

PHILANTHROPY AND PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE 2019 COHORT



Gina Acebo

Vice President of Programs
Akonadi Foundation
Pronouns: she/her

As Vice President of Programs, Gina Acebo leverages more than 25 years as a movement organizer to strengthen Akonadi vision to support racial justice movement building in Oakland. She leads the Foundation's grantmaking programs and works with staff to ensure that a racial justice focus permeates all of the Foundation's work as well as in the larger field of philanthropy. During her 10 years at Applied Research Center (now Race Forward), she executed Facing Race, a national gathering of racial justice advocates in the U.S. and served on their national racial justice training team while supporting partners' racial equity policy advocacy. A third-generation Pilipin@ from Oakland, she has worked as a labor and community organizer with SEIU and the Center for Third World Organizing. She holds a dual Bachelor of Arts in Ethnic Studies and Political Science from the University of California at Berkeley and a Master of Fine Arts from the California College of the Arts.



Jennifer Agmi

Senior Program Officer
The Libra Foundation
Pronouns: she/her

As the Libra Foundation's first Program Officer for Gender Justice, Jennifer Agmi brings an unyielding commitment to the advancement of gender and racial justice through grantmaking, fund development, and community partnerships. In her prior position as Director of Programs of The New York Women's Foundation (NYWF), Jen oversaw a portfolio of grantees working with historically marginalized communities across three issue areas: economic security; reproductive justice; and safety. While at NYWF, she also served as chief strategist for the multi-million dollar IGNITE! Initiative, which increased investments in gender-fluid and young women of color-led organizations. A strong advocate for moving philanthropy towards participatory grantmaking, Jen also designed and managed NYWF's girl-led participatory grantmaking program. Jen holds an MPA from New York University Wagner Graduate School of Public Service and a degree in psychology from Brandeis University.

PHILANTHROPY AND PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE 2019 COHORT



Tanir Ami

CEO
CARESTAR Foundation
Pronouns: she/her

Tanir Ami has over 20 years of experience in the non-profit field. She is currently the CEO of the CARESTAR Foundation, where she is working on strategies to improve California's emergency response system. Tanir graduated with her MBA and Certificate in Health Services Management from the Haas School of Business at UC Berkeley. After graduating she went to work at Blue Shield of California where she helped to found the Blue Shield of California Foundation. She was responsible for setting the Foundation's strategic direction of serving uninsured and underinsured California families. After leaving the Foundation Tanir became the Executive Director of the Community Clinic Consortium where she expanded that organization's reach into a new county and continued to hone her skills in political advocacy. In 2010 Tanir was recruited to become the CEO of OLE Health, a Federally Qualified Health Center in Napa, providing primary care to over 30,000 low-income residents. She now lives in Berkeley.



Claudia Armann

Executive Director
McCune Foundation
Pronouns: she/her

Claudia Armann has been the Executive Director of the McCune Foundation in Ventura, CA, since 2008. She leads the Foundation's grantmaking and capacity building initiatives for community organizing groups in Santa Barbara & Ventura Counties. Claudia began her philanthropic work at the Santa Barbara Foundation as a program officer. For eight years, she coordinated education and cultural grantmaking, as well as student aid programs. Claudia serves as the Secretary for the Foundation Roundtable of Santa Barbara, on the Ventura County Complete Count Census Committee, and on the Steering Committee of the 805 UndocuFund, which provides financial support to undocumented residents affected by recent wildfires. Claudia also serves on the Behavioral Health Advisory Board for Ventura County and is a founding member of Homes for All, an affordable housing advocacy group. In the past, she was a board member for two environmental organizations. Claudia is the daughter of Guatemalan immigrants.

PHILANTHROPY AND PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE 2019 COHORT



Vanessa Camarena-Arredondo

Program Officer
Akonadi Foundation
Pronouns: she/her

Vanessa Camarena-Arredondo is a program officer at Akonadi Foundation. She brings over 20 years of experience promoting social equity in communities of color through her work in philanthropy, the arts and cultural sector, community health, and as a leadership development coach. Vanessa has worked with individual artists, social justice leaders, and with cultural and social service organizations as a coach. Prior to joining the Akonadi Foundation, Vanessa directed Studio Grand, an art space in Oakland's Grand Lake neighborhood.

