

## 2022 Facing Pages Statewide Literary Arts CONVENING



## *FINDING JOY IN THE PLOT TWISTS & FLOURISHING - IN ALL TIMES & ACROSS GENERATIONS-*

Sunday afternoon, Sept. 18th —  
Tuesday lunchtime, Sept. 20th, 2022

### **FREE REGISTRATION**

Hotel for out-of-town guests  
included in reservation

Beekman Arms & Delamater Inn  
6387 Mill St., Rhinebeck NY 12572

Join colleagues in the beautiful & historic Hudson Valley when this year's Convening brings us back together as a field for the first time in more than two years. You can look forward to poems, prompts, inspirational moments, healthy, sumptuous meals, and generative sessions with plenty of downtime to connect and reconnect with literary colleagues and friends. As always, your ideas and perspectives will be at the center of our discussions. Our goal is for you to leave joyful, connected, and supported, with new resources to better advance your own work and the work of your organization.

# AGENDA

## PRESENTERS

## Day 1: Sunday Afternoon, September 18, 2022

### 1-2:30PM PRE-CONVENING

#### MENTORING Group Session – 2022 Advancement Mentees

\*for participants arriving earlier than 3pm the hotel will be happy to hold your luggage until the time your room is ready.

### 11-12 REGISTRATION

### 3 PM CONVENING OPENING REGISTRATION & Hotel Check-in

Arrive & Register at Delamater Conference Center

Proceed to the Beekman Arms (one block south) where all sessions & meals will take place unless otherwise noted

### 4PM WELCOME: Laurie Dean Torrell & Debora Ott

Introduction of Emcees: **Robin Jordan & Richmond Wills**

#### OPENING POEM: Kyle Dacuyan

**Ira Silverberg**, Opening Inspirational

### 4:30PM SESSION 1: Generative Session – Identifying Burning Issues

Utilizing the tools of “Open Space meetings” all participants will be invited to put forward the issues most on their minds: things that have come up in mentoring sessions; issues and challenges that have been front and center in your work over the past two years. We’ll see what resonates most for the group as a whole and dive into these issues together as the Convening unfolds.

### 6PM SOUND BATH: Katie Down

Sound Baths are Deep Listening experiences with a dive into listening with all the senses. Resonant drone instruments such as metal and crystal singing bowls, crystal veena, monochords, bells, chimes, mbiras, and other instruments are used to create an evocative soundscape for inner journeying and connection to our natural sonic world. Katie Down is a sound healer, music psychotherapist, teacher and musician based in Orange County, NY.

### 7PM DINNER

**Rodney Appleby**, Music



RODNEY APPLEBY



KYLE DACUYAN



CORNELIUS EADY



MARY GANNON



ROBIN JORDAN



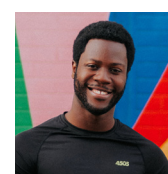
CHRISTIN LEAHY



ALISON MEYERS



LAURA PEGRAM



RICHMOND WILLS

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## Day 2: Monday, September 19, 2022

### 8AM YOGA: Carla Olla, Rhinebeck Yoga Center

6400 Montgomery St, Rhinebeck, NY 12572

### 8-10AM CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST, Courtyard @ Delamater

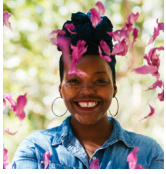
### 10AM OPENING POEM: Noah Falck

**WELCOME: Christine Leahy**, NYSCLA Program Director, Arts Education + Literature

### 10:30AM SESSION 2: Jeffrey Lependorf – A Toolkit for Adaptation & Change

Running faster and faster just to stay in place? Launched virtual programs but also returning to live programming so now you have twice as much to do? Supply-chain issues and materials' costs creating brand new sets of publishing challenges? This short presentation will offer a few tools for re-tooling along with some sound suggestions on how to move ahead without getting behind.

