

4 - 6  
August  
2023



**MANY  
PLATES  
MAKE A  
FEAST**

2023 Interfaith Leadership Summit

# INTERFAITH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

**Sheraton Grand Chicago Riverwalk**  
301 E North Water St,  
Chicago, IL 60611

# Welcome to the Interfaith LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Welcome to the 2023 Summit! This year we are digging into the idea of what it means to be a Potluck Nation with our theme, *Many Plates Make a Feast*.

From the Summit décor, fashioned to evoke coming home for your favorite holiday, to the roster of speakers, each doing faith- or ethics-based work in the world centered around the bonds we make by breaking bread with others, this weekend is an invitation to reflect on the ways our diversity can make us better than we are alone.

This weekend we invite you to join the feast. Perhaps you will sit next to someone from a different part of the country. Likely, you will strike up a conversation with someone who believes differently than you do and, by the end of the weekend, have practiced more than a few skills that will help you to engage those differences constructively.

We cannot wait to see how you contribute your best and favorite dishes from your traditions and experiences to this weekend's feast. Thank you for investing this time into your interfaith leadership – we are happy to have you here.

Sincerely,  
*Morgan, Harmeet, and LaTanya*

# MANY PLATES MAKE A FEAST

## *Engaging with the Environment*

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To highlight the unique and important contributions you bring to the Summit there are multiple immersive elements that invite you to consider what it means to participate in a Potluck Nation. Make sure to find the time to visit and interact with each one throughout the weekend:

### Entry Archway | Located at Registration

This blank space allows you to contribute your responses to a daily prompt. Over the course of the weekend, observe how the archway transforms into a vibrant, lively, and collaborative environment created by everyone. After responding to the prompts, take a few moments to reflect on the below:

- What is it like to create collectively?
- Whose responses stand out most to you today?
- What are some other creative ways we can communicate within and across communities?

### Main Stage

Imagine coming home to your favorite celebration, the hearth decorated with images of your family of origin and your family of choice. We hoped to evoke this feeling in the main stage design: you sit before the hearth—a warm and inviting space where we all can bring our personal talents and experiences together. Explore the photos of interfaith leaders who, just like you, are committed to bringing communities together across religious and worldview differences.

### Centerpieces

We invite you to co-create an atmosphere of celebration by contributing to the beauty of the space. Work with your table-mates throughout the weekend to create and transform the origami floral centerpieces. Write messages of encouragement on each blossom for others who sit at the table later. Observe as fellow attendees add elements that enhance one another's vision and ideas and work together to truly bring each centerpiece to life.

### Photo Opportunities

Throughout the weekend we will capture moments through photography in training rooms, at registration, and in other ways throughout the weekend that highlight your talents and contributions. At the end of the Summit feel free to take photos home with you as a source of inspiration and a reminder of the work you've done as a collective in this space.

# SCHEDULE

## *At a glance*



### Friday August 4

<b>10:00am – 12:00pm</b>	Registration and check-in
<b>11:30am – 1:15pm</b>	Opening Lunch & Plenary
<b>1:30pm – 3:15pm</b>	Training Session 1
<b>3:15pm – 3:45pm</b>	Break
<b>3:45pm – 5:15pm</b>	Training Session 2
<b>5:30pm – 8:00pm</b>	Dinner & Entertainment

### Saturday August 5

<b>7:30 am – 9:00 am</b>	Breakfast
<b>9:00am – 11:00am</b>	Saturday Symposia
<b>11:00am – 11:15am</b>	Break
<b>11:15am – 12:45pm</b>	Training Session 3
<b>12:45pm – 2:00pm</b>	Lunch
<b>2:00pm – 3:30pm</b>	Training Session 4
<b>3:30pm – Bedtime</b>	Free Time & Dinner on your Own
<b>7:30pm – 9:00pm</b>	Ice Cream Social & Open Mic

### Sunday August 6

<b>7:30am – 9:00am</b>	Breakfast
<b>9:00am – 10:30am</b>	Training Session 5
<b>10:30am – 11:30am</b>	Break
<b>11:30am – 1:00pm</b>	Closing

## IMPORTANT RESOURCES

### Interfaith Room | Mayfair

This space will be open for prayer and reflection for the entirety of the weekend. Attendees are welcome to gather for observances, such as Jummah, Shabbat, Communion, meditation, and other practices at your own discretion. Members of the Summit community have stepped forward to lead Shabbat services throughout the weekend. The Interfaith Room is equipped with prayer mats, meditation cushions, Shabbat supplies, and reading materials.

