



## Leaders to Leaders Youth Summit 2020

A one-day event where up to 150 high school students and their advisors team up with professionals to hone their leadership skills to CREATE CHANGE

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2020 8:30AM-1PM  
UJA FEDERATION OF NY, 130 EAST 59TH ST

### Keynote Speaker

Rachelle Brown

Youth Recovery Program Specialist, *Youth Voices Matter*  
at *Friends of Recovery-NY (FOR-NY)*



Born in Manhattan and raised in the Bronx, Rachelle Brown is a proud representative of New York. Rachelle Brown graduated from John F. Kennedy High School, received her Bachelor of Science from St. John's University, and recently obtained her master's degree in Public Affairs and Administration. Presently, Brown is a Youth Recovery Program Specialist for Youth Voices Matter-NY. Youth Voices Matter-NY is a youth-led and youth-driven organization that empowers and inspires youth and young adults across New York State to establish and create their own youth recovery community organization.

Youth development is a significant passion of hers, as R. Brown has worked with youth for over fifteen years and most of her professional career. Growing up in the Bronx, Rachelle is aware of the challenges and obstacles that can stagnate communities; often not giving young people positive places to go or people to look up to. This is one reason why supporting, empowering, inspiring, and guiding youth is tremendously important and meaningful to her.

As a young person and a family member of someone in recovery, R. Brown is an advocate of recovery and a Recovery Warrior. She advocates for youth and individuals from all walks of life and enjoys building relationships/connections that strengthen individuals and communities. Rachelle believes that it is valuable to put forth maximum effort with great energy, compassion, care, and diligence that will continue to impact the lives of ALL people in a positive way. Rachelle Brown looks forward to continuing to be a positive role model, example, leader, and inspiration for the youth everywhere.

# Program

## Welcome

Fellows and Staff will introduce the agenda and program expectations

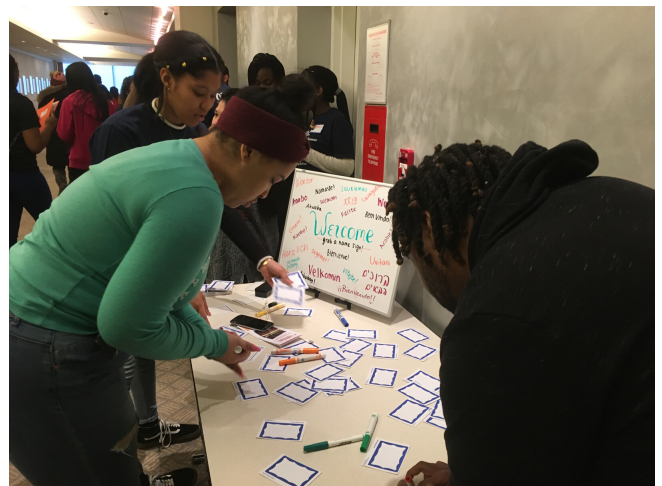
## Case Study Sessions with Community Leaders

Learn from real NYC community leaders and nonprofit managers about their experiences in the field. Hear about how they identified an issue and then tackled it! Get inspired by their story and how they took action.



## Skill-Building Workshop on Community Organizing

Learn how to create a project from scratch using skills that anyone can learn and utilize. Want to solve a school problem? This session will teach you community organizing skills and walk you through the process needed to tackle the issue, step by step!



## Break

Snacks, bathroom, pledge wall, Tweet/Instagram

## Keynote Speaker

Hear from an inspirational keynote speaker. After this speech, every student will want to get out of their seats and make a difference in this world. This is a call to action!

## Action Planning Session - Work on Your Own Project

Students and teachers will reconvene in their own groups and start identifying which issue they want to address. What are some of the most important issues that affect them? Students and teachers will plan out a few of their ideas and goals and then head out of the conference with the knowledge, skills, and inspiration to make a change in their schools and/or communities.



