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Grants Review Committee Fall 2022



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Gamal Palmer
Los Angeles, CA

Gamal Palmer (he/him) is a Leadership Development and Diversity and Inclusion Specialist. He's the Principal and Founder of Conscious Builders, a Global Consulting firm helping organizations, companies and networks shift their culture and practices. Gamal is a graduate of Yale, was a student at Oxford University and has an extensive background in organizational leadership and inclusion. Recently, Gamal completed nearly nine years as a Senior Vice President at the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles where he was the only person of color in senior leadership. In his final tenure at the Los Angeles Federation, Gamal served as Senior Vice President of Leadership Development and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI).

Gamal has worked with hundreds of leaders, board members, executives, educators and CEOs to help them strengthen and diversify their boards, teams and organizations. He's worked with large-scale universities, businesses and nonprofits including Yale and Cornell University, Dreamworks, NBCU, Jordan Brand of Nike, Foresite Capital, Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies, Wexner Heritage Fund, Sempra Energy, Live Nation, Intuit, USC Business School, and ITVS, to name a few. Through the Diversity Gym (his signature workshop), he's worked with thousands of individuals to help them find acceptance and foster inclusion.

Gamal has years of international experience after having worked with social impact entrepreneurs in over 15 African countries, the Middle East, and the US. Gamal has been an International Career Advancement Program (ICAP) at Aspen Institute, Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies, Los Angeles Global Justice, and a Durfee Foundation Springboard Fellow.

Gamal sits on several national boards including UpStart Lab, SRE Network and American Jewish World Service. He brings a deep understanding of the human condition and a unique ability to teach professionals how to leverage their personal stories to navigate and overcome differences. As a speaker, his TedX and many other talks focus on utilizing social impact and stepping into your power.



Aaron Dorfman
Brooklyn, NY

Aaron Dorfman (he/him) is Founder and Executive Director of A More Perfect Union: The Jewish Partnership for Democracy, an effort to mobilize the American Jewish community to protect and strengthen American democracy. A More Perfect Union's work in 2022, its inaugural year, is focused on ensuring a free, fair, safe, and accessible 2022 midterm election by supporting American Jewish institutions to recruit poll workers, poll watchers, and lawyers; to establish new polling sites; and to build relationships to support local election officials. Previously, Aaron served as President of Lippman Kanfer Foundation for Living Torah, Vice President for Programs of American Jewish World Service, and Director of Informal Education at Temple Isaiah of Contra Costa County. He holds a Masters in Public Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School and a BA in English and Political Science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Aaron and his wife Talia live in Brooklyn, New York, where they're raising three fierce feminist daughters and one bearded dragon.



Chava Sims Shervington
Los Angeles, CA

Chava Sims Shervington (she/her/hers) is currently president of the board of the Jewish Multiracial 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. 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.