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WOMEN LEADERS IN ACTION

# Speaker Bios

March 6–7, 2019

Ford Foundation Center for Social Justice

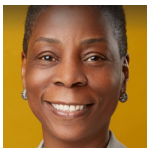


FORD FOUNDATION  
center for **social justice**



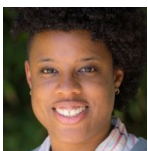
**Hakima Abbas, AWID**

Hakima Abbas is co-executive director of AWID, a global feminist membership organization. Her written and edited works appear in publications including *Aid and Reparations: Power in Development Discourse*; *Queer African Reader*; *People-led Transformation: African Futures*; and the *Pan-Africanism and Feminism* issues of *Feminist Africa*. She served on the editorial collective of *The Feminist Wire* and is a member of the Jang! Collective providing popular education tools, platforms, and accompaniment to activists working for radical transformation. Abbas has served on the board of Greenpeace Africa, the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation Eastern Africa, the African Sex Workers Alliance, and the Center for Citizen Participation in the African Union, and in advisory roles to UHAI – the East African Sexual Health and Rights Initiative, the Heartland Alliance, and The Other Foundation.



**Ursula Burns, Chairman and CEO of VEON**

Ursula Burns is chairman and chief executive officer of VEON. She began her career at Xerox in 1980 as a mechanical engineer intern, moving up the ladder until being named CEO in 2009, the first black woman ever to head a Fortune 500 company. President Barack Obama appointed Burns vice chair of the President's Export Council in 2010, and she is vice chair of the Business Roundtable. Burns serves on many boards including Exxon, the Mayo Clinic, New York City Ballet, and the Ford Foundation, and provides leadership counsel to the National Academy Foundation, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Corporation, and other institutions. She is a founding board director of Change the Equation, and previously served as board chair of the Technology CEO Council.



**Ejeris Dixon, Consultant**

Ejeris Dixon is an organizer and political strategist with 20 years of experience working in racial justice, LGBTQ, anti-violence, and economic justice movements. She is the Founding Director of Vision Change Win Consulting, where she partners with organizations to build their capacity and deepen the impact of their organizing strategies. She also serves as a consultant with RoadMap Consulting, a national social justice consulting team. From 2010 - 2013 Ejeris served as the Deputy Director in charge of the Community Organizing Department at the New York City Anti-Violence Project where she directed national, statewide, and local organizing and advocacy initiatives on hate violence, domestic violence, police violence, and sexual violence. From 2005 - 2010 Ejeris worked as the Founding Program Coordinator of the Safe OUTside the System Collective at the Audre Lorde Project where she worked on creating transformative justice strategies to address hate and police violence. She is the co-editor of the forthcoming *Beyond Survival: Strategies and Stories from the Transformative Justice Movement*, which will be released in the Fall of 2019 by AK Press. Her essay, "Building Community Safety: Practical Steps Toward Liberatory Transformation," is featured in the anthology *Who Do You Serve, Who Do You Protect? Police Violence and Resistance in the United States*.



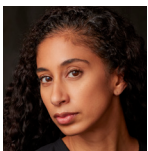
**Brittney Cooper, Rutgers University**

Brittney is Associate Professor of Women's and Gender Studies and Africana Studies at Rutgers University. She is co-founder of the popular Crunk Feminist Collective blog. She is a contributing writer for *Cosmopolitan.com* and a former contributor to *Salon.com*. Her cultural commentary has been featured on MSNBC's *All In With Chris Hayes*, *Melissa Harris-Perry*, *Al Jazeera's Third Rail*, the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, *NPR*, *PBS*, *Ebony.com*, *Essence.com*, *TheRoot.com*, and *TED.com*. She is the co-editor of *The Crunk Feminist Collection*, author of *Beyond Respectability: The Intellectual Thought of Race Women*, and, most recently the acclaimed author of *Eloquent Rage: A Black Feminist Discovers Her Superpower* which was an Emma Watson "Our Shared Shelf" Selection for November/December 2018 and named a Best Book of 2018 by The New York Public Library, Mashable, The Atlantic, Bustle, The Root, NPR, and Fast Company.



