



## 2019 Debating for Democracy (D4D)<sup>TM</sup> National Conference Biographies



**Soji N. Adewumi** is the Chief Operating Officer at the “I Have a Dream” Foundation (IHDF). Soji partners with the Foundation’s network of Affiliates to use data inquiry, design thinking, and new technologies to help drive program outcomes and improve program effectiveness. Soji oversees the finances and operations of the National Office, as well as the National Foundation’s portfolio of initiatives focused on promoting higher education and increasing our Dreamers’ access to and success through their college pursuits. Soji joined the “I Have A Dream” Foundation’s staff in 2015 as a Fellow through Education Pioneers, an organization which matches private sector professionals with education nonprofits to put their skills to use for education causes. Soji holds a B.S. from the University of Pennsylvania. Prior to joining IHDF, Soji held several positions in Program Management, Process Design, and Technology Consulting at large and Fortune 500 companies including J.P. Morgan Chase, Nationwide, and Kaiser Permanente, among others. In her spare time, Soji teaches yoga and enjoys international travel.

**Becky Alemán** is the Manager of Youth Cultural Organizing at Friends of the High Line where she collaborates with 14 teen staff members to create large scale public art and culture events for teens around NYC. She also supervises 28 teen staff as they work with New York City Council Speaker Corey Johnson to support all District 3 Participatory Budgeting efforts, including planning and implementing the City's first ever Participatory Budgeting festival. Prior to her work at the High Line, she worked at Girls for Gender Equity supporting a team of young women of color organizing for equitable education justice policies. Becky got her start in arts and social justice organizing while coordinating Teen Programs at the Brooklyn Museum, where she integrated race, class, gender, and sexuality curriculum through creating three new teen internships, a Teen Night internship for LGBTQ teens, a digital feminist art program, and a teen film curators program. She has a B.A. in Africana Studies and Art History from Vassar College.

**Molly Ball** is National Political Correspondent for *TIME*, covering campaigns, the White House, political personalities and policy debates across America. She is also a political analyst for CNN and frequent television and radio commentator. Prior to joining *TIME*, she was a staff writer covering U.S. politics for *The Atlantic*. She previously reported for *Politico*, the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, and the *Las Vegas Sun*. She has worked for newspapers in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Cambodia, as well as the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*. She has received numerous awards for her political coverage, including the Toner Prize for Excellence in Political Reporting, the Society of Professional Journalists Sigma Delta Chi Award, the Sandy Hume Memorial Award for Excellence in Political Journalism, and the Lee Walczak Award for Political Analysis. A graduate of Yale University, she was a Knight-Wallace journalism fellow at the University of Michigan in 2009. In 2007, she won \$100,000 on *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire*. Molly grew up in Idaho and Colorado. She lives in Virginia with her husband and three children.

**Garret S. Batten** is the Assistant Director of Project Pericles. He has over a decade of experience designing multi-campus initiatives in higher-education. He was part of the leadership team that developed *Creating Cohesive Paths to Civic Engagement*, a three-year initiative to reimagine the organization and integration of civic/community engagement across the undergraduate experience. He also co-authored the white paper, *Creating Cohesive Paths to Civic Engagement: Five Approaches to Institutionalizing Civic Engagement* (2017) by Garret S. Batten, Adrienne Falcón, and Jan R. Liss that details the key findings from the initiative and a journal article by the same name in the *eJournal of Public Affairs* (forthcoming, 2019). Garret previously served as a consultant at the Ford Foundation, where he assisted with the design and development of the *Difficult Dialogues Initiative*, a multi-million dollar national program focused on promoting pluralism and academic freedom at colleges and universities. He subsequently served as the Associate Director of the *Difficult Dialogues Initiative* at The Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression and was responsible for supervising initiative activities and working with grantees at 29 institutions. He holds a B.A. from Kenyon College and a M.A. in Sociology from New York University.

**Chuck Bell** is the Programs Director, Advocacy at Consumer Reports (CR). He engages in direct advocacy in New York and other northeastern states on CR's priority campaign issues, including financial services, food safety, and health care. During his 29 years at Consumer Reports, Chuck has led a wide variety of projects and initiatives on health care and financial services issues, in coordination with CR's editorial, survey research, testing, and advocacy teams. Chuck serves on the steering committee for New Yorkers for Responsible Lending, and the advisory board for the Student Borrower Protection Center. He was appointed by Governor Andrew Cuomo in 2014 to serve as a board member of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). Chuck attended Reed College for two years, and graduated with a B.A. in political science from Antioch University. He studied at the graduate level at Willamette University and Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs.

