

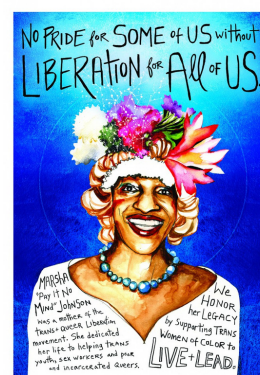


## BLACK QUEER, TRANS & GENDER NON CONFORMING (BQTGNC) COHORT

The Black Queer, Trans & Gender Non Conforming (Black QTGNC) Fellowship Cohort is a leadership development initiative that is embedded within YO! Cali's Emerging Organizers Fellowship program. This cohort is an intentional space for participants who identify as Black as well as within the \*LGBTQQIA+ community and will foster, nourish, resource, and build the power and pathways for BQTGNC youth organizers. Fellows will cultivate powerful connections, develop leadership and organizing skills, and strengthen their connection to self development in order to more powerfully navigate and lead their movement homes. We are partnering with Black Organizing for Leadership & Dignity (BOLD) to provide tailored trainings, and assembling an all Black, Queer, Trans and GNC coaching team to provide this unique and thoughtful fellowship and training opportunity.

### GOALS

- **FOSTER SUPPORT NETWORK:** Fellows will have the opportunity to connect with and cultivate supportive relationships & community amongst other Black QTGNC youth organizers and leaders in the field.
- **BUILD POWER:** Fellows will strengthen their organizing skills and capacities by exploring and deepening their organizing practice and knowledge with host organization and through training spaces.
- **REGENERATIVE SPACE:** Rooted in Healing Justice principles, wellness and sustainability are the pillars to support the personal transformation that allows fellows to tap into their own power and liberation practices.



### KEY COMPONENTS

Cohort will participate in all Emerging Organizers Fellowship Components and have 5 Cohort specific touch points for tailored training and connectivity space led by our partner, Black Organizing for Leadership & Dignity (BOLD). Components will provide training in youth organizing fundamentals, leadership development coaching and training, peer-to-peer learning, and real time organizing experience through:

#### RETREATS

In Person retreat to deepen fellows learning, relationship building and exposure to site specific organizing.

#### MONTHLY WORKSHOPS

Ongoing Learning and Skill Sharing focused on advancing political education, skills building, and relationship building/support amongst fellows.

#### COACHING

Individualized coaching to support fellows personal transformation and stepping into their own power.

#### HANDS ON ORGANIZING

Local Organizing experience to develop fellows knowledge and skills in base-building, leadership development, & campaigns strategy.

### FACILITATORS & TRAINING TEAM

We are partnering with BOLD (Black Organizing for Leadership and Dignity), a national training intermediary focused on transforming the practice of Black organizers in the US to increase their alignment, impact and sustainability to win progressive change, to design and facilitate trainings for our Cohort.



**SABAA ZAREENA**

They/Them  
 YO! Cali  
 Fellowship Manager



**JONATHAN STITH**

He/Him  
 BOLD  
 National Organizer



**PAIGE PG WATKINS**

They/Them  
 BOLD Trainer  
 BlackOUT Collective  
 Program Coordinator



**WHITNEY MAXEY**

She/Her  
 BOLD Trainer  
 Durham for All  
 Lead Organizer

# EMERGING ORGANIZERS FELLOWSHIP | BOTGNC COHORT

## MEET OUR FELLOWS & COACHING TEAM!



**MARAKY ALEMSEGED** (She/They)

**Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI)** | Los Angeles, CA

I'm a first-generation Ethiopian-American from Los Angeles, and identify as an organizer, sociological researcher, abolitionist, Pan-Africanist, womanist, and passionate social justice advocate. Through this fellowship, I hope to have developed and implemented abolition-centered and queer-affirming organizing tools that will help me engage and organize Black immigrant youth. I believe it is crucial that youth organizing be prioritized particularly where major identities (i.e. race, immigrant status, gender identity, sexual orientation, among others) intersect as they are often the most vulnerable yet most determined to make social change.



