



WOMEN EXPERTS IN NORTH TEXAS

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ARCHITECTS

Angela Ards, Associate Professor of English
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Relevant Work Experience:

Sub-specialty Expertise: African American life and culture, especially literature; community organizing and engagement; women's issues; journalism

Achievements:

Education:

- Doctorate in English, Princeton University
- Master of Arts, African American Studies, UCLA
- Bachelor of Arts, English, UNC-Chapel Hill

Books Written:

- Author, "Getting in Formation: Story in Service of Social Justice," The Women's Review of Books, Mar/Apr 2017
- Author, "What the 'First Black Woman' Librarian of Congress Means, Time.com, July 2016
- Author, "Rhyme and Resist: Organizing the Hip Hop Generation," The Nation, July 1999
- Author, "Community Pride: Reclaiming a Neighborhood in Central Harlem," 1996

Media Appearances:

- Author, *Words of Witness: Black Women's Autobiography in the Post-Brown Era* (U of Wisconsin P, 2016)

Subject Matter Expert:

- Media & Entertainment
- Politics
- Social Justice
- Women's Rights

Patricia Arvanitis, Founder & Executive Director

Leadership ISD

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Patricia Arvanitis is the Executive Director of Leadership ISD, guiding the organization’s development and impact. As one of the founders of the organization, Patricia has been instrumental in developing both the structure, programming, and advocacy strategy. Under Patricia’s guidance Leadership ISD has grown into a highly regarded statewide leadership development and education advocacy agency which advances educational equity and excellence by informing and connecting citizens to shape policy, lead strategically, and champion change. Patricia currently serves on the Booker T. Washington Arts Advisory Board, Commit! Leadership Council, Public Voices Fellowship, and has served on several Dallas ISD High School Advisory Councils and public education task forces. She also was selected to be part of the Strive National Equity Fellowship.

Relevant Work Experience:

- Executive Director, Leadership ISD

Education:

- Bachelor’s degree in Communications
- Master’s degree in Conflict Resolution

Subject Matter Expert:

- Early Childhood/Afterschool
- Nonprofits
- Public Education
- Social Justice
- School Board Governance

Jennifer Bartkowski, CEO

Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas

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Jennifer Bartkowski serves as the very proud CEO of Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas. During her tenure, the council has led the Girl Scout Movement as it transforms to best serve the girls and volunteers of today. With a focus on membership growth and building for the future, Jennifer is leading the development of a \$13M STEM Center of Excellence in southern Dallas to build a pipeline for female leaders in science, technology, engineering and math. Jennifer began her Girl Scout career in 2009 as Chief Development Officer of Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas and led the organization to record annual and capital fundraising results. In 2013, Jennifer was appointed to serve as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for the council where she added focus and innovation to new programming initiatives, mission delivery, and the Girl Scout cookie program for the 32-county organization. She is one of two CEOs nationwide appointed to the National Movement Strategy Committee for Girl Scouts of the USA. As a Girl Scout herself, Jennifer was the recipient of the Girl Scout Silver Award, and received the Honor Pin for outstanding service by an adult member. Jennifer is the proud mother of two children, including a Girl Scout Cadette.

Relevant Work Experience:

- CEO, Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas

Achievements:

- National Movement Strategy Committee for Girl Scouts of the USA
- Girl Scout Silver Award

Subject Matter Expert:

- Early Childhood/Afterschool
- Nonprofits
- Philanthropy
- Women's Rights
- Leadership

Candice Bledsoe, Faculty

SMU

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Dr. Candice Bledsoe is a faculty member at SMU's Simmons School of Education and executive director of the Action Research Center in Dallas, Texas. Her research explores equity, access, and the experience of underrepresented students in higher education. She has received numerous fellowships including: The National Endowment of the Humanities, the New Leadership Academy, National Center for Institutional Diversity, University of Michigan, and Boone Texas Project for Human Rights Education. Dr. Bledsoe is the recipient of the 2013 SMU Women's Symposium Profiles of Community Leadership Award. Dr. Bledsoe received a Doctorate in Education from The University of Southern California. She is a member of the 2017 cohort of Dallas Public Voices.