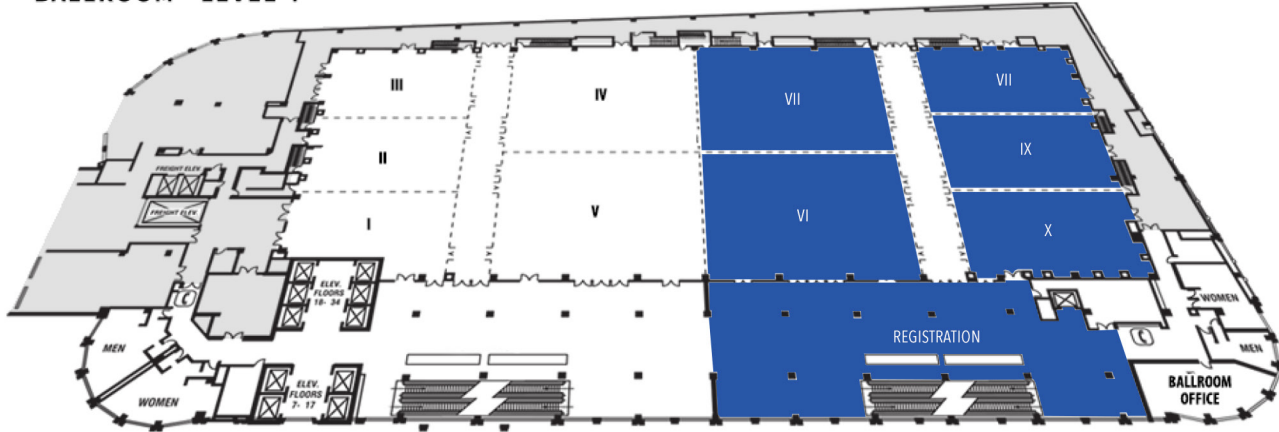
### Mental Health First Aid Resources

In response to your feedback, the Interfaith Leadership Summit staff have been trained and certified in Mental Health First Aid in the event that you or another attendee require trauma-informed care, de-escalation, or other urgent mental health interventions. Your training room facilitators can help you get in touch with a certified member of the Summit staff, or you're welcome to approach any Summit staff member throughout the weekend for assistance.

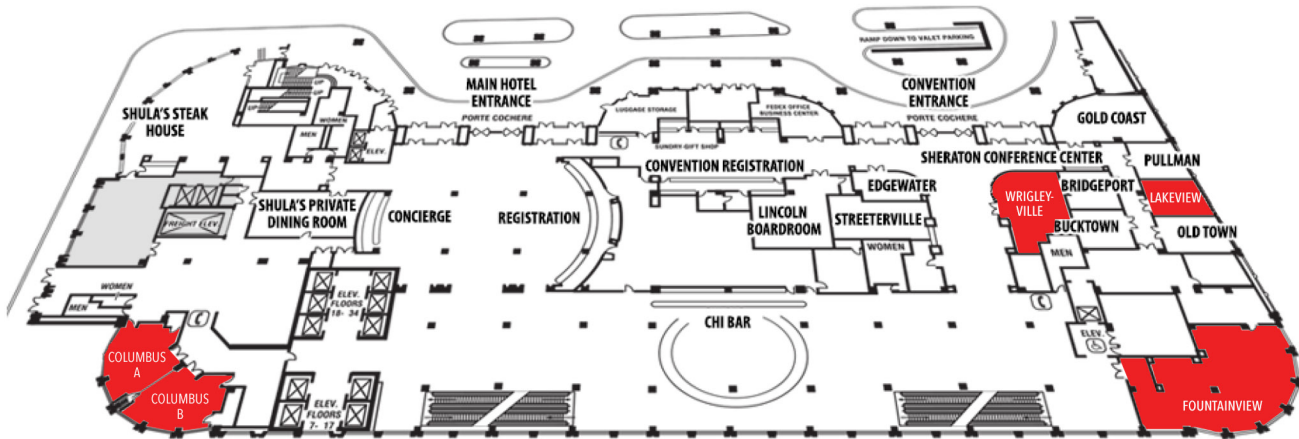


# MAP

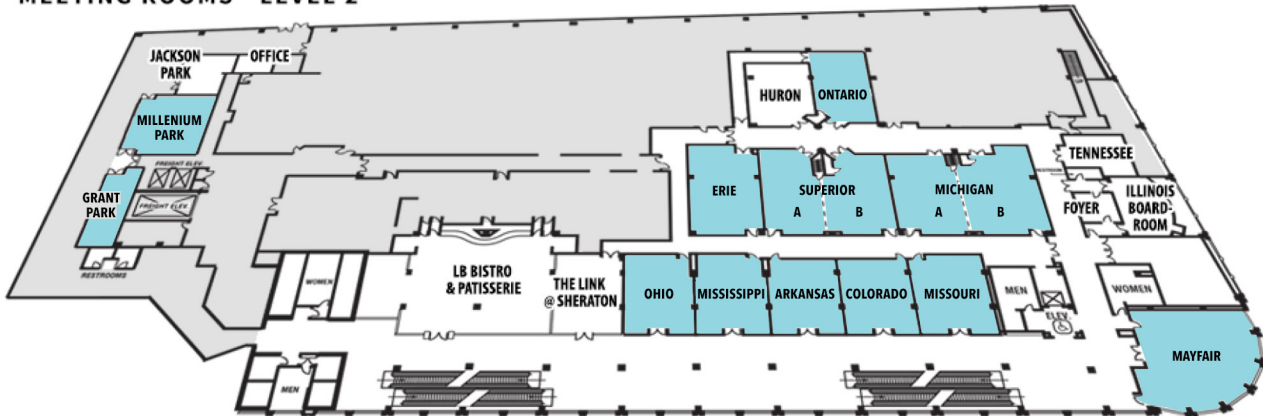
## BALLROOM - LEVEL 4



## LOBBY - LEVEL 3



## MEETING ROOMS - LEVEL 2



# SCHEDULE

## *Detailed*

### Friday, August 4

10:00am – 12:00pm

#### Registration and Check-in

→ *Chicago Ballroom Lobby*

Complete your registration and collect the materials you will need throughout the weekend. Once you have completed registration, make sure to interact with the artwork in the space. Have you shared your answer to today's question? Have you made something beautiful? You make the Summit, so make sure to make your mark!

11:30am – 1:15pm

#### Opening Lunch & Plenary

→ *Chicago Ballroom VI & VII*

##### Welcome to the Feast: Opening Lunch + Plenary

In a Potluck Nation, when everyone is invited to share their best and favorite traditions, the feast is enriched and we all have a chance to be fed. In this session, Eboo Patel will share his vision of what it means to contribute to an interfaith America. He will then moderate a discussion with interfaith leaders who, pulling from their faith and ethical commitments, use food as a way to support their communities and contribute to the Potluck Nation.