**Constance Berry Newman** is Special Counsel for African Affairs at the Carmen Group and a Fellow of the Atlantic Council. She has served seven different presidential appointments and has extensive experience managing public and private organizations. She has worked to build partnerships between African governments, non-governmental organizations, and multi-national corporations in an effort to support African ownership and participation in development initiatives. From 2004-2005, she served as U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs. She acted as the President's G8 personal representative on Africa, played an advisory role to the Secretary of State, and guided the operation of the U.S. diplomatic establishment in the countries of Sub-Saharan Africa. In 2001, she was sworn in as the Assistant Administrator for Africa at the U.S. Agency for International Development, and led efforts to administer economic and humanitarian assistance. She has also served as President and Executive Director of the Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund, Board Member of the International Republican Institute, Director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Commissioner and Vice Chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and Director of VISTA. She graduated from Bates College with a political science degree and earned her law degree from the University of Minnesota Law School.

**Stephanie P. Browner** is the Dean of Eugene Lang College of Liberal Arts at The New School. She is the former Academic Vice President and Dean of Faculty at Berea College. Her accomplishments at Berea included increasing faculty diversity, leading the college through a successful reaccreditation review and strategic planning process, and designing and implementing new curricular initiatives. Her scholarship has appeared in leading journals including *PMLA* and *American Quarterly*. She is the author of two books, one of which, *Profound Science and Elegant Literature: Imagining Doctors in Nineteenth-Century America* (University of Pennsylvania, 2005), was named an Outstanding Academic Title of the Year by *Choice Magazine*. Stephanie is the General Editor of the Oxford Complete Works of Charles W. Chesnutt and founder and editor of the Charles Chesnutt Digital Archive. She served on the Editorial Advisory Board of *The Bedford Anthology of American Literature* and currently serves on the Board of Networked Interface for Nineteenth-Century Electronic Scholarship. She has lectured widely, especially on literature and medicine. Her work in digital studies has included authoring sites on Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson as part of a national panel of literary scholars funded by a Department of Education grant. Her early experience includes work as a medical volunteer in Central America, a high school English and Spanish teacher, and a professional modern dancer. She holds a B.A. from the University of Chicago and a M.A. and a Ph.D. in American Literature and American Studies from Indiana University.

**Ramon Contreras** is the Founder of Youth Over Guns, a student-led group that advocates for inclusive gun reform that protects people of color. On June 2, 2018, Ramon and other activists carried a symbolic casket across the Brooklyn Bridge to bring awareness to gun violence in communities of color. Ramon continued his efforts throughout the summer and joined the March For Our Lives activists on their nationwide bus tour, registering thousands of young people to vote. He later became the organization's National Field Strategist for the 2018 midterm elections. Along with his activism, Ramon has served under NY Governor Andrew Cuomo, The New York State Democratic Party, and Mercury Public Affairs. He graduated from KIPP NYC College Prep High School.

**Arielle M. del Rosario** is the Program Manager at Project Pericles, where she leads programs that promote student activism and civic participation. At Project Pericles, she developed curricular Voting Modules in collaboration with faculty, Students Learn Students Vote (SLSV), and Young Invincibles. Arielle coauthored an article for the eJournal of Public Affairs, *Creating Cohesive Paths to Civic Engagement: Five Approaches to Institutionalizing Civic Engagement* (forthcoming, 2019) by Garret S. Batten, Adrienne Falcón, Jan R. Liss, and Arielle del Rosario. She currently serves on the Leadership Committee of the League of Women Voters NJ – Greater New Brunswick Area Chapter and on the SLSV Advisory Board. Her previous experience includes roles at the Schuler Scholar Program in Illinois and the “I Have a Dream Foundation” of Boulder County, Colorado. She is a Bonner Leader and AmeriCorps alumna. Arielle graduated Phi Beta Kappa, Summa Cum Laude, with a B.A. in Psychology from Rutgers University and holds an M.Sc., with Distinction, in Cognition in Science & Society from the University of Edinburgh.

