

NUF

NOVEMBER 2020

THE GRATITUDE EDITION



THE ROAD AHEAD


NATIONAL
URBAN
FELLOWS



Gratitude JOURNAL

A MULTITUDE OF BLESSINGS

Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday - certainly not for its historical mythology, and not even for its sumptuous feast. What I love is the intention of pausing to count and celebrate our blessings. It is a time to honor all of those who have gifted us with their generosity, grace, and love.

Even amid a deadly pandemic, racial strife, and political polarization, there is much to be grateful for. We can embrace opportunities for growth and restoration. We can celebrate the impending arrival of an administration committed to inclusion. And we can cherish the memories and celebrate the legacies of those who succumbed to the coronavirus.

As NUF marks the beginning of a new era, this edition is dedicated to acknowledging all of those who have been a part of supporting us in this transition:

- Board of Directors
- NUF Funders
- Craig D. Wesley
- NUF Class of 2020
- Dean Cancian & the McCourt Team
- NUF Alumni Board
- A Community of Angels
- NUF Alumni
- NUF Mentor
- and...the Best NUF Class - guess who?



President & CEO
LISA RAWLINGS

On behalf of the National Urban Fellows, I offer them each my profound THANKS!



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

This year, we bid farewell to several longstanding members of our Board of Directors: David Rivers, Nina Martinez, Debra Joy Perez, Jonathan Logan, Nelson Hernandez, Jorge Pena, and Lorraine Vega. Please join us in thanking them for their service and commitment to the mission of NUF. We were also thrilled to welcome several new Board members:

- **Gary Bagley**, Interim Secretary
- **Lydia Butterfield**
- **Flora Castillo**
- **Miguel Centeno**, Interim Chair
- **Orlando Gonzales**
- **Donna Frisby Greenwood**, Interim Vice-Chair
- **Gregory Jackson**
- **Yuh Line Niou**
- **Natoya Walker Minor**, Exec Comm At Large
- **Stephen Williams**
- **Alice Yoo**, Interim Treasurer

Thank you for generously sharing your time, wisdom, expertise, connections and gifts. To learn more about our Board of Directions, check out the October edition of The Road Ahead [here](#).



THE CLASS OF 2020

This year, we celebrated the graduation of our inaugural class of Fellows from the Georgetown McCourt School of Public Policy's Master of Policy Management degree program. Like many before, this class was filled with exceptionally talented, diverse, early to mid-career professionals from a variety of cities and backgrounds, including education, medicine, politics, and environmental advocacy.

Unlike previous years, this NUF-MPM cohort launched the program with a new academic partner, weathered social unrest and organizational change, and managed the uncertainty of a pandemic that disrupted the onsite mentorship and educational experience. For these reasons and many more, we recognize them as the **MOST RESILIENT CLASS** ever!

So many are already making their mark and giving back to NUF. We honor them for being exemplars of determination and strength!

Congratulations to our Class of 2020:

Bishara Addison
Tina Basile
Brandi Bass
Todd Bowens
Rhonda Craig
Wiseline Dorceus
Jorge Fanjul
Anabel Flores
Kari Fulton
Janell George
Maria Guillen
Nayah Harper
Regina Johnson
Asia McHaney

Thomas Minor
Cari Morales
Nadia Munday
Annika Nunez
Takasha Nuttal
Bernadette Onyenaka
BR Hammed-Owens
Annette Raveneau
Brianna Rogers
Angelique Salizar
Omar Suarez
Nishat Tabassum
Jessica Xiao



MEKAELIA DAVIS

Mekaelia is the Director of Inclusive Economies at the Surdna Foundation. In addition to being a brilliant voice in her field, she is a NUF alum and has served as a NUF Mentor and funder.

This year, Mekaelia was instrumental in galvanizing support in the funding community as NUF navigated a transition. We owe her and the Surdna team a huge debt of gratitude for her vision, leadership, and commitment to this vital mission.



**Surdna
Foundation**

NUF FUNDERS

Along with the Surdna Foundation, NUF has continued to enjoy the support of several longstanding funding partners, including the Cleveland Foundation, the Lily Endowment, and the Prudential Foundation, all of which have served as Mentors or sponsors of mentorships. In addition, we welcomed the Roy and Patricia Disney Family Foundation and the California Wellness Foundation as funding partners and Mentors.