**Amy Falls, CIO and Vice President for Investments, Rockefeller University**

Amy Falls, a member of Ford's board of trustees, is chief investment officer and vice president for investments at the Rockefeller University, managing \$1.9 billion in endowment assets. Previously she was the chief investment officer at Andover (Phillips Academy). Under her leadership, the endowment generated top quartile results from 2007 to 2010, when Institutional Investor identified Falls as a "rising star of foundations and endowments." Earlier she served as a managing director and global fixed income strategist for Morgan Stanley. She sits on the board of the Harvard Management Company and the Land & Garden Preserve, and serves as treasurer of the Phillips Academy Board of Trustees. Falls has taught courses on international investing and risk management, most recently at Barnard College's Athena Center for Leadership Studies.



**Alicia Graf Mack, The Julliard School**

Alicia Graf Mack became director of dance at Julliard in 2018. Previously she was a leading dancer of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, and a principal dancer with Dance Theatre of Harlem and Complexions Contemporary Ballet. Graf Mack performed with Alonzo King's LINES Ballet, Beyoncé, John Legend, Andre 3000, and Alicia Keys. *Smithsonian* magazine named her an American Innovator of the Arts and Sciences in 2007, and she is a recipient of the Columbia University Medal of Excellence. Previously, Graf Mack taught at the University of Houston and was a visiting assistant professor at Webster University. She is a co-founder of D(n)A Arts Collective, an initiative created to enrich the lives of young dancers through master classes and intensives.



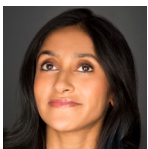
**Cristina Jimenez, United We Dream**

Cristina Jiménez is executive director and co-founder of United We Dream (UWD), the country's largest immigrant youth-led organization, with 48 affiliates in 26 states. She was instrumental in the national campaign that led to the creation and implementation of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival Program (DACA) under President Obama. In 2017, Jimenez was awarded a MacArthur Foundation "genius" fellowship, and in 2014, she was named to Forbes' "30 under 30 in Law and Policy," among other honors. She co-founded both the New York State Youth Leadership Council, and the Dream Mentorship Program at Queens College, and was an immigration policy analyst for the Drum Major Institute for Public Policy and an immigrant rights organizer at Make the Road New York.



**Susan Misra, Management Assistance Group**

Susan Misra has over 15 years of experience in strengthening nonprofits and their board-staff leadership. She has worked with over 150 nonprofit organizations on strategy, leadership development, and financial sustainability and particularly specializes in aligning an organization's internal operations with its social justice values through inclusive, participatory, and analytically rigorous processes. Prior to joining MAG, Susan was the Associate Director of Program/Grants Management and Capacity Building at TCC Group. At TCC, she designed, managed, and evaluated capacity-building programs for foundations. In addition to consulting, Susan has designed and facilitated trainings and peer exchanges for multiple organizations to help staff and board leaders learn from each other.



**Aparna Nancherla, Comedian and Actor**

Aparna Nancherla made her late-night stand-up debut on *Conan* in 2013, and was a breakout new face at the Just For Laughs Festival in Montreal. A regular on *Crashing* and *Corporate*, she is also featured in the second season of *The Standups*. Other credits include *Master of None*, *LOVE*, *High Maintenance*, and *Inside Amy Schumer*. In 2018 she made her feature debut in Paul Feig's *A Simple Favor*. Nancherla has written for *Late Night with Seth Meyers*, and is a regular correspondent/writer on *Totally Biased with W. Kamau Bell*. She is an alumna of the NBC Stand Up for Diversity program, and performs regularly at comedy festivals around the world and with the Upright Citizen's Brigade. She released *Just Putting It Out There*, her debut album, in 2016.