1:30pm – 3:15pm

#### Training Session 1

→ *(multiple locations)*

##### Student Tracks

- A Seat at the Table of Interfaith America
- Sharing the Invitation for an Interfaith America
- Cooking Up Interfaith Activities

##### Educator Tracks

- Setting the Table for an Interfaith America
- Skills for Bridging the Gap
- Interfaith A La Carte

# Friday, August 4 *Continued*

3:15pm – 3:45pm

## Break

→ *2nd Floor Lobby*

Grab a snack and, if you haven't already, make sure to interact with today's artwork.



3:45pm – 5:15pm

## Training Session 2

→ *(multiple locations)*

### Student Tracks

- A Seat at the Table of Interfaith America
- Sharing the Invitation for an Interfaith America
- Cooking Up Interfaith Activities

### Educator Tracks

- Setting the Table for an Interfaith America
- Skills for Bridging the Gap
- Interfaith A La Carte

5:30pm – 8:00pm

## Pass the Mic, Pass the Dish: Evening Dinner + Performances

→ *Chicago Ballroom VI & VII*

### **Pass the Mic, Pass the Dish: Evening Dinner + Performances**

Part of interfaith work is crafting a compelling invitation to join the Potluck Nation with your best contribution. During dinner, participants will experience how the arts can bring joy, fun, and feeling to their interfaith projects. The evening will include poetry performed by 2021 Montgomery County Poet Laureate Sasa Aakil and performances by Riyaz Qawwali and Nate Martin & S.I.G.N.



# Saturday, August 5

7:30am – 9:00am

## Breakfast

→ *Chicago Ballroom VI & VII*

Grab the most important meal of the day, and if there is any information you need to know, there will be brief announcements at 8:30 am.

9:00am – 11:00am

## Saturday Symposia

→ *Chicago Ballroom VI & VII*

During the Saturday Symposia, participants will have an opportunity to choose and attend two, 50-minute sessions. Descriptions below:



- **Campus Interfaith Educators Network-building & Listening Session**

*Matt Hartley, University of North Florida; Najeeba Syeed, Augsburg University; Vidal Dickerson, Christopher Newport University; Rabbi Sara Zacharia, CUNY Queens College Hillel*

→ *Chicago Ballroom VI & VII*

This workshop is for campus interfaith educators, by campus interfaith educators. Hear from leading interfaith staff, administrators, and faculty at public, private, faith-based, and secular colleges and universities around the country. Learn about their successful on-campus programs and recommendations for new initiatives on campuses like your own. Each participating panelist is a member of Interfaith America’s new Interfaith Leaders in Higher Education Council, a professional development and advisory working group that informs IA’s educator-facing programming, including sessions at this year’s Summit and year-round opportunities as part of the Interfaith Leadership Institute. Panelists will also facilitate listening and brainstorming on the types of resources educators currently need to support their and their students’ interfaith work on campus.

- **Navigating Tension Constructively**

*Simon Greer*

→ *Chicago VIII*

Crossing lines of difference is not for the faint of heart and even in the best of cases, disagreement and tension may arise. In this session we will explore how tension can be fertile ground for building more authentic, nuanced, and deeper relationships with others. Join us to learn about some of the ways we instinctively respond to new information and then practice different types of responses that can lead to more constructive interactions.



# Saturday, August 5 *Continued*

- **Poetry Workshop**

*Sasa Aakil*

→ *Lakeview*

During this session, Sasa Aakil, whose work was featured during Friday night's programming, will guide participants through a series of writing exercises and consider what it means to engage religious identity when crafting poetry.

- **Qawwali Workshop**

*Sonny Mehta and Riyaz Qawwali*

→ *Columbus A + B*

Join Sonny Mehta and Riyaz Qawwali, featured during Friday night's programming, to learn more about Qawwali music and its history. You will also have an opportunity for an additional interactive performance.

- **Re-Narrating Our Communities: Interfaith Tours as Tool for Dialogue**

*David Krueger, PhD and Sayge Martin*

→ *Wrigleyville*

Take a deep dive into an innovative interfaith activity: historic tours. The Dialogue Institute has created and led a historic tour that highlights the religious diversity at play during America's founding period. This session will share an overview of the Philadelphia tour and provide substantial time for discussion on how such programs could be imagined in communities throughout the United States.

- **Student Interfaith Activities with Student Leaders**

*Rev. Tom Reid, Cherie Atalor, Parveen Mundi, Amaris DeLeon*

→ *Chicago IX*

The program director and recent alumni of the Building Interfaith Leadership Initiative (BILI) Launchpad Fellowship will share about their experiences in the year-long fellowship program. The BILI Launchpad Fellowship supports undergraduate interfaith leaders around the country with skills, resources, and funding to bring interfaith activities to their campuses.



## ALSO AVAILABLE DURING THIS TIME:

Interfaith Room → *Mayfair*

This space will be open for prayer and reflection throughout the entirety of the weekend. We ask that everyone be respectful of this space.

Quiet-ish Room → *Fountainview*

If you're feeling overwhelmed or would just like a quiet-ish moment, the Quiet-ish Room is a great place for quiet reflection, parallel play, or quiet conversation. An Interfaith America staff person will also be present.

# Saturday, August 5 *Continued*

11:00am – 11:15am

## Break

→ *2nd Floor Lobby*

Grab a snack and, if you haven't already, make sure to interact with today's artwork.

