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Grants Review Committee Fall 2021



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Chava Sims Shervington
Los Angeles, CA

Chava Sims Shervington (she/her/hers) is currently president of the board of the Jewish Mutilracial Network, where she became a recognized voice on issues of racial equity and inclusion in the Jewish community. She is also a founding member of Komchach, which is an organization that exists to support Black Orthodox Jews. A passionate and committed diversity advocate, prior to her work with JMN and Komchach, Chava organized regular programming for Jews of Color. Chava's widely respected contributions resulted in her becoming a regular speaker and writer on issues of diversity in Judaism, and she has appeared in the Chicago Tribute, JTA, and The Salon on the Jewish Channel. Her passion and dedication to the advancement of Jews of Color was further honored by her selection as the one of the awardees of Jewish Week's "36 under 36" and as a fellow in the Selah Leadership Program. Additionally, after her recent move to Los Angeles, she was recently honored by the City of Los Angeles as a Jewish woman creating change in LA. She has additional experience in effectively growing nonprofits, not only within the Jewish community, but through holding in-house council positions in New York and Pennsylvania where she gained expertise in human resources and corporate law. She holds a Juris Doctorate from The George Washington University Law School.



Dr. Bianca González-Lesser
West Hartford, CT

Dr. Bianca Gonzalez-Lesser (they/she/elle) is a DEI expert focusing on Jewish non-profits. They began working as the Diversity Talent Manager at Hillel International in November 2020, and recently became Hillel International's Associate Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. They hold a PhD in Sociology from the University of Connecticut with expertise in race and racism and have been published in a variety of academic journals, book chapters, blog posts, and many other media appearances. Bianca is passionate about racial justice, education, and Judaism, fueled by their own experiences as a nonbinary, queer, Jew of Color by choice, and a migrant. Bianca is originally from Puerto Rico, and currently lives in Connecticut with their wife and twins.



Tabitha St Bernard-Jacobs
New York, NY

Tabitha St. Bernard-Jacobs (she/hers) is a Trinidadian-American mom, organizer, writer, artist, and entrepreneur. She writes the column "Raising Antiracist Kids" for Romper. Tabitha has written about antiracist parenting for Romper, SheKnows, Scary Mommy and more. She was one of the women who organized the Women's March on Washington and served as the Deputy Executive Director of Program until April 2021 when she transitioned to a Senior Advisor role. During her tenure at the organization, she led the team that organized the historic 2018 National School Walkouts and co-lead the international A Day Without A Woman action, among other actions. In addition to this work, Tabitha is an ethical fashion entrepreneur and advocate, founding two platforms that marry fashion and activism. She also consults with brands on racial equity, social impact, and strategic communications. Tabitha was recognized as one of Glamour Magazine's 2017 Women of the Year, she was featured in the book and exhibit 200 Women Who Will Change The Way You See The World and was named one of 100 Women Who Stood Up To Trump In His First 100 Days. She has also been featured on MTV, in MarketWatch, Al Jazeera, WWD, NowThis, Forbes, Nylon, Bustle, and NY1 among others for her work at the intersection of social impact, activism, and women's rights. Tabitha lives with her two children and partner and has stuttered since she was a child but is finally working on living with it.



Dr. Guila Benchimol
Toronto, Canada

Dr. Guila Benchimol (she/her/hers) is the Senior Advisor on Research and Learning with the SRE Network and was one of the key advisors who guided its launch in early 2018. She also serves as Principal Researcher for the Center for Communal Research at the Orthodox Union. As a researcher and public educator on sexual violence, Guila has crafted standards and policies for Jewish workplaces, institutions, and communal spaces and has been invited to address Jewish professionals and clergy across Canada and the US, as well as other faith communities. She is a Research Associate at the Centre for the Study of Social and Legal Responses to Violence, where she has worked on projects related to homicide and domestic violence deaths, and sits on the board of the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests (SNAP). Her first career as a Jewish educator informed her understanding of the need to address victimization of all kinds in Jewish communities. Guila lives in Toronto and was raised in the Spanish Moroccan Jewish community there which was built by the families who fled Tangier. She holds a PhD in Sociological Criminology and an MA in Criminology and Criminal Justice Policy from the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada.



Stefanie Rhodes
New York, NY

Stefanie (she/her/hers) is currently the CEO OF Slingshot. She has spent the last 18 years working in Jewish philanthropy including 9 years at the Jewish Funders Network, where she ran the Younger Funders programming and was the founding Director of the Foundation Professionals program. Prior to joining the Jewish professional world, she worked in ad agencies and tech start-ups in the Bay Area.

Stefanie holds a BA in Journalism and a Certificate in Jewish Studies from Indiana University and a Certificate in Jewish Philanthropy from Yeshiva University. She is a Senior Schusterman Fellow and was a member of the inaugural CEO Onboarding cohort. Stefanie is also the chair of the Advisory Board of the Jews of Color Initiative. Stefanie is married to Hue, and together they have two children.