TOMORROW IS TODAY:
THE URGENCY OF NOW

THE 2ND ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. YOUTH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT CONFERENCE WITH CONCURRENT EDUCATOR PD PROGRAM

FEATURING
DR. CORNEL WEST
Bakari Kitwana, Dr. Gaye Theresa Johnson, Dave "Davey D" Cook & Many More!

MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 2020
WORKSHOPS

Shifting Frames to Build a Different Future
Milton Reynolds  •  Room H4  •  Youth Workshop (Session A & B)
What would it mean to fundamentally shift the way we’ve been socialized to engage with difference? How would we begin that process? Our current political moment reveals that many of the assumptions previously held about our unerring march towards an inclusive democracy were misguided. To the extent our political and civic investments were also informed by these assumptions, we should assume a course correction is also necessary. In this workshop, students will have the opportunity to explore these ideas, create shared meaning and begin to cultivate skills and understandings necessary for critical civic engagement.

More than a Meme: Pop Culture, Digital Media, and How We Consume Our Entertainment
Ali Rahman  •  Allen Room (Library)  •  Youth Workshop (Session A & B)
Pop culture and digital media are infused with reflections of our current cultural moment—and often times they can help usher our conversations forward through criticism and progress. However, our increasingly digitally dependent window into the world requires a new level of understanding—not merely of the technology but of how we can evaluate digital media for authenticity, credibility, and accuracy. This workshop will explore how we interact with pop culture around issues of race, gender, sexual identity, and more through digital media (including TV, movies, memes, various social media, etc.). We will contemplate what it means to find deeper truths through the seemingly trivial (think reality TV or influencer drama) and how various societal issues can be co-opted by other forces. This workshop will include deep examination into various pieces of pop culture and trending media—so please bring some examples of culture/media you consume on the regular!

Write for Change
Florencia Ramirez  •  Room D  •  Youth Workshop (Session A & B)
The adage, “the pen is mightier than the sword,” is as true now as when it was first written more than two centuries ago. Get ready to write for change and to be inspired by activists, such as the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who use the pen (and keyboard) to push for positive change. The author of the book, Eat Less Water: The Solution to Water Shortages is in the Kitchen, will facilitate a hands-on session on how written works historically and presently have reshaped the world of ideas, policies, and action. We will explore (and practice!) how to use op-eds, blogs, twitter feeds, poetry, letters, articles, books and lyrics to promote and create change.

Dr. King, Hip Hop, Politics and Pop Culture
Dave “Davey D” Cook  •  Study Hall  •  Youth Workshop (Session A & B)
Dr. Cornel West once commented that, “When [Dr. Martin Luther] King was murdered something died in many of us. The bullets sucked some of the free and democratic spirit out of the US experiment. The next day over 100 American cities and towns were in flames...” Amid those flames were sparks that would contribute to the birth the Hip Hop Generation. Often lost in the pageantry and in the sanitizing of Dr. King’s life and legacy is his unflinching mantra, “injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere,” as well as his subsequent impact on Hip Hop culture. Join this informative and interactive workshop to examine Dr. King’s oft-overlooked influence and how his vision have manifested within the Hip Hop generation, as well as how Dr. King engaged popular entertainers to further the Civil Rights Movement.
Navigating “Ouch” Moments: Interrupting and Responding to Microaggressions
Farzana Nayani • Record Room (Library) • Youth Workshop (Session B only)
Microaggressions are slight insults that can be offensive or invalidating, but are often hard to detect, even when they happen to you! Learn how to respond to these difficult moments with tools and strategies to interrupt and address hurtful comments, and also how to be an ally and advocate when you witness this happening to others. In this session we will also explore identity and the components that make up who we are, in multiple ways, and how this shapes our experience.

Migration Ethics
Vanessa Frank • Project Studio (Library) • Youth Workshop (Session A & B)
In this workshop, students will learn the basics of current US immigration law, reflect on their own biases and privilege, and find ways to get involved in the local migrant rights movement. This session provides an opportunity to hear stories from the front lines and learn how you can make a difference in the lives of many people from Ventura County to the US-Mexico border! On this day recognizing the contributions not only of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., but also all the thousands and thousands of people who joined in the nationwide movement for justice and dignity, many of whose names will never be known, it is good to remember also Margaret Mead’s call: “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.” Together, we can make a difference in Ventura County, honoring the dignity and value of every person.

