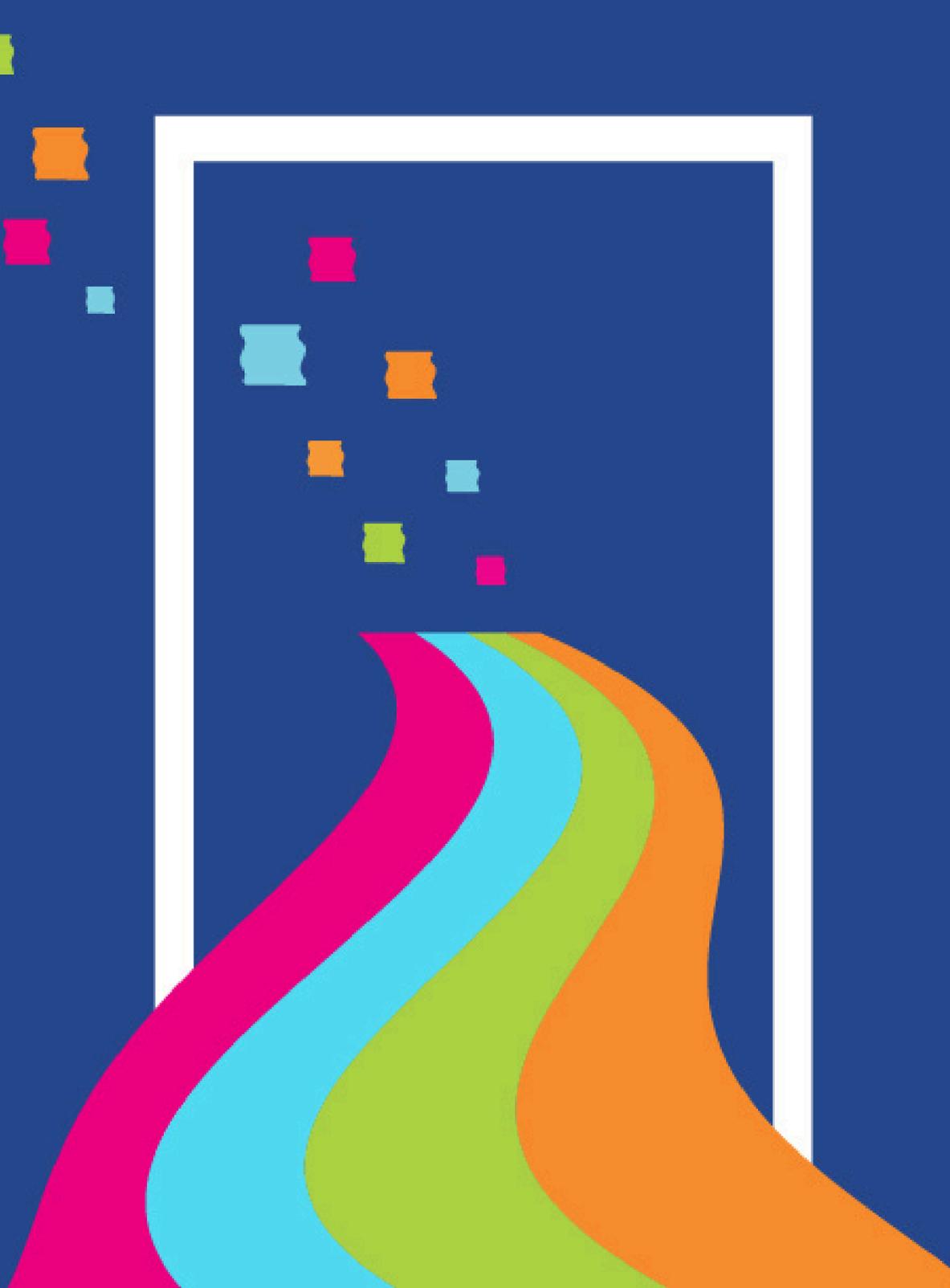


OPENING DOORS  
EMPOWERING FUTURES



The Harlem Educational Activities Fund's college access program provides academic enrichment, personal development, college prep and career exposure to students from under-resourced communities.

