



# 2025 Speaker Directory



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## **Dr. Maame Adomako**

Dr. Adomako is a Program Manager at the UW-Madison School of Education's Office of Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion. She is also a Career & Academic coach. She has held various roles in academic & career advising services, teaching, and diversity & inclusion. Her work has involved guiding underrepresented students across the educational pipeline by counseling and supporting students through transitioning and navigating the college experience.

**Workshop:** *College Prep 101: Navigating the College Application Process*

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## **Ifeoluwa Ajayi**

Ifeoluwa is an educator born and raised in the Chicago suburbs. Her father was born and raised in Nigeria, and her mother is originally from Michigan. She has been teaching high school English since 2015, both in Liberal, Kansas and Madison, Wisconsin. She is an avid reader and trivia enthusiast.

**Workshop:** *The Wrong Kind of Black - working through a complex biracial identity*

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## **Mouna Algahaithi**

My name is Mouna and I'm a local community organizer and experienced facilitator with over a decade of experience. I spent years growing up in Madison on and off and have been here for the last ten years. I graduated from West and it brings me joy to come back and connect with current students. I currently work at PBS Wisconsin as an Early Learning Specialist.

**Workshop:** *How to Facilitate Meaningful Dialogue & Learning*

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## **Shahad Al Quraishi (12th), Hiba Al Quraishi (11th) and Negar Tavakolibina (10th)**

We are founding members of the West Zine Project and current students at West High School.

## **Workshop:** *West Zine Project: Wake Up Call*

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### **Michael Alston**

Mike, a lifelong Madisonian, embodies a deep commitment to his community. A graduate of Vel Phillips Memorial High School, Michael has dedicated over a decade to serving the Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD). His passion for youth empowerment is further evidenced by his four-plus years with Focused Interruption and his role as Head Mentor of Brothers Against Odds. A dedicated member of the Urban League of Greater Madison Young Professionals, Michael's impactful work was recognized in 2024 with the Urban League YP's Impact Award.

## **Workshop:** *This is West: Year 1*

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### **Amigos en Azul**

The mission of Amigos en Azul is to dissolve cultural barriers, build partnerships and open lines of communication between the Latino community and the City of Madison Police Department, in partnership with Dane County-area law enforcement.

La misión de Amigos en Azul es disolver barreras culturales, formar alianzas y abrir líneas de comunicación entre la comunidad Latina y el departamento de policía de la ciudad de Madison, en asociación con otros departamentos de policía del condado de Dane.

## **Workshop:** *Amigos en Azul - Conoce tus derechos*

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### **Chris Anderle**

Tax Attorney and Director of the Low Income Taxpayer Clinic

## **Workshop:** *Taxes and Economic Justice*

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### **Luis Armacanqui**

Luis Armacanqui is the founder and owner of The Capitol Social, a local Latin dance academy that builds community through lessons, event planning, photography, and live music. Counting on 14 years of experience, Luis will quickly get you moving on the dance floor so you can focus more on enjoying the music and making new friends!

## **Workshop:** *Bachata & Salsa Mini Dance Workshops*

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### **Richard Hildner Armacanqui**

Richard grew up in Madison WI playing Peruvian Andean guitar styles with his grandfather and uncles. He then studied Jazz under the mentorship of Thelonious Monk's saxophonist Paul Jeffrey and studied in the Black Music ensemble under Prof. Richard Davis. After a visit to Madison by one of the leading world exponents of the Afro-Peruvian cajon, Juan Medrano Cotito, he went on to study and play extensively with him and also studied with the legendary Afro-Peruvian guitarist/bassist/composer, the late Maestro Carlos Hayre. Having played nationally and internationally Richard believes in creating spaces with music and art where cultures can understand each other perfectly as one community.

## **Kickoff Concert in the Steven's Gym**

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**Keena Atkinson**

Keena Atkinson, founder of R'oujie Wellness, is a wellness professional in the US. From homelessness to housing provider, trauma-informed instructor, writer, Keena transforms lives. Her holistic wellness company offers movement classes, parenting, well-being, nutrition, menstrual health and domestic violence recovery support. Connect @keenasfa on social media or <http://www.roujiewellness.com>

**Workshop:** *Decode Your Dish: Unveiling the Secrets of Holistic Nutrition*

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**Tim Bailey**

I started Alateen in 1977, moved on to Alanon and have been going to meetings ever since. I have found freedom from growing up with the dysfunction of alcoholism. Currently I drive school bus.

**Workshop:** *An introduction to Alateen and the Family Disease of Alcoholism*

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**Emily Beaman**

Emily Beaman, DNP, CNM, APNP, is the full-time nurse at West. Prior to coming to West last year, she practiced midwifery in clinic and hospital settings, providing sexual and reproductive health and primary care to a diverse patient population for 10 years.

**Workshop:** *Sex 101: reducing disparities in health equity through knowledge*

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**Thomas Beckman**

Tom Beckman has built a career with work around the world that combines strategic thinking, creative energy and extensive experience to help organizations communicate effectively with customers, members of the media, employees, industry influencers and other key stakeholders. He also created and teaches a course in the School of Journalism at UW Madison on marketing message strategies.

**Workshop:** *Marketing for Change: Crafting Powerful Messages for Social Impact*

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**Black Officers Coalition**

We the members of the Black Officers Coalition are committed to bridging the gap between the Black Community and the Madison Police Department. Through inclusion, professional relationships and community partnerships we will develop and support the recruitment, retention and promotions of black officers within the Madison Police department.

**Workshop:** *Our Relationship with the Law*

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**Noah Bloedorn**

Noah is a food systems professional specializing in urban and regional planning with a focus on community development. His work involves building collaborative networks, fostering grassroots engagement, and creating programs to support sustainable and equitable food systems. He has led key initiatives like the Dane County Food Collective and currently manages a project to create a Food Action Plan for Dane County.

## **Workshop: *Building a Better Food System Together***

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### **Sarah Branch**

Sarah Branch is an Entrepreneur, poet, speaker, and mental wellness advocate. She is the founder and owner of Earthly Temptation Wellness in Madison, Wisconsin. Established in 2020, Earthly Temptations Wellness was inspired by Sarah's personal journey with holistic living and the transformative effects of aromatherapy, crystal therapy, meditation, and sound healing. Through her store, Sarah provides resources and guidance to inspire self-care, disrupt patterns of self-sabotage, and encourage positive thinking. Her mission is to empower individuals in the community to heal their minds, bodies, and souls through intentional self-love by way of self-care. Located at 1812 S Park St in Madison, Earthly Temptation Wellness is a sanctuary for those seeking additional resources and tools for their well-being alongside a supportive community.

## **Workshop: *Relax with Sound***

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### **Jaley Bruursema**

Jaley Bruursema (she/her) is a Youth Employment Coordinator at Common Wealth Development, where she facilitates programs designed to help young people build workforce skills. Jaley primarily supports LaFollette students but is happy to connect any MMSD student with programs & jobs that fit their goals.

## **Workshop: *How to be a Person: Not Your Parents' Life Skills***

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### **Breanna Brzezinski, Lina Martin, Tashya Chevalier, Autumn Chevalier**

Since 2012, the Native American Center for Health Professions (NACHP) has provided a supportive, mentoring environment for Indigenous health professional students at UW-Madison, with the ultimate goal of improving the health and well-being of Native people and communities through:

- Enhancing recruitment of Native students to UW health professional schools and programs
  - Improving the Native health professional student experience
- Establishing and enhancing Native health education opportunities
- Recruiting, retaining and developing Native faculty
- Growing Native health academic programs in research and education with tribal communities

## **Workshop: *Indigenous Health: Jeopardy Edition***

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### **Jerrod Buckner**

Jerrod focuses on collaborating with teens, STEAM professionals & students to create enriching environments to gain deep access to STEAM. With practice of and with youth and career professionals for over 15 years, he has created a science to bring the two sides together to create fun filled events that create lifelong relationships.