Relevant Work Experience:

- Faculty, Simmons School of Education at SMU
- Executive Director, Action Research Center

Achievements:

- SMU Women's Symposium Profiles of Community Leadership Award (2013)

Education:

- Doctorate in Education, The University of Southern California

Subject Matter Expert:

- Public Education
- Social Justice
- Higher Education

Froswa' Booker-Drew, Director of Community Affairs

State Fair of Texas

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Froswa' Booker-Drew, PhD has an extensive background in nonprofit management, partnership development, training and education. She is currently the Director of Community Affairs/Strategic Alliances for the State Fair of Texas. Formerly the National Community Engagement Director for World Vision, she served as a catalyst, partnership broker, and builder of the capacity of local partners in multiple locations across the US to improve and sustain the well-being of children and their families. She was a Post-Doctoral Fellow at Antioch University and an adjunct professor at Lancaster Bible College/Capital Seminary. She is currently an adjunct at the University of North Texas-Dallas and Missional University. She is a writer for several publications around the world.

Relevant Work Experience:

- Director of Community Affairs/Strategic Alliances for the State Fair of Texas
- National Community Engagement Director, World Vision
- Adjunct at the University of North Texas – Dallas and Missional University

Sub-specialty Expertise:

- Social Capital (networks/relationships)
- Women
- Diversity Issues
- Community Engagement
- Community Development
- Leadership/Organizational Development and Change

Education:

- Ph.D., Antioch University; Leadership and Change (focus on social capital, relational leadership, relational cultural theory, immunity to change)
- Master of Liberal Arts, Oklahoma City University; Humanities/Ethnic Studies
- Bachelor of Arts, University of Texas at Arlington; History/English

Books Written:

- Author, "The Role of Social Capital to Create Change", April 2017, AdvancED
- Author, "Resistance Is NOT Futile", Jan 2017, Berkeley Review of Education Journal
- Author, "5 reasons challenges are your best teachers", June 2015, The Business Woman Media
- Author, Book: Ready for a Revolution: 30 Days to Jolt Your Life, October 2015
- Author, Book: Rules of Engagement: Making Connections Last, August 2014

Subject Matter Expert:

- Nonprofits
- Philanthropy
- Religion
- Social Justice
- Women's Rights

Kamilah Collins, President

Collins Collaborations

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Kamilah Collins, President of Collins Collaborations, a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion consulting group, offers twenty years of expertise in group facilitation, program management, and community outreach. Collins is dedicated to connecting people and dismantling systemic barriers in our communities. Collins' has partnered with corporations and nonprofit organizations. Working with IBM, NBC Universal, the National Urban League, and Race Forward. Collins has engaged leaders in Brazil, India, Cuba, and South Africa to explore innovative best practices for community engagement, systems change, and resource development. Her collective efforts launched Dallas Faces Race in 2013, a Clinton Global Initiative Commitment to Action, bringing together over 250 nonprofit organizations committed to building racial equity capacity in Dallas. Collins is a member of the Texas Diversity Council and serves on the Board of Directors for the Friends of Barack Obama Male Leadership Academy and the Dallas Dinner Table Leadership Committee. Other affiliations include Public Voices Fellows, Leadership Women, and National Urban League of Young Professionals.

Relevant Work Experience:

- President, Collins Collaborations

Sub-specialty Expertise:

- Diversity
- Equity & Inclusion
- Leadership Development
- Communication
- Social Justice
- Community Engagement

Education:

- Bachelor of Science in Communication Studies, University of Kansas
- Bachelor of Arts and Science in African and African-American Studies, University of Kansas

Media Appearances:

- Different Shades of Texas – NBC 5, Dallas-Ft. Worth
- Talking Race: MLK's Legacy on Display - Dallas Morning News
- Get Involved: Diversity Engagement and Equity Conversations - Texas Diversity Magazine
- Let Love Cover This Place: Building Capacity Through Community Partnerships – The Dallas Morning News

- Strength in Cross Collaboration: Benefits to Cross-Pollination and Intersectionality - Huffington Post
- Social Media & Service: Next Generation Philanthropy – Think Positive Magazine

Subject Matter Expert:

- Nonprofits
- Philanthropy
- Social Justice
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Janeil Engelstad, Founding Director