**Regan Ralph, Fund for Global Human Rights**

Regan Ralph is the president and CEO of the Fund for Global Human Rights. Earlier, she was vice president for Health and Reproductive Rights at the National Women's Law Center in Washington D.C. where she led advocacy, policy, and educational strategies to promote the quality and availability of women's health care. She helped build and directed the Women's Rights division of Human Rights Watch, developing campaigns to ensure the prosecution of sexual violence in conflict as a war crime. Ralph serves on the boards of EG Justice and WITNESS, the advisory committee of the Council for Global Equality, and the global practitioner council at Stanford University's Program on Social Entrepreneurship. She is also a member of the Steering Committee of the International Human Rights Funders Group.



**Kavita Ramdas, Open Society Foundation**

Kavita Ramdas is director the Women's Rights Program of the Open Society Foundation. She previously served as strategy advisor for MADRE; president and CEO of the Global Fund for Women; and senior advisor on global strategy to Darren Walker, the president of the Ford Foundation, where she also led operations in South Asia. Ramdas was the founding executive director of a program on social entrepreneurship at Stanford University. A member of the Aspen Institute's Henry Crown Fellows Program, she has served on the boards of Princeton University, Mount Holyoke College, and Planned Parenthood Federation of America. She currently serves on the Investment Committee of the C&A Foundation and is a member of the governing boards for the Ploughshares Foundation and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund.



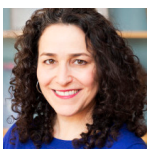
**Cecile Richards**

Cecile Richards, former president of Planned Parenthood Federation of America and the Planned Parenthood Action Fund, serves on Ford's board of trustees. Previously Richards served as deputy chief of staff for Rep. Nancy Pelosi of California, and in 2004 founded and was president of America Votes, a coalition of 42 membership-based organizations working on voter registration, education, and more at the grassroots level. The daughter of Ann Richards, the former Texas governor, she began her career organizing low-wage workers in the hotel, health care, and janitorial industries throughout California, Louisiana, and Texas. In 1995, Richards established the Texas Freedom Network to advance an agenda of religious freedom and individual liberties across the state; she is now a TFN trustee, as well as a trustee of the JPB Foundation.



**Elsa Ríos, Consultant**

Elsa A. Ríos is the Founder and Principal of Strategies for Social Change, a woman of color owned consulting and leadership coaching firm dedicated to serving social change organizations and movements. She has more than 25 years of nonprofit experience in the areas of management, grant writing, program design, community organizing and public policy analysis and writing. Elsa has led numerous community organizing and social change initiatives addressing gender violence, HIV/AIDS, reproductive justice and child welfare reform, among others. Elsa's accomplishments include having served as the Founding Director of the Violence Intervention Program, Director of Education for the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund and Senior Policy Analyst for the NYC Mayor's Office. Elsa has also served as an adjunct professor teaching leadership and management courses at Baruch College in the School of Public Affairs.



**Pamela Shifman, Novo Foundation**

Pamela Shifman has been executive director of the NoVo Foundation, a private grantmaking foundation based in New York City, since 2014. She joined NoVo in 2008 as the director of Initiatives for Girls and Women, and before that worked at UNICEF headquarters overseeing efforts to end gender-based violence in conflict-affected settings. Prior to joining the UN, Pamela fought violence and discrimination against girls and women in a variety of contexts, including as co-executive director of the international women's rights organization Equality Now, and as Legal Advisor to the ANC Parliamentary Women's Caucus in South Africa.



**Ellen Sprenger, Spring Strategies**

Ellen Sprenger is the founder and CEO of Spring Strategies, working to design and accelerate change. She specializes in executive coaching and supporting NGOs in gaining new perspectives on money, financial models, and relationships with funders, with the goal of building greater financial resilience and strength. Over 160 NGOs have worked with Spring Strategies since it launched in 2012, in collaboration with Ford Foundation in East Africa. Previously Sprenger was the executive director of Mama Cash, an Amsterdam-based feminist foundation, and held several leadership positions at Oxfam-Novib. An Integral master coach, she has published widely about the future of women's rights, organizational transformation, and funding trends globally.