HEAF's 2024 Gala theme is "Opening Doors, Empowering Futures."

Through our programs, we are committed to opening doors to new opportunities, breaking down barriers, and providing the tools and resources necessary for our students to succeed.

Your support helps HEAF be there every step of the way from middle school through college, helping students navigate social, financial and academic challenges, complete their education, and go on to successful careers.



THIS EVENING'S PROGRAM

**Cocktail Reception**

**First Course**

**Welcome Remarks**

**Dave Wildman**

Global Head of Facilities & Infrastructure  
Bloomberg LP  
Vice Chair, HEAF Board of Directors

**HEAF Student Reflection**

**Darnell Yates**

11th Grade Student

**HEAF Gala Honoree**

**Voza Rivers**

Executive Producer, New Heritage Theatre Group  
Chairman, Harlem Arts Alliance

**Insights on Education to Empower Futures**

**Gladys Palma de Schrynemakers, EdD**

Chief Academic & Diversity Officer  
CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies  
Board Member, Harlem Educational Activities Fund

**Second Course**

**Unlocking Doors Through  
Education & Advocacy**

**Michael Johnson**

President & CEO  
Harlem Educational Activities Fund

**Live Auction & Call to Action**

**Auctioneer Pat Tully**

**HEAF Student Reflection**

**Khloe Valentine Dela Cruz**

9th Grade Student

**HEAF Gala Honoree**

**Esmé-Thea Sanders**

Global DEI Program Manager  
Ford Motor Company  
HEAF Alumna

**Closing Remarks**

**Dr. Jeff Gardere**

America's Psychologist, Frequent News  
Commentator

**Dessert Reception**

HEAF Gala Honoree

# Voza Rivers

Executive Producer, New Heritage Theatre Group

Chairman, Harlem Arts Alliance

Voza Rivers is Executive Producer and founding member of New Heritage Theatre Group (NHTG) established in 1964. He is also Executive Producer of Impact Repertory Theater, which he co-founded in 1997 with Professor, Author and Filmmaker Jamal Joseph. Impact is an Oscar and Grammy nominated youth division of NHTG. Together, Mr. Rivers and Mr. Joseph also launched New Heritage Films in 1997 and have completed 50+ documentary films.

Mr. Rivers serves as Chairman and Co-Founder of Harlem Arts Alliance (HAA) founded in 2001. HAA is a cultural arts service membership organization with 350 members.

Mr. Rivers was nominated for a Grammy with South African musician Hugh Masekela and South African playwright/author and musician Mbongeni Ngema for Sarafina! The Musical, which was also nominated for five Tony awards including "Best Musical".