“What’s My Name?”: A History of Resistance Politics and Dissent in The Sports World
Rudy Mondragón • Room C • Youth Workshop (Session A & B)
Do politics and sports mix? Should they mix? This workshop will cover a history of sports as it relates to politics, identity, athletic activism, social justice, and resistance. From historical sporting figures like Jack Johnson, Muhammad Ali and Wyomia Tyus to contemporaries like Megan Rapinoe, Serena Williams and Juan Carlos Arauz, participants will uncover a foundational history about athletic activism in boxing and sports generally. Participants will have the opportunity to explore and reflect on their own relationship with sports and personal perspective on sports and politics. Lastly, the presenter will share book titles and web links to literature that relates to the topics addressed in this workshop.

Community Accountability and Upstander Interventions
Sepideh Mohsenian-Rahman • Library Conference Room • Youth Workshop (Session A & B)
The F.B.I. has reported a 16 year high in hate crimes, with a significant increase of bias related assaults in the last few years. The urgency of today confronts us squarely with the day-to-day interactions that ultimately constitute a climate for oppressions on a larger scale. What do we do as individuals and as community members to recognize, accept, and disrupt harmful interactions? What does community accountability look like for culture changing agents? This workshop invites attendees to engage in practice that supports a shift from bystanders to upstanders, learning tools and vocabulary to de-escalate harmful situations while supporting the targeted person(s) in the classroom, at the dinner table, on the subway, and beyond.

“The Real Test”: Are you ready for college and participation in a global society?
JuanCarlos Arauz • Room K • Youth Workshop (Session A only)
We are now 20 years into the 21st century, yet we still lack an educational standard to define and assess the skills necessary to thrive as a new-millennium, global citizen. Educational institutions from Cal Berkley to Harvard, and corporations from Oracle to HP universally agree: we need to redefine educational excellence via competencies that translate to practical 21st century skills. In this interactive workshop, we will learn how to develop, hone and identify vital skills: Adaptability, Cross-Cultural Communication, Collaboration, Critical Analysis & Innovation.

From Souja Boy to Lil’ Pump: Questioning the Messaging in Hip-Hop
Darius White • Music Room • Youth Workshop (Session A only)
Hip-Hop fans and music lovers of all genres are welcome. This interactive media-literacy workshop emphasizes critical-thinking to identify and question the overt and covert manufactured messaging in Hip-Hop music and videos. Participants will watch, analyze, and discuss Hip-Hop lyrics and visuals to develop greater self-awareness of their own consumption and understanding of their ever-changing, ever-growing Hip-Hop playlists. We will examine unhealthy, divisive rhetoric, social scripts, and narratives that have divided and conquered us for generations. In other words, can we separate fact from fiction, appearance from reality, clout from consciousness, healthy rap snacks from guilty pleasures, and being lit from being literate? Note: Explicit lyrics and graphics will be covered.

Tomorrow is Today: Activating Allied Behavior Now
Tarah Fleming • Room J • Youth Workshop (Session A only)
What does it mean to have intersecting identities? How does the awareness of our privileged identities inform the way we develop and display allied behavior in social movements for change? This workshop is an opportunity to explore our intentions and more importantly our impact as allies to LGBTQ people, people of color and other communities experiencing daily marginalization. Through self-reflection and storytelling we will work on and commit to the most positive practices in conscious living.

1619 Project: The Birth of American Music
LeRhonda Greats • Room I (eye) • Youth Workshop (Session A only)
It is often said that music is the soundtrack of our lives. In this workshop we will learn about the musical contributions that black people have made to American Music. We will take this workshop back to music that contained messages when black people were working on plantations and move forward to today’s most popular music. Inspired from the New York Times 1619 Project’s The Birth of American Music.

Name Stories: Building Connections Through Storytelling
Rachel Parrish • Room H1 • Youth Workshop (Session A & B)
Can a deeper understanding of our community members’ names serve as a pathway to creating equitable and inclusive communities? Stories about our names can, in fact, help us develop empathy and understanding in the process of forming a welcoming learning community where everyone feels seen and heard. This workshop explores how a person’s name is one of the greatest connections to identity, linking us to our ancestors, communities, and beyond.