**Gaby Sulzberger, General partner, investment manager, Rustic Canyon/Fontis Partners LP**

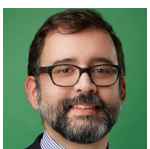
Gabrielle Sulzberger, a general partner and investment manager of the private equity fund Rustic Canyon/Fontis Partners LP, serves on Ford's board of trustees. Previously, she was chief financial officer of Crown Services, and a managing partner of BE/Greenwich Street Capital. She chairs the board of Whole Foods Market, and serves on the board of Initiative Foods on behalf of Rustic Canyon. A trustee of Brixmor Property Group and the WomenCorporateDirectors Foundation, she is also a member of the Trinity Church Vestry. Sulzberger has served on the boards of Bright Horizons Family Solutions, Stage Stores, the Boston Children's Museum, the Entrepreneurial Growth and Investment Institute, and The Boston Partnership. A member of the Aspen Global Leadership Network, she was a Henry Crown Fellow of the Aspen Institute in 1997.

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**Monica Aleman, Senior Program Officer, Building Institutions and Networks (BUILD)**

Monica Aleman Cunningham works to support and develop stronger, sustainable, and more effective social justice organizations and networks across the globe. Within BUILD, her areas of concentration are Latin America; Civic Engagement and Government; and Gender, Race, and Ethnic Justice. Previously, she was based in the foundation's East Africa office, where her grant making focused on increasing the capacity of national, regional, and global groups and supporting national and regional networks to advance a constitutional framework that protects the rights of women and other minorities, increases the participation of women in governance structures, and consolidates the infrastructure of the women's rights movement. Before joining the foundation in 2011, Monica was executive director of the International Indigenous Women's Forum, and served as program and policy director at MADRE.



**Christopher Cardona, Program Officer, Philanthropy**

Christopher Cardona is part of the foundation's Philanthropy team, making grants and engaging with the philanthropic community on issues that affect the sector. Before joining Ford in 2015, Chris led philanthropic services for TCC Group, specializing in strategy, capacity building, and evaluation for the social sector. Over eight years, he led projects for clients that included the Gates Foundation, the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, St. David's Foundation, the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City, Echoing Green, the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, and the Margaret A. Cargill Foundation. Previously, Chris worked at Hispanics in Philanthropy, where he last served as program director for the Northeast.



**Tanya Coke, Director, Gender, Racial, and Ethnic Justice**

Tanya Coke is director of Ford's Gender, Racial, and Ethnic Justice team, focusing on mass incarceration and immigrant detention. Previously, she taught public policy courses and worked on school-to-prison pipeline issues at CUNY's John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Coke was a program director on criminal justice for the Open Society Institute and a program manager for the US Human Rights Fund. She was a senior consultant to the Atlantic Philanthropies from 2010 to 2013, while running a strategic-planning consulting practice for social justice nonprofits and philanthropies. She began her career at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund as a researcher on its capital punishment project, and was a trial attorney in the Federal Defender Division of the Legal Aid Society in New York City.





**Judy Diers, Program Officer, Office of the Vice President for International Programs**

Judith Diers is program officer in the Office of the Vice President for International Programs at Ford. She focuses on assets-based approaches to empowering the most excluded young people around the world. Previously, Diers served as UNICEF's chief of Adolescent Development and Participation, setting the global strategic direction for the organization's adolescent-focused programs and policies. Earlier, she held several positions at the Population Council, including deputy to the director of the Poverty, Gender, and Youth program, where she coordinated a multi-country research project focused on interventions that respond to the diversity of adolescents' experiences and challenges. She is a commissioner for the Lancet Commission on Adolescent Health and Wellbeing and a member of the Institutional Review Board for the Population Council. She writes and speaks widely on adolescent development.