11:15am – 12:45pm

## Training Session 3

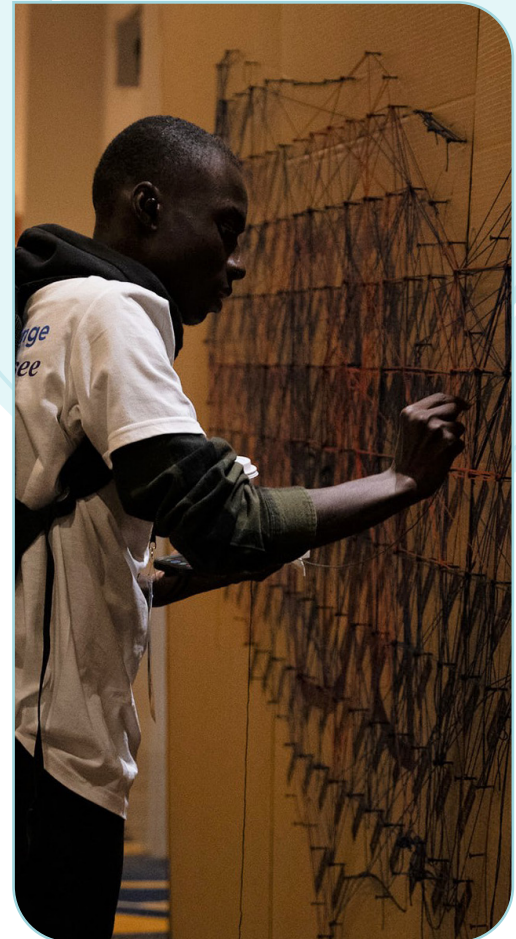
→ *(multiple locations)*

### Student Tracks

- A Seat at the Table of Interfaith America
- Sharing the Invitation for an Interfaith America
- Cooking Up Interfaith Activities

### Educator Tracks

- Setting the Table for an Interfaith America
- Skills for Bridging the Gap
- Interfaith A La Carte



12:45pm – 2:00pm

## Lunch

→ *Chicago Ballroom VI & VII*

Now is a great time to connect with others from your campus to hear how everyone's Summit weekend is going. Or maybe you want to deepen your connections with participants from your cohort. Or maybe you want to grab your lunch and make an introvert's exit. Whatever you do, this time is yours to refuel and recharge. If there is anything you need to know, we will make brief announcements at 1:30 pm.

# Saturday, August 5 *Continued*

2:00pm – 3:30pm

## Training Session 4

→ *(multiple locations)*

### Student Tracks

- A Seat at the Table of Interfaith America
- Sharing the Invitation for an Interfaith America
- Cooking Up Interfaith Activities

### Educator Tracks

- Setting the Table for an Interfaith America
- Skills for Bridging the Gap
- Interfaith A La Carte



3:30pm – Bedtime

## Free Time & Dinner on your Own

Make the most of this free time to explore downtown Chicago, connect with peers, or prioritize rest. We invite you to grab a group of friends to dine with on your own – feel free to stop an Interfaith America staff member for local dining recommendations.

7:30pm – 9:00pm

## Ice Cream Social & Open Mic

→ *Fountainview*

Sign up to share new material or work from artists who inspire you or surprise us.

# Sunday August 6

7:30am – 9:00am

## Breakfast

→ *Chicago Ballroom VI & VII*

Grab the most important meal of the day, and if there is any information you need to know there will be brief announcements at 9:00 am.

9:00am – 10:30am

## Training Session 5

→ *(multiple locations)*

### Student Tracks

- A Seat at the Table of Interfaith America
- Sharing the Invitation for an Interfaith America
- Cooking Up Interfaith Activities

### Educator Tracks

- Setting the Table for an Interfaith America
- Skills for Bridging the Gap
- Interfaith A La Carte

10:30am – 11:30am

## Break

→ *2nd Floor Lobby*

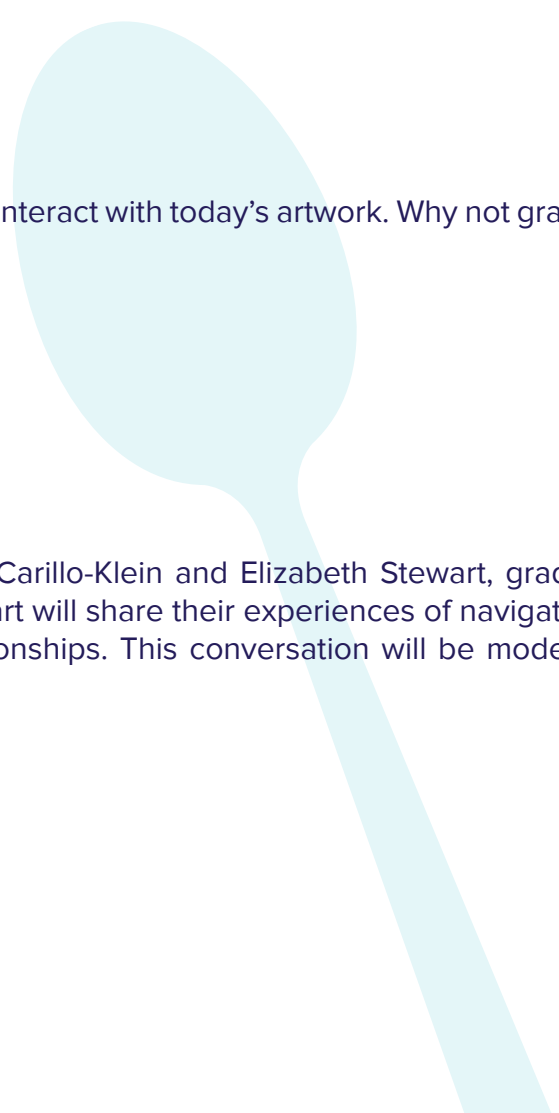
Grab a snack and, if you haven't already, make sure to interact with today's artwork. Why not grab a selfie with a new friend while you're at it?