Vanessa served as the Arts & Culture Fellow at The San Francisco Foundation. While at the foundation, Vanessa made grants totaling over \$3.2 million and helped to raise \$1.5 million to support Bay Area artists and arts non-profits. She spoke on the need for inclusion and diversity in the arts and helped to direct funding to artists and communities of color.

Originally from East Los Angeles, she was raised by a single mother who born in Mexicali, México.



Kim Carter

Founder/Ambassador
Time for Change Foundation
Pronouns: she/her

Kim Carter is an Affordable housing developer, Strategic Planner, Innovator, Motivational Speaker, Author, certified in Non-Profit Accounting, Certified Train the Trainer in 5- Evidence Based program models, (Strength Based Case Management, Motivational Interviewing, Gender Responsive Strategies & Principles, Global Appraisal of Individual Needs and Seeking Safety) Public Policy Advocacy, Keynote Speaker and Organizational Development. Specializing in leveraging federal dollars to create greater performance. Certified Gallup's Strength Coach (Strength finders).

Kim developed the social ecological model for eradicating women's incarceration:

1. Epidemiological Modeling of Interventions for Women in Prison (136th American Public Health Association Annual Meeting APHA)
2. Invisible Bars: Barriers to Women's Health During and After Incarceration (136th APHA)
3. Utilizing Community Participatory Research (CBPR) methods to document women health issues in prison. (136th APHA)

PHILANTHROPY AND PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE 2019 COHORT



Iris Garcia

Learning and Impact Program Officer
Akonadi Foundation
Pronouns: she/her

Iris Garcia is the Learning and Impact Program Officer at Akonadi Foundation, a family foundation committed to ending structural racism and advancing racial justice in Oakland. Previously, Iris served as Program Officer, Grant Operations for Global Fund for Women, a transnational feminist grantmaking organization that supported women's rights around the world. Her prior work experience includes

New Field Foundation and Thousand Currents, supporting international grantmaking to marginalized communities. Iris serves on the Board of San Francisco Women Against Rape.



Allison Gray

Program Officer
Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health
Pronouns: she/her

Prior to joining the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health in January 2018, Allison managed Family Voices of California Project Leadership, a statewide parent advocacy training program for caregivers of children with special health care needs. She currently serves as the Family Leader of California for the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP) and is the vice chair of

the AMCHP Family and Youth Leadership Committee. Allison is also a member on the Advisory Committee for the Funders' Group on Parent Organizing, Family Engagement, and Leadership Development. She also represented Family Voices of California on the Western States Regional Genetics Network. A parent of a child with special health care needs, Allison is dedicated to ensuring the family perspective is valued at all levels of the health care system.



Molly Johnson

Executive Assistant and Program Associate
Meadow Fund
Pronouns: she/her

Molly Johnson is the Executive Assistant and Program Associate at Meadow Fund, a donor-advised fund at the Silicon Valley Community Foundation. She focuses on gender justice and criminal justice reform. Previously, she worked in Washington, D.C. for Planned Parenthood Action Fund as the Political Research Manager.

PHILANTHROPY AND PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE 2019 COHORT



Celine Mactaggart

Philanthropist
Pronouns: she/her

Celine has a master's of nonprofit administration, worked in hospital philanthropy, and has served on a number of Bay Area boards, including the Board of Regents of St. Mary's College, Cal Performances, Girls on The Run, and the George Mark Children's House. She currently serves on the Board of Women in Leadership & Philanthropy at the University of San Francisco, and Californians for Consumer Privacy, the group behind the June 2018 passage of AB375,

which gives California consumers the strongest data privacy rights in the country. She is the founder of Shine Safe, a nonprofit dedicated to raising awareness for skin cancer prevention.



Ash McNeely

Managing Director
Yellow Chair Foundation
Pronouns: she/her

Ash McNeely joined Pacific Foundation Services in 2012, a family foundation management firm based in San Francisco. As part of the PFS senior program team, Ash serves as managing director for Yellow Chair Foundation and Executive Director for Sand Hill Foundation.