Make Art with Purpose

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@makeartwppurpose



Janeil Engelstad is the Founding Director of Make Art with Purpose (MAP). Through MAP, and independently, Engelstad produces exhibitions and multiform projects that address social and environmental concerns throughout the world. Her process for this work involves embedding herself in communities, extensive research, and building coalitions between universities, government agencies, NGOs and others. Through the multi-year project, *Voices From the Center*, Engelstad's interviews with Central Europeans about life during and after communism were documented in an award winning web-based project that also included exhibitions, panel discussions and lectures throughout Central Europe and the United States. Current MAP initiatives include: *AMPLIFY: Advancing the Frontlines of Social Justice*, a national educational public art and civic project that advances social justice in the United States; *New Geographies* a virtual initiative connecting high school and college students to collaboratively work on a project that addresses climate change, while building relationships and understanding across political divides in the process. *New Geographies* sites include Dallas, Mexico City, Seattle, Johannesburg, New York and Marseille; and *Rivers, Oceans, Lakes and Streams*, an international art / science / social justice project addressing changes in water systems due to urbanization and climate change. Engelstad's work has been featured in numerous media outlets including *New York Times*, *NPR*, *NBC Nightly News*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Chicago Tribune* and *Flash Art*. She has contributed essays to numerous publications including *Urban Public Art: Community Involvement and Civic Engagement* (Rowan & Littlefield), *ARTMargins* (MIT Press), *Transmission* (Art Words Press) and the *Dallas Morning News*. A Fulbright Scholar, Engelstad has taught at universities throughout North America and Europe and she is an affiliate artist at the Social Practice Art Research Center at University California, Santa Cruz.

Relevant Work Experience:

- Founding Director, Make Art with Purpose

Education:

- MFA from New York University
- BAs in Political Science and English from University of Washington, Seattle

Media Appearances:

- *Urban Public Art: Community Involvement and Civic Engagement*
- *ARTMargins*
- *Transmission*
- *Dallas Morning News*

Subject Matter Expert:

- Environment
- International Issues
- Nonprofits
- Social Justice
- Arts, Culture and Arts Education

Hamila Leak Francis, Partner

*Francis Communication and
Development Partners*

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Halima Leak Francis is a charitable giving advocate, fundraising consultant, and philanthropic adviser. With close to 20 years of experience in the nonprofit sector, her work centers on promoting mindfulness in philanthropy and positive social change through giving and volunteerism.

Relevant Work Experience:

- Partner, Francis Communications and Development Partners

Sub-specialty Expertise:

- Culture
- Race and Philanthropy
- Social Justice and Philanthropy
- Historically Black Colleges and Universities
- Nonprofits

Education:

- Ph.D. in Higher & Postsecondary Education, New York University (Currently Enrolled)
- Master of Arts – Sociology of Education, New York University
- Bachelor of Arts - English, Hampton University

Media Appearances:

- Author, Commentary: Knowledge is Key When You Vote and When You Give. BlackEnterprise.com, November 2016
- Author, Commentary: This Black Billionaire’s \$20 Million Gift to NMAAHC Highlights Intentional Philanthropy. BlackEnterprise.com, October 2016
- Co-Author, Commentary: Black Philanthropy: Causes that Matter for Black Lives (and a Thriving Society). BlackEnterprise.com, August 2016
- Author, Commentary: More than a moral imperative: Giving to get power and influence a righteous act of self-help. Huffington Post, April 2016

Subject Matter Expert:

- Nonprofits
- Philanthropy
- Historically Black Colleges and Universities

Sadie Funk, CEO

First3Years

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214-616-2918



Relevant Work Experience:

- CEO, First3Years

Sub-Specialty Expertise:

- Early Health and Development: Infants, Toddlers, and Families
- Non-Profit Management
- Young Children in Child Welfare Reform
- Infant Mental Health
- Early Childhood Workforce
- Importance of Early Relationships
- Early Brain and Social Emotional Development
- Early Education
- Parenting Programs

Achievements:

- Peace Corps - Ecuador
- Developed innovative programs to address a) the repeated trauma of young children in child welfare b) parenting support needs of teen fathers
- Led significant organization growth: Tripled annual impact and budget of state-wide non-profit within 3 years, Led expansion efforts in Houston and Fort Worth (from Dallas), grew annual community impact from 50,000 to 300,000 children

Education:

- M.S. in International Management from the University of Texas at Dallas
- B.A. in Anthropology with Honors from Eckerd College,
- IMH-E® Infant Mental Health Mentor, Level IV-Policy.

Media Appearances:

- Author, "Endorsement®: A National Tool for Workforce Development in Infant Mental Health," Zero to Three Journal, January 2017.
- Author: "Separating women and children at the border would be bad for them, and for Texas," TribTalk: Texas Tribune, April 2017.