11:30am – 1:00pm

## Closing

→ *Chicago Ballroom VI & VII*

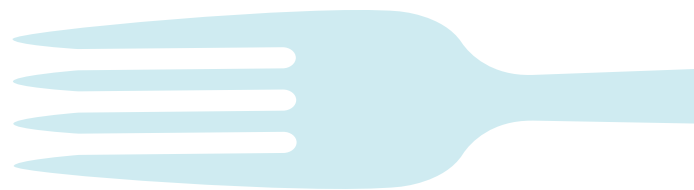
During this session, participants will hear from Havi Carillo-Klein and Elizabeth Stewart, graduates of the Bridging the Gap program. Carillo-Klein and Stewart will share their experiences of navigating deep differences while cultivating authentic and rich relationships. This conversation will be moderated by Carr Harkrader.







# SPEAKERS



## Sasa Aakil

Sasa is a Multimedia Artist, Writer, and the 2021 Montgomery County Youth Poet Laureate. She is a potter, painter, poet, print maker, and bassist living and working in Wheaton, Maryland. Sasa has been featured in the Bethesda Magazine for her work as Youth Poet Laureate. She has also been featured in the Washington Post, as well as on WTOP for her work on the A Man Was Lynched Yesterday Project in 2020. She has won numerous awards in writing and was published in *I Am the Night Sky and Other Reflections by Muslim American Youth* in 2019. She has performed on the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage and her work is included in the 2018 Scholastic Best Teen Writing Anthology. Sasa has been active in the DC art community since age 13 and is now pursuing a degree in Fine Arts at Howard University. More information about her visual and written work can be found on her website [www.sasaaakil.com](http://www.sasaaakil.com).



## Cherie Atalor

Cherie is an international student from Nigeria with a computer science major at the University of La Verne in La Verne, California. Being born and raised in Nigeria broadened Cherie's view of spirituality and religion as Nigeria has two major religions, Islam and Christianity, alongside other traditional religions. Growing up, Cherie had Muslim and Christian friends and a lot of people around her who were Sikh and mystic. Reading and research played a great part in discovering Cherie's interfaith interest. Cherie hopes to use her interfaith skills to support other international students coming into the U.S. because moving into a new society is tough and culture shock is real.



## Havi Carrillo-Klein

Havi is Client Strategist at Cambridge Heath Ventures, focused on strategic organizing and social change through a bridge-building lens. She primarily works on building cohorts and international travel delegations on topics such as racism, antisemitism, white nationalism and intersecting systems of oppression; particularly interrogating the ways in which the American political discourse around Israel and Palestine can surface harmful ideologies. Havi is a mixed race Jewish-Mexican woman who grew up in a bilingual household in Falls Church, VA. She is a graduate of Oberlin College with a B.A. in Jewish Studies and Environmental Studies currently living in Cleveland, Ohio.



### Rev. Eugene Cho

Rev. Eugene Cho is President/CEO of Bread for the World, a Christian advocacy organization urging U.S. decision makers to do all they can to pursue a world without hunger. Bread's mission is to educate and equip people to advocate for policies and programs that can help end hunger in the U.S. and around the world.

Eugene preaches and speaks about Bread's mission to end hunger, justice, and leadership at the intersection of faith and public life. By weaving together scripture, personal stories, and accessible hunger data, he encourages pastors, leaders, missionaries, and justice workers from churches and nonprofits throughout the world in the pursuit of God's kingdom here on earth.

Prior to becoming President/CEO of Bread for the World, Eugene pastored local church for nearly thirty years. He is also founder and visionary of One Day's Wages (ODW)—a grassroots movement of people, stories, and actions to alleviate extreme global poverty. The vision of ODW is to create a collaborative movement that promotes awareness, invites simple giving (one day's wages), and supports sustainable relief through partnerships, especially with small organizations in developing regions.

Eugene has been married to Minhee J. Cho for over 25 years, and they have three adult children. Eugene enjoys fishing, basketball, and table tennis.



### Amaris DeLeon

Amaris "Ama" DeLeon is a fourth year student at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville, Florida. Ama is majoring in English with a minor in Religious Studies and hopes to use that to pursue interfaith work as a long-term career. Ama has worked at the Interfaith Center at UNF as the student advisor and has been able to plan and facilitate events, enable a diverse student leadership team, and learn the meaning and power behind this work. Ama grew up practicing Christianity in multiple forms, but now fully claims a non-religious but spiritual identity based on the interconnectedness of energy and finding the sacred in every day or normal things. Ama has loved learning about diverse religious and non-religious identities, and hearing insight from students her age gives her hope for a society that achieves true religious pluralism. The way our worldviews bleed into every aspect of who we are is the reason this work is so important to Ama. Ama additionally loves crystals, books, nature, and tattoos.



### Vidal Dickerson

Vidal's career spans over 20 years with diversity, equity, and inclusion work in higher education, medical education, and nonprofit organizations where he has coordinated institutional strategic initiatives, learning & development, and community relations efforts. His experiences have involved direct responsibilities for support, programming, and education around race/ethnicity, gender & sexuality, disabilities/accessibility, along with other dimensions of identity and diversity. His roles have included directing religious and spiritual life which involved collaborations with religious, spiritual, and secular student organizations and active engagement with campus advisors and community faith leaders.

