Jonathan Collins, Ph.D. is a writer, political scientist, and education policy scholar. Dr. Collins is the Mary Tefft and John Hazen White Sr. Assistant Professor of Political Science, Education, and International and Public Affairs at Brown University, where he also holds a courtesy professorship in Urban Studies. As a researcher, Collins has been at the forefront of the study of public participation at school board meetings. He is the founder and director of the Brown University PAVED Research Initiative for urban school improvement through which he is leading new participatory budgeting initiatives aimed at empowering minority communities.

Dr. Danielle Moss Cox is President and CEO of Oliver Scholars and previously served as the Inaugural Chief of Staff of the New York Civil Liberties Union and President and CEO of the YWCA of the City of New York. A lifelong advocate for intentionally marginalized communities, Dr. Cox previously served on New York City’s Commission on Gender Equity, and as Co-Chair of the NY City Council’s Young Women’s Initiative. She holds M.A. and Ed.M. degrees from Teachers College Columbia University, where she also completed her Doctorate in Organization and Leadership with a focus on Education Administration.
Rae Robinson

Managing Director and Chief Equity & Inclusion Officer, SKDK

With nearly two decades of leadership experience in multicultural, corporate, and nonprofit communications, Rae Robinson provides expert counsel on corporate crises and diversity, equity, and inclusion strategy for internal and external stakeholders. Robinson leads SKDK’s Multicultural Communications and Engagement Practice, working with some of the world’s most recognized companies and nonprofit organizations committed to advancing racial, social, and economic justice. She is responsible for developing corporate inclusion and diversity communications strategies and cultivating partnerships that promote and further diversity, equity, and inclusion. Robinson holds a bachelor’s degree from Spelman College in Atlanta, GA and two master’s degrees from Boston University.

Anthony Simmons

Senior Director of Institutional Partnerships-Equity, Resilia

Anthony J. Simmons brings over a decade-plus of experience in philanthropy and community-centered work, with a commitment to supporting people in marginalized communities and disrupting the systems which marginalize them. Prior to joining Resilia, Anthony served as the Director of Philanthropic Advising Services at ABFE: A Philanthropic Partnership for Black Communities. Anthony is currently the Chair of the Board of Advisors for Emerging Practitioners in Philanthropy (EPIP). He also serves on the Board of the Center for Racial Justice in Education (NYC) and the Penn Center (South Carolina), the first school in the US South for formerly enslaved West Africans and a National Historic Landmark District.

Aimée Thorne-Thomsen

Principal, Guerrera Strategies, LLC

Aimée R. Thorne-Thomsen, MPA, (she/her/ella) is a long-time reproductive justice activist with more than 20 years’ experience in community organizing, communications, movement-building, and policy advocacy. She launched Guerrera Strategies to focus on building power with and for women and girls, communities of color, immigrants, LGBTQ+ people and young people. Prior to that, Aimée served as the Vice President of Strategic Partnerships of Advocates for Youth, where she oversaw and coordinated the development, implementation and evaluation of Advocates’ strategic partnerships with youth activists and organizations in allied social justice movements.

Everyday Democracy is powered by Everyday People.