**DeNora Getachew** is the New York City Executive Director of Generation Citizen. DeNora has shaped state and local policy on a diverse portfolio of issues, including modernizing voting and campaign finance laws; increasing government accountability and transparency; strengthening New York City’s education and social service systems; and enhancing police accountability and oversight. DeNora has contributed to the *New York Times* City blog, *Huffington Post*, *the Des Moines Register*, *Medium*, *Newsday*, and *Gotham Gazette* and has been featured on WNYC and NY1. DeNora serves on the board of Planned Parenthood NYC Votes and the New York Junior League. She is a member of the Greater New York Chapter of The Links, Incorporated and the Metropolitan Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Incorporated. DeNora, a native New Yorker and mother of three, is an alumna of John Jay College and Fordham University School of Law.

**Stephen A. Goldsmith** is the Executive Director of the Center for the Living City, a non-profit organization that inspires civic engagement and leadership, invites creative urban solutions, and expands our understanding of the ecology of cities. He is an artist and founder of Artspace, a non-profit organization developing affordable live/work space for artists and other creators, and incubator space for non-profit agencies. His work across disciplines includes design collaborations on many public spaces including the design of parks, large scale water features, multi-use streets and public walkways. As planning director during the 2002 Winter Olympic Games, he produced an international symposium titled, *The Physical Fitness of Cities: Vision and Ethics in City Building*. His book *What We See: Advancing the Observations of Jane Jacobs*, co-authored with Lynn Elizabeth, won the Jane Jacobs Urban Communication Prize in 2010. Stephen is an Associate Professor and coordinates the Urban Ecology program at the University of Utah. Stephen has a Bachelors in Fine Art from Webster University and was a Loeb Fellow in Advanced Environmental Studies at Harvard University.

**Neil R. Grabois** was elected Project Pericles Board Chair in 2014. He is a mathematician and a former university administrator. He held positions as the dean, provost, and chair of the department of mathematical sciences of Williams College; as the thirteenth President of Colgate University, from 1988 to 1999; as Vice President at Carnegie Corporation of New York; and as the dean of the Milano School of International Affairs, Management, and Urban Policy at The New School, where he served from 2010 until 2013. He received his doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania after attending Swarthmore College. He was a long-time member of the Swarthmore Board of Managers. Grabois currently sits on the boards of Project Pericles and Michael Wolk Heart Foundation. He is a Visiting Professor at the Teacher's College at Columbia University. He and his wife Miriam have two sons and a grandson.

**Natalie Gross** has been the Director of Civic Engagement and Social Justice for Eugene Lang College of Liberal Arts at The New School since February of 2019. Her role is to work with students, faculty, staff, and community partners on equity, diversity, and inclusion through workshops and trainings. She was previously the Director of Diversity and Campus Engagement at Sarah Lawrence College. For the majority of her time at Sarah Lawrence she worked closely with student identity groups and student space managers as an advocate and supervisor. She co-created the Diversity and Activism Programming Subcommittee to create events around social identity and expand students' social justice understanding. With students she co-created the Real Talk @ SLC program which is a student to student dialogue group focused on unpacking current campus, national, or global issues around identity and social justice. Natalie's work has focused on bridging the gaps of academic and social understanding and making space for all in the community to come together to have meaningful dialogues that ideally impact social change. In her off time she works with the parents of the Sarah Lawrence Early Childhood Center on how to have similar dialogues with their young children. Natalie received her B.A. and M.Ed. from Marquette University in Milwaukee, WI.

**Tony Hillery** is the Founder and Executive Director of Harlem Grown. Tony founded Harlem Grown to address the health and academic challenges facing public elementary school students in Harlem. In 2011, Tony began volunteering with a local elementary school in Harlem and witnessed first-hand the lack of resources allocated to these schools and the poor nutrition of students. He noticed an abandoned and overrun community garden across the street from the school, and rallied volunteers and raised dollars needed to transform the lot into a thriving urban farm, kicking off Harlem Grown's first-ever growing season. Tony started with 400 students to plant 400 seedlings. He watched as students transformed their eating habits and learned skills like patience, teamwork, and responsibility. The first season, they grew 38 pounds of produce. In 2018, Harlem Grown expanded to partner with five local Harlem schools, 11 urban agriculture facilities, reached over 4,000 youth, composted over 20,000 pounds of food scraps and grew over 6,300 pounds of fruits and vegetables that are then distributed to families-in-need throughout the community. Through his efforts and leadership, Harlem Grown plants seeds, and grows healthy children and sustainable communities.

