



**Albert Fox Cahn** serves as Legal Director for CAIR–NY, the New York affiliate of the country’s largest Muslim civil rights group. He previously worked as an antitrust associate for the law firm of Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP. Brought to CAIR–NY by his interest in Muslim–Jewish collaboration, he has long sought to build interfaith solidarity.

Albert frequently lectures, writes, and comments in the media on immigration policies impacting Muslim New Yorkers. Albert also serves on the New York Immigration Coalition’s Immigrant Leaders Council. Albert received his B.A. from Brandeis University and his J.D. from Harvard Law School.

*Albert’s Community Change Project is to build a city-wide coalition to enact surveillance reform legislation.*



**Alexandra Lee** is an Immigration Attorney at Make the Road New York, a membership based immigrants rights organization, that works to build the power of immigrant communities through education and outreach, legal advocacy, and policy work. Alexandra represents primarily Westchester and Bronx residents in affirmative applications to USCIS and in removal defense cases before the Executive Office for Immigration Review Immigration Court. Her clients are mainly from Latin America and include victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Prior to Make the Road, she was a staff attorney at CUNY Citizenship Now serving the immigrant communities of Washington Heights and the South Bronx.

Alex holds a B.A. from CUNY’s Queens College and received a J.D. from Western New England University School of Law. During law school, Alex studied International and Comparative Law at Tsinghua University in Beijing, China. Inspired by her multicultural and diverse immigrant background, Alex speaks Spanish and basic Mandarin Chinese.

*Alexandra’s Community Change Project seeks to increase immigration legal services to underserved Asian communities in New York City and develop a program that will increase and encourage pro-bono work, partnering with New York’s ethnic bar associations.*



**Annie Chen** is the Program Director of the Safety & Fairness for Everyone (SAFE) Cities Network at the Vera Institute of Justice, a non-profit that works to improve justice systems. SAFE Cities is a national network of 12 local jurisdictions – all putting public dollars toward representation of immigrants facing deportation, with a priority for those in detention. The broader goal of the network is to create a public defender system for immigrants. Previously, Annie worked to expand access to counsel for unaccompanied children at Vera.

Annie is a lawyer who practiced at the law firm DLA Piper before joining Vera in January 2013. In her first job out of law school, Annie worked at the Legal Aid Society in New York, where she represented detained immigrants. She holds a B.A. from Columbia College and a J.D. from Fordham Law School. Before law school, Annie worked at the Brennan Center for Justice. As an immigrant having gone to high school in Taiwan and Argentina, Annie is motivated by her own experiences navigating the immigration system.

*Annie's Community Change Project seeks to work with prosecutors to disrupt the criminal justice to deportation pipeline. The project will partner with public defenders, crimmigration experts and impacted immigrants to conduct trainings for prosecutors on the immigration consequences of criminal charges and convictions and on post-conviction relief.*



**Arielle Kandel** is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of New Women New Yorkers, a non-profit empowering immigrant women in NYC to enter the workforce or pursue higher education, and to build community and take on leadership.

Prior to establishing New Women New Yorkers, Arielle worked in non-profits in France, India, and Israel, providing legal assistance to victims of crime and to asylum seekers, and conducting research and policy analysis on issues related to diaspora and transnationalism. Arielle holds a M.L. with a specialization in Humanitarian Action and International Law from the University of Aix-Marseille III, France.

*Arielle's Community Change Project will focus on finding ways to leverage the resources and networks of New Women New Yorkers' existing community to offer new programs serving immigrant women as well as informing and increasing public awareness and dialogue.*



**Audu Kadiri** is a Community Organizer with African Communities Together (ACT) in New York. Audu has over 15 years of experience working in community outreach, public health, and human rights. Audu previously worked as Head of Programs for the International Center for Advocacy on Rights to Health in Abuja, Nigeria where he coordinated HIV prevention projects, and documented human rights violations against gay men.

Since arriving in New York, Audu has continued his health advocacy work, volunteering for HIV/AIDS advocacy organization, Housing Works. Audu holds a degree in Banking and Finance and recently completed a diploma in International Humanitarian Assistance at Fordham University.

