

# NONPROFIT SEMINAR

CENTER FOR  
NONPROFIT STRATEGY  
AND MANAGEMENT

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## Making Social Change: Nonprofit Leaders Share Models for Deeper Community Engagement

Wednesday, October 26, 2016  
4:00-6:00PM

### BIOGRAPHIES

#### **Maria Mottola** **Executive Director, The New York Foundation**

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Maria Mottola has been the executive director of the New York Foundation since 2003. She served as a program officer from 1994 to 2002. Prior to joining the foundation, from 1989 to 1994 she was executive director of the City Wide Task Force on Housing Court, a housing advocacy organization that promotes the reform of New York City's Housing Court. As the Task Force's founding director, Ms. Mottola managed the group's transition from a volunteer activist campaign to a fully staffed and funded organization. From 1984 to 1989, Ms. Mottola was the director of neighborhood programs and a community organizer at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, a settlement house on the Eastside of Manhattan. From March 2010 through May 2011, Ms. Mottola acted as an executive-on-loan to Gladys Carrión, the commissioner of the New York State Office of Children and Families, working closely with the commissioner and her senior staff on a variety of projects. Ms. Mottola has taught community organizing at New York University School of Social Work, and has been an adjunct instructor at Hunter College Graduate School of Urban Affairs and Planning since 1996. Ms. Mottola was co-chair of the Neighborhood Funders Group, a national affinity group from 2003 to 2006. She currently serves on the board of the Red Hook Initiative. Ms. Mottola is also a freelance

illustrator, and studies at the Art Students League. She received her undergraduate degree in liberal arts at the University of Toronto and a master's degree in social work from Fordham University.

## **Lauren Burke**

### **Executive Director and Co-Founder, Atlas: DIY**

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Lauren is the Executive Director and Co-Founder of Atlas: DIY, a public interest career counselor at NYU School of Law and a 2014 Echoing Green Global Fellow. Since graduating from New York University School of Law in 2009 she focused her career on developing inclusive legal programs for immigrants and youth in various organizations throughout New York City and empowering immigrants and children, focusing on survivors of trauma. During a Skadden Fellowship, Lauren developed the Immigrant Youth Peer Educator Program, and in 2010 she and three of her students worked together to create Atlas. Fluent in Mandarin, Lauren has an expertise in representing youth trafficked to the U.S. from China (her work inspiring the documentary "Walking Merchandise"), though in founding Atlas she became passionate about serving immigrants of all origins. In 2012 Lauren was also invited to teach and develop the Immigrant Youth Clinic at Brooklyn Law School and in 2014 she began work at NYU. Lauren and Atlas have been profiled in Forbes, where she was also named one of "30 Under 30" (Law & Policy) and one of "20 Millennials on a Mission," in The New York Times, and on NPR's All Things Considered. Burke has been named one of Huffington Posts New Abolitionists and in 2013 was named NYU's Distinguished Alumni of the Year. Lauren also hosts a popular YouTube series teaching youth from across the country how to file their own cases.

## **Sean Thomas-Breitfeld**

### **Co-Director, Building Movement Project**

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Sean Thomas-Breitfeld co-directs the Building Movement Project, which develops research, tools, training materials and opportunities for thought partnership that bolster the ability and potential of nonprofit organizations to have an impact in building movements for progressive social change. Prior to joining the BMP staff, Sean spent a decade working in a variety of roles at the Center for Community Change. At CCC, he developed training programs for grassroots leaders, worked in CCC's communications and policy departments where he coordinated online and grassroots advocacy efforts, and lobbied on a range of issues, including immigration reform, transportation equity and anti-poverty programs. Before joining the Center, Sean worked as a Policy Analyst in the National Council of La Raza's DC headquarters, where he developed research and lobbied on issues related to employment and income security. Sean holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from New York University's Robert F. Wagner

Graduate School of Public Service, as well as a Bachelor's Degree from St. Olaf College in Minnesota, where he completed a dual-major in Social Work and Multicultural Studies.

## **Jill Eisenhard** **Founder & Executive Director, Red Hook Initiative**

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Ms. Eisenhard is the Founder and Executive Director of the Red Hook Initiative in Red Hook, Brooklyn. Under her leadership the community center has developed a model for social change and youth development that empowers youth and community members to become agents of change in their own lives and within their own neighborhood. RHI currently employs over 125 residents of Red Hook, thereby keeping the majority of financial resources within the neighborhood. Ms. Eisenhard has over 20 years of direct youth work experience with a community-based social justice lens. Formerly a Program Implementation Manager with the Carrera Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program at the Children's Aid Society, she oversaw four after school youth programs in the South Bronx and Washington Heights as well as providing training and technical assistance to the national programs. Ms. Eisenhard worked for five years with Long Island College Hospital and was instrumental in launching the Center for Women's Health, a comprehensive medical center for women, the first of its kind in Brooklyn, NY.

Ms. Eisenhard and the Red Hook Initiative received a Union Square Award in 2007 in recognition for their fight for social justice in Red Hook. They also received the 2012 "Building Brooklyn Award" in the community development category, granted by the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce. In 2009 Ms. Eisenhard received the Bank of America Local Hero Award and in 2011 she was given a "Brooklyn Women of Distinction" award from CNG Courier Life. She is a graduate of the Coro Leadership New York program, 2010. In 2012 she received the Coro Alumni Leadership Award for Civic Engagement. She was featured in the July 2012 issue of More Magazine under their "Job Genius" series. In 2012 the Red Hook Initiative received the Gold Medal for Excellence in Nonprofit Management from NPCC and the New York Magazine. In 2014 Ms. Eisenhard was named to *Crain's 40 under 40* and was a City & State Above and Beyond honoree. Ms. Eisenhard holds a BS from Cornell University.

## **Aracelis Lucero** **Executive Director, MASA**

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Aracelis Lucero is the Executive Director of Masa, a non-profit organization that partners with Mexican and Latino immigrant children, youth, and families to develop strong learners and leaders who fully participate in and contribute to the larger community. A South Bronx native born to Mexican immigrant parents from Puebla,

Aracelis attended Middlebury College as a Posse scholar and received a bachelor's degree in Economics. After seven years working in Finance, Aracelis switched careers to focus her professional energy on supporting and working with her community. In 2012, she earned a Master's degree in International Affairs from Columbia University.

Since joining Masa's staff as Executive Director in late 2013, Aracelis has shepherded the organization's evolution from tiny and volunteer-driven to a comprehensive provider of educational programs spanning early childhood through adulthood, and access to legal status (via the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals provisions), all while maintaining a deep commitment to organizing and advocacy in partnership with her community as well as recognizing the many strengths already present in immigrant families.

### **Michelle Neugebauer** **Executive Director, Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation**

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Michelle Neugebauer started her career at CHLDC as the first full-time employee in October 1984 when the organization had a budget of \$35,000 and one program. Today, it has a \$14 million+ budget, a staff of 500 and 16 service sites. Michelle has led her dedicated team in planning and carrying out all of the organization's major program initiatives, including CHLDC's work in public education reform, building affordable housing, community organizing, and supporting young people and their families. Cypress Hills prides itself on a grassroots and holistic community development approach that has resulted in new public schools, hundreds of units of affordable housing, a revitalized commercial corridor, a continuum of youth development supports from early childhood education to college graduation and a legion of very empowered community leaders. Michelle attended Barnard College, and holds M.S. degrees in Social Work and Urban Planning from Columbia University. She is a member of the Boards of Directors of United Neighborhood Houses and the Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development. Michelle grew up in Bushwick, Brooklyn in the 1970s and credits those experiences of neighborhood struggle with her life-long passion for community development and service.