



OCTOBER 6, 2020
7:00pm, ET

PROGRAM



The **Opportunity** Agenda



WELCOME

Fawzia Mirza, *Emcee*

INTRODUCING THE OPPORTUNITY AGENDA

Ellen Buchman, *President*

WHAT THE OPPORTUNITY AGENDA MEANS TO ME

Various

PRESENTATION OF JUSTICE OUT LOUD AWARD TO DEANNA HOSKINS

Ellen Buchman, *President*

ARTIVISTS IN ACTION: JESSE KRIMES AND RUSSELL CRAIG

Jesse Krimes, *Artist, Curator, and Co-Founder, Right of Return USA*

Russell Craig, *Artist*

PRESENTATION OF JUSTICE OUT LOUD AWARD TO ALAN JENKINS

Ellen Buchman, *President*

A WORD FROM OUR CHAIR

Vincent Benjamin, *The Opportunity Agenda Steering Committee Chair*

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

Stephen Brackett and Michelle Rocqet

FINAL PHOTO MOSAIC REVEAL



FAWZIA MIRZA is a writer, performer, creator, and director who believes in the power of comedy to tackle divisive topics & break down stereotypes. She was named a White House Champion of Change in Asian American Art & Storytelling, a 3Arts Acting Grantee, a Top 10 Creative (Indiewire), 10 Filmmakers to Watch (Independent Magazine), a Djerassi Program Writing Resident, an alum of Tribeca Film Institute's All Access Program, a Canada Arts Council grantee, and one of the Chicago Dept. of Cultural Affairs inaugural Esteemed Artists. Her one-woman-play-turned-screenplay was named an SFFILM Society Rainin Fellow and invited to the 2020 Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) Writer's Studio. Her first feature, SIGNATURE MOVE, which she co-wrote, produced and stars in, world premiered at SXSW, screened 150+ film festivals globally, won 14 awards (including Outfest Grand Jury Prize, Best US Narrative), and is available on Amazon/itunes. She wrote on CBS series THE RED LINE, executive produced by Greg Berlanti and Ava Duvernay. She's working on a number of TV and film projects right now. And making egg vids on instagram.



ELLEN BUCHMAN, appointed President in August 2019, brings to The Opportunity Agenda a breadth of knowledge, expertise, experience, and relationships having worked among leaders at local, state, national, and international levels for more than 25 years. Prior to joining The Opportunity Agenda in 2018, she served as Executive Vice President for Field and Communications at The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, where she piloted the organization's field and organizing program, and developed and oversaw the vision for the integrated field, communications, and policy work at the center of the organization; led and put into place dozens of successful campaigns; spearheaded mobilization, training and support to national, state, and local coalitions; and created innovative organizing and communications training models for advocacy around the country and at the international level.



Ellen is an internationally known trainer, leader, and practitioner of organization and coalition building, campaign initiating and implementing, and training in the intersection of organizing, advocating, and communicating for social justice. Her work has centered mainly on issue areas including but not limited to criminal justice reform, immigration and immigrant human rights, and voting rights and access to democracy. In addition, she has developed training curricula for advocates on the state, national and international levels on the skills needed for effective organizing, communicating and advocating for social change. She is committed to using her expertise and vision to strengthen campaign and organizational structures to build power for achieving meaningful and lasting social and racial justice.



DEANNA HOSKINS has been President and CEO of JustLeadershipUSA (JLUSA) since 2018. A nationally recognized leader and dynamic public speaker, Ms. Hoskins has been committed to the movement for racial and social justice, working alongside those most impacted by marginalization, for over two decades.



Throughout her career, Ms. Hoskins has been committed to reducing stigma and harm in communities impacted by mass criminalization. She leads from the perspective that collective leadership, advocacy for justice with reinvestment, and bold systems change are only possible when those who are most harmed are provided the tools and resources to demand change. Her own life experience has been a driving force, having been directly impacted by the system of incarceration and the war on drugs. She is inspired by communities working for justice across the country, and by her three children – two of whom who have experienced the criminal justice system.

Ms. Hoskins has been a part of JLUSA's national alumni network since 2016 as a Leading with Conviction Fellow. Prior to taking the helm at JLUSA, she served as a Senior Policy Advisor [Corrections/Reentry] at the Department of Justice during the Obama Administration. While there, she oversaw the Second Chance Act portfolio and managed cooperative agreements between several federal agencies tasked with supporting formerly incarcerated people and their families. She also served as the Deputy Director of the Federal Interagency Reentry Council, was the founding Director of Reentry for Ohio's Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners, and has worked in local neighborhoods in Cincinnati and at the Indiana Department of Corrections on improving conditions and treatment of incarcerated people.

