

2020 Diversity in Arts Leadership Program Mentors



Aisha Ahmad (she/her) is a Chief Engineer, Central Engineering, for Design Engineering at Con Edison and will be mentoring Chayna Yoshida this summer. In this position, Ms. Ahmad leads a workforce of one hundred employees and strategically aligns the department around safety and operational excellence with a customer focus. She has a passion for diversity and inclusion, hearing everyone's voice, leads the Women in Central Engineering group, is a part of the cost optimization initiative and was a part of the Transformation Advisory Council to rebuild Puerto Rico's economy as well as the electrical system.

Throughout her professional career, Ms. Ahmad has been recognized by Con Edison for her outstanding work. In 2011 and 2017, Ms.

Ahmad received TEAM awards for receiving technical excellence. She is involved in mentoring through Big Brothers Big Sisters for local NYC communities as well as hosting job shadowing events for local High Schools to learn about Con Edison. She enjoys hiking, spending time with family, reading books as well as traveling to new places to discover new cultures.

She holds a Bachelors degree in Electrical Engineering from Columbia University, a Bachelors degree in Physics and Math from Adelphi University and a Masters in Business Administration in Management from Fordham University.



Anastasia Kennedy (she/her) is a HR Manager at Labelium and will be mentoring Rebekah Boggs this summer. A Boston native raised in Florida, she moved to New York four years ago to focus on her career as a Human Resources Professional. She has experience working in higher education, arts, and media through her roles at Berklee College of Music and Publicis Media. She is passionate about mentorship and service, and hopes to provide support, resource, and tools to her mentee, as she has received from her mentors in the past. In her freetime, she likes traveling, dancing, and knitting.

She received her B.A. in Mass Communication from Bethune-Cookman University, and her Masters in Communication Management from Simmons College.



Aryana Alexis Anderson (she/her) is a Lecturer in Film at SUNY Purchase College and will be mentoring Carol Loja this summer. Prior to her role as Digital Content Producer at Digital Diaspora Family Reunion, producers of the new PBS series *Family Pictures USA*, Aryana was the Senior Associate for Educational Media and Technology at Carnegie Hall, developing creative digital content and learning experiences for musicians and amateurs alike. Aryana has organized play festivals, reading series, and professional development events for artists in various disciplines. Her background includes work as a projection and sound designer, video editor, and media arts educator.

She has served as a member of Americans for the Arts Emerging Leaders Advisory Council and junior board member of the Queens Council on the Arts where she has assisted in developing programs and resources to support emerging arts professionals both locally and nationwide. She was a member of the inaugural Diversity in Arts Leadership Labs cohort at the Arts and Business Council of New York. She received her training in screenwriting and production at the Conservatory of Theater Arts and Film at SUNY Purchase. She holds a certificate in non-profit management from Fordham University. Highlights from her professional development experiences include completion of the Fellowship for Emerging Leaders in Public Service at NYU Wagner and Innovative Cultural Advocacy Fellowship at the Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute.



Ashley Renee Watkins (she/her) is a Teaching Artist Facilitator both at Lincoln Center Education and as an independent consultant and will be mentoring Isaiah Shaw this summer. She is a classically trained multi-genre vocalist, songwriter, and teaching artist facilitator. As an artist, she keeps the many layers of her sound present in her music. The New Orleans born artist has been based in New York City since 2014 – the year she appeared on NBC’s *America’s Got Talent* with her opera and multi-genre duo ACTE II. Ashley Renee released her first EP project “Roux” under her artist name *A. Renee* in the fall of 2019. It captures the many experiences and narratives of her as an artist and a woman of color. Ashley Renee has worked nationally as a facilitator over the

past several years, serving on the teaching artist faculty of Lincoln Center Education as well as consulting in arts education and advocacy with cultural institutions in cities throughout the United States. She holds a Master’s degree in voice & operatic performance from the University of Oklahoma.



Eduardo Ayala Fuentes (he/him) is the Director of Development at the Leslie-Lohman Museum of Art and will be mentoring Noemi Mangual-Rosa this summer.