Vidal is a resident of Hampton, VA and currently serves as the Special Assistant to the President & Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer at Christopher Newport University. He is a member of the National Association for Diversity Officers in Higher Education, Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities, People 2 People, and the Urban League of Hampton Roads. As well, Vidal is a member of Interfaith America's Interfaith Leaders in Higher Education Council.

Vidal received a BS in Mathematics from Austin Peay State University and an MS in Higher Education Administration from Indiana State University. He is currently a doctoral candidate in Human and Organizational Learning at The George Washington University.





### **Simon Greer**

Simon is the Founder of Bridging The Gap and has been involved in social change work for the past 30 years including some of our country's most divisive political movements and moments. This work has included working as a community and union organizer in South Carolina in the 1990s, managing security at the turn of the century, global justice protests targeting institutions like the World Bank, engaging in a public battle and eventual reconciliation with Glenn Beck, and hosting a Courageous Conversations series with The Nantucket Project (which includes American Neighbor). Greer's work is characterized by deep listening, powerful storytelling, and a search for common good values. All of these are skills he trains leaders to deploy in their efforts to tackle the most pressing issues in our communities.

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### **Matt Hartley**

Matt is the Director of the University of North Florida Interfaith Center in Jacksonville, where he advises campus leaders on religious diversity, guides inclusive policy, and advocates for equitable resources. He leads student Interfaith leadership development, with nationally recognized students and graduates. He supervises professional and student staff as they deliver dozens of dialogue and celebration programs on campus each year. He has led the Interfaith Center at UNF since 2018 and is a proud alumnus, with a B.A. in English. He received his M.A. in Religion from the University of Florida, completing a sociological research based thesis on Muslim Youth growing up in the American South after 9/11. Matt is a career educator, having also taught in a public high school where he launched that school's AVID college preparatory program, which is now a national model. He also spent 11 years in professional youth, college, and young adult ministry in the Presbyterian and Episcopal Churches, and continues to lead and keynote Presbyterian camp programs. He is a community organizer and advocate in Jacksonville, where he has served as Board Member and Chair of the Interfaith Center of Northeast Florida. Matt is a Christian, shaped by Liberation theology and Celtic nature-based Christianity. Apart from his professional work, Matt is an avid reader, a less avid runner, and enjoys time with his family watching movies, playing baseball, and taking walks around their neighborhood.

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### **Tif Ho**

Tif (she, they) is the Executive Director of GO Humanity, a humanist organization that works with underserved communities to provide access to socioeconomic resources. Tif is also a Ph.D. candidate, through which she researches and writes on the underrepresentation of Asian American women in leadership and DEIJ (diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice). In both her work at GO Humanity and her academic research, she is passionate about connecting people and communities - and in particular, about exploring the stories of immigrants and BIPOC individuals in ways that uplift and uphold dignity. In her free time, Tif enjoys spending time with her family and friends, reading, writing, and exploring. She's constantly pursuing adventures in learning, creativity, culture, travel, and the great outdoors.





## David M. Krueger

David Krueger is a scholar, author, and educator who is passionate about public history, religious literacy, and dialogue. His areas of academic expertise include American religious history, religious pluralism, race and ethnicity. Dr. Krueger is a sought-after lecturer and speaker and has frequently served as a narrator and scholarly contributor on the Science Channel. He received an M.Div from Palmer Theological Seminary, a ThM from Princeton Theological Seminary, and a PhD in religious studies from Temple University. His book, *Myths of the Rune Stone: Viking Martyrs and The Birthplace of America* was published by the University of Minnesota Press. Dr. Krueger is a versatile and seasoned educator who has taught at several area colleges, universities, and community-based settings. He is also a faculty trainer and education consultant for the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program based at Temple University. Although he grew up as a farm kid in Minnesota, he has come to love Philadelphia and its fascinating history since moving there in 1995. Articles and essays he has written have appeared in several publications including Religion Dispatches and The Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia. He is certified by the Association of Philadelphia Tour Guides to offer tours of diverse religious and historical sites in the city.



## Nate Martin & S.I.G.N.

Nate Martin & S.I.G.N. (Singing In God's Name) was founded in 2016 in the "Birthplace of Gospel Music" - Chicago, IL. SIGN quickly became loved in the city of Chicago for their youthfulness, energy, and passion for God. In 2017, they released their first single entitled "Nothing Too Hard" when Nate was only 16 years old. In 2018, they held their first live album recording at The Powerhouse Chicago, and the next year their debut album "SIGN Language" was released. In the fall of 2019, the group led praise and worship for Fellowship Chicago's midweek services under Grammy nominated and Stellar award winning Pastor Charles Jenkins. In 2020, SIGN received an Eddy Award for "Album of the Year" and in 2021 they received a Gospel Music Choice Award for "Group of the Year". The group has traveled all across the U.S., Norway, and Italy spreading the gospel through song.

Nate Martin is a 2023 graduate of Columbia College Chicago with a degree in Music. He serves as praise and worship leader and young adult choir director at the historic Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church under the leader of Pastor Reginald Sharpe Jr.

Nate Martin & SIGN's most recent album "King of the Wild" was released October 7, 2022 and is available to download everywhere.



## Sayge Martin

Sayge Martin attended Albright College and graduated with an interdisciplinary degree of Video Game Design/Simulation and Digital Media, as well as a minor Religious Studies. She specializes in software management, social media management, marketing, and web development and management. By evaluating the unique ways her interests intersect, Sayge hopes to contribute to the growth of digital learning initiatives in the Humanities.

At the Dialogue Institute, Sayge manages all media, marketing, and digital learning platforms. She supports our community by producing content for our social media accounts, as well as designing and implementing a consistent brand for promotions, appeals, reports, and other correspondence. Since starting with the DI, her work has been a vital part of our organization's communications process.

