GLOBAL LEADERSHIP IN POLICY & INNOVATIVE FINANCE FELLOWSHIP

2026 Cohort

Fellow Biographies

A

Obse Ababiya



Senior Associate Director of Global External Relations
Emory University
UNITED STATES

Obse Ababiya is Senior Associate Director of Global External Relations at Emory Global Engagement (EGE), where she leads strategic engagement with diplomatic corps, international organizations, global businesses and philanthropic partners. In this role, she advances initiatives that strengthen Emory's visibility, influence, and collaboration by bridging academia, diplomacy, and civic engagement.

A multilingual bridge-builder and global citizen, Obse is fluent in French, English, Amharic, and Oromo, with additional proficiency in Arabic and Spanish. She is deeply committed to expanding access to international education, cultivating global leadership, and leveraging higher education to address complex global challenges while remaining grounded in local and regional impact.

Her professional background includes leadership roles with Emory's Institute for Developing Nations in partnership with The Carter Center, UNICEF USA, and the Alliance Française d 'Atlanta, where she spent a decade advancing global partnerships through arts, culture, and education. She serves on the Board of Trustees of the Georgia Council for International Visitors, Alliance Française d 'Atlanta, African Diaspora Art Museum of Atlanta (ADAMA) and on the capital campaign committee of The Globe Academy.

Obse holds a B.A. in International Studies and French Literature, with a minor in African Studies, from Emory University, and an M.A. in Ethics and Peace from American University's School of International Service.

Allira Attwill



Head of Knowledge and Policy Intelligence
Policy Wisdom LLC
AUSTRALIA

Allira Atwell is a health policy and financing specialist with nearly two decades of experience across more than 30 markets. She began her career as a health financing specialist with WHO/EURO, leading in-country missions to support donor-to-domestic health aid transitions in low- and middle-income countries. She has since advised governments, pharmaceutical companies, and patient organizations on health financing and policy landscapes globally. She also serves on the boards of Effective Altruism Australia and Tulgeen Disability Services.

Jyoti Aggarwala



Principal
Private Capital Raise
UNITED STATES

Jyoti brings a broad range of experiences to her work. She has completed sustainable factor integration for alternative managers including review of existing ESG policy, audit of existing ESG-related collateral and frameworks, setting up an ESMS system, selecting ESG tools, integration, and capacity building. She served as the Senior Sustainability Consultant to UN Women on partnerships, convenings, technical assistance and standard setting to advance gender equality.

Other responsibilities include serving as an International Consultant on gender inclusive reporting frameworks for the private sector, UN Women and Investors Council, Georgia, Climate Policy Initiative working group member on Gender Equality stream, council member for GLG, an expert network platform – producing content for webcasts and roundtables on private equity industry trends. She has also led Go-To-Market strategy consulting for private funds and capital raising focused on small, emerging market, diverse and impact funds across asset classes and geographies. Additionally, she coached SEO Alternative Investment-Investment Banking Career Success students for summer internships.

Leah Anyanwu



Consultant
Independent
KENYA

Leah Justina Anyanwu believes that every child deserves the best chance at a good life. This belief led her to a kindergarten classroom in New Orleans through Teach for America. It has also taken her from building education programs across East Africa, to managing a $75M+ grants portfolio at the LEGO Foundation, where she worked to ensure that philanthropic capital actually reached the children and caregivers who needed it most.

Leah has spent the last decade working at the intersection of child outcomes, systems change, and the funding that supports it all. She is increasingly drawn to the question of how money moves, and whether it can move better. Leah is curious about blended finance, results-based funding, and impact investing as practical means of connecting brilliant, committed organizations with the patient capital they need to implement their best work. At a moment when traditional aid architecture is fracturing, and communities are being asked to do more with less, she believes that reimagining how philanthropic and private capital flow is one of the most important problems anyone can work on.

A Nigerian-American based in Nairobi, Leah is a new mother raising a daughter who reminds her daily why this work matters. She comes to this fellowship not as a finance expert, but as someone deeply passionate about connecting partners with the patient capital they need to support children's thriving. Leah holds a Master of Science in Educational Studies from Binghamton University and a Master of Education in Human Development and Psychology from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

B

Erika Brice



Deputy Director
National Bankers Association Foundation
UNITED STATES

Erika Brice is an impact investment professional with more than 20 years of experience at the intersection of mission, capital, and community. Working across the full capital spectrum and with allocators from banks and foundations to mission-driven institutions, she has designed and executed collaborative investment strategies that drive systems-level change across sectors. To date, she has deployed and leveraged more than $2.5 billion toward impact-focused commercial real estate, community development, CDFIs, social enterprises, and mission-driven funds.

Her work spans a broad range of areas, including public health, HBCUs, economic mobility, financial systems, manufacturing, community asset and real estate ownership, housing, food access, and public/private partnerships — all united by a commitment to expanding capital access and building the healthy institutions that make lasting change possible.

Prior to her current role, Erika held positions in program-related investments, commercial real estate lending, national asset management, and finance and investment consulting, with a focus on CDFIs, foundations, and underserved communities. She began her career in private equity real estate, investing institutional capital in commercial real estate projects in low- to moderate-income communities across the United States.

Erika serves on multiple boards, including the Health Forward Foundation. She is a current MBA candidate at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business and a graduate of Howard University.