Subject Matter Expert:

- Early Childhood/Afterschool
- Health
- Nonprofits
- Child Welfare
- Parenting

Christina K Hanger, CEO

Dallas Afterschool

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Christina Hanger is the CEO of Dallas Afterschool, a nonprofit that improves access to high quality afterschool and summer programs for children in low income neighborhoods. Dallas Afterschool provides professional development for staff, on-site coaching and assessment and enrichment activities for approximately 120 partner sites that serve over 9,000 youth. Prior to leading Dallas Afterschool, Christina held executive positions in a wide range of technology companies, from venture backed software companies to Fortune 20 companies like HP and IBM.

Christina has served on the Boards of the Houston Chapter of the American Red Cross, the Houston Minority Business Council, Social Venture Partners Dallas and as Treasurer of the Dallas Regional Chamber’s Executive Women’s Roundtable.

Relevant Work Experience:

- CEO, Dallas Afterschool

Education:

- MBA from Wake Forest University
- BS in Engineering from Virginia Tech

Subject Matter Expert:

- Early Childhood/Afterschool
- Nonprofits
- Public Education
- Women’s Rights

Michelle Kinder, Executive Director

Momentous Institute

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Michelle Kinder is the Executive Director of Momentous Institute, which was recently recognized by Great Place to Work and Fortune Magazine as one of the 50 best places to work in Texas. Michelle has worked in children's mental health for over 20 years and is a Licensed Professional Counselor. She grew up in Guatemala and is fluent in Spanish. She was named the 2015 Non-profit CEO of the year by CNM Connect, is a nationally recognized speaker and has contributed articles to TIME, Dallas Morning News, Huffington Post, Mindful Magazine, and PBS' Next Avenue.

Relevant Work Experience:

- Executive Director, Momentous Institute

Achievements:

- Nonprofit CEO of the Year, CNM Connect (2015)

Media Appearances:

- Time
- Dallas Morning News
- Huffington Post
- Mindful Magazine
- PBS' Next Avenue

Subject Matter Expert:

- Early Childhood/Afterschool
- Mental Health/Substance Abuse
- Nonprofits
- Public Education

Annie Lord, Chief Program Officer

CitySquare

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Annie Lord is currently Chief Program Officer at CitySquare, a Dallas nonprofit that fights the causes and effects of poverty.



Relevant Work Experience:

- Chief Program Officer, CitySquare
- Citi Vice President, Community Development
- South Florida Community Development Coalition Executive Director
- Latino Economic Development Corporation Director of Development and Program Evaluation

Sub-specialty Expertise:

- Anti-poverty programs
- Policy and economics
- Affordable housing
- Small business development
- Program Evaluation

Education:

- 2005 Harvard Kennedy School (MPP) 2001 Harvard College (BA)

Media Appearances:

- Author, "AHCA Will Make Our Economy Sick" The Hill, May 26, 2017

Subject Matter Expert:

- Health
- Housing
- Mental Health/Substance Abuse
- Nonprofits
- Social Justice

Lizzie MacWillie, Associate Director
buildingcommunityWORKSHOP

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Relevant Work Experience:

- Associate Director, buildingcommunityWORKSHOP
- Researcher/Editor, AMO/OMA
- Urban Design Fellow, Newark Department of Housing and Economic Development
- Designer in Residence, Rebuild Foundation/Theaster Gates

Sub-specialty Expertise:

- Public space
- Architecture
- Urban Design/Planning
- Community engagement

Education:

- Harvard University, Graduate School of Design, Cambridge, MA 08/10-12/13 Master of Architecture in Urban Design
- Master of Design Studies: Art, Design and the Public Domain - Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA 08/00-05/07
- Bachelor of Architecture, College Honors, May 2007

Media Appearances:

- Author, published article. "How Dallas can design parks to ease the racial divide", Dallas Morning News, August 16, 2016
- Author, published article. "Dallas, where's the neighborhood pride?", Dallas Morning News, July 13, 2016
- Author, published article. "In Your Neighborhood, Who Draws the Map?", Next City, June 21, 2016
- Editor. "Elements of Architecture", by Rem Koolhaas, Marsilio, September 2014

Subject Matter Expert:

- Housing
- Social Justice
- Design

Lynn McBee, CEO

Young Women's Preparatory Network

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@ywprep



Lynn McBee is a seventh-generation Texan and Great, Great, Great, Great-Granddaughter of Emily Austin, sister to Stephen F. Austin, The Father of Texas.

She is a graduate of The University of Texas at Austin where she received a Bachelor's degree in Biochemistry. She worked as a consultant with a privately held Biotech firm for 23 years before assuming the role as CEO of YWPN.