In addition to social media and marketing management, Sayge provides computer/technical support for virtual and in-person program logistics. She assists with troubleshooting problems, as well as orienting staff to new software and digital tools.



### Sonny K. Mehta

Sonny K. Mehta is the founder of the only American qawwali ensemble, Riyaz Qawwali. He has performed professionally for 17 years. Uniquely, his love for qawwali began in Texas, not in Pakistan or India! Growing up, he lived - as immigrant kids do - straddling two different worlds: his South Asian home life juxtaposed with his American schooling. Today, as a full-time music entrepreneur, he divides his time between teaching, performing and creating new music.

With fluency in Urdu, Punjabi, Hindi and English, he can be a cultural ambassador for taking a secluded/folk art form and the associated poetry to Western audiences and the younger South Asian generations. Sonny has led lectures and talks on the role art can play in better understanding the culture and people of South Asia. These sessions have been conducted at universities (i.e. Harvard, Dartmouth, Univ of California, US Military Academy at West Point and Univ of Chicago), museums (i.e. The Getty Museum, Cumer Museums, Asia Society), schools (i.e. Richmond Elementary and Dallas High school) and major non-profits. His work has been supported by The City of Houston, the State of Texas, and national foundations. He has garnered media coverage from NY Times, NPR and Huffington Post.

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### Sara Moncada

Sara Moncada (Yaqui), M.A., is a Native educator, dancer, filmmaker, author and cultural arts advocate. She is CEO of The Cultural Conservancy, a native-led non-profit working in Indigenous land, rights and revitalization projects, is co-founder of Wise Women Circles, a women-owned media company, and is co-director of Sewam American Indian Dance, a Bay Area-based cultural arts and education organization. She presents internationally on traditional Native Foodways, arts and culture and is co-author of the book *The Dance of Caring*, a book exploring Native American Hoop Dance as a model for wellness. She is producer of the internationally successful documentary film *NURSES If Florence Could See Us Now* celebrating the strength, recognition, and wellbeing of nurses and caregivers worldwide; and is producer of The Cultural Conservancy's The Native Seed Pod, a podcast series that explores and celebrates traditional seeds, Native Foodways and Traditional Ecological Knowledge.

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### Parveen Mundi

Parveen Mundi (she/her) is a rising junior at DePaul University and studies Political Science with minors in Chinese Language Studies and Global Asian Studies. Beyond the classroom, she is the university's incoming student body president and considers creating pluralistic campuses to be one of her passions, an interest reflected through her participation in the inaugural Building Interfaith Leadership Initiative fellowship with Interfaith America and the Miller Center at Hebrew College this past academic year. She has also explored global citizenship through interfaith and intercultural learning through a fellowship with the Institute for Nonprofit Practice, an internship with the Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund, an internship with the U.S. Department of State, and internships with the U.S. House of Representatives. As a proud Sikh woman Parveen truly believes in the power of civic discourse and works to combine her interest in human rights law and lived religion to better advocate for underrepresented communities.



### **Eboo Patel**

Named “one of America’s best leaders” by US News and World Report, Eboo is Founder and President of Interfaith America, the leading interfaith organization in the United States. Under his leadership, Interfaith America (formerly known as Interfaith Youth Core) has worked with governments, universities, private companies, and civic organizations to make faith a bridge of cooperation rather than a barrier of division. He served on President Obama’s Inaugural Faith Council, has given hundreds of keynote addresses, and has written five books, including “We Need to Build: Fieldnotes for Diverse Democracy” published May 2022. He is an Ashoka Fellow and holds a doctorate in the sociology of religion from Oxford University, where he studied on a Rhodes scholarship. Eboo lives in Chicago with his wife, Shehnaz, and two sons.



### **Rev. Tom Reid**

Rev. Tom Reid (he/him) is Director of the Building Interfaith Leadership Initiative (BILI) Launchpad Fellowship with the Miller Center for Interreligious Learning & Leadership of Hebrew College. He is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and serves as pastor of Newton Presbyterian Church in Newton Corner, Massachusetts.

Before changing careers to ministry and interreligious engagement, Tom spent over ten years working in a variety of fields including: clean energy and innovation in Boston, environmental and green building consulting in Boston and Dubai, and business education in Madrid, Spain.

Originally from Kansas, Tom is a proud alumnus of the University of Kansas, holding a BA in Environmental Studies, Latin American Studies, and Spanish. He also holds an MA in Contemporary European Politics, Policy, and Society granted by the Euromasters Consortium and funded by a Fulbright grant to the European Union and an MDiv from Boston University School of Theology with a certificate in Religion and Conflict Transformation. Tom is passionate about the environment, social justice and anti-racism work, learning as many languages as possible, and exploring restaurants wherever he may find himself. He lives in Cambridge, MA with his husband, David.



### **Ravi Singh**

Ravi Singh and his wife, Jacquie, founded Khalsa Peace Corps, the umbrella nonprofit that includes the Share A Meal program, back in 2009. Driven by their belief that a full spiritual experience requires one to transform higher conscience into action, they use their platform to encourage daily actions of service and sharing. Thanks to their intentional work and dedication, Share A Meal is able to serve more than 50,000 meals annually to those in need.



### **Elizabeth Stewart**

Elizabeth Stewart is a Fellow at the Center for Christianity and Scholarship at Duke where she helps to create and sustain a community engaged in discovering what it means to think as Christians about the workings of the physical world in sociology, philosophy, art and history. She began her professional career with several nonprofit organizations across Detroit with a focus on youth mental health, community development and poverty alleviation. After studying Communications Studies at Spring Arbor University, she now resides in Durham, North Carolina. She is inspired by creating understanding between people, groups and organizations resulting in genuine connections and best utilization of resources.