## **Workshop: *Fun Ways to Connect with UW-Madison Research Labs***

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### **Kooy Buie**

Kooy has been teaching street styles such as hip-hop, popping, krump and house dance for 14 years as well as performing, battling and judging battles for 10 and k-pop classes for about 5. Kooy believes that

movement to music and street styles dance in particular is a powerful tool for healing, self confidence, and overall joy and loves to offer that experience to as many people as he can.

**Workshop:** *Kooy's Hip-Hop Dance Workshop*

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### **Cumbia Cachaca**

Cumbia Cachaca is an electronic cumbia duet, which starts from the investigation in traditional music and reinterprets them, according to its urban vision.

Cumbia Cachaca es un dueto de cumbia electrónica, que parte de la investigación en músicas tradicionales y las reinterpreta, de acuerdo a su visión urbana.

**Kickoff Concert in the Auditorium**

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### **Rowan Childs**

Rowan founded nonprofit Madison Reading Project 10 years ago in response to learning about the discrepancies in literacy rates in Dane County. Rowan wanted to help provide fun new books to kids they could keep, grow their home libraries and literacy skills. Rowan grew up in England, Germany, and Chicago, and attended many schools throughout. Books and travel were always her constant companion. She has a background in sales, marketing, and community development which all of those skills helped her create and run a successful nonprofit.

**Workshop:** *Creating Social Change and Organization*

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### **AJ Daughtry Krill**

AJ Daughtry Krill is the Technology Education Lead at ITA Madison. AJ earned his English Secondary Education B.S. degree from UW-Madison, and is a proud Badger. AJ enjoys recording and performing music, playing games of all types, and loves being outdoors. In high school, one of his proudest accomplishments was selecting and co-directing the Senior Play!

**Workshop:** *Game Jam: Design & Remix for Equity*

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### **Margo DeNuccio**

Margo has worked in the Education Department of Planned Parenthood of WI for 14 years. She currently serves as one of the organization's Community Education and Outreach Coordinators and covers the Madison area. In this role, she provides sexual and reproductive health education to community groups and helps connect people with the services PPWI health centers provide. She especially loves working with teens and young adults, is passionate about addressing barriers people face in accessing quality health care and aims to empower all individuals to manage their sexual and reproductive health.

**Workshop:** *Planned Parenthood and Addressing Barriers to Accessing Reproductive and Sexual Healthcare*

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### **Diana De Pierola**

Diana was a teacher at West High School, passionate about environmental topics and regulation. She has a Master's in Environmental Conservation and a Master's in Legal Institutions. She loves to interact with the

Latin community and make information available so everyone can take advantage of the rebates and tax credits.

Diana ha estado enseñando durante 4 años. Trabajó para el Ministerio del Medio Ambiente del Perú creando regulaciones y políticas, fue consultora de sustentabilidad y tiene amplio conocimiento en temas regulatorios ambientales en el Perú. Ahora trabaja como coordinadora de proyectos bilingüe en FOCUS ON ENERGY.

**Workshop:** *Focus on your savings! Uso de energia eficiente!*

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### **Yorvanis Duran**

Yorvanis Duran, a native of Cuba, has played and toured extensively with famous groups such as Maraca, Cesar Lopez and Havana ensemble. In Mexico he toured with the Pedro Camacho orchestra and in the United States has played with Bryan Lynch's group and given workshops and UW-Madison and other schools around the country.

**Kickoff Concert in the Steven's Gym**

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### **Langston Evans**

Langston Evans is an innovative educator who serves as the director of College & Career Readiness for the Madison Metropolitan School District, the second-largest district in Wisconsin. Langston believes in empowering all young people, especially those who have been historically marginalized, with the belief, knowledge, and ability to reach their full potential as equal participants in our global society.

**Workshop:** *Is the ACT Racist?*

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### **Emily Bender Fassbender**

Emily is a Youth Advocate at Briarpatch Youth Services.

**Workshop:** *Identity and Impact*

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### **Martina S. Gabrielli**

Martina is a proud West High School alumna (Class of 2023). Since graduating, she has been pursuing classes at MATC with the goal of transferring to UW-Madison to join its teacher pledge program. As a first-generation college student, Martina was initially uncertain about her future during high school. However, after participating in the Root 2 Rise program at One City Schools, she rediscovered her childhood dream of becoming a teacher. The support she received through Root 2 Rise has inspired her to pursue a career in elementary education. Bilingual, with both of her parents originally from Uruguay, Martina is passionate about giving back to the community. Outside of her academic life, she enjoys spending time with her family as an aunt and has a love for traveling. Ultimately, Martina's dream is to teach in underprivileged communities across South America, helping to create educational opportunities where they are most needed.

**Workshop:** *Root 2 Rise - A Leadership Experience*

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### **Simon Gott**

Simon Gott has dedicated the past seven years to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dane County. He began as a Match Support Specialist and now serves as Program Director. Simon has driven an 11% year-over-year growth in the Community-Based program and successfully launched five site-based programs within two years. Passionate about nonprofit work, youth development, and mentoring, Simon continues to strive towards providing more opportunities for youth in the community.

**Workshop:** *Grow and Guide: Empowerment through Mentorship*

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### **Ciarra Grobe**

Ciarra Grobe has been the Restorative Justice Coach at West High School since the fall of 2021. She has lived in Madison since 2014 and received her masters in criminal justice from UW Platteville in 2017. While in Madison, Ciarra has worked as a paralegal for a criminal defense firm, supported youth and families while with the RISE Children Come First (CCF) Program, and remodeled Briarpatch Youth Services Youth Peer Court Program into a Restorative Justice Program. Ciarra enjoys spending time with her partner and two daughters as well as reading fantasy books and gardening.

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### **Lorena Guimaraens**

Lorena plays a key role in supporting the Executive Director of CEOs of Tomorrow in overseeing the organization's youth employment programs and the agency's strategic direction. This role has allowed her to continue her mission of empowering youth and uplifting vulnerable communities, aligning her passion with her career. Lorena is a first-generation college graduate, holding a Bachelor's degree in Art Therapy and Psychology. With over a decade of dedicated service in the nonprofit sector, Lorena continues her commitment of supporting underrepresented communities in Dane County. Her journey includes impactful roles at organizations such as Boys & Girls Club, Omega School Inc., and Unidos Against Domestic Violence.

Within the nonprofit realm, she has excelled in leadership capacities, spearheading program development and services for both youth and adults. She also brings valuable experience in co-leading small yet rapidly expanding nonprofit organizations, program oversight, database management and event coordination. Lorena also finds joy in leveraging her educational background to introduce creative elements into various aspects of her work.

**Workshop:** *Become a Teen Money Mentor*

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### **Denise Hanson**

The creator of Root 2 Rise, Denise has devoted over 30 years to working in K-12 public education as a Spanish and French teacher and Restorative Justice and Engagement Coach. She holds Master's degrees in School Counseling and Teacher Leadership. Denise has authored several articles, including: Crossing Bridges of Culture, Color, and Language; Language Lessons: Using Student Assistants to Bridge Culture & Language; and The Deep Approach: Second Languages for Community Building. Her mission is to build equity in schools by empowering young people to become active leaders in their communities. Denise taught World Languages at Madison West High School for 22 years. Her daughter Celeste graduated from West in 2012 and her daughter Skye is currently a junior there.