Mandy Bynum



Founder | CEO
Sanctum Foundation
UNITED STATES

Mandy Bynum is a strategic advisor, program designer, and ecosystem builder whose work sits at the intersection of wealth, innovation, leadership, and community. She is the Founder and CEO of Sanctum Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to expanding access to wealth-building knowledge, relationships, and opportunities for historically excluded communities.

Over the past fifteen years, Mandy has built and scaled programs, communities, and organizations across the technology, venture capital, nonprofit, and philanthropic sectors. She is known for designing experiences that move people beyond networking and content consumption toward meaningful connection, collective action, and long-term ecosystem development.

Mandy previously served as CEO of BLCK VC and Camp Equity, where she led organizational growth, strategic partnerships, fundraising, and program development during critical periods of expansion. Throughout her career, she has advised startups, venture funds, foundations, corporations, and community-led initiatives on leadership strategy, stakeholder engagement, community building, and inclusive innovation.

Prior to her work as an advisor and nonprofit founder, Mandy held leadership roles at Yelp, Momentive (fka SurveyMonkey), and New Relic, contributing to organizational growth through periods of rapid scale and public-market transition.

Today, through Sanctum Foundation and her advisory practice, Mandy designs and facilitates programs, leadership experiences, learning communities, and cross-sector convenings that help individuals and institutions navigate changing definitions of wealth, leadership, ownership, and impact. Her approach combines systems thinking, behavioral design, community architecture, and storytelling to create environments where people build not only knowledge, but lasting relationships, trust, and pathways to opportunity.

Mandy is a sought-after strategist, facilitator, and speaker focused on ecosystem building, wealth and ownership, leadership development, community-centered innovation, and the future of work, learning, and belonging.

C

Mark Courtney



Managing Principal
121Giving LLC
UNITED STATES

As the founder and inventor of 121Giving, Mark developed the first marketplace and fundraising platform dedicated to the nonprofit sector. The platform brings together nonprofits, consumers, and brands in a new form of collective impact, built to meet needs across communities at a global scale—a central destination and repeatable framework with utility around the world.

F

R.E. Foreman



Resource Development Manager
South Side Economic Development Center
UNITED STATES

R.E. Foreman is the Founder and CEO of Chi Tech Collective, a tech-based economic development organization anchored on Chicago's South Side, where she has grown a community of more than 3,000 members and built programs that connect residents, founders, and institutions to opportunity. Her flagship initiative, South Side Innovates, convenes developers, entrepreneurs, funders, and civic leaders around the future of the community she calls home.

A native of Englewood, R.E. works at the intersection of tech-based economic development, real estate, and community finance. She serves as an independent consultant to South Side Community Federal Credit Union,

where she has recruited board members, helped establish an advisory board, and supported grant-funded programming for its economic development arm.

Her field experience spans the country. As an Economic Recovery Corps Fellow, one of 65 chosen nationally for a federally funded program, she led a citywide housing survey in Portsmouth, Ohio, and built and supervised a field team from the ground up. Earlier roles at Goodie Nation, the Black Innovation Alliance, and Sixty8 Capital sharpened her work connecting talent and capital to underserved communities.

R.E. holds IEDC certifications in Neighborhood Development Strategies and Technology-Led Economic Development, is a Certified Economic Developer candidate, and studied Electrical Engineering at Southern Methodist University. Whether she is convening a room, structuring a deal, or mobilizing a team, she builds the infrastructure that lets communities own their economic future.

G

Marivi Gonzalez



Independent Consultant
Independent
MEXICO

Marivi is an industrial engineer and impact-focused entrepreneur with 10+ years of experience building and scaling startups across Mexico and Latin America. With a deep background spanning operations, finance, marketing, business development, and strategic planning, she has developed expertise in transforming early-stage ventures into sustainable, growth-oriented businesses.

Her professional journey combines hands-on startup experience with investment acumen. She worked at an impact investment fund in Mexico, where she analyzed and supported ventures addressing social and environmental challenges. This experience reinforced her conviction that business can be a powerful force for positive change while generating financial returns.

Marivi holds an MBA in Social Impact and Entrepreneurship from Boston University, complementing her industrial engineering degree. Her studies deepened her understanding of how to build scalable business models that create measurable social value.

Throughout her career, she has worn multiple hats—from leading go-to-market strategies to managing financial operations, optimizing business processes, and identifying new growth opportunities. She thrives in

dynamic, resource-constrained environments and excels at bringing cross-functional teams together to solve complex challenges.

Today, Marivi works as an independent consultant, advising founders and organizations across fintech, foodtech, and healthcare-adjacent sectors. She brings a strategic lens grounded in practical execution, combining analytical rigor with entrepreneurial creativity.

Marivi is passionate about LATAM's startup ecosystem and the potential for impact-driven business to address regional challenges. She is fluent in Spanish and English and maintains a strong professional network across financial services, retail, and tech sectors in the region.



Ana K. Gonzalez

Senior Development Associate
MSI Reproductive Choices
UNITED STATES

Ana Gonzalez is a bilingual development and partnerships professional with extensive international experience working across the nonprofit, philanthropy, and international development sectors. Currently serving as a Senior Development Associate with MSI Reproductive Choices US, she works closely with the Global Funding and External Relations team to drive organizational initiatives that advance MSI's mission.

