



Young Leaders for Social Change Class of '22 Fellowship Bios



At one point, Alejandro Guizar Lozano hailing from Culiacan, Sinaloa Mexico, was forced to learn the ins and outs of grassroots organizing when faced with his own deportation. Currently living in Nashville, TN, Alejandro looks to build on this experience to become an effective leader in grassroots organizing to help undocumented communities take control of their lives, while meeting the direct needs of people who are just trying to survive day to day. We do not live in silos and do not have the luxury of misremembering the past.



Jayant Patel is the Programs Assistant at Son of a Saint, a New Orleans-based nonprofit focused on transforming the lives of fatherless boys through mentorship, emotional support, development of life skills, exposure to constructive experiences and the formation of positive, lasting peer-to-peer relationships. He marries his background in hospitality and nonprofit project management to support the organization's administration, evaluation, and operations. Prior to this role, he was an AmeriCorps VISTA with HandsOn New Orleans, whose mission is to create and manage projects relating to school revitalization, youth recreation, and other community-based initiatives. Growing up in a single-parent household, Jayant connects to the mission of Son of a Saint, finding fulfillment in providing mentorship to the young men in the program. Outside of Son of a Saint, Jayant enjoys playing a game of basketball, immersing himself in music, and finding new ways to self-actualize.



Quinton Reynolds is the Founder and Executive Director of Game Changing Men, a nonprofit based out of Newnan, GA. Since his release from prison, Mr. Reynolds has become a fervent activist, advocating for criminal justice reform, meaningful re-entry services post incarceration, and for the second chances of formerly incarcerated trans masculine and AFAB (Assigned Female At Birth) folk. He is also a staunch advocate for the release of the wrongfully and currently incarcerated transmasculine and AFAB folk. At Game Changing

Men, the mission is to ensure the safety and wellness of communities of color by utilizing a holistic and harm reductive approach to dismantling violence, toxic masculinity, promoting health, sharing stories, and erasing stigmas that have proven to be barriers to the growth and societal progression of Black men and the transgender and nonbinary community at large. Mr. Reynolds' passion for his community has led him to become a public educator, volunteer, and an intentional advocate for Black trans women, having sat on panels at national conferences covering topics such as HIV prevention, civic engagement, and restorative justice. Mr. Reynolds currently sits on the board of directors for the Trans Women of Color Healing Project in Newnan, GA, where his goal is to help combat the erasure of the very existence of trans women of color communities and their contributions to society. As an African American man of trans experience, Mr. Reynolds is an ardent proponent for the affirming care and inclusiveness that the TGNC community deserves. Mr. Reynolds' mantra is *"If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail."*



Averi Shannell Goss is a fierce champion for the rights of young women of color, focusing on their empowerment while encouraging them to become confident, creative leaders in their respective communities. While attending Columbia College, she worked as a Resident Assistant, facilitating workshops on mental health awareness, identity, and artistic expression for the women living on campus. After graduating, she joined a nonprofit, Every Black Girl Inc., to mentor young girls of color and lead them through creative art and community service projects. In addition, she serves as a researcher for the In Our Names Network, working to achieve police-free schools and the removal of harmful school policies

that disproportionately impact children of color. Her goal is to inspire young leaders to become active members of society and to use their creative talents to combat injustice. Art as Activism is her passion, and she hopes to create more opportunities for cultural representation within her community.



Kameisha Smith has been involved in social justice work since elementary school. One of her very first organizing experiences (and successes) took place in 2005 when she and her peers spent two years obtaining signatures for a petition requesting playground equipment for their school, Lexington Elementary. In addition to successfully obtaining playground equipment for their school, they were also able to secure playground equipment for all elementary and middle schools in the entire school district. Since that time, Kameisha has thrown herself into community activism, transitioning from a youth leader to a youth organizer, and now serves as the Youth Program Coordinator at Nollie Jenkins Family

Center, Inc., where she is actively recruiting and training students of all backgrounds to help create a pipeline of young leaders who will be able to impact policy and make a difference in their schools and communities.