**Workshop:** *Root 2 Rise - A Leadership Experience*

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### **Skylar Harris**

Skylar is the Climate Justice Fellow at Midwest Environmental Advocates and a licensed California attorney. She received her law degree from UCLA with specializations in Environmental Law and Critical Race Studies. She attended undergrad at The Ohio State University, receiving a dual degree in Strategic Communications and Arts Management with minors in German and Music, Media and Enterprise. Her past legal clerkships include: the US Department of Justice, Environment and Natural Resources Division; Earthjustice's Toxic Exposure and Health Team; and Los Angeles Waterkeeper.

**Workshop:** *Environmental Justice Issues in Wisconsin*

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### **Mai Her**

Mai Her is currently an English teacher at West High School. This year she is teaching English 1 and AVID 3. She has always worked towards advocating for Race and Equity issues throughout her life especially raising awareness around Asian American issues. She graduated from UW-Madison with a bachelors in English Literature and a certificate in Asian American Studies, Religious Studies, and European Studies. She continued her education at Edgewood College with a Masters in Secondary English Education. She is also the club advisor for Asian Student Union at West High School. In her free time she likes to spend time outside: gardening, riding her bike, and running around with her three very active sons.

**Workshop:** *Eye am Beautiful: The Colonial Impact in Asian Beauty Standards and its Transnational Impact Today*

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### **Eugenia Highland**

Born and raised in Mexico City, Eugenia is a Mama, a creative, a cook, and lover of her roots and Cultura. She has a BFA in Graphic Design from Mexico and a Masters in Life Sciences Communication from UW Madison. Eugenia is the Restorative Justice Program Director for the YWCA Madison and has been a Restorative Justice practitioner since 2011. Since Eugenia migrated from Mexico to Madison in 2008, she has become an impassioned advocate for youth of color and joined the Restorative Justice movement as the medicine to disrupt cycles of systemic harm and violence and birth cycles of healing. Eugenia was part of the M List awardees in 2016 for teacher and mentors, was recognized by Madison 365 in 2019 as one of the *Si Se Puede* list of the most influential Latinx in Wisconsin" and recently was honored as one of the recipients for the 2022 International Women's Day Trailblazer Award.'

### **Latino/a Affinity Circle**

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#### **Misty M. Jackson, or Binesi ogiizhik gookwe (Thunderbird Sky Woman in Ojibwemowin)**

Misty, the eldest daughter of Dana Jackson (Bad River Ojibwe) and Christine Doud (Lac du Flambeau Ojibwe), grew up near the shores of Lake Superior on the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indian reservation in northern Wisconsin. She graduated from Ashland High School, then attended Northland College (Ashland, WI). She wanted to travel the world, so decided to go active duty in the United States Army in 2001. She was stationed in Texas, Germany, Washington, Montana and Arizona, with deployments to Kuwait (2005) and Iraq (2007). She retired honorably in 2015. Since then, she has volunteered in her local tribal communities, bringing attention to ensuring our natural resources are protected. She has declared herself a Water Protector, and takes part in many activities and ceremonies. She helped organize fundraisers/benefits for the annual WaterWays Walk, held each spring in Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin, to honor Nibi, our Water. She spent time as an active Water Protector in Standing Rock, North Dakota, in 2016-2017. She continues to do traditional maple syrup/sugar camps, wild ricing, hunting and fishing, each year in northern Wisconsin with her family. She participates in a Sun Dance each summer in Crow Agency, Montana. She attained a Native American Studies degree from Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University, and is



currently on an extended break from UW-Madison to care for her toddler son, but is working towards a Neurobiology degree and is interested in Health Care and Education. She is active with the Bad River American Legion Post 25, Lac du Flambeau Ojibwe Veterans group, as well as the United Indigenous Women Veterans. She takes part in Honor and Color Guards for annual powwows, the State of the Tribes address in Madison, and other wonderful events throughout Wisconsin, the United States and internationally.

**Workshop:** *Bad River Ojibwe - I am a Water Protector*

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### **Jennifer Jones**

Jennifer Jones, Dine/Navajo Nation, is a Ph.D. student at the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies and works at the intersection of STEM, social sciences, and policy. Her research focuses on the potential of tribal-owned utilities to provide clean, reliable electricity for tribal communities. This year, Jennifer received the 2024-25 Public Humanities Fellowship at the Center for the Humanities, leading to her role as the Tribal Engagement Fellow at RENEW Wisconsin, a non-profit advancing policy and programming for clean energy adoption. Jennifer likes traveling, concert-going, and watching k-dramas.

**Workshop:** *Towards a Just Transition: Advancing Energy Justice Through Policy*

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### **Michael Jones**

Mike Jones is current President of the Teachers' Unit of Madison Teachers Inc -- a Union which represents over 2,700 substitutes, education support professionals, and educators in MMSD. Mike is finishing his 4th year (and final term) as President, and was a Special Education teacher and Dean of Students at Black Hawk Middle School and West High School before 2021.

**Workshop:** *Building Student and Worker Power within Schools*

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### **Holly Jorgenson**

Holly, LCSW and LPC, is a Madison therapist specializing in relationships that bring out the best in each other. She also leads the Madison Area chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby and advises its Youth Action Team members in leadership and advocacy skills.

**Workshop:** *Side By Side: Relationships to Sustain Us*

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### **Brian Juchems**

Brian J. (He/Him) has been at the forefront of fostering inclusive schools in Wisconsin for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (LGBTQ+) youth since 1998 when he migrated to Madison from rural Iowa. Brian J. co-founded and grew GSAFE's annual Leadership Training Institute into a 4-day summer camp for high school students across Wisconsin to develop their skills as activists, allies, and agents of change. In 2002 Brian J formally joined GSAFE's staff and has served in various roles over the years, including Senior Director of Education and Policy. In 2005 Brian J. partnered with Madison students to successfully pass the state's first district-level transgender-inclusive nondiscrimination policy and has since worked with districts across Wisconsin, guiding district leaders and staff through the steps of adopting and implementing policy grounded in best practices that support and affirm trans and queer youth. Brian J. is a life-long comic book nerd, takes his dog Willis to the park daily, and skates with the all gender Wisconsin United Roller Derby.

**Workshop:** *LGBTQ+ Issues and Political Advocacy*

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**Hannah Jury; Matt Lechmaier; Kaila Topping**

The Madison Area Food Pantry Gardens is a nonprofit organization that uses community gardens to grow fresh, culturally relevant food for Dane County food pantries. This talk will be led by two of the garden leaders, Matt Lechmaier and Kaila Topping, who both have backgrounds in ecology and sustainable growing.

**Workshop:** *Gardening for Good: Fighting Food INsecurity with Community Gardens*

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**Zach Karolek**

Zach Karolek CUDE, CCUFC (They/Them) is a Learning and Development Specialist for Retail and Employee Financial Education and is the Chair for the LGBTQ+ ERG at Summit Credit Union. In their role, Zach is focused on providing professional development and coaching to all employees of the Credit Union. They are also passionate about being a strong advocate for both the Credit Union movement and the LGBTQ+ community. As Chair for the LGBTQ+ ERG, Zach works with the rest of the leadership of the ERG to provide a welcoming community for ALL Summit Credit Union employees to learn about, create awareness for and support the LGBTQ+ community.

**Workshop:** *Diversity at Work*

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**Katie Kastner**

Katie is a developmental pediatrician at the University of Wisconsin Waisman Center where she provides medical care for children with developmental delays and disabilities. She also works in medical education to provide training for medical students and residents related to disability advocacy and developmental care for children.