**Martha Kanter** leads the College Promise Campaign, a national nonpartisan initiative to increase college access, affordability, quality, and completion in American higher education, starting with America's community colleges. She specializes in policy efforts to identify and apply innovative, evidence-based education interventions, financing models, and behavioral incentives at the local, state, and national levels to raise America's high school and college graduation rates in two and four-year colleges and universities. Martha also serves as a Distinguished Senior Fellow at New York University's Steinhardt Institute for Higher Education Policy. From 2009-2013, she served as the U.S. Under Secretary of Education, responsible for overseeing all federal postsecondary statutory, regulatory, and administrative policies and programs, including Federal Student Aid. Previously, she served for 16 years as President of De Anza College and then Chancellor of the Foothill-De Anza Community College District in Silicon Valley, California. She has a B.A. from Brandeis University, a M.Ed. from Harvard University, and a Doctor of Education from the University of San Francisco.

**Christopher Kush**, CEO of Soapbox Consulting, has trained hundreds of thousands of citizens from all over the United States to effectively influence Congress, state, and local governments. He has helped design sophisticated key-contact networks, Lobby Days, and grassroots training programs for many national associations including the American Cancer Society, Human Rights Campaign, Easter Seals, Goodwill International, United Way Worldwide, and the American College of Emergency Physicians. In 2008-9 and 2012-13 Kush and his colleagues at Soapbox led D4D on the Road™ workshops at 24 Periclean campuses, training more than 1,000 students. Christopher is the author of three books on grassroots organizing including *Grassroots Games* (ASAE, 2002) and *The One-Hour Activist* (Wiley, 2004). He has appeared on National Public Radio, ABC and Fox-news affiliates, C-SPAN's "Book TV," and in *U.S. News & World Report*, *The Los Angeles Times*, and on the Sirius Satellite Radio Network. Christopher received his undergraduate degree from Carnegie-Mellon University and his Master's in Public Policy from Georgetown University.

**Jan Risë Liss** joined Project Pericles as its second Executive Director in 2005. At Project Pericles she has developed and launched the Civic Engagement Course (CEC)<sup>™</sup> Program, Debating for Democracy (D4D)<sup>™</sup>, the Periclean Faculty Leadership (PFL)<sup>™</sup> Program, *Creating Cohesive Paths to Civic Engagement*, and our most recent initiative, *Creating Curricular Coherence through Inquiry-Based Curricula and Thematic Pathways*. She has senior leadership experience in management, planning, publishing, and financial development for a wide range of organizations, including The Aspen Institute, Consumers Reports, The New York Public Library, The Brookings Institution, American Express, and The Portland Art Association. She is co-author of three Periclean white papers: *Creating Cohesive Paths to Civic Engagement: Five Approaches to Institutionalizing Civic Engagement* (2017) by Garret S. Batten, Adrienne Falcón, and Jan R. Liss; *The Periclean Diamond: Linking College Classrooms, Campuses, Communities, and Colleagues via Social and Civic High Engagement Learning* (2012) by Ben Berger and Jan R. Liss; and *Civic Engagement in the Classroom: Strategies for Incorporating Education for Civic and Social Responsibility in the Undergraduate Curriculum* (2009) by Ariane Liazos and Jan R. Liss. (All are available on the Project Pericles website: [projectpericles.org](http://projectpericles.org).) She coauthored an article for the eJournal of Public Affairs, *Creating Cohesive Paths to Civic Engagement: Five Approaches to Institutionalizing Civic Engagement* (forthcoming, 2019) by Garret S. Batten, Adrienne Falcón, Jan R. Liss, and Arielle del Rosario. She served on the Reed College Board of Trustees from 2009-2013 and on the Board of Directors of College and Community Fellowship from 2006-2016. She was named a Tenenbaum Leadership Initiative Fellow at Milano, The New School for Management and Urban Policy. She received a B.A. in Psychology from Reed College and an M.B.A. from the Yale School of Management.

