



Young People Driving Social Change through the **Ballot Box** and **Beyond**



Luis Sanchez
Co-Executive Director – Power California



Over the last 25 years, Luis has dedicated himself to building a movement for educational, social and economic justice in California. Prior to joining Power California, Luis was a Senior Fellow at the Movement Strategy Center. In that capacity, he led the Boys and Men of Color work and the Building Healthy Communities Statewide Youth Engagement Initiative with the California Endowment. Through his consulting practice, EC Strategy, Luis has served as a strategic planning, organizational development, and media and political consultant for foundations, political candidates, and campaigns, non-profit organizations, elected officials and labor unions. He was also the founding Executive Director of InnerCity Struggle, an organization that works to improve education and the quality of life in East Los Angeles. Luis is a graduate of UC Berkeley with a degree in English and holds a Masters in Public Administration from Cal State Northridge. He resides in the El Sereno section of Los Angeles with his spouse and two children.



Jamileh Ebrahimi
Youth Organizing Director, RYSE Youth Center



Jamileh Ebrahimi has been the Youth Organizing Director since 2012. As Youth Organizing Director, she builds a vibrant youth organizing culture both at the Center and in the Richmond community. Jamileh is deeply committed to education, organizing, organizational and community sustainability, and movement building, and through her 18+ years of community organizing, she has discovered the importance of community empowerment, healthy living, and justice. She works to ensure that young people serve as key stakeholders and decision-makers on issues and policies impacting their individual and collective health and well-being. Before joining RYSE, Jamileh started organizing for change in Youth Together (YT) at the age of 13. Following high school, she became the Regional Organizer at YT where she worked for seven years organizing the regional Ethnic Studies conference, campaign planning, and doing local, regional, statewide, and national coalition work for educational justice. She was a member of the BSU at Berkeley Community College, Organize Da B.A.Y., Schools Not Jails Coalition, and the Just Act Core Group, where she had the opportunity to travel to Brazil for the World Social Forum



J Ishida
Senior Strategy Director, Youth Organize! California



As a Senior Strategy Director at Californians for Justice and Youth Organize! California, J Ishida leads the integration of local and statewide organizing to build power and transformation in our communities. J brings 17 years of youth organizing and racial justice experience through their work with Californians for Justice, Movement Strategy Center, Chinese Progressive Association, and as an independent consultant for youth organizing and civic engagement organizations. J comes from four generations of Hawaii-Japanese farmers, and is a genderqueer parent who loves frisbee, dark chocolate, and kids- but not in that order.



Albert Maldonado
Senior Program Manager, The California Endowment



Albert Maldonado is Senior Program Manager tasked with developing and managing The California Endowment's cross-cutting Youth Power & Youth Development Strategy and Portfolio. The Endowment's approach to youth engagement expands beyond traditional notions of "youth development" by supporting a youth organizing framework and approach to address issues of race, power and equity as part of young people's socio-political development and agency. Albert has played a key role in building grant making strategies and incubating organizations to support youth-organizing and civic engagement, youth-voice, youth-healing and youth-participatory action research at the local and statewide levels with an emphasis on low income, marginalized communities for The California Endowment. Realizing the power of youth as health equity change-makers, he has spearheaded the development and launch of The Endowment's signature youth engagement strategies and gatherings, including developing and staffing The President's Youth Council, The Endowment's Youth Organizing Camps, Youth Advocacy Day in Sacramento, Trans Youth Health Summit, Youth Awards and youth media retreats to hone the story telling craft of youth journalists who cover community health issues across California. Prior to joining The Endowment, Mr. Maldonado was the Senior Director of Central Valley Programs at the [Youth Leadership Institute](#) (YLI), an organization committed to creating space where young people and their adult allies come together to address public health issues through youth-led campaigns. Albert received a bachelor's degree in Politics & Sociology from UC Santa Cruz and lives in Los Angeles with his son, Malachi.



Esmeralda Castro
LA Campus Coordinator
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Esmeralda is a proud Latina woman, without a college degree, but heavily equipped with lived experiences from her humble upbringing. She is the daughter of two immigrant parents from Autlan, Jalisco, Mexico who have together taught her from an early age about injustices, but also about hard work and perseverance. Esmeralda calls Boyle Heights her home but was raised in a mixture of community cultures in Jalisco and Sinaloa, Mexico; Las Vegas, Nevada; and Bell, California. Esmeralda is most proud of her journey and navigating life as a Latina woman. All of her work is done through the lens of the femme experience in hopes that she can contribute to a better tomorrow for all women. Esme is the youth organizer of the LA area.



Jahiem 'Geo' Jones
Richmond Youth Organizing Team Fellow
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Jahiem 'Geo' Jones was born in Pawtucket, Rhode Island on October 24, 2002 and at a very young age witnessed death by suicide from his eldest brother. Because of this he was believed to be depressed and dealt with a lot of bullying up to his middle school time. Over the time of nine years he lived in 5 other states before coming to Pasadena and then up to Richmond at 9 years old. His emotional health has been hard to build. At the age of 13 he was introduced to RYSE, which opened doors to opportunities and built his leadership as he organized for safety in his community. Jahiem is a RYOT Fellow at the RYSE Youth Center in Richmond, California. His organizing efforts are centered on social justice issues in the community and how they positively or negatively impact youth emotionally, mentally, or physically. He has faced obstacles around race, gender, sexuality, and appearance. He achieved a lot being a youth organizer at the RYSE Youth Center from being more vulnerable, having more patience, and showing leadership in a way that leads with love and pushes for safety in the community. In regards to his work he was recently awarded Community Championship Award and was a youth organizer for the Kids First Richmond Campaign that established a Richmond Department and Fund for Children & Youth.



Naudika Williams
Trainer
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Naudika is an alumni of Californians for Justice, a past intern at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, and a trainer with YO! California. She has led work to reform California's education funding system and ensure meaningful student voice in the process, engaged and educated her peers through civic engagement campaigns, and organized youth and staff to create Relationship-Centered Schools in Oakland. She is a graduate of Oakland High School, and a student at Laney college. Naudika is planning to transfer this fall to pursue her degree in creative writing and film.



Jasmine Deladfosse
Student Organizer
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For the past four years Jasmine, along with countless young people in South Stockton, has been finding ways to build community and civic engagement. Life for her and many Stockton youth have elements of social and economic poverty, and it is her personal experience that drives her to do this work. Jasmine has worked on issues related to disadvantaged student opportunities. She has served as a site director for summer programs with the Housing Authority and the University of the Pacific to promote literacy. In addition, she has worked with 100 students over the past four Summers to help them design and execute community action plans, thereby developing active solutions to the problems facing their community. In her role as Student Organizer for the South Stockton Schools Initiative since October 2015, she and other South Stockton partners have created a park beautification campaign aimed at reducing blight, graffiti, and gang-related crime with the goal of increasing the number of families who use neighborhood parks. She has worked to help bring access to fresh produce in food desert areas in south Stockton and is currently working with students to fight for education improvements through policy change. Currently, she partners with Stockton's Mayor Tubbs, Facebook, Street Code Academy and EnCorps STEM teacher fellowships to bring more access to STEM and coding opportunities for students in south Stockton. Jasmine will continue to dedicate her time and heart to uplift, empower and equip the future generation to reach their highest potential.