

## More DPSF Gathering

*“The gathering provided an opportunity for connecting with people that can help with ideas/strategies for my activism. Expanding of network, understanding of DPSF legacy, specific ideas for activism and solidarity work.”*



*“This convening came at a crucial time for me. I was beginning to feel defeated in my work. Speaking with other student organizers has been rejuvenating and has given me clear next steps in my campaigns.”*

*“Feeling connected to a community” “We all felt loved, fed, and restored.”*

## About the Fund

The Davis-Putter Scholarship Fund was created in 1961 as a memorial to Marian Davis, a teacher and advocate for peace, racial justice and the rights of working people. Founded by her husband, Horace B. Davis, the Fund honors Marian and her family's long history of standing up to McCarthyism. Norton Putter was a civil rights activist who brought needed resources and new energy to the Fund in 1987. Our grantees have been at the forefront of virtually every major progressive social movement as artists, scholars, people's lawyers and frontline organizers and have been integral to the work for peace and justice with the same commitment and passion modeled by Marian, Horace and Norton.

Cover illustration by [artbymags.com](http://artbymags.com)

Davis-Putter Scholarship Fund grantees are educating, agitating, organizing and you can help!



**Donate!** There is no endowment and we seek no corporate support. Make an online one-time or recurring contribution at [www.davisputter.org](http://www.davisputter.org)



**Amplify!** Share DPSF with friends who might support and student activists who might apply at [www.davisputter.org](http://www.davisputter.org). April 1 application deadline.

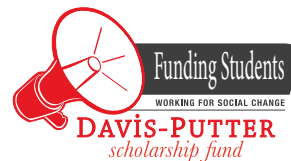


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# DAVIS-PUTTER

*scholarship fund*



# 2018

# 2019

# Davis-Putter grantees passionately challenge oppressive systems of power with people power.

*They are educating, agitating, organizing! Creating community and movements toward a future of peace, justice and freedom.*

## Class of 2018/19

**Abijah Archer** is a Jamaican activist, musician and writer who organizes with Black Visions Collective in Minneapolis and is pursuing a bachelor's degree in African and African American Studies at Stanford University. **Janaé Bonsu** is a Black queer feminist abolitionist from Columbia, SC and a PhD student at Jane Addams College of Social Work, University of Illinois-Chicago, researching Black women's multidimensional experiences of violence, help-seeking and institutional trust, while organizing with Black Youth Project 100. **Jennifer Cárcamo** directed the documentary "Children of the Diaspora: For Peace and Democracy," about Salvadoran youth struggling to understand their complex history, is a PhD student at UCLA studying Latin American History, and an organizer in the Central American community in Los Angeles.

**Mary Carrasco** joined By Any Means Necessary (BAMN), building an ICE emergency response network against raids and deportations and organizes direct actions on campus at UC Berkeley where she is a sophomore majoring in History. **Dakarai Carter** has been an organizer with Detroit Summer since age 12, has co-led efforts to create a Detroit chapter of the Black Youth Project 100, connecting with BLM and prison abolition work, while seeking a BSW at Wayne State University. **Robin Castel Navarro** organizes transnational Filipinx communities

around education access, protecting teachers from political violence and supporting communities faced with military violence while completing a post-MSW credentialing, required for social workers in California public schools at San Jose State University.

**Robert Chan** co-founded *The Other Death Penalty Project* which published stories of prisoners in "Too Cruel, Not Unusual Enough" and led grassroots efforts to change laws regarding youth incarceration, while pursuing an MA in Organizational Leadership at Adams State University. **Rafael Diaz Gonzalez** organizes in coalition with Students United for Palestine and the Black Student Union to create a sanctuary campus at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee where he is working on a BA in Film Production. **Janiya Douglas** created *Educational Justice* in high school, organizing community-wide campaigns, facilitating student workshops and partnering with BLM in Memphis and is beginning a bachelor's degree in Sociology at Spelman College.

**Sarah Fadem** mobilizes and builds power against climate change with students in Vermont, Massachusetts and Rhode Island, while beginning a bachelor's degree in Political Science, Environmental Studies and Social Art at Bennington College.