## PRESENTERS



MAHOGANY L. BROWNE



KATIE DOWN



NOAH FALCK



PATRICIA SPEARS JONES



JISU KIM



JEFFREY LEPENDORF



DEBORA OTT



IRA SILVERBERG



JAFREEN UDDIN

11AM

### SESSION 3: Flip Chart Revelations

Looking AROUND: Common Issues for Our Community

#### BREAK

Looking IN: Caring for Ourselves and Our Organizations, Staff and Board  
Looking OUT: Community Building, Collaborations, and Continuity Threats

Publishers' Break-Out: Facilitated by **Mary Gannon**

Presenters' Break-Out: Facilitated by **Laurie Dean Torrell**

1:15PM

### LUNCH

**Patricia Spears Jones**, Inspirational

3PM

### REPORT BACK from Session 3 - All

4PM

### SESSION 4: NYCON - An Overview of NYSCA-Supported Capacity Building Services **David Ringwood**, Presenter

The New York Council of Nonprofits (NYCON) is a statewide association of diverse charitable nonprofit organizations that provides a collective policy voice for the nonprofit sector and serves as a crucial support and information provider. Learn about the many free services available to you as part of being a NYSCA grantee.

6PM

### DINNER

**Rodney Appleby**, Music

Reception / Retirement Party for **Kathleen Masterson**

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## Day 3: Tuesday morning through lunch, September 20, 2022

8AM

### CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST, Courtyard @ Delamater

**7AM-9:30AM CHECK OUT TIME** : You may check out before the morning session and leave your key & bags in the Delamater Conference Center. All checkouts must be completed by 11am.

9:30AM

### OPENING POEM: Mahogany L. Browne

9:35-11:30AM

### SESSION 5: Leadership Transition Roundtable

**Ira Silverberg**, Facilitator

Presenters: **Mahogany L Browne**/Bowery Poetry, **Kyle Dacuyan**/The Poetry Project, **Cornelius Eady**/Poets House, **Mary Gannon**/CLMP, **Jisu Kim**/The Feminist Press, **Alison Meyers**/Writers & Books, **Laura Pegram**/Kweli Journal, and **Jafreen Uddin**/Asian American Writers Workshop

Whether planned, state of emergency, or somewhere on that arc, leadership transition is a plot twist in an organization's lifecycle. Leaders from eight of our LitNYS community share thoughts and stories of leadership succession from their unique POV. Each presenter will speak to their experience as leader, founder, key staff, or combinations of any two for you to consider and explore. It is never too soon to consider the present and future leadership needs and possibilities for your organization. Q&A to follow.

11AM

### CHECK OUT TIME

12-2PM

### LUNCH

**Cornelius Eady**: Closing Inspirational

### ADJOURN - ADIEU

#### TRAVEL NOTES

Amtrak connects Rhinebeck (train stop Rhinecliff) with New York City Penn Station, Albany and Upstate NY. When you reach Rhinecliff there are usually taxis waiting at the station; or you can call Rhinebeck Taxi Dispatch at 845.876.2010 (fare about \$10 for the short ride). If traveling by car, for GPS coordinates, use 25 Garden Street, Rhinebeck NY 12572.



Council on  
the Arts

The LitNYS Program is a Partnership initiative of  
The New York State Council on the Arts

**Mara Manus**, Executive Director

**Christine Leahy**, Arts Education and Literature Program Director

**Debora Ott**, LitNYS Founding Director

**Laurie Dean Torrell**, LitNYS Project Administrator  
& Just Buffalo Literary Center Executive Director

**LitNYS**  
**2022 Facing Pages – Statewide Literary Arts Convening**  
**Sunday afternoon, 9/18/22 – Tuesday lunchtime, 9/20/22**  
***FINDING JOY in the Plot Twists & Flourishing***  
***—In All Times & Across Generations***

**FREE REGISTRATION with Hotel & Meals included**  
**Space is limited – Please register by August 25, 2022!**

Beekman Arms & Delamater Inn, 6387 Mill St, Rhinebeck NY 12572

**REGISTRATION FORM – Please return this page**

Please provide the following information for each person registering:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

I am attending the entire Convening Sunday afternoon – Tuesday lunch.