Born and raised in West Virginia, Takeiya Smith is the Executive Director of the Young West Virginia Forward power building movement. Over the past seven years, Takeiya has collaborated with community members, advocates, and allies to address racial justice matters in her state that range from equity on school campuses to the school to prison pipeline, disparities in policing, economic justice, and combatting voter suppression. Takeiya's organization, Young West Virginia Forward is a youth and Black-led movement that aims to empower students to mobilize within their own communities and enact change that benefits the whole. As part of this work, Young West Virginia Forward leads groups of young residents into the community multiple times

a week to connect with others like them who believe in standing up for democracy. Young West Virginia Forward also focuses on increasing voter engagement through canvassing, relational organizing, collaboration with community stakeholders, and civic education.



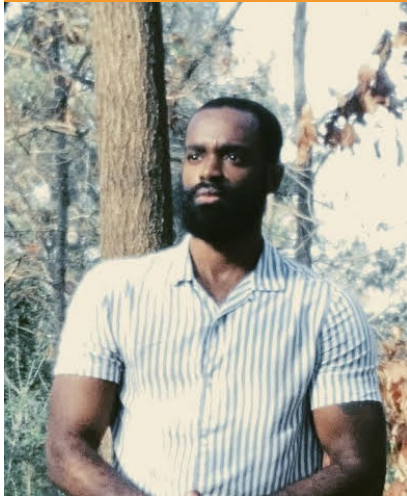
Jameisha Stallworth is a graduate of Bishop State Community College, where she received an associate degree in Business Administration. A Mobile, AL native, she currently serves as an Ambassador for the Bay Area Woman Coalition (BAWC), a group that is leading the way for social justice and cultural change. Prior to being named Ambassador in April 2021, Jameisha was BAWC's Chief Event Organizer, responsible for end-to-end management of the organization's marketing, website design, and social media outreach and analytics. Jameisha has also headed community betterment campaigns and played a key role in the continued development of strategic planning and sponsorships. This ensured flexibility in response to an increasingly demanding need for diversity, equity, and accountability in her community.

Jameisha views her acceptance into the YLSC Fellowship as a tremendous opportunity to effect positive change and accelerate her community impact. She hopes her experience—past, present, and future—will inspire other budding activists to follow suit in the struggle for racial equality in the United States.



Khadidah Stone is a native of Montgomery, Alabama, where she currently works as the Data and Training Manager for Alabama Forward. She is a graduate of Troy University with a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish and American Sign Language, and a minor in International Relations. This Fall, she plans to obtain her master's degree in international relations with a concentration in National Security Affairs. Khadidah has worked in nonprofit, advocacy, and political spaces through entities such as the Alabama House of Representatives, Feminist Majority Foundation,

Alabama Institute for Social Justice, Nashville International Center for Empowerment, and numerous political campaigns. Khadidah is passionate about any effort that moves communities towards collective liberation, pushing for justice and equity in every space she enters. Currently, she serves as the Youth Development Director for Women in Training, a nonprofit dedicated to fighting period poverty in the lives of girls and women. She also serves as Board President of We Matter MGM, a student-led advocacy nonprofit organization that builds the voices of high school and college students to bring them to the decision-making table. One of Khadidah's favorite quotes is by James Baldwin: "Ignorance allied with power is the most ferocious enemy justice can have."



Isaiah Withers is a community organizer with the National Black Worker Center (NBWC) in Raleigh, NC, and co-founder of the newly created Black Self-Defense Team. At the NBWC, he was lead organizer of the pilot program *Black Voices, Black Votes 2020*, which sought to demonstrate that by investing in organizing and leadership development at the local level, Black communities could be influential in key districts for the 2020 elections. *Black Voices, Black Votes 2020* collected over 3,000 surveys through canvassing and was featured in the online magazine Scalawag. He also worked on the NBWC program, *Working While Black*, which interviewed Black employees regarding their

experiences of racial discrimination in the workplace. Additionally, he collaborates with local Black-owned businesses and organizations to build partnerships that help hold elected officials accountable. Never missing a beat, Isaiah is currently doing voter engagement work in rural areas of North Carolina with a new program, *Forward the Count*. Growing up in Reidsville, NC, where white supremacy and the KKK maintain an active presence, he joined and eventually became president of the local youth chapter of the North Carolina NAACP. Before joining the NBWC, he co-founded Unknown Society, a broadly inclusive group dedicated to collective liberation that included young people from the surrounding communities and universities such as Winston-Salem State, North Carolina Central, and North Carolina A&T. Members worked together with other local organizations, including NC 100, on various civic engagement and community projects.