We thank our funding community for their commitment to this critical work and for deepening their investments by providing flexible operating and capacity-building support. These investments have allowed us to meet today's challenges and to build towards a more sustainable tomorrow.



Prudential



Lilly Endowment Inc.
A Private Philanthropic Foundation



INDIA PIERCE LEE

"We know how to find talent!"

India is a NUF Mentor and the Senior Vice President of Programs at the Cleveland Foundation, the nation's oldest and largest community foundation. They have partnered with NUF for more than 30 years and understand the value of investing in talent. They customize mentorship experiences based on the skills and interests of each Fellow. This investment creates a rich talent pipeline for them, and they have hired several Fellows after their mentorships.



2020 NUF MENTORS

The power of mentoring cannot be overstated! We salute these Mentors and their organizations for their investments in cultivating NUF's newest generation of emerging leaders:

- Andrus Family Fund (New York, NY), **Manuela Arciniegas, Director**
- California Wellness Foundation (Oakland & Los Angeles, CA), **Richard Tate, Executive Vice President**
- Cleveland Foundation (Cleveland, OH), **India Pierce Lee, Senior Vice President of Programs**
- Cleveland Water Department (Cleveland, OH), **Jason Wood, Chief of Sustainability at the City of Cleveland**
- Climate Justice Alliance (Washington, DC), **Angela Andrar, Executive Director**
- Cuyahoga County (Cleveland, OH), **Theodore Carter, Chief Economic Development & Business Officer**
- DC Mayor's Office (Washington, DC) **Ayris Scales, Chief Service Officer**
- Houston Airport Systems (Houston, TX), **J'Maine Chubb, Chief Financial Officer**
- Houston Health Department (Houston, TX), **Stephen L. Williams, Director**
- Illinois Charter School Commission (Chicago, IL), **Shenita Johnson, General Counsel/Managing Director**
- Kauffman Foundation (Kansas City, MO), **Brett Hembree, Senior Evaluation Officer**
- Marin Community Foundation (Oakland, CA), **Johnathan Logan, VP of Community Engagement**
- Marion County HHHC (Indianapolis, IN), **Matthew Gutwien, President & CEO**
- NYC HHC Coney Island Hospital (New York, NY), **Dr. Judith Flores, Chair, Department of Ambulatory Care**
- NYC HHC Lincoln Hospital (New York, NY) - **Eunice Casey, Senior Director, HIV Services**
- Peer Health Exchange (New York, NY) - **Angela Glymph, PhD, Vice President, Programs and Strategic Learning**
- Prudential (Newark, NJ), **Daryl Shore, Director of Inclusive Communities**
- Roy & Patricia Disney Foundation (Los Angeles, CA) **Sean Escoffrey, Executive Director**
- Surdna Foundation (New York, NY), **Mekaelia Davis, Director of Inclusive Economies**
- Towards Employment (Cleveland, OH), **Jill Rizika, Executive Director**
- UnidosUS (Washington, DC), **Holly Blanchard, Chief Financial Officer**
- Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone (New York, NY), **Blair M. Duncan, President & CEO**
- Walkers Legacy (Indianapolis, IN), **Natalie Colefield, Founder & CEO**
- Walkers Legacy Center (Indianapolis, IN), **Judith B. Thomas, President**



CRAIG WESLEY (TEAM NUF)

Craig is NUF's Director of Strategic Engagement. He is a NUF Alum and a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion professional with experience in national nonprofits and the corporate sector.

Since Craig joined NUF this summer, he has been responsible for leading Fellow recruitment activities, overseeing the streamlining and automation of the application and selection processes. He is helping shape the updated NUF program model. He also supports several new and ongoing stakeholder engagement initiatives, including Mentor and Donor development, and is the staff liaison to the Alumni Board.

Craig is a careful listener, an organized taskmaster, a natural bridge-builder, and a valued thought partner. We are grateful for his service and many contributions!

