

CUP FELLOWS CLASS OF 2015



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REENA ABRAHAM



Vice President of Education Programs Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)

Reena Abraham currently serves as the Vice President of Education Programs at LISC. In this role, she manages a growing charter school facilities portfolio. She raises capital and grants from foundations, banks and public resources to facilitate financing for charter schools. She also works to nurture sector maturation by sharing loan performance data, bond performance data and by disseminating research on charter school facilities financing options.

Ms. Abraham spent the majority of her finance career with Prudential Financial, structuring non-traditional social investments, including those for charter schools, and serving as a researcher in Prudential Securities Equity Research Department. She also worked for the KIPP Foundation, first as part of its national Real Estate Group and then as Financial Manager for the KIPP New Jersey Charter School. Ms. Abraham was selected to be a Broad Resident in Urban Education, serving as a summer resident with the San Francisco Unified School District. She holds an M.B.A. from New York University.

NEYSA ALSINA



Staff Attorney Municipal Credit Union (MCU)

Neysa Alsina is in-house counsel with the Municipal Credit Union ("MCU"), the oldest credit union in New York State. Prior to joining MCU, Ms. Alsina was employed with Citigroup and MetLife. She began her legal career as a Labor and Employment associate at Nixon Peabody LLP.

Ms. Alsina currently serves as the Hispanic National Bar Association Region II (NY) President. In this position, she leads the HNBA New York Region in creating opportunities for Hispanic law students, attorneys and judges throughout the State, and advocates on issues that impact the Latino community. She is a member of the Network of Bar Leaders, the Association of Corporate Counsel–GNY's Diversity Steering Committee, and the New York City Bar's Committee to Enhance Diversity in the Profession. In addition, she is a Director of the Sonia and Celina Sotomayor High School Judicial Internship Program.

Ms. Alsina is a member of the New York and New Jersey bars and admitted to practice before the U.S. District Courts for the Southern, Eastern and Western Districts of New York and the District of New Jersey. She is a graduate of Rutgers College at New Brunswick where she was an INROADS intern and inducted into the Cap and Skull Honor Society, and is a graduate of Fordham University School of Law where she received the Archibald R. Murray Public Service Award.

ALEXANDRA AMOUYEL



Director of Program Clinton Global Initiative

Alex Amouyel is Director of Program for the Clinton Global Initiative. She leads the program team which is in charge of designing and implementing program content, as well as managing speaker and government relations, for all of CGI's meetings, which bring together the foremost Heads of State, CEOs and heads of NGOs and Foundation to solve global challenges. Previously, she worked for Save the Children International in London and across Asia, the Middle East and Haiti, and as a strategy consultant at the Boston Consulting Group. Alex is also a member of Echoing Green's Social Investment Council, NationSwell's

Council and the Executive Committee of the Juilliard Club.

She has a Masters in International Affairs from Sciences Po, Paris, and the London School of Economics, and a BA(Hons) in Biochemistry from Trinity College, Cambridge, UK.

Her passions lie at the intersection of the private and non-profit sector, whether it relates to social entrepreneurship and private capital solutions to developments, or driving efficiency and professionalization in the non-profit sector.

COURTNEY ANDREWS



Associate Marketing Manager II Time Inc.

Courtney Andrews is an experienced marketing professional in the media industry. She is currently with the Consumer Marketing + Revenue department of Time Inc, and is primarily focused on developing and executing digital marketing strategies for *Entertainment Weekly* and *TIME* magazines. Additionally, Courtney is responsible for driving subscription revenue through strategic partnership management with companies such as HBO, AMC, Sony Pictures, and Starz. Prior to Time Inc., Courtney was located in Washington D.C., specializing in marketing for the public sector. She was also selected to participate in Macy's

Executive Development Program.

Empowering her community has always been an organic component of who Courtney is. Her commitment to community service has been evident throughout her academic and professional career, as she has been instrumental in creating impactful programming targeted to minority youth. In an effort to expand her deep-rooted passion for young women's development, Courtney currently serves as the co-founder and Executive Director of invest.her, a non-profit aimed at eliminating barriers for minority high school females to enroll in selective undergraduate business programs. Furthermore, Courtney is an active member of iMentor, a NYC mentoring program for high school juniors and seniors. When not engaging with her community, she enjoys marathon training and dancing. Courtney graduated from the University of Maryland with a Bachelor of Science in Marketing from the Robert H. Smith School of Business.

