

The 2022 NAMD Advocates Leadership Summit

OUR PRESENCE IS OUR POWER



Welcome

Sabeerah Najee – Our DJ

Sabeerah has been described as an amazing person, friend, advocate, and educator. She brings these diverse perspectives to her many roles, as a Soulection DJ, Goldenvoice consultant, Accessible Festivals consultant, and all around good vibe. Sabeerah lives off of the positive energy that she receives and strives to reciprocate that every chance she gets. Her sets are as lively and turnt as she is and her main goal is to inspire and create pathways for her entire community!



Katrina Kemp

Katrina Kemp (she/her/pseudoachondroplasia) was born in Burbank, California and has participated in numerous artistic mediums since 1995. Her professional opportunities have traveled her to over 70 major cities, and several beautiful countries. As a person with dwarfism, she concentrates her projects on modern conversations encompassing dwarfism and disability awareness inside of contemporary popular culture. Whether she is acting, taking portraits, DJ'ing, reading tarot cards, creative producing or speaking on a panel, Katrina's work celebrates mysticism, hustle culture, and exploring divine feminine and masculine related to dwarf bodies idolized, portrayed and worshipped throughout many ancient civilizations for thousands of years. She has four careers in separate unions across the entertainment industry, and brings her Club Kid roots and 3 feet 6 inch tall gaze to every artistic medium possible.



Opening Session: The Past, Present & Future of Disability & Racial Justice

Sneha Dave

Sneha Dave (she/her) graduated from Indiana University in May 2020 where she majored in chronic illness advocacy as well as journalism. She created Generation Patient and its program the Crohn's and Colitis Young Adults Network (CCYAN) to develop support systems for adolescents and young adults with chronic conditions across the U.S. and internationally. She is proud to work with a team composed entirely of young adults with chronic conditions and also to keep Generation Patient and CCYAN independent from pharmaceutical and insurance industry funding.



Sneha has completed an undergraduate research fellowship in health policy at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Sneha has spoken on Capitol Hill, featured nationally on C-SPAN, and is a past contributor for U.S. News and World Report. She has served on the Democratic National Committee Disability Policy Subcommittee and recently joined the Midwest Comparative Effectiveness Public Advisory Council, an independent appraisal committee of the Institute for Clinical and Economic Review. She also serves on the FDA Patient Engagement Collaborative and on a grantmaking advisory committee with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Sneha was awarded two academic fellowships with the Association of Health Care Journalists. For her work, she was selected as one of the most influential teenagers in 2018 by the We Are Family Foundation and was recognized as an American Association of People with Disabilities Emerging Leader in 2020.



Mary Fashik

Mary Fashik (she/her) is a Lebanese born, queer disability rights activist, author, public speaker, and workshop facilitator. She founded Upgrade Accessibility in 2019, a social justice movement designed to challenge today's accessibility standards. Since its inception, the movement has grown and broadened its lens to include disability rights and Disability Justice with a focus on intersectionality and equity. Through a variety of workshops and trainings, Mary helps companies understand how deeply rooted ableism is in their organizational structure and how to implement important changes.



In 2021, she was named an honoree on the D-30 Disability Impact List by Diversability, where she now works as their Community Engagement Manager. She is also the creator and host of The Politics of Disability podcast which was chosen as Best Interview Podcast at the 2022 Astoria Film Festival.

Jen White-Johnson

Jen White-Johnson (she/her) is a disabled and Neurodivergent Afro-Latina art activist and design educator whose visual work aims to uplift disability justice narratives in design. Jen uses photography, zines and collage art to explore the intersection of content and caregiving with an emphasis on redesigning ableist visual culture. Jen has presented her disability justice activist work and collaborated with a number of brands and art spaces across print and digital such as Twitter, Target, Converse, and Apple. Her photo and design work has been featured in The Washington Post, AfroPunk, and The New York Times and is permanently archived in libraries at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and National Museum of Women in the Arts in DC. In 2021 she was listed as 20 Latino Artists to watch on Today.com Jen has an MFA in Graphic Design from The Maryland Institute College of Art. She was born in Washington D.C. and currently lives in Baltimore with her husband and 10-year-old son.



Jennifer Lee

Jennifer Lee (she/her) is the Founder and Executive Director of the Asian Americans with Disabilities Initiative (AADI), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that amplifies the voices of disabled Asian Americans nationwide.

Jennifer is a disabled Korean-American woman with Crohn's disease, a form of Inflammatory Bowel Disease.

