

## **Democracy For the People with Rickke Mananzala**

Rickee Mananzala is the president of the New York Foundation, one of the oldest foundations in the United States. Its mission is to support community organizing, grassroots advocacy, and movement-building for a more just, equitable, and inclusive New York.

### **Start of transcript.**

My name is Rickke Mananzala. My pronouns are he / him. I'm the president of the New York Foundation. I'm a brown skinned male with black hair and brown eyes, wearing a brown suit and a cream colored top.

When I think about the power of philanthropy to shape our democracy for the next 250 years, I think at the most hyperlocal level: How are we working with communities and our local governments to make that possible?

“Democracy for the people” has to be felt. People need to feel like—at the most basic level—that what matters to their government is serving the public good, and they need to experience that in the most material way in their daily lives.

We in philanthropy have a role to play, not only making sure public systems deliver, but that people believe in their power to make that change possible.

“Democracy for the people” is the people having the power to believe in their own agency, to shape public systems, and to ensure that government serves the public good.

That's democracy by, for, and of the people.

[The Ford Foundation logo is stacked in a bold black serif font, then transforms into a single letter “F” set inside a black circle.]

### **End of transcript.**