"NUF changed my life. Everything that I've been able to accomplish in my career over the last decade is a direct result of the training, mentoring, and leadership development from NUF."



THE MCCOURT SCHOOL

In 2019, Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy became NUF's new academic home. It is a partnership founded on shared commitments to social justice and service. In 2019, Maria Cancian became the Dean of the McCourt School, bringing a wealth of academic and public sector experience.

"Dean Maria" recognizes that "the ongoing crises of public health, economic recession, and systemic racism have revealed longstanding failures of policy in the stark terms of human loss. We have an urgent obligation to confront and repair them." She believes that we are being called to remake the institutions that uphold our democracy

and to repair their faulty foundations. **And, she is taking action!** She has significantly deepened the school's commitment to NUF, ensuring that the Fellows and our partnership can continue to thrive.

We thank Dean Maria for her leadership and her deep convictions paired with strategic action. We value her steadfast support and that of the amazing team of McCourt colleagues: Elena Damaskos, Lynn Ross, Nuku Ofori, Julie Ito, Briana Green, and Dean Sirjue. We are so pleased that they are now a part of the NUF family!

"We see NUF as a part of our approach to become the most inclusive elite school of public policy. We want a long relationship with a thriving partner."

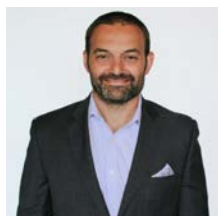
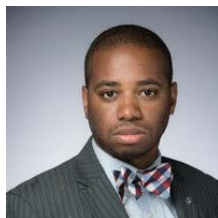


NUF ALUMNI

A COMMUNITY OF COMMITTED CHANGEMAKERS

NUF alumni are the living embodiment of our mission! They are the courageous leaders committed to social justice that NUF's founders' envisioned. Numbering over 1700, NUF alumni serve in elected office and in government at the local, state, and federal levels. They are leading nonprofits, foundations, and at least one university. They champion marginalized groups' rights, advocate for more humane policies, expand educational access, protect the environment, and promote more inclusive economic policies. We are so proud of this leadership, and we want to tell their stories.

If you are an alumni looking to reconnect, please join our Alumni Communities ([LinkedIn](#) and [FB](#)) and complete our [NUF Alumni Survey](#).



A COMMUNITY OF ANGELS

Over the last six months, NUF has gained a host of angels who emerged with unexpected and deeply appreciated gifts. We want to thank them and so many others who have stepped up and shown support in so many ways:

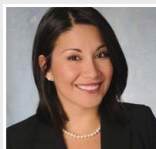
Angela Airall of Silver and Gold Enterprises for offering in-kind strategic consulting services. | Berkeley Haas for the community of both brilliant and kind leaders. Shout outs to the EMBA Class of 2019, especially Claire Veuthy, Suprita Makh, Alexei Greig, Megan Zweig, Nick Plagge, Meghan Shah, Jason Atwater, Aron O'Connor, Satya Das, and Ben Stein for their early support as donors, boosters, and potential partners. A very special shout out to Lydia Buttefield for joining NUF's Board of Directors. We also appreciate the support of Haas' Marco Lindsey, Tenny Frost, as well as Sean Li of the OneHaas podcast for the feature. | The Breakline Community and their Founder and

CEO, Bethany Coates, for their transformative mission and generosity in sharing resources and promoting our work. | Larry Eason of Catchafire for reaching out and for extending Catchafire's awesome support to NUF. | Thanks to Professor Gail Taylor for her inspiring work with RISE Career Launch program and for sharing insights and wisdom with NUF. | Jamel Vandenberg for being the #1 NUF booster and for going above and beyond to provide social media support. | Kyle Reis from TechSoup for his 'network weaving' and setting us on the right course for our digital transformation. | Darrell Booker of Microsoft for his leadership in supporting Black-serving nonprofits through their Tech Accelerator. | Peter Fisher for his compassion, support, and for connecting NUF with the Talented Mr. Joshua Chang. Their generous gifts have made top-notch design support a reality for NUF! |



NUF ALUMNI BOARD

NUF recently launched an Alumni Board of 15 alumni who provide recommendations to the NUF President to enhance the organization and program. The members of the Alumni Board also serve as NUF ambassadors to current and prospective Fellows, colleagues, donors, mentors, and supporters. In the next two pages, meet the members of the Inaugural Alumni Board.