*Audu's Community Change Project will support Black queer and trans-migrants in New York City in building much needed community, accessing services needed to survive and thrive, and organizing/advocating for better living conditions for LGBTQ and Black communities overall.*



**Ben Fuller-Googins** is the Programming & Planning Director for the Carroll Gardens Association (CGA), a community based organization working towards housing and economic justice in Southwest Brooklyn. Ben directs CGA's Domestic Worker Organizing Program, Worker Cooperative Development Program, and Anti-Displacement Initiatives, connecting with local residents, immigrant workers, and allies to identify and organize around issues of economic development, affordable housing, and community planning.

Before beginning his journey with CGA, Ben organized with hotel workers in Boston, librarians in Los Angeles, pedicab drivers in Central Park, and completed a degree in Urban Planning from NYU's Wagner School of Public Policy. He is a member of Community Board 6's Land Use Committee and a Peacemaker with the Red Hook Community Justice Center.

*Ben's Community Change Project is creating a neighborhood based model enforcing rights and raising standards for domestic workers by organizing with workers, employers, and allies.*



**Bryan Lucero** is a non-profit professional now in his 5th year in the field. He is an after-school Program Director at the Chinese-American Planning Council, Inc., the largest Asian-American social services agency in the US. In his current role he oversees two publicly-funded youth development programs that provide holistic services to high school students that run the gamut from individualized guidance and counseling, college access, career exploration, social-emotional learning development, service learning projects, and recreational outings. Bryan is also involved in advocacy work on behalf of the organization's constituents, conducting Know Your Rights presentations as a Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs ActionNYC Community Fellow, and participating in city council meetings in partnership with the Coalition for Asian American Children and Families 15% and Growing Campaign.

Bryan graduated with a B.A. in Sociology from Stony Brook University, where he was a member of the inaugural handball team and represented the university at multiple collegiate national championships. Bryan also serves on the board of directors for the Inner City Handball Association, which provides high quality handball programs and scholarships to NYC youth. He is a native New Yorker, lifelong Queens resident, and second generation Filipino-American.

*Bryan's Community Change Project aims to develop a fully formulated curriculum centered on handball. The curriculum will assist low income immigrant teens in gaining access to valuable skills such as social emotional learning competencies, self awareness, self management, relationship skills, and social awareness.*



**Carlyn Cowen** is an advocate, activist, and Filipina-American who believes in the power of transformative systemic change to build social, racial, and economic justice. She is currently the Chief Policy and Public Affairs Officer of the Chinese-American Planning Council (CPC), the nation's largest Asian-American social services organization, where she is responsible for public policy, advocacy, government affairs, and community engagement. Most recently, Carlyn served as a Senior Policy Analyst at the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies (FPWA), a network of over 200 community and faith-based organizations, leading campaigns on economic equity issues.

Previously, Carlyn worked at the New York City Mayor's Office of Contract Services, coordinating research and data analysis for over \$4 billion in human services contracts. She is an experienced consultant, having led and managed projects for both the United Nations Development Programme (Zambia and Republic of Georgia) and Oxfam International. Carlyn completed her Master's in Economic and Political Development and Nonprofit Management at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) and holds a double Bachelor's in International Relations and Philosophy from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

*Carlyn's Community Change Project is to create and implement a community power-building and organizing model for CPC's base of immigrant and Asian American Community Members.*



**Crystal Deosaran** is a Student Services Specialist at the College of Staten Island's new location, CSI St. George. Crystal has over ten-years professional experience in higher education and works with students from different immigrant and economic backgrounds.

Crystal also works with Calpulli Mexican Dance Company, both as a Community Program Coordinator and as a performer in its touring company. She holds a B.S. in International Business and Marketing from the College of Staten Island and an M.B.A. from Baruch College.

*Crystal's Community Change Project will focus on implementing outreach to Latino students and their families. The main goal is to inform the Latino Community about the college admissions and financial aid opportunities.*



**François Nzi** is the founder and Executive Director of New York Math Academy and Coaching Services Inc., a Harlem based non-profit academic enrichment program that provides academic support to students of low-income, mainly from African immigrant families. Prior to founding New York Math Academy and Coaching Services, François worked for Kaplan Educational Foundation (a division of Kaplan Inc.) as a Math and Physics tutor and Coach. He coached junior college Kaplan Educational Foundation's scholars for admission to America's most competitive higher education institutions. This position was a great opportunity for him to experience firsthand the problem that most American Children face today.