Above: photos from Youth Summit 2018

# Case Study Facilitators



**SANDA BALABAN  
(SHE/HER/HERS)**

Sanda is passionate about helping young people connect their interests and beliefs with how they can make a difference, at and beyond the ballot box. In response to the complex times we're living in, the vulnerability of democracy being demonstrated, and the desire to support young people in being on the front lines of change, she co-founded and directs two youth civic engagement ventures, **YVote** and **Next Generation Politics**, aiming to help equip the leaders of tomorrow for their roles and responsibilities as citizens shaping a more just world. Sanda also helms FLIP (Future of Learning and Innovative Programs) Consulting, through which she supports organizations in boosting their efficacy and exploring new programmatic frontiers. She has held leadership roles in education and youth development for over 20 years, in the public sector at the New York City Department of Education, in education philanthropy at the Ford Foundation and the Goldman Sachs Foundation, and in nonprofits including Facing History and Ourselves, the Boston Private Industry Council, and The Teachers Network. Her experiences teaching high school humanities in New York City and Boston still inform her thinking each day. Sanda is a magna cum laude graduate of Swarthmore College and Harvard Graduate School of Education.



**EMILIO TAVAREZ  
(HE/HIM/HIS)**

Emilio is a Dominican immigrant, a member of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), and the Director of Advocacy, Policy, and Research at **Hunger Free America**, a national non-profit organization working to reduce food insecurity and poverty. He grew up in New York City over the last 18 years and utilized the CUNY system to obtain a bachelor's in psychology and a master's degree in social work, filled with a passion for helping those in need. Prior to joining Hunger Free America, Emilio spent five years working at a non-profit organization in the Bronx, Part of the Solution (POTS), as a case manager and career coach helping individual clients deal with emergencies and strive for self-sufficiency. He has spent the last eight years of his career in the non-profit sector supporting a number of marginalized communities: LGBTQ+ individuals, immigrant families, senior citizens, formerly incarcerated individuals, and those dealing with mental illness and substance abuse. He has interned with the Henry Street Settlement, The LGBT Center, ARC XVI Fort Washington Senior Center, and the Constituent Services Department at the NYC Public Advocate's Office. Additionally, recognizing the impact that music has had throughout his life, he also uses the arts to promote social justice through his association with The New York City Gay Men's Chorus (NYCGMC). Emilio is dedicated to finding policy solutions to our major social problems and continues to advocate on behalf of all marginalized communities.

# Case Study Facilitators



## SASHA DIAMOND-LENOW (SHE/HER/HERS)

Sasha is the founder and Director of the Social Work program at **StreetSquash**. She joined the StreetSquash staff in 2010 where she started as an Academic Director. She started StreetSquash's Social Work program in 2013 and has since grown the program to include an additional full time social work position and lay the framework for Social Work at StreetSquash's Newark site. At StreetSquash, she works with students and families to improve and deepen the services and support that the program can provide, recognizing that participants and their families need more than just academic and athletic support to be successful. Sasha and her team help to address social-emotional, mental health, and many others needs through individual and small group counseling, referrals for outside services, and a variety of programs for students and families including sexuality, mental health, and drugs and alcohol prevention and education. She graduated from Columbia University with an MSW in 2009 and is a licensed New York State Social Worker. She received her BS at Skidmore College in Social Work and Spanish where she played 4 years of Varsity Softball, was captain for 2 years, and earned All-League academic and athletic honors. Sasha has worked at various youth development organizations in New York City including the Urban Dove, BuildOn, HarlemRBI, and Girls for Gender Equity. She is passionate about working with youth and families, social justice, sports and very large dogs.



## JEN CHANTRTANAPICHATE (SHE/HER/HERS)

Jen Chantrtanapichate is an artist, community arts educator and activist from New York City. In 2012 she co-founded an arts and activism youth program at the **Sixth Street Community Center** (SSCC) in the Lower East Side of Manhattan, where she currently serves as their Program Director. Her commitment to climate and social justice fuels much of her work at SSCC and in her own work as an artist and activist. She feels passionate about using artistic expression as a vehicle to heal, empower, and build community. In the spring of 2017, she expanded her community arts efforts internationally by developing and leading an arts, storytelling and wellness program for a group of 20 teens in Punta Gorda, Belize. Actively engaged in her own community, in May 2015, she founded the grassroots community organization, **Cleanup North Brooklyn**, which advocates for environmental justice, particularly in response to waste inequity. She serves on the board of the Fifth Street Farm Project — a local rooftop farm on top of the Earth School, and volunteers on a variety of climate justice campaigns that fall under the ethos of ecosocialism.

