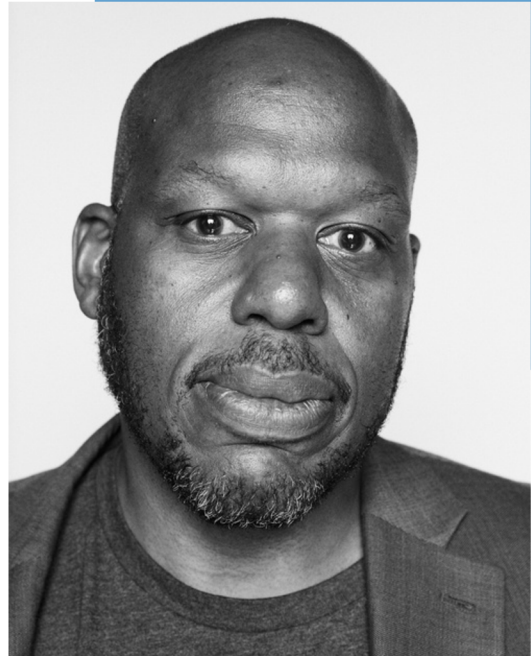


"I'm with you forever now. This isn't a nine-month program—it's a lifelong relationship"— Shawn Escoffery

Community Letters

by Shawn Escoffery,
CEO

Roy & Patricia Disney Foundation
NUF Mentor



Americans from every walk of life are looking for the same thing right now: leaders who listen, who care, and who act with integrity.

National Urban Fellows develops exactly these leaders. I've seen it firsthand as a Mentor—first joining several years ago, and continuing to serve today. That's why I'm writing to you now.

Leadership matters—now more than ever.

This country is in an uncertain place. But in moments like these, we don't need leaders who retreat. We need leaders who build bridges, not walls. Leaders rooted in their communities. Leaders committed to healing divides.

For over five decades, NUF has developed exactly those leaders—people who believe everyone deserves to participate in this democracy. I know this program needs to exist. Not despite this moment, but because of it.

When I mentor Fellows at the Roy & Patricia Disney Foundation, I tell each one: I'm with you forever now. This isn't a nine-month program—it's a lifelong relationship. That's what NUF builds. A network of leaders who support each other and their communities for the long haul.

We are developing the minds who will guide the future of policy and public service. Leaders who will ensure there's a future that still values diverse voices and communities.

Together, let's support the next generation of community-rooted leaders who will help heal divides and create a brighter, more united future for all.

Lorenzo Vicente, 2026 NUF Fellow at Roy & Patricia Disney Foundation



Candice Wynter 2025 NUF Fellow at Roy & Patricia Disney Foundation



NUF Fellow at a board retreat with the Roy & Patricia Disney Foundation



Candice Wynter and Shawn Escoffrey at Georgetown's Graduation