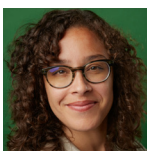
**Victoria Dunning, Program Officer, BUILD**

Victoria Dunning is a program officer on Ford's BUILD team with more than 20 years experience in philanthropy and international development. She previously served as executive vice president of The Global Fund for Children, where she supported small grassroots organizations around the world, and was senior program officer for women and population at the United Nations Foundation. At the Pacific Institute for Women's Health, Dunning led research and evaluation activities on youth development and women's health in East and West Africa. She was an NGO sector adviser at USAID Tanzania, clinic manager for the Young Men's Clinic in New York City, and Peace Corps volunteer in West Africa. She speaks and writes frequently on philanthropy practice, capacity building, and learning and evaluation.



**Helena Hofbauer-Balmori, International Program Director**

Helena Hofbauer Balmori is international program director for Civic Engagement and Government at Ford. She is also regional director for its Mexico and Central America office, where she oversees strategy based on the premise that government at all levels must serve the broad public interest and ensure that all people—particularly the marginalized and underrepresented—are treated equally. Before joining Ford in 2015, Hofbauer served as manager and then director for partnership development and innovation at the International Budget Partnership. There she oversaw grant making, capacity development, and technical assistance for more than 60 organizations in 25 countries. She was the founding director of Fundar, Centro de Análisis e Investigación, the Mexico-based organization which uses evidence-based advocacy to tackle migration, reproductive justice, human rights, and accountability.



**Brook Kelly-Green, Program Officer, Gender, Racial, and Ethnic Justice**

Brook Kelly-Green leads Ford's Advancing Reproductive and Gender Justice Initiative, supporting the growth of women's political, economic, and cultural power. Previously, she led Ford's Reducing HIV/AIDS Discrimination and Exclusion Initiative. Earlier she served as a human rights and policy advocacy attorney with the U.S. Positive Women's Network and played a key leadership role in the implementation of the U.S. National HIV/AIDS Strategy, the Patient Protection, and Affordable Care Act, and the work of the Global Commission on HIV and the Law. She began her legal advocacy career as a Ford Foundation Women's Law and Public Policy Fellow after completing a clerkship in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York.



**Noorain Khan, Director, President's Office**

Noorain Khan is director in the foundation's Office of the President where she oversees grant making from Ford's Reserves Fund and leads cross-foundation strategic projects and initiatives. Before joining Ford in 2015, Khan was chief of staff to Wendy Kopp, CEO and co-founder of Teach for All and founder of Teach for America. Earlier, she was an attorney at Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz, advising clients on cross-border mergers and acquisitions and governance and representing pro bono clients. Khan sits on the board of Girl Scouts of the USA and is a term member of the Council on Foreign Relations. She is the recipient of numerous honors including Rice University's Center for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality with its Distinguished Alumna Award.



**Tanya Khokhar, Grants Officer, Office of the VP for International Programs, Ford Foundation**

Tanya Khokhar is a grants officer in the Office of the Vice President for International Programs where she manages global programming on empowering women and girls' rights, including the ending child marriage portfolio. Before joining the foundation in 2013, she worked as a consultant for Yale University, leading a research project in Chiapas, Mexico, to design education programs for indigenous communities. She has also worked at the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) supporting the Millennium Campaign to shape the Sustainable Development Goals, and at Aahung to improve sexual reproductive health and rights across Pakistan. Tanya is a leader at the Carnegie Council on Ethics in International Affairs and a Big Brother Big Sister mentor.



**Cara Mertes, Director, JustFilms, Creativity and Free Expression**

Cara Mertes is Director of JustFilms, Ford Foundation's signature non-fiction moving image initiative. In this capacity, she has designed and overseen an integrated strategy working across all of Ford's offices and areas. She and her team have granted over \$60 million of support globally to 300 single film projects and supported independent documentary infrastructure around the world. During her tenure, JustFilms has become a leader in social justice documentary funding practices and an incubator of new explorations in moving image narrative and social change. Over an award-winning career spanning public television, as an independent director/producer, at Sundance Institute and at Ford Foundation, Mertes has prioritized building inclusive teams, developing catalytic and scalable field models and expanding resources for creative independent documentary globally.