Throughout her career, Ana has led and supported complex projects across diverse cultural and geographic contexts, collaborating with donors, philanthropic partners, government stakeholders, and civil society organizations in both the United States and Latin America. Her experience spans strategic planning, stakeholder engagement, grant administration, and partnership development, with a focus on building trusted relationships that create long-term impact.

Passionate about social change and sustainable development, Ana is particularly interested in how innovative fundraising approaches can unlock new opportunities for organizations serving historically underserved communities. She believes that effective resource mobilization requires both strong stewardship and the willingness to challenge conventional thinking, embrace new ideas, and identify creative pathways for partnership and growth.

Julia Greenland



Director - Innovative Finance
Tiko
UNITED KINGDOM

Julia has led pioneering outcomes-based projects as part of the team that developed the world's first two Adolescent Reproductive Health Development Impact Bonds. As former Director of Girl Capital at CIFF, she secured major funding from the UK Government and the UN Joint SDG Fund. In Kenya, she scaled digital health platforms tackling teen pregnancy and HIV, driving deep engagement with government and stakeholders alike. She previously spent a decade on the front line of service delivery with MSI Reproductive Choices.

H

Jonathan Hamilton



Co-Founder
Fandema International
UNITED STATES

Jonathan (Jon) Hamilton is the Co-Founder of Fandema International, an early-stage nonprofit that provides recoverable grants and a community network to rural Gambian farmers to support them in building micro and small enterprises from agricultural activities. He runs Fandema alongside fellow Co-Founder Haruna Jallow, Program Manager for the education sector of Peace Corps The Gambia and a longtime champion of community development in the country. Jon aims to deepen his knowledge of the innovative finance mechanisms underlying their work as part of the 2026 Global Leadership in Policy & Innovative Finance Fellowship.

Jon began working on Fandema as a Peace Corps Volunteer serving as an extension agent in agriculture and environment in The Gambia from 2022 to 2024. During that time, he helped re-fence two community women's gardens, build a local marketplace, and plant over 500 trees. His work there spurred a passion for community development using nature-based solutions, leading him to pursue a Master's in Development Practice (MDP) at Emory University as a Coverdell Scholar.

Before Peace Corps, Jon worked as a legislative aide, and later chief of staff, to State Representative Joan Meschino in Massachusetts. There, he drafted and tracked legislative and budgetary priorities, helped secure funding for a community college hunger pilot program and a supportive housing pilot, and worked on regulations that benefited thousands of residents dealing with pandemic-era unemployment cases.

Jon holds a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science and Public Policy from Harvard University and is in his second year of the MDP program at Emory University.

Nathaniel Harding



Strategic Advisor, Coach, & Facilitator
Freelance
UNITED KINGDOM

Nathaniel Harding is an international educator, facilitator, and network weaver with a decade of experience stewarding cross-sector collaboration toward a world where all people and planet Earth flourish.

He currently hosts the Visioning Flourishing Futures project, a 2026 collaboration between the Melton Foundation's Global Citizenship Learning Program and the Government Council for Social Innovation, a coalition of 50+ national governments advancing social innovation globally. The project team — eleven fellows from six universities worldwide — is researching how governments can articulate and fulfill national visions for social innovation that hold across ministries and political cycles.

Nathaniel's route into innovative finance emerged through experience with philanthropy and social impact strategy. At The Bridgespan Group, Nathaniel sourced, vetted, and recommended grants to U.S. community development financial institutions and bridge-building NGOs, facilitating $400M+ in an ultra-high-net-worth donor's giving, and advised funders including Silicon Valley Community Foundation and TED's Audacious Project. At the Social Impact Exchange, he launched initiatives on transforming philanthropy and education systems for a 4,000+ member network spanning the public, private, and social sectors.

Nathaniel has taught intercultural leadership across five continents and coached 60+ Obama-Chesky Voyager Scholars in designing and implementing public service projects worldwide.

He holds an MBA (Master of Business Administration) from the University of Oxford, where he was a Black Leaders Scholar; an MPS (Master of Public Service) from the Clinton School of Public Service, where his capstone examined relationships between global goals for humanity and planet Earth; and a Global Leadership Diploma from the University for Peace. He is a Senior Fellow with the Melton Foundation, an Inner Development Goals Ambassador, and a WINGS-certified ecosystem mapping trainer.

A proud global citizen based in London, United Kingdom, Nathaniel joins this cohort eager to collaboratively innovate financial flows and public policies that support all people and planet Earth to flourish.

I

Nkechika Ibe



Founder | Director
Impact Her World Foundation
NIGERIA

Nkechika Perpetua Ibe is the founder and Director of Impact Her World Foundation, a nonprofit organisation promoting the interest and wellbeing of women and girls in Nigeria and Africa. She is also the Founder and Chair of the Women in Security, Peace and Diplomacy Network (WISPAD).

She is currently the Co-Chapter Lead of the Nigeria Chapter of Harvard Women in Defense, Diplomacy and Development, and also volunteers as a Stakeholder Engagement Lead with AI Safety Nigeria. She has over a decade of experience advocating for and advancing gender equality and the rights of marginalized groups, including persons with disabilities. She has contributed to high-profile events and forums as a speaker, panelist, and paper presenter.