After learning more about chronic illness and invisible disabilities, she found her calling in disability advocacy as a 2021 Crohn's and Colitis Young Adult Network (CCYAN) Fellow and a member of the Crohn's and Colitis

Foundation's National Council of College Leaders. She is a 2022 Youth to the Front Fund Frontliner from the We Are

Family Foundation, 2022 Victoria's Secret PINK with Purpose Project Winner, 2022 Coelho Law Fellow at Loyola Law School, and a 2021 Heumann-Armstrong Educational Award

recipient. As an undergraduate student at Princeton University's School of Public and

International Affairs, Jennifer formerly worked at the American Civil Liberties Union and the Office of Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA). She intends to dedicate her career to

intersectional activism on behalf of the disability community and looks forward to attending the 2022 Presence is Our Power Summit.



Session 1: Being Sick in a Black Body

Tiffany Dena Loftin

Tiffany Dena Loftin (she/her) is a national social and racial justice organizer. She trains movement leaders on the fundamentals of power relationships and organizational capacity building to directly improve the conditions of communities of color. Tiffany served as the National Director for the Youth and College Division at the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Her mission there was to train, organize and uplift young Black leaders everywhere who fight for the racial, social, and economic equity of all people. She worked with 340 middle, high school, and college autonomous chapters under her leadership who are constantly recruit new members that organize local and national campaigns like ending mass incarceration, ending gun and police violence, school safety, college affordability, and protecting and increasing democracy.



Ms. Loftin has a five-year background in national labor union organizing working at the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), the National Education Association (NEA), and the American Federation of Labor-Council of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO). As a labor civil rights organizer, she created the labor unions only national curriculum that helps workers understand better how race and inequality are part of every collective bargaining fight. She helped create coalitions with community organizations like Black Lives Matter, Dream Defenders, and United We Dream. Under her leadership she coordinated a national commission of 30 national presidents and vice presidents to meet with local community leaders to address the issues of police brutality, health care, and racism in the union and worked to create a list of demands that both local labor leaders and national leaders could implement.



Rasheera Dopson

Rasheera Dopson, MPH (she/her) is a disability justice advocate, author, scholar, public speaker, content creator, and researcher. Her research work includes advancing health equity within marginalized communities through the implementation and application of health policy.



She is the founder of the Dopson Foundation and Beauty with a Twist brand— which were established in 2020 to increase professional and health equity for women and girls with disabilities. Her mission is to bring visible representation by sharing her lived experience as a black woman with a disability while informing audiences on the importance of having intersectional voices at the table of all sectors.

Social Media Handles:

Instagram- @rasheeradopson

Twitter- @rasheeradiara

Britney Wilson

Britney Wilson (she/her) is an Associate Professor of Law and the Director of the Civil Rights and Disability Justice Clinic at New York Law School. Before New York Law School, Britney was a staff attorney at the National Center for Law and Economic Justice (NCLEJ) where she litigated disability rights and criminalization of poverty cases. Before NCLEJ,



Britney was a Bertha Justice Fellow at the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) where she litigated discriminatory policing, abusive immigration detention practices, and economic justice cases. Before CCR, Britney was a Marvin M. Karpatkin Fellow in the Racial Justice Program at the American Civil Liberties Union where she litigated a range of racial justice issues from the school-to-prison pipeline and the criminalization of poverty to fair housing and inclusion in higher education. Born with Cerebral Palsy, Britney has written and spoken extensively about disability, and the intersection of race and disability, including as a poet



and creative writer, for various outlets such as The Nation Magazine, Longreads, This American Life, and HBO's Brave New Voices.

Session 2: Gaining Economic Momentum and Prosperity

Valerie Novack

Valerie Novack (she/her) is a disability policy researcher focusing on inclusive and resilient communities. She focuses on lifting up the expertise of lived experience and grassroots efforts of marginalized peoples into policymaking at the local, state, and federal levels.

Valerie started in a Center for Independent Living before becoming a 2019 Portlight Fellow focusing on legislative solutions to inaccessible emergency response practices in the United States. She was the founding Board Chair of the Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies and has had the pleasure of partnering with Autistic Self Advocacy Network, FEMA, Neighborhood Access, and the National Disability Rights Network on efforts to build more accessible responses to climate

change. Novack has a bachelor's degree in disability studies and urban planning from the University of Toledo and a master's degree in disaster preparedness and emergency management from Arkansas State University. She is currently pursuing her PhD at Utah State University.