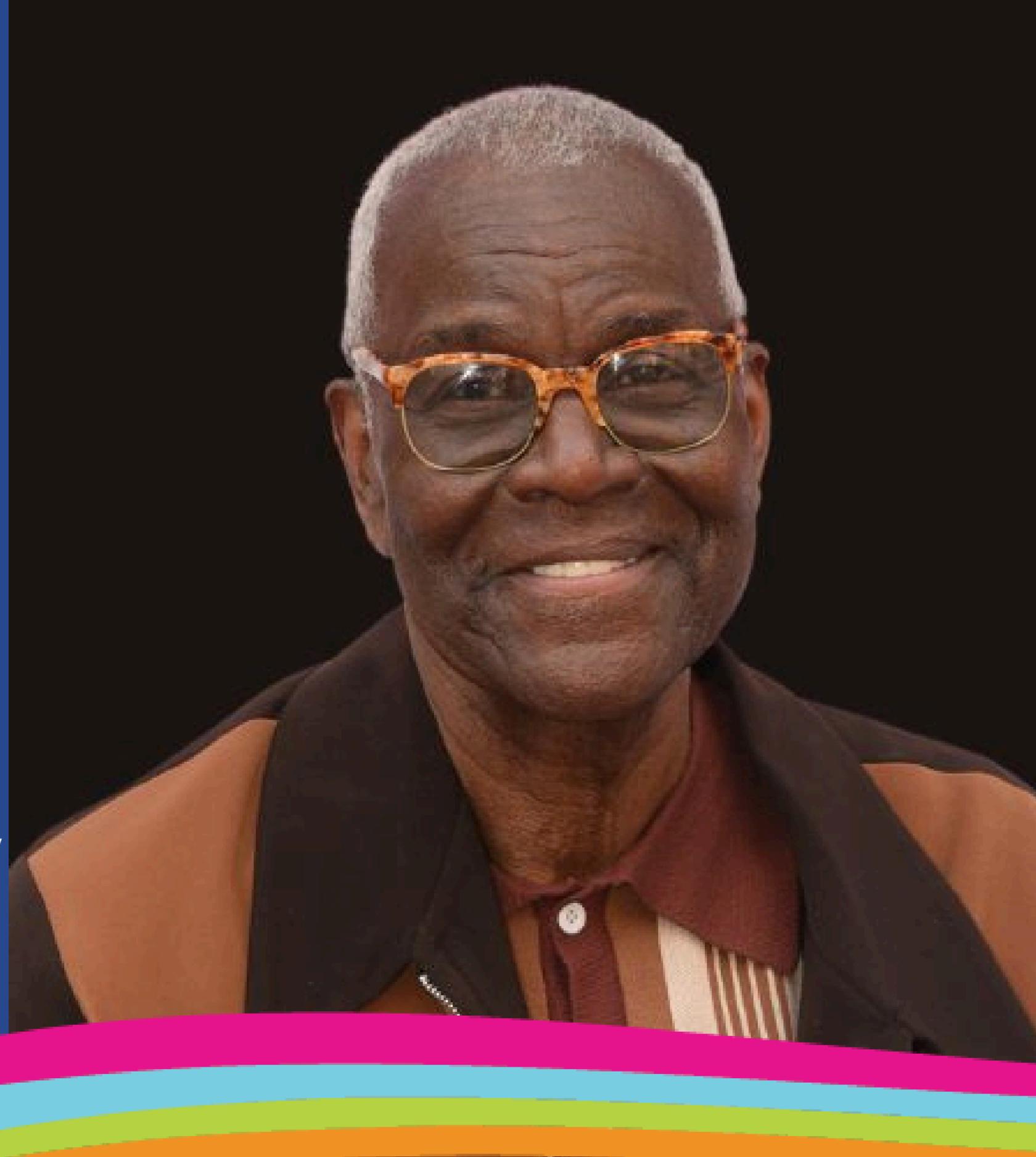
Mr. Rivers' New Heritage Theatre produced Asinamali! by Mbongeni Ngema in their Harlem Theater. Asinamali! toured nationally and was on Broadway. It was nominated for a Tony award.

Currently, Mr. Rivers serves as Vice President of The Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce and Executive Producer of HARLEM WEEK Inc., which Mr. Rivers co-founded as a one-day cultural tribute to Harlem more than 50 years ago. In that time, the event has evolved to become a month-long tribute and celebration of Harlem's economic and political history.

Mr. Rivers is Chairman of the Board and Executive Producer of 360 Entertainment International (360EI). Parent of UOhnit.com, a digital streaming platform and entertainment portal; and Clean Money Music—360EI providing exposure, performance and business opportunities to independent artists, filmmakers, producers and affiliates.

Mr. Rivers has produced events and concerts featuring world-renowned artists. A partial listing includes:

Anita Baker | Ashford & Simpson | Boyz II Men | Celia Cruz | Chuck Jackson | Count Basie & His Orchestra | Dionne Warwick | Doug E. Fresh | Gregory Porter | Somi | Herbie Hancock | Hugh Masekela | James Brown | Jazzmobile All Star Orchestra featuring Bobby Sanabria | Ledisi | John Legend | Jonathan Batiste | Living Color | Luther Vandross | Mary J. Blige | Max Roach | Michele Ndegeocello | Miriam Makeba | Nancy Wilson | National Jazz Museum All Star Orchestra | Nina Simone | Ray Charles | Ruby Dee | Sweet Honey & The Rock | Tito Puente | Tony Bennett | Tsidii LeLoka | Waseda University Jazz Orchestra (Japan)





HEAF Gala Honoree

## Esmé-Thea Sanders

Global DEI Program Manager, Ford Motor Company

HEAF Alumna

Esmé-Thea Sanders is a dedicated and passionate strategist currently serving as the Global DEI Leader at Ford Motor Company. Her journey from the vibrant streets of Harlem, NY to the dynamic city of Washington, DC is a testament to her commitment to making a meaningful difference both personally and professionally.

