

# Welcome JM Wong!

We are thrilled to welcome **JM Wong** to our board of trustees. DPSF offered JM the opportunity to pursue workplace and community organizing while pursuing nursing credentials with a grant in 2012/13. JM currently resides in Duwamish lands (Seattle) WA where they are committed to grassroots community and movement efforts toward abolishing cages, internationalism and class struggle. They are excited to be part of generational efforts to support radical student activists and organizers dreaming for a different, new world.

We would also like to extend our deepest gratitude to Ajamu Dillahunt, Felipe Sousa-Rodriguez, Jordan Camp and Christina Heatherton for their service over the last few years!

## 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.

**Davis-Putter Scholarship Fund grantees are working for abolition now and you can help!**



**Donate!** There is no endowment and we seek no corporate support.



**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.



**Invest!** The future of the Fund depends on you. Make a planned gift today.

**Founders:** Chandler Davis, Terry Davis, C. Quentin Davis, Mina D. Caulfield

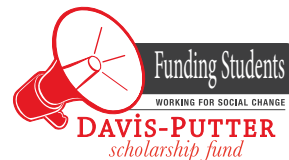
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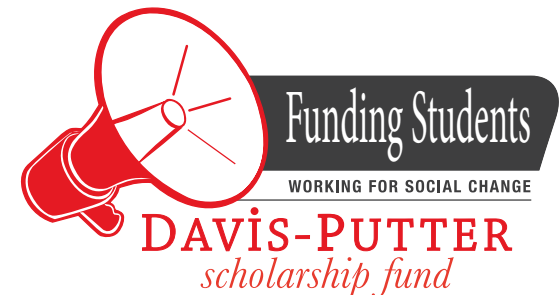
## Abolition Now!



2020  
2021



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# Davis-Putter grantees are working for abolition! Calling for and working toward defunding policing systems and investing in reimagined communities so all can grow and thrive!

They are decolonizing institutions and protecting Indigenous lands, working to end ICE raids and deportation and creating bail funds and mutual aid efforts. They bring hope in these difficult times, continuing the call for abolition now!

## DPSF Class of 2020/21

**Rasel Ahmed** is a community-based filmmaker, queer archivist, and exiled founding editor of the first Bangladeshi LGBT magazine *Roopbaan*, currently seeking political asylum and working toward an MFA in Visual Arts and Moving Image at Columbia University. **Jeanette Charles** is a long-time member of the Chiapas Support Committee and a PhD student in History at UCLA, researching the revolutionary processes, spirituality, and political economy of the African Diaspora in Latin America and the Caribbean. **Gerrlyn Gacao** has organized for border rights, immigrants' rights, police accountability, and racial justice, while currently seeking a Master of Urban and Regional Planning degree at UCLA and working on advancing tenants' rights and community ownership of land.

**Christopher Galeano** is a student in the Public Interest Law and Policy and Critical Race Studies Programs at UCLA School of Law, where he has worked with CARA Family Detention Pro Bono Project, National Day Labor Organizing Network, Basta, Inc., and the UCLA Voting Rights Project. **Benjamin Hall** is home and studying History, Social Geography and Gender Studies at Portland State University after serving 22.5 years in prison where he became an activist, abolitionist and a

founding editor of All Rise Magazine, a platform for prisoners and oppressed communities.

**Hoda Katebi** is a Chicago-based Iranian-American writer, abolitionist organizer, and creative educator, a national lead with Believers Bail Out and an organizer with the No War Campaign, while attending Berkeley Law focusing on public interest and creative/abolitionist lawyering. **Garrett Lankford** led the Montana Human Rights Network public policy efforts focusing on Medicaid expansion, immigration reform, LGBTQ+ equality and is currently a candidate for a Master's Degree in Public Policy at Duke's Sanford School of Public Policy where he hopes to study health outcomes for Indigenous populations. **Chanice McGlover-Lee** is a community organizer, writer, and student at Howard University committed to building youth organizing through her book *Young Revolutionary: A Teen's Guide to Activism* and as a founder and lead organizer of the Florida Changemakers Summit.