Or if attending only part of the Convening, please indicate below which days:

I am attending Sunday     I am attending Monday     I am attending Tuesday

**HOTEL for out-of-town guests is included in reservation.**

**Please check if you are requesting a hotel room which we will book for you.**

I do NOT need a hotel room

Hotel room needed for BOTH Sunday night 9/18 and Monday night 9/19

Hotel room needed for Sunday night 9/18 ONLY

Hotel room needed for Monday night 9/19 ONLY

Parking needed : I am planning to drive and will have a car there

**Are you willing to share a room? YES NO If yes, with whom: \_\_\_\_\_**

**TRAVEL: Attendees are responsible for their own travel arrangements.**

LitNYS is committed to supporting broad participation. A limited number of travel stipends of \$75 per org are available for those traveling 60+ miles to attend and may be used toward mileage, train or flight. **First come, first served basis.**

**Please check if you are requesting a Travel Stipend of \$75.**

Note: Presses please contact CLMP directly ([www.clmp.org](http://www.clmp.org)) which has limited travel funds available for publishers wishing to attend the Convening.

**Please email completed registration forms to Just Buffalo: [submissions@justbuffalo.org](mailto:submissions@justbuffalo.org)**

**We will confirm receipt. Questions: [info@justbuffalo.org](mailto:info@justbuffalo.org) or (716) 832-5400**

## 2022 Facing Pages Statewide Literary Arts Convening

### Presenter BIOS

**Rodney Appleby** is a consummate professional actor, musician, singer, composer, and teaching artist. The original bassist for The Souls of Solomon, a Buffalo-based gospel group known as the pioneers of gospel funk, he toured and played in festivals and concerts globally with the likes of Deep Purple's Ian Gillan, Chuck Berry, Albert Collins, Mary Wells and Eddie Kendricks (of the Temptations) with the Motown review, and many others. In 1995, Rodney was inducted into the Buffalo Music Hall of Fame while recording and performing with Buffalo-based Anthracite. In the 1990s, he served as Just Buffalo Literary Center's Director of Interdisciplinary Programs in Poetry & Jazz. He was a long-time member of Ujima Theatre, and served as its music director on many productions over the course of thirty years. Currently, he is a Music Teaching Artist developing a curriculum for the Dunbar Project, Ujima's youth arts workshop.

**Mahogany L. Browne**, selected as Kennedy Center's Next 50, is the Executive Director of JustMedia, a media literacy initiative with a focus on the criminal legal system, and is informed by her career as a writer, organizer, & educator. Browne has received fellowships from Art for Justice Fund, Air Serenbe, Cave Canem, Poets House, Mellon Research & The Robert Rauschenberg Foundation. She is the author of recent works: Vinyl Moon, Chlorine Sky, Woke: A Young Poets Call to Justice, Woke Baby, Black Girl Magic & book-length poem: I Remember Death By Its Proximity to What I Love. She is the founder of Woke Baby Book Fair, a traveling diverse reading campaign, is the first-ever poet-in-residence at the Lincoln Center, and lives in Brooklyn, NY.

**Kyle Dacuyan** is Executive Director of The Poetry Project at St. Mark's, where he leads an annual program of more than 100 readings, performances, lectures, and workshops, as well as a breadth of scholarly and creative publications, and fellowships for emerging writers and curators. Prior to his role at The Poetry Project, as Co-Director of National Outreach and Membership at PEN America, he launched and administered a micro-grant program supporting writers around advocacy efforts in local communities, specifically connected to press freedom and media literacy. He was a 2021 NEA Fellow in Creative Writing, and his first book, INCITEMENTS is forthcoming with Ugly Duckling Presse.

**Katie Down** is a licensed creative arts therapist, performer and sound artist based in the Hudson Valley and Brooklyn, NY. Originally a classically-trained and jazz flutist, Katie's music intersects the realms of sound art, free improvisation, Americana, Jazz, and world music as a multi-instrumentalist including piano, ukulele, hand percussion and homemade instruments including glass percussion and steel cello. Katie's sound designs for theatre and dance have garnered her Drama Desk nominations and the award for best sound

design from The Connecticut Critic's Circle. She is the recipient of several grants, residencies, and commissions including the Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation, The Jerome Foundation, BAM, Watermill, Chashama, Music Omi, and Meet the Composer. Katie is a member of the music therapy faculty at SUNY New Paltz and maintains a private psychotherapy practice, SoundWell Creative Arts Therapy.