**JEACILE BELL** (She/Her)

**Californians For Justice (CFJ)** | Long Beach

I am a Long Beach, Ca resident that has been organizing since I was a high school student. It is important for me to impact youth the same way past organizers once did for me. Through this fellowship I hope to accomplish a better sense of myself while also utilizing this time to gain knowledge.



**NATALYA BOMANI** (She/Her)

**San Francisco Rising** | San Francisco

Natalya is a creative, passionate learner and artist who is eager to explore what it means to be an intersectional, abolitionist organizer and community member. She is thrilled to learn more about what transformative justice looks like in our daily lives, how we can uplift one another through healing practices and mutual aid, and how to cultivate Black joy. Through this fellowship, she hopes to become a more courageous organizer who is more connected with her community and evolve her queer identity. Youth organizing is essential to her as youth are the leaders of the future who possess the power to reshape our world into one that enables all oppressed peoples to thrive.



**TUMANI DREW** (She/They)

**Young Women's Freedom Center (YWFC)** | San Francisco

I am a queer black women from the bay that has so much more to explore. I want to shut down Juvenile Hall with the lead of system-impacted youth, without replacing it with another institution that we will have to shut down in the future. I want to make sure I make space for youth to be decision-makers that look like me and are discriminated against racist and oppressive systems.



**DAULTON JONES** (They/He)

**Youth Organize California (YO! Cali)** | Kern County

I'm a 25 yr old, Central Valley native who genuinely wants to see my home become a healthier place for all, not just a select few who have privilege. Growing up I always felt like an outsider due to always being the only one or one of few black people in spaces and I credit the latter toward my drive for legitimate diversity and inclusion. I want my life's work to facilitate space for communal healing throughout the Central Valley. Right now that looks like organizing toward defunding police as a step towards abolition, facilitating trauma sensitive yoga spaces inclusive to Black, Plus size, and queer bodies and working towards being a better earth steward. I pray my contributions to our movement honors my people before and after me.



**LARADA LEE-WALLACE** She/They

**Gender & Sexualities Alliance Network (GSAN)** | Oakland

I am 21 years old and organizing in the Bay Area with Gender and Sexualities Alliances Network. I came into this work as a 15 year old foster youth in my hometown of Columbus, Ohio. Youth organizing provided me with the chance to see myself as powerful, capable, and deserving. My greatest wish is that all youth will be able to achieve the same. I am hoping to gain a deeper sense of radical community care and transformation through the fellowship.



**JEWEL PATTERSON** She/Her

**Congregations Organized for Prophetic Engagement (COPE)** | San Bernardino County

Jewel Patterson is a Lead Organizer for Congregations Organized for Prophetic Engagement (C.O.P.E.). Since joining, Jewel has designed and launched a grassroots organizing and leadership development program for Black youth, received her Master's in Counseling, and was recognized by Assemblymember Eloise Gomez-Reyes' office as a 30 Under 30 honoree for 2020. As a Black, queer feminist community organizer Jewel's work continues to focus on serving traditionally marginalized communities in the Inland Empire by using organizing and ARTIVISM.



**ZION "Z" SOLOMON** They/Them/All

**Youth Together (YT)** | Oakland

Zion Solomon is the Youth and Community Liaison Coordinator. They grew up in San Diego, California and graduated from UC Santa Barbara with a degree in Religious Studies and History. Zion's belief in the power in community organizing began when they attended labor strikes with their caregiver at the age of 7. Ever since, Zion has worked towards building community and strength through coalitions since. Their passion is supporting the joy and holistic wellness of themselves and others and liberation through self and community care.

### MEET OUR COACHING TEAM



**SALIMAH HANKINS**  
She/They



**NOLIZWE NONDABULA**  
They/Them



**SERIAN STRAUSS**  
She/They



**JAMARI WHITE**  
They/Them

To learn more about our fellows, trainers & coaches, read their bio's on our website [yocalifornia.org](http://yocalifornia.org)