**Erika Martinez** builds the power of immigrant and working-class communities as an undocumented person, organizing for the abolishment of ICE and access to education, while majoring in Sociology and minoring in Legal Studies at Rutgers University. **Jennifer Nava** is a queer Chicago based organizer, committed to police abolition, equitable community funding, and education equity with #NoCopAcademy Campaign and #PoliceFreeSchools/ #CopsOutCPS and is now a freshman at DePaul University. **Larissa Nez** works to reclaim space for Indigenous voices and histories, actively dismantling oppressive practices and ideologies upheld by cultural institutions, while pursuing an MA in Public Humanities from Brown University.

**Citlali Perez** is an undocumented, abolitionist organizer and a sophomore at DePaul University working with **Dissenters**, university students working to reclaim resources from the war industry to invest them into life-giving institutions. **Cheyenne Reynoso** is an American Indian Studies graduate student at UCLA centering local Native Nations' perspectives and issues within social and environmental justice efforts, while building long-term relationships between Native communities and communities of color. **Lydia Stolt** works to stop the Trans Mountain Canadian Pipeline, organizing blockades and other direct-action projects under the lens of climate justice, while working towards a dual degree in Sociology and Philosophy at Portland Community College.

**#SayTheirName Grants**—As our board of trustees worked to choose grantees this year, a longtime donor offered a generous gift to be used in support of activists organizing against police violence - specifically in the wake of the murders of **George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery**. Cities from Minneapolis to Louisville, Portland to NYC were rising up and this donor was moved to action! With these funds, we were able to provide increased funds and award additional grants to the following students:

**Terry Allen** is a Ph.D. candidate in Education and first-year J.D. student at UCLA and currently works with the Million Dollar Hoods research initiative, documenting the full impact of mass incarceration on families and neighborhoods.

**Tanya Bernard** contributed to the structuring and branding of Black Lives Matter movement, and now is completing a masters in Nutrition and Dietetics at NYU with plans to engage in the fight

for food sovereignty in oppressed communities while impacting public health policy. **Nile Blass** studies Government at Georgetown University, where she has been at the forefront of local organizing against racial injustice and gendered violence, working to dismantle symbols of confederacy and slavery across campus and more recently, providing support and fundraising for Black Lives Matter DC.

**Zyahna Bryant** has led the fight to remove Confederate statues from Charlottesville public spaces and currently leads mutual aid efforts and movement for black lives protests, while majoring in Sociology and Political Science at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville. **Oloth Insyxiengmay** focuses on the impacts of incarceration on API communities, engaging the abolitionist community to keep them accountable to those on the inside, while working to stop youth jails in Seattle and studying History and Law, Societies and Justice at the University of Washington. **Adrian Leong** organizes with working class Chinese immigrant workers and is involved with activists in the Hong Kong diaspora, while studying at the Goldman School of Public Policy at UC Berkeley, focusing on the radical Green New Deal, and policies pertaining to issues of labor and land.

**Jayden McClam** studies Psychology, Creative Writing, and Afro-American Studies at Howard University and is an interdisciplinary artist and community organizer with Black Love Resists in the Rust, an abolitionist organization working to reduce the authority of the police and strengthen restorative community power in Buffalo, NY. **Brian Moreno** is a working-class writer, activist, and radical educator, currently seeking an MA in Latin America Studies at California State University, organizing

to defund and disarm militarized police from CSU campus communities. **Andrew Ntim** organizes legal observers for Black Lives Matter protests with the National Lawyers Guild, and works to dismantle the Yale Police Department and reinvestment in restorative justice models with Black Students for Disarmament, while attending Yale Law School.

**Sarah Nuñez** is a cultural worker and healer who organizes with Mijente Louisville, is a PhD student in Education at the University of Louisville and an intern with Las Maestras Center for Xicana Indigenous Thought, Art and Social Practice at UC Santa Barbara. **Tyler S** challenges police repression and protects protesters from police and National Guard violence during uprisings with *About Face: Veterans Against the War*, while studying Urban and Public Affairs at University of San Francisco.

