado Independent Congressional Redistricting Commission.

Carly Hare is known for balancing grace with grit, filling a room with her generous laugh and powerful lulu.



### Josh Healey (He/him)

Josh Healey is a writer, performer, filmmaker, and creative activist. Executive producer at Offsides Productions, he has created political comedy videos and creative campaigns with Daveed Diggs, Sarah Silverman, W. Kamau Bell, Lewis Black, and Diane Guerrero that have reached over 15 million viewers. Healey wrote and produced two seasons of The North Pole, a comedic web series featuring Rosario Dawson and Boots Riley about gentrification, global warming, and gluten-free donuts. A regular performer on NPR's Snap Judgment, Healey has been featured in the New York Times, San Francisco Chronicle, and his 13-year-old nephew Brian Silverstein's Youtube page, where it has at least 27 'likes.' He has performed and led workshops at UC-Berkeley, Harvard, New York University, and over 200 colleges, high schools, and conferences across the country. Born and raised in DC, these days Healey eats his daily bagel in Oakland, CA.



### Charon Hribar (She/her)

Dr. Charon Hribar is the Director of Cultural Strategies at the Kairos Center for Religions, Rights, and Social Justice and Co-Director of Cultural Arts for the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival. Over the past 20 years, Charon has been dedicated to the work of political education, leadership development, and integrating the use of arts and culture for movement building. Charon is a cultural organizer who uses and teaches the art of protest music to embody the connections of culture, art, and history and promote collective action. Through her work with the Poor People's Campaign, Charon has developed cultural resources to help leaders on the ground integrate arts and culture into their organizing work, including the We Rise Movement Songbook, the We Cry Justice Cultural Arts Project, and the Justseeds' Poor People's Campaign Art Portfolio. She has also served as an executive producer on multiple movement media projects including America Will Be, Getting Into Step: A Movement Podcast, and Manhattan Network Neighborhood show - Forward Together: Adelante Juntos.



### Jin-Ya Huang (She/her)

Jin-Ya Huang is an award winning immigrant entrepreneur, social impact interdisciplinary artist, and innovative community leader. Her advocacy work has been featured on the TODAY Show, NPR Morning Editions and TIME Magazine. Huang's ancestors fled communism for freedom and they took refuge in Taiwan. Her late mother, Mei-Ying, is the chef who inspired Break Bread, Break Borders: B4. Honoring mom's legacy, Huang uses storytelling of food and culture to transform lives in the kitchen. Her work examines her Asian identity and diasporic female experience. She's on a mission to empower refugee women/girls, promote racial equity, and focus on compassionate bridge building by cooking "food for good" at B4, her social enterprise workforce development training program. Huang is highly regarded for her ability to bring people together for a sense of belonging. She is a proud band mom to a talented percussionist, and determined to use her superpowers to better the world for generations to come.





### Nicholai Joaquin (He/him)

With 14 years of leadership experience across performing arts and non-profit institutions, Nicholai transforms the art and business of storytelling. He currently serves as Chief of Staff to the CEO at the Pop Culture Collaborative, a philanthropic and networking resource dedicated to forging relationships between the entertainment and social justice sectors.



### Erica Johnson (She/her)

Erica Johnson is the Founding Executive Director of Iowa Migrant Movement for Justice, a statewide membership-based advocacy and legal service organization, driven and led by immigrant voices, united with allies. Born and raised in Iowa, Erica has an extensive and diverse background in organizing and advocacy on various issue campaigns related to immigrants' rights, racial justice, domestic violence, and human trafficking. She has lived and worked in Latin America and has over fifteen years of professional experience working for positive changes at the local, state, and federal levels. Erica has received the Mary Louise Smith Human Rights Award from the Des Moines Civil and Human Rights Commission and the Continuing the Legacy of Cesar Chavez Award from Des Moines University, holds a Master of Public Administration from Drake University in Des Moines, IA, and a B.A. in Psychology and Spanish from North Park University in Chicago, IL. Erica lives with her family in Des Moines.



