

## 2018 Diversity in Arts Leadership Program Mentors



**Allison Skeete works in marketing in the gas customer solutions group at Con Edison and this summer she is mentoring Ami Scherson.** Allison has extensive administration and communication experience in the natural gas utility industry and in media and journalism. Allison is on the board of Family Renaissance of Brooklyn and the Caribbean American Business Association of New Jersey. She also served as Board Vice President of The American Association of Blacks in Energy, NY Metro Area Chapter and is a member of the National Association of Black Journalists. Allison is a freelance writer for The Network Journal Business Magazine and an Education Resource Ambassador for

the University of Guyana providing resources and funding for the School of Arts and Communication and working to establish a student exchange program.



**Anthony Cinelli is a Corporate Affairs Manager for the Strategic Partnerships team at Con Edison and is mentoring Christian Burke this summer.** He is an event manager with over twenty years of experience across industries and an expertise in original program development, promotion, brand building, engagement, fundraising and public affairs.

Before joining Con Edison, he worked for The New York Stock Exchange, where he honed those skills in the Global Corporate Client Group, serving a family of NYSE-listed companies; Government Relations, interfacing with regulatory and government officials with oversight for the organization; and Event Marketing, developing strategies to win new business and support the roster of NYSE corporate brands. Prior to his seventeen year tenure at the Exchange, he served as personal assistant to celebrity designer Thomas Jayne and Executive Assistant to the President of Boosey & Hawkes, Inc., publisher of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Giants including John Adams, Leonard Bernstein, and others. He has provided consulting services for the development offices of the American Red Cross of Greater New York and the Whitney Museum of American Art.

In addition, Anthony has served as President of the Board of Directors of The Cornerstone Chorale, a chamber ensemble in Washington Heights, NY and is a classically trained actor and singer. Anthony has held professional section principal positions at St. George's Episcopal Church in Historic Newburgh and The Bronx Concert Singers in Parkchester, NY. He is a *cum laude* graduate of Rhode Island College with a Bachelor of Arts in performance, where he shared the repertory main stage with Emmy, Oscar and Tony-award winning actress Viola Davis – his claim to fame. His credo is “It’s not the job, it’s the journey”.

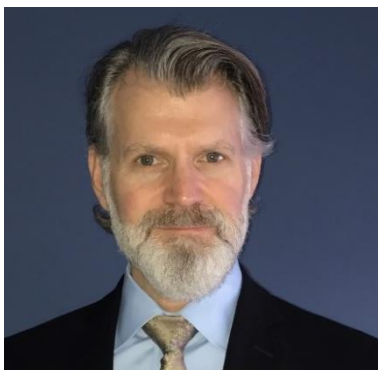


**Ashley Firestone is currently an Associate Arts Program Specialist at the City of New York's Department of Cultural Affairs and is mentoring Sruti Suryanarayanan this summer.** Ashley supports a portfolio of over 150 multidisciplinary non-profit cultural organizations located throughout the five boroughs. Her broad professional expertise includes grantmaking, producing, and fundraising in the cultural sphere of New York City, following roles at Arts Brookfield and Roundabout Theatre Company. Ashley holds a MA in Performing Arts Administration from NYU and a BA in Linguistics / Theater from Brandeis University.



**Emelyn Arias is the Office and Grants Manager at the Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund and this summer she is mentoring Hillary Karl-Otto.** Her functions include the administration and processing of proposals and grants, management of LMTIF office operations, coordination of events, budget support and overall administrative support. The Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund is a New York City-based foundation that strives to improve access and opportunity for all New Yorkers.

Previously, Emelyn worked at Legal Services NYC, where she was a Legal Assistant in the Bankruptcy Assistance Project and coordinated client services with pro bono attorneys. She also worked in development for the US Sciences Po Foundation and on monitoring and evaluation projects for organizations in Argentina and Colombia. Emelyn received a B.B.A. in Marketing from Baruch College and a Masters in International Affairs from The New School. She is a member of the Grants Managers Network (GMN) and the Young Professionals of the Americas (YPA).