Raised by a single mother who emphasized the importance of education, Ms. Sanders' early exposure to diverse cultures through the Harlem Educational Activities Fund was a life-changing experience. This program opened doors beyond Harlem and ignited her lifelong passion for travel and deep appreciation for education.

Ms. Sanders continued her educational journey at Howard University, earning a BA in Economics. Her time at this renowned HBCU reinforced her dedication to diversity and set the stage for her career. She furthered her expertise with an MBA from Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business, where she received prestigious fellowships and awards, including those from the Consortium for Graduate Studies in Management, the Forte Foundation, the National Black MBA Association, and Management Leadership for Tomorrow.

At Ford Motor Company, Ms. Sanders is renowned for her innovative approach to diversity, equity, and inclusion. She leads global DEI initiatives with a unique blend of strategic insight and personal passion, working to create inclusive workplaces where everyone can thrive. Her impressive career also includes impactful roles at Management Leadership for Tomorrow, Capital One, Danaher, and Marsh & McLennan, where she consistently championed diversity and drove cultural change.

Outside of her professional life, Ms. Sanders is committed to giving back. She mentors young talents through the Washington Nationals Baseball Academy and serves as an Alumni Representative for the Consortium for Graduate Studies in Management. In her spare time, Esmé enjoys playing tennis and planning new adventures with her husband, Cameron, and their puppy, Koda.



# HEAF GALA PAST HONOREES

**2023**

Sekou Kaalund  
Evelyn Pérez-Albino  
Pamela West

**2022**

Daniel and Joanna S. Rose  
Dennis M. Walcott  
Maurice Sonnenberg

**2021**

John Collins  
Adena Friedman  
Verdun Perry

**2020**

Alexandra Alger  
Ursula Burns  
Eric Schmidt

**2019**

John Jacobsson  
Robert F. Smith

**2018**

Brian Duperreault  
Jennifer Raab

**2017**

Peter T. Grauer  
Calvin Sims

**2016**

David Levin  
Bruce L. Warwick

**2015**

Roger W. Ferguson, Jr.

**2014**

Joel I. Klein

**2013**

Fern Khan  
Arshad Zakaria

**2012**

Michael D. Colacino  
Richard H. Neiman

**2011**

Richard J. Mack  
Vincent A. Mai

**2010**

Alexandra D. Korry  
Brigadier General George B. Price  
Merryl H. Tisch

**2009**

Judith Aidoo  
Dr. Fareed Zakaria

**2008**

Farai Chideya  
Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr.  
James H. Simmons III

**2007**

Derrick Cephas  
Maurice Sonnenberg

**2006**

Laurence Gluck  
Ed Lewis  
Watson/Powell/Llewellyn/Lopez Families

**2005**

Alphonse Fletcher, Jr.  
Daniel Rose  
Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson



# Dave Wildman

Global Head of Facilities & Infrastructure, Bloomberg LP  
Vice Chair, HEAF Board of Directors

Mr. Wildman leads Bloomberg's Global Facilities, Infrastructure, and Workplace Experience teams. His teams span award-winning workplaces and mission-critical data centers across approximately 140 locations in over 70 countries.

With over 26 remarkable years at Bloomberg and an Executive MBA from Cornell, Dave is also deeply committed to philanthropy and mentoring. He serves as the vice chair at HEAF, mentors Bloomberg's Fortune Society fellows—supporting formerly justice-involved individuals—and chairs the NYC chapter of Infrastructure Masons, an industry group dedicated to promoting sustainability, social responsibility, and raising awareness of digital infrastructure careers among underrepresented groups. Additionally, Dave contributes to the Design for Freedom initiative at Grace Farms, which focuses on eradicating forced labor in construction material supply chains.