She was a Tsuha Global Fellow at Curtin University in Perth, Australia, and also an Adjunct Research Fellow at the same university. She was the program ambassador for the inaugural Emerging Leaders of Africa and Australia Diplomacy program. Her work is at the intersection of gender, social inclusion, peace and security, and emerging technologies. She is the lead publisher of PeaceWoman Magazine, a pioneering publication that mainstreams the experiences and insights of women and youth peacebuilders in Africa. She is also the anchor of the Women in Uniform podcast. She has worked with several organisations, including UN Women

Nigeria, the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution Nigeria, United Religions Initiative, the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre in Ghana, Curtin University, and many more.

She holds a diploma in International Security from the European Academy of Diplomacy in Warsaw, Poland. She also holds a master's degree in International Relations and Diplomacy from the University of Nigeria Nsukka and a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Madonna University in Anambra, Nigeria.

K

Maw Maw Khaing



Founder and CEO
New School Yangon
MYANMAR

Maw Maw Khaing is a DPhil student at the University of Oxford researching holistic and alternative education in Myanmar. She is also the founder of a network of schools in Myanmar that focus on bilingual and project-based learning to develop globally minded students.

Before her doctoral studies, she earned an M.Ed. in Education from Harvard University. In addition to her work in education, she is also a founder of Leadher Circle, where she is passionate about creating spaces that foster collaboration, learning, and personal growth for women.

Drishita Khanna



Associate
Finance Professional, Keiretsu Forum Northwest & Rockies
INDIA

Drishita Khanna is a finance professional and aspiring entrepreneur from Mumbai, India. She currently works with Keiretsu Forum Northwest Rockies, where she supports the angel investment ecosystem by engaging with investors, entrepreneurs, and strategic partners, while helping build meaningful connections across the startup and investment community.

Previously, she worked as an Analyst in Business Consulting – Financial Services at EY India. Her experience at EY gave her exposure to financial services, treasury operations, consulting, and working with diverse stakeholders on complex business and financial processes. These experiences have strengthened her interest in understanding how businesses grow, how capital can enable innovation, and how strong networks can create opportunities.

She holds a Bachelor's degree in Accounting and Finance from the University of Mumbai, where she graduated with a CGPA of 9.98. Alongside her academic and professional journey, she has actively explored research, entrepreneurship, youth initiatives, and financial education. These experiences have helped her develop a strong curiosity for learning and a willingness to take on challenges outside her comfort zone.

As a first-generation learner, her journey has been shaped by resilience, ambition, and a belief that access to the right opportunities can transform lives. She aspires to build ventures that address real-world challenges, particularly at the intersection of financial well-being, workplace stress, and human behaviour.

She is passionate about meeting people from different backgrounds, exchanging ideas, and learning from diverse perspectives. She hopes to continue building at the intersection of finance, entrepreneurship, innovation, and social impact while creating opportunities that enable others to grow alongside her.

L

Isa LaPorte



CEO
ConnectED Fellows
GUATEMALA

Isa LaPorte is the CEO of ConnectED Fellows, a nonprofit that invests in local education leaders to strengthen rural communities across Latin America. Originally from Nicaragua and now based in Guatemala, Isa has spent more than 20 years working in international development, education, and nonprofit leadership.

Isa believes that the people closest to a community's challenges are often the ones best positioned to create meaningful solutions. Through ConnectED Fellows, she works alongside educators in Guatemala and Colombia, connecting them with leadership development, mentorship, a regional network, and catalytic funding to turn locally identified priorities into action.

She is a 2023 Gratitude Network Fellow and a 2025 American Express Leadership Academy Fellow. Isa is especially interested in finding new ways to move more resources and decision-making closer to local leaders and communities. She is excited to explore how innovative finance and policy can help make that possible, while learning from others who are asking similar questions in different parts of the world.

Tania López



Political Science Candidate
Ciudades Sostenibles
GUATEMALA

Tania López is a political communication professional from Guatemala with a background in Political Science and experience across legislative environments, civil society, community engagement, and entrepreneurship.

She has worked as an advisor within the Congress of the Republic of Guatemala and in the nonprofit sector, where her work has included strategic communication and the design and facilitation of workshops on open government, citizen participation, and new technologies. Through these experiences, she has engaged with policymakers, municipal and community leaders, civil society organizations, and citizens, developing a strong interest in how policy, communication, and community participation can come together to create meaningful social impact.

Alongside her work in politics and civil society, Tania is also an entrepreneur, an experience that has shaped her understanding of the opportunities and challenges involved in turning ideas into sustainable initiatives.

She is particularly interested in public policy, innovative finance, social impact, and community engagement. Through the Global Leadership in Policy & Innovative Finance Fellowship, she hopes to explore new ways to connect promising ideas with policy, resources, and people while learning from the diverse experiences of fellow leaders around the world.

M

Christine MacAulay



Executive MBA Candidate and Impact Investing Fellow
Georgetown University
UNITED STATES

Christine is an international development and foreign affairs professional with more than 15 years of experience across Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Eastern Europe. Her career with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) spanned strategic planning, program and portfolio management, performance management and evaluation, public-private engagement, and budget planning and implementation. Her overseas assignments included Libya, Moldova, Pakistan, and Afghanistan, where she worked with governments, private-sector partners, civil society, bilateral donors, and international organizations. Earlier in her career, Christine worked with non-governmental organizations in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa and served as an embedded advisor to the Government of Liberia.