Prior, Ash spent four years in the Philanthropic Partnership Group of the Pew Charitable Trusts primarily focused on environmental policy, eight years leading advised fund grantmaking for philanthropic families at Silicon Valley Community Foundation, and ten years in performing arts marketing and development. She helped found the Silicon Valley Out-of-School-Time Collaborative and Bay Area Environmental Education Funders Collaborative and sits on the board of Horizons Foundation and the board emeritus of Opportunity Fund.

Ash received an MBA in nonprofit management from Golden Gate University and BA in English & Women's Studies from Vassar College. She and her wife, Elisa Odabashian, have two children in their 20s.

PHILANTHROPY AND PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE 2019 COHORT



Cathleen Otero

Vice President, Donor Relations and Programs
Orange County Community Foundation
Pronouns: she/her

Cathleen Otero is a nonprofit executive with 20 years of experience in program development, project management, process improvements, group facilitation, and expert consultation in the health and human services sector. As Vice President of Donor Relations and Programs at Orange County Community Foundation, Cathleen manages OCCF's grant-making, scholarship programs, and community initiatives. Prior to OCCF, Cathleen served as the Deputy Director of the National Center on Substance Abuse and Children Welfare (NCSACW) at Children and Family Futures, an Orange County based nonprofit providing expert consultation, strategic planning, and program evaluation. She has a MPA and a MSW from the University of Southern California, and a BA in Psychology from Yale University.



Quency Philips

Community Engagement Manager
LISC Bay Area
Pronouns: he/him

Quency L. Phillips is a proud Chicagoan and Northwestern University alumnus, currently based in Morgan Hill, CA. He is an entrepreneur, public-speaker, writer and influencer with extensive experience in marketing and the management of professional athletes and entertainers. His work in the nonprofit and public sectors has been focused on the Bay Area's affordable housing crisis and developing grassroots leadership. He is currently Chief Marketing Officer for eHarvestHub Inc., and serves as a Board member at Somos Mayfair in San Jose, CA, the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center in San Mateo, CA., and the Women's Foundation of California. He was formerly a member of the Housing Advisory Committee for the City of Gilroy, CA.

PHILANTHROPY AND PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE 2019 COHORT



Karla Ruiz

Program Officer
Stuart Foundation
Pronouns: she/her

Karla is a caring champion for equitable access to quality education, with ten years of experience in the nonprofit sector and philanthropy. Currently, Karla serves as a Program Officer at the Stuart Foundation where she manages their family engagement and capacity building work. Prior to joining the Foundation, she was the Education Fellow at The San Francisco Foundation, a community foundation serving the Bay Area. While at Los Angeles Education Partnership, Karla coordinated programming and community partnerships as part of implementing a community schools strategy for high schools and middle schools across South, East and Northeast Los Angeles. She later managed development and communications for the organization. Karla holds a BA from Pomona College and a Masters of Public Administration from the University of Southern California.



Chrissy Sa

Administrative Assistant to the VP of Programs
San Francisco Foundation
Pronouns: she/her

As a NYC public school teacher for 8 years, Chrissy built skills in project management, leadership, cooperative learning, adaptive curriculum building, and community building. She observed that students needed leadership, discipline, and relationship and team building skills and started a basketball program. The program has been running since 2004. She was a team leader for a group of teachers where data was utilized to inform their teaching and community building strategies. One of her favorite parts about her job was building relationships with students, their parents, and staff. As a teacher, Chrissy learned how to listen and communicate to different audiences and adapted to their needs. She has been able to contribute her project management and community building skills to the Program Department at the San Francisco Foundation for the past year and a half. With her community knowledge of low-income people of color in the Bay Area, she brings a specific lens to their equity work as an immigrant and a woman of color.