## **Gladys Palma de Schrynemakers, EdD**

Chief Academic & Diversity Officer

CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies

Board Member, Harlem Educational Activities Fund

Dr. Palma de Schrynemakers started in higher education in 2000 and previously had a career in K-16 as a teacher and Associate Director for Mathematics in District 32. Her experience in higher education includes starting college degree programs in partnership with community organizations in Bushwick, East New York, and Williamsburg, serving as an accreditor for NYSED, Middle States Commission on Higher Education since 2010 and chaired several visits. She is currently chairing a visit in 2024 to an institution in Puerto Rico with a specialty in outcomes assessment and strategic planning.

She has 20 years' experience in college teaching (Honors, Sociology, Education), grant writing for institutions of higher education, is well versed in program development and approval by NYSED, and instrumental in developing online degree programs to institutions where she has served. Moreover, she has served on Brookhaven National Laboratory's Inclusion and Diversity External Advisory Board 2018 - Present, which is dedicated to developing a path for diverse and economically challenged students entering STEM professions and specifically research professions at Brookhaven and other national labs.



# Michael Johnson

President & CEO

Harlem Educational Activities Fund

Michael Johnson joined the Harlem Educational Activities Fund (HEAF) as President and CEO in July 2022. He is responsible for setting the vision and ensuring successful execution of the organization's mission to open doors to college and meaningful careers for students from underserved communities across New York City, from educational programming to development and operations.

Mr. Johnson came to HEAF with a proven record of developing and driving impactful programs that yield results. He has held leadership positions in economic development, corporate philanthropy and public administration, and for more than 25 years has made it his personal mission to leverage his successes to help lift the next generation. He is a recipient of MIT's prestigious MLK Leadership Award for exceptional service to communities of color.

Prior to joining HEAF, Mr. Johnson was with The Community Builders (TCB), a nationally recognized nonprofit focused on affordable and mixed-income residential and commercial properties, where he served as Director of Community Life, responsible for TCB's place-based model that

provides stable housing and builds partnerships as platforms for residents and neighborhoods to achieve success. Before that, Mr. Johnson was Vice President, Global Philanthropy at JPMorgan Chase & Co., where he led the Community Development portfolio for the New York Metropolitan area, and a national portfolio involving seed capital and data driven solutions for neighborhoods through Partnership for Raising Opportunities. The company is a global leader in corporate philanthropy with more than \$275 million invested in communities annually.

Mr. Johnson has also served as Chief of Staff to the General Manager and Director of Customer Operations at the New York City Housing Authority. Earlier in his career, he held leadership roles in both New York City and Newark, New Jersey focused on creating economic opportunities and growth, while improving the quality of life for children and families in neighborhoods.

Mr. Johnson holds a Master of Arts in Political Science from the CUNY Graduate Center, a Master in City Planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Virginia.



# Dr. Jeff Gardere

Emcee

Dr. Jeff Gardere is a board certified clinical psychologist. In addition to having a private practice in Manhattan, he is an Associate Professor and Course Director of Behavioral Medicine at Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine in New York City and an adjunct Professor of Training for the PsyD program, also at Touro University. Dr. Jeff is a consultant, therapist and executive coach to several global law firms. He is the author of three books, a contributing author of a half-dozen books and has authored several research articles.

Dr. Jeff has been a contributor to the FOX Network, NewsMax, the Today Show, MSNBC, and CNN. Dr. Jeff was the host of VH1's Dad Camp and has appeared on the Love & Hip Hop and Housewives of Atlanta and Potomac reality show franchises, Dr. Jeff was recently a contributor and occasional substitute anchor on the nightly newscast, Chasing News, on WWOR-TV, NJ.

Dr. Jeff has also co-produced the following documentary films:

- You Are Not Alone; Black Gay Men and Depression
- Erasing Family; Parental Alienation and the Effects on Children
- When Harlem Saved a King; The Assassination Attempt on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1958





## Patrick Tully

Auctioneer

With over 20 years of live auction experience, Pat Tully is New York City's leading independent benefit Auctioneer. Mr. Tully has raised over one billion dollars at over 1,800 nonprofit benefit events across The United States and around the world.