### Yuval Kagan (He/him)

Yuval studied Arts and Entertainment Management, as well as Special Events Marketing, at Pace University in New York. He brings his can-do attitude, meticulous attention to detail, and passion to each and every project. Having joined the STAMP Event Co team as an Event Intern, he is now a Senior Event Manager. His clients include GLAAD, GLSEN, Echoing Green, and The National Center for Law & Economic Justice. He's also worked on various projects with Netflix, Levi's, and Pinknic Festival, gaining experience in logistics, production, and guest management.



### Jackie Keliiaa (She/her)

Jackie Keliiaa is a stand-up comedian, writer, actor and producer based in Oakland, California. You can find her in the 2021 release, *We Had a Little Real Estate Problem: The Unheralded Story of Native Americans & Comedy*. She has been featured on Comedy Central, Team Coco, Illuminative's 25 Native American Comedians to Follow, and was Comic of the Week on The Jackie And Laurie Show. She wrote for the Web Series *You're Welcome America*, and has been featured in *Vulture*, *Uproxx*, the *LA Times* and *KQED*. Jackie has opened for Judah Friedlander, Nikki Glaser and was featured on the First Nations Comedy Experience streaming on Amazon Prime Video. Jackie is a regular at Bay Area venues and has performed at San Francisco SketchFest, Punch Line San Francisco and Cobb's Comedy Club.



### Anita Khashu (She/her)

Anita Khashu is a senior program officer with the foundation's Gender, Racial, and Ethnic Justice team, who oversees the foundation's immigrant rights portfolio. Prior to joining Ford, Anita was the director of the Four Freedoms Fund (FFF), the largest funder collaborative in the US supporting the immigration field. Prior to joining FFF, Anita was the founding director of the Vera Institute of Justice's Center on Immigration, a Fulbright Scholar and scholar-in-residence at the Center for Inter-American Studies and Programs at Autonomous Technological Institute of Mexico, and a staff attorney with the Legal Aid Society of New York in its criminal practice. Anita serves on the board of the Mexico City-based Institute for Women in Migration (Instituto para las Mujeres en la Migración), the Envision Freedom Fund, and the Management Center.



### Sloan Leo (They/he)

Sloan Leo (they/he) is a Community Design theorist, educator, and practitioner. They are the founder of FLOX Studio, a community design and strategy studio on a mission to build a more creative, brave, and resilient social impact sector. FLOX works with nonprofit advocacy groups and capacity builders, design institutions, mission-driven businesses, and social impact leaders to foster collaborations, facilitate meaningful conversations and prepare for the near future.

Under Leo's leadership, FLOX Studio's partnerships have included The Movement Voter Project, The Wikimedia Foundation, The Ms. Foundation For Women, The New York Women's Foundation, The National Institute for Reproductive Health, The Opportunity Agenda, and others.

Also, an artist, Sloan Leo's mixed media practice is decidedly queer, unambiguously black, and compassionately collective. Theirs is a social practice that embeds them in the dynamics, evolution, and beautifully fraught realities of finding, nurturing, and navigating community.



### Jeremy Liu (He/him)

Jeremy Liu is an artist, social impact strategist, and community-based real estate developer with a background in urban and community planning, racial equity, creative placemaking, and sustainability.



### Amanda Luke (She/her)

Amanda Nita Luke (Cherokee/Choctaw) is a freelance, Indigenous Stage Manager originally from Houston, TX. She has worked for Yale Rep, Syracuse Stage, The Old Globe, The Redbull Theater, and many other theaters. She also produces, production manages and works in a number of capacities for events.



### Adam Luna (He/him)

Adam Luna serves as the Vice President for Program Strategy and Impact at The Opportunity Agenda where he oversees all aspects of the organization's programmatic mission work. A veteran strategist, organization builder, leadership coach, and communicator, Adam has played a leading role in winning campaigns for immigrant and economic justice. Adam has most recently served as Senior Advisor for the United We Dream network, Political Director for American's Voice, and Director of External Affairs for Community Change. A native of San Diego, Adam builds the power and strategies we need to transform our world into a place where young kids of color can grow up happy and free to be amazing without limits.



### Mackenzie Meeks (She/her)

Mackenzie is a Senior Event Manager at STAMP Event Co., specializing in guest management and logistics as well as production. Her clients include Condé Nast, Hudson River Park Friends, The Trevor Project, and amfAR. Prior to working at STAMP, she served as the Associate Producer at The Cell Theater in NYC and worked as a freelance stage manager on both Off-Broadway and Off-Off-Broadway productions.