Christine is particularly interested in the intersection of public policy, private capital, and development impact, including impact investing, blended finance, and approaches that mobilize private investment toward development and economic priorities in emerging markets. She is currently pursuing an Executive MBA at

Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business, where she is also an Impact Investing Fellow. She holds a Master in Public Affairs from Princeton University's School of Public and International Affairs.

Olga Maksimova



Grants Officer
Impact Hub Yerevan
ARMENIA

Olga Maksimova is an impact investment and measurement professional based in Yerevan, Armenia, with over eight years of experience spanning impact finance transaction structuring, impact measurement and management, and ecosystem development program implementation across Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus.

Olga is a founding team member and impact investments lead at VIA Fund—Armenia's first impact investing fund for social enterprises—which supported over 15 early-stage social enterprises through blended grants and low-interest loans. Her work embedded impact measurement across the full investment cycle, from due diligence through portfolio-level monitoring across social enterprises. She also co-structured Armenia's first institutional co-investment in social enterprises with pension fund manager C-QUADRAT Ampega, establishing a precedent that shifted institutional risk perception of the asset class.

At Impact Hub Yerevan, Olga has led programs and grants management across a EUR 3M+ portfolio of EU- and GIZ-funded initiatives supporting 150+ circular, youth-led ventures, inclusive businesses, and social enterprises. Earlier, at Reach for Change Russia, Olga led the pilot of a social impact bond focused on vulnerable youth employment—developing outcome-based payment frameworks and coordinating partners across government, NGOs, and private investors.

O

Weyinmi Omamuli



Economist
UNITED KINGDOM

Weyinmi Omamuli is an Africa economist with more than two decades of experience in international development and finance. Most recently, she served as a Senior Economics Advisor with UNDP in Tanzania, where she led development finance policy and economic research. Prior to joining UNDP, she worked with UN Women in Nigeria, focusing on increasing private-sector investment in women's economic empowerment.

She has held leadership positions at the UK's Department for International Development, HM Treasury, ARM Investment Managers, and Moody's Investors Service. She was also a Mo Ibrahim African Leadership Fellow at the International Trade Centre in 2014, where she worked on promoting entrepreneurship and trade in developing countries by helping small businesses access finance and export markets. That role first introduced her to impact investing and sparked her interest in transitioning into a career focused on deploying innovative finance to address the results gap associated with traditional development finance approaches.

She holds bachelor's and master's degrees in economics and development studies from the London School of Economics. She is currently based in the UK, but remains a New Yorker at heart.

Kateryna Ostrovska



Freelance Consultant
LITHUANIA

Kateryna Ostrovska is a health policy and systems strategist with a background in family medicine and leadership experience across Ukraine's public and private healthcare sectors. She has worked in conflict-

affected regions of Ukraine as a Health Governance Specialist with the United Nations Development Programme, and as a consultant with Deloitte, contributing to the USAID Health Reform Support Project on health workforce policy.

She was a Fulbright Visiting Researcher at the Philip R. Lee Institute for Health Policy Studies at the University of California, San Francisco (2024–2025), and currently pursues an Executive Master in EU Studies at the Centre international de formation européenne. Kateryna has also completed executive education programmes at Johns Hopkins University Carey Business School, the Brussels School of Governance, the London School of Economics and Political Science, the European University Institute, and the Institute for the Future. Her business grounding began earlier still, in several years as a medical representative managing pharmaceutical sales across Ukraine's Dnipropetrovsk region and has since been formalized through a Mini MBA in Strategic Management at the Stockholm School of Economics in Riga.

Her work focuses on strategic healthcare management, health systems strengthening, evidence-informed policymaking, and the use of foresight and anticipatory governance to navigate uncertainty—bridging clinical, commercial, and policy perspectives that are rarely held by the same practitioner. She is a member of the Association of Professional Futurists, the Foresight Europe Network, and the European Health Futures Forum.

P

Luz Marina Pineda Morales



Project Support Specialist
Women Palante
COLOMBIA

Luz Marina Pineda Morales helps social impact organizations build the strategic positioning and decision-making needed for long-term sustainability while staying true to their identity and authenticity. She believes that a diversified fundraising strategy—one that communicates impact and builds trust—can make social impact initiatives more visible, sustainable, and effective in the communities they serve.

Based in Barranquilla, Colombia, she has a background in International Relations and more than five years of experience across the social impact ecosystem, including education, migration, human rights, and entrepreneurship.

Most of her experience has focused on grants, donors, and government partnerships. She raised more than $10,000 through over 10 grant applications in under three months for a women's entrepreneurship

organization and identified 22 funding opportunities for three Latin American NGOs navigating migration work on tight budgets. Alongside a UK-based advisory firm, she helped translate high-level fundraising strategy into practical, localized roadmaps for three Spanish-speaking NGOs.

She is now growing into the next layer of that work: business planning, research-backed strategy, and understanding how innovative and investor-facing finance can diversify income beyond the donor model. She is building that expertise deliberately and in public.