Mr. Tully is as comfortable on stage with A-list celebrities as he is sincere with cancer patients who share their very personal stories. He didn't hesitate when he had the chance to convince Rod Stewart to break into a duet to raise money. He has performed live auctions with other celebrities including Tina Fey, Jamie Foxx, Kenan Thompson, and many others. Mr. Tully's auction talents have been seen on TV, recently guest starring in Ryan Murphy's *Feud: Capote vs The Swans* where he played, you guessed it, *The Auctioneer*, selling Truman Capote's ashes for \$45,000. On National Geographic's *Brain Games*, he sold a \$20 bill for \$40! In 2025 look out for Pat playing the Auctioneer on screen once again in the upcoming Netflix dramatic comedy *Black Rabbit* starring Jason Bateman and Jude Law.

Mr. Tully holds a B.A. degree in Communications from Marist College and is currently a candidate for a Masters of Nonprofit Administration at the University of Notre Dame. In addition, he holds a Benefit Auction Specialist designation from the National Auctioneers Association and is a member of The Association of Fundraising Professionals.



# CLASS OF 2024

## COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

CUNY Baruch College  
CUNY Brooklyn College  
CUNY City College  
CUNY City Tech  
CUNY Hunter College  
CUNY Lehman College  
Delaware State University  
Dominican University New York  
Fordham University  
Hampton University  
Iona University  
Johnson C. Smith University  
Manhattan College  
Morgan State University  
Mount Holyoke College  
Oberlin College  
Pace University  
The Pennsylvania State University  
Saint Leo University

Smith College  
SUNY Albany  
SUNY Alfred State  
SUNY Binghamton University  
SUNY Buffalo State  
SUNY Delhi  
SUNY Farmingdale State College  
SUNY Morrisville  
SUNY Oneonta  
SUNY Oswego  
SUNY Plattsburgh  
SUNY Stony Brook University  
Texas A&M University – Commerce  
University of Connecticut  
University of Michigan  
West Virginia State  
Williams College  
York College



# HARLEM EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES FUND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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*Founder & Chair Emeritus*  
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*Barclays*

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*President & CEO*  
*HEAF*

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*HEAF Co-Founder*

**Brigadier General George Price**  
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**Gladys Palma de Schrynemakers, EdD**  
*CUNY School of Labor*  
*and Urban Studies*

**Evelyn Pérez-Albino**  
*Ella Elevates, Inc.*  
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**Eric Rahe**  
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**Maria Rodriguez**  
*Consolidated Edison*

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*Pryor Cashman LLP*

**Calvin Sims**  
*CNN*

**Colette Smith**  
*Attorney*

**Neil deGrasse Tyson, PhD**  
*American Museum of*  
*Natural History*

# Thank You to Our Leadership Circle!

Your unwavering support and generosity have been instrumental in sustaining HEAF's mission. We are deeply grateful for your dedication and commitment, which continue to make a profound difference in the lives of countless students.

Alexandra Alger & Dan Chung

Eric & Wendy Schmidt

Roger Ferguson & Annette Nazareth

A large, stylized letter 'A' composed of three overlapping triangles in shades of blue, positioned on the left side of the top banner.

ALGER 60 YEARS

Unlock Your Growth Potential.<sup>SM</sup>

Alger Salutes

**Harlem Educational Activities Fund**

and its success in helping NYC students  
go to college and pursue their dreams.



**Jodi Scheurenbrand and Michael Smith  
are honored to support the work of the  
Harlem Educational Activities Fund**

**Congratulations to this year's honorees:**

**Voza Rivers**

*Executive Producer, New Heritage Theatre Group*

*Chairman, Harlem Arts Alliance*

**Esmé-Thea Sanders**

*Global DEI Program Manager, Ford Motor Company and HEAF Alumna*



## Chubb is proud to support Harlem Educational Activities Fund

Congratulations to this year's honorees:

**Voza Rivers**

*Executive Producer, New Heritage Theatre Group  
Chairman, Harlem Arts Alliance*

**Esmé-Thea Sanders**

*Global DEI Program Manager, Ford Motor Company and HEAF Alumna*

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## We are proud to support the 2024 Harlem Educational Activities Fund Gala.