### **Najeeba Syeed**

Najeeba is the inaugural El-Hibri endowed chair and executive director of Interfaith at Augsburg. She has been a professor, expert practitioner and public speaker for the last two decades in the fields of conflict resolution, interfaith studies, mediation, education, deliberative democracy, social, gender and racial equity.

In 2021 she served as chief of staff to the first Asian American woman elected Los Angeles City Council to assist her with the setup of her office, hiring, strategic planning, legislative and communications strategies. For the fall of 2020 she was Associate Professor of Muslim and Interreligious Studies at Chicago Theological Seminary teaching three courses on management, indigenous religious movements and interfaith leadership.

She was an Associate Professor of Interreligious Education at Claremont School of Theology from 2010-2020, and is recognized as a leader in peacebuilding and social justice based research. Under her leadership the two conflict resolution centers she led received the Jon Anson Ford Award for reducing violence in schools and in the area of interracial gang conflict and was named Southern California Mediation Association's "Peacemaker of the Year" in 2007.



### **Rabbi Sara Zacharia**

Rabbi Sara has been the first of many endeavors. She was in the first class to be ordained as a Rabbi at the Ziegler School for Rabbinic Studies at the American Jewish University in May of 1999. She was appointed the first Senior Jewish Educator and non-Orthodox Rabbi at Queens College in 2017 and has held this position for 6 years. Since 2019, Rabbi Sara has grown the interfaith work on Queens College campus through developing and implementing Building Bridges An Interfaith Fellowship. In 2020 during the pandemic, she and her fellows attended the Summit virtually, which inspired her and the fellows to think about the interfaith work creatively and through developing relationships. Last summer for the first time she brought 4 fellows to the Summit, and each had a transformative experience which they brought back to campus to do their work. Queens College Hillel through her work with IA received a Bridging the Gap grant. The Building Bridges Interfaith Fellowship received the Meyerhoff Education Visioning award at Hillel International Global Assembly in December 2022. Rabbi Sara sees the interfaith work she does as sacred and holy using Jewish traditions and values at its heart.



# TRAINING TEAM

**Suraj Arshanapally**

**Laura Bohorquez Duque**

**Tyler Coles**

**Janice D'souza**

**Kristi Del Vecchio**

**Tina Grace**

**Simon Greer**

**Ahmed Hamed**

**Carr Harkrader**

**Joey Haynes**

**Kalilah Jamall**

**Melissa Jenkins**

**Casey Jones**

**Amena Khan**

**Elaine Krebs**

**Angie Mendoza Luo**

**Shauna Morin**

**Ishaq Pathan**

**Amar Peterman**

**Sara Rahim**

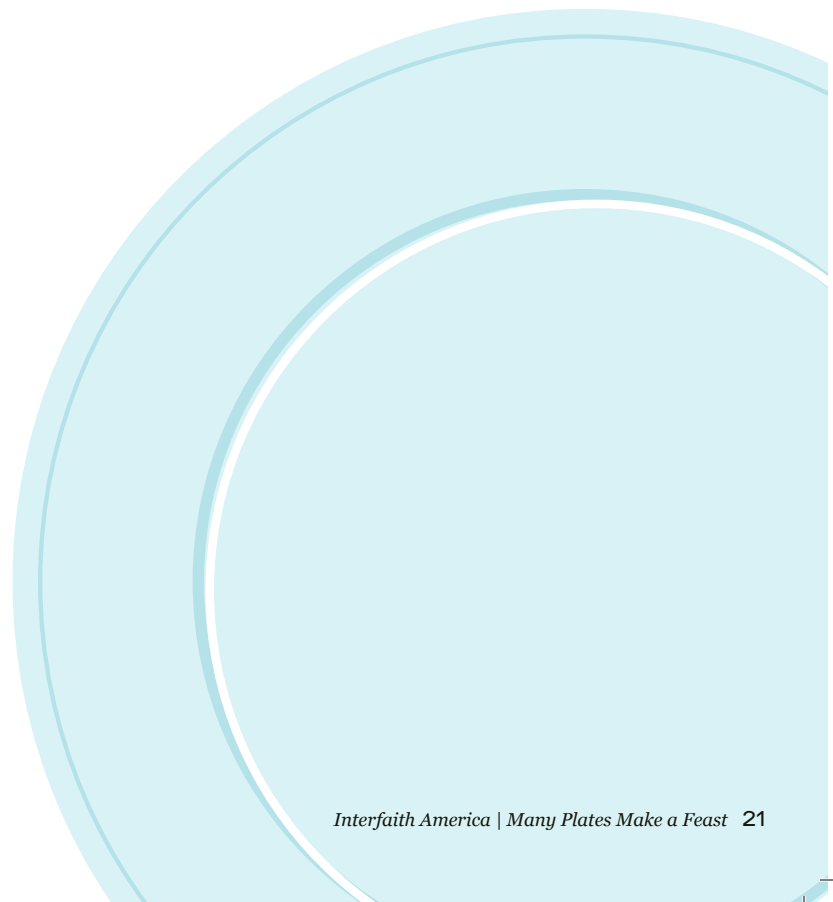
**Rebecca Russo**

**Matthew Segil**

**Rachel Tingley**

**Anastasia Young**

**Melanie Young**





## *Notes*



A series of horizontal lines for writing, spanning most of the page width. There are 25 lines in total, starting from the top of the main content area and ending near the bottom of the page.



[www.interfaithamerica.org](http://www.interfaithamerica.org)