STEPHANIE ARTHUR



Coordinator Pacific Investment Management Company (PIMCO)

Stephanie A. Arthur, MPA is a government affairs strategist, with experience in regulatory affairs, public policy, and political strategy. Stephanie works at the Pacific Investment Management Company (PIMCO), where she assists in coordinating client and reporting efforts for the Public and Endowments & Foundations Investment Channel. An experienced campaign strategist and consultant, she has held senior-level positions on high-profiled races. Recently, she served as the Political Director for the winning Blake for Assembly 14' campaign and the Obama | Biden 12' presidential campaign; managing constituent affairs and voter turn-out in Harrisburg County, PA. Stephanie has also led on local mayoral, state senate and legislative races in the tri-state area. She served as a Government Affairs liaison for New York Life on a four-person team coordinating legislative strategy and policy research. She began her career in corporate compliance in 2005, spending 4 ½ years as a Regulatory Analyst at the New York Stock Exchange, ensuring investor integrity and real-time trading compliance.

The recipient of several civic awards and distinctions, most recently she was awarded a Congressional Citation in 2014 by Congressman Jose Serrano for her civic work. She is a former fellow of the Coro New York Leadership Center and an alum of the Women Campaign School at Yale University. Stephanie possesses a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from the University of North Florida, Post - Graduate Degree in Forensic Psychology, and a Masters in Public Administration from John Jay College of Criminal Justice with a concentration on Fiscal Policy and Regulatory Oversight.

VINCENT BENJAMIN



Senior Enterprise Relationship Manager LinkedIn

Vincent Benjamin is a Senior Enterprise Relationship Manager at LinkedIn, the online professional network. At LinkedIn, Vincent partners with corporations to accelerate revenue growth by leveraging LinkedIn's latest platform, Sales Navigator. Prior to LinkedIn, he was a Vice President of Institutional Equity Sales at Sanford C. Bernstein where he owned institutional relationships and sales strategy for east coast buy side institutions. Before Bernstein, Vincent worked for Barclays Capital in their structured capital markets division where he executed structured arbitrage transactions, and for Wachovia Securities as an investment banking analyst.

Vincent holds an MBA from Harvard Business School where he was a Toigo Fellow and Bert King Award recipient. He also holds a bachelor of English degree from Davidson College where he was a James B. Duke Scholar, Goodwin-Exxon Award winner, and founding President of the Tau Omicron Chapter of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. Vincent is the co-founder of the Emerging Professionals Group, a non-profit that has educated, equipped, and empowered minority college students for greater success after college for over a decade. He is also a mentor with Year Up, a Regional VP for the Toigo Foundation, and a committee member for Davidson College's \$425m capital campaign. Originally from Sewanee, Tennessee, Vincent lives in New Jersey with his wife, Heather, and daughter, Ava.

JODI CALLENDER



Chief of Staff, Real Estate Transactions Services NYC Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC)

Jodi Callender serves as the Chief of Staff of the Real Estate Transactions Services division at New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) where she spearheads the real estate division's budgeting, staffing, and reporting efforts. She is also responsible for a number of large-scale public-private real estate projects. In this capacity, Jodi works on project teams analyzing, structuring, and closing redevelopment deals on behalf of the City of New York. Prior to joining NYCEDC in 2012, Jodi worked as a Development and Acquisitions Analyst at JBG Rosenfeld Retail, a Maryland-based real estate company focused on grocery-anchored investments and developments. There, Jodi underwrote retail acquisition opportunities and managed several mixed-use development projects throughout the Washington D.C. metropolitan area. She has also held positions at CB Richard Ellis and Fannie Mae.

Jodi is an active member of the Urban Land Institute, serving most recently on the Women's Leadership Initiative steering committee. She previously sat on the steering committee of the International Council of Shopping Center's Alliance Program. A two-time graduate of the Georgetown University, she holds a B.S. in Business Administration with a concentration in finance and an M.P.S. in Real Estate with concentrations in finance and development.

LA NEICE COLLINS



Communications Advisor United Nations

La Neice Collins is a speechwriter and communications adviser for the United Nations in New York where she crafts compelling messages that move the international community to act on issues related to the rule of law, protection of civilians, women's rights and conflict and humanitarian crises. She has also worked for the United Nations in Geneva and Bangkok, focusing on multilingual and cross cultural communication on issues of international human rights law, climate change, economic development and social inclusion. Prior to joining the UN, she was an award winning television producer who worked for international broadcasters in New York, Washington, DC, Los Angeles, Berlin, Turkey, Afghanistan and Iraq.

