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FUTURE



**THE
FUND**
FOR SANTA BARBARA

Racial Equity Fund of The County of Santa Barbara Grant Making Committee

The Fund for Santa Barbara (The FUND) employs an activists-led participatory grant making process. The REFCSB grant making committee is an inspiring group of volunteers activists with deep social justice roots in Santa Barbara County and insight to a range of issues affecting our community.

Rosalyn Y. Collins, she/her

Rosalyn Y. Collins is an Etiquette and International Protocol Consultant and Radio DJ/Host who has lived in Santa Barbara since 1992 when she came to UCSB. She graduated with an emphasis in Black Studies, and a B.A. in Religious Studies (with a concentration in Jewish Studies). She continues her journey towards a career as a Licensed Clinical Psychologist; as a Research Assistant for the Miller Memory Lab at UCSB while concurrently attending Fielding Graduate University. Rosalyn has been involved with various MultiCultural, Mental Health, Gender, and Disabled Students orgs on the UCSB campus. As well as, holding positions through several community organizations including but not limited to MLK, Jr. Committee of SB, SB RiteCare Childhood Language Center, Franklin Center Advisory Board, Kiwanis Club of Santa Barbara, Endowment for Youth, Greater Hope Missionary Baptist Church, Bible Study Fellowship Int'l, Job Smart. Inc., GUSD, Cancer Center of Santa Barbara, and other non-profits.

Lyiam Galo, he/him, they/them

Lyiam Galo is a first generation Honduran immigrant and UCSB alumnus. A lifetime volunteer and optimist, he strives to foster an equitable community with a focus on the historically underserved – specifically the unhoused, the LGBTQ community, and people of color. Lyiam coordinates a county-wide United Way AmeriCorps program that serves veterans and people experiencing homelessness. He supports accessible resources for monolingual Spanish speakers, advocacy for undocumented folks, and creative food security initiatives. Lyiam rents in downtown Santa Barbara with his partner and 19 plant children.

Rachel Johnson, she/her

Rachel Johnson (she/her/ella) has been on the Fund's Grantmaking Committee (GMC) since 2018, currently serves as the GMC Liaison to the Fund's Board of Directors, and is the Chief Program Officer at the Foundation for Santa Barbara City College. Her professional and volunteer work is deeply rooted in social justice and educational equity, and guided by her core values – justice, curiosity, health, collaboration, and authenticity. Rachel's work at the SBCC Foundation supports programs and community collaborations that address a broad spectrum of issues, including educational access, comprehensive basic needs support, sustainability projects, and more. Rachel also serves on the board of the Santa Barbara County Food Action Network and recently completed an appointment to the Community Formation Commission on Police Oversight for the City of Santa Barbara.

Abel Salvador Flores he/him

Abel is a proud member of the Indigenous Mixtec community living on the Central Coast of California. Raised in Santa Maria, Abel understands the lack of culturally responsive services for marginalized communities. After graduating from the UC Berkeley with a triple major in Political Science, History, and Spanish Linguistics, he returned to his community to give back.

As a multicultural and multilingual leader, Abel brings five years of professional experience working with youth of color, system-impacted youth, undocumented and first-generation college students, farmworkers, Mixteco parent speakers, and domestic violence survivors.

His experience as a case manager, facilitator, court navigator, cultural promoter, and researcher has deepened his understanding of the community's disparities that result from profound imbalances in power, wealth, and opportunity. As such, Abel advocates for culturally responsive services, language access, equitable education, immigrants' rights, women's rights, and other social justice issues.

Lawanda Lyons-Pruitt she/her

Lawanda Lyons-Pruitt (she/her) is the president of the Santa Maria-Lompoc National Association For the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), a member of the Death Penalty Focus Board of Directors, serving as Vice-Chair of Outreach, on the board of Santa Barbara County Action Network (SBCAN), chair of the Democratic Club of Santa Maria Valley Candidates and Endorsement committee and recently termed off The Fund For Santa Barbara Grantmaking committee where she served for 6 years. A former Chief Investigator in the Santa Barbara County Public Defender's Office, Lawanda was the first African American woman in California to earn the title of Chief Investigator, a position she held from 1995 until she retired in 2016. As Chief Investigator, Lawanda assisted in the defense of several death penalty cases, an experience that cemented her opposition to the death penalty.

Herschelle Millford, she/her

Herschelle Milford has 30 years of professional career and personal experience in an ethnically diverse society in South Africa, leading organizations and managing projects. She is a graduate from the University of the Western Cape, where she also completed a Higher Education diploma. As a teaching professional, she worked for eight years in the field of education, both in a governmental and non-profit setting. The last 18 years of her career have been dedicated to leadership in a land justice non-profit, leading the organization through several changes and strategic processes. As its first black director/director of color, Herschelle was instrumental in leading a process of workplace transformation around race, inclusivity, equity and diversity. Her personal lived experience of racial divide and injustice informs her quest for abandoning all forms of exclusion and dignity. Working with disadvantaged and politically, socially and economically excluded communities in a post-Apartheid period provided valuable insights that Herschelle is able to share, especially on the non-profit boards she serves. She brings this collective learning and re-learning, dialogue and advocacy, exchange and solidarity to her board role. Herschelle is a member of the Thousand Currents Board and a board member of the Environmental Monitoring Group. She previously served on the Social and Ethics Committee of the mothers2mothers South Africa board and as one of the first advisory board members of the Agroecology Fund. She believes in the power of collectivism, community and solidarity and the ability to establish and maintain relationships and solidarity with community partners, stakeholders and international alliances. She currently resides in Santa Barbara, California, where she has just started at PATH, a statewide organization working to address homelessness, an issue she strongly feels connected to both personally and as an activist for social change.