Eduardo joined the Leslie-Lohman Museum team in March 2018. The Leslie-Lohman Museum is the only art museum in the world dedicated to LGBTQ artists and the queer experience. In his role, he oversees the institution's fundraising strategy, and all areas of the Museum's individual donor programs, including major gifts, individual and corporate membership, special events and partnerships, strategies for new prospects, and cultivation of individual donors for capital and programmatic support.

He's spoken on various occasions and classrooms about fundraising and arts administration, participated in funding panels, and is as of recently a member of the City University of New York's Arts/Cultural Corps Advisory Board. Prior to joining the Leslie-Lohman Museum, Eduardo fundraised at other cultural institutions across New York City, including the High Line, El Museo del Barrio, and the Americas Society/Council of the Americas.

He received his BA in International Affairs and Spanish Language and Literature from The George Washington University, and has completed coursework at the University of Chile, Pontifical Catholic University of Chile, International Center for Development Studies Costa Rica, and Comillas Pontifical University in Madrid.



Emelyn Arias (she/her) is the Office and Grants Manager at the Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund and will be mentoring Arlene Arevalo this summer. Her functions include the administration and processing of proposals and grants, management of LMTIF office operations, coordination of events and budget support. The Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund is a New York City-based foundation that strives to improve access and opportunity for all New Yorkers. It consistently champions innovative approaches to education, the arts, healthy food, and service.

Previously, Emelyn worked at Legal Services NYC, where she was a Legal Assistant in the Bankruptcy Assistance Project and coordinated client services with pro bono attorneys. She also worked in development for the US Sciences Po Foundation. She has worked on monitoring and evaluation projects for organizations in Argentina and Colombia. Emelyn received a B.B.A. in Marketing from Baruch College and a Masters in International Affairs from The New School.



Frankie Chen (he/him) is an Implementing Partner Management Specialist at UNICEF and will be mentoring Julia Lee this summer. Frankie is a native New Yorker who moved back home three years ago after a decade of living and working abroad. Frankie currently serves as a program manager for UNICEF's civil society partnerships team. In his job, Frankie works to set global policies and develop software systems to support UNICEF's partnerships with non-profit organizations in the humanitarian and international development sector. Previously, he worked with UNICEF in Nairobi, Kenya and Beijing, China in program monitoring, risk management, research and communication roles. Frankie holds a master's degree in human rights and a bachelor's

degree in cognitive psychology. In his spare time, Frankie enjoys rediscovering New York and connecting with the city's incredible cultural scene from live theater, to world music, to museum exhibitions to dance performances. Frankie is also an avid reader, podcast listener and walker.



Gina Callender (she/her) is the Director of Strategic Planning at ConEdison. And will be mentoring Truth Murray Cole this summer. She joined Con Edison in 2000 as part of the Management Intern Program. Her current responsibilities include managing the CECONY Gas Long Range Plan, Orange & Rockland's Electric & Gas Long Range Plan, Steam Long Range Plan and studies that explore Electrification and define pathways to obtain 80X50.

Prior to this assignment, she has worked in many areas of increasing responsibility including: General Manager in Substation Operations Planning Department, Section Manager of Gas Engineering Oil to Gas Conversation Group,

Section Manager in Bronx Gas Construction, Area Manager in Manhattan Electric Construction, and more.

Ms. Callender has a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Manhattan College (Riverdale, NY) and an MBA from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (Troy, NY) with a concentration in Management. In 2014, she received the Company's highest award, the Living Our Values Award (LOV Award), which has been the highlight so far in her career. Gina has been mentoring in Americans for the Arts Diversity in Arts Leadership (DIAL) Program for over 15 years, and has continued her mentoring practice outside of this experience through other programs and at ConEdison. In her spare time, she enjoys travelling, teaching and practicing yoga, snowboarding and running her small art businesses, *Karmic Henna & Karmic Designs*, at local craft shows and festivals.