Alongside that work, she is building OrganicNet, helping young Latin professionals grow on LinkedIn through community building and networking because she believes the strongest partnerships are not built in a pitch deck, but through conversation over time.

Sadeeka Porter



Founder and Principal
Sovereign Design
UNITED STATES

Sadeeka Porter is a strategic advisor with more than 15 years of experience creating fundable solutions, drawing on a background in private equity and on-the-ground program design. With expertise managing large-scale federal healthcare investments above $50 million, agricultural enterprise development projects totaling $10 million, and the redesign of an $800 million loan guarantee program, she identifies partnerships, unlocks capital, and builds sustainable frameworks that outlast policy cycles.

She works at the intersection of strategy, capital, and community to drive lasting impact. She is deeply committed to turning meaningful investments into sustainable systems, remains curious about emerging innovations in care delivery, and is continuously motivated by service to communities.

R

Priyanka Rao



Principal consultant and founder
Leher Lumina
UNITED STATES

Priyanka Rao is a strategy, innovation, and operations leader with experience working across international development, impact investing, philanthropy, technology, and social innovation for underserved communities. She brings an operator's perspective to complex social challenges, helping organizations translate ambitious ideas into strategy, build new initiatives, and move from concept to execution.

Priyanka was part of the founding team of FHI Ventures, an early-stage impact investing initiative at FHI 360, where she led strategy and operations and helped build and launch the organization's first impact investing and accelerator platform. She supported investments in early-stage ventures, advanced gender-smart investing practices, and contributed to global efforts to strengthen impact measurement in education. Today, Priyanka works as a strategy strategist and fractional operator for mission-driven organizations, foundations, and early-stage technology ventures focused on social and environmental impact.

Across her career, Priyanka has been drawn to how capital, technology, policy, and community-centered approaches can work together to expand access to opportunity and create lasting systems change. She is excited to deepen her expertise in innovative finance and connect with a global community working to make capital more equitable, effective, and catalytic.

S

Adam Sachs



Founder & Principal Consultant
Sage Global Insights
UNITED STATES

Adam Sachs is a policy and international development professional specializing in policy analysis, stakeholder engagement, needs assessments, and business development. He works across the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to help organizations understand complex challenges, build productive partnerships, and design practical, participatory solutions. His experience spans market and policy analysis, client relations, project management, and private sector development, with a particular focus on navigating economic and technological change.

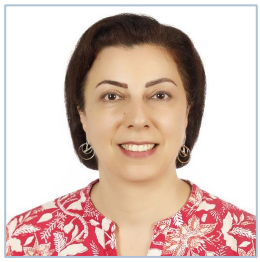
Adam began his career at the Utah State Legislature before serving as a Legislative Assistant in the U.S. Congress for the Ranking Member of the House Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee. In this role, he advised on foreign affairs, trade, environmental policy, and other legislative priorities. He later transitioned into international economic development, where he has managed more than 15 projects focused on digital transformation, economic growth, private sector development, and democratic governance across emerging markets.

Throughout his career, Adam has cultivated partnerships among governments, businesses, civil society organizations, and international institutions. His work has included developing policy initiatives, conducting research and stakeholder consultations, and designing programs that strengthen economic opportunity while supporting a safe, inclusive, and enabling digital economy.

Adam holds dual bachelor's degrees in Political Science and International Studies from the University of Utah and a master's degree in International Development from George Washington University. His graduate studies included a focus on Southeast Asia, complemented by professional experience working with partners across the region. He has also completed coursework at Stanford University.

Adam has moderated and contributed to discussions at international forums, including events convened by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and RightsCon.

Hoda Salman



Independent Consultant

LEBANON

Hoda Salman is an impact finance and investment specialist working at the intersection of innovative and inclusive finance, private sector development, public policy, and emerging technologies. With over 24 years of leadership and technical experience, she has designed and implemented programmes for international development and financial institutions to strengthen the growth and resilience of underserved enterprises, advance business-enabling environments, and deliver measurable outcomes across the Middle East, Africa, and Asia.

She has led donor- and privately funded initiatives that unlock capital, expand market and skills access, and build institutional capacity for underserved and "missing middle" enterprises, especially women- and youth-led ventures. Her work spans blended finance and catalytic capital structures at the climate-gender nexus, impact funds, Islamic finance instruments, and microfinance solutions tailored to fragile and emerging markets. Across roles in DFIs/MDBs, private investment managers, and advisory firms, she has structured investment funds with layered capital, conducted commercial and impact due diligence, and managed portfolios of debt, equity, and grant investments aimed at strengthening MSMEs, accelerating social enterprises, and fostering climate and financial resilience. She has also advised on Environmental and Social Management Systems, impact measurement, and portfolio valuation.

To complement her background in traditional finance and policy, she recently completed an MSc in Blockchain and Digital Currency, focusing on how frontier technologies—particularly Web3 and AI—can serve as sociotechnical systems for coordinated inclusive finance. This includes real-world asset tokenization, decentralized finance protocols, and regenerative finance solutions, with the aim of translating complex technological and financial concepts into scalable, compliant models that enable transparent capital allocation and long-term sustainable growth.