### Kristina Mevs-Apgar (She/her)

As Culture Change Director at the National Domestic Workers Alliance, Kristina leverages popular culture to build narrative power for the domestic worker movement. Her department works with artists and storytellers to produce creative advocacy across mediums including social impact campaigns, entertainment consultation, creation of original content, influencer engagement and strategic partnerships. Highlights include the social impact campaign with the Academy Award-winning film Roma (2 Shorty Awards), EP of the podcast Sunstorm hosted by Alicia Garza and Ai-jen Poo, Families Belong Together on stage at the MTV VMA Awards with musician Logic and co-founder of Storyline Partners, a collective that works to seed new narratives in TV and film. Kristina spent fifteen years as a working actress (90210, It's Always Sunny in Sunny) before moving into communications. She was a regional field organizer with Obama for America 2012 and graduated magna cum laude from UCLA with a B.A. in Political Science.



### Kenice Mobley (She/her)

Kenice Mobley is a New York comedian working with the Center for Media and Social Impact. She has been seen on Netflix, Comedy Central, The Tonight Show, and Vice.



### Quess Moore (He/him)

Michael Quess Moore, best known as Quess, is an award-winning poet, educator, multi-disciplinary artist and activist. A 2-time national poetry slam champion, he has shared his poetry around the country and the world, been published in several publications, and been featured by Nike, Button Poetry, Write About Now Poetry, Spotify, Ford Foundation, Redbull and other platforms. His second book of poetry, *Sleeper Cell* was published through Next Left Press in May 2016 and its accompanying curriculum has been welcomed by several esteemed schools and organizations. His activism has been featured in the NY Times, Huffington Post, The Nation and numerous other publications and earned him honors from the Urban League, the Kwame Toure Lecture Series and other platforms. As a 2018 Hewlett 50 Arts Commissions recipient with PolicyLink, he recently co-produced his first film, the award-winning “Many Fires This Time: We the 100 Million.”



### Evan Narcisse (He/him)

Evan Narcisse works as a writer and narrative design consultant in video games, comic books, and TV, often focusing on the intersection of blackness and pop culture. As a journalist and critic, he’s written for The Atlantic, Time Magazine, Kotaku, and The New York Times, in addition to teaching game journalism at New York University and appearances as an expert guest on CNN and NPR. He’s also the author of the *Rise of the Black Panther* graphic novel and a contributor to *Marvel's Spider-Man: Miles Morales*, *Redfall*, and *Marvel's Avengers*. A native New Yorker, he now lives in Austin, Texas.



### Victor Nguyen-Long (He/him)

Victor Nguyen-Long is a Vietnamese American Creative Director. An alumnus of Red Bull, 72andSunny, Nike, and Audi, he most recently led creative for ACRONYM's \$100 million anti-Trump effort in 2020.



### Sughey Ramírez (She/they)

Sughey Ramírez brings extensive experience translating language and culture for social change to her Cultural Strategies role at The Opportunity Agenda. Through positions in research and strategy, development, and community outreach, she has worked with public and private sector leaders to advance issues such as health equity, affordable housing, immigrant rights, and racial justice. At Latin United Community Housing Association (LUCHA) in Chicago, she successfully partnered with local artists and initiatives, such as Esso Afrojam Funkbeat and Slow Food Chicago, to raise awareness about food justice and housing issues affecting Black and brown communities on the west side of Chicago. In New York, she helped the New York Historical Society expand its innovative multimedia civics program, The Citizenship Project, to communities across New York City. A basketball lover and active proponent for the empowerment of women, she has also provided research and cultural strategy support for the

WNBA. A poet and translator, Sughey holds an MA in Comparative Literature from Dartmouth and a BA in International Studies from Middlebury.



### Betsy Richards (She/her)

Betsy Richards leads The Opportunity Agenda's Creative Change efforts with artists, influencers, and advocates to shift narrative, culture, and policy. She brings over two decades of experience in philanthropy, performing arts, Indigenous cultures, museums, arts education, media, and community advocacy to her role. Before joining the organization, Betsy spent over seven 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 & Cultures Foundation and served as the global chair of its Committee on Indigenous Peoples. Prior, she served as the Director of Public Programs for The Pequot Museum, the country's largest tribal museum and research center. She has run two theater companies, served as a Fellow at NYSF/Public Theater and has directed on stages in NY, LA, and Toronto. Betsy holds degrees from NYU and Yale and is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation.