Lynn is best known for her leadership roles in the Dallas community and for her philanthropic endeavors. Currently, she serves on over a dozen local, state and national boards, including The University of Texas at Austin College of Natural Sciences Board, Dallas County Community College District Executive Board and the Dedman College Executive Board at Southern Methodist University. She served as the Chairman of the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge Opening Weekend Celebration, the Centennial Dinner Chairman for the Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas Celebration and The United Way of Metropolitan Dallas' Tocqueville Society Chairman and 25th Anniversary Chairman.

She has received numerous awards for her work, most notably from: The Girl Scouts of North East Texas, The Junior League of Dallas, The Dallas Regional Chamber, The Boys & Girls Club of Greater Dallas and Leadership Dallas.

Lynn is passionate about improving the educational outcomes for urban girls across Texas and equipping them to become leaders and pursue careers in STEM.

Relevant Work Experience:

- CEO, Young Women's Preparatory Network
- Consultant, Biotech firm

Education:

- Bachelor in Biochemistry, University of Texas at Austin

Subject Matter Expert:

- Housing
- Media & Entertainment
- Nonprofits
- Philanthropy
- Public Education

Janette Monear, President/CEO

Texas Trees Foundation

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214-535-6392

Janette Monear, President/CEO of the Texas Trees Foundation, is dedicated to creating livable and resilient communities through the use of trees, green infrastructure and sustainable design. Based in education, research and creative vision Ms. Monear is a pioneer in urban forestry. Monear began her career in advertising and promotion for a large bank and quickly transferred her skills to promote and advance urban forestry.

Relevant Work Experience:

- President/CEO, Texas Trees Foundation

Sub-Specialty Expertise:

Achievements:

- Launched the Tree North Texas regional initiative with 40 mayors to plant 3 million trees by 2020 to mitigate environmental challenges, spur economic development and “green, clean and cool” North Texas.
- Launched the 2015 State of the Dallas Urban Forest Report with Mayor Rawlings which resulted in redefining the Dallas landscape
- Speaker at national and local conferences
- Leader in organizational development. Her skills were instrumental in helping develop the Saint John’s University Arboretum and other national and local organizations.
- Co-produced, wrote the narration, and edited the Public Television Documentary, Spirit of the Trees, a 2 Telly Award winner

Media Appearances:

- Community Tree Planting Manual
- Environmental Service Learning Manual
- City Trees Sustainability Guidelines and Best Practices
- Open Spaces-Clean Water guidebook.
- 2017 Dallas Urban Heat Island Study
- 2017 Texas American Society of Landscape Architecture Environment Steward Award winner

Subject Matter Expert:

- Environment
- Nonprofits
- Philanthropy
- Public Education
- Urban Forestry

Janet Morrison-Lane, Director, EAGLE Scholars

Vickery Meadow Youth Development Foundation

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Janet Morrison-Lane works for the Vickery Meadow Youth Development Foundation non-profit as the Director of the EAGLE Scholars college readiness program. Her program consists of over 120 7th through 12th grade students who speak over 20 languages and come from over 15 different countries. She has worked in the non-profit sector for over twenty years and has experience in food insecurity, permanent supportive housing, public policy, and education. Janet works closely with the schools in DISD, serves on the Site-Based Decision Making committees at Tasby Middle School and Conrad High School, and is a board member and committee co-chair of the Friends of the Dallas Public Library.

Education:

- Doctorate in Supervision, Curriculum, and Instruction – Texas A&M, Commerce
- Master of Science in Reading – Texas A&M, Commerce
- Bachelor of Social Work – Harding University

Sub-Specialty Expertise:

- Public Education
- Magnet Schools
- Community Engagement
- Poverty & Education
- Diversity

Publications:

- How to gain all the benefits of a gap year without leaving North Texas. The Dallas Morning News, May 2, 2017.
- Fear of mediocrity infects low-income teens, too. The Dallas Morning News, March 9, 2017
- Dallas kids already have grit, but we adults could use some. The Dallas Morning News, October 14, 2016
- Working-class college students need exposure to ins and outs of networking for results. The Huffington Post, May 26, 2016
- How to navigate the DISD application maze (it works best if you are middle class). The Dallas Morning News, May 3, 2016.