**Cornelius Eady** is a Poet/Playwright/Songwriter and Cave Canem Co-Founder . Born in Rochester, NY in 1954, he is a Professor of English and Chair of Excellence at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He is the author of several poetry collections, including *Victims of the Latest Dance Craze*, winner of the 1985 Lamont Prize; *The Gathering of My Name*, nominated for the 1992 Pulitzer Prize in Poetry; *Brutal Imagination*, and *Hardheaded Weather*. He wrote the libretto to Diedra Murray's opera *Running Man*, which was short listed for the Pulitzer Prize in Theatre, and his verse play *Brutal Imagination* won the Oppenheimer Prize for the best first play from an American Playwright in 2001. His awards include Fellowships from the NEA, the Guggenheim Foundation, and the Rockefeller Foundation. He was The Miller Family Endowed Chair in Literature and Writing and Professor in English and Theater at The University of Missouri-Columbia. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cornelius.eady>  
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/roughband> Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/bluespoet/>

**Noah Falck** is the author of *Exclusions* (Tupelo Press, 2020) finalist for the 2020 Believer Book Award for poetry, as well as several chapbooks including *You Are In Nearly Every Future* (Dostoyevsky Wannabe, 2017). He co-edited *My Next Heart: New Buffalo Poetry* (BlazeVox Books, 2017) and has been anthologized in *Poem-A-Day 365 Poems for Every Occasion* (Abrams Books, 2015). His work has appeared in *Kenyon Review*, *Literary Review*, *Ploughshares*, & *Poets.org*. Originally from Dayton, Ohio, where he spent 10 years teaching elementary school, he now lives in Buffalo, New York, where he works as Education Director at Just Buffalo Literary Center and curates the [Silo City Reading Series](#), a multimedia poetry series inside a 130-foot high abandoned grain elevator.

**Mary Gannon** is a veteran nonprofit administrator with more than twenty-five years of experience in the literary field. Currently, she's the Executive Director of the Community of Literary Magazines & Presses (CLMP). Prior to her position at CLMP, Mary was Associate Director/Director of Content for the Academy of American Poets, where she oversaw the production of the organization's award-winning website, [Poets.org](#), its popular Poem-a-Day series, and its Education Program. For many years, she worked at Poets & Writers, Inc., where she headed up Poets & Writers Magazine and [pw.org](#) as Editorial Director. An award-winning poet whose poems have been published widely, Mary has published numerous articles about publishing and the literary field and has profiled such notable authors as The New Yorker editor David Remnick and nonfiction writer John Haskell, fiction writers Jay McInerney and Heidi Julavits, and poets Anne Carson and Major Jackson. She

is co-author with her husband, Kevin Larimer, of *The Poets & Writers Complete Guide to Being a Writer*, published by Avid Reader Press in 2020.

**Patricia Spears Jones** is poet, playwright, anthologist, educator, and cultural activist is the winner of the 2017 Jackson Poetry Prize from Poets & Writers. She is author of *The Beloved Community*, forthcoming from Copper Canyon Press; *A Lucent Fire: New and Selected Poems*, White Pine Press, and ten other poetry collections. Her work is in anthologies such as *African American Poetry: 250 Years of Struggle and Song: Of Poetry and Protest: From Emmett Till to Trayvon Martin*; *2017 Pushcart Prize XLI, Best of Small Presses*; and *Angles of Ascent: A Norton Anthology of Contemporary African American Poetry*. Poems recently published in *The New Yorker*, *The Brooklyn Rail*; *Ms. Muse*, *Plume*, and *CUTTHROAT: A Journal of the Arts*. She edited *THINK: Poems for Aretha Franklin Inauguration Day Hat and Ordinary Women: An Anthology of New York City Women Poets*. She has taught at St. Mark's Poetry Project, Poets House, Community of Writers, Truro Center for the Arts, Fine Arts Work Center, Gemini Ink, Brooklyn Poets, Hurston-Wright, and at Hollins University, Adelphi University, CUNY, and Barnard College. She is organizer of the American Poets Congress and is a Senior Fellow Emeritus of the Black Earth Institute. [www.psjones.com](http://www.psjones.com).