Kimberleigh Costanzo (she/her) is a Program Manager at Howard Gilman will be mentoring Maya Weiss this summer. In addition, she is a dancer, choreographer, and performance artist whose choreography has been presented at venues throughout New York City and developed in residency centers nationally and internationally. Kimberleigh graduated from Iona College's Honors Program with degrees in philosophy, dance, and sculpture, and has since presented writing and research on contemporary art at colleges and universities throughout the Northeast. Kimberleigh currently works as the Grants Manager and a member of the programs staff at the Howard Gilman Foundation, a private funder of the performing arts in New York City. Prior to joining the Foundation in 2015, she worked in operations and development at Gibney Dance, Movement Research, the Martha Graham Dance

Company, and for a variety of individual artists. She is currently the Co-Chair of Dance/NYC's Junior Committee, a member of Grantmakers in the Arts, Emerging Practitioners in Philanthropy, and PEAK Grantmaking, an alumna of Philanthropy New York's Young Leaders program, and a former Steering Committee Member of Philanthropy New York's Philanthropic Assistants and Coordinators Network. In addition to formal roles inside of these arts and philanthropic institutions, Kimberleigh is involved in anti-racist organizing efforts within the New York City dance community and work for reproductive justice at the national level. She lives in Brooklyn.



Kimberly Denise Williams (she/her) currently works in Corporate Affairs at Con Edison and will be mentoring Naila Williams this summer. In her role, she serves as a representative of the company for elected officials and community-based organizations in Manhattan's Chelsea, Hell's Kitchen, Upper West Side, Washington Heights, and Inwood neighborhoods. She is a self-described chatterbox, huge dark chocolate fan and a Brooklyn native.

Outside of work, Kimberly spends a great deal of time pursuing her passions which include theater and writing. Over the last ten years, Kimberly has produced, directed and written a number of dramatic productions within her community. These works have included standards like

August Wilson's *Fences* and created pieces like "I Dream in Black Gold," a retrospective on popular black music and artists. She has also written for digital publications covering arts, culture, and popular events. This led to repeat appearances on Huffington Post Live as a featured panelist.

Kimberly completed a Bachelors of Arts in History and African and African American Studies from Harvard College, and a Masters of Science in Media and Communications from the London School of Economics. She's always down to chat about the American Civil War and memory making or teen soap operas. In her free time you can find her running through Prospect Park while blasting a mix of old Hip Hop, some Brit-pop, and tons of Soca.



Leah Krauss is the Senior Program Officer for Dance and Special Projects at the Mertz Gilmore Foundation and will be mentoring Kayla Colon this summer. The Dance Program at Mertz Gilmore provides operating support for contemporary dance presenters located throughout the five boroughs and makes discrete investments to advance the dance field by improving conditions for individual artists. In addition, Leah is an advisory board member for Dance/NYC and was co-chair of New York Grantmakers in the Arts during 2016 and 2017.

Prior to Mertz Gilmore, Leah was senior program officer at the New York Community Trust, where for 12 years her areas of responsibility included arts and culture, arts-in-education, and historic preservation. Additional experience in the arts includes five years at the Arts and Business Council where she recruited, trained and placed business executives as pro-bono management consultants with nonprofit arts organizations. Leah graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a B.A. in art history from the University of Pennsylvania and a J.D. from University of Pennsylvania Law School. For three years, she practiced bankruptcy law, and also served with Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts in Philadelphia.



Tiffany Lin (she/her;they/them) is a Partner, Schools, and Network Program Manager at Exploring the Arts and will be mentoring Allie Li this summer. Originally from Virginia as a daughter of two immigrants, Tiffany has worked in arts education for over a decade, in both Virginia and New York City teaching visual arts and media arts. She spearheaded an arts education initiative into 20 schools and NYCHA community centers in North Brooklyn for visual, digital, performing, culinary, and fashion arts, along with Arts Internships for high school students in partnership with Center for Arts Education and SYEP & Work, Learn, Grow.

Tiffany holds her BFA in Drawing & Design from Old Dominion University, as well as a pre-K — 12 visual arts teaching license. She is an alumna of the National Art Education's selective School for Art Leaders and continues to illustrate, design, and mentor teaching artists and students. She also serves as a Commissioner for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for National Arts Education Association for the Supervision and Administration Division.

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