La Neice is a member of the Writers Guild of America, the Producers Guild of America, the National Association of Black Journalists and the National Association of Hispanic Journalists and mentors aspiring reporters. She is also a member of her Brooklyn community board.

La Neice is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of California, Berkeley and received her Master of Science degree from Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism.

PAULA EDGAR



Principal PGE LLC

Paula T. Edgar Esq. is Principal of PGE LLC, a boutique coaching and consulting firm, which provides innovative and strategic solutions on career management, executive/leadership development, diversity efforts, networking and social media strategy.

Her professional experiences include serving as the inaugural Chief Diversity Officer at New York Law School, the Associate Director of Career Services and member of the Diversity Council at Seton Hall University School of Law, and as the Executive Director of Practicing

Attorneys for Law Students Program, Inc. (PALS), a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing diversity in the legal profession and providing mentoring, academic support, and networking opportunities to law students and junior attorneys of color. Prior to working at PALS, Paula practiced in the Law Enforcement Division of the New York City Commission on Human Rights.

Paula is active with a number of organizations and social justice initiatives and she serves as the President-Elect of the Metropolitan Black Bar Association. She is a wife and mother of two children and resides in Brooklyn, New York. Paula received her B.A. in Anthropology from the California State University (Fullerton) and her J.D. from the City University of New York School of Law.

LANCELOT ESTEIBAR



Director Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC

Lancelot Esteibar is a Director with the Government and Political Activities Compliance group at Morgan Stanley. He guides multiple business divisions regarding government ethics, including compliance obligations and best practices under federal, state, and local laws regulating pay-to-play concerns and procurement lobbying issues.

Lance leads many of his Firm's diversity initiatives, focusing on youth mentorship, outreach, and LGBT issues. Recently, Lance created an eight-month volunteer opportunity with Episcopal Social Services of

New York where Morgan Stanley employees assisted students in editing and publishing an anthology of short stories over the course of an academic year. Lance also leads a partnership with Legal Outreach, where students from underserved NYC communities complete an internship with the Firm's Legal & Compliance division. Lance is also the LGBT Recruitment Chair for his division. As Chair, he actively recruits new talent and educates prospective candidates about the importance of diversity in the workplace.

Prior to his work at Morgan Stanley, Lance served as a postgraduate fellow for the Dean of the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law. During law school, Lance summered at the Securities and Exchange Commission's Enforcement Division, completed an externship with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, and served as a summer law clerk for the Hon. Sandra L. Townes in the Eastern District of New York. Lance received his law degree from the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law and his undergraduate degree from the Johns Hopkins University.

JAMAAL GLENN



Founder Glenn Media Group

Jamaal Glenn is the founder of Glenn Media Group, a consulting firm and digital media publisher. Starting in 2009, Glenn Media published two of the web's fastest growing public policy analysis outfits, Politiconomist.com and Capitolista.com, before selling the editorial assets in 2011. Since then, they've helped organizations innovate and grow, with a focus on communications, public policy, user acquisition, digital marketing, advertising, social media, and content strategy. Their clients include Harvard University, Google, Reebok, McMaster-Carr, The Economist, and The New York Observer.

Jamaal is passionate about innovating at the intersection of technology, media, and public policy. Previously, he worked in business development and strategy at Google and in investment banking at JPMorgan. Jamaal has received an MBA from the Stanford Graduate School of Business, an MPA from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, and a Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Journalism from the University of Missouri.

SHAN HAIDER



Associate Perkins Coie LLP

Shan Haider, an associate at Perkins Coie LLP, represents companies across a wide range of industries and various stages of growth. His work encompasses both litigation and transactions. While varied, Shan focuses his practice on representing clients with respect to complex financial transactions facing default, such as distress debt investors holding legacy asset-backed-securities.

Shan has been selected to serve on his firm's Associate and Pro Bono Committees. He maintains an active pro bono practice, regularly representing clients in NYC at danger of losing their apartments due to predatory lending practices or rising costs due to neighborhood gentrification. Shan was also selected to join NREL's Solar Access to Public Capital working group convened to facilitate the securitization (and broader use) of solar/renewable assets. Shan serves on the board of Practicing Attorneys for Law Students, Inc. (PALS).

Prior to joining his firm, Shan served as a judicial law clerk in the Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware.