**George Forbes is the Executive Director of the Lucille Lortel Foundation and the Lucille Lortel Theatre Foundation and is mentoring London Carlisle this summer.** George began working at the Lortel Theatre in 1989. While working for Lucille Lortel, he also managed Off-Broadway's Promenade and Variety Arts Theatres until 2000 when he was named VP of the Lucille Lortel Foundation and Lucille Lortel Theatre Foundation. The Lortel Theatre Foundation currently manages the Lucille Lortel Theatre as well as providing management services to the Abingdon Theatre Company, Cherry Lane Theatre, En Garde Arts, and Rattlestick Playwrights Theater.

George served as President of the Off-Broadway League from 2007 to 2014 and has been actively involved in producing the Lortel Awards for more than 25 years. He is a trustee of the Equity League Pension, Health, and 401K Funds, the League ATPAM Pension and Health Funds, was on the board of the Greenwich Village Chelsea Chamber of Commerce. George is also a member of NYC & Company's Culture Committee. George has a BFA from Boston University with a focus on Theatre Management and an MBA from NYU.



**Gina Callender joined Con Edison in 2000 and currently works as the General Manager in Substation Operations Planning Department and is mentoring Kaylee Ma this summer.** Gina joined Con Edison as part of the Management Intern Program and now her responsibilities include managing a staff of over 45 people with a budget of over \$320M for all Capital Projects in Programs in the five boroughs of NYC and Westchester County.

Previously, she worked in many areas of increasing responsibility: Section Manager of Gas Engineering Oil to Gas Conservation Group, Section Manager in Bronx Gas Construction, Area Manager in Manhattan Electric Construction, Project Specialist working on the Public Service Commission (PSC) Management Audit Team, Field Operations Planner in Queens Gas Distribution Services, Engineering Supervisor in Manhattan Energy Services, Energy Analyst in Energy Management, and Chief Construction Inspector in Manhattan Construction Management.



**Heidi Cinquegrana is a Project Specialist in Enterprise Risk Management at Con Edison and is mentoring Rachel Kim this summer.** At Con Edison she identifies, measures, mitigates, and monitors risk that impact the company's ability to perform its operations and meet its goals. Heidi was an Irish dancer for many years and today is an avid swing dancer, traveler, and runner. She received her BBA in finance from Baruch College, MBA from Fordham, and is currently pursuing a Certification of Professional Achievement in Enterprise Risk Management at Columbia University.



**Kiersten Fellrath is a Curator and Communications & Project Manager for the JPMorgan Chase Art Collection and is mentoring Rosa Araceli Torres.** A member of the Art Program since 2008, she is responsible for strategic initiatives, marketing and special projects. She assists in the management of one of the oldest and most extensive corporate art collections in the world, begun in 1959 by David Rockefeller. Today the collection numbers more than 30,000 artworks installed in 450 offices worldwide, and is comprised of a diverse range of paintings, drawings, prints, photography, sculpture, textiles and video art. In addition to

curatorial responsibilities, Kiersten oversees art market related initiatives, education and sponsorship programs, events, external and internal communications including publications and engages with collection management. Kiersten received her Masters of Art from Christie's Education, New York and her B.A. from Western Washington University. She specializes in American contemporary art and is passionate about supporting emerging artists. She recently produced the seminal book about the corporate art collection, *Art at Work III: The JPMorgan Chase Art Collection* (2016). She is a member of ArtTable and is actively involved with diversity networking groups at JPMorgan Chase & Co.



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

Outside of work, Kimberly spends a great deal of time pursuing her passions which include theater and writing. Over the last ten years, Kimberly has produced, directed and written a number of dramatic productions within her community. These works have included standards like August Wilson's *Fences* and created pieces like "I Dream in Black Gold," a retrospective on popular black music and artists. She has also written for digital publications covering arts, culture, and popular events. This led to repeat appearances on Huffington Post Live as a featured panelist.