With the belief that education is the remedy by which inequality of opportunity and poverty can be reduced, therefore the greatest equalizer, François has become a fierce advocate for education support program as the way to achieve academic success and excellence.

François holds a M.S. in transportation Planning and Engineering from NYU Tandon School of Engineering and B.S. form Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology. He plans to attend Columbia University Teachers' College in fall 2019 where he will study Education Policy. A native of Ivory Coast and a proud New Yorker, François is fluent in French.

*Francois' Community Change Project will focus on strengthening and expanding the services that New York Math Academy and Coaching Services provides not only to the African immigrant community, but to all New York low-income communities. An important part of the project will focus on educating parents on the New York City education system and the different policies through parents' engagement workshops. During our different workshops, topics such as learning disability (How to advocate for your child and get him/her the right resources and support), college readiness and college access, college saving and scholarships will be addressed.*





**Gabriel Hisugan** is a Youth Organizer at Asian Americans for Equality (AAFE). Through AAFE's Youth & Families Program, Gabriel mentors and counsels high school students on readiness for higher education and future careers. Gabriel supervises AAFE's CASTLE leadership program for high school juniors and seniors, cultivating the youth's skills in leadership skills and civic engagement. This year-long program culminates in youth-led community service learning projects, which have included park clean-ups and youth-facilitated "Know Your Rights" training for undocumented high school students. Gabriel also works with local organizations and high schools to identify and implement initiatives to support underserved youth in Greater Flushing.

Gabriel Hisugan's first experience with youth development began in high school, where he participated in his church's youth group. Inspired by church leaders, Gabriel adapted his leadership model to include community service and mentorship for young leaders. When he graduated from high school, he continued to mentor high school students as an adult leader through both college and law school. After graduating from law school, he combined his passion for community service and youth counseling in his position as Youth Organizer with the AAFE Youth and Family Program.

Giving back to the faith community he grew up in, Gabriel is an active Youth Group Leader at the First Baptist Church of Flushing. He received his B.A. in Political Science and Communications from CUNY - Queens College and J.D. from New York Law School.

*Gabriel's Community Change Project will increase the size, content and influence of the Castle Leadership Program. The program is an afterschool program of high school juniors and seniors aimed to develop their college readiness along with learning leadership and professional skills.*



**Lingxia Ye Kneller** is a Community Organizer from Brooklyn's Sunset Park neighborhood. She has always lived in Sunset Park and its surrounding neighborhoods since she immigrated to the US as a teenager. Having experienced all the typical hardships facing immigrants when she and her family first arrived years ago, Ling understands the dire needs for immigrants to be educated of their rights and the resources available to protect those rights. When immigrants gain access to knowledge and information, magical power transformations could happen.

She joined the office of Council Member Carlos Menchaca, the chair of New York City Council Immigration Committee, in 2016, with the goal of empowering her fellow community members. As the Director of Community Affairs at the office of Council Member Menchaca, Ling collaborates extensively with many organizations and community leaders on various organizing and outreach projects.

In 2017, Ling supported two immigrant groups to officially become organizations. The first group are core activists and an internet network of a few thousand local participants. She helped the volunteer group organize their first large scale community resource fair in 2018, and over 2000 community residents attended the event. The other group is Fujian immigrant seniors who use the Sunset Park recreation area every day. Ling worked with the leaders of the seniors, and encouraged the 400 member group to form their own club. Now the Fujian Seniors' Club organizes cultural events for seniors and connects its members with various resources through the office of CM Menchaca. The club has brought the first ever Chinese folklore culture performance for seniors in a New York City Park.