Freedom Dreams: Radical Art Histories and Visionary Meditation
Kaelyn D. Rodriguez • Room H8 • Youth Workshop (Session A & B)
In this workshop, students will learn about radical art traditions practiced in the United States during liberation movements from the 1960s and beyond. We will look at works of art as primary documents and sources of inspirations for our contemporary movements towards empowerment, freedom and love. Together, we will discuss the meanings and impacts of images as a part of our past, present and future. The second segment of this workshop will focus on methods for self-care as forms of resilience and resistance. Since our struggle is rooted in a shared desire for freedom and love, we will practice meditation and enjoy essential oils to help us achieve personal and collective joy and peace. Please be advised that the oils have a robust aroma and may not be suitable for people with allergies or anyone who is very sensitive to scents.

America’s Most Wanted: Hip Hop, Media and Mass Incarceration
Jasiri X • Thacher Room • Youth Workshop (Session A & B)
America’s Most Wanted: Hip Hop, Media, and Mass Incarceration is an in-depth examination of the
negative imagery prominent in current Rap music and probes who is responsible for shaping the negative narrative that dominates the genre. This interactive workshop further analyzes the direct connection between the contrary images of young men of color and the inordinate proportion of the same demographic fueling the prison industrial complex.

**Football as a Metaphor for The Game of Life—Race and Potential Implications for Health Outcomes**

Paula Atkinson  •  Room H5  •  Youth Workshop (Session A and B)

How do race, playing position, and education affect the health of football players? Come learn hands-on through an interactive “game of life” how these factors and more can impact the life of a football player, from youth play to post-professional career. Using what you learn, work together to develop your own solutions to create a more equitable playing field.

**Living Multiple Identities: The Multiracial Experience**

Farzana Nayani  •  Room H3  •  Adult Workshop (Session A only)

Are you multiracial, multiethnic, or transracially adopted, and have questions about your identity? Do you want to learn more about supporting these identities as an ally, family member, or friend? Bring your questions and come prepared for a group discussion and hands-on activities where we will explore definitions, examples, and scenarios to do with being multiracial that may come up – and how to address them.

**Change Starts with Me: The Impact of Sociocultural Narratives on Identity Development**

Darius White  •  Room H3  •  Youth Workshop (Session B only)

This interactive workshop will challenge participants to be honest, vulnerable, and critically aware. Specifically, participants are invited to discuss socially-constructed scripts or narratives that create, reinforce, or shape our fears, misconceptions, and hopes when exploring our own multiple identities in the context of working with one another. Through prose, poetry, and visual art, participants will develop more self- and social awareness, a more nuanced understanding of social conditioning, and some communication tools for constructive dialogue.

**The Urgency of Community Engagement in 21st Century Teaching and Learning**

Dr. Gaye Theresa Johnson  •  Room H3  •  Youth and Adult Workshop (This workshop requires attendance at both session A and B)

Connecting the classroom to real-world issues helps teachers and students to make concrete connections between what they learn in the classroom setting and what is happening in the communities that surround them. The next step, which is civic engagement, teaches focus and discipline, fosters empathy, and affords students the opportunity to take stock of the actual skills they possess. The combination of rigorous classroom learning and community engagement are the hallmarks of the most impactful pedagogies and give students an opportunity to ground learning in service and social change. Open to faculty and students, this workshop, spanning both the morning and afternoon sessions, will explore ways to create a community-engaged teaching and learning program at your school.

**The Urgency of Ally: Noticing and Removing the Stumbling Blocks**

Tarah Fleming  •  Room J  •  Adult Workshop (Session B only)

“I must confess that over the past few years I have been gravely disappointed with the white moderate. I have almost reached the regrettable conclusion that the Negro’s great stumbling block in his stride toward freedom is not the White Citizen’s Councillor or the Ku Klux Klanner, but the white moderate, who

Dr. Martin Luther King wrote these words from a jail cell cell in Birmingham, Alabama, after being jailed for practicing civil disobedience. As White Americans today, are we more devoted to order than to justice? How are we creating “stumbling blocks” for our colleagues, friends and students of color? How can we develop more thoughtful and productive allied behavior to create “positive peace” in our classroom, the staff room and at the leadership level of our school? Join this shame-and-guilt-free space to dialog honestly, and learn how to use affinity and ally spaces and unity circles to raise consciousness in our students.