**Dahlia Lithwick** is a senior editor at *Slate*, and in that capacity, has been writing their "Supreme Court Dispatches" and "Jurisprudence" columns since 1999. Her work has appeared in the *New York Times*, *Harper's*, *The New Yorker*, *The Washington Post*, *The New Republic*, and *Commentary*, among other places. She is host of *Amicus*, *Slate's* award-winning biweekly podcast about the law and the Supreme Court. In 2018 Dahlia received the American Constitution Society's Progressive Champion Award, the Hillman Prize for Opinion and Analysis. Dahlia won a 2013 National Magazine Award for her columns on the Affordable Care Act. She has been twice awarded an Online Journalism Award for her legal commentary. She was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in October, 2018. Dahlia has held visiting faculty positions at the University of Georgia Law School, the University of Virginia School of Law, and the Hebrew University Law School in Jerusalem. Dahlia earned her B.A. in English from Yale University and her J.D. degree from Stanford University.

**Jason Mangone** is co-author, with Stanley McChrystal and Jeff Eggers, of the book *Leaders: Myth & Reality* (Portfolio, 2019). He is the Chief Operating Officer at Acme General Corporation, which helps government institutions innovate by improving their procurement relationships with startups. He was a Senior Advisor and Director of Public Private Partnerships for the New York City Department of Veterans' Services, Chief Operating Officer at Service Year Alliance, Director of The Franklin Project at the Aspen Institute, and Research Associate at the Council on Foreign Relations. Jason served in the United States Marine Corps from 2006 to 2010. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Boston College and a Master of Arts degree in International Relations from Yale University's Jackson Institute for Global Affairs.

**Lauren McGrail** is the Executive Director and a trustee of the Eugene M. Lang Foundation, where she has worked for almost two decades. She has overseen the development of various philanthropic initiatives, including the Lang Youth Medical Program at New York Presbyterian Hospital and the newly launched Lang Arts Scholars Program with Exploring the Arts. She holds a B.A. in Political Science from Swarthmore College. Lauren volunteers with various arts and educational organizations in New York City and is an Executive Board member of the LaGuardia High School Parents Association.

**Ruth Messinger** is the inaugural Global Ambassador of American Jewish World Service (AJWS), an international human rights and development organization, which she served as President and CEO from 1998 to 2016. Under her leadership, AJWS granted more than \$270 million to promote social justice in the developing world and fought for policy changes in Washington. As Global Ambassador, Ruth works to engage rabbis and interfaith leaders to speak out on behalf of oppressed and persecuted communities worldwide. In addition, Ruth is serving as a Fellow in Social Justice at the Jewish Theological Seminary and mentoring the CEOs of several smaller not-for-profit organizations. Ruth is the Social Justice Activist at Jewish Community Center (JCC) Manhattan. She recently served on the U.S. State Department's Religion and Foreign Policy Working Group and is a member of the World Bank's Moral Imperative working group on extreme poverty. Before coming to AJWS, Ruth had a 20-year career in public service in New York City as a city council member and Manhattan Borough President. She has ample experience in public speaking and says it all started in the debate club in her high school. She received a B.A. from Radcliffe College (magna cum laude) and a M.S.W. from the University of Oklahoma.

**Vivian D. Nixon** is Executive Director of College and Community Fellowship (CCF), a nonprofit that enables women with criminal convictions to earn their college degrees so that they, their families, and their communities can thrive. An alumna of CCF's program, Nixon advocates nationally for access to higher education for incarcerated students, for the voices of formerly incarcerated individuals and communities impacted by mass incarceration to be the center of the criminal justice reform movement, and for the development of responses to crime that respect human dignity. Vivian is a Columbia University Community Scholar and a recipient of the John Jay Medal for Justice, the Ascend Fellowship at the Aspen Institute, and the Soros Justice Fellowship. She received her B.S. from the State University of New York and is a candidate for the M.F.A. in creative nonfiction at Columbia University.