As a Fellow in the 2026 Global Leadership in Policy & Innovative Finance Fellowship programme, she looks forward to collaborating with peers and experts to explore how governance and policy can harness technology to mitigate market failures in accessing and scaling impact-creating capital sustainably.

Vilma Saloj



Executive Director of Strategic Partnership
MAIA
GUATEMALA

Vilma Saloj

Vilma is a Maya Kaqchikel woman and one of six children who lives in a rural village in Sololá, Guatemala. Her remarkable journey with MAIA began in 2010 as a mentor. She rose to become MAIA's first Impact School director when it opened in 2017 and is now the Executive Director of Strategic Partnerships. Vilma is proficient in three languages, and her dedication to improving academic outcomes in Guatemala led her to shadow school leaders in the U.S. in 2016.

She is a teacher and holds a bachelor's degree in secondary education and administration. In 2020, Vilma received the One Young World COVID-19 Young Leaders Fund and completed the Emergent Leadership Program at INCAE Business School. In 2024, Vilma completed the Distinguished Humphrey Fellowship Program on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Vilma's influence extends beyond MAIA, as she represented the organization at the UN, the Obama Foundation Girls Opportunity Alliance, and the Zayed Sustainability Prize in Abu Dhabi. Her unwavering commitment exemplifies the potential of young women to make a global impact.

Daniel Felipe Suárez Mayorga



Daniel Suárez: Digital Transformation & Policy Innovation Leader
IE Business School
SPAIN

Daniel Felipe Suárez Mayorga is passionate about leveraging innovative finance and policy to drive sustainable development worldwide, with deep expertise in emerging markets. With more than five years of experience in consulting and insurance-sector leadership, he has spearheaded over $750,000 in digital transformation projects, launched platforms serving more than 1.8 million users, and negotiated with ministries and regulators to implement industry-wide standards. His expertise spans econometrics, data science, and AI-enabled business strategy.

As an MBA candidate at IE Business School, he is deepening his knowledge at the intersection of finance, policy, and technology to deploy innovative finance mechanisms that address critical development challenges and help build a more equitable, sustainable future around the world.

V

Birkat Van Engelen Caal



Director
Conexión ONG
GUATEMALA

Spanish: Birkat Helohin Van Engelen es el Director Ejecutivo de Conexión Centroamérica. Con formación en Administración de Empresas, Desarrollo Rural y Políticas Públicas, ha dedicado su carrera a promover la inclusión social, fortalecer el liderazgo juvenil y avanzar el desarrollo de comunidades rurales, con un enfoque particular en mujeres y jóvenes en situación de vulnerabilidad. Ha liderado proyectos estratégicos que integran innovación, tecnología y valores comunitarios, promoviendo la cohesión social, la construcción

de paz y la resiliencia territorial a nivel regional. Su liderazgo combina experiencia en incidencia, colaboración interinstitucional y el desarrollo de programas replicables que fortalecen capacidades locales y fomentan el diálogo intercultural.

English: Birkat Helohin Van Engelen is the Executive Director of Conexión Centroamérica. With training in Business Administration, Rural Development, and Public Policy, he has dedicated his career to promoting social inclusion, strengthening youth leadership, and advancing the development of rural communities, with a particular focus on women and young people in vulnerable situations. He has led strategic projects that integrate innovation, technology, and community values, promoting social cohesion, peacebuilding, and territorial resilience at the regional level. His leadership combines experience in advocacy, interinstitutional collaboration, and the development of replicable programs that strengthen local capacities and foster intercultural dialogue.

Patricia Vazquez



CEO
Mexicanos Primero
MEXICO

Patricia Vazquez is a dedicated professional with extensive academic achievements and experience in education policy and development. Born in Mexico City, she holds a bachelor's degree in Pedagogy from the prestigious Universidad Panamericana (UP). She has also earned diplomas in Public Policies for Social Development and Global Governance from Germany.

She holds a master’s degree in Comparative Public Policies from the renowned Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO) Mexico and a degree in International Education Policy from the Graduate School of Education at Harvard University.

She is a former Board Member of the National Institute for Evaluation in Education (INEE) and former Minister of Public Education in the State of Puebla, Mexico. Over the past two decades, she has collaborated with international organizations such as UNESCO, IBD, and various Latin American and regional institutions to design and implement transformative policies and projects.

She is presently CEO of Mexicanos Primero, a prominent organization that staunchly advocates for the right to education in Mexico.

She is an international consultant for esteemed research institutions and civil organizations. Her focus lies in shaping policies on critical matters, including women's empowerment, addressing social gaps, and alleviating poverty.

She is a Harvard Ministerial Program Fellow and coauthor of the acclaimed book "An Educational Calamity: Learning and Teaching during the Covid-19 Pandemic," alongside fellow graduate students at Harvard University.

She holds membership in various influential networks, including Women for Education in Mexico, and is a co-founder of the Global Online Learning Alliance (GOLA).

She earned recognition as a Fellow from the program in education at Salzburg Global and actively contributes to the global alliance in socioemotional skills, Karanga.

She is a member of Mexican national governing boards of organizations dedicated to providing better opportunities for girls and boys in vulnerable situations.

Luciana Vosniak



Program Manager
Harvard Humanitarian Initiative
UNITED STATES

Luciana Vosniak is a Brazilian lawyer and international policy and program management professional whose work focuses on human rights, international justice, and the use of evidence to inform policy and practice.