**Daring Leadership**

LeRhonda Greats  •  Room K  •  Adult Workshop (Session B only)

This workshop will lead adult participants through some of the great work and research that Dr. Brené Brown has done around vulnerability. We lose our vulnerability because we are living among the trauma of racism, poverty, hetrosexism, classism, homophobia. Too often adults are not allowed to focus on our feelings, simply because they are adults and teachers, rarely are we given space to tap into this topic, in our schools. This workshop will allow, space to speak about shame, guilt as well as love, joy and belonging. According to Dr. Brown: “Belonging starts with self-acceptance. Your level of belonging, in fact, can never be greater than your level of self-acceptance, because believing that you’re enough is what gives you the courage to be authentic, vulnerable and imperfect.”

**Equity in Action: How to Navigate the Spaces When “They Don’t Get It”**

JuanCarlos Arauz  •  Room G  •  Adult Workshop (Session B only)

In our work to create equitable and socially just school communities, many of us experience “racial battle fatigue” as a result of navigating persistent institutional and interpersonal micro & macro aggressions. This session is designed for educators ready to engage in strategies that focus both on dismantling systemic inequity and practicing self-care. We will develop tools for critical self-reflection, for assessing resiliency, and for designing an accountability work plan to ensure implementation occurs. Let us not feel guilty for our privilege; rather, let’s leverage our privilege to make our schools the inclusive and equitable spaces our students need and deserve.
Dr. Cornel West is a prominent and provocative democratic intellectual. He is Professor of the Practice of Public Philosophy at Harvard University and holds the title of Professor Emeritus at Princeton University. He has also taught at Union Theological Seminary, Yale, Harvard, and the University of Paris. Cornell West graduated Magna Cum Laude from Harvard in three years and obtained his M.A. and Ph.D. in Philosophy at Princeton.

He has written 20 books and has edited 13. He is best known for his classics, Race Matters and Democracy Matters, and for his memoir, Brother West: Living and Loving Out Loud. His most recent book, Black Prophetic Fire, offers an unflinching look at nineteenth and twentieth-century African American leaders and their visionary legacies.

Dr. West is a frequent guest on the Bill Maher Show, CNN, C-Span and Democracy Now. He made his film debut in the Matrix – and was the commentator (with Ken Wilbur) on the official trilogy released in 2004. He also has appeared in over 25 documentaries and films including Examined Life, Call & Response, Sidewalk and Stand.

He has produced three spoken word albums including Never Forget, collaborating with Prince, Jill Scott, Andre 3000, Talib Kweli, KRS-One and the late Gerald Levert. His spoken word interludes are featured on productions by Terence Blanchard, The Cornel West Theory, Raheem DeVaughn, and Bootsy Collins.

In short, Cornell West has a passion to communicate to a vast variety of publics in order to keep alive the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. – a legacy of telling the truth and bearing witness to love and justice.

Bakari Kitwana is an internationally known cultural critic, journalist, activist, and thought leader in the area of hip-hop, youth culture, and Black political engagement. He is the Executive Director of Rap Sessions, which for the last fourteen years has conducted over 150 townhall meetings around the nation on difficult dialogues facing the hip-hop and millennial generations.

He is the collaborating writer for pioneering hip-hop artist Rakim's 2019 book Sweat The Technique: Revelations on Creativity From The Lyric Genius (Amistad, 2019) and the 2019–2020 Nasir Jones Hip Hop Fellow at the W.E.B. DuBois Research Institute / Hutchins Center for African and African American Research at Harvard University. The former Editor-in-Chief of The Source magazine, where he wrote and edited hundreds of articles on hip-hop, youth culture, politics and national affairs, Kitwana co-founded the first ever National Hip-Hop Political Convention. The gathering brought over 4000 18-29 year-olds to Newark, NJ in 2004 to create and endorse a political agenda for the hip-hop generation.


Kitwana has been Editorial Director of Third World Press, a senior media fellow at The Jamestown Project, Artist-in-Residence at the Center for the Study of Race Politics and Culture at the University of Chicago, and has served on the organizing committee for the 2013 Black Youth Project convening that launched the millennial Black activist group BYP100.

Dr. JuanCarlos Arauz is an educator, artist, academic and activist. He is the Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at The Branson School and the Executive Director of E3: Education Excellence & Equity. Dr. Arauz addresses the pressing topics of 21st century education, immigration, and Black/Brown male youth development. He provides expertise through his lived experience as an immigrant of color and learned experience through earning a doctorate in International & Multicultural Education. Consequently, his creative and unique approach provides audiences with the insight of the challenges as well as innovative tools for students and teachers in the classroom. His fresh and compelling vision brings collaboration between the private and public sectors, providing solutions to humanize the educational process for every student and educator. He believes we cannot have educational excellence without equity.