Subject Matter Expert:

- Social Justice
- Public Education
- Early Childhood/Afterschool
- College Readiness
- Secondary Education

Natalie Ossenfort, Director – Texas Office

Alliance for Justice

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Relevant Work Experience:

- Texas Director at Alliance for Justice
- Former Chief Staff Attorney & Executive Director for the Innocence Project of Texas

Sub-specialty Expertise:

- Nonprofit lobbying
- Philanthropic engagement in advocacy
- Philanthropic support for advocacy,
- Advocacy rules for nonprofit organizations (local, state, federal)

Education:

- B.A. Trinity University, Political Science major (San Antonio, Texas)
- J.D. Texas Wesleyan University (Fort Worth, Texas)

Media Appearances:

- Author, "The President, Elections and Tax Rules... Oh My!" Bolder Advocacy Blog, January 2017
- Author, "Maximizing 501(c)(3) Impact Through Policy Advocacy & Lobbying" ABA Nonprofit Organizations Committee Newsletter, First Quarter 2017

Subject Matter Expert:

- Legal
- Nonprofits
- Philanthropy
- Politics

Joli Robinson, Manger

*Dallas Police Department Office of
Community Affairs*

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Joli Angel Robinson is the Manager for The Office of Community Affairs at the Dallas Police Department. Her desire for service in the community led her to take a leap of faith from the private sector to join the Dallas Police Department in 2013. She manages a team of Police Officers and Non-Sworn Outreach Representatives. Along with her team, she has been an integral part of furthering the mission of the Dallas Police Department by seeking to establish a proactive, continuous, and positive relationship with the Dallas community.

Joli graduated from Dallas Baptist University with a Bachelors of Art and Science in Sociology and Communication and a graduate degree in Communications specializing in Organizational Communication Management. She is continuing her road to higher education by pursuing an EdD in Organizational Change & Leadership at the University of Southern California.

Joli is passionate about the Dallas community she serves. She spent several years volunteering as a Court Appointed Special Advocate with Dallas CASA where she advocated on behalf of abused and neglected children as they moved through the foster care system. Currently, Joli volunteers at Roosevelt High School where she serves as the Chair of the Site-Based Decision Making Team, which is a collaborative effort of school personnel and community members that focuses on improving educational outcomes for students. Her motto is, “Be the change you wish to see in the world” –Gandhi.

Sub-specialty Expert:

- Law Enforcement
- Implicit Bias
- Public Education
- Community Engagement

Education:

- Doctorate in Education – Organizational Change & Leadership, University of Southern California (currently enrolled)
- Master of Arts - Communications concentration Organizational Communication Management, Dallas Baptist University
- Master Certification in Applied Project Management, Villanova University
- Bachelor of Art & Science - Sociology & Communications, Dallas Baptist University

Media Appearances:

- Author, Commentary: "After the Shootings, a Black Dallas PD Member on How to Move Forward" Reuters, July 2016
- Author, "The Big 'C' Church and Millennials" Huffington Post, July 14, 2015
- Author, "Be Active, Be Engaged, Be Committed...And Have Fun!" Mayors Star Council Blog, November 2014
- Author, "Every Child Deserves a Champion" Young Professionals For DISD Blog, December 2013

Subject Matter Expert:

- Public Education
- Public Safety
- Community Policing
- Community & Police Relations

Suzanne Smith, CEO/Founder

Social Impact Architects

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Suzanne Smith (@snstexas) has a deep belief that everyone is a changemaker. As a serial social entrepreneur, she strives to harness the powerful force of organizations, including nonprofits, foundations and socially responsible businesses, and individuals, especially students and young entrepreneurs, to maximize the potential of the social sector to create real, scalable impact.

In 2009, Suzanne founded Social Impact Architects, a registered Benefit Corporation, to reshape the business of social change. She combines her MBA know-how with two decades of experience as a nonprofit innovator to serve as a consultant, advisor and thought partner. She is also an adjunct professor at UT Arlington and highly sought-after public speaker at conferences nationwide and was recently a featured speaker at TEDxTurtleCreekWomen.

Author of Social TrendSpotter (@socialtrendspot), one of the sector's top blogs according to the Huffington Post, Suzanne is frequently interviewed by regional and national media to share her expertise on social entrepreneurship and has published articles in *Forbes*, *See Change*, *Nonprofit Business Advisor*, *Upstart* and *Grantmakers in Health*. Suzanne holds an MBA from Duke University's Fuqua School of Business.