RICHARD HOOPER



Director RBC Capital Markets

Richard Hooper is a Director in the Global Technology Investment Banking practice at RBC Capital Markets. Based in New York, Richard provides advisory services to large cap, small cap and private technology companies across a broad range of strategic and capital markets transactions. Richard has spent the last eight years in investment banking working at Lehman Brothers and then Barclays before joining RBC Capital Markets. In that time, he has executed a number of high profile technology transactions while building expertise across software, systems and solutions.

Prior to joining Lehman Brothers to begin his investment banking career, Richard completed his MBA at the Fuqua School of Business at Duke University. Before business school, Richard worked in several roles across both the finance and technology sectors. He began his career at a global boutique structured finance firm before spending time working on an internet startup focused on providing financing alternatives to small to medium-sized businesses. He transitioned from there to spending three years at Morgan Stanley in a strategic group charged with helping the Company diversify and extend its technology capabilities.

Richard completed his Bachelor of Science in Economics at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. Born in Brooklyn, NY and the son of Jamaican parents, Richard is passionate about technology, travel, sports, martial arts and community involvement. He has served as president of a technology focused non-profit organization from 2001 to 2004 and continues to be active in community development today.

ARI JOSEPH



Diversity Initiatives Manager Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver and Jacobson LLP

Ari Joseph is the Diversity Initiatives Manager at Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver and Jacobson LLP. In this role, Ari develops and executes initiatives related to the recruitment and retention of diverse attorneys. He also oversees department research and data management, and supports the firm's HR, Marketing and Communications departments.

Prior to his current position, Ari spent five years working with underserved youth as the Director of Legal Education for Legal Outreach, a law-related pipeline diversity non-profit, and as a 7th and 8th grade English and Social Studies teacher. He also practiced Mergers and Acquisitions and Private Equity law at Dewey & LeBoeuf LLP. Ari received his J.D. from New York University School of Law and his B.A. from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

KERWIN LEDESNA



Associate Chaves & Perlowitz

Kerwin Ledesna is an associate with the boutique law firm of Chaves & Perlowitz, specializing in commercial real estate finance transactions. Prior to becoming an attorney, Kerwin worked for the Administration for Children's Services aiding families throughout New York City. Currently, Kerwin is exploring ways to combine his experiences in social work and real estate to facilitate building affordable housing in the Bronx.

In his free time Kerwin enjoys live music, art exhibitions, and travelling. Kerwin received his undergraduate degree from Fordham University and his J.D. from New York Law School.

CELINA LEE



Founder Give One Dream

Celina Lee is a lawyer, author, talk show host, and radio personality from New York. She has published an award-winning book in Korea, “꿈을 이뤄드립니다” (“Live Your Dream”). In her book, Celina tells the life stories of nine Korean-Americans who have lived their dreams and their stories of overcoming failure to achieve success in diverse industries.

Celina started her career as an investment banker at Merrill Lynch and worked as a corporate lawyer at a law firm, Ropes & Gray LLP in New York. She is the founder of Give One Dream, a community that inspires people to pursue and achieve their dreams. Celina is the Business Development Director at AKA Study, a startup in the field of artificial intelligence.

Previously, Celina was the President and Counsel of Cheongwon America, and spearheaded the effort for global investment for a premier real estate developer from Korea. She has a weekly segment on the longest-running Korean-American radio show, and has also hosted a talk show and interviewed guests representing a wide range of professions.

Celina graduated from MIT with a B.S. in Management Science and received her J.D. from U.C. Berkeley School of Law.

DESHAUN MARS



Director, District and School Partnerships Teach for America

Deshaun Mars is a Director of District and School Partnerships at Teach For America. In this role, Deshaun works with a large portfolio of school principals and school leaders in New York City to help facilitate the hiring process for the New York region's incoming corps members. In addition, Deshaun also manages the recruiting efforts to help diversify Teach For America's local teaching corps.

Deshaun started his career as a college access counselor for the Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation, a comprehensive community development and social service organization serving residents in the Cypress Hills/East New York section of Brooklyn. There, he mentored and helped students apply to college. He then worked as a college transition counselor with Good Shepherd Services, assisting the agency's high school graduates transition to community college at the City University of New York. His long term professional goals include strengthening the role that community members and community-based institutions play in improving the educational opportunities of those in our highest-need communities.

A graduate of Brown University, where he earned both his B.A. and M.A. degrees in Education Studies and Urban Education Policy, respectively, Deshaun is a proud New Yorker, born and raised in Crown Heights, Brooklyn.

