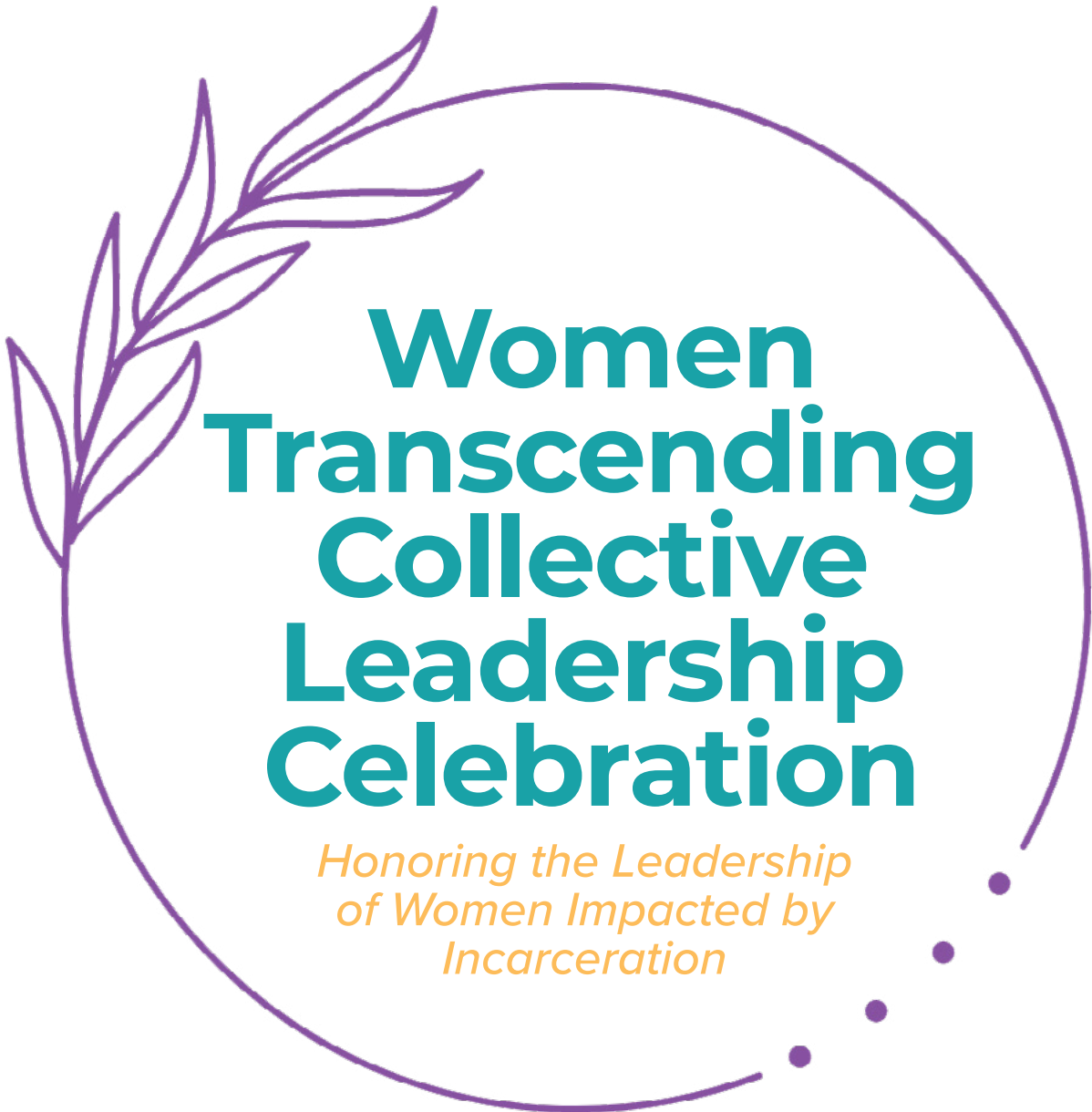


BEYOND THE BARS



Women Transcending Collective Leadership Celebration

*Honoring the Leadership
of Women Impacted by
Incarceration*

Friday, March 24, 2023
The Forum, Columbia University

About the Women Transcending Collective Leadership Institute

The Women Transcending Collective Leadership Institute (CLI) 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 in 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 to contribute to the growing women's justice movement.

About Right/Write to Heal (RWH)

The Right/Write to Heal: Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women in Their Own Voices is a new initiative with the Center for Justice at Columbia University and V-Day where we encourage women to write and share their own stories through mainstream and social media, podcasts and a published anthology, which will be archived for historical purposes. RWH aims to humanize the individual and collective experiences of women, particularly women of color; share how incarceration has impacted our lives, families and communities; and change the narrative on how people understand the impact of criminalization on women. We see art as a form of activism to grow and solidify our collective imagination for a more just world.