Relevant Work Experience:

- CEO/Founder, [Social Impact Architects](#)
- Co-Founder, [Flywheel](#): Social Enterprise Hub in Cincinnati, Ohio
- Director of Obesity Initiatives, American Heart Association
- Director of Planning: Regional Office, Phoenix House
- Texas Municipal League
- City of Garland

Sub-specialty Expertise:

- Nonprofits
- Foundation Strategy
- Corporate Social Responsibility
- Business Plans
- Impact Measurement
- Scaling and Growth
- Storytelling
- System Change

Achievements:

- Next Generation Social Entrepreneur Award by the Social Enterprise Alliance
- Young ATEHNA Awards - Dallas Regional Chamber
- Dallas Business Journal - 40 Under 40

Education:

- MBA from Duke University's Fuqua School of Business
- BA in Government, University of Texas at Austin Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science

Media Appearances:

- Forbes
- The Chronicle of Philanthropy
- See Change Magazine
- Nonprofit Business Advisor
- Upstart
- Grantmakers in Health

Subject Matter Expert:

- Nonprofits
- Philanthropy
- Politics
- Education & Workforce
- Business & Economy

Joanna St. Angelo, Executive Director
Sammons Center for the Arts

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Joanna St. Angelo has served the Executive Director of the Sammons Center for the Arts from opening day, March 1, 1988 and has 30 years' experience in nonprofit management. She is one of the pioneers of nonprofit shared-use facilities. She is also the President and Founder of the Dallas Area Cultural Advocacy Coalition, which advocates for arts groups of all sizes and disciplines to promote recognition of the importance of arts and culture. She is a prominent consultant on arts and facilities management and has served on a number of nonprofit boards for a variety of organizations.

Relevant Work Experience:

- Executive Director, Sammons Center for the Arts
- President and Founder, Dallas Area Cultural Advocacy Coalition

Education:

- Bachelors of Fine Arts degree from the University of Minnesota.

Media Appearances:

- Author – “Arts Should Be A City Priority” The Dallas Morning News, May 30, 2015
- Co-Author – “Too Often, Board Members Sabotage the Success of Nonprofits” Chronicle of Philanthropy, February 17, 2016

Subject Matter Expert:

- Nonprofits
- Philanthropy
- Arts & Culture
- Advocacy

Jamila Thomas, Dallas ISD African American Success Initiative

Dallas ISD

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214-542-9887

@jamilacthomas



Jamila Thomas, native of Dallas, Texas, is a motivational speaker, author and entrepreneur. Her education includes: Florida A&M University, undergraduate degree in Business Administration, Masters of Business of Administration (MBA); and a Master of Arts degree in Divinity from The University of Chicago Divinity School. In 2009, Jamila founded a 501c3 organization called WOMEN DIVINE. The mission is to impact the lives of young women through academic enhancement and leadership development. She founded WOMEN DIVINE INSTITUTE, LLC a consulting firm that provides strategic development initiatives to various entities. As Coordinator for Dallas ISD African American Success Initiative, she creates innovative strategies to close the achievement gap. Recently, she served as Pastor of Outreach for St. Luke “Community” United Methodist Church, and managed ministries such as social services, prison ministry and other impactful justice ministries. In 2015, she the founded the Mosaic Purse Ministry, which serves homeless women and families to help them regain their dignity. She is a Board Member for the Friends of the Dallas Public Library in 2016 and a member of the 2015 Leadership Dallas ISD class. She recently won the 2015 WOMAN of the YEAR award from the South Central Dallas Business and Professional Women’s Club.

Relevant Work Experience:

- Dallas ISD African American Success Initiative, Dallas ISD
- Founder, Women Divine and Women Divine Institute, LLC
- Pastor of Outreach, St. Luke “Community” United Methodist Church
- Founder, Mosaic Purse Ministry

Sub-specialty Expertise:

- Public Education,
- Social Justice
- Cultural Relevancy
- Educational Equity

Achievements:

- Woman of the Year Award, South Central Dallas Business and Professional Women’s Club (2015)

Education:

- Master of Arts Divinity - Theology, The University of Chicago
- Master of Business Administration - Florida A&M University
- Bachelor of Science - Business Administration, Florida A&M University

Books Written:

- Author, Book, "HOW? STOPS NOW!", June 2014

Media Appearances:

- Author, Commentary: "Black Boy Killjoy: A Mother's Take on the Jordan Edwards Tragedy" Medium, May 2017
- Author, Commentary: "School Choice: Some Kids Don't Really Have One" NewBlackMan (In Exile), May 2017

Subject Matter Expert:

- Nonprofits
- Philanthropy
- Public Education
- Religion
- Social Justice

Gabriela Vega, Staff Attorney

Equal Justice Center

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469-816-5795

Gabriela Vega is an attorney with the Equal Justice Center, a non-profit law firm dedicated to enforcing the employment rights of low-wage workers, regardless of immigration status. She is currently leading a new legal services project focused on combating workplace sexual violence and the adverse employment effects that all too often result from a sexual assault, irrespective of where the assault occurs. Prior to joining the Equal Justice Center, Gabriela practiced complex commercial litigation with an international law firm in Houston and Dallas, Texas. She has also served as a federal judicial clerk in Brownsville, Texas. Born in Nicaragua, Gabriela immigrated to the United States as a young child.