*Ling's Community Change Project will assist immigrant parents in Sunset Park to fully comprehend the accessible resources available in their community.*



**Lucia Goyen** is the Special Projects Manager at Catholic Charities Community Services (CCCS) Immigrant & Refugee Services Division, Archdiocese of New York. She oversees outreach and community engagement across the Division, and assists with coordination of large scale events and opportunities, such as monthly community legal clinics in the Lower Hudson Valley. Prior to CCCS, she worked at the NYC Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, overseeing a team of 15 immigrant organizers across NYC, who connected communities to government resources and programs. She also worked at the Vera Institute of Justice, doing research and analysis on various programs and initiatives designed to provide immigrants improved access to justice and holds an M.P.A. from NYU Wagner's School of Public Service. An immigrant from Uruguay by way of Miami, she is a committed social justice advocate, particularly for the Latinx community.

*Lucia's Community Change Project will focus on engaging community members, particularly parishes and advocacy groups across NY State, into deeper support for immigrants, such as accompaniment to interviews, navigation of bureaucratic systems, and document collection needed for legal cases.*



**Maria Hernandez** established her career working on behalf of Hispanic immigrants. Working at the Consulate General of Mexico in New York, she has amassed more than 10 years of experience, collaborating across agencies to assist the Mexican community in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. Currently, she is the Community Organizing Coordinator liaising between the Mexican community, its leaders and youth, Hometown Associations, the Consulate, community-based organizations, and social service providers. She is skilled in bridging existing social programs and resources to the community to boost their integration. Maria enjoys creating alliances to design programs on topics such as: Promotion of immigrants' rights, particularly on transgender and women's issues; Women Economic Empowerment; Labor Safety Training; and, most passionately, Indigenous Languages: promoting awareness of the need for information in the main languages' streams.

In her spare time, Maria volunteers at CREA: Resource Center for Adult Education and CUNY Citizenship Now!'s Volunteer Corps. She holds an advance certificate in Migration and Governance from the Center for Research and Teachings in Economics (CIDE, for its Spanish acronym) and a bachelor's degree in International Relations from the Autonomous University of Baja California (UABC, for its Spanish acronym).

*Maria's Community Change Project will seek to minimize the distress faced by the Mexican indigenous immigrant community residing in New York by integrating the existing efforts of the Consulate General of Mexico and other agencies to provide equitable access to information about available public services in their language, as it currently exists for other groups of immigrants.*



**Mon Yuck Yu** is co-founder and Executive Vice President & Chief of Staff at the Academy of Medical & Public Health Services (AMPHS), a not-for-profit dedicated to addressing healthcare barriers affecting underserved immigrant populations in Sunset Park, Brooklyn. Mon Yuck oversees organizational strategic planning, operations and community relations, and spearheaded AMPHS' Adult Literacy Program and Community Health Project. An active immigrant rights advocate, Mon Yuck is heavily involved in the fight for universal health coverage and constantly inspired by the stories of immigrants like her parents, who struggled in gaining healthcare access when they needed it most.

Mon Yuck previously worked with the Chinese-American Planning Council, New York State Assembly, and Federal Emergency Management Agency, organizing citywide emergency planning efforts as well as localized disease outbreak response initiatives. In 2011, she founded a professional consultancy to assist nonprofit organizations and social enterprises with organizational capacity building. Mon Yuck sits on the Advisory Board of Turning Point Outreach Center and is co-founder of a democratic club working to spur civic engagement and awareness within the AAPI community. Mon Yuck is also an instructor of Mental Health First Aid, CPR, and First Aid, and a teaching faculty in the SUNY Downstate Community Health Worker Program.

Mon Yuck received her B.A. in anthropology from Dartmouth College and a M.P.A. in Urban and Health Policy from Columbia University. In 2013, Mon Yuck was selected as a Richard D. Lombard Fellow with the Joan Sloan Dickey Center for International Understanding. Mon Yuck was also recognized as a City & State New York Nonprofit Media 40 Under 40 Rising Star in 2015 and honored with the Harvey A. Picker Prize in Public Service in 2017 for her community work. She is a multilingual speaker of Spanish, Cantonese, and Mandarin.

