



“From Moment to Movement”

Speaker Bios

Eric Braxton is the Executive Director of the Funders’ Collaborative on Youth Organizing. FCYO is the largest national philanthropic intermediary advancing youth and multigenerational organizing as a strategy for social transformation particularly for low-income young people and young people of color. Eric’s involvement in youth organizing began at the age of 19 when he helped found the Philadelphia Student Union and served as its Executive Director for ten years. The Student Union continues to be a leader in organizing public high school students to transform their schools. At FCYO, Eric has been instrumental to incubating new funding initiatives to support grassroots community-led organizing, including FCYO’s Healthy Communities initiative, which supports youth organizing groups addressing the root causes of childhood obesity. He has supported numerous foundations in developing youth organizing programs that align with foundation goals. Eric is a father, and, in addition to being with his family, enjoys basketball and gardening.

Niki Jagpal joined the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy as the Research and Policy Director in 2007. She came to NCRP from the Research Department at Media Matters for America, a web-based nonprofit progressive research and information center. She has nearly fifteen years of experience working in the nonprofit sector.

Previously, Niki worked at Ipas, an international organization that works to enhance women’s reproductive rights and health. She helped organize the March for Women’s Lives in 2004, mobilizing grassroots participation in the event. She worked with local groups to increase voter turnout while at the Center for Community Change and conducted research on post-Katrina New Orleans for the Fannie Mae Foundation. She has led workshops and given presentations at local and national universities to engage the next generation of nonprofit leaders and at various national conferences.

Niki holds a bachelor’s degree in history and cultural anthropology from Duke University and a master of public policy from Georgetown, with a concentration in education, social and family policy. She has studied community organizing and social change with Marshall Ganz at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. Niki is grateful to call Pablo and John her mentors.

Roz Lee is the Social Justice Initiatives Director at the Arcus Foundation and she has dedicated her career to fighting all forms of oppression through social justice philanthropy, community organizing, political advocacy, and popular education. She most recently 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. In 2002, she received a Union Square Award for her work as a cofounder of the New York City Organizing Support Center, an organizing, training, and political education hub for grassroots organizations devoted to social change. Roz volunteers for numerous organizations committed to fostering progressive social change. She holds a BA from the State University of New York at Albany.

Charneice Fox Richardson is an award winning screenwriter, playwright, published poet, children’s story author, and director of film and theater. She has performed poetry and presented media empowerment material at a variety of prestigious venues and conferences across the country. Her work has been featured on CNN, NBC, The BBC, NPR, in The Washington Post, and produced off Broadway. Her documentary The MLK Streets Project currently airs on AS-PiRE TV.



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Alvin Louis Starks is the current Director of Strategic Initiatives at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in New York where he creates and directs opportunities for philanthropic engagement, partnerships with organizations, and the creative expansion of public and private ventures to leverage strategic opportunities. He is a social justice executive that works in the fields of philanthropy, arts and culture, and racial justice advocacy to address issues of systemic inequality. Alvin has written numerous reports and strategy papers for donors and foundations exploring progressive activities to strengthen social change. For over 8 years, Alvin worked at the Open Society Foundation and in 2004 created and directed the foundation’s Racial Justice Initiative. Building upon the legacy of traditional civil rights movement, the program focused on dismantling the structural and systemic barriers that perpetuate racial and class exclusion in our nation. In 2007, he led the creation of the foundation’s black males initiative that addressed issues of de facto discrimination and growing social exclusion. Alvin formerly held the position of Senior Program Officer for Racial Justice and Gender Identity at the Arcus Foundation and served as Program Officer at the WK Kellogg Foundation focused on racial equity strategies in the United States. He has worked in the field of international advocacy in Global South and Brazil. He is recipient of numerous philanthropic and civil rights awards.

Edgar Villanueva joined the Marguerite Casey Foundation as a Program Officer for the National and Midwest Portfolios in January 2013. Prior to joining the foundation in Seattle, Edgar was the Executive Director of Quality Enhancement for Nonprofit Organizations (QENO), a partnership between the University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW), philanthropic and civic organizations and leaders focused on building capacity in the nonprofit and philanthropic sectors in southeastern North Carolina. In 2011, Edgar was the founding Executive Director of the North Carolina American Indian Health Board, a state wide nonprofit focused on advancing health equity for American Indian families through research, education, and advocacy. Edgar began working in philanthropy in 2005, serving as a Senior Program Officer for six years at the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, a \$600+ million private trust in North Carolina with the mission of improving health in low-income communities. He has served on several boards and committees focused on advancing social justice and effective philanthropy. Edgar has been named a Hull Fellow with the Southeastern Council of Foundations, a Grantmakers in Health Terrance Keenan Fellow, and a member of the Circle of Leadership Academy with Native Americans in Philanthropy. In June, he was awarded the Flying Eagle Woman Award for achievements in community philanthropy. Edgar holds a Bachelor of Science in Public Health and a Master of Health Care Administration from the Gillings Global School of Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Nat Chioke Williams is Executive Director of the Hill-Snowdon Foundation and leads the philanthropic and programmatic work, operations and partnerships within the community. Nat manages HSF’s Youth Organizing and Fund for DC programs. He is also responsible for developing learning and leveraging opportunities in these program areas. In partnership with other social justice funders, he has recently been involved with the development of Grantmakers for Southern Progress, an emerging network of local, regional and national funders committed to facilitating joint learning, collaboration and leveraging of new resources to help build a vibrant and enduring infrastructure for social justice in the US South. Nat holds a B.A. in Psychology from Morehouse College, as well as a M.A. and Ph.D. in Community Psychology from New York University.