

**PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF NEW YORK CITY  
REVIVING RADICAL: GATHERINGS ON PPNYC LEGACY IN COMMUNITIES OF COLOR**

**REVIVING RADICAL TRUTH AND RECKONING  
COMMISSIONERS**



**Dr. Lynn Roberts** has a BS in human development from Howard University (1984) and a PhD in Human Services Studies from Cornell University (1991). The City University of New York (CUNY) has been her academic home since 1995. Prior to joining CUNY, she oversaw the development, implementation and evaluation of several prevention programs for women and youth in NYC. She has also served on the board of SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective and co-edited an anthology on reproductive justice (CUNY Feminist Press 2017). Dr. Roberts' activism and scholarship examine the intersections of race, gender and other marginalities in adolescent dating relationships, juvenile justice and reproductive health policies; as well as the impact of models of collaborative inquiry and teaching on civic and political engagement. She brings her vast expertise drawn from 25 years at CUNY to her current position.



**Aimée Thorne-Thomsen** is proud Boricua and the former Vice President for Strategic Partnerships at Advocates for Youth, where we partner with youth leaders, adult allies, and youth-serving organizations to advocate for policies and champion programs that recognize young people's rights to: honest sexual health information; accessible, confidential, and affordable sexual health services; and the resources and opportunities necessary to create sexual health equity for all youth. In that capacity, she oversees and coordinates the development, implementation, and evaluation of Advocates' strategic partnerships with youth activists and colleague organizations in allied social justice movements. She also oversees the Youth Organizing and Mobilization Team and the Policy Team.

Prior to joining the staff at Advocates, she served as the Interim Executive Director for the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice and the Executive Director of the Pro-Choice Public Education Project (PEP). She sits on the Board of Directors of SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective, Mobilize the Immigrant Vote and RH Reality Check and is a Public Voices Fellow with the Oped Project. In addition to her work across social justice movements, Aimée is an advocate in the cancer community and serves as a Leader for the LIVESTRONG Foundation. She has spoken around the country at venues including the NOW National Conference, Netroots Nation, Center for American Progress, and Facing Race, and her writing and blogs have appeared on Women's e-News, Daily Kos, Feministing, Feministe, and RH Reality Check among others. Aimée earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Yale University and a Master of Public Administration from Baruch College, City University of New York



**Nia Eshu Martin-Robinson** is a fierce, femme, queer, Black woman, born and raised in Detroit, Mich. Nia is the Director of Black Leadership at Planned Parenthood Federation of America. She is a facilitator, trainer and convener who operates with a Black Feminist lens and a deep desire to be in service to all Black women and girls. Nia's activism lives at the intersection of Reproductive and Environmental Justice. Her professional path as an activist and advocate began at Detroiters' Working for Environmental Justice and she later switched gears to sharpen her organizing skills with the Service Employees International

Union. From 2006-2011, she served as Director of the Environmental Justice and Climate Change Initiative. There she worked with her team to bring the voices of women, people of color, Indigenous peoples and low-income communities to the climate change debate on a state, federal and international level. While in leadership, she co-authored a report examining the impacts of climate change and climate change policy on African Americans entitled "A Climate of Change: African Americans, Global Warming and a Just Climate Policy in the U.S." Possessing the belief that reproductive and sexual autonomy for women and queer folx of color, Indigenous women and low-income women is a human right and inextricably linked to being able to exist in a safe and healthy environment, Nia's work has often focused on creating dialogue at the intersections of Climate, Reproductive and Environmental Justice; exploring the disproportionate impacts of environmental issues on women and girls of color; and looking at the reemergence of population control rhetoric in the climate change debate and the dangerous implications this has on marginalized communities. Nia's work centering women of color led her to serve as the Activist in Residence at Bennett College for Women, one of two historically Black colleges for women from 2009-2013. There, as a non-traditional student, Nia completed her BA in Interdisciplinary Studies with a concentration in Women's Studies and Political Science and minors in Sociology and Global Studies.



**Chanel Porchia-Albert** is the Founder and Executive Director of Ancient Song Doula Services. Chanel has been working within infant and maternal health since 2008 when she founded Ancient Song Doula Services a doula organization focused on bringing full spectrum doula services and classes to those whom are often overlooked within marginalized communities and communities of color in an effort to address the disproportionately high infant and maternal mortality rate among African-American women in NYC and co-owner of Ancient Light

Studio in Brooklyn, NY. She hosts the Decolonizing Birth conference annually.