Dr. Arauz received his BA in Education and MA in Social Science Education from the University of South Florida. He received his Ed.D. in International and Multicultural Education at the University of San Francisco. His dissertation research focused on the racial identity development of undocumented Latino youth. In addition, he has served as a trustee for several independent schools and educational organizations.

Paula Atkeson is a member of the player engagement team at the Football Players Health Study at Harvard University. Previously, she served as a staff assistant at the Center for Bioethics at Harvard Medical School, and has been actively involved in political work in Colorado and abroad. She holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Smith College and an MPH from the Boston University School of Public Health. Outside of work, Paula is a visitor education guide at the New England Aquarium and an avid New England Patriots fan.

Dave “Davey D” Cook is an iconic pioneer in the fields of social media, independent radio and Hip Hop journalism. As a radio personality on the nationally syndicated Hard Knock Radio, Cook is renowned for his courageous inquiry concerning key issues facing oppressed peoples within and outside of the United States. In December 2019, The Bay Area Black Journalists Association honored Cook with a Lifetime Achievement Award for his decades of service to the community as a journalist, radio DJ, educator and activist. Professor Cook teaches courses concerning African American music as well as Black creative arts and history in the Department of Africana Studies at San Francisco State University. He also co-teaches the very popular and large Hiphop, Globalization and the Politics of Identity course. This course is well-known among students as presenting curriculum that “changes lives” and it is also a course where surprise music industry friends invariably come help teach. Professor Cook has published much in peer-reviewed, news media and community texts. He has appeared in numerous documentaries and is considered an expert in the discipline. Cook is cited in many academic texts and is a sought-after lecturer and guest speaker.

LeRhonda Greats began her independent school career working at The Hun School of Princeton a co-ed day/dayboarding school located in Princeton New Jersey. She worked at the school from 1998 - 2014 as the Chair of the Computer Science department. She worked at Bryn Mawr School for girls, an all-girls day school during the 2014-15 school year. In 2015 she became the Dean of Diversity and Inclusion at Berkshire School located in Sheffield Massachusetts. She also served as the only female faculty advisor of a 40-student male dorm. Since 2019, she has worked as the Director of Diversity, Inclusion and Community Life at Viewpoint School a day school, grades K-12 in Calabasas.

Tarah Fleming is a long-time educator, keynote speaker and lead facilitator on topics of inclusion, equity literacy, early childhood anti-bias education and the dynamics of power and privilege with over 30 years of national and international experience. As a white identified, cisgender, heterosexual mother of a mixed heritage teenager, she brings a unique perspective on allied behavior and a devotion to work as a change agent in multiple solidarity movements. For the last decade Tarah was the Education Director at Our Family Coalition (OFC) working with LGBTQ families, and formerly, the Co-Director for iPride; an organization dedicated to mixed heritage and multiethnic families. In 2003, she co-founded the high school student component for the White Privilege Conference (WPC) now called the Youth Action Project (YAP) which remains as one of the premiere action-oriented national conversations. Tarah continues in her consulting/coaching practice Start Dialog providing personal and professional support for educators and activists, group dialogue facilitation, and real systemic change training.

Vanessa Frank, born and raised in Los Angeles, California, earned her Bachelor’s Degree from Stanford University in Public Policy and returned, after two years working in immigrant-serving Bay Area public schools through AmeriCorps, for her law degree there. Vanessa focused her legal studies on immigration law and international human rights and development. Following two years as a litigator with a major international law firm in the Bay Area, Vanessa joined California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA), a legendary civil rights firm, in their Oxnard Migrant Office. In 2009, Vanessa opened her own law firm, dedicated to providing high quality legal services to immigrants and their families and also to engage immigrants and US citizens in the struggle for humane and sensible immigration policies at the local, state and national level. In the fall of 2014, Vanessa was honored with Holly G. Spevak Public Service Award by the Women Lawyers of Ventura County and in 2018 was awarded the Ventura County Legal Aid Verna Rose Kagan Award for Public Service.