Ms. Hoskins is originally from Cincinnati, Ohio and holds a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati and a Bachelor of Social Work from the College of Mount St. Joseph. She is a Licensed Clinical Addictions Counselor, a certified Workforce Development Specialist trainer for formerly incarcerated people, a Peer Recovery Coach, and is trained as a Community Health Worker.



JESSE KRIMES is a Philadelphia based artist and curator, and the co-founder of Right of Return USA, the first national fellowship dedicated to supporting formerly incarcerated artists. While serving a six-year prison sentence, Krimes produced and smuggled out numerous bodies of work exploring how contemporary media shapes or reinforces societal mechanisms of power and control.



His work has been exhibited at venues including Palais de Tokyo, The International Red Cross Museum, Zimmerli Museum, and Aperture Gallery and is currently on view at MoMA PS1 and the Philadelphia Museum of Art. He was awarded fellowships from the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation “Artist as Activist,” the Independence Foundation, the Vermont Studio Center, the Art For Justice Fund, Captiva Residency, and Creative Capital.

Krimes’ work is a part of the Agnes Gund Collection and he is represented by Malin Gallery in New York. In addition to his independent practice, he successfully led a class-action lawsuit against JPMorgan Chase for their predatory practice of charging people released from federal prison exorbitant fees.



RUSSELL CRAIG is a self-taught multimedia artist who lives and works in New York. Craig is best known for his portraits of incarcerated subjects that address larger political and social issues, particularly criminal justice reform and the impact of the prison industrial complex on individuals and communities.



Craig is a lead teaching artist with the Mural Arts Philadelphia's Restorative Justice Guild program, a 2017 Right of Return fellow, and a 2018 Ford Foundation Art for Justice Fellow.

His artworks have been exhibited at the Philadelphia African American Museum as well as at the O. G. Experience in New York.

Craig's art has been mentioned in various publications, including The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Philadelphia Inquirer, and The Guardian. Craig is currently working toward his MA at Bard College in New York.



ALAN JENKINS is a Professor of Practice at Harvard Law School where he teaches courses on Race and the Law, Communication, and Social Justice. Before joining the Law School faculty, he was President and Co-Founder of The Opportunity Agenda, a social justice communication lab dedicated to the idea that our nation can and should be a place where everyone enjoys full and equal opportunity.



Jenkins' prior positions have included Director of Human Rights at the Ford Foundation, where he managed grantmaking in the United States and eleven overseas regions; Assistant to the Solicitor General at the U.S. Department of Justice, where he represented the United States government in constitutional and other litigation before the U.S. Supreme Court; and Associate Counsel to the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, where he defended the rights of low-income communities facing exploitation and discrimination. He previously served as a Law Clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Harry A. Blackmun and to U.S. District Court Judge Robert L. Carter.

Jenkins is a frequent commentator in broadcast and print media, including CNN, the New York Times, MSNBC, and the Huffington Post. He serves on the Ad Council's Advisory Committee on Public Issues and as an Advisor on Anti-Poverty Strategies to the JBP Foundation. His past Board service includes New York Public Radio, the Center for Community Change, the Legal Action Center, and Futuro Media Group, as well as the Board of Governors of the New School for Public Engagement. He has also served on the Selection Committee for the Sundance Documentary Fund.

Jenkins holds a J.D. from Harvard Law School, an M.A. in Media Studies from the New School for Public Engagement, and a B.A. in Psychology and Social Relations from Harvard College.

VINCENT BENJAMIN is the Director of Solution Sales at Microsoft where he leads a \$500M business enabling digital transformation in the financial services industry. Before coming to Microsoft, Vincent was a senior leader at App Annie, the venture capital-backed mobile app startup company following a decade in the finance industry at Wachovia, Barclays, and Bernstein.



Passionate about accelerating opportunity for all, Vincent serves as the co-founder of the Emerging Professionals Group, a non-profit that has equipped and empowered underrepresented college students for success for over a decade. He also serves as a Regional VP for the Toigo Foundation, as a committee member for Davidson College's \$425M capital campaign, and as a member of the Steering Committee of the Opportunity Agenda.

