

Nonprofit New York Board Slate 2021

Robert Acton is Principal and Founder of Cause Strategy Partners, LLC, a purpose-driven Certified B-Corporation and consulting social enterprise with practice areas in board governance, board placement, corporate social responsibility, and leadership development. The firm's signature program, BoardLead, has placed, trained, and supported more than 900 business professionals from Fortune 500 companies and professional services firms on ~400 nonprofit boards in NYC and 13 other U.S. cities. Prior to founding Cause Strategy Partners, Rob served as Executive Director of Taproot Foundation in NYC and served as interim leader of the foundation's work in Chicago, as well. Prior to Taproot, Rob led Cabrini Green Legal Aid in Chicago. During his seven-year tenure as Executive Director, CGLA received Chicago's prestigious Alford-Axelson Award for Nonprofit Managerial Excellence. Training others to lead effectively is one of Rob's passions. He has served as an adjunct professor at DePaul University College of Law and North Park University. He is a regular presenter at nonprofit leadership conferences around the country. He currently serves as Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of Nonprofit New York, on the Board of Directors of Broadway Inspirational Voices, and on the Advisory Board of Cabrini Green Legal Aid. Rob is a member of the Bar of the State of New York. He attended Michigan public schools, Spring Arbor University, and Brooklyn Law School.

Alejandra Duque Cifuentes is the Executive Director of Dance/NYC, an immigrant, activist, artist, producer, and educator. With more than 10 years of production and stage management experience in theatre and dance, she has toured nationally and internationally with Zaccho Dance Theatre, Bandaloop, Dancing in The Streets, The Foundry Theatre, and Columbia University School of the Arts, among others. As a teaching artist, Ms. Duque Cifuentes taught children and adults of all ages how to express themselves through theatre and movement practice in over 100 New York City public schools and through community theatre programs. In 2011 she founded Theatre That Transcends, which taught local, underserved communities how to express themselves and address community issues through the art of theatre. As an activist, she plays an integral part in advancing a more equitable arts and cultural ecology by working on measures to increase access, justice, equity, and inclusion within dance for disabled artists, immigrant artists, and artists of color in the five boroughs of New York City. Ms. Duque Cifuentes is a member of the National Association for Latino Arts and Culture, Women of Color in the Arts, the Children Museum of Manhattan's Dance Portal Advisory Board, and Eva Yaa Asantewaa's Curatorial Advisory Team at Gibney, and she is an advisor for the Latinx Artists Retreat, an annual convening for Latinx cultural producers across all artistic disciplines and fields. She was born in Medellín, Colombia, and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Drama and Theatre Arts from Columbia University School of General Studies.

Michelle Henry is an Executive Director at JPMorgan Chase. In this position, she collaborates with strategic nonprofits that are involved in advocacy and thought leadership to support low and moderate income communities. Previously, Michelle was a Senior Philanthropy Manager in Global Philanthropy at JPMorgan Chase where she managed New Skills at Work, the firm's \$250MM, five-year workforce readiness initiative that focuses on supporting demand-driven workforce systems, meeting skilled labor needs of business, and developing career pathways for job seekers. Since 2004, Michelle has served as a board member for the Center for Community Alternatives, a leader in the field of community-based alternatives to incarceration, whose mission is to promote reintegrative justice and a reduced reliance on incarceration through advocacy, services and public policy development in pursuit of civil and human rights. She earned her bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Maryland at College Park, where she was a Benjamin Banneker Scholar; and then she went on to earn an MPA from the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service at New York University, where she was a Public Service Scholar. In 2016, Michelle earned the Corporate Social Responsibility Award in Banking, Finance and Insurance from City and State Institute.

Kamesh Moola is a Vice President in the Operations Optimization Group at Barclays, where he is responsible for improving the Global Capital Markets operations employing Lean and Six Sigma principles. Prior to joining Barclays, he held various management positions at the big four consulting firms. He has over twelve years of experience in providing management consulting services to financial services firms across I-Banking Operations, Asset Management and Wealth Management in the technology strategy and process improvement area. More recently, he has been working in the area of bank digitization and has implemented Process Robotics and Machine Learning solutions at various institutions. Kamesh is a Certified Financial Analyst, a Project Management Professional and an avid Blockchain enthusiast. Kamesh graduated from the University of Rochester with a Masters in Business Management and holds a Bachelors in Computer Science and Engineering from Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, India. He is very interested in building cause driven products and services.

Joanne Smith is the founding President, and CEO moves Girls for Gender Equity (GGE) closer to its mission through strategic advocacy, development, and leadership cultivation. Ms. Smith is a Haitian-American social worker born in NY. A staunch human rights advocate, Smith co-chaired the nation's first Young Women's Initiative, a cross-sector Initiative coordinating government, philanthropic, and community efforts to create the conditions for cis, trans girls of color and GNC youth to thrive. Smith's leadership helped to facilitate a \$30M commitment from government and philanthropy to invest in community-driven recommendations. Smith is a steering committee member of Black Girl Movement and

member of Move to End Violence -a 10-year initiative designed to strengthen the collective capacity to end gender-based violence in the United States. Smith is featured on the cover of YES! Magazine, Gender Justice issue Summer 2016, sharing her experience of intersectional feminism. Joanne is an alumna of Hunter Graduate School of Social Work and Columbia Institute for Nonprofit Management. She has co-authored Hey Shorty: A Guide to Combating Sexual Harassment and Violence in Public Schools and on the Streets. Girls for Gender Equity's work to combat sexual harassment in schools is featured in the 2014 documentary Anita: Speak Truth to Power. Smith has received many awards including the Ms. Foundation 2018 Gloria Award as a Woman of Vision, a Commendation from NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer and Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies – Local Women Leading Change award. Smith resides in Brooklyn, NY.

Jo-Ann Yoo is the executive director of the Asian American Federation (AAF), a membership organization that works with the nearly seventy nonprofits that represent and support the pan-Asian community. Established in 1989, AAF is a pan-Asian non-profit organization representing a network of community service agencies in the Northeast. These agencies work in the fields of health & human services, education, economic development, civic participation, and social justice. AAF's mission is to raise the influence and well-being of the pan-Asian American community through research, policy advocacy, public awareness and organizational development. Jo-Ann's professional experiences include program management and operations, fundraising, and advocacy in the fields of community development and immigrant rights. Jo-Ann currently serves on the boards of Nonprofit New York and the Advocacy Institute. She previously served on New York State AARP's Diversity Council, board of National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development, YWCA of Queens, and was a founding board member of Korean Americans for Political Advancement. She was also a member of the first cohort of New York City Coro's New American Leaders Program and served on the Alumni Advisory Board of Coro New York, as well as an advisory committee of the Robert Sterling Clark Foundation. She holds a B.A. and J.D. from the University of Denver, and an executive management certificate from Harvard Business School. Jo-Ann is particularly proud of her immigrant heritage and loves to hear others' immigration stories.