**Linus Owens** is an associate professor of sociology at Middlebury College. His research and teaching focuses on social movements, political protest, and urban spaces. His first book, *Cracking Under Pressure*, examines the rise and fall of the Amsterdam squatters' movement. He is a founding member of SQEK, the Squatting Everywhere Kollektive, a group of academics and activists working together to research and support squatters in Europe, North America, and beyond. In the past decade, SQEK has organized numerous conferences across Europe and the U.S., as well as publishing several books, both academic and popular, on squatting. Following the protests against Charles Murray at Middlebury, which were an early flashpoint for current national debates on free speech and college students, his work has shifted to campus politics, becoming a strong advocate for students and their rights to protest. Linus has an undergraduate degree in sociology from Florida State University, and received his Ph.D. in sociology from University of North Carolina.

**Lourdes Rosado** joined the New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU) in March 2019 as the organization's inaugural Program Director. Founded in 1951 as the New York affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union, NYCLU is one of the nation's foremost defenders of civil liberties and civil rights. As Program Director, Lourdes oversees and coordinates the legal, policy, and field organizing departments, NYCLU's recently-launched Education Policy Center, and NYCLU's chapters and regional offices, and also serves as a member of NYCLU's senior leadership team. Prior to joining NYCLU, Ms. Rosado was chief of the Civil Rights Bureau in the New York State Office of the Attorney General, where she supervised enforcement actions and litigation in federal and state courts to protect New Yorkers from discrimination. From 1998 to 2015, she was an attorney with the Juvenile Law Center, including as Associate Director from 2009 to 2015. Lourdes is a graduate of Swarthmore College, holds a M.A. from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs, a J.D. from New York University School of Law, and a LL.M. from Georgetown University Law Center. She was a Lang Opportunity Scholar at Swarthmore College, and a Root-Tilden-Snow Scholar at New York University School of Law. She currently serves on the Board of Managers of Swarthmore College and the Board of Directors of Project Pericles.

**Maria Santangelo** is the director of programs at College and Community Fellowship (CCF). Maria is deeply committed to helping adult learners to reach their potential. In 2004, Maria and her husband Richard became Peace Corps Volunteers and taught English and Environmental Education to university students in Sichuan, China. After completing her Peace Corps service, Maria became a GED instructor and trainer at the Brevard Correctional Institution in Cocoa, Florida where she prepared her students for their GED examination and trained other instructors. Maria oversees programs that support women who have been impacted by the criminal justice system from college transition through degree attainment. Maria received her B.A. in Chemistry from Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, Cook College, and her M.A. in Adult Learning and Leadership from Teachers College, Columbia University. Maria's graduate work focused on the impact of for-profit and noncompetitive not-for-profit institutions and student loan debt on formerly incarcerated college students.

**Kevin Schultze** came to Soapbox Consulting in 2007 after 15 years as a journalist in the Washington, D.C. area. He oversees the Congressional Relations department at Soapbox and works directly with advocates and Capitol Hill staff. Kevin has facilitated the growth of client lobby days and site visits for clients including the Human Rights Campaign, Goodwill Industries International, United Way Worldwide, and Easter Seals. As a general assignment reporter for ABC7/WJLA-TV, he developed, produced, and reported news stories ranging from current events to human interest. He was nominated for three Emmy Awards including one for his coverage of the terrorist attack on the Pentagon on 9/11. Kevin was also nominated for his series on international adoption in Guatemala. He earned a first place "Dateline Award" for features, from the Society of Professional Journalists. With his extensive experience, Kevin often consults with Soapbox's clients on ways to get the attention of the media and on developing relationships with reporters and editors. Kevin is a graduate of James Madison University and holds a Master's Certificate from George Washington University.

**Ron Shiffman** is a city planner with close to 60 years of experience providing architectural, planning, community economic development and sustainable development assistance to community-based groups in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods. In 1964, he co-founded the Pratt Institute Center for Community and Environmental Development, which is the oldest continuously operated university-based community design and development center in the United States. He sits on the boards of a number of local, national and international organizations committed to equitable and sustainable planning and development efforts such as The Center for the Living City, the Center for Social Inclusion [now Race Forward], and Shared Interest. He was lead editor of "Beyond Zuccotti Park- Freedom of Assembly and the Occupation of Public Space," and recently received two prestigious awards: Rockefeller Foundation's Jane Jacobs Lifetime Achievement Award and the American Planning Association's National Planning Pioneer Award. Ron has a B.S. degree in Architecture and a Master's in City and Regional Planning from Pratt Institute.