# Case Study Facilitators



## MARGARET PERKINS (SHE/HER/HERS)

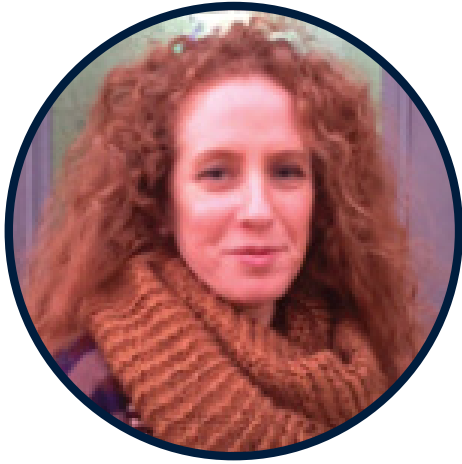
Margaret Perkins has been active with **350NYC** for over five years, being involved in the group's efforts to advocate for the passage of climate legislation in NYC Council. This has included legislation on limiting the carbon emissions from large buildings, and closing dirty, local power plants. In addition, she has been part of a group at 350NYC that is currently active in pressuring NY State to mandate strict news regulations of hydrofluorocarbon use, the gases used in refrigerator and air conditioners that are very potent greenhouse gases. Professionally, Margaret has a PhD in biochemistry from Monash University in Australia, and was a malaria researcher at Rockefeller University, a public health epidemiologist at UNICEF and other health organizations, and an adjunct faculty member at CUNY, teaching Medical Parasitology and Evaluation of Health Care Policy. She is also a member of the Population, Consumption and Environment Committee for NY City Sierra Club.



## MICHAEL A. NARAIN (HE/HIM/HIS)

Coming from an under-resourced immigrant family, Michael A. Narain worked full-time earning degrees in media and marketing communications at Hunter College and the Fashion Institute of Technology. For 10 years, he did cosmetic research and development for major fragrance houses creating high-end products. In 2009 Narain volunteered at Bellevue hospital, where he discovered his love for working with people facing life-challenging illness and adversity. As a direct result of his patient's suicide, and fueled with a passion for aesthetics and a love for humanity, Michael obtained credentialing in the advocacy for victims of sexual assault and substance abuse counseling. Michael then developed his career as creative media director for a fashion philanthropy agency supporting youth orphaned by AIDS in Soweto, South Africa, and a program development consultant for a domestic violence program in New York City. Finally, Narain found his truest calling as founder of "**Out My Closet.**" In 2013, Out My Closet was created and to date is recognized as a key player in the support of homeless LGBTQ populations in New York. The organization's multi-pronged approach to helping displaced and under-resourced youth includes delivering new and lightly-worn clothing to this population, offering counseling, and creating a safe social media platform for engaging and supporting LGBTQ youth while helping educators foster LGBTQ groups in schools through messages of hope, empowerment, and resilience. Michael has since extended the group's reach to South Florida, LA, and South America. The organization has donated more than 21,000 articles of clothing, shoes, accessories, and toiletries.

# Skill-Building Facilitators



**MICHELLE KOCH  
(SHE/HER/HERS)**

Michelle Koch is a co-founder and the Executive Director of the **Muslim-Jewish Solidarity Committee**. She studied music theory and audio engineering at Hunter College, the Aaron Copland School of Music, and the Institute of Audio Research. After more than a decade as a music teacher, she co-founded the Muslim-Jewish Solidarity Committee and co-led the organization's exponential growth. Michelle focuses her efforts on expanding programs and community outreach, creating volunteer opportunities, and speaking at events throughout NYC. She is a passionate believer in the power of active listening, dialogue, and personal relationship building to bring massive sustainable social change. Her current work focuses on the MJSC initiatives Love Your Neighbor, Compassionate Conversations, and Interfaith Space. Michelle is a We Are All New York fellowship alumni, and serves on the board of International Human Rights Arts festival.



