Welcome, 2016 Diversity in Arts Leadership Program Mentors!

**Emelyn Arias** is the Office and Grants Administrator at the Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund. 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. It consistently champions innovative approaches to education, the arts, healthy food, and service.

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. She has worked 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). This summer, Emelyn is mentoring Chantal Feitosa.

**Hilary S. Ayala** serves as the Director of Con Edison’s Grassroots Management and Strategic Partnerships Programs. Reporting to the Senior Vice President of Public Affairs, Ms. Ayala leads the company’s strategic, cause-related contributions program and grassroots initiatives. Ms. Ayala’s portfolio includes the company’s strategic partnerships program, employee and retiree volunteer corps, board placement program, grassroots advocacy network and political action committee. Her responsibilities include assisting senior executives in the development and implementation of the company’s political and community strategies to communicate Con Edison’s position as an industry leader, an environmentally responsible company, and an active community supporter. In former positions at Con Edison, Ms. Ayala served as the company’s principal federal lobbyist in Washington, DC. Ms. Ayala joined Con Edison in 2001.

Ms. Ayala is a graduate of Manhattanville College with a bachelor’s degree in International Studies. She studied at the Université de Paris-Sorbonne on a Marandon scholarship. Ms. Ayala currently serves on the board of the Westchester Children’s Museum. This summer Hilary is mentoring Illen Asmerom.
Gina Callender joined Con Edison in 2000 as part of the Management Intern Program. She currently works as the General Manager in Substation Operations Planning Department. Her responsibilities include managing a staff of over 45 people with a budget of over $385M for all Capital Projects in Programs in the 5 boroughs of NYC and Westchester County.

Prior to this assignment, she has worked in many areas of increasing responsibility including: Section Manager of Gas Engineering Oil to Gas Conversation 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.

Ms. Callender has a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Manhattan College in Riverdale, NY and an MBA from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute with a concentration in Management. She has been mentoring in Manhattan College’s mentoring program for over 6 years. She is also an active recruiter for Con Edison as well as a mentor in the Corporate Mentoring Program and Con Edison’s GOLD (Growth Opportunity in Leadership Development) program where she coaches new hires in their respective assignments for future success. In her spare time, she enjoys travelling, teaching and practicing yoga, snowboarding and running her small art businesses, Karmic Henna & Karmic Designs, at local craft shows and festivals. This summer, Gina is mentoring Seanna McCall.

Kiersten Fellrath is the Curatorial and Marketing Associate for the JPMorgan Chase Art Program. A member of the Art Program since 2008, her primary responsibilities include marketing and special projects, collection management, curatorial writing, exhibition administration, education, and event initiatives. Prior to joining JPMorgan Chase, Kiersten received her Masters of Fine Art from Christie’s Education, New York in Theory, the Art Market and Connoisseurship and her B.A. from Western Washington University. She specializes in American contemporary art. Kiersten is a Junior Associate of MoMA, Young Patrons Program of the Lower Eastside Printshop, and the Women’s Interactive Network (internal JPMorgan Chase networking affiliation). This summer, Kiersten is mentoring Sarah Branch.
Joan Jacobs is Vice President of Learning & Inclusion at Consolidated Edison Company of New York. In this role, she oversees the company's state-of-the-art training and conference facility. She is responsible for design and delivery of professional leadership and technical training programs that meet the training needs of the business. In addition to training and development, she is also responsible for engaging the workforce in driving diversity and inclusion throughout the corporation. Her areas of responsibility include recruitment and staffing, technical training, leadership and career development, diversity and inclusion, performance management, and organizational development.

Ms. Jacobs has over twenty-six years’ experience in human resource management and law. She joined the company in 2001 and since coming to Con Edison; she has served as director of Talent Management, director of HR Support Services, EEO affairs director and labor relations administrator. Prior to joining Con Edison, Ms. Jacobs was a labor attorney at New York Health and Human Services Union 1199. She also worked at the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal, the Labor Relations Board, and the Pay Equity Commission, in Toronto.

Ms. Jacobs holds a bachelor’s degree in political science from McGill University and a Juris doctorate from University of Windsor Law School. She is currently a board liaison of the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering (NACME), and is a graduate of CORO New York. This summer, Joan is mentoring Amanda Anderson.

Irene Kim is the Deputy Director, VIP and External Relations at The Armory Show where she organizes numerous events with museums like the Whitney, The Met Breuer, the Brooklyn Museum, and MoMA. She oversees VIP visitors at the fair as well as manages worldwide museum relationships, and oversees marketing and sponsorship departments. Being in New York allows her to partner with the city’s many great cultural institutions to bring this week to life. Irene is on the Young Collector’s Acquisition Committee at the Guggenheim Museum and Contemporary Council at the New Museum as well as MoMA. This summer, Irene is mentoring Isabelle Lee.
Elizabeth Matias is a Project Specialist at Con Edison and has been there for five and a half years. When she is not at Con Edison, she teaches at a small dance school in Queens and performs at different venues around the tri-state area. Originally from Cleveland, she came to New York to attend Marymount Manhattan College, and never left!