**Workshop:** *Neurodiversity Affirming Healthcare for Children*

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**Brian Kenney**

Brian has been an educator for 25 years and is the founder and current owner of Team Extreme LLC. Brian graduated from Marquette University with a BA in Psychology and Criminal Justice. Later he received a BA in Social Work from Upper Iowa University, followed by an MS degree in Education from UW Stevens Point. Team Extreme LLC specializes in working with all types of teams to assist them in improving their leadership skills and abilities to harness team cohesion. Brian is focused on increasing human connections, growing a thriving culture, and creating a positive and outcome-based climate.

**Workshop:** *Overcoming Barriers*

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**Juliet King**

King is an independent artist skilled in a variety of media. They specialize in illustration, printmaking, and fiber art. King loves to use humor in their art to not only bring joy and laughter, but to also tackle hard-to-talk-about subjects such as otherness, body positivity, and mental health.

**Workshop:** *Stick it to Injustice: Activism through Art & Collage*

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**Tiffany Koch**

Tiffany is a WI State Certified Peer Specialist who identifies as someone with lived/living experience with recovery, substance use, and mental health. Mother of two boys 10 and 16. Passionate about Harm Reduction, creative ingenuity, and supporting people who use drugs.

**Workshop:** *Students as Advocates: Choosing the Health Centered Approach to Drug Use*

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### **Andi Koene**

Andi is a Youth Advocate at Briarpatch Youth Services.

**Workshop:** *Identity and Impact*

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### **Bryanna Krekeler**

Bryanna is the first-ever sustainability program manager with MMSD. She will be responsible for developing and implementing District-wide sustainability and environmental strategies, policies and training. Before transferring to MMSD, Bryanna led projects that optimize energy use, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance building performance across various settings. Her particular areas of expertise include project management, energy modeling, building commissioning, retro-commissioning and decarbonization. She holds a bachelor of science degrees from the University of Kansas (architectural engineering) and the University of Minnesota (economics, math and statistics) and a master's degree in teaching from Northwest University.

**Workshop:** *Climate Advocacy Panel*

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### **James Kreul**

James is a film curator who has been active in Madison's film culture since the 1990s. He earned a Ph.D in film history at the UW-Madison in 2005 with a dissertation about the distribution and exhibition of experimental films in the 1960s. He currently curates three film programs in Madison: Mills Folly Microcinema at Arts + Literature Laboratory; MMoCA Cinema at the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art, and Duck Soup Cinema at Overture Center.

**Workshop:** *Experimental Filmmaking as Social Protest and Self-Affirmation*

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### **Kathy Kuntz**

Kathy is the Director of the Dane County Office of Energy & Climate Change in Madison, Wisconsin where she leads climate action efforts across Dane County. Over the last four years Kathy has worked with youth from across Dane County to organize the annual Youth Climate Conferences where young people inspire each other around equitable climate action.

**Workshop:** *Centering Equity in Climate Action*

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### **Darrell Lofton**

Darrell Lofton is the Program Manager and Youth Coordinator at WAVE (Wisconsin Anti Violence Education fund) and former SP/ED teacher at West Allis Central High School.

**Workshop:** *Empowering Youth Voices to end Gun Violence*

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## **Tim Markle and Hunter Markle**

Tim is the father of two young adults. Hunter is autistic and has mental health challenges and Sami has mental health challenges. Tim is unique in his own way, too. Tim is director of the Wisconsin Youth Health Transition Initiative at the University of Wisconsin Madison Waisman Center where he helps young adults and families prepare for adulthood. Hunter works part time and enjoys heavy metal music and D&D.

**Workshop:** *Who will carry the disability banner?*

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## **Cait Mallery**

Cait (they/them) is a health equity advocate, facilitator, and community organizer, who comes to Fair Wisconsin with five years of experience in outreach, advocacy, and leadership development. They are passionate about issues of reproductive rights and justice, gender-based discrimination, and mass incarceration, and appreciate opportunities to support others in sharing their story.

**Workshop:** *LGBTQ+ Issues and Political Advocacy*

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## **Nick Moran**

Bassist Nick Moran is a veteran of Madison's music scene and has been performing for over 20 years. A prolific bassist on both electric and the double bass, Nick regularly performs a diverse roster of musical genres including jazz, Afro Latin, hip-hop, reggae, funk, and more. He has toured internationally and performed with a diverse collection of internationally renowned acts, including Ben Sidran, Lee 'Scratch' Perry, Clyde Subblefield, David 'Fathead' Newman (Ray Charles' sax player), Ana Laan, cajón ambassador Juan 'Cotito' Medrano (Susana Baca, Novalima), dance hall pioneers Chaka Demus and Pliers, and hip hop pioneer DJ Kool Herc. In 2001, Nick was honored to record and perform with master of afro cuban percussion and Grammy Award winner Roberto 'Vizcaino' Guillot.

## **Kickoff Concert in the Steven's Gym**

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## **DeAndre Martin**

DeAndre Martin is a social entrepreneur that believes in the power of community driven innovation to impact and transform communities. A native of Northeast Oklahoma City (NEOKC), Oklahoma, his career has been dedicated to building infrastructure that fosters economic opportunity through entrepreneurial education, workforce development, and capital allocation.

Prior to joining CEOs of Tomorrow as Executive Director, Martin served as the Community Development Director with Northeast Oklahoma City Renaissance (NEOKCR), a nonprofit created to catalyze economic development in NEOKC. Beyond his professional work, he has served on boards including Teach for America Oklahoma, John Rex Charter School, and The Verge entrepreneurship hub. His leadership has earned him membership in Leadership Oklahoma City Class 17, the ClassMatters Distinguished Leader award, and the Juneteenth on the East Community Action Award.

**Workshop:** *Become a Teen Money Mentor*

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## **Camy Matthay**

Camy co-founded Wisconsin Books to Prisoners in 2006 after volunteering for a number of years co-sponsoring a documentary film and discussion group at a prison in Wisconsin. She makes instructional

zines for prisoners nationwide on popular topics such as learning to draw, chess, high-intensity interval training (HIIT), and reentry resources.

**Workshop:** *Wisconsin Books to Prisoners - Reading is a Human Right*

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**Representative Renuka Mayadev**

Representative of the 77th assembly district, Maternal Child Advocate, Daughter of Immigrants, Lawyer

**Workshop:** *Curious about Public Service? Let's Chat!*

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**Antoine McNeail**

Antoine was born and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He moved to Madison, WI in 1999 to study Political Science at the University of Wisconsin, earning his bachelor's degree in 2004. Antoine worked in the Health care & Medical billing industry for almost 15 years. He is a Father of 3. Mr. McNeail is a man of many hats. He is a comedy show producer, empowerment speaker, business consultant, entrepreneur and has been a comedian for almost 10 years. Antoine McNeail also works to educate youth about leadership, life skills, public speaking, fatherhood & community engagement. He can also be heard on W.O.R.T 89.9 FM on Tuesday mornings at 8am. Antoine has helped to create & host 1Motion Out Reach Enterprise, Stop The Violence Movement - Madison, Comedy & Poetry Jam BY 1Motion Out Reach Enterprise, African Connection, Annual sock & gloves collection for the homeless and more.

**Workshop:** *Life Skills & Career Exploration*

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**Mary Michaud**

Mary teaches courses on US health policy for students at UW-Madison. She has worked in public health and health equity for nearly 3 decades and is the proud parent of 2 West HS grads.

**Workshop:** *Policy approaches to health equity*

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**Iris Mickey**

Iris is a Certified Yoga Therapist and has been teaching yoga for 25 years. The philosophy of yoga that informs her and Yoga Accessible for All (YAFA) is that yoga is a way of life, not about touching your toes!

