



# Leadership New York

## MEET THE 2026-27 COHORT

We are excited to introduce the upcoming Leadership New York cohort. These LNY participants will explore the social, political, and economic issues facing New York today and learn how to navigate varying stakeholder interests. By the end of the program, LNY participants will develop the personal leadership skills, New York City knowledge, and multi-sector network to accomplish goals in a complex, multi-stakeholder environment.

### LNY44



**Alexandra Garcia-Marchany** 

VP OF EHR OPERATIONS, THE CENTER FOR FAMILY SUPPORT

Passionate about expanding opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities and building connected communities.



**Anna Bao** 

FOUNDER AND CEO, ANAMALGA PARTNER

Passionate about bridging education innovation and public systems to build lasting pathways from learning to economic opportunity in NYC.



**Aroosa Ajani** 

CONSULTANT, HR&A ADVISORS

Invested in community ownership models and anti-displacement strategies that ensure revitalization works for existing residents. Passionate about creating places where long-term residents don't just survive gentrification but can own a piece of what comes next; values well-designed, well-programmed public spaces.



## Arthur Rodriguez [in](#)

**CHIEF OF STAFF, GREEN-WOOD CEMETERY**

Excited about expanding access to public green spaces and improving waste systems through reduction and containerization.



## Ashley Tsegai [in](#)

**PROGRAM MANAGER, NYC DEPARTMENT OF SMALL BUSINESS SERVICES**

Passionate about contributing to the legacy of equity building for the under-resourced and underestimated, and empowering the next generation of civic leaders through capacity building and collective organizing.



## Aubrey Kellman

**COMMUNITY INVESTMENT MANAGER, NATIONAL GRID**

Passionate about strengthening communities through youth development, education equity, and innovative partnerships that expand opportunity for all New Yorkers.



## Betsy Daniel [in](#)

**ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT, NYC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Invested in housing access, economic opportunity for immigrants, and the creation of high-quality public spaces for all New Yorkers.



## Caitlin Neuhaus Kilgore [in](#)

**DIRECTOR, BOLTON-ST. JOHNS**

Passionate about creating a more equitable New York City through expanding policies related to guaranteed basic income and reproductive justice.



## Cassandra Hernandez Faham

**SENIOR PROGRAM ASSOCIATE, MELLON FOUNDATION**

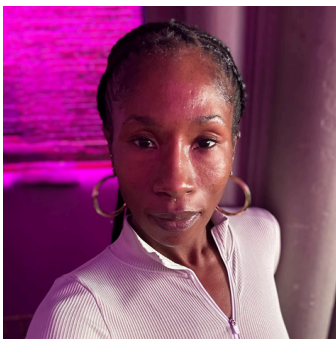
Passionate about culture as a fundamental human right and dedicated to supporting the lives and livelihoods of artists and culture makers.



## Chae Kim

**DIRECTOR, HR&A ADVISORS**

Passionate about bold, inclusive governance and building cities that work for everyone.



## Chioma Ohakam

**PROJECT DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR, NYC DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION**

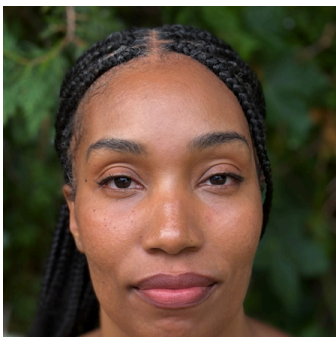
Passionate about building partnerships that create impact through thoughtful engagement, inclusivity and equity and expanding programming to the most underserved communities.



## Christina Van Osten

**DIRECTOR OF FAMILY & YOUTH ENGAGEMENT, YOU GOTTA BELIEVE**

Dedicated to advancing permanency, youth voice, and equitable opportunities for young people impacted by foster care.



## Claudette Montgomery

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF HOUSING AMBASSADOR PROGRAM, NYC DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

Committed to making affordable housing more accessible through community partnerships.



## Coleen Stevens Porcher

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, POWER OF TWO, THE FUND FOR THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Committed to transforming evidence into public action that strengthens children, families, and communities.



## David Garfinkel

**SENIOR DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL, NYC MAYOR'S OFFICE OF CONTRACT SERVICES**

Driven to improve the laws and operations that underpin how this City functions and delivers so that the City can better serve its citizens while maintaining accountability.



