



## “Black Out: Understanding LGBT Advocacy and Black Communities”

### Speaker Bios



**Gabriel Foster** is a black, queer, trans, momma's boy based in Brooklyn, New York. He is the director of The Trans Justice Funding Project, a community-led funding initiative supporting grassroots; trans justice groups run by and for trans people. Gabriel has a long history of working with LGBTQ communities in Seattle, WA, Oakland, CA, Philadelphia, PA, Atlanta, GA and New York. He has worked for the American Friends Service Committee, Northwest Network for Survivors of Abuse, The Leeway Foundation, The Bread and Roses Fund, SPARK Reproductive Justice Now and the Sylvia Rivera Law Project. Gabriel has also recently joined the board of directors of Funders for LGBT Issues.



**Naa Hammond** is the Research and Communications Associate of Funders for LGBTQ Issues and oversees the management and maintenance of our extensive database of LGBTQ grants. Naa plays a key role in supporting communications and the production of our annual tracking report and other issue-based reports and infographics related to LGBTQ grant-making.

Naa comes to Funders for LGBTQ Issues from FIERCE, a New York City-based organization that builds the leadership and power of LGBTQ youth of color. Over a four-year tenure at FIERCE, Naa held a number of development roles, most recently serving as the Development Director. Before FIERCE, she interned with both Sylvia Rivera Law Project and Queers for Economic Justice.

Naa is also an advisory board member of the Third Wave Fund which works to support and strengthen youth-led gender justice activism nationally. She is passionate about art, somatics, and community organizing for social justice. Naa holds B.A.'s in 'Social and Cultural Analysis' and 'Urban Design and Architecture Studies' from New York University.



**Ernest Hopkins** is the Director of Legislative Affairs at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation (SFAF) where he has led its federal funding, policy, and legislative activities since 1997, first as the Director of Federal Affairs and now as Legislative Director with expanded oversight over HIV related funding, policy and legislative efforts at the federal, state and local levels. Prior to joining SFAF, Ernest served as the Director of Health and Treatment at the National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA) from 1995-97 where he worked with pharmaceutical companies on ethical, clinical trial design and educated communities nationally in the early days of combination antiretroviral therapy. Ernest is a founder and current Board Chair of the National Black Gay Men's Advocacy Coalition, established in 2006 to advocate at the federal level for the health and wellness of Black gay men. Ernest is a member of the CDC/HRSA Advisory Committee on HIV/AIDS, STIs, and Hepatitis (CHAC). He also serves on the Board of the National AIDS Housing Coalition as its Advocacy Chair and Ernest represents SFAF on the Black Gay Research Group and the Federal AIDS Policy Partnership.



**Roz Lee** is the Social Justice Initiatives Director at the Arcus Foundation. She has dedicated her career to fighting all forms of oppression through social justice philanthropy, community organizing, political advocacy, and popular education. Prior to joining Arcus, she worked as Director of Programs of Stonewall Community Foundation, where she created a Racial Equity Initiative grantmaking and capacity-building program to support organizations led by and for LGBT people of color. She worked as a Program Officer for the Jewish Fund for Justice, making grants to social and economic justice groups across the country. Roz received a Union Square Award for her work as a co-founder of the New York City Organizing Support Center, an organizing, training, and political education hub for grassroots organizations devoted to racial, economic and gender justice. Roz volunteers for numerous organizations committed to fostering progressive social change. She holds a BA from the State University of New York at Albany.