**Workshop:** *Connecting through Yoga Movement, Breath, and Sound*

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**Ali Muldrow**

Parent, Partner, MMSD Board of Education Treasurer, Tuesday host of a Public Affair on WORT 89.9 FM

**Workshop:** *Revolutionary Flowers*

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**Lyn Murph Talley**

Lyn is an undergraduate at the University of Wisconsin-Madison studying data science and economic analytics. Their background in disability activism at UW-Madison includes interning at the campus' Disability Cultural Center and serving as a co-president for the Disability Justice Society, an undergraduate organization.

## **Workshop:** *Disability Justice in Action*

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### **Javier Neira**

My journey is one of opportunity, perseverance, and a deep commitment to community. Originally from Bogotá, Colombia, I moved to the U.S. in high school and later earned degrees in Political Science and International Studies from UW-Madison. My career began in higher education, helping families navigate their opportunities for growth, particularly within the Latinx and minority communities. Driven by my passion for economic empowerment, I transitioned into real estate to help individuals invest in their future. I believe real estate is one of the most powerful ways to build generational wealth, and I take pride in making the process clear, accessible, and stress-free—especially for those facing language or systemic barriers.

Mi historia es una de oportunidades, perseverancia y un profundo compromiso con la comunidad. Nací en Bogotá, Colombia, y me mudé a Estados Unidos durante la escuela secundaria. Más tarde, me gradué de la Universidad de Wisconsin-Madison con títulos en Ciencias Políticas y Estudios Internacionales. Comencé mi carrera en la educación superior, ayudando a familias, especialmente dentro de la comunidad latina y otros grupos minoritarios, a acceder a oportunidades de crecimiento. Impulsado por mi pasión por el desarrollo económico, hice la transición al sector inmobiliario para ayudar a las personas a invertir en su futuro. Creo que la inversión en bienes raíces es una de las formas más poderosas de construir riqueza generacional, y me enorgullece hacer que el proceso sea claro, accesible y sin estrés, especialmente para quienes enfrentan barreras lingüísticas o sistémicas.

## **Workshop:** *Del Sueño a la Propiedad: Cómo Invertir con Éxito | From Dream to Property: How to Invest Successfully*

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### **Ixayana Nelson**

Ixayana is the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Manager at Summit Credit Union. She is dedicated to fostering an inclusive and equitable workplace where every employee feels valued and empowered. Her role involves developing and implementing strategies to attract, retain, and advance a diverse workforce. She collaborates with HR and business leaders to identify opportunities for promoting diversity and inclusion, and works closely with employee resource groups to support underrepresented employees.

Ixayana is a first-generation college graduate in Social Work and recently graduated with my MBA in Leadership and Change.

## **Workshop:** *Diversity at Work*

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### **Jake Niesen**

For over two decades, I have dedicated my life to supporting people who use drugs, both personally and professionally. From leading a peer-driven nonprofit to coordinating harm reduction grants for the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, my work has focused on expanding access to safety and challenging systemic barriers. Now at Public Health Madison and Dane County, I continue to advocate for the health, dignity, and autonomy of people disproportionately impacted by the drug war—because this is my community, my friends, and my family.

## **Workshop:** *Students as Advocates: Choosing the Health Centered Approach to Drug Use*

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## **Abby Novinska-Lois**

Abby is the Executive Director of Healthy Climate Wisconsin, an organization of public health and healthcare professionals.

**Workshop:** *Stop the Line 5 Pipeline*

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## **Justin Novotney, Donelle Scaffidi & HS youth mentors**

Donelle and Justin are both mentors with Wild Harvest Nature connection, who's mission is to inspire/lead connection to self, nature and others. We work with youth ages 4-18 yrs of age, as well as adults, on various skills, including fire by friction, making cordage, shelter building, tracking/trailing wildlife, slowing down and community building.

**Workshop:** *The Benefits of Nature on Mental Health*

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## **Ellie O'Flannigan, Holly Dolan, Jack Rogge and Wilson Lee**

4 members of West's Green Club, a longstanding organization focused on improving local climate policy, moderating a panel.

**Workshop:** *Climate Advocacy Panel*

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## **Sara Ostad**

Sara is a PhD student and researcher in the Dept of Life Sciences Communication. Sara is involved in community-engaged research focused on public perception and acceptance of energy technologies. Additionally, Sara's work looks at how we can best bridge the gap between the public, scientists, and policymakers when it comes to climate change action and solutions. Sara completed her master's in Environmental Policy and Management at University of California, Davis, where she worked with majority Hispanic communities to strategically communicate their economic and climate justice concerns and consulted the California Department of Conservation in implementing their new Biofuels grant project aimed to serve Sierra Nevada communities affected by wildfires. When she is not busy working, Sara likes to hike, try new local restaurants, and foster cats.

**Workshop:** *Towards a Just Transition: Advancing Energy Justice Through Policy*

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## **Shawn D. Padley**

Shawn (he/they) is a Senior Universal Banker at Summit Credit Union, working in the west side of Madison. He is dedicated to helping members achieve financial success through education, credit building, and budgeting, and encourages all his members to embrace the motto "Everything is figureoutable". Shawn has been the co-chair of Summit Credit Union's LGBTQ+ Employee Resource Group since January 2024 and is passionate about queer inclusion and justice in the workplace and is working with HR to develop policy to guide transgender employees through their transition in the workplace. Outside of work, Shawn serves on the Board of Directors for StageQ Inc, Wisconsin's oldest LGBTQ+ community theatre. Shawn holds a Bachelor's of Arts degree from Edgewood College, where he served two terms as the college's first openly-transgender Student Body President.

**Workshop:** *Diversity at Work*

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## **Emily Park**

Emily is one of 350 Wisconsin's Co-Executive Directors. Emily joined 350 Wisconsin as a volunteer in 2019 and held positions on the Coordinating Council and Board of Directors before joining staff in 2021. She has organized and engaged in activist work around fossil fuel infrastructure and financing, community sustainability, clean energy deployment, and state and federal policy. Emily grew up in Boise, Idaho, and has also lived in St Louis, MO and Cleveland, OH and has been a resident of Madison since 2015. Emily has a degree in Earth & Planetary Sciences and Environmental Studies from Washington University in St. Louis. In her free time, Emily enjoys crafting (and collecting crafting supplies), reading, hiking, and cooking.

**Workshop:** *Take your power back: Energy Equity & You*

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## **Maia Pearson**

Maia, a graduate of Madison West High School, is the Vice President of Madison's Board of Education, serving on the board since 2021. Maia has over a decade of organizing experience, including running successful grassroots campaigns focused on engaging young people and communities of color. Maia has and continues to work directly with the community, government agencies, and local and national nonprofit organizations, focusing on issues around education, food and housing access, and equity in development. Maia received her bachelor's degree in International Relations and East Asian Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

**Workshop:** *Let's Make it Move - Civic Leadership & Building Power*

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## **John Peschl**

John (he/him) is MMSD's LGBTQIA+ Teacher Leader. John is in his 27th year of education, driven by the urgent need to help create safe learning environments and opportunities of all students, especially LGBTQIA+ youth. Outside of work, he enjoys traveling with my husband, Elliott, taking walks with his dog, Manny, bingeing tv shows, and reading queer fiction and mystery books.

**Workshop:** *Becoming an LGBTQIA+ Ally*

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## **Mabel Peters**

Mabel Peters is the Clinical Trials Participant Liaison for the University of Wisconsin Clinical Trials Institute and Office of BioHealth Industry Partnerships. She has 25+ years of Clinical Trials Research and Industry experience. Her experience includes the development of community and campus partnerships, clinical and non-clinical research implementation, patient/participant engagement including industry and non-profit partnerships, as well as student/school collaborations. Mabel's mission is to raise awareness and educate, cultivate relationships, and support diverse groups in clinical trials research and health equity. She is passionate about encouraging & empowering people, bring joy to their heart, and making an impact & difference with the people she encounters in the world.

