

Speaker Bios:



Liany E. Arroyo, MPH, CPH

Director

Connecticut Urban Opportunity Collaborative

Liany E. Arroyo is the Director of the Connecticut Urban Opportunity Collaborative, a partnership among Fairfield County's Community Foundation, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, and The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven that is dedicated to advancing equity and promoting social and economic mobility in communities across the state.

In this role she oversees a direct cash assistance pilot and works to advance public policy that leads to economic sufficiency of urban populations. Previously, she was the Chief Operating Officer at Charter Oak Health Center and served as the Director of Health and Human Services for Hartford, Connecticut during the COVID-19 pandemic. During that time, she oversaw the growth of the department's programs to address opioids and chronic disease as well as the public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic. She also worked at Power to Decide and UnidosUS where she used her expertise to develop programs and policies to improve the health of communities of color nationally.

Liany holds a BA from Wellesley College, an MPH from Columbia University, and is currently pursuing an MBA at the Yale School of Management as a Pozen-Commonwealth Fellow in Health Equity Leadership.



Sarah Blanton
CEO
4-CT

Sarah Blanton is the CEO of 4-CT, a non-profit organization that empowers Connecticut residents to improve their lives, giving them agency to make their own decisions with direct cash assistance.

Born and raised in New Haven, Sarah is passionate about ensuring that communities in Connecticut can thrive, and has always been fueled by a sense of justice and empowered by the ways that organizations - like 4-CT - can drive systems change, positively impacting the trajectories of individuals and communities steeped in a history of inequity. As CEO, Sarah is able to combine her 20+ years of experience in the non-profit sector with her passion for partnering with community-based organizations and government entities to find innovative ways to address deeply entrenched social issues.

Sarah studied Sociology and Education at Dartmouth College before pursuing her JD at NYU School of Law. Following law school, Sarah served as the Derrick Bell Fellow in Constitutional Law, researching, writing and co-teaching with one of the giants of the field of law and civil rights. Sarah pursued coursework, clinical experience, internships and mentors focused on issues of child advocacy, education reform, and racial justice which led naturally to a career in the non-profit sector as a school leader, fundraiser and administrator.

Sarah serves on four non-profit boards and currently lives just outside New Haven with her family and periodically well behaved rescue dog, Frankie.



Angela Li
Strategic Partnerships Manager
Bridge Project

Angela Li serves as Strategic Partnerships Manager at the Bridge Project, where she spearheads local stakeholder strategy across all sites and cultivates trusted relationships with moms and community partners to expand

program reach and deepen impact.

Prior to joining the Bridge Project, she helped found and organize citywide coalitions advancing prevention initiatives and culturally responsive curricula for immigrant and Asian American communities across New York. Angela graduated from UCLA with a B.A. in Political Science and Asian American Studies and was a Coro Public Affairs Fellow.



Yaw Owusu-Boahen
Executive Director
Wealth Accelerator CT

Yaw Owusu-Boahen is an impact investor passionate about closing the wealth gap in Connecticut and across the country.

He leads the Wealth Accelerator, an impact incubator that pilots and scales wealth-building solutions for low and moderate income

Connecticut families. Cash Catalyst, the Wealth Accelerator's inaugural wealth-building solution, distributed over \$500,000 in investable capital to 55 young adult residents of Greater New Haven.

At ConnCORP, he serves as Vice President of Impact Investing, where he supports the development of First HAVEN, a \$200 million mixed-use project bringing housing and fresh food to the historic neighborhood of Dixwell, New Haven.

Previously, Yaw founded and led Bubble's Immerse pre-accelerator for underrepresented founders. He began his career at Bain and Company advising Fortune 50 clients on growth and operational transformation. He holds an MBA from Yale School of Management, where he received the Henry F. McCance Entrepreneurial Award, and a BA from Princeton University's School of Public and International Affairs.