Chanel's work in reproductive health has taken me across the world to Uganda where she has worked as a maternal health strategist and board member of Village Birth International assisting mothers in rural areas, working on advisory boards with Ariadne Labs at Harvard School of Public Health, Columbia University Medical School, and various others. Currently, she consultants on birth justice and provider engagement with the NY City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and on various independent projects with Ancient Song. She attended over 100 + births in various settings such as home birth, hospital, and birthing center in the U.S. and abroad and am a Certified Lactation Counselor for over five years, Certified Full Spectrum Doula, Certified AAP/NRP (neonatal resuscitation), Midwifery Assistant for over 7 years, Full Spectrum Doula Trainer, Reproductive Justice & Health Advocate, and speaker on Birth Justice & Health Equity. Her philosophy in short is that everyone deserves to have equitable healthcare that addresses their own particular needs in whatever they may be at that particular moment.



**Pilar Herrero** is a human rights lawyer working at the intersections of law and health. At the Center for Reproductive Rights, Pilar has worked collaboratively and creatively with a wide range of stakeholders to address racial inequities in U.S. maternal health. Her approach to law, policy and advocacy is informed by many years of community-building for social, racial, and reproductive justice.

Pilar Herrero joined the Center in 2015. As a member of the U.S. Human Rights team, she uses international human rights law to strengthen domestic legal advocacy for reproductive freedom and to hold the U.S. accountable for human rights violations. Pilar co-leads the Center's work on maternal health in the U.S., which seeks to advance racial/ethnic and gender justice in and through reproductive health.

Before joining the Center, Pilar worked on a range of social justice issues from both legal and non-legal angles, including immigration, education, criminal justice, and the rights of incarcerated parents.

Pilar earned her LL.M. in international legal studies from NYU School of Law. She earned her J.D. and a UW Law Merit Award from the University of Washington and holds a B.S. in biology, also from the University of Washington. In 2019, Pilar was named a "Top Lawyer Under 40" by the Hispanic National Bar Association. She is licensed in Washington state and Tulalip Tribal Court.



**Dr. Aletha Maybank, MD, MPH** is the Chief Health Equity Officer & Vice President, American Medical Association. Dr. Maybank's role is to embed health equity across the organization so that health equity becomes part of the practice, process, action, innovation, and organizational performance and outcomes and launch a Center for Health Equity.

Prior to this in 2014, Dr. Maybank became an Associate Commissioner, and later a Deputy Commissioner, and launched the Center for the Health Equity, a new division in the NYC Dept of Health and Mental Hygiene geared towards strengthening and amplifying the Health Department's work in advancing health equity. Under her leadership, the Race to Justice Initiative was launched and in a short amount of time made great strides in transforming the culture and public health practice of the Health Department and embed health equity in all of the health department's work. This work has been recognized and adapted by other City agencies and has even captured the attention of the World Health Organization. She oversaw the rebranding and reframing for the District Public Health Offices to the Neighborhood Health Action Centers, renewing the agency's commitment to neighborhood-based work. Neighborhood efforts under her purview have strengthened through enhanced coordination and grown in scope, including expansions to New York City Teens Connection, Cure Violence, Office of Faith Based Initiatives, and Healthy Start Brooklyn. Dr. Maybank has also overseen the development of one of the first place-based Community Health Worker efforts in NYC Public Housing. She has pushed relentlessly to change the tenured narratives around what creates health and uniquely linked with the arts community and Department of Cultural Affairs to bring the Health Department its first Artist-in-Residence to amplify our birth equity efforts. Her bold leadership and communication style has allowed for her to share our health equity work that names racism as a root cause to audiences locally, nationally, and globally. The Center for Health Equity was recently considered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to be a model for the country. Dr. Maybank previously launched the Office

of Minority Health as its Founding Director in the Suffolk County Department of Health Services in NY from 2006-2009.

She also teaches medical and public health students on topics related to health inequities, public health leadership and management, physician advocacy, and community organizing in health. Currently, Dr. Maybank serves as President of the Empire State Medical Association, the NYS affiliate of the National Medical Association. In 2012, she co-founded “We Are Doc McStuffins,” a movement created by African American female physicians who were inspired by the Disney Junior character Doc McStuffins.

In the media and on the lecture circuit, Dr. Maybank is highly sought after. She has appeared or been profiled on Disney Jr.’s highly successful Doc McStuffins Animated Series, MSNBC, Good Morning America, BET, HuffPost, and various other outlets. She has also advised on film projects: the award-winning documentary Soul Food Junkies by Byron Hurt and Black Women in Medicine by Crystal Emery. For her accomplishments, she has been honored by the National Coalition of 100 Black Men, The Network Journal 40 Under 40, the Hip Hop Loves Foundation, NV Magazine’s Movers and Shakers, and many others. Dr. Maybank has served on medical mission trips to Haiti to assist in the post-earthquake relief efforts.