Relevant Work Experience:

- Staff Attorney, Equal Justice Center
- Federal Judicial Clerk, Brownsville, Texas

Education:

- Bachelor of Arts in International Relations, Spanish and French from the Ohio State University (graduated summa cum laude)
- Law degree from Harvard Law School (where she was a student in the Harvard Immigration Clinic and served as Co-President of the Harvard Immigration Project)

Subject Matter Expert:

- Legal
- Nonprofits
- Social Justice
- Women's Rights

Jennifer Ware, CEO

WiNGS

jware@wingsdallas.org

214-769-7182

@jennifermware



Jennifer M. Ware is the CEO of WiNGS, a social sector organization that helps women lift themselves and their families out of poverty. Ware has drawn on her fund raising and leadership expertise to open a state-of-the art women's center in Dallas in 2015. The WiNGS Center at Ebby's Place provides training and financial coaching rooms, a computer lab, and resource library and offers expanded programs that include women's small business development and workskills training. Programs reach over 3,300 individuals each year, with measurable results that positively impact Dallas' growing poverty trends.

Under her leadership, asset-building programs have grown to include federal funding of matched savings accounts, individual financial coaching, and the addition of a benefit screening tool available across Texas. Additional accomplishments include being one of the largest United Way-funded agencies for the past four years.

She speaks regularly in the community on women, poverty and strategies to help women change their lives. She appeared on KERA's Think to kick off the original One Crisis Away series and speaks to reporters on issues involving women in poverty. Published opinion pieces include: "Smart Phones not a Luxury for the Poor", Dallas Morning News, June 2015; "Too Often Board Members Sabotage Success of Nonprofits", Chronicle of Philanthropy, February 2016, group authored. Ware brings more than 20 years of nonprofit management experience, including executive leadership at two large Dallas nonprofit organizations.

Ware is a past president of the Nonprofit CEO Council. She is a member of Dallas Assembly and a graduate of Leadership Texas, Leadership Plano Class .

Relevant Work Experience:

- CEO, WiNGS

Education:

- BA in Psychology from Austin College
- Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy (CAP®) from the American College

Media Appearances:

- "Smart Phones not a Luxury for the Poor", Dallas Morning News, June 2015
- "Too Often Board Members Sabotage Success of Nonprofits", Chronicle of Philanthropy, February 2016, group authored

Subject Matter Expert:

- Nonprofits
- Philanthropy
- Women's Rights
- Community Partnership

Teresa Coleman Wash, Executive Artistic Director

Bishop Arts Theatre Center

teresa@bishopartstheatre.org

@TeresaCWash



Relevant Work Experience:

- Executive Artistic Director, Bishop Arts Theatre Center

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Education:

- Master of Arts - Arts management, Goucher College
- Bachelor of Science - Business Administration, Albany State University

Media Appearances:

- Dallas Morning News
- The Dramatists
- Role Reboot

Subject Matter Expert:

- Early Childhood/Afterschool
- Media & Entertainment
- Nonprofits
- The Arts

Annie Wright, Director of Evaluation

SMU Center on Research and Evaluation

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803-397-7290

Dr. Annie Wright is the Director of Evaluation for Southern Methodist University's Center on Research and Evaluation (CORE). She is a Clinical Community psychologist and a program evaluator. Her expertise is in the planning, implementation and evaluation of K-12 educational programming. She works with a range of educational settings, including districts, schools, and out of school time non-profits. Annie has a particular interest in the work of community coalitions focused on educational reform and systems level change. Within the educational sphere, she has additional expertise in social and emotional learning, after and summer school, and early childhood. Annie has authored manuscripts and book chapters; she writes commentary and OpEd pieces and participates in media interviews in service of advocating for educational reforms.

Relevant Work Experience:

- Director of Evaluation, SMU Center on Research and Evaluation

Sub-specialty Expertise:

- Planning, implementation and evaluation of K-12 educational programming
- Social and emotional learning
- After and summer school
- Early childhood

Subject Matter Expert:

- Early Childhood/Afterschool
- Public Education
- Social Justice
- Research