## David Stovall

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF NEW CONSTRUCTION TAX INCENTIVES, NYC DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

Passionate about developing responsible, productive, and ethical relationships between Artificial Intelligence technologies and vulnerable communities.



## Delphine Zheng

**PROJECT MANAGER, STRATEGIC INITIATIVES, CENTER FOR JUSTICE INNOVATION**

Passionate about reimagining what good governance and equitable community development can look like to meaningfully respond to the needs of our most vulnerable New Yorkers



## Donequa Sougrin

**DEPUTY CHIEF, TALENT ACQUISITION, METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**

Committed to expanding equitable workforce pathways that strengthen communities across New York City.



## Edward Ubiera

**SENIOR DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, NONPROFIT FINANCE FUND**

Inspired by New York City's historic role in serving as a social and economic incubator for the region and the nation



## Evelyn Pope

**DIRECTOR, NONPROFITS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, CMW STRATEGIES**

Passionate about making NYC more livable and joyful through expanding access to education, arts and culture, and green public spaces.



## Frances Bates

**MANAGER OF GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, LINKNYC**

Passionate about community engagement and dedicated to building meaningful partnerships that connect government, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and residents to resources, technology, and opportunities that strengthen New York City communities.



## Franchesca Diaz

**DIRECTOR, BRONX REGIONAL AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, CON EDISON**

Passionate about clean energy transition and affordability as it pertains to this transition.



## Hannah Frey

**MANAGING DIRECTOR, IBM**

Passionate about mentorship, educational equity, and opportunity. Driver of meaningful public-private partnerships that make government operate more effectively and efficiently, and interested in public health.



## Hannah Weitzer [in](#)

**SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR, MAYOR'S OFFICE OF OPERATIONS**

Passionate about creating and supporting civic strategies, processes, and programs that promote equity, community, efficiency, and sustainability.



## Herwinder Kaur Ahuja [in](#)

**PAYMENT ACCOUNTANT, NYC DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTIONS**

Dedicated to helping youth and children attain peace and tranquility through meditation and to providing comfort to domestic violence victims and their families.



## Isha Sheth [in](#)

**SENIOR DIRECTOR OF INNOVATION & INFRASTRUCTURE, NYC PUBLIC SCHOOLS: OFFICE OF STUDENT PATHWAYS**

Committed to creating new opportunities for New Yorkers and ensuring that those opportunities are known and accessible.



## J.R. Reed [in](#)

**ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT, NEIGHBORHOOD STRATEGIES, NYC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Committed to inclusive, community-led strategies to expand sustainable, affordable housing in the face of rising climate threats.



## Jake Dore [in](#)

**ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL, MAYOR'S OFFICE OF MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT**

Committed to helping New Yorkers' gain access to the arts.



## Joseph Tadros

**ACADEMIC DIRECTOR, NORTHSIDE CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL**

Committed to advocating for policies that recruit and retain teachers of color so our students learn from educators who reflect them.



## Julie Loaiza

**COORDINATOR, NEW IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT**

Committed to empowering the immigrant community to achieve true equity and fair access to resources in New York.



## Katie Pidgeon

**DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROGRAMS, BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN**

Passionate about creating welcoming spaces for all, and staying focused environmental stewardship.



## Keisha Kowlessar

**DIRECTOR OF SAFETY AND EMISSIONS, NYC TAXI AND LIMOUSINE COMMISSION**

Committed to expanding access to vital resources, fostering collaborative community partnerships, and improving outcomes in education, transportation, and maternal healthcare.



## Kelly Escobar

**MANAGING DIRECTOR, EARLY CHILDHOOD, ROBIN HOOD**

Passionate about making New York City the best place to raise a child  
Inspired by children's infinite curiosity.



## Kyle Kelly

**PROGRAM MANAGER, NATIONAL GRID**

Driven to address resource disparities in black and brown communities, youth programs, vocational training options, finance, and food deserts in underserved communities.



## Kyron Banks

**DEPUTY POLITICAL DIRECTOR, 32BJ SEIU**

Committed to activating marginalized communities to collectively organize to create political change in their own communities.



## Leland Robinson

**DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF TRAFFIC CONTROL & ENGINEERING, NYC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

Focused on the infrastructure that keeps NYC moving, connecting street-level operations to changing citywide conditions.



## Mali'e Yoon

**TRAFFIC ENGINEER, NYC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

Dedicated to designing safe, accessible, and multimodal streets that enhance mobility and strengthen communities.