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Continents

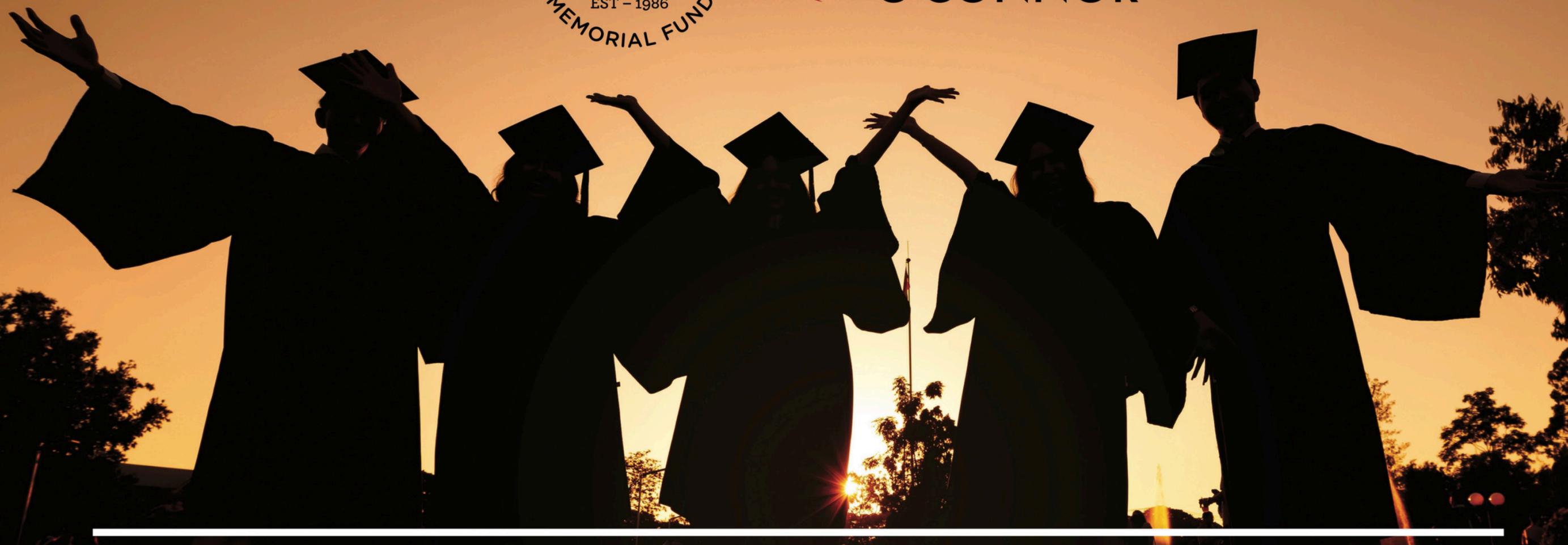


# WE ARE PROUD TO SPONSOR THE 2024 HARLEM EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES FUND GALA

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**Cozen O'Connor and The Samuel D. Cozen Memorial Fund proudly supports HEAF and this year's honorees, Voza Rivers and Esme-Thea Sanders for the wonderful work they do to help students succeed in school and in future careers.**

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**CARLTON  
FIELDS**

## **Carlton Fields is pleased to support the 2024 Harlem Educational Activity Fund Gala**

We thank Voza Rivers and Esmé-Thea Sanders for their contributions to the community, and HEAF for their commitment to changing the lives of underserved youth through quality education and support.

We also thank Michael Smith for his contributions as Trustee, helping to ensure HEAF can continue to empower our youth to realize their full potential.

[www.carltonfields.com](http://www.carltonfields.com)



Congratulations to all of this year's honorees for their outstanding achievements and contributions to a brighter future:

## **Voza Rivers & Esmé-Thea Sanders**

And admiration to HEAF's inspiring students and dedicated staff for another year of commitment to nurturing excellence.