JOHN OWENS



Principal Court Attorney New York State Unified Court System

John Owens Jr. serves as Principal Court Attorney to an Acting Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, in New York County. John is responsible for conferencing the Justice's Individual Assignment Part's docket of over 500 often complex commercial litigation matters and overseeing and mediating disputes in such matters. Previously, John served as Agency Counsel at the New York City Board of Elections, where he provided legal advice to the General Counsel, Commissioners, and senior agency officials. John began his legal career as an Assistant District Attorney in the Bronx District Attorney's

Office, where he gained extensive trial experience trying felony and misdemeanor cases. John received his J.D. from Fordham Law School and earned a B.S. in Criminal Justice (Cum Laude) and a M.A. in Sociology from St. John's University.

John is active in the New York State Bar Association, where he serves as Chair-Elect of the General Practice Section and is a member of the Election Law and Government Affairs Committee. John is the Chair of the Fordham Law Alumni Association's Government Affinity Group. As a member of the New York Democratic Lawyers Council, John advocates for increasing voter-participation in traditionally underrepresented and under-served communities.

CHANTÁ PARKER



Supervising Attorney The Legal Aid Society

Chantá Parker is a supervising attorney in the Criminal Defense Practice of the Legal Aid Society's Brooklyn office. Chantá has served as a staff attorney with the Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem and as a felony trial attorney with the Orleans Public Defenders. Born and raised in Savannah, Georgia, Chantá completed her undergraduate studies at Spelman College in 2003 and graduated from the New York University School of Law in 2006. While at NYU, Chantá was elected the National Community Service Director for the National Black Law Students Association.

Currently, Chantá is an executive board member of the Black, Latino, Asian Pacific American Alumni Association of the NYU School of Law. Chantá is most proud of her work with Gideon's Promise, a premier training program for public defenders in the South that was featured in the award-winning documentary "Gideon's Army" in 2013. A graduate of Gideon's Promise, Chantá now serves as a trainer, mentor and speaker for the organization. In addition, Chantá helped found the Essie Justice Group, a loving community of women with incarcerated loved ones based in the California Bay Area.

Chantá uses music to sooth her soul and energize her body for the journey.

NYRON PERSAUD



Counsel Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP

Nyron J. Persaud is an executive compensation and employee benefits attorney at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, LLP. Nyron regularly counsels clients on the executive compensation and employee benefits aspects of complex corporate transactions, including mergers and acquisitions and initial public offerings. He also serves on the Diversity Committee and the Associates Committee of the firm's New York office.

Originally from Guyana, Nyron grew up in the Bronx. Nyron holds a B.S. in Industrial & Labor Relations from Cornell University and a J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School.

TONYA PLEAR



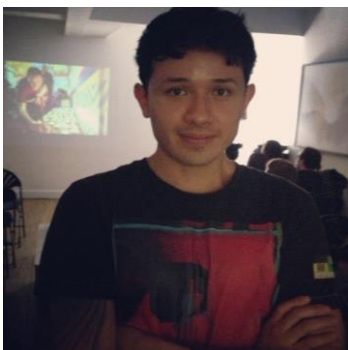
Vice President and Chief Administrative Advisor BNY Mellon

Tonya Plear earned her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (1998) and her Master's in Public Administration from New York University (2007). She also participated in a study abroad program in South Africa where she studied *education and social reform in post-Apartheid South Africa*.

Tonya has worked in the financial industry for 15 years, beginning her career at The Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation in a management training program and advancing to a role as a Relationship Manager for bank and broker clients. In 2007, Tonya began working at BNY Mellon as a Relationship Manager to hedge funds and other institutional clients, providing custody and collateral services. She transitioned to her current position as Chief Administrative Advisor in June 2012 and is charged with managing a variety of operational, administrative, strategic and client related programs and services that support the U.S. Region.

In her spare time, Tonya enjoys volunteering, reading, watching movies, and traveling. You can also find her taking a variety classes to learn new skills such as cooking, cake decorating, photography and wine tasting. Tonya is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated and the New York Urban League Young Professionals.

SEBASTIAN REA



Content Manager Tribeca Enterprises

Sebastian Rea is an award-winning writer, director and producer. His first short film (Early Morning Nostalgia) garnered him the Smithsonian Institute's Latino Artist Award in 2007. In 2007, his film (No LEGAL Child Left Behind) was picked up by the Associated Press from the MYSAPCE Film Your Issues CONTEST.