**Workshop:** *All-Inclusive: Amplifying Equity in Clinical Trials*

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## **Emily Peterson**

Emily works for the Madison Metropolitan School District as a Universal Culture and Climate Coach. She has worked for MMSD her whole career starting off as a teacher in a bilingual classroom at Frank Allis Elementary School. She loves spending time with her family and eating good food.



## **AAPI Affinity Circle**

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### **Allison Pfaff Harris**

Allison's love of local food began as a kid eating handfuls of red raspberries in her grandparents' garden. As Farm to School Director at REAP Food Group, Allison works to advocate for and support every person involved in growing food to bring to the school cafeteria table. Knowing that Farm to School works best in partnership with strong school nutrition programs, REAP Food Group assists in research and advocates for local, state, and federal policies that benefit students and school nutrition programs as a whole, including Healthy School Meals for All Wisconsin, a movement to bring no-cost school meals to all K-12 Wisconsin students.

**Workshop:** *Healthy School Meals for All Wisconsin and You*

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### **Karen Polnitz**

Karen Polnitz (she/they) is a writer, performer, organizer, and educator who enjoys growing alongside each new group of people she is able to guide in exploration. She holds a B.A. in Playwriting and Spanish from UC Santa Barbara and an M.A. in Teaching from Fresno State University. She has served as an arts, high school, and spirituality educator for the last decade, organizes and supports social justice efforts in the Teejop (Madison, WI, Ho-Chunk Land) area through Families for Justice and within her virtual job based out of Fresno, CA (Yokuts Land).

**Workshop:** *Solarpunk Art & Organizing*

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### **Aracely Portillo**

Aracely has several roles at the Waisman Center. She is the Bilingual Family Support Specialist for the Youth Health Transition Initiative. She is also a Resource Guide for the Children's Resource Center-South.

**Workshop:** *Overcoming Barriers*

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### **Hector Portillo**

Hector is the executive director of PADRES E HIJOS EN ACCION. Padres e Hijos en Accion is a grassroots organization of individuals with disabilities, their families, friends, and community members building fulfilling and community-centered lives for Latino children. He works with Latino Hispanic families and other culturally diverse populations to provide information, resources, and support for families of students with disabilities. Hector is also a moderator of PADRES E HIJOS EN ACCION's Radio Show that takes place monthly on move 1480 AM.

**Workshop:** *Overcoming Barriers*

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### **Gloria Castillo Posada**

Gloria has been working with MGE since 2020 and most recently as a Customer Engagement and Community services manager. In her role, Gloria engages customers where they are by focusing on cultural relevant education, partnerships and collaboration around relevant topics such as energy efficiency, conservation, equity and sustainability. Before joining MGE, Gloria worked in the nonprofit sector for more than 15 years in Colombia, Canada and the US. Gloria graduated from Javeriana University in Bogota with

a B.S. in Ecology and later earned a Master's degree on Environment and Resources from the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies from UW-Madison. She loves spending her free time hiking, camping and drinking a good cup of coffee.

**Workshop:** *A Clean Energy Future for All: Exploring Strategic Foresight and Collective Visioning for a Sustainable Future*

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**Dr. Jessica Price**

Dr. Price is the Sustainability and Resilience Manager for the City of Madison, where she implements policies, programs, and strategies to advance climate resilience, sustainability, and environmental justice. Prior to joining the Mayor's Office, Jessica served as Renewable Energy Strategy Lead for the Nature Conservancy in New York. She has a PhD in Landscape Ecology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

**Workshop:** *How clean is the air in your neighborhood? A new Madison air quality monitoring network can help you find out*

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**Tyler Krupp Qureshi**

Tyler is the development lead for Threshold Development projects. He focuses on Threshold's financial and business operations, site visits and collaborating with our lenders, investors, counsel, government, architects and neighborhood associations. Tyler is an entrepreneur and educator with nearly 20 years experience in small business management and community building. He is interested in how the built environment can support a sustainable and thriving community.

**Workshop:** *Towards sustainable building? Passive House Design and Building*

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**Morgan Reed, Caide Jackson, Zoë Heitzinger**

Morgan (she/her) and Caide (she/they) are Prevention, Outreach, Education and Training advocates from Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (DAIS). Throughout Dane County, they deliver training to build awareness of Intimate Partner Violence and emphasize the importance of advocacy for survivors. They work with middle and high school aged youth to build allyship in the mission to end gender-based violence.

**Workshop:** *Recognizing Teen Dating Violence and Supporting Survivors*

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**Heather Renken ( She/ her/ hers)**

Heather is the Artistic Director at Encore Studio for the Performing Arts where she has worked as an Artistic Associate, drama coach, director and performer since 2012. She is an Improvisor for Atlas Improv Company in Madison and The Improv Lab in Baraboo, Wisconsin. Heather has taught drama and play writing with the Children's Theater of Madison for their Young Playwrights Program. She was a mentor for UW's First Wave project and taught drama for YMCA Sun Prairie for 5 years. Heather is Artistic Director Emerita for Broom Street Theater where she mentored and produced over 60 original plays and projects over her 7 year tenure. Heather holds a BA in Theatre from Butler University where she graduated with High Honors in Theatre. She was nominated for two Portfolio Awards in Norfolk, Virginia for Costuming and Best Actress in a Musical. Heather has also received two Bartell Theatre Awards for Best Director of a Short in 2017 and for Best Original Play in 2019. Heather is one of three founders of The Kathie Rasmussen Women's Theatre and has served on the Boards of Broom Street Theater, Delicious Creative Incorporated, Dane 101 and Art and Sol Innovations.

**Workshop:** *Yeah.....Same!*

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## **Kimberly Rios**

Kimberly Rios, CFA, CMT is a Sr. Portfolio Manager at BMO Wealth. Over her 30-year career in the investment industry she has traded during some of the most turbulent markets including currencies, the dot.com bubble, and when oil traded negative. From entering the industry when few women had such investment roles, to maneuvering into a mutual fund manager career, then landing at a greatly diversified bank, her path has shown many sides of the investment world. Kimberly grew up in a small town but ended up working on both U.S. coasts in the mutual fund industry. She'll share trials and tribulations, discuss many types of jobs in the industry, as well as ways to work through the systems to find a rewarding and exciting career in investments.

**Workshop:** *Opportunities in the Investment World*

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## **Liliana Teniente Rodríguez**

Liliana Teniente Rodríguez is the Academic Education Lead at ITA Madison. A proud first-gen student and a Double Badger, she earned both a BA and MA from UW-Madison focused on Public Affairs, Education Policy, and Chican@/Latin@ Studies. In high school, Liliana loved swimming butterfly on the La Follette swim team, serving as a Restorative Justice circle keeper, and competing in the Forensics Club.

**Workshop:** *Game Jam: Design & Remix for Equity*

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## **David Ross**

David Ross is a former West High social studies teacher. He is excited to help facilitate a dynamic equity workshop where students can engage in thought-provoking conversations about contemporary issues. Throughout his thirty years of teaching at West High, he taught philosophy, the Middle East, APUSH, and social issues.

**Workshop:** *How to Enact Change: What Can We Learn from 19th Century Abolitionists?*

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## **Jen Roth**

Jen is a graduate student pursuing a Masters degree in School Counseling. With a passion for supporting students' emotional and academic well-being, she aims to empower students to develop resilience, self-awareness, and the skills needed to succeed in both school and life.