Originally from Sewanee, Tennessee, Vincent resides in Montclair, New Jersey with his wife, Heather, and two daughters, Ava and Chloe. Vincent received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Davidson College in Davidson, North Carolina and a Master of Business Administration degree from Harvard Business School.



STEPHEN MALLOY BRACKETT

has been rhyming words as a calling and profession for the last 12 years. He has toured the world with his band, Flobots, using music as a platform for engagement and collective empowerment. The band's platinum hit, "Handlebars," has allowed Stephen to share the stage with many of his heroes including Desmond Tutu, the Dalai Lama, Rage Against the Machine, Public Enemy, Bernie Sanders, and Emily Keys.



His time as a philosophy student at Colorado State University nurtured his life-long love affair with the arts, education, and activism. Blending his passions, he co-founded the non-profit Youth on Record in 2008. Youth on Record exists to empower Colorado's youth to achieve their academic, artistic, and personal best by employing local, professional artists as their educators. To date, Youth on Record has impacted the lives of thousands of young people and after 11 years serving on the Board of Directors, Stephen is proud to join the staff this year as Director of Special Programs.

As a Denver native, he has seen a decline in arts education in the public school system, and is doing all he can at Youth on Record to ensure that all young people in Denver have the tools to tell their own story – be it through music production, lyric writing, poetry, spoken word or movement. Stephen is a driving force in curriculum development and program planning for Youth on Record.

Stephen comes from a family that set a precedent of using your gifts to benefit others. He gives credit to his mother, Ava Malloy Brackett, for setting a precedent that allowed no label to define her outcome. Stephen lives in his hometown of Denver, Colorado with his brilliant wife Jennifer, dog Scout, and beloved cat, Puma.



MICHELLE ROCQET is a Vocalist, Beatboxer, Songwriter, Producer, Educator, Recording Artist, and member of experimental pop band, The Milk Blossoms. She uses her platform to bridge differences through visceral truth-telling and radical self acceptance. Current projects include co-writing original music for Phamaly Theatre Company's Alice in Wonderland (Set to run for 2021), as well as collaborating with Colorado Music Ambassador (Stephen Brackett) on district-wide music programming through Carnegie Hall's "Musical Explorers".



THE OPPORTUNITY AGENDA STEERING COMMITTEE

Vincent Benjamin, *Chair*
Yasmin Cader
Vladimir Estiverne
Michael Goldberg, *Treasurer*
William Gorin
Joseph Lewis
Alan Myers
Amy Redford
Richard Roberts
Sara Stuart, *Secretary*



THANK YOU AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

*Heartfelt thanks to our funders and supporters.
Without your partnership and support, our work would not be possible.*

Many thanks to all who helped create a memorable event in the virtual space:

The Steering Committee and Staff of The Opportunity Agenda

Fawzia Mirza

Jesse Krimes and Russell Craig

Stephen Brackett and Michelle Rocqet

Cleo Barnett and Amplifier, and Paola Mendoza for the gifts of their creations

And to all of our partners who provided testimonials:

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Mark O'Brien

Astrid Domínguez

Seth Pendleton

Twanna A. Hines

Ronald Simpson-Bey

April Ignacio

Tony Stephens

Victoria Jackson

Juhu Thukral

Matthew Kohut

Jesse Van Tol

Melissa Moore

Dragonfly a.k.a Robin LaVerne Wilson



SPECIAL APPRECIATION

This evening's event would not have been possible without the expertise, collaboration, and generosity of spirit of the following professionals:

Frank Accosta and Lisa Madocks of Poplar Events for navigating us through this new “virtual world” when circumstance of 2020 forced us to shift our in-person event to live stream.

Kvibe Studios for their peerless production expertise, and for their commitment, creativity and collaboration.

KVDesign for creating an imaginative and versatile design.

The Opportunity Agenda Team, who reached out to partners, fixed the website, paid the bills, spread the word, and did all they could to help make this event possible.

To see more of the artwork of **Jesse Krimes** and **Russell Craig**, visit **The Malin Gallery**. Their work can also be seen through April 2021 at **MoMA PS1**.

AMPLIFY THE #JUSTICEOUTLOUD: LIVESTREAM GALA

Help continue tonight's celebration and conversation by using the hashtag **#JusticeOutLoudGala** to share your thoughts, photos, and more!