Sebastian has a BA in Film and Political Science from SUNY Purchase College, where he founded TheLONGTAKE, their first cinema journal. In 2011, he created Afectación in Madrid, Spain, which won Best

Acting award at the 2012 Columbia University National Undergrad Film Festival. His first feature film LONE PROPHET, won the Best Feature Film Director award at the 2013 Phenom Film Festival. It was also part of the Official Selection at the 2013 Golden Door International Film Festival and the 2014 Queens World Film Festival, where he won the Emerging Filmmaker award, and then won again at the AWARENESS Film Festival in California.

In December 2013, Sebastian founded the 30UNDER30 FILM FESTIVAL, which celebrates 30 films from filmmakers under 30 years old. He is an active board member of the Latino Film Summit, and Prime Latino Media, an organization empowering the community with resources and networking opportunities for filmmakers. He also mentors a student part of the Tribeca Film Institute's film fellows PROGRAM. Sebastian works full time for Tribeca Enterprises as their content manager.

KASHAY SANDERS



Neighborhood Coach Community Solutions

Kashay N. Sanders works on community engagement for the Mayor's Action Plan for Neighborhood Safety, as a Neighborhood Coach with the organization, Community Solutions. She graduated from Dartmouth College with a major in Women's & Gender Studies and a double minor in Anthropology and Japanese. With passions at the intersections of the public sector, urban spaces and poverty both domestically and globally, Kashay has led projects and research in India, Denmark, and Bosnia & Herzegovina. In New York City, she delved into city government, working on data-driven approaches

to poverty-alleviation and connecting low-income New Yorkers to long-term jobs.

To stay tapped into conversations on innovation in her professional space, Kashay has participated in the StartingBloc Institute for social innovators, is a Municipal Arts Society "Urbanist" member and serves on the American Planning Board for Humanity in Action, an organization committed to minority rights globally. Kashay is a New York native and self-proclaimed Urbanist, seeking to unlock the potential of the cityscape as a place where economic and social stability is viable for all.

JORGE SANTANA



Managing Director, Teacher Leadership Development Teach For America

Jorge Santana is a Managing Director, Teacher Leadership Development at Teach For America – New York. In this capacity, Jorge oversees the team responsible for the ongoing development of over 180 teachers in 70 schools in Manhattan and Queens. He also serves as a member of the regional leadership team, accountable for the impact, growth and sustainability of the largest Teach For America region in the country.

Jorge began his career as a wealth management analyst at Merrill Lynch before transitioning to the field of education and for the past eight years, has worked as an advocate for educational equity in New York City. Jorge taught bilingual 2nd grade at P.S. 385 in the South Bronx and 4th grade at Achievement First in Crown Heights, Brooklyn. Following his time leading in classrooms, Jorge worked as a member of the Teach For America summer institute team as a School Operations Manager and subsequently as a School Director at P.S. 86 Kingsbridge Heights, where he led the initial training of 100 first year teachers as the summer school principal. Jorge received his B.A. in economics and Latin American studies from Princeton University and his M.S. in elementary education from CUNY Lehman College. He was born in Mexico City and moved to Millburn, New Jersey with his parents and younger brother when he was 5 years old. In his spare time, Jorge enjoys running and most recently completed the 2014 New York City Marathon.

ARMANDO SOMOZA



Program Director Urban Arts Partnership

Armando Somoza is a Program Director at Urban Arts Partnership (UAP), NYC's largest and fastest growing arts-education organization. UAP's mission is to promote the intellectual, social and artistic development of underserved public school students and close the achievement gap. As Program Director, he leads three programs where he pilots new initiatives, including an advanced programming for high school students, college-age students, and Teaching Artists in Digital Media practices including Coding & Game Design, Digital Video, Music Production, Photography and Design. UAP delivers

cutting-edge arts programs designed to develop student voice, strengthen academic performance and position graduates as agents of change in their communities.

Armando is a NYC-based new media artist, social entrepreneur, and educator who has committed his life's work to the empowerment of young people through the fusion of education, innovation and the creative arts. He is committed to the creative application of digital technologies as an agent of provocation, education, community empowerment, cultural entrepreneurship and change. Armando leverages the theoretical and practical foundation he developed through his MFA in Electronic Media, Art & Design, and a BA in Ethnic Studies. He is a fellow with the National Association of Latino Arts and Culture (NALAC) Advocacy Leadership Institute.