**Workshop:** *Exploring Social Identity through Mask-Making*

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## **Helen Rottier**

Helen is the Program Coordinator in the UW-Madison Disability Cultural Center. Her research and practice focuses on how disabled people know and learn, and the experiences of disabled people in education. She grew up in Madison and graduated from La Follette High School.

**Workshop:** *Disability Justice in Action*

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## **State Senator Kelda Roys**

Senator Kelda Helen Roys is an attorney, entrepreneur, small business owner, and former nonprofit executive. She represents Wisconsin's 26th Senate District, which includes most of Madison and several surrounding communities. Sen. Roys is entering her second term in the State Senate, where she will continue to fight for reproductive freedom, economic opportunity, and great public education for every child in Wisconsin.

**Workshop:** *Q&A with your state Senator Kelda Roys!*

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### **Dawry Ruiz**

Dawry is currently the Artist-in-Residence for Madison's School District and serves as the Madison Youth Arts Ambassador via Any Given Child Madison, a coalition of Madison arts organizations and Mayor's office. He is an interdisciplinary Hip-Hop artist and cultural organizer. Raised in Boston, Dawry was exposed to organizing at an early age founding an all youth arts festival. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison as a scholar in First Wave, the only full-tuition college scholarship for Hip-Hop and Urban Arts, with a BS in Community and Organizational Development and a minor in Arts and Teaching. In 2022 he was awarded the national Truman Scholarship for being a leader in public service. He has been featured in TEDx, Forbes, and more.

**Workshop:** *The Creative Lab*

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### **Courtney Schwalbach**

Courtney (she/they) is the Prevention Specialist/GameChangers Coordinator at RCC Sexual Violence Resource Center, one of the oldest rape crisis centers in the United States. At RCC, they work with various groups of young activists to facilitate and empower their visions for communities free from sexual violence. In her role as coordinator, she brings a background in youth work and community education, as well as lived experiences as a queer survivor. They hold a degree in Gender & Women's Studies, Legal Studies, & Criminal Justice from the University of Wisconsin.

**Workshop:** *Resisting Rape Culture*

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### **Mariela Sida, Ximena Sanchez, Rosi Perez, Surina Martinez**

The purpose of Lambda Theta Alpha shall be to provide a sisterhood based on Unity, Love, and Respect; to provide social and cultural activities; and to carry on charitable and educational programs to promote leadership, maintain high academic standards; and serve as a voice for the Latino community.

Mariela Sida - Chapter President

Surina Martinez - Chapter Orientation Advisor

Rosi Perez - Co Historian

Ximena Sanchez - Chapter Secretary

**Workshop:** *From Siblinghood to Social Impact: Civic Engagement on Campus*

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### **Mario Garcia Sierra**

Mario Garcia Sierra joined MGE in 2012. His focus is to work and partner with community organizations and networks to help MGE meet the needs of and engage our increasingly diverse customer base. Prior to MGE Mario worked as the Director of Programs for Centro Hispano where he played a key role transforming the agency to become youth and family centered, partnering with key institutions and community

organizations to address the root causes of the issues affecting the lives of Latino youth and their families in Dane County.

**Workshop:** *A Clean Energy Future for All: Exploring Strategic Foresight and Collective Visioning for a Sustainable Future*

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**Ben Stanger**

Ben is the *Founder & CEO of Green Box Compost*. He grew up in a family that interacted with soil intimately. They prided themselves on their large vegetable garden, and composted the scraps from their plates, turning them into nutrients for next year's garden. He knew this natural cycle from practice, and wondered if there wasn't a way to make it accessible to people with less time and space. In 2017, after working at a green home builder and a sustainable seafood company, he discovered a composting company's van making its rounds. He resolved to learn more about the industry, with an eye to helping his hometown of Madison access this important service. In 2021, he founded Green Box. When not composting, you might find him playing ultimate frisbee, creating ceramics, or reading a book.

**Workshop:** *Climate Advocacy Panel*

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**Brady Steigauf**

Brady Steigauf has 9 years of experience working in the nexus of energy efficiency, local government sustainability, and utility space. He is the Community Liaison Manager at Focus on Energy. In this role, his goal is to enhance the focus on energy program experience for cities, local governments, and community-based organizations by bringing communities and utilities together to deliver energy saving programs to new, broader audiences of residents and businesses.

**Workshop:** *Focus on Your Savings!*

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**Heather Stelljes, Karli John, and Carrie Kerska**

Three former middle and high school teachers now working in the disability and accessibility field share more about what they've learned about disability identity, rights, and justice.

**Workshop:** *Busting Barriers: Disability, Inclusion and You*

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**Representative Shelia Stubbs**

Wisconsin State Representative Shelia Stubbs is honored to serve the 77th Assembly District, which includes parts of South and West Madison, the Village of Shorewood Hills, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison College's Goodman South campus, and Edgewood College. Representative Stubbs has previously worked as a special education teacher, an adjunct professor, a probation and parole agent, and a match support specialist and served as an elected member of the Dane County Board of Supervisors. Representative Stubbs has a strong background in equity work and criminal justice, which guides her in creating legislation to improve the lives of Wisconsinites.

**Workshop:** *Equity, Government, and Community: Connections for a Fairer Wisconsin*

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**Mary Swenson**

English teacher / educator, Instructional Coach, poetry lover.

## **Workshop:** *Revolutionary Flowers*

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### **Nova Tebbe**

Nova (MPH,MPA) is an Environment and Resources PhD candidate in the Climate Solutions for Health Lab at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her research focuses on the health and equity co-benefits of climate mitigation policy, focusing on how to maximize these benefits in national and local contexts through policy analysis, evaluation, and design. She has worked with the Global Climate and Health Alliance on national policy briefs to raise ambition on Nationally Determined Contributions. In her spare time, Nova enjoys cycling, listening to vinyls, and outdoor activities such as paddle boarding.

## **Workshop:** *Towards a Just Transition: Advancing Energy Justice Through Policy*

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### **Subi Thakali**

Subi is a Ph.D. graduate student in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her research in Timothy Bertram's group focuses on urban air quality, specifically measuring volatile organic compounds which have an impact on ozone and particulate matter (PM) formation. Her research has also focused on looking at indoor and outdoor PM studies.

## **Workshop:** *How clean is the air in your neighborhood? A new Madison air quality monitoring network can help you find out*

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### **Joseph Thigpen, Jr.**

Joe is a dedicated educator and lifelong resident of Madison, Wisconsin. A 2017 graduate of Madison West High School, Joseph has followed his passion for education that was ignited during his time as a Root 2 Rise Tutor-Mentor. This experience inspired him to pursue a career in education, first as a special education assistant with the Madison Metropolitan School District and later with the Sun Prairie Area School District, where he was subsequently promoted to the role of Greatness Coach. Currently, Joseph is attending Madison College to further his career in education and expand his ability to support and inspire students. Outside of his professional life, Joseph is the proud father of two daughters: Journi Love and Justyce Love, whom he raises with his partner, Zequelah Brooks.

## **Workshop:** *Root 2 Rise - A Leadership Experience*

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### **Deonte Thompson**

Born and Raised in Madison, I originate from the Coho Drive and Allied Drive areas. Lifestyle Reform is my Path, Expanding opportunities and Cultivating Potential is my Purpose. My passion comes from my experiences with incarceration and also my own recovery journey. I'm striving to be the best version of myself and rewrite my story.

## **Workshop:** *Fell from Grace to find Path, Plan, Purpose*

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### **Shana Toor, Marne Boehm, Erin Lyman, Christin iniguez, Elise Swenson**

The Restorative Justice Project (RJP) at the University of Wisconsin Law School facilitates restorative justice dialogues between harmed parties and responsible parties in the aftermath of serious and sensitive crimes. RJP is committed to serving the community by promoting restorative practices, developing

alternatives to the traditional criminal legal system, and reducing racial disparities in the criminal legal system.

