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Ai Miyamoto Kelley, Director of Marketing and Communications
akelley@artequity.org
556 S Fair Oaks Ave., Ste. 101-464, Pasadena CA, 91105
T: 213.986.5792
www.artequity.org



artEquity Announces Fourth BIPOC Leadership Circle Cohort *39 BIPOC art, theatre, and culture leaders from across US will gather to create dynamic new BIPOC-centered leadership models*

BIPOC Leadership Circle

For more information, visit www.artequity.org/bipoc-leadership-circle

Los Angeles, CA—artEquity is excited to announce the fourth cohort of the Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) Leadership Circle. The BIPOC Leadership Circle will bring art, theatre, and culture leaders together over a span of four months. The cohort officially launched on February 2, 2024, with a Welcome Session and will continue with core virtual sessions and small-group meetings, culminating with an in-person retreat, June 10–14, 2024, in Los Angeles, CA.

This hybrid series prioritizes bringing together BIPOC leaders of art, theatre, and cultural institutions to provide support, strategies, and systems of accountability in creating dynamic new leadership models that center BIPOC history and experiences.

“It is energizing to see our BIPOC Leadership Circle expand with this new cohort,” says Mara Hsia-Palma, artEquity Program Manager. “I continue to be amazed at the community of leaders who are out there doing groundbreaking work, and that we as the artEquity team get to create the container where they have the space to bring their most innovative selves.”

At the height of the global pandemic, a call was made to support Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color who were fatigued and under-supported in the arts and culture sector. artEquity responded, in partnership with the David Geffen School of Drama at Yale, by developing and launching the BIPOC Leadership Circle. The need for BIPOC leadership and ongoing support for BIPOC leaders remains a priority four years on.

“After three years of hosting incredible cohorts of BIPOC leaders in the field,” says Alexis Green, artEquity Director of Programs, “we continue to see the immense need to provide community, resources, and support. We are thrilled to welcome our fourth cohort of dynamic leaders from across the country as we continue to claim spaces for us and by us.”

This year’s cohort gathers 39 BIPOC leaders representing 47 organizations from 18 states and Ontario, Canada. These leaders work within a number of art sectors including the performing and visual arts, arts councils, arts service organizations, and foundations.

The 2023–2024 BIPOC Leadership Circle Cohort includes:

Carlton V. Bell II (Birmingham Black Repertory Theatre Collective)
Shaunté Caraballo (CSU Dominguez Hills) • Marisa Carr (Independent Artist)
Ching-In Chen (University of Washington Bothell) • Liyen Chong (Arts Accountability Houston)
Jamelyn Ebelacker (Independent Producer and Consultant)
Amber Espinosa-Jones (Sundance Institute) • Bertrand Evans-Taylor (Performing Arts Alliance)
Estefanía Fadul (Ensemble Studio Theatre) • Jacqueline Flores (Latinx Theatre Commons)
Emily Goes (The CRAFT Institute) • Blanca Herrada (Lawrence Arts Center)

Marissa Herrera (4C LAB) • Eugene Hutchins (East West Players)
Jasiah Jackson (Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Center)
Naomi Kawamura (Densho) • Hillary Kempenich (Grand Forks Children's Museum)
Clara Kent (Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council) • Amiyah King (The OYÉ ASÉ Culture Group)
Melike Konur (Dance/NYC) • Marleah Makpiaq LaBelle (Turning Pages Consulting)
Sharrell D. Lockett (Black Acting Methods Studio) • Samantha Alexis Manuel (Arts for LA)
Andi Meyer (Tradewind Arts) • Sam Morreale (Soho Repertory Theatre)
Loida Maritza Perez (AfroMundo) • Tuyet Pham (Everyman Theatre)
Liz Player (The Harlem Chamber Players) • Lylliam Posadas (Your Neighborhood Museum)
Amy Sazue (Remembering the Children Memorial) • Clayton Shelvin (Freight & Salvage)
Juan Silverio (LACE [Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions])
Joshua Streeter (Emerson College)
DeLanna Studi (Native Voices, Autry Museum of the American West)
Cynthia Tate (Brooklyn Academy of Music) • Andrew Valdez (Yale Repertory Theatre)
Morgana Wilborn (Kansas City Repertory Theatre) • Kevin Matthew Wong (Why Not Theatre)
Abdirahman Yussuf (Somali Cultural Center)

The goal of the BIPOC Leadership Circle is to create a national shift in leadership values and practices in the arts and culture sector. The program embraces a nuanced definition of what it means to be a leader in the field, ultimately defying narrow understandings that define a leader solely as someone with positional power, a definition that often fails to acknowledge the significant work offered by BIPOC leaders both individually and as part of collaborative efforts.

Contributing to and designing this year's cohort experience of BIPOC Leaders is artEquity Executive Director and Founder Carmen Morgan, Program Manager Mara Hsia-Palma, Director of Programs Alexis Green, and an experienced team of facilitators that includes Cloteal L. Horne (Independent Artist, artEquity Core Facilitator), Ty Defoe (Sovereign Artist), Patricia Garza (Director of Programs and Producer, Los Angeles Performance Practice), Dat Ngo (Associate Vice President, Arts Consulting Group), Alex Meda (Artistic Director, Studio Luna), Lauren Turner Hines (Founder / Executive Director / Producing Artistic Director, André Cailloux Center for Performing Arts and Cultural Justice, No Dream Deferred NOLA), and Siobhan Brown (Independent Artist, Educator), as well as guest speakers Leslie Ishii (Artistic Director, Perseverance Theatre; Consortium of Asian American Theaters and Artists, Board President; artEquity Core Facilitator) and Meena Malik (Musician, Arts Consultant, Coach, and Mediator; Founder, Magpie Cultural Strategies). Nijel X. Porter, who served as the Program Lead for the previous cohorts, is also providing support as an advisor.

For more information about the BIPOC Leadership Circle, please visit www.artequity.org/bipoc-leadership-circle. For bios of the cohort members, please visit www.artequity.org/bipoc-lc-cohort-2023-2024.

artEquity

Launched in 2015 as a national initiative, artEquity provides tools, resources, and training at the intersection of art and activism. With over 5,000 individuals trained and a growing alumni community, artEquity is building a broad base of individuals and organizations who are strategically poised to create and sustain a culture of equity, inclusion, and justice through arts and culture. Our work is made possible in part by the Mellon Foundation, The Ford Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Howard Gilman Foundation, Barbara and Amos Hostetter, the Shubert Foundation, the JKW Foundation, and a growing community of individuals and organizations across the globe. For information on programs, trainings, resources, and donation opportunities, visit www.artequity.org. Find us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/artequitynow), Instagram ([@artequity](https://www.instagram.com/artequity)), and LinkedIn (www.linkedin.com/company/artequity-org).