

BEYOND THE BARS 2025



WOMEN TRANSCENDING
COLLECTIVE
LEADERSHIP
INSTITUTE



Graduation Celebration

*Honoring the Leadership of
Women Impacted by
Incarceration*

THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 2025

*The Schomburg Center for Research in Black
Culture, 515 Malcolm X Blvd, New York, NY*

About the Women Transcending Collective Leadership Institute (CLI)

The Women Transcending Collective Leadership Institute is a one year leadership development program for formerly incarcerated and directly impacted women across the nation. CLI offers leadership development that includes: capacity building, legislative and advocacy tools, community organizing, and communication skills. We also include sessions on connecting the history of different women's movements, healing practices, and participatory action research throughout the year. It is inspired by our radical hope to strengthen and expand our leadership and capacity that contributes to the growing women's justice movement.

Program:

Drummers Lead Procession of the Graduates

Libation and Land Acknowledgment by Wakumi Douglas

Opening: The Origins of Sankofa by Dr. Genevieve Duncan Sackey

Remarks from Senator Cordell Cleare

Call to Action

Tribute to Kathy Boudin

Performance

WTCLI Cohort 6 Graduation

The Tree of Life Ceremony

Performance

Welcome and Introduction of Incoming CLI Cohort 7

Closing Procession



Graduating Cohort:

Barbara Ornelas, Texas

Chermaine Black, Pennsylvania

Dara Baldwin, Washington D.C.

India Johnson, Maryland

Janet Hughes, California

Jessica Drew Umberger, Georgia

Justine Taz Moore, New York

Katrina Butler, Georgia

Lisa Guss, Alabama

Maria Morris, Oklahoma

Marion Rodriguez, Texas

Marsha King, Virginia

Melinda Johnson, California

Michelle Daniel Jones, Indiana

Noreen McClendon, California

Rose Harris, New York

Sannecia Davis, Arkansas

Sappho Fulton, Pennsylvania

Tammara McCoy, New York

Traletta Banks, North Carolina

Virginia Douglas, New Jersey



Incoming Cohort:

Abbie Bell, *New York*

Brandi Peterson, *New Jersey*

Darlisa Ware, *Arkansas*

Emilee Shell, *Alabama*

Jan Rogers, *Kentucky*

Kristy Laschober, *Louisiana*

LaChandra Moore, *Arkansas*

Lacretia Day, *Alabama*

LaPorcsha Haggins, *Tennessee*

Latoya Spillman, *West Virginia*

Lucinda Cross, *New York*

Michelle ML Smith, *Missouri*

Nicole “CoCo” Davis, *Illinois*

Shaheedah Ross Jackson,

North Carolina

Shakiethia Keke Wheeler, *Georgia*

Shaneka Jones, *Arkansas*

Sheree Kennon, *Alabama*

Tahira Harris, *Pennsylvania*

Tali Douglas, *New Jersey*

Tiffani Shaw, *Oklahoma*

Special Thanks To:

Carol M. Joseph

Dean's Office at Columbia School of
Social Work

Edward S Moore Family Foundation

Eileen Farbman

Fondation Chanel

Ford Foundation

MacArthur Foundation

Mellon Foundation

Movement For Black Lives

Ms. Foundation

New York Women's Foundation

Novo Foundation

Robert Sterling Clark

Schusterman Foundation

Sills Family Foundation

The Just Trust

TOW Foundation

Trinity Church Wall Street

Union Theological Seminary

Center for Justice Advisory Board

Chesa Boudin
Gara LaMarche
Gina Dent
Katherine Franke
Lisa Metsch
Janlori Goldman
Nkechi Taifa
Pamela Shifman
Vivian Nixon

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