She currently serves as Program Manager with the Peace and Human Rights Data Program at the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, where she leads and manages international research and program initiatives spanning transitional justice, accountability, humanitarian leadership, and international criminal law. Her work combines research implementation, policy analysis, program and grant management, partnership building, and stakeholder engagement.

Her past experience includes directing nationwide research on transitional justice and peacebuilding in Ethiopia, supporting UN human rights mechanisms at the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, conducting humanitarian policy research at the International Peace Institute, and working on international humanitarian law education and analysis with the American Red Cross.

Luciana holds a Master of Liberal Arts in International Relations from Harvard University and is currently pursuing an LL.M. in Public International Law at the University of London.

W

Court Williams



Strategist / Designer
MICA MASD + Urban Fireworks
UNITED STATES

T. Courtney Williams is an impact strategist and founding partner of Urban Fireworks, an independent consulting practice working at the intersection of racial equity, program design, and organizational strategy. Over more than a decade, they have built evaluation frameworks and governance structures for organizations including Shipt, REDF, and the Chicago Community Loan Fund, translating institutional resources into community-accountable outcomes and directing corporate and philanthropic capital toward the communities they are meant to serve.

Court is currently pursuing an MA in Social Design at the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA), where their work uses archival and ethnographic methods to surface how communities design their own solutions, and to carry those insights into strategy, systems change, and design practice.

Court is preparing to pursue an MBA with a focus on impact investing, aiming to enter the field as a designer and strategist. They are especially drawn to investing in innovative, community-first models, bringing that same grounding in lived and inherited knowledge into investment decisions alongside the technical fluency they have built over a decade of work.

Court holds a BA in History and Political Science from Howard University. Since leaving Johannesburg in 2022, they have chosen to live and work across multiple cities in the Americas, following the work and their own growth. They are a cast iron enthusiast, first child, and now a Baltimore resident.

Rachel Wilson



Founding Partner
Project Wellspring
UNITED STATES

Rachel Wilson is an investor, operator, and economic development leader with more than 15 years of experience spanning venture capital, technology, manufacturing, healthcare, consumer products, and community development. Her work sits at the intersection of capital, policy, and systems change, with a focus on designing financial solutions that expand economic opportunity, ownership, and access to the economic systems shaping the future.

Across her career, Rachel has helped raise, manage, and deploy more than $100 million in capital and has worked across venture funds, philanthropic capital, public-private initiatives, and community economic development.

She is the Co-Founder of Project Wellspring, an economic development and innovative finance platform designed to mobilize philanthropic, private, and catalytic capital toward businesses, community assets, fund managers, and ownership models that can build long-term community wealth. Project Wellspring's long-term ambition is to mobilize $1 billion toward more resilient, ownership-driven communities.

Rachel has held leadership and advisory roles with organizations and initiatives focused on inclusive capital formation and economic mobility, including the Living Cities Inclusive Capital Council, National League of Cities, Black Women in Venture Capital, and Community Development Venture Capital Alliance. She has also mentored more than 100 entrepreneurs and helped organizations access investment and non-dilutive capital.

Rachel holds a B.A. in Economics and Business from Agnes Scott College and an M.S. in Industrial Engineering from Georgia Tech.

Y



Abdinoor Yattani

Finance Officer
UN - World Food Programme Regional Bureau for Eastern and Southern Africa
KENYA

Abdinoor Yattani is a Finance Officer with the World Food Programme's Regional Bureau for Eastern and Southern Africa in Nairobi, where his portfolio centers on Innovative Finance and Faith-based Finance. He develops structured financing approaches and prepares technical and strategic materials for senior leadership and external partners. Before WFP, he worked with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Kenya Red Cross Society after an extended stint in the private sector. He holds an MSc in Development Finance from Strathmore University, and is certified as a Financial Modelling and Valuation Analyst, Chartered Development Finance Analyst, and Certified Expert in Climate and Renewable Energy Finance. He works in English, Swahili, and Arabic.

Maris Yurdana



Founder
We All Rise
UNITED STATES

Maris Yurdana works at the intersection of public policy, project investability, and people-driven solutions. Over the past nine years, she has supported more than $800M in investments across economic resilience, workforce development, climate and environment, asset ownership, and culture on four continents, aligning over $100M in direct capital toward more equitable, efficient, and people-centered outcomes.

As co-founder of We All Rise, Maris built a nationally recognized development consulting firm that shaped the strategy and execution of major investments in regional infrastructure, clean energy, workforce, and community-led urban development. She has led large-scale operational change across nonprofits and growing companies, and now works on product strategy and operational efficiencies for an investability due diligence platform.

Her practice is grounded in research. While earning her MSc in Sustainable Resource Economics, Policy & Transitions with Distinction, her work spanned impact investing, economic and risk modeling, food security, agricultural resilience, energy transition, global commodities, and circular economy. She has also conducted community research through We All Rise to inform people-centered development strategies since 2020.

As a Wangari Muta Maathai Award recipient for outstanding service, Maris moves fluidly across multicultural, multi-stakeholder environments in English and Spanish. She is driven by a simple conviction: there is nothing more powerful than delivering on what feels impossible, especially when doing so pushes the needle to create a more just world for everyone who lives in it.