**Erica
Acevedo, '12**

Jobs for the Future
Senior Program Manager

Board Role:
Fellow Experience Co-Chair



**Christina
Cheeks, '18**

Eskenazi Health
Service Line Administrator

Board Role:
Alumni Experience Co-Chair

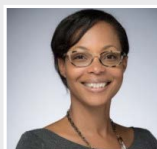


**Kalisha
Davis, '11**

Kapor Center
CS Equity Program Director

Board Role:
Communications & Social Media Co-Chair

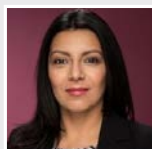
**Njemile
Davis, '05**



**U.S. Agency for International
Development**
Global Development Lab

Board Role:
Communications & Social Media Co-Chair

**Juliet
Flores, '11**



The California Endowment
Program Manager

Board Role:
Alumni Board Co-Chair

**Andrea
Foggy-
Paxton, '06**



The Broad Center
Managing Director, Partner Strategy

Board Role:
Fundraising Co-Chair



**Ciara
Ginyard, '12**

Brandeis University
Fmr Associate Director of Alumni
Relations & Development

Board Role:
Fundraising Co-Chair



**June
Glover, '11**

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Senior Program Officer

Board Role:
Mentor Experience Co-Chair



**Regina
Johnson, '20**

Microsoft
Strategy Lead, Partner Inclusive
Growth

Board Role:
Program Model Co-Chair

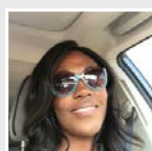
**Annika
Nunez, '20**



County of Marin
Department Analyst

Board Role:
Mentor Experience Co-Chair

**Abena
Osei, '11**



Teach for America
Senior Managing Director

Board Role:
Program Model Co-Chair

**Steven
Raga, '14**



New York State Assembly
Chief of Staff

Board Role:
Fellow Experience Co-Chair



**Grace
Scales, '89**

University of Phoenix
Faculty

Board Role:
Alumni Experience Co-Chair



**Michelle
Torgerson, '05**

Raising a Reader
President & CEO

Board Role:
Alumni Board Co-Chair



**Cynthia
Wong, '12**

The New York Immigration Coalition
Director of Organizational Development

Board Role:
Program Model Co-Chair

Alumni Board 2020-2021



National Urban Fellows thanks the members of the Alumni Board for their support. They have been a tremendous asset in operationalizing NUF's vision. We are deeply grateful for their commitment of time, passion, and expertise.

#NUFLove

Congratulations!



THE BEST CLASS

Each class brings unique gifts, talents, and experiences. This month, we are shining a light on the NUF Class of 2011! This remarkable group of humans has stepped up **IN FORCE** as volunteers, donors, mentors, funders, advisors, boosters, Board of Director members, Alumni Board members, recruiters, and overall supporters to ensure that NUF will continue to change the face of social impact leadership. Extra special shoutouts to Craig Wesley, Mekaelia Davis, Yuh-Line Niou, Juliet Flores, 'Professor' David Brezler, 'Smoking' Joe Frazier, June Glover, Kalisha Davis, Abena Osei, Jung Fitzpatrick, Kamilah Martin, Lorilyn Violanta, Anita Fee Willis, Ontay Johnson, Sylvia Perez Cash, Natae Evans, and Kirkpatrick Tyler!

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

NOTE TO ALUMNI: If you think that **YOUR** class is the best class, please submit a class photo and an explanation for why you think your class is the best class to info@nuf.org with the title: "Best Class" and your class may be featured in the next edition.

#NUFLove!

“LOOKING BEHIND,
I AM FILLED WITH GRATITUDE,
LOOKING FORWARD,
I AM FILLED WITH VISION,
LOOKING UPWARDS,
I AM FILLED WITH STRENGTH,
LOOKING WITHIN,
I DISCOVER PEACE.”

QUERO APACHE PRAYER



November 2020