**IVY COHEN  
(SHE/HER/HERS)**

Ivy, founder of **Ivy Cohen Corporate Communications (ICCC)**, delivers big agency results with the hands-on, high-performance attention only a boutique agency can provide. Ivy has spent 20+ years advising companies and executives on how to build their reputations. An accomplished executive and small business owner, and a results-oriented community leader, Ivy creates big ideas and gets outsized results for her clients. Ivy has worked with companies like Procter & Gamble, J.D. Power and Associates, DHL, KEEN, Kaplan Higher Education, NFL, MasterCard, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Digitas Health, Noodle.org, Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, OTI Global and Wells Fargo. Ivy is a sought-after speaker and moderator who has presented before the P&G Alumni Association, the National Football League, Super Bowl XLVIII Business Connect, and numerous business and civic audiences including at the White House. She and her ICCC team are known for delivering expert strategy and programs in thought leadership, public education, issues management and content creation. Throughout her career, Ivy has advised and engaged management teams to devise strategies for anticipating and responding to situations that can disrupt their operations, put their brands at risk or damage organization and executive reputations. Her crisis communications and issues management work has involved multi-national corporations, as well as organizations in the shipping and logistics, manufacturing, anti-terrorism, higher education and disaster relief sectors. Ivy serves as the PR and communications mentor for startup and technology incubators, including NYC Media Lab, RLab, Future Labs (NYU) and NYDesigns. As a civic leader Ivy's involvements have included the University of California (Legislative Relations Committee), YouthBridge-New York, greater New York's premier youth diversity program, San Francisco Bay Area World Trade Center, Health 2.0 NYC, Renaissance Weekend, and UJA-Federation of New York. She received YouthBridge-NY's Community Service Award in 2012. Her work was recognized by PENCIL with its 2009 Innovative Partnership Award for her collaboration with P.S. 247 to create the groundbreaking College Partnership Program™ for an elementary school in a low-income Brooklyn neighborhood. Ivy holds a BA from University of California, Berkeley and an MBA from Georgetown University.

# Skill-Building Facilitators



**LAURA JANKSTROM  
(SHE/HER/HERS)**

Laura Jankstrom is responsible for **Citizens' Committee for Children** (CCC)'s civic engagement programs, which educate and mobilize New Yorkers around our priorities for children. These programs provide participants with information about public programs and policies and give them the tools to advocate as part of our vast network of volunteers and supporters. Laura coordinates CCC's Community Leadership course which, since 1962, has helped concerned citizens build the capacity to become champions of change to make New York City a better place for children. She also manages YouthAction NYC, CCC's multi-faceted after school program for high school students. In this role, she seeks to inspire a future generation of leaders to stand up for what they believe in and work to make the world a better place. CCC understands the importance of intergenerational, citizen-led advocacy and Laura works to ensure that we engage the public in all that we do. She also provides technical assistance and professional development to community-based organizations that wish to incorporate meaningful civic engagement practices into their programs. Prior to joining CCC, Laura was a youth worker and community organizer in New York City's non-profit sector. She has a B.S.W. from New York University and earned her M.S.W from Hunter College in 2009.



**ADELINE MEDEIROS  
(SHE/HER/HERS)**

Adeline Medeiros is passionate about making social change work more effective, and her career has centered on helping individuals and organizations move from abstract vision to concrete action. She currently serves as the Bronx Borough Director for **Power of Two**, a nonprofit that brings the science of attachment directly to families to build strong, resilient communities via in-home caregiver coaching. Adeline leads Power of Two's South Bronx office, managing team of twenty to expand services throughout New York City, coordinating with Administration for Children's Services and its partner foster care agencies, develops a thriving, equitable organizational culture, and ensures holistic support of all of the families we work with. Before joining the Power of Two team, she served as Associate Director of Community at 100Kin10, where she strategized, in partnership with stakeholders, to strengthen STEM education in America. She began her career as a community organizer and coalition builder, and has previously directed civic engagement efforts at Barnard College, developed curriculum, and taught as an Adjunct Lecturer at Columbia University. Adeline earned a bachelor's degree in social work from Bridgewater State University and a master's degree in social work from Columbia University; she received her LMSW in 2013. She is an active leader in the fight for equity and racial justice, a regular guest lecturer and trainer at Columbia University's School of Social Work and other nationwide institutions, the treasurer of NASW-NYC's political action committee, and in October 2016, she was awarded the Emerging Social Work Leader Award.