Dr. Gaye Theresa Johnson is a Professor of African American Studies and Chicana and Chicano Studies at the University of California at Los Angeles. At UCLA she is also Vice Chair of the Department of African American Studies and an advisory board member for the Luskin School of Public Policy’s Institute on
Inequality and Democracy. She has been a research fellow at the Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity at Stanford University and at the African Leadership Academy in Johannesburg, South Africa, and she writes and teaches on race and racism, cultural politics, and freedom struggles. Her first book, entitled *Spaces of Conflict, Sounds of Solidarity: Music, Race, and Spatial Entitlement in Los Angeles* was published with the University of California Press in 2013 and is a history of civil rights and spatial struggles among Black and Brown freedom seekers in LA from 1940-2010. Johnson’s second book, co-edited with Alex Lubin (*Verso* Press 2017) is titled *Futures of Black Radicalism*, and has been featured in the Los Angeles Review of Books, Literary Hub, and the Society for U.S. Intellectual History. Johnson is President of the Board of the Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE), and an advisory board member for the Goldin Institute and the Rosenberg Fund for Children. Her proudest achievement is being a mother to her 8-year old daughter, and being a part of the circle of friends and family that constitute the core of her life.

**Sepideah Mohsenian-Rahman** received dual degrees in International Peace and Conflict Resolution and Religious Studies from American University, along with an MSW in International Social Welfare from Columbia University. She has published and worked extensively at the intersection of social justice and community change. Prior to joining the Thacher community, she served as the Program Director of UCSB’s MultiCultural Center.

**Rudy Mondragón** is a writer, photographer, and doctoral candidate at the University of California, Los Angeles working on a project that looks at the sport of boxing and the ways in which black and brown boxers politically and culturally express themselves via the most important, yet understudied component of the sport: the ring entrance. He has written on the sport of boxing for *Remezcla, We Are Miú, and LA Taco* and has been featured on ESPN, *Fox Sports, CNN, Bleacher Report, Washington Post, New York Times*, *USAToday Business Insider* and other news platforms. Academically, Mondragón has written a film review of the boxing documentary “Champs” for the *Journal of Sports History* and a book review of Louis Moore’s *I Fight for a Living: Boxing and the Battle for Black Manhood, 1880-1915*, for the *International Review for the Sociology of Sport*. Most recently, Mondragón’s writing and photos were published in the 2019 collection of *The Streets* magazine. Currently, he is currently working on *Rings of Dissent: Boxing and the Performance of Rebellion*, co-edited anthology with Gaye Theresa Johnson and David J. Leonard.

**Farzana Nayani** is a nationally recognized Diversity, Equity & Inclusion specialist. She has more than 20 years’ experience working with schools, higher education institutions, corporations, public agencies, and non-profit organizations as a consultant and trainer on diversity and inclusion, intercultural communication, and unconscious bias. She has contributed curriculum and program design for the Smithsonian and the East-West Center. Farzana is an author, trainer and coach, and has been featured in *LA Parent* magazine and on NPR on raising multicultural children. A multiethnic individual herself, she is the parent of two multiracial sons and has written the book, *Raising Multiracial Children: Tools for Nurturing Identity in a Racialized World* being released in Spring 2020 by Penguin Random House. Farzana is a former classroom teacher who grew up in Canada before moving to the United States over 15 years ago, and speaks across the country and internationally on equity, inclusion and belonging.

**Rachel Parrish** is a Bay Area native and proud mother. Rachel graduated from San José State University and has studied and researched education throughout her career, including internationally at the University of Ghana in Legon. She has taught a range of ages/grades spanning over 20 years. Rachel is a SEED (Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity) Leader for the National SEED Project. Rachel is passionate about inclusive curriculum that promotes 21st Century skills. As an ardent supporter of differentiated and responsive classrooms, she continues to be engaged in the evolving dialogue and the implementation of best practices. Rachel is the founder of “The Speakeasy”, in which she hosts and facilitates professionals while exploring ways educational approaches can reflect equity and justice, as it relates to race, gender, class, and culture in theory and practice. Additionally, Rachel has dedicated her time to working with high school students of color throughout Oakland, CA, promoting community stewardship, academic success, college readiness, financial literacy, and more. She recently relocated to Los Angeles, CA as a faculty member of The Center for Early Education. Rachel enjoys reading, gardening, fishing, and spending time with friends and family.