Catarina Rivera

Catarina Rivera (she/ella) is the founder of [Blindish Latina](#), a platform smashing disability stigmas through storytelling, advocacy, and education. In addition to her entrepreneurial endeavors, she has over 14+ years of experience working in educational institutions and at nonprofit organizations. She has experience in program development/management, managing teams, capacity building, community organizing, community engagement, and diversity, equity, inclusion (DEI) initiatives as part of employee groups.

As a Latine/x woman who has lived with disability all her life, she brings a deep understanding of intersectionality to conversations surrounding disability.

She wore hearing aids from a young age but did not know why she she was hard of hearing. At 17, she was diagnosed with Usher Syndrome which includes progressive vision loss due to retinitis pigmentosa as well as a hearing disability.

Learning that she was losing her vision was very difficult for 17-year-old Catarina. As her disability journey progressed over the years, she describes her progression as moving through the following four stages: “From Denial to Acceptance to Self-Advocacy to Public Advocacy.” In her journey, Rivera has learned what it is like to have a nonapparent disability that one can make apparent or choose not to disclose. She began using a white cane several years ago and noticed changes in how society viewed her. She now feels disability pride and is empowered by sharing her story.



Kamilah Martin Proctor

Kamilah Martin-Proctor (she/her) is a life-long resident and fourth generation Washingtonian. She received a B.A. in Political Science and M.A. in Organizational and Cultural Communication from Howard University Mrs. Martin-Proctor Currently serves on The U.S. Department of Transportation Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) Board as Vice Chair, Safety and Operations, and 2022 Chair, Washington D.C. Commission on Persons with Disabilities (DCCPD), she also serves as the Vice-Chair on the Board of the World Institute on Disability (WID), Board of National Disability Institute. She is also a British-American Project Fellow. She served as Vice-Chair on President, Barack Obama 's National Council on Disability, was Co-Coordinator with the Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Program at Howard University. She worked as Staff Assistant and Legislative Correspondent for Congresswoman Shelia Jackson Lee (D-TX) and as Executive Assistant to Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ).



Session 3: The Future of BIPOC Innovation

Keri Gray

Keri Gray (she/her) is a cancer survivor, entrepreneur, speaker, and facilitator. She is the CEO of the Keri Gray Consulting Group, LLC, where they strive to create professional communities of understanding through disability and racial justice education. She is also founder of the National Alliance of Melanin Disabled Advocates, which creates spaces for disabled leaders of color and



BIPOC allies to gather, learn, connect, and grow around racial and disability justice.

Through her various roles, Keri has recruited approximately 4,000 professionals for over 100 organizations and Fortune 500 companies. She has also designed and managed programs for over 1,000 professionals that has helped participants secure competitive employment, identify transferable skills, build an influential network, and gain notable opportunities.

Keri's work has been featured in Teen Vogue, People Magazine, Time Magazine, Madamemoire, PBS Newshour, and the Diet Coke campaign #Unlabeled.

Chantel Diaz

Chantel Diaz (she/her) is currently the Program Manager of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion at AEG where she manages programs that promote Diversity, Equity & Inclusion that foster an open and welcoming environment for employees and patrons alike. Her work with AEG includes managing the Employee Network Groups, working with Goldenvoice and its Coachella and Stagecoach music festivals and is also involved in community events. She is passionate about developing partnerships and connections within the industry, other Diversity, Equity & Inclusion professionals, and key stakeholders in the entertainment industry. Chantel has previously worked for AEG Presents, the LA Clippers and the Oakland Raiders.



In her free time Chantel manages an R&B singer and a DJ. She engages in giving back to the communities she is passionate about by sitting on three boards: Accessible Festivals, Our Own and Pauly's Project. Not to mention, she is a dog mom to Cookie.

Pedro Pavón

Pedro Pavón is the Global Policy Director of Monetization Privacy and Fairness at Meta. Pedro's team advises Meta executives on privacy and fairness matters related to Meta ads and monetization across the company's surfaces (Meta, Instagram, Whatsapp, Messenger, Oculus, Business Tools). Before Meta, Pedro served as Director and Senior Corporate



Counsel of Global Data Protection at Salesforce. Prior to joining Salesforce, he worked as Senior Managing Counsel for Oracle Corporation, and before that, he practiced law at a national law firm. Prior to entering private practice, Pedro served as counsel to the Assistant Attorney General of the United States at the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C.; attorney advisor and program manager at the U.S. Department of Energy in Washington, D.C.; and attorney advisor at the Department of Justice in Miami, Florida. Pedro's expertise is in global data protection law and policy in the context of product development, mergers and acquisitions, and development and deployment of artificial intelligence and machine learning solutions.