### Alex Rivera (He/him)

Alex Rivera is an award-winning filmmaker whose work explores themes of globalization, migration, and technology. His first feature film, a cyberpunk thriller set in Tijuana, Mexico, 'Sleep Dealer,' won multiple awards at Sundance and Berlin. Rivera's second feature, a documentary/scripted hybrid set in an immigrant detention center, 'The Infiltrators,' won the NEXT: Audience Award and the Innovator Award at the 2019 Sundance Film Festival, and was released theatrically in the U.S. Rivera's work has been supported by the Ford Foundation, Creative Capital, the Open Society Institute, and many others. He is a 2021 MacArthur Fellow.



### Gibrán Rivera (He/him)

Gibrán Rivera is an internationally renowned Master Facilitator. He is a teacher and a coach who works to develop powerful leadership networks. Gibrán helps us build the skills we need in these times defined by VUCA. Volatility. Uncertainty. Complexity. Ambiguity.

He is the originator of the Evolutionary Leadership Workshop. Host of the Better Men Project. And teacher of "What Should White People Do?"

His work brings close attention to dynamics of power, equity, and inclusion. He has designed and facilitated some of the most prestigious fellowships in the country. And he specializes in the transformational offsite retreat.



### Chrystian Rodriguez (He/him)

As the Training and Engagement Manager, Chrystian is responsible for advancing The Opportunity Agenda's mission to provide quality training and support to aid partners in designing effective communications strategies and manages collaborations with organizational partners around the country. Chrystian is a filmmaker and experienced program leader in the field of media education and social justice communications, bringing over 15 years of

experience to the organization. He has worked with diverse organizations, artists, cultural and community organizers to create empowering learning spaces and to craft impactful media that champion equity and community power. Chrystian has also led the design of media literacy, political education, and filmmaking programs with FROM HERE, Global Action Project, and currently collaborates with Third World Newsreel on an intensive program for emerging filmmakers of color, helping to develop compelling films addressing critical socio-political issues.



### Pacita Rudder (She/her)

Pacita Rudder is a descendant of Ghanaian and Bajan ancestors and spent her formative years growing up in England, Ghana, and the United States. She brings her passion for cultural strategy and creativity into movements for justice. Pacita is the Senior Programs Manager at Harness, leading on initiatives that bring together artists, organizers, influencers, and cultural strategists to collaborate on projects and campaigns that shift culture. She is also currently a Cultural Strategist in Residence with the City of Oakland. Her previous work at Power California as the Cultural Strategies Manager included designing and executing strategic campaigns rooted in culture and narrative. Outside of work she enjoys making music, writing, and traveling.



### Legacy Russell (She/they)

Legacy Russell is a curator and writer. Born and raised in New York City, she is the Executive Director & Chief Curator of The Kitchen. Formerly she was the Associate Curator of Exhibitions at The Studio Museum in Harlem. Russell holds an MRes with Distinction in Art History from Goldsmiths, University of London with a focus in Visual Culture. Her academic, curatorial, and creative work focuses on gender, performance, digital selfhood, internet idolatry, and new media ritual. Russell's written work, interviews, and essays have been published internationally. She is the recipient of the Thoma Foundation 2019 Arts Writing Award in Digital Art, a 2020 Rauschenberg Residency Fellow, and a recipient of the 2021 Creative Capital Award. Her first book is *Glitch Feminism: A Manifesto* (2020). Her second book, *BLACK MEME*, is forthcoming via Verso Books.



### Rinku Sen (She/her)

Rinku Sen is the Executive Director of Narrative Initiative, where she helps social justice movements develop the power to move ideas. She is formerly the Executive Director of Race Forward and was Publisher of their award-winning news site Colorlines. Under Sen's leadership, Race Forward generated some of the most impactful racial justice successes of recent years, including Drop the I-Word, a campaign for media outlets to stop referring to immigrants as "illegal," resulting in the Associated Press, USA Today, LA Times, and many more outlets changing their practice. As a consultant, Rinku has worked on narrative and political strategy with numerous organizations and foundations. She serves on numerous boards, including the Women's March, where she is Co-President, the Ms. Foundation for Women and the Foundation for National Progress, publisher of Mother Jones magazine.