PHILANTHROPY AND PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE 2019 COHORT



Roxana Shirkhoda

Director, Special Initiatives

Tides

Pronouns: she/her

Roxana focuses her energy on dismantling interpersonal and systemic injustices that prevent marginalized communities from achieving their potential. Her background is a uniquely diverse collective of leadership experiences in the social sector. Currently, Roxana is Director of Special Initiatives at Tides where she spends her time bringing unlikely stakeholders together to achieve audacious impact. Most recently, she was Director of Advisory Services at NPX, a fintech startup working with investors to fund nonprofits and gain social, plus financial returns. At Google, Roxana managed a \$2m annual portfolio of 35+ computer science education nonprofits in 20 countries.

Roxana is an advocate for user-centered design and prototyping – fancy for people-first and let's try-something. She advises high net worth donors in the Bay Area on giving, and is currently on the Board of Full Circle Fund and The Ever Forward Club, an organization focused on empowering black and latino young men.



Faye Straus

Vice President

Firedoll Foundation

Pronouns: she/her

Faye Strauss has a background in government at the local and federal level, including personnel, budget analysis, program evaluation, and general administration. At the local level, she worked in the Budget Review Office of the Suffolk County Legislature and as a research analyst for the County Probation Department. For the past 20 years, she has been the vice-president of the Firedoll Foundation, administering approximately 100 grants a year, now amounting to \$2 million per year. Faye has also been involved politically in the last several years, working to support grass-roots organizations building political power in communities of color. In her volunteer work, she has been active in Israeli-Palestinian peace advocacy, co-facilitating Jewish-Palestinian dialogue. Faye is also the board chair of the Tibet Oral History Project and a member of the board of Voices for Progress, a public interest advocacy group.

PHILANTHROPY AND PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE 2019 COHORT



Maya Thornell-Sandifor

Co-Director, Racial Equity Initiatives
Borealis Philanthropy
Pronouns: she/her

Maya has over fifteen years of experience in social justice philanthropy. She recently was the Director of Learning Strategy at Philanthropy Northwest in Seattle, designing and implementing program services for grantmakers in a six-state region of the Pacific Northwest. This last year, Maya worked with community leaders and funders to design the Creative Equity Fund, a pooled fund to invest in arts and culture strategies to move racial justice in King County, Washington. She also partnered with the Gates Foundation to facilitate \$400k in grants to POC led and serving grassroots nonprofits in Seattle. Maya spent nine years at the Women's Foundation of California as the Senior Program Officer, investing in organizations working to address systems change to benefit women and girls of color throughout the state. Maya is currently the Associate Director for Racial Equity Initiatives at Borealis Philanthropy.



Denise Tom

Program Officer, Health
California Community Foundation

Denise Tom is CCF's health program officer. She helps manage the foundation's \$5 million health grantmaking budget. The health area is focused on Los Angeles County's most vulnerable communities, including undocumented immigrants and individuals experiencing homelessness, mental health or substance use conditions. The goals are access to health services and integration of high-quality services, including primary care and behavioral health. Before joining CCF in 2007, Denise was a program officer and journalism program specialist at the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. Previously, she spent 26 years in the news industry. She was an award-winning editor at USA TODAY, winning an Exceptional Merit in Media Award in 1996, and a reporter for the Oakland Tribune. Denise has a bachelor's in journalism from San Francisco State University and a master's in nonprofit management from Antioch University. She serves on the advisory council of Antioch's MA in nonprofit management program.

PHILANTHROPY AND PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE 2019 COHORT



Bianca Wolff

Deputy Director
California ChangeLawyers
Pronouns: she/her

Prior to joining the California ChangeLawyers as Deputy Director, Bianca worked at Centro Legal de la Raza from 2008 to 2016 as its Executive Director. Under her leadership, Centro Legal experienced exciting growth and change, including the expansion of its immigration program to include asylum and removal defense services. The immigration program is now seen as a national leader in providing removal defense services to unaccompanied minors and Central American refugees. Bianca's work also focused on increasing the capacity of Centro Legal's Workers' Rights, Tenants Rights', and Youth Law Academy programs in order to serve as many low-income immigrants as possible in these key areas.

Bianca's passion for social justice and diversity in the law comes from her own experiences as the daughter of Mexican immigrants. She holds a law degree from Stanford Law School and a BA in International Relations from Stanford University. After graduating law school, she worked as a corporate associate.