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



**Leah Krauss** is currently the senior program officer for Dance and Special Projects at the Mertz Gilmore Foundation and this summer she is mentoring Tatiana Rivera. Leah joined the Foundation in 2009 and oversees the Dance Program which provides operating support for contemporary dance presenters located throughout the five boroughs and makes discrete investments to advance the dance field by improving conditions for individual artists.

Prior to Mertz Gilmore, Leah was senior program officer at the New York Community Trust, where for 12 years her areas of responsibility included arts and culture, arts-in-education, and historic preservation. Additional experience in the arts includes five years at the Arts & Business Council where she recruited, trained and placed business executives as pro-bono management consultants with nonprofit arts organizations. In addition, she practiced bankruptcy law and served with Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts in Philadelphia.

Leah graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a B.A. in art history from the University of Pennsylvania and a J.D. from University of Pennsylvania Law School. Leah served for two years as co-chair of NY Grantmakers in the Arts and is currently an advisory board for Dance/NYC.



**Nancy Brennan is the marketing lead for the Global Banking & Marketing businesses for Bank of America Merrill Lynch, overseeing marketing, advertising, and event strategy and is mentoring Tiana Raimist-Carter this summer.** Following the acquisition of Merrill Lynch, Nancy led the Bank's merger integration team responsible for re-branding the corporate, institutional and commercial client businesses as a single, global presence. Prior to Bank of America's acquisition, Nancy led various strategic programs and functions for Merrill Lynch, including overseeing business planning and strategic initiatives as the chief operating officer for global sales. Nancy earned her Bachelor's in Finance, Economics, and Pre-Law from Ohio University and M.B.A. from Harvard Business School.



**Nelson Yip is the Deputy Corporate Ombudsman at Con Edison and is mentoring Karen Navarrete this summer.** Throughout his career at Con Edison, Nelson has held positions in emergency management, operations, engineering, energy policy, and business groups. Nelson has been a key contributor in storm restoration for Hurricane Irene, Superstorm Sandy, and major snowstorms. He was a member of the team that developed a strategic twenty-year electric plan for Con Edison. He has also developed advocacy positions for climate change, cyber security and renewable energy.

In 2012, Nelson was named as one of the 50 Outstanding Asian Americans in Business by the Asian American Business Development Center. For the last seven years, Nelson has served as a mentor for the DIAL Internship. Nelson is also a member of the Young Lions of the New York Public Library and a Board member of the West Side YMCA. Nelson has an MBA from NYU's Stern School of Business, a Bachelor of Science and Master of Engineering degree from Cornell University in Electrical and Computer Engineering.



Roman V. Jackson is a Program Officer with the JPMorgan Chase & Co. Private Foundation Services and this summer he is mentoring Citlali Pizarro. In his role he engages with over 60 foundations and charitable trust clients of J.P. Morgan's Private Bank, working closely with Advisors, Trust Officers, Trustees, clients and Grants Managers to assist with the day-to-day management of grantmaking for foundations and trusts.

Roman has more than 9 years of experience in philanthropy, grantmaking and nonprofit service. His nonprofit career started at the Harlem Children's Zone, where he served in various roles including Multimedia Arts Instructor and Research Assistant in their

Education Department. Prior to joining JPMorgan Chase & Co., he worked six years at the Annenberg Foundation. There he managed various aspects of the Annenberg Alchemy Leadership Trainings for nonprofit executive directors and board members. Roman also played a role in the Annenberg Foundation's Community Grantmaking Program, performing due diligence on over 100 nonprofit organizations resulting in over \$1 million dollars in foundation giving in the span of two years.

Roman received a B.A. in Government and Legal Studies from Bowdoin College and after graduating served on the advisory board of the Bowdoin Admissions Student Interview Committee. He currently sits on the executive committee of the New York City Workforce Funders Group and The Fund for New Citizens Grants Committee and recently joined the Board of Broadway Housing Communities where he also serves as chair of the Development Committee.

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