*Mon Yuck's Community Change Project will involve creating a Mental Health Therapy program for vulnerable immigrant populations that integrates mental health therapy with peer support, immigrant rights education and advocacy, and socialization activities to help community members re-integrate back into their communities after facing traumatic or stressful life events.*



**Naseem Kapdi** is an ESL instructor and pastry chef working with women at the intersection of culinary and professional learning in New York City. She joined Hot Bread Kitchen in 2015, serving as instructor and coordinator, and is currently the Training Manager and Lead Instructor for the workforce development program. Naseem creates curriculum for kitchen training and English as a Second Language instruction with a culinary focus and acclimating her clients to American workplace standards and expectations. She works with women representing many languages and nations, including Morocco, India, Bangladesh, China, Burkina Faso, Mali, Ethiopia, and Mexico.

Naseem speaks three languages. She earned her M.A. in Teaching English as a Second Language from Teachers College, Columbia University and holds a diploma in Baking and Pastry Arts from the Institute of Culinary Education.

*Naseem's Community Change Project will further engage foreign-born clients in their pursuit of increasing their English language abilities to continue professional success through a customizable digital on-the-go learning platform.*





**Rosaana Conforme** is the Director of Nonresidential Services at Violence Intervention Program. In addition to holding a M.S.W. from Fordham University School of Social Work and a M.S.E.D. from Hunter College, Rosaanna has 18-years professional experience in the non-profit, social service, and criminal & social justice sector. She has worked as an advocate & activist in the violence against women movement; working with immigrant Latinx victims, survivors and perpetrators of intimate partner violence, sex trafficking and sexual violence.

Rosaana started her career at Safe Horizon. Her 9 year tenure included working in the criminal justice system, doing crisis work with victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and juvenile delinquency and advocating for them in both family and criminal courts. Rosaana was also a co-facilitator at Safe Horizon's Domestic Violence Accountability Program that provided educational workshops to mandated domestic violence offenders. As an adult survivor of child sexual abuse, sexual assault and family violence, Rosaana has been committed to helping others raise their voice and therefore participated in many social movements such as Generation 5 whose mission is to end child sexual abuse in the next 5 generations; and the New York Alliance against Sexual Assault, generally participating in their annual SAYSO. In 2009, Rosaana became the Direct Services Program Director at Sakhi for South Asian Women; a community based organization-serving victims of domestic violence in the South Asian Community. In 2013, she returned to Safe Horizon, as a Team Leader for Safe Horizon's 24-hotline, and supervised client advocates who answered hotline calls. In 2015, Ms. Conforme worked at the New York Society For the Prevention of Cruelty to Children as a Visitation Supervisor where she facilitated and provided therapeutic supervised visits between noncustodial parents and their children. In 2014, Rosaana became the Director of Clinical Programs at Sanctuary for Families where she managed staff providing short term therapy to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault at the Manhattan and Bronx Family Justice Center. Rosaana is currently a Ph.D. student in Social Welfare at Fordham University.

*Rosaana's Community Change Project will seek to amplify the voices of immigrant adult survivors of child sexual, sexual assault and intimate partner violence, help reduce the silence these abuses cause and help facilitate and narrate their stories of resilience and strength through the the implementation of digital storytelling.*



**Sarika Saxena** is a Staff Attorney and Project Manager at New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, a civil rights non-profit. Sarika leads a project that assists uninsured immigrant New Yorkers connect to health coverage. Sarika specializes in immigration law and immigrant eligibility for public benefits. In addition to representing individuals, she conducts trainings for healthcare professionals, attorneys, judges, and community members. She also works on state and city policy matters, including Medicaid eligibility for immigrants and language access. Prior to joining NYLPI, Sarika worked at a boutique immigration law firm, where she learned how to defend and represent a wide-ranging client-base from businesses sponsoring employees to unaccompanied minor children fleeing their home countries. She is fluent in Hindi and is a beginner in Spanish. Sarika is a graduate of the City University of New York School of Law.