Program:

Opening: Land Acknowledgment

Welcome by CSSW Dean Begg

Remarks from Senator Cordell Cleare

Drummers Libations and Tribute to Kathy Boudin with Remarks by Chesa Boudin

Call to Action: Fox Rich

Performance by NOLA Graduates

Women Transcending CLI Cohort 4
Graduation Ceremony

The Tree of Life Ceremony

Right/Write to Heal Performance

Introduction of Incoming CLI Cohort 5

Closing Drums and Music

Graduating Cohort:

Brittany Bethea, *North Carolina*

Charlotte Garnes, *Georgia*

Chazidy Bowman, *Ohio*

Gale Muhammad, *New Jersey*

Haydee Lee Scott, *New York*

Jessica Davis, *North Carolina*

Marilyn Mateo, *New York*

Page Dukes, *Georgia*

Robyn Hasan, *Georgia*

Shameeka France, *New York*

Sharon Turner, *Georgia*

Sheena Dume, *Connecticut*

Tabatha Trammell, *Georgia*

Tanya Smith, *Connecticut*

Tashoy Miller, *Florida*

Tiffani Dean, *Pennsylvania*

Vichelle Sanders, *Washington*

Waleisah Wilson, *Georgia*



WOMEN TRANSCENDING

Incoming Cohort:

Abigail Cook, *Georgia*

Anita Robinson, *Arkansas*

Ayana Thomas, *New Jersey*

Carla Taylor, *Georgia*

Danielle Donaphin, *New York*

Dijon McCoy, *New York*

Ghania Miller, *New York*

Kimberly Woodson, *Michigan*

Latanya Pierce, *New Jersey*

Lauren Johnson, *Texas*

Leah Faria, *New York*

Linda Dolloff, *Maine*

Marquitta Rucker, *Georgia*

Minerva Pasqual, *New York*

Naquasia Pollard, *New York*

Natasha White, *Virginia*

Patricia Berger, *Missouri*

Ruby Welch, *Arkansas*

Sharon McKinney, *Texas*

Tiheba Bain, *Connecticut*

Vanessa Garrett, *Georgia*



WOMEN TRANSCENDING

Bios:

The Graduates, founded in 2012, is a performance ensemble composed of formerly incarcerated women from Louisiana, who were members of the 27-year-old LCIW Drama Club in The Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women. The Graduates and the LCIW Drama Club are co-directed by Ausetua AmorAmenkum of Kumbuka African Drum & Dance Collective and Kathy Randels of ArtSpot Productions. Our performances focus on the experiences that women from Louisiana have when they interact with the prison system and are designed to move and motivate audiences to become active in helping to end Mass Incarceration in Louisiana. Our work has been supported by Alternate ROOTS, The Mellon Foundation, The Robert Rauschenberg Racial Justice Fellowship and Emerging Philanthropists of New Orleans. This evening's Graduates include: Taece Defillo, Consuela Gaines, Ivy Mathis, Jacqueline Hall Williams, and Gloria "Mama Glo" Williams, with special musical accompaniment by drummer Zohar Israel. Visit www.thegraduatesrising.org and our Won't Bow Down! Facebook page for more information.

Fox Rich is a formerly incarcerated woman, wife of a formerly incarcerated man, mother of six sons, and matriarch of the Rich family as they have endured 21 years of incarceration-together. Since returning from prison in 2002, Fox Rich has worked tirelessly with other organizations such as the National Council of Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls, Louisiana's for Prison Alternatives, SPLC, VOTE, FFLIC and The Graduates, to bring about the largest criminal justice reform measures in Louisiana. On September 20, 2018, Rich finally won the battle to restore her family receiving clemency from Governor John Bel Edwards. Upon their reunification, together Fox and Rob founded Rich Family Ministries, an organization focused on changing lives and laws through love.

The Mardi Gras Indians (aka black masking Indians) suit up to pay respect for assistance received from Black Native Americans escaping the tyranny of slavery. Each year they parade throughout New Orleans in hand sewn suits, of beads, sequins and feathers which take a year to complete. Big Chief David of the Washitaw Nation, Big Chief Shaka Zulu of Golden Feather & Big Queen Ausetua of the Washitaw Nation

Chesa Boudin served as San Francisco's elected District Attorney from 2020 until his recall in 2022. During that time, Boudin implemented bold reforms to ensure that the criminal legal system delivered safety and justice for all San Franciscans. His achievements include a significant expansion of the office's victim services' division; eliminating prosecutors' use of money bail; prosecuting police for excessive force; suing the manufacturers of ghost guns; expanding diversion to address root causes of crime, and an historic reduction in incarceration. During his time in office both violent and non-violent crime fell by double digits. Prior to his election Boudin clerked for two federal judges and worked for years as a public defender. He is a graduate of Yale college and Yale school and attended Oxford on a Rhodes Scholarship. His biological parents spent a combined 62 years in prison starting when he was a baby.

Dean Melissa Begg became the 18th Dean of Columbia School of Social Work on September 1, 2019. Dean Begg is an accomplished scholar, committed educator, and creative administrative leader. Her work has focused on convening interdisciplinary teams, developing innovative curricula, creating mentorship programs, and enhancing diversity in graduate education and the research workforce. She is deeply committed to the School's social justice mission and the pursuit of better science for a better society through scholarship, education, practice, and collaboration.

Special Thanks To:

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Chesa Boudin	Janlori Goldman
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Special thanks and appreciation for all of the staff at Columbia and beyond. This conference would not be possible without you.