**Arlene Gamio Cuervo** organizes first-generation, low-income, queer and trans people of color students within the Latinx community, while researching LGBTQ scholarship and inclusivity within institutions and pursuing an MSSW at Columbia University. **Gloria Gonzalez** is a working class, single mom who organizes to defend criminalized youth, close youth jails and end school-to-jail track and searches of students by police through the #StudentsNotSuspects campaign, while pursuing an

A.A. degree at LA Trade Tech Community College.

Incarcerated since age 15, **Oloth Insyxiengmay** is now re-engaging in community and organizing events for the "No New Youth Jails" campaign in Seattle, while attending University of Washington to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Comparative History of Ideas. **Colby Lenz** is a community organizer with the California Coalition for Women Prisoners (CCWP) and the Transgender Advocacy Group, researching criminalization, gender violence, and social movements in California toward a Ph.D. in American Studies and Ethnicity at the University of Southern California. A leader in key struggles in against racism, poverty and housing insecurity for decades, **Lynn Lewis** gleans lessons for the housing movement through documenting the stories of members of *Picture the Homeless*, toward completion of an M.A. in Oral History at Columbia University.

**Gabriela López Dena** is an architect and artist born and raised in Mexico City, whose present work explores ways in which anti-capitalist feminist practices are addressing the issues of labor rights, land ownership, and affordable housing while a graduate student at The New School - Parsons School of Design. **April Martin** is a visual artist and activist who traced a wave of protests in response to the deaths of 15 African American men by Cincinnati Police in her documentary, *Cincinnati Goddamn (2015)* and is currently completing a BA photography at the San Francisco Art Institute. **Orlando Mayorga** is a prison abolitionist and returning citizen whose 20 years of incarceration informs his passion to stop Mass Incarceration and the School to Prison Pipeline, while seeking an MSSW at Northeastern Illinois University.

## Allen Silverstone Award – Tanya Bernard



Allen Silverstone was a dedicated member of our board of trustees for 38 years - a scientist, researcher and teacher, and a lifelong anti-war, environmental justice, civil rights, economic justice and public health activist. Following his death last year, family, friends and colleagues gave generous memorial gifts in support of our student activists honoring Allen and his legacy. This year we are giving the **Allen Silverstone Award** to a grantee who embodies the legacy of Allen's work - that of Justice through Science, specifically public health and environmental justice - that student is **Tanya Bernard** who has spent 20 years organizing in Black and Latinx working class communities. She has fought against systemic oppression through grassroots campaigns, was the lead organizer of the Movement for Black Lives convening and made cultural transformations through art and healing with Black Lives Matter. Through her personal journey, she became intimately aware of the politics of food—that access to and knowledge about food is constrained by systemic economic and racial inequity. She has begun a Master's of Nutrition and Dietetics program at New York University and intends to challenge the complex socio-economic, cultural, and political forces influencing individuals and communities in regards to their food choices and access.

**Bruce Micheals** is an education reform activist within the Michigan DOC, teaching classes, pressing administration to allow and expand programs and organizing the student body to advance their own education and resistance, while completing a master's program in Humanities at California State University Dominguez Hills. **Yemisi Odetoyinbo** is a leader of Black Youth Project 100-Detroit working to achieve black liberation, organizing against water-shutoffs and gentrification and holding healing spaces for victims of violence, while pursuing an MSW at Wayne State University. **Kanyinsola Oye** started her movement work in high school with the creation of PARACHUTE, an immigrant rights organization and currently works to end sexual violence and police brutality while beginning a BA degree in Political Science and Africana Studies at Howard University.

**Sharmin Piannca** is an education, immigration and gender justice organizer with Desis Rising Up and Moving (DRUM) who is interested in

transgender health clinic in the US South and led a successful campaign to gain gender inclusive housing at Vanderbilt University where they are a master's student in the Learning and Design program. **Amir Sharif** organized with a POC student group to win permanent space on campus and to work in solidarity with school cafeteria workers at The New School, where he is seeking a BA in Political Science.