### Beau Sia (He/him)

Tony Award winning poet and author of *Well Played*, Beau Sia is passionately invested in exploring how culture shapes society, the concept of self development, and the power of poetry to protect and nurture humanity.



### Alvin Starks (He/him)

Alvin Starks is the Director of the Narrative and Culture Team at the Open Society Foundations – Open Society- United States (OS-US) and manages critical opportunities to elevate visionary and influential narrative interventions that mobilizes communities, coordinates public policies and systems, inspires new ideas and long-term culture shift to build and sustain an inclusive multi-racial democracy.

Alvin is a well-recognized leader in philanthropy and racial justice advocacy with over two decades experience on race and democracy, anti-discrimination and narrative and culture change. His work has focused within the United States and abroad (with a specific focus in Brazil, France and the Global South), engaging innovative advocacy tools, including; litigation, the arts, promotion of civil and human rights, leadership building, intersectionality, and cross movement-building.



### Erin Strek (She/her)

As Donor & Constituent Relations Strategist, Erin works to expand and deepen relationships with individual donors & collaborates with the communications team on strengthening constituent relations & network engagement strategies.



### Shawn Taylor (He/him)

Shawn Taylor is a writer/scholar of Afrofuturism, fandom, and mythology/ folklore. He is also a highly sought-after public speaker, group facilitator, and event host. Recently, he has been a consultant to several media companies.



### Rommy Torrico (They/them)

Rommy Torrico is a formerly undocumented, queer, trans/nonbinary visual artist born in Iquique, Chile. They have been involved in the (im)migrant rights struggle for several years and infuse much of their work with personal experience and the stories their community shares. Over the years, Torrico's work has been included in several publications and exhibited at the Smithsonian Museum, the Library of Congress and the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía as well as many galleries and museums throughout the Americas and internationally.



### Sarah Vitti (She/her)

Sarah Vitti has always been inspired by the intersection of culture and politics. She's worked between the worlds of entertainment, philanthropy, and nonprofits developing strategies and content that leverage comedy, pop culture, and storytelling to create a better world. She's been a community organizer and advocate working to educate and mobilize communities around environmental and consumer rights issues. She lives in Brooklyn, but you can often find her in upstate New York at The Root Community reconnecting with nature, farming, and building treehouses with friends.



### Eric Ward (He/him)

Eric K. Ward, a nationally-recognized expert on the relationship between authoritarian movements, hate violence, and preserving inclusive democracy, is the recipient of the 2021 Civil Courage Prize – the first American in the award's 21-year history. In his 30+ year civil rights career, Eric has worked with community groups, government and business leaders, human rights advocates, and philanthropy as an organizer, director, program officer, consultant, and board member. Eric's widely quoted writings and speeches are credited with key narrative shifts. He currently serves as Executive Director of Western States Center, a member of the President's Leadership Council for the Search for Common Good, Chair of The Proteus Fund, and Advisor to the Bridge Entertainment Labs.



### Leslie Weber (She/her)

Leslie Weber, is VP for Advancement with The Opportunity Agenda, where she is responsible for all facets of strategic resource development and the organization's external communications. 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. In addition, Leslie currently serves on the Board of the Brooklyn Arts Exchange.



### Allie Young (She/her)

Allie Young is a citizen of the Diné (Navajo) Nation. She is a storyteller and writer on a mission to increase the authentic representation of Native people in TV, film, and mainstream media by sharing the stories and traditions of her ancestors to help her community persevere in a world where they are largely invisible, underrepresented, and misrepresented. She founded Protect the Sacred—a program of culture change organization Harness—a program that focuses on educating and empowering the next generation of Navajo and Indian Country leaders and allies. Through Protect the Sacred, Allie makes certain Native voices are centered in culture and policy, especially the voices of Indigenous youth and womxn. It is her objective to ensure that the stories of her people are no longer history - the fabricated American narrative perpetuated in textbooks and Hollywood Westerns. Instead, they will be authentic and from the original peoples, the original storytellers of this land.