

Webinar: Creating Pathways for Community Leadership
Thursday, November 19, 2020 | 3-4pm EDT

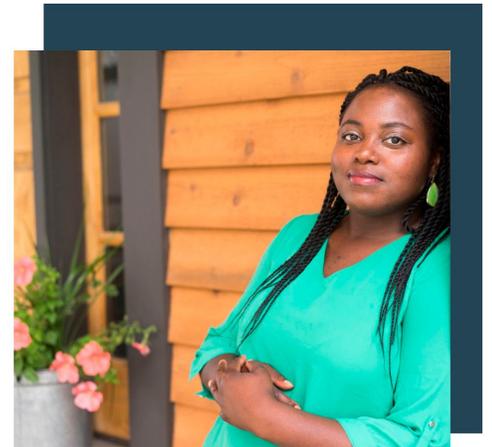
Panelist Biographies

Allentza Michel

Founder, Powerful Pathways

Allentza Michel is an artist, urban planner, policy advocate and researcher with a background in community organizing and human service. She has over 18 years of diverse experience across community & economic development, education, food security, public health and transportation in local, national and international settings. Growing up and working in low-income communities in Boston led Allentza to coalition building and community planning, with a particular focus on mobility and neighborhood revitalization. All of her experiences inform her current work in civic design, community and organizational development, and social equity.

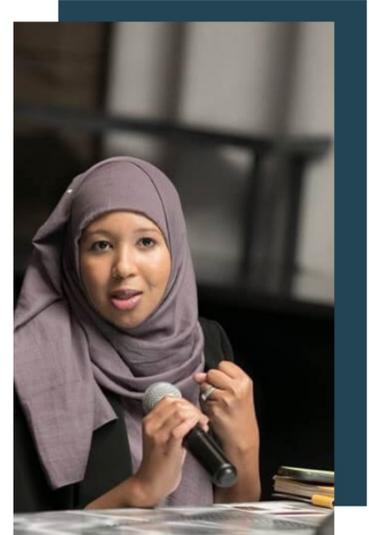
She is the founder and creative director of Powerful Pathways, a social practice and consultancy that works in policy, urban planning and social impact using arts and technology with design thinking methods and social equity principles. She is also the Program Officer for Humanities, Arts and Culture at the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Ms. Michel has founded and co-founded several non-profit organizations and community initiatives and has served on many boards of community-based organizations, civic groups and coalitions. She has also served as a grant reviewer for the National Endowment for the Arts. In 2013, Allentza served as co-chair to the City of Boston's Participatory Budgeting Project's inaugural year. She was the inaugural fellow for Association for Community Design in 2015 and a 2016 Creative Community Fellows with National Arts Strategies. Ms. Michel received a Master's in Public Policy at Tufts University's Department of Urban & Environmental Planning and Policy and studied Civic Media and Art Practice at Emerson College. She has BAs in English and Social and Political Systems from Pine Manor College and a graduate certificate in Non-profit Management from Boston University's Questrom School of Business.



Regina Elmi

Executive Director, Supporting Partnerships in Education; Parent Leader, Family Leadership Design Collaborative

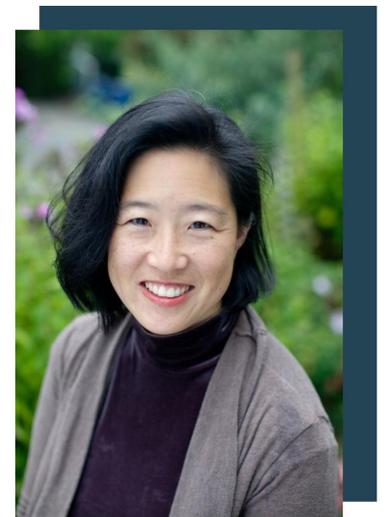
Regina is Executive Director of Supporting Partnerships in Education, and a co-founder of the Somali Parents Education Board. She believes the biggest role in this world is being a parent. She considers it a privilege to be working with parents like her every day and learning from them. Regina believes if we want to close the opportunity gap, parents and youth must be involved in conversations about systematic racism. She is a champion of community leadership and placing parents in leadership roles so they are the ones advocating for our children. Her favorite place in the Road Map Project region is Tukwila because it is amazing to see her community walking around the Bakaro Mall area in their traditional clothes and to see elders sitting down to drink tea together in the shops.



Ann Ishimaru

Associate Professor of Education, University of Washington; Co-principal investigator, Family Leadership Design Collaborative

Dr. Ann M. Ishimaru is an Associate Professor of Educational Policy, Organizations, and Leadership at the University of Washington's College of Education. Her scholarship examines organizational leadership, school-community relations, and equity-based change-making in P-12 education. As a PI of the Family Leadership Design Collaborative and the Equitable Leadership in Education research projects, she partners with minoritized families and communities as well as systems leaders to codesign educational justice and community wellbeing. She received the 2017 AERA Exemplary Contributions to Practice-Engaged Research Award and the 2016 UCEA Culbertson Early Career Award. In addition to numerous peer-reviewed articles in top educational research journals, she recently published "Just Schools: Building Equitable Collaborations with Families and Communities," with Teachers College Press.



Ronda Alexander (Moderator)

Director of Operations, Vital Village Networks at Boston Medical Center

Ronda Alexander is a native Detroiter dedicated to working with communities to reach their desired goals by aligning and leveraging their resources. Ronda joins us from the United Way for Southeastern Michigan where she served as the Director of Corporate and Community Alignment on the organization's College and Career Pathways team. In her role at United Way Ronda worked to help external corporate partners find meaningful ways to engage with both students and educators; as well as worked across teams within the organization to align and leverage resources. Prior to joining United Way Ronda worked on the premier education initiative of Ford Motor Company Fund – Ford Next Generation (Ford NGL) for nine years. While at Ford Fund Ronda served a variety of roles including Professional Development/Technical Assistance Specialist and Program Manager for STEM initiatives. In all of her roles with Ford Fund Ronda worked with and supported multiple communities across the country as they worked to transform their communities through education.



About the Webinar

Harnessing community strengths and assets -- such as existing parent and community leaders -- are critical to building local capacity and scaling up innovative solutions. This session highlights local models for creating sustainable leadership pathways for parents, caregivers, and community stakeholders to not only participate, but also design and implement systems change efforts. Speakers will highlight unsung leadership stories and examples of parent-led efforts to address pressing and emerging community challenges, from improving access to health promoting resources to mitigating natural disasters and COVID-19.