**Ali M. Rahman** is a Fisher Fellow at The Thacher School and a Ph.D. Candidate in Comparative Literature and Writing Studies at UC Santa Barbara. He also holds an M.F.A. in Creative Writing from Sarah Lawrence College where he completed his creative thesis—a novel about the second-generation immigrant experience and being Muslim in America. He has taught in a variety of contexts over the past decade such as with young prisoners in a correctional facility, refugee populations in the Middle East, public and private high school students in New York and California, and college students at a large public research university.

**Florecia Ramirez** is author of *Eat Less Water: The Solution to Water Shortages is in the Kitchen* (Red Hen Press), named by Kirkus Reviews as the Top 100 Best Books in 2019. Ramirez is a trained researcher at the University of Chicago’s School of Public Policy. Florecia has been interviewed by NPR, American Public Media, KCRW’s Good Food, New York’s WPNA, KPFA, and Entertainment Weekly. She’s appeared on CBS and KTLA Morning News. She won the 6th Gift of Freedom Genre Finalist in Creative Nonfiction by A Room of Her Own Foundation (AROHO), the Environment Hero Award, and was recently awarded a Latino Leadership award for her activism. She lives near the Pacific Ocean in Oxnard, California, an agricultural town that smells of strawberries, fertilizers, and saltwater with her husband and three teenage children.

**Milton Reynolds** is an educator, author, equity and inclusion consultant and activist. His activism has been devoted to juvenile justice reform, law enforcement accountability, environmental justice and youth development. In support of these efforts Milton served 12 years as a commissioner on the San Mateo County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission and was one of the founding members of the Racial Justice Coalition, an organization created to mobilize community in support of a law enforcement data collection bill to end the practice of racial profiling in California. For the last 17 years Milton held the position of Senior Program Associate with Facing History and Ourselves. Prior to that, he served as a middle school Humanities teacher and Self Science instructor for the past 24 years, first at Nueva Middle School and later at Odyssey Middle School. Milton was one of the founders and the Curriculum Design Specialist for CoAction, an Equity and Communications consulting firm. Additionally, he was a researcher in the Stanford Integrated Schools Project; board chair of Literacy for Environmental Justice a Bayview/Hunters Point based non-profit focused on youth leadership development and addressing the legacies of environmental racism in San Francisco; and is presently an advisory board member of the Paul K. Longmore Institute on Disability at San Francisco State University and a board director for the California Council for the Social Studies. Milton received his B.A. with distinction in Sociology from San Jose State with a minor in Communications.

**Kaelyn D. Rodriguez** is a Black Chicana from Los Angeles, a Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Chicana/o Studies at UCLA and a part-time professor of Art History at Santa Monica College. She holds master’s degrees in the History of Art from UC, Riverside and in Chicana/o Studies from UCLA. Kaelyn is a seasoned educator, an alumnus from UCLA’s Urban Humanities Certificate Program, a former Smithsonian Fellow and a 2020 Dickson Art History Fellow. She will earn her doctorate this June.

**Darius White** welcomes the complex identity politics that come with being a Texas-raised, first-gen college (Stanford) graduate turned Bay Area educator. Darius explores intersectional identities, political rhetoric, and sociocultural narratives in his Sophomore and Senior English courses at St. Ignatius College Preparatory in San Francisco. An avid pop-culture fanatic, mumble rap scholar, and aspiring bibliophile, Mr. White enjoys making teaching and learning student-centered, student-directed, and collaborative, for the healing and building happens best when we can share stories, acknowledge our differences, and find common ground in making the world a more safe space for diversity of thought, experience, and restorative practices.

**Jasiri X** is the first independent hip-hop artist to be awarded an Honorary Doctorate, which he received from Chicago Theological Seminary in 2016. Still, he remains rooted in the Pittsburgh based organization he founded, iHood Media, which teaches youth of color how to analyze and create media for themselves. He has performed his music from the Smithsonian to the Apollo Theater and has discussed his views on hip-hop, race, and politics at leading institutions across the nation, including Harvard University, University of Chicago, NYU, Yale, and Stanford, among others. One of the most important political voices of his generation, in 2017 he received the Nathan Cummings Foundation Fellowship to start the iHood Artistv Academy. Jasiri is also a recipient of the USA Cummings Fellowship in Music, the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation Artist as Activist Fellowship and the President’s Volunteer Service Award.