

Voices from the Cultural Battlefield: Organizing for Equity's **U.S. artists and community organizers**

Dr. Marta Moreno Vega is the founder and president of the Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute in New York City, NY. She is author of *The Altar of My Soul: The Living Traditions of Santeria* and *When the Spirits Dance Mambo*.

Dudley Cocke is the artistic director of Roadside Theater, a wing of Appalshop in Whitesburg, KY. He is a stage director, teacher, writer, and media producer.

Olga Garay is the general manager of the Department of Cultural Affairs, City of Los Angeles, CA.

Kalamu ya Salaam is an independent artist and co-director of Students at the Center in New Orleans, LA.

Dr. Sonia BasSheva Mañjon is the vice president for diversity and strategic planning at Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT.

Dr. Bernice Johnson Reagon is a composer, musician, songtalker, scholar, performer, historian, teacher, producer, director, author, public speaker, and activist, and has been a major cultural voice for freedom and justice for more than 45 years.

Dr. Amalia Mesa-Bains is director of the Department of Visual and Public Art at California State University, Monterey Bay, CA, and is an independent artist and cultural critic.

Tonya Gonnella Frichner of the Snipe Clan, Onondaga Nation, is founder and president of the American Indian Law Alliance in NY, and serves as the North American Representative to the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

Peter Pennekamp is executive director of the Humboldt Area Foundation in California.

Caron Atlas is a Brooklyn, NY-based freelance consultant working to strengthen connections between community-based arts, policy-making, and social change.

Dr. Jack (John Kuo Wei) Tchen is the founding director of the A/P/A (Asian/Pacific/American) Studies Program and Institute at New York University, and the co-founder of the Museum of Chinese in the Americas in NYC.

Carlton Turner is regional development director for Alternate ROOTS, and artistic director and co-founder, along with his brother Maurice Turner, of the performing group M.U.G.A.B.E.E. (Men Under Guidance Acting Before Early Extinction).

Jamie Haft works at the intersection of art, activism, and higher education as program coordinator at the national organization, Imagining America: Artists and Scholars in Public Life.

Nick Szuberla is a media artist at Appalshop in Whitesburg, KY working on criminal justice issues through his direction of the multi-media project Thousand Kites.

Maurice Turner is chairman of the board, Highlander Research and Education Center, in New Market, TN, and is co-founder, along with his brother Carlton Turner, of the performing group M.U.G.A.B.E.E. (Men Under Guidance Acting Before Early Extinction).

James V. Burks is the founder of the African Marketplace, Inc. in Los Angeles, CA, and is a respected cultural destination developer.

Bernardo Rosa-Lugo Jr. is a Pomona, CA-based community organizer on issues of social justice, racial justice, youth violence, teen pregnancy, and substance abuse prevention.

Melody Capote has served as both executive director and director of external affairs at the Caribbean Cultural Center/African Diaspora Institute in New York City, NY, from 1984 to the present.

Dr. Randy Martin is professor and director of the Graduate Program in Arts Politics at the Tisch School of the Arts, New York University, NY.

Art Menius is the director of Appalshop, a multi-disciplinary arts and education center in the heart of Appalachia producing original films, video, theater, music and spoken- word recordings, radio, photography, multimedia, and books since 1969.

Bill Aguado has been the executive director of the Bronx Council on the Arts in NY since 1981.

Alexandra Chang is an arts writer and curator, and is the director of public programs and research manager at the Asian/Pacific/American Institute at New York University.

Laurie A. Cumbo is the founder and executive director of the Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts in Brooklyn, NY.

Diane Fraher (Osage) is a filmmaker and the founder of American Indian Artists Inc., a NY-based arts organization, which makes the indigenous perspective in the arts available to a broad multi-cultural audience.

Sandra A. Garcia-Betancourt is executive director of The Northern Manhattan Arts Alliance, and is a poet, writer, and arts activist.

Roger L. Green is a professor and the executive director of the W.E.B. Dubois – Ralph Bunche Center at Medgar Evers College within the City University of New York.

Naomi Jackson is a program associate for the Rockefeller Brothers Fund's Democratic Practice program.

Maria Lopez De Leon is the executive director and member of the board of the National Association of Latino Arts and Culture.

Abel Lopez is the associate producing director of GALA Hispanic Theatre, president of the board of directors of National Association of Latino Arts and Culture, and vice president of the Americans for the Arts board of directors.

Yvette Modestin is founder and executive director of Encuentro Diaspora Afro in Boston, MA, empowers young girls of African descent and builds bridges of understanding between African Americans and Latinos.

Kathi Pavlick is a Bronx, NY-based community development and arts consultant. For over 20 years, she worked for JPMorgan Chase.

Michael Unthank is executive director of the Harlem Arts Alliance, an arts service organization with a membership of over 400 artists and arts organizations.

Carol Marie Webster is a dance artist, cultural/social anthropologist, theologian, and community arts activist.