*Sarika's Community Change Project will focus on combining legal representation, organizing, and capacity building. Her project will increase capacity of her legal team to represent more clients, while also making sure that her clients are able to continue their involvement in policy and organizing well after their legal case ends.*



**Stephanie M. Mulcock** is Executive Director of Cidadão Global (CG), the only non-profit organizing and building the leadership of Brazilian immigrants in New York. Through this work, Stephanie provides legal assistance to low-wage immigrant workers and domestic violence survivors, develops the civic engagement and political visibility of the Brazilian immigrant community, and promotes movement building through organizing. Stephanie holds a B.A. in History and Political Science from Vanguard University, a J.D. from New York Law School, and is a Gates Millennium Scholar. Before joining CG, Stephanie was a part of Catholic Migration Services' Immigration Unit, an intern with South Brooklyn Legal Services' Domestic Violence Unit, an intern with the Women's Rights Division of Human Rights Watch, and a part of New York Law School's International Human Rights Clinic. Stephanie is a native of Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, and is fluent in Portuguese and Spanish.

*Stephanie's Community Change Project will build power in the Brazilian immigrant community through grassroots organizing and leadership building, and create a holistic approach to service providing that emphasizes meeting needs, healing trauma and cross-cultural collaboration.*



**Tamiko Maldonado** is the Executive of Director of Dream Away, an organization that works with the diverse community of Spanish-speaking immigrant communities across New York City.

Since 2003, she has taken a full-time role in educating and mentoring children and building art instructed programs for children throughout New York City.

Dream Away embraces teaching as an opportunity to inspire and empower. By empowering students to take responsibility for their learning it will motivate students to grow intellectually, cultivate curiosity, and provide opportunities for developing relationships.

*Tamiko's Community Change Project is to develop a team of student ambassadors who would develop and implement workshops or simply become a resource for 7th and 8th grade immigrant parents on topics including choosing a high school, preparing for college, exploring vocational education opportunities, etc. Many parents will be navigating the American educational system for the first time and may find this process daunting. While some parents are very involved in school and parent-teacher associations, many others rely on more informal networks to learn how to navigate the school system. These ambassadors could be the students who have already gone through the process and have had to figure out how to navigate the school system.*



**Wendy Silva** has worked in the public interest her entire career representing clients in marginalized communities. She is a Senior Staff Attorney at Her Justice, a non-profit legal services organization serving low-income women, where she trains and mentors attorneys in the private sector to provide pro bono representation. Wendy provides advice and representation to clients in their family, matrimonial and immigration matters.

Prior to her work at Her Justice, Wendy helped to launch one of the first domestic violence legal programs in Northern Manhattan. She has worked on a wide range of grants challenging the disruption of clients' legal right to appropriate housing, education, and medical care. Wendy is fluent in Spanish and is a trained volunteer community mediator. Wendy received her J.D. from SUNY at Buffalo School of Law and her B.A. from John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Wendy is a member of the New York State Bar, and is admitted to practice in the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York.

*Wendy's Community Change Project will focus on building a Language Access Project by recruiting and training a recurring pool of volunteer interpreters and translators that will be instrumental in helping clients from LEP communities have access to meaningful legal representation and information.*



**Yaritza Mendez** was attracted to the mission and work of Make the Road New York (MRNY) at age 14, and decided to pick it as her preferred internship site to meet the requirement of the leadership program she was in during high school.

After graduating university she was the Legal Assistant at Disability Rights Advocates (DRA- NY), one of the leading non-profit disability rights legal centers in the nation. At the end of 2015, she became the Citywide Outreach Coordinator at MRNY, where she was in charge of providing outreach support and training to all of ActionNYC's Outreach partner CBO's.

Yaritza also became the Immigration and Civil Rights Coordinator to capture all the other work that she was doing alongside ActionNYC. Currently, she continue shaping ActionNYC, in the outreach and CBO front, but also helps lead the immigration work the organization is involved with. Through ActionNYC and MRNY she gets to serve the all immigrant communities across the city.

Yaritza is a member of the Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society and the Alpha Kappa Delta National Honor Society. She graduated Cum Laude from Hofstra University with a double major in Sociology and Criminology and a minor in Civic Engagement

*Yaritza's Community Change Project would like to implement a functional defense committee system, with a similar structure as a tree of communication. Hopefully it will empower community members by providing them with the tools and information they need to protect themselves, relatives and neighbors from federal agencies.*