She has almost always been involved with the arts – she was four when she stepped into her first dance class. From there, she continued her training at the University of Akron's Dance Institute, Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, Jennifer Muller/The Works, and Marymount Manhattan College.

As a mentor in the Diversity in Arts Leadership Internship Program, she knows that mentees are critical to the future of our arts organizations. She is super excited to get to know you, and looks forward to helping her mentees on their path to success. This summer, Elizabeth is mentoring Hannah Joo.

Alton Murray is a Strategic Partnership Manager in the Public Affairs department at Con Edison. He manages the company’s partnerships with over 175 non-profits arts organizations. He earned his B.A. degree in Social Science with a minor in Economics at St. John’s University. He has served on many charitable organizations boards and is strongly committed to the success of young people.

He is a committed patron of the arts, collects works of emerging visual artists, and is a passionate supporter of dance. He currently serves on the board of Directors of Company Stefanie Batten Bland, CSBB and on the Advisory Board of New York Live Arts and New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA). This summer, Alton is mentoring Mark Igbinadolor.
Frances Resheske oversees Con Edison’s corporate communications; community, and media relations; economic development; branding; advertising; and corporate philanthropy. She manages government relations, regulatory relations, and the energy markets policy groups. She manages a budget of $40 million and a staff of 120. Reporting to the Chairman and CEO, she is a member of the company’s Corporate Leadership Team.

Ms. Resheske is board president of Queens Theatre and a board member of BAM, St. Joseph’s College, the Lincoln Center Women’s Leadership Council, and the Association for a Better New York and its Foundation. She is a member of the Women’s Forum. She has served on numerous non-profit boards throughout the years. Before joining Con Edison, Ms. Resheske was the general manager of government relations and community development at KeySpan Energy. Previously, she held several positions in community relations and economic development in the administration of Mayor Edward I. Koch.

Ms. Resheske is a summa cum laude graduate of St. John’s University with a degree in government and politics. She is a certified Economic Development Finance Professional by the National Development Council, received her Certificate in Corporate Community Involvement from the Boston College Carroll School of Management, and a Certificate of Professional Development from The Wharton School. She is currently enrolled in in the Women’s Senior Leadership Program at the Kellogg School of Management. She is a graduate of Leadership America, Leadership New York, and the Rockefeller Fellows program. Ms. Resheske is a recipient of Crain’s New York Business 40 Under 40 Rising Stars Award, the New York Women’s Agenda Star Award, and the City & State Women of Public & Civic Mind award. She was featured in Women Worth Watching by Diversity Journal. This summer, Frances is mentoring Nicole Wong.

Allison Skeete has extensive administration and communication experience in the natural gas utility industry and in media and journalism. At Con Edison she works in marketing in the gas customer solutions group with customers interested in converting from oil to natural gas heating for their homes. She is on the board of the American Association of Blacks in Energy, The Family Renaissance of Brooklyn, and the Caribbean American Business Association of New Jersey. This summer, Allison is mentoring Matthew Holliday.
Jennifer Yang ’08 is a managing supervisor at FleishmanHillard in the Corporate Communications group. She specializes in reputation management, media/influencer relations, thought leadership development and internal communications, providing strategic counsel and communications support for clients in the healthcare, beauty, technology, government, education and automotive sectors. At FleishmanHillard, Jen has served on client teams including the Secretariat for Social Communication (SECOM) of the Presidency of Brazil, L’Oréal USA, Visa, General Motors, Aspen Dental, The Joint Commission, Columbia Business School and J&J’s McNeil Consumer Healthcare. This summer, Jennifer is mentoring Daniela Perez.

Nelson Yip is the Director of Electric Operations Emergency Management at Con Edison. His department is responsible for emergency preparedness, strategic planning and coordination of company and mutual assistance resources during emergencies. As one of the company’s liaisons, Nelson works closely with federal, state and local agencies. Throughout his career at Con Edison, Nelson has held positions in 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. Nelson joined Con Edison through a rotational leadership development program.

Nelson has been a member of numerous industry organizations, including the Edison Electric Institute (EEI). 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 five years, Nelson has served as a mentor for the Arts & Business Council of New York’s Diversity in Arts Leadership Program. 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 the NYU Stern School of Business. He has a Bachelor of Science and Master of Engineering degree from Cornell University in Electrical and Computer Engineering. This summer, Nelson is mentoring Elhadji Mare.

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