**Workshop:** *Restorative Justice in the Criminal Legal System*

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### **Elizabeth Troiano**

Elizabeth Troiano is the Graduate Project Assistant for ITA, so she teaches academic courses to juniors and seniors. She is also studying speech-language pathology at UW-Madison and will graduate in May. Her clinical rotation this semester is at West High School! When Elizabeth was in high school, she was involved in an a cappella group and several Latin clubs.

**Workshop:** *Game Jam: Design & Remix for Equity*

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### **Yante Turner**

Yante Turner is an openly Trans & Queer Black change agent of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. With his background in community care and trans liberation work, Yante serves to uplift, support, and advocate for the diaspora of Black Trans people. His passions lead him to wear many hats and have a role in the world as fluid and open as he is. He is a facilitator of all the things Trans, Black, Healing, joyful and challenging. Creating affirming spaces that also foster continuous learning are important factors in Yante's work, as the fight to decolonize, strip white supremacy from our communities, and love radically stand at the forefront of his work and life.

**Workshop:** *Youth Power Shifting with GSAFE*

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### **Jason Valerius**

Jason Valerius, AICP is Executive Director of the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission. He has worked as a community planner for the past two decades helping communities across the Midwest address topics like housing, recreation, population change, sustainability and urban design. He enjoys community engagement efforts, finding ways to get people involved in guiding the future of their community.

**Workshop:** *The Unfair City - Urban Planning Failures and Solutions*

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### **Faleshuh Walker**

Faleshuh Walker is what some may call a Mompreneur! She has worked a traditional job since she was 14 years old. One day she decided she didn't want that anymore. She is now the owner of Heart Healing Art LLC and Braid Boss LLC and girls club Tea With Fe which focuses on the social advancement of little black girls. She has many ways that she expresses herself through art. She is currently exploring art therapy, although painting is one of her favorites. She is also a Poet. She has been writing ever since she could remember, only recently has she made the decision to share her words with the world. Art in general is therapeutic for her. It is an expression of her experiences. A collective combination of things she's observed over time coupled with artistic fantasies. Faleshuh's work can be found in many places: from schools, prominent fixtures, books, and many peoples homes across the world. One of her favorite and most memorable paintings is a mural she created during the George Floyd protests. There was a massive amount of emotion behind that creation. Since then she has been continuing to get her Art out to the world!!!

**Workshop:** *Art is Life*

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## **Morgan White**

Dr. Morgan White is an assistant professor in the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. Dr. White has committed herself to addressing issues affecting the healthcare needs of the black community and supporting the educational pipeline to train more black doctors. Dr. White helped launch the EnRICH (Enhancing Representation to Improve our Community's Health) pathway program, which is a program that offers mentorship, clinical opportunities in diverse communities, networking, community projects, and conference scholarship support to underrepresented minority in medicine UW medical students that are interested in family medicine. For Dr. White, medicine is more than just physical conditions and treatments; it is about relationships, values, and creating communities that promote health. When not working, Dr. White can be found watching Michigan football (Go Blue!), cooking or playing tennis.

**Workshop:** *Differential Diagnosis*

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## **Traviance Witherspoon**

Traviance Witherspoon is a Multifaceted Artist from Racine, WI. She is a Sports Management Major at UW-Parkside and a UW-Madison PEOPLE Program Scholar majoring in African-American Studies with an Arts Emphasis and a Certificate in Dance Movement Therapy. In 2024 she became Miss Eastern Shore (WI) for the Miss America Opportunity where her community service initiative is "Celebrating Yourself: Projecting A Positive Self-Image" which is a state of mind/lifestyle that gives you the tools to become unapologetically you. Traviance started her dance journey in 2000 with Ballet, Tap, Jazz and Praise Dance as her foundation. In 2017 she began training in the dance style of Krump, a Street Style dance closely related to HipHop, characterized by its high level of energy, expressive nature and its roots in African American Culture. Through her hard work and dedication towards the craft she became the Leading Lady of the Wisconsin Krump Movement (WIBuck) where she is best known as Buckerfly. She has a love for the community and carries this passion everywhere she goes.

**Workshop:** *Celebrate U! A Krump Dance & Personal Growth Workshop*

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## **Benny Witkovsky (WHS class '08)**

Benny Witkovsky is the program coordinator for Stand Up To Hate at Wisconsin Humanities.

**Workshop:** *Stand Up To Hate: A Mission for Wisconsin*

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## **James Woods**

PATCH Providers and Teens Communicating for Health (PATCH) is a Wisconsin local non-profit organization that started in 2014. We specialize in teen education and healthcare advocacy.

**Workshop:** *PATCH for Teens Workshop*

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## **Joshua Wright**

Joshua is a Community Project Coordinator for the Cancer Health Disparities Initiative at the UW Carbone Cancer Center. He works with community organizations, individuals and leaders to promote cancer awareness and advocate for on-time cancer screenings for populations experiencing a higher cancer burden.



**Workshop:** *Overcoming cancer: Communities fighting together for better health*

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**Pong Xiong**

Pong Xiong (he/him) is a Youth Employment Coordinator at Common Wealth Development, where he facilitates programs designed to help young people build workforce skills. Pong primarily supports West students and is happy to connect any MMSD student with programs & jobs that fit their goals.

**Workshop:** *How to be a Person: Not Your Parents' Life Skills*

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**Pazee Yang**

Pazee is the school-based behavioral health therapist at West. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and is passionate about helping teens build confidence through self-reflection and a positive self-identity.

**Workshop:** *Exploring Social Identity through Mask-Making*

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**Lorenza Zebell**

Lorenza (she/her) leads Sustain Dane's education and outreach programs. She believes taking sustainable actions large and small can create a more secure, equitable, and prosperous future for our community and beyond. With eight years of experience in environmental program design, Lorenza has successfully launched multiple initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable practices within diverse communities. She uses her facilitation skills to create welcoming environments that empower underrepresented groups to engage in climate action. Her work in behavioral change has led to measurable reductions in waste and energy consumption among participating organizations and households. She holds a degree in Operations and Sustainability from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. In her free time, she enjoys sewing her own clothes, antiquing, and hunting for vintage clothing.

**Workshop:** *Climate Advocacy Panel*

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**Rabbi Laurie Zimmerman**

Rabbi Laurie Zimmerman is the Rabbi at Congregation Shaarei Shamayim in Madison. She was ordained by the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in 2003 and has served this congregation for the last 21 years. When she's not running the congregation, she studies how to teach children, teenagers, and young adults about Israel-Palestine. She wrote a curriculum in 2014 and is currently writing a book on this topic.

**Workshop:** *Israel-Palestine: Working Towards a Just Future for All*

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**Lydia Zoells**

Lydia (she/her) is an artist and educator based in Madison. She currently teaches printmaking at the college level at Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design. She holds an MFA in Painting from the New York Academy of Art, and she also worked for several years in the book publishing industry.

**Workshop:** *Printmaking for the People: Linocut Workshop*

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**Lana Zoet**

Senior Principal, Higher Education Studio A registered architect with more than 12 years of experience, Zoet joined SmithGroup in 2019 and has designed and delivered classroom, science, engineering, athletics and

recreation spaces at prestigious institutions, including University of Iowa, Iowa State University, Drake University, Pennsylvania State University, American Enterprise Group, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and The Harkin Institute for Public Policy and Citizen Engagement.

**Workshop:** *Empowering Voices: How Design Justice Transforms Education*

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