**Margaret Morton, Director, Creativity and Free Expression**

Margaret Morton is the director of the Creativity and Free Expression team at Ford. Previously, she was general counsel and deputy commissioner of the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, overseeing funding for arts and cultural programming. She guided large-scale capital funding initiatives for Lincoln Center, Brooklyn Academy of Music, and BRIC Arts/Media Center. Earlier, Morton was counsel to the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, working on civil rights legislation, immigration reform, and judicial nominations. A founding member of the East Harlem School at Exodus House, Morton has been active on the Art Law Committee of the New York City Bar Association. She is currently an appointee of the chief judge of the state of New York on the Commission on Judicial Nomination.



**Vera Mshana, Program Officer, Natural Resources and Climate Change**

Vera Mshana is a program officer on Ford's Natural Resources and Climate Change team. She began her career at Ford leading its work on encouraging greater government transparency; promoting more participatory and progressive tax and budget systems; helping to establish rules and norms to reduce global tax avoidance and evasion; and responding to the challenge of closing civic space by supporting human rights defenders and strengthening the capabilities and legitimacy of civil society organizations in their own communities. Before joining Ford, Mshana was a program officer in the Open Society Foundations' Fiscal Governance Program, where she was charged with cultivating the foundation's investment portfolio in tax reform support efforts in developing countries. She has also held senior positions within civil society and the private sector.



**Nicolette Naylor, International Program Director, Gender, Racial, and Ethnic Justice; Director, Southern Africa**

Nicolette Naylor is international program director for Gender, Racial, and Ethnic Justice at Ford. She also represents its Southern Africa office in Johannesburg, where her grant making focuses on human rights and governance, with a specific interest in women's rights. Previously, Naylor worked as a lawyer in the equality program in London's International Centre for the Legal Protection of Human Rights, and at Cape Town's Women's Legal Centre. She has been appointed to several advisory bodies in South Africa and elsewhere including the Committee on Gender Equity in South Africa. In addition she has served as a member of ACHPR's expert committee for the protection of the rights of people living with, at risk for, or otherwise affected by HIV in Africa.



**Linda Ochiel, Program Officer, Eastern Africa**

Linda Ochiel became a program officer in Ford's program on Civic Engagement and Government in Eastern African in 2017. Previously she was a commissioner representing young people and spearheading research, policy and planning in Kenya's National Cohesion and Integration Commission. She is a passionate social justice crusader, and an alumna of the Women in Public Service Project of the Wilson Centre.



**Hilary Pennington, Executive Vice President for Program**

Hilary Pennington is Ford's executive vice president for programs, overseeing strategic and meaningful global grant making. She also leads its BUILD program and its Office of Strategy and Learning. An expert on postsecondary education and intergenerational change, Pennington previously was an independent consultant who led the Generations Initiative, aimed at developing responses to demographic shifts in the United States. She was director of education, postsecondary success, and special initiatives at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for six years, and before that a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress. Pennington was also president and CEO of Jobs for the Future, a research and policy development organization which she co-founded. She served on President Bill Clinton's transition team and as co-chair of his administration's presidential advisory committee on technology.



**Mayra Peters-Quintero, Senior Program Officer, Gender, Racial, and Ethnic Justice**

Mayra Peters-Quintero is part of the Gender, Racial, and Ethnic Justice team. She has worked on migrant and immigrant rights and her grant making has supported national, state, and local organizations that advance sound policy for immigrants. Previously Peters-Quintero was director of the Bureau of Immigrant Workers' Rights at the New York State Department of Labor, where she led a statewide initiative to protect and advance the rights of immigrants in New York and develop and reform government agency policies affecting immigrants. She also taught at New York University School of Law, co-directing its Immigrant Rights Clinic, and developed the first immigrant rights project at LatinoJustice PRLDEF, a national civil rights organization.