**Ash Stephens** has organized with abolitionist collectives focused on racial, gender, and economic justice, is a co-founding member of the student led abolitionist collective, Abolition at UIC, where he is a Criminology, Law and Justice PhD candidate, with concentration on Black Studies and Gender and Women's Studies.

**Nissa D. Tzun** is a media artist, educator, community organizer and the co-founder of the Forced Trajectory Project, a media advocacy organization illuminating the narratives of families impacted by police murder and is pursuing a Master's in Social Work and Master's in Journalism & Media Studies. **Alexa Vaca** co-founded KSU United to fight systemic racism and oppression and to create a hub for leftist groups to come together and align is now seeking a Master's in African American Studies at Georgia State University, focusing on Afro-Latinx decolonization struggles. **Riley Clare Valentine** is a PhD candidate at Louisiana State University in Political Science who became a street medic during the Occupy Atlanta movement and is currently working to adapt street medic work and trainings for BLM protests during COVID-19.

Read more about our 2019/20 grantees at [www.davisputter.org](http://www.davisputter.org)



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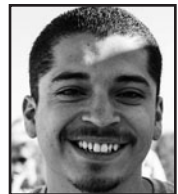
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Nissa Tzun



Alexa Vaca



Riley Clare Valentine



## Jessie Lloyd O'Connor Scholar – Stephanie Solis



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 **Stephanie Solis**. Stephanie is rooted in collective liberation and radical love for all. She was born in California to immigrant parents from Honduras and Mexico, and was raised in Kentucky. She has organized with the Student Coalition Against Labor Exploitation USAS Local 13 throughout her four years at the University of Southern California where she majors in NGOs and Social Change. While there, she supported work from Unite Here Local 11 and SEIU Workers West. Last year, she was a Fellow with the Sunrise Movement where she fought to center BIPOC communities in their movement, and this past summer she has worked with Mijente Louisville as part of the Arts and Healing Circle. She also had the opportunity to participate in an Abolition Youth Organizing Institute led by Mariame Kaba where she learned from PIC Abolitionists and Organizers. She continues to organize and build relationships, community, and power wherever she finds herself, not unlike Jessie did in her time!

## Anne Braden Award – Mariah “Rush” George

The **Anne Braden Award** was created to honor this long-time civil rights activist and Davis-Putter Trustee. The award recognizes an undergraduate working in the South, keeping racism central to all aspects of their movement work. This year's recipient is **Mariah “Rush” George**, a radical black womanist from Savannah, GA where she was born and raised and spends most of her days. She currently attends Fisk University in Nashville, TN studying Sociology. She was introduced to social justice work through the Highlander Center for Research and Education when she attended their Seeds of Fire Living Legacy Tour in the Summer of 2017. Following this political awakening she returned to her home organization Deep Center where she shared her experiences and helped redirect the organization from simply cultural arts to including policy and action within the structure. She is the acting Fellow for Deep's Action Research Team, a program focused on using youth participatory action research (YPAR) to build a better Savannah-Chatham County. She now organizes against the school-prison pipeline, accessible mental health resources for youth, housing insecurity, healing justice, popular education and political education in the southern grass-roots tradition. Anne would've loved rocking on the Highlander porch, strategizing with Rush!



## Marilyn Buck Award – Michael Saavedra



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. **Michael Saavedra** is our awardee this year and is working to remove the barriers that block formerly incarcerated individuals from becoming lawyers. Michael was released from prison in 2017 after being inside for over 19 years – with 15 years spent in solitary confinement. During that time, he led and participated in all three California prisoner hunger strikes as part of a successful effort to end the use of long-term solitary confinement in the state. While incarcerated Michael taught himself the law and was able to successfully sue the California Department of Corrections multiple times – as well as teaching and assisting others to do the same. Since his release, Michael has played a prominent role working with organizations such as the L.A. Youth Justice Coalition, Dignity and Power Now, and Justice LA to end mass incarceration and advocate for people of color in his community. He will be attending UCLA in the Fall in the department of American Indian Studies to pursue his undergraduate degree. He plans to go onto law school.

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