**Robin Lee Jordan** has worked with Just Buffalo for many years as a contracted teaching artist. In 2016 she was hired to coordinate programming in the new Just Buffalo Writing Center which provides free after school workshops, meet-the-author, and other opportunities for teens 12-18. Her leadership has been instrumental in the Center's development and success. Jordan has an MFA in Creative Writing (Poetry) Oregon State University. Her creative nonfiction, fiction, and poetry have been published in various journals, including *alice blue review*, *H\_NGM\_N*, *Puerto del Sol*, and *Paper Darts*. She received her MFA in Poetry from Oregon State University and is currently working on a mixed-genre collection. She is a founding member of the grassroots community arts project (B)uffalo (A)rt (D)ispensary.

**Jisu Kim** oversees marketing, sales, and publicity at the Feminist Press. She also acquires and edits books, mostly relating to Asian and Asian diasporic experiences.

**Jeffrey Lependorf**, a musician, composer, visual artist, and nonprofit arts professional, serves as Executive Director of The Flow Chart Foundation. He formerly served as Executive Director of Small Press Distribution and the Community of Literary Magazines and Presses. He currently also directs the Art Omi: Music international musicians residency, a program that he created for musicians from around the globe to collaborate with one another. He was a fellow of National Arts Strategies' Chief Executives Program and has received numerous grants, awards, and honors. For more information, visit [jeffreylependorf.com](http://jeffreylependorf.com).

**Christine Leahy** is a Program Director at the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA), in charge of the Arts Education and Literature Programs. Initiatives started under her tenure include the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Orchestras and Classical Music (DinO) collaboration with the Music program, the New York State Creative Aging Pilot, the NYS Youth Media Symposium and the Mid-Atlantic Teaching Artists Retreat. In previous positions at NYSCA she served in the agency's Facilities, Visual Arts, Museum, Architecture + Design and Folk Arts programs. Christine formerly worked for the artist Jenny Holzer and in the Education department at the Williams College Museum of Art, and has written for The New York Times and National Public Radio. She is a graduate of Williams College.

**Alison Meyers** is a poet, essayist, and fiction writer, twice nominated for a Pushcart Prize. Her work may be found in literary journals, in the anthology *Gathered Light: The Poetry of Joni Mitchell's Songs* (Three O'Clock Press), and at [www.alisonmeyers.com](http://www.alisonmeyers.com). She is the Executive Director of Writers & Books, a literary arts center in Rochester, NY. Previously, she served as Executive Director of Cave Canem Foundation (Brooklyn, NY), 2006-2016, and as Poetry Director and Director of Marketing & Communications at Hill-Stead Museum (CT). For many years, she owned and managed a Connecticut-based indie bookstore. She consults as a mentor for LitNYS, is treasurer of the board of Kweli Journal, and serves on the Arts and Humanities Board of Monroe Community College.

**Debora Ott** is a cultural/creative consultant whose abiding passion is to build community through a shared appreciation of the creative process. Her consulting practice focuses on capacity building, program development, succession, and strategic planning for nonprofit organizations. The founder of Just Buffalo Literary Center, Inc., where she served as Artistic/Executive Director for 23 years, she's the author of the monograph *About Face – A Guide to Founder Transition*, commissioned by the New York State Council on the Arts. In 1997, she accepted the New York State Governor's Arts Award at Lincoln Center. She served as Arts Education and Literature Program Manager at the Georgia Council for the Arts, and in 2001, founded LitNYS, formerly LitTAP, the Literary Technical Assistance Program, a coalition of New York State literary arts organizations. She's crafted LitNYS' capacity-building Advancement Regrant and Peer-Mentoring programs, over the last 20+ years, and curates *Facing Pages*, an annual, statewide, literary arts convening.

**Laura Pegram**, Kweli's founder, is a multidisciplinary artist who is influencing a new generation of aspiring writers. Author, educator, and a jazz vocalist whose cabaret performance teamed her with jazz pianist, Donald Smith, Ms. Pegram is also a painter. Her richly hued vibrant murals are part of several private collections. She has worked as a Development Associate at Scholastic Productions, Inc., as an Instructor at the Frederick Douglass Creative Arts Center and as an Acting Director / Instructor at the John Oliver Killens Young Writers Program. In 2020, she received the 2020 CBC Diversity Outstanding Achievement Award.