# Skill-Building Facilitators



**RAPHI COOPER**  
**(HE/HIM/HIS)**

Hello Youthbridge-NY and the future leaders of our community! My name is Raphi Cooper, and I am extremely excited to be involved in such a unique program. I have been involved with programming for quite some time now and am looking forward to working together with you to make the future more inclusive, creative, and dynamic. I currently am a program director at the **National Jewish Council for Disabilities**, better known as **Yachad**. We run countless programs for individuals with special needs as well as colleges, high schools, middle schools, communities, and synagogues around the United States, as well as Canada and Israel! I am from West Hempstead, New York and for as long as I can remember I have been involved in assisting individuals with special needs. After high school I studied abroad for a year in Israel, which was an unforgettable experience, I then attended Queens College where I graduated with a degree in Economics. In addition to my time with Yachad, I have also staffed several Birthright trips to Israel for individuals with special needs and have staffed 3 trips so far! Some fun facts about me: I love sports and staying active, I also love to travel and have been to over 30 states including Alaska and Hawaii! I am looking forward to meeting all of you and hearing from you!



**ASHLEIGH PETTUS**  
**(SHE/HER/HERS)**

Ashleigh is **Trees New York's** Operations Manager and the Environmental Educator for the Young Urban Forester Internship and Citizen Pruner Courses. She is also an ISA Certified Arborist and has over eight years of environmental education experience include teaching at Wave Hill and at Heifer International in Perryville, Arkansas. Ashleigh has led many community greening projects and is passionate about urban farming and urban and community forestry. As an environmental educator for the Young Urban Forester Internship, she exposes a small group of high school student interns to a range of environmental career opportunities through education, hands-on stewardship, field trips and seminars with professionals. The comprehensive curriculum includes urban forest conservation, restoration and planning, air and water quality, invasive species, introduction to GIS and map making, soil science and tree care, biology, identification and pruning. Ashleigh is also one of the instructors for Trees New York's Citizen Pruner Program, which enables students to receive a license from Trees New York and NYC Parks to legally prune NYC streets after passing an exam. Trees New York is the only institution designated to train and license citizen pruners in NYC. She graduated from Lehman College with a B.A. in history and a minor in childhood education.





**YouthBridge-NY would like to thank all those who made the Leaders to Leaders Youth Summit possible:**

## **Keynote Speaker**

**Rachelle Brown**

Youth Recovery Program Specialist, Youth Voices  
Matter-NY, Friends of Recovery-NY (FOR-NY)

## **Workshop Presenters and Facilitators**

**Sanda Balaban**, YVote and NextGen Politics

**Jen Chantrtanapichate**, Sixth Street Community Center

**Ivy Cohen**, Ivy Cohen Corporate Communications

**Raphi Cooper**, New York Yachad

**Sasha Diamond-Lenow**, StreetSquash

**Laura Jankstrom**, Citizens' Committee for Children-NY

**Michelle Koch**, Muslim-Jewish Solidarity Committee

**Adeline Medeiros**, Power of Two

**Michael A. Narain**, Out My Closet

**Margaret Perkins**, 350NYC

**Ashleigh Pettus**, Trees New York

**Emilio Tavaréz**, Hunger Free America



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Thanks to **UJA-Federation of NY** for generously providing conference space  
Thanks to the **Jewish Community Relations Council of NY** for staffing the event  
Thanks to the **YouthBridge-ny Fellows and Bridgers** in red shirts for volunteering at the event



YouthBridge-ny is managed by the Center for Community Leadership at the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York. The JCRC is a proud partner of UJA-Federation of NY.