Dr. Maybank holds a BA from Johns Hopkins University, a MD from Temple University School of Medicine, and a MPH from Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health. She is pediatrician board certified in Preventive Medicine/Public Health.



**Carmen Mojica**, also known as Ynanna Djehuty, is an Afro-Dominicana born and raised in the Bronx. She is a midwife, writer and reproductive health activist. The focus of her work is on the empowerment of women and people of the African Diaspora, specifically discussing the Afro-Latina identity. She utilizes her experience as a midwife to raise awareness on maternal and infant health for women, highlighting the disparities in the healthcare system in the United States for women of color.

From the process of writing her first book (*Hija De Mi Madre*), she then grew an interest in understanding womanhood. Exploring her own connection to her body, Carmen became aware of holistic methods to address her needs and identifying self-care. This awareness in cultivating a healthy body and spirit further fueled her interest in empowering women throughout the lifespan of their lives, particularly in pregnancy and childbirth. During this time, Carmen continued to expand on her success, publishing her first collection of poetry in Spanish entitled “*Odas de La Mujer de Miel*,” and contributing to anthologies such as “*The Period Project*” and “*Walking in the Feminine*”.

In August 2011 through a fellowship with Hudson Perinatal Consortium, Carmen became a certified birth doula. Graduating from Maternidad La Luz, a midwifery school and birth clinic in El Paso, Texas, Carmen attended over 90 births and provided prenatal and postpartum care in Spanish to mothers. As a doula, she provides mental, emotional, and spiritual support for women during and after the course of the pregnancy as well as providing additional support to the women’s family and friends.

In addition to being a midwife and a published writer, Carmen has been a public speaker presenting on issues ranging from reproductive health, Afro-Latinidad, systems of power, and healing. Since 2008, Carmen has presented at over 20 colleges, universities, and conferences including the Black Girls Project Sisterhood Summit, Syracuse University, National Dominican Student Conference, Cornell University, Hampshire College, New York University, “*Afro-Latin@s Now!*” Conference, and the Clinton Global

Initiative. In 2014, Carmen co-founded La Galeria Magazine in an effort to address, discuss, and provide an online platform surrounding the issues within the Dominican Diaspora. Carmen is currently the Program Coordinator at the Women's Health department at the Institute for Family Health.



**Cara Page** is a Black Feminist Queer cultural/memory worker, curator, and organizer. She comes from a long ancestral legacy of organizers and cultural workers from the Southeast to the Northeast. For the past 30+ years, she has fought for LGBTQNCI, Black, People of Color & Indigenous liberation, and organized in the Southeast with movement builders such as Southerners on New Ground (SONG), Project South, and the Atlanta Transformative Justice Collaborative she has built with many organizers, healers and cultural workers across the country. She has worked with such organizations nationally & internationally as INCITE!, the Young Women's Empowerment Project, the Committee on Women, Population & the Environment and the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice. Rooted in a radical global southern politic and Black/Feminist radical traditions she has organized to build community led safety & wellness strategies to interrupt and intervene generational trauma, policing and surveillance; and build survivor-led wellness strategies to transform interpersonal, communal and state violence. She believes in the abolition of the PIC (Prison Industrial Complex) and the MIC (Medical Industrial Complex), systems that continue to use policing and surveillance to criminalize & exploit Black, People of Color and Indigenous communities, target our practitioners and erase our traditions as extensions of state control.

She is the former Executive Director of the Audre Lorde Project; an organizing center for, by and about Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Two Spirit, Transgender & Gender Non Conforming People of Color in New York City fighting for economic/racial and gender justice. She is also the co-founder of the Kindred Southern Healing Justice Collective; a southeastern network of healers, health practitioners and organizers responding and intervening on incidences of violence & generational trauma. A co-architect of healing justice as a political framework, she has bridged healing and social justice work between racial/migrant and gender justice, LGBTQI liberation; and reproductive and transformative justice movements. She is also a recipient of the Barnard Center for Research on Women Activist-in-Residence Fellowship.

She is the recent recipient of the 2019-2020 Open Society Foundations Soros Equality Fellowship. As a Soros Fellow, Page will launch an archival & memory organizing project on generational trauma and the Medical Industrial Complex called **Changing Frequencies**. In collaboration with many other community partners she will pursue curating community led strategies, discourse and agitation of the policing, surveillance, violence and exploitation of the MIC as an extension of the colonialist project. This will include the unveiling of an MIC Timeline Project in January 2020 with co-lead