**Audrey & Benjamin Semel**



**Edward Jones Harlem celebrates HEAF**

**Congratulations to Voza Rivers and Esmé-Thea Sanders!**

**Tony Shaw**

Financial Advisor

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proudly supports the

## Harlem Educational Activities Fund

in its mission to help youth in underserved communities through its principles of Achievement, Education, Innovation, and Leadership.

We applaud the 2024 honorees on their commitment to fostering equitable practices in academic enrichment, development, and career exposure.

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**CELEBRATING  
THE STUDENTS  
AND STAFF OF  
HEAF**



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# New York

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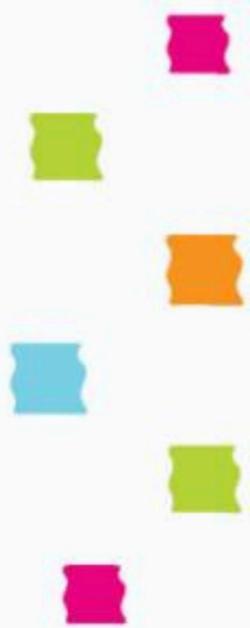
**HEAF**

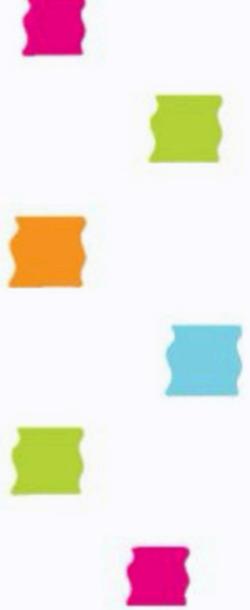
**Tom and Cindy Secunda**

Congratulate tonight's  
Honorees

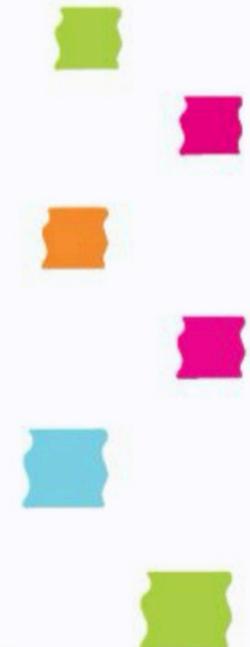
**Voza Rivers &  
Esmé-Thea Sanders**

and are proud to support  
HEAF's Opening Doors  
Empowering Futures Gala





# Congratulations to everyone at HEAF!



Emily Rose, Jim  
Marrow, and all  
the Rose-Marrows



Cozen O'Connor  
applauds HEAF for its  
tireless dedication to  
opening doors and  
empowering futures for  
those who need it most.

**Jonathan Knipe**  
Co-Chair, Real Estate  
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Lewis Brisbois is proud to support the Harlem Educational Activities Fund and congratulates all of this evening's honorees.

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Dave and Hind  
Wildman

**CELEBRATING  
THE STUDENTS,  
STAFF, AND  
SUPPORTERS OF  
HEAF**





HELPING AFRICA FOUNDATION

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

On behalf of the Helping Africa Foundation, we are pleased to extend our congratulations to Voza Rivers, Executive Producer, New Heritage Theatre Group and Chairman, Harlem Arts Alliance, and to Esme-Thea Sanders, Global DEI Program Manager, Ford Motor Company and HEAF Alumna.

Mr. Daniel Rose, Chairman

Dr. Deborah Rose, President

Mr. Japhet Aryiku, Executive Director

Mr. Jonathan Wiesner, Deputy Executive Director

"Education is the key to unlocking the world, a passport to freedom."

- Oprah Winfrey

**Congratulations to tonight's honorees:**

**Voza Rivers**

**Esmé-Thea Sanders**

**Thank you for continuing to open doors to opportunity**



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HARLEM EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES FUND

# OPEN HOUSE

**Wednesday November 13, 2024**

**4 - 6 PM**

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OPENING DOORS  
EMPOWERING FUTURES