## Mariel De La Cruz

**BUREAU CHIEF STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS, OFFICE OF NYC COMPTROLLER**

Passionate about ensuring underserved populations have the resources and opportunities to participate in civic activities and have an informed impact on the future of their community.



## Meghan Curran

**CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, 60 DECIBELS**

Passionate about bridging understanding across lines of difference to enable better outcomes for a more just, inclusive, sustainable city.



## Michael Morales

**GENERAL MANAGER, METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**

Dedicated to servicing the public, promoting and coaching our youth and outreach to our local communities.



## Mohammad Islam

**DIRECTOR OF PROGRAM MANAGEMENT, NYC HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Dedicated to improving government services for New Yorkers.



## Natasha Scott

**PROGRAM MANAGER, HOUSING ACCESS & OPPORTUNITY, ENTERPRISE COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

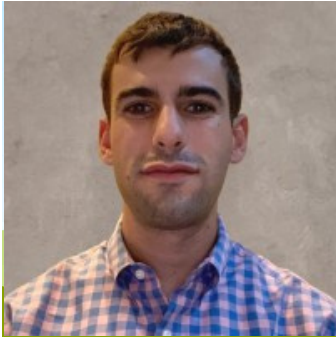
Passionate about strengthening systems that prevent eviction and homelessness and help all New Yorkers thrive.



## Nikolai Wolfe

**SENIOR ATTORNEY, CON EDISON**

Driven to empower underserved communities through active engagement and shape inclusive pathways to legal services, economic development and opportunity, and well-being.



## Noah Levine

**SENIOR TRANSPORTATION PLANNER, METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**  
Committed to fighting climate change through decarbonizing the transportation sector in NYC.



## Pankaj Patil

**DIRECTOR, KARP STRATEGIES**  
Committed to ensuring climate, infrastructure, and economic development investments create shared prosperity and opportunity.



## Raisa Schwanbeck

**DIRECTOR, SCHOOL INNOVATIONS, NYC DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
Dedicated to ensuring that young people in New York City have access to meaningful careers that allow them to achieve middle-income lives.



## Rosy Tahan

**CHIEF OF STAFF, INCANDESCENT**  
Dedicated to broadening civic participation and cross-sector partnerships so more New Yorkers can help solve the affordability crisis.



## Ryan King

**SENIOR STATION MANAGER, AMAZON**  
Dedicated to strengthening communities through public school innovation, youth engagement programs, and equitable access to education for all.



## Seema Malik

**VICE PRESIDENT, NYC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Passionate about designing a New York City where accessibility and inclusion create a city that works for everyone.



## Shafiqah A. Faust

**SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR, NYC DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Passionate about workplace equity, fair treatment, transparency, and ensuring every city employee is treated with dignity and respect.



## Shana Besley

**VICE PRESIDENT OF DATA AND COMPLIANCE, MWDBE TEAM, NYC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Dedicate to leveling the playing field for MWDBE's.



## Sylvia Millicent Guillaume

**CENTER MANAGER, CENTER FOR JUSTICE INNOVATION**

Passionate about the correlation between economic mobility and housing development opportunities for families and low-income individuals plagued by limited resources and limited opportunities for homeownership.



## Tabraiz Lodhi

**SENIOR CONSULTANT, BENNETT MIDLAND**

Focused on supporting nonprofits to sustain their work and thrive during periods of opportunity or uncertainty.



## Tala Safa

**OPERATIONS MANAGER, DELIVERY STATION MANAGER, AMAZON**

Passionate about advancing women's health, economic security, rights, and opportunities within society.



## Weronika Patycka

**SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER, NYC DEPARTMENT OF DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION**

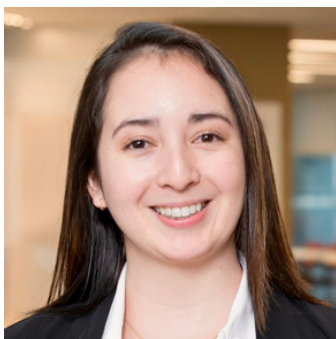
Passionate about infrastructure maintenance and new public construction to provide equitable access to new opportunities to empower current and future New Yorkers.



## Wesley Thompson

**PROJECT DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR JUSTICE INNOVATION**

Dedicated to advancing youth opportunity, community safety, and equitable workforce pathways in underserved NYC communities.



## Yngrid Saavedra

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT DIVISION COORDINATOR, NEW IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT**

Committed to designing systems for workforce development where people and communities can thrive.