**David J. Ringwood** serves as the Organizational Development Associate for NYCON working from the Mid-Hudson Valley Regional Office in Poughkeepsie. He has more than 20 years of experience working with diverse nonprofit organizations and draws upon his personal and professional experience to strengthen their operations. David has worked with a range of causes including Hospice, American Heart Association, the Dutchess County Arts Council, and the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley. David has also served on several local nonprofit boards. David was a co-founder of Theatre Arts Group (T.A.G. Team) a community theater company located in Poughkeepsie, NY, and currently serves on the Board of Governors for County Players, Inc. in Wappingers Falls, NY, where he resides with his two children. David has a B.A. in English, a minor in Fine Arts, and a concentration in Business Administration from Le Moyne College.

**Ira Silverberg** has worked in the Literary Arts for nearly forty years. He's been the Editor-in-Chief of Grove Press; Founding Publisher/Co-editor of High Risk Books; a Senior Editor at Simon & Schuster; and a Literary Agent and Foreign Rights Director at two New York agencies. He left his practice as an agent in 2011 to work with the National Endowment for the Arts as Literature Director. Currently, he directs Broadview Arts Management, a consultancy whose projects have included launching Dread Scott's "Slave Rebellion Reenactment"; creating a template for a publishing house for the Brennan Center for Justice; working with Cornelius Eady on the reboot of Poets House.; grant writing for Split This Rock ; crisis-management for Black Mountain Institute's Director; board development for Nighboat Books; and capacity development for grantees of LitNYS and Bloomberg Philanthropies' Arts Innovation Management Program. He is a faculty member of the Columbia University MFA Writing Program; and a Board member of Copper Canyon Press. His service gene was activated in his twenties with inspiration and mentorship from Gregory Kolovakos, Literature Director of NYSCA who died of AIDS at 38 years old in 1990.

**Laurie Dean Torrell** has over 25 years' experience in non-profit organizations and provides administrative support for the LitNYS initiative. Since becoming Just Buffalo's Executive Director in 2002, Torrell has worked to create a top caliber team, with staff and board implementing new curatorial, educational and advocacy initiatives. Under her leadership, the organization has secured competitive national, state, and local grants to more than triple the budget and bring expanded literary programming to the community including the BABEL contemporary author series, and JB Writing Center for teens. Torrell pioneered an Administrative Collaboration which was honored with a National Certificate of Recognition from the Kellogg and Lodestar Foundations; spearheaded JB40, a successful \$1M Advancement Campaign; and secured national grant funding with Detroit colleagues for "Writing Across the Rust Belt," a collaborative capacity building initiative (2019-2024) that is designed to have field-wide impact.

**Jafreen Uddin** is the first woman to lead AAWW since its founding in 1991. Most recently, she served as Deputy Director of Development for Special Events at PEN America. Prior to joining PEN, she helped oversee Executive Education as an Assistant Director with NYU's Stern School of Business. She began her career with a near-eight-year stint at the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law, where she helped create the infrastructure for the public programming calendar of events, and spent nearly three years managing an online Book Salon for Aslan Media, spotlighting writers and artists from the greater Middle East/South Asia region. She previously served as Co-Chair of the Board of Directors for [Laal NYC](#), an organization supporting Bangladeshi women in the Bronx, and currently serves as Chair of the Adult Internship Committee for [We Need Diverse Books](#), and as a Literary Council Member for the [Brooklyn Book Festival](#). She received her B.A. in political economics from Barnard College, Columbia University, and her M.A. in global history from NYU's Graduate School of Arts and Science.

**Richmond Wills** is a Nigerian poet, storyteller, actor and community activist who believes in the power of stories to transform lives and build bridges across cultures. Prior to joining the Just Buffalo staff in 2020, Wills served as a Writing Center Teaching Artist, BABEL volunteer, and public programming coordinator for [Words on the Street](#) and [The Mocha Center](#). He is also contributing writer for [The Galactic Tribe](#) and continues to work as a community organizer. He co-founded GrayWills book club for Black men to explore literary arts and holds a bachelor's degree in Psychology from the State University of New York at Buffalo. Wills is particularly interested in access-issues and works strategically to ensure that Just Buffalo's community programs, youth education, and other outreach activities are free of real and perceived barriers to participation.