**Kathy Reich, Director, BUILD**

Kathy Reich leads the foundation's BUILD initiative both in the United States and in Ford's 10 global regions, guiding efforts to implement sector-leading approaches to supporting the vitality of institutions and networks that serve as pillars of broader social movements. Before joining Ford in 2016, Reich was director of organizational effectiveness and philanthropy at the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. Previously she was a policy analyst and program officer at Packard, and before that, she was policy director at the Social Policy Action Network, served as a legislative assistant on Capitol Hill, and worked for state and local elected officials in California. Reich serves on the boards of Grantmakers for Effective Organizations and the Peninsula Jewish Community Center, and was a Schusterman Fellow in 2016.



**Graciela Selaimen, Senior Program Officer, Brazil**

Graciela Selaimen works at the foundation's Brazil office, supporting initiatives that advance freedom of expression and pluralism in the communications sector. In addition, she has worked on broadening access to new technologies, particularly for women and Afro-descendants. Before joining Ford in 2013, Selaimen was a founder and coordinator of Instituto Nupef, the Center for Research and Capacity Building on Communications and ICT Policies. She represented the Information Network for Civil Society in the establishment of the Communication Rights in the Information Society campaign in 2001 and at the UN World Summit on the Information Society between 2002 and 2005. A member of the advisory group of the Internet Governance Forum, she has been chief editor of *poliTICs*, a publication devoted to communication and ICT policies and rights since 2008.





**Vuyiswa Sidzumo, Senior Program Officer, Southern Africa**

Vuyiswa Sidzumo has been a senior program officer based in the foundation's Johannesburg office since 2017. Before that, she spent 12 years at the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, becoming country director for South Africa in 2009. She played a key role building relationships between government, philanthropy, and civil society. Previously she was director of Donor Relations in the then Department of Provincial and Local Government in South Africa and program officer within the United Nations Development Program and for the Sedibeng Centre for Organizational Effectiveness. A pioneer in the local philanthropy space in South Africa and in the US, she currently serves as chair of the steering committee of the Africa Grantmaker's Affinity Group, and on the board of the Listen Charity South Africa.



**Marissa Tirona, Program Officer, Building Institutions and Networks (BUILD)**

Marissa Tirona is a program officer on the BUILD team, working to support and develop stronger, sustainable, and more effective social justice organizations and networks across the globe. Before joining Ford in 2017, Marissa was director of Blue Shield Against Violence at the Blue Shield Foundation of California, where she led programmatic, policy, and grant making efforts to address, prevent, and ultimately end domestic violence throughout the state. Earlier, she was senior project director at CompassPoint Nonprofit Services, where she designed and led comprehensive, multiyear leadership initiatives. She has also served as program director of the National Employment Lawyers Association and, before that, as an employment attorney at two national law firms.



**Darren Walker, President**

Darren Walker is president of the Ford Foundation, an international social justice philanthropy with a \$13 billion endowment and \$600 million in annual grant making. For two decades, he has been a leader in the nonprofit and philanthropic sectors. Darren led the philanthropy committee that helped bring a resolution to the city of Detroit's historic bankruptcy, and chairs the US Alliance on Impact Investing. He co-chairs New York City's Commission on City Art, Monuments, and Markers, and serves on the Commission on the Future of Riker's Island Correctional Institution and the UN International Labor Organization Commission on the Future of Work. He also serves on the boards of Carnegie Hall, the High Line and the Committee to Protect Journalists, and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.



**Luna Yasui, Senior Program Officer, Civic Engagement and Government**

Luna Yasui is a senior program officer for Ford's Civic Engagement and Government team, supporting young organizers and leaders seeking transformative and innovative solutions to inequality. For 20 years she has advocated for racial and gender justice, particularly for people of color, women, immigrants, and LGBT people. Earlier she worked at the Open Society Foundations, managing a portfolio focused on advancing gender justice, LGBT and low-wage worker rights. Before that, Yasui served as an organizer and policy advocate on issues ranging from language rights and voter protection to workforce development. A trained attorney, her legal work focused on protecting low-wage workers' rights and promoting economic opportunity, first with the Immigrant Day Labor Project of the National Employment Law Project, and later at Bay Area Legal Aid.