**Nissa Tzun** is a multimedia journalist, organizer and founder of the Forced Trajectory Project, a documentary project illuminating the narratives of families impacted by police violence and is pursuing a Master's in Social Work and Journalism & Media Studies at University of Nevada, Las Vegas. **Veronica Virgen** works to end deportations and police abuse, mobilizing undocumented residents to build a struggle against police cooperation with ICE, while a second year law student at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, William H. Bowen School of Law. **Jennifer Walkup** is a leader with IfNotNow, founded by American Jews working to end Jewish support for the occupation of Palestine, builds coalition to end "deadly exchange" between local police and Israeli training institutions while beginning an MA in Public Anthropology at American University.

Read more about our 2018/19 grantees at [www.davisputter.org](http://www.davisputter.org)

building sustainable power for long term change while pursuing a law degree at City College of New York School of Law. **Shawn Reilly** was instrumental in the opening of the first



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Veronica Virgen



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## Jessie Lloyd O'Connor Scholar – Jason Ajiake



Each year the Fund selects a grantee who honors the legacy of commitment to peace and justice modeled by Jessie Lloyd O'Connor, a labor journalist, organizer and an early and beloved member of our Board, who with her husband Harvey, opened heart and home to activists seeking respite. Our **Jessie Lloyd O'Connor Scholar** this year is **Jason Ajiake**. Jason was radicalized by the murder of Trayvon Martin; deciding to attend Howard University to build with other Black student activists. He co-founded and is a leader and mentor of HU Resist and was among the students that occupied the HU Administration Building for 9 days with over 500 students participating. He organized The Assata Shakur Socialist club, a political education club, created coalition with building trade unions against gentrification and is completing his last year of a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology at Howard University.

## The Marilyn Buck Award – Brandon Brown

Marilyn Buck was a political prisoner and poet who worked in solidarity with Black Liberation struggles to end white supremacy. She received grants from the Fund in 2003 and 2004, and died of a rare cancer in 2010. Marilyn supported the Fund with regular donations and supportive notes from her jail cell, and with a generous bequest following her death. To honor her memory and legacy, **The Marilyn Buck Award** is given to an incarcerated or formerly incarcerated activist working for justice. This year, the award is given to **Brandon Brown** who has been incarcerated in Maine State Prison since 2008. In that time he has worked to transform himself and his environment, inspired to activism through a history class on race and religion. He was elected president of the NAACP chapter working toward equal policies and practices within the prison and creating connections from the prison to the community in order to create quality reentry practices for inmates being released. His current work is on restorative justice and he has been accepted into George Mason University School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution to obtain a master's degree. Brandon will be the first inmate in the history of the Maine DOC to work towards a graduate degree while incarcerated.



## Davis-Putter Grantee Gathering

In October, The Fund took a significant step toward making the vision of a DPSF Community a reality. After receiving an unexpected gift through the California Community Foundation earlier this year, we were able to offer a grantee cohort gathering for the first time. Over half of our 2018/19 grantees were able to come together, including one of our incarcerated grantees who attended a portion of the gathering by video. We wanted to create an opportunity for our grantees to meet one another and for DPSF to meet them face to face. Our hope was that this would not only strengthen our grantees and ultimately the movements they are building, but create a stronger connection between DPSF and our grantees creating sustainability for decades to come. The Arcus Center for Social Justice Leadership at Kalamazoo College in Michigan served as a backdrop for our gathering. Dr. Lisa Brock, DPSF Trustee and Academic Director at the Arcus Center welcomed our grantees and provided opportunities for them to network with global land activists attending the With/Out Borders convening. Past

DPSF grantee and trustee Matt Birkhold facilitated, offering a “movement lineage” exercise, connecting grantees’ personal stories, movement history, and the history of Davis-Putter. DPSF Sponsor and Activist/Scholar Dr. Barbara Ransby, Professor of African American Studies, Gender and Women’s Studies, and History at the University of Illinois at Chicago joined us by video to discuss her work and answer grantee questions about racial capitalism, prison abolition and this movement moment. Grantee photos and comments shown here and opposite indicate that our first gathering was a great success and we look forward to future gatherings!



**Go to [www.davisputter.org](http://www.davisputter.org) between January 1 and April 1 to apply for a scholarship**