**Nadine Strossen**, a chaired professor at New York Law School, is a widely recognized expert and frequent public speaker/media commentator on constitutional law and civil liberties issues. The immediate past President of the American Civil Liberties Union (1991-2008), she serves on the National Advisory Councils of the ACLU, Electronic Privacy Information Center, Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE), and Heterodox Academy. The *National Law Journal* has named Strossen one of America's "100 Most Influential Lawyers," and several other national publications have named her one of the country's most influential women. Strossen's book, *Defending Pornography: Free Speech, Sex, and the Fight for Women's Rights* was named a *New York Times* "notable book" of 1995. Her 2018 book, *HATE: Why We Should Resist It with Free Speech, Not Censorship* (Oxford University Press), has earned praise from ideologically diverse readers, including progressive Harvard Professor Cornel West and conservative Princeton Professor Robert George. Nadine has an A.B. from Harvard College and J.D. from Harvard Law School.

**Christina Thomas** is a senior at the Pace University New York City campus double majoring in Environmental Studies and Economics. She is also currently working as an intern for the Social and Economic Resiliency team at the New York City Mayor's Office of Resiliency. In 2017, she, along with her teammate, Rowan Lanning, competed at the Project Pericles Debating for Democracy (D4D) National Conference, placing first. Her love for law and policy began in high school when she competed on the Mock Trial team and was solidified after enrolling in the Pace University Environmental Policy Clinic, where she learned the ins and outs of policy-making and was able to become a registered New York State lobbyist. In her free time, she practices and competes in judo, a Japanese martial art similar to wrestling.

**David E. Van Zandt** has been president of The New School since 2011. He has advanced a New School vision that elevates the university's core values of creativity and social engagement and connects its strengths in design, social research, liberal arts, and performance. He has led the development of strategic initiatives to enhance The New School's commitment to student success, global education, new and distinctive educational models, and institutional effectiveness and assessment. David has spoken and written widely on higher education topics including college accountability, universities and the creative economy, and the importance of education that fosters innovation and courage to create positive change in the world. He has spoken on panels at the United Nations, the Taihu World Culture Forum, and the World Summit on Innovation and Entrepreneurship. David was dean of the Northwestern University School of Law from 1995 to 2010. Earlier in his career, he was an associate with Davis Polk & Wardwell in New York, and law clerk for Judge Pierre N. Leval, United States District Court for the Southern District of New York (now on the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit) and U.S. Supreme Court Justice Harry A. Blackmun. He holds an A.B. from Princeton University, a J.D. from Yale Law School, and a Ph.D. in sociology from the London School of Economics.

**D.C. Vito** co-founded The LAMP (Learning About Multimedia Project) in 2007. Since that time, The LAMP has brought media literacy training to more than 3,000 youth, parents, and educators, transporting equipment and facilitators directly to communities in need of its services. Under D.C.'s leadership as Executive Director, The LAMP's programming capacity has grown tremendously from serving roughly 75 students in the 2010-2011 school year to serving more than 1,000 students in our hands-on programs by the 2017-2018 school year. D.C. worked as a community organizer for many years prior to The LAMP, having served in the Peace Corps in Mali, managing campaigns for City Council, State Senate, and Presidential candidates, and spent eight years acting as Chairman of the Youth Services and Education Committee on Brooklyn's Community Board Six. He is a member of the NationSwell Council and was in the 25th cohort at the Coro New York Leadership Center. He was a keynote speaker at the first Wikipedia USA conference in 2014, co-taught "Media Literacy and Activism" at Queens College in 2015, and has spoken at a number of other conferences and events. D.C. holds a B.S. in International Affairs from the University of Colorado at Boulder, and currently lives in Brooklyn with his wife, German Shepherd puppy and lap-loving cat.

**Jason Willick** is an assistant editorial features editor with the *Wall Street Journal* opinion section in New York City where he edits op-eds and writes about politics, history, social issues, and the law. Previously he was a staff writer at *The American Interest* magazine in Washington, D.C. and a Robert Novak Journalism fellow with the Fund for American Studies. His writing has also appeared in the *Washington Post*, *National Affairs*, *Modern Age* and *New York Magazine*. He earned his B.A. in history from Stanford University.