

## DPSF Leadership Updates




Gratitude to Luke Patterson, JM Wong and Gina Velasco, all past grantees who have served on our board and left this past year. Their contributions and leadership have helped strengthen our board and our Fund.

We want to acknowledge our collective loss of Dr Bernice Johnson Reagon, a DPSF Sponsor and founder of the SNCC Freedom Singers. She birthed and fed a movement and we have deepest gratitude for her life and work. Dr Reagon, Presente!

Building for the future, we are excited to welcome three new board members:

**Amanda Katapang** (grantee 2017, 2021) is a people's lawyer, working with the *Mission to End Modern Slavery* and with *Anakbayan-Manhattan*, fighting for the rights and welfare of Filipinos abroad. "I believe in the potential of the DPSF community as not just a resource for individual students but as a living, growing network of movements and peoples." **Lenina Nadal** works in Communications with the *Center for Story-based Strategy* and was a founder of the Student Liberation Action Movement at Hunter College as a student activist. "I have a deep respect for the organization and Fund and also for the purpose of supporting student activists, specifically now as the repression and surveillance of student activists and their work has escalated." **Manuela Delnevo** is a grassroots fundraiser and serves as the Donor Engagement Director at the *New Economy Coalition*. "At a time when college education is becoming more and more inaccessible and students are being violently repressed for demanding justice, I would be proud to support and help grow an institution that makes it possible for more brilliant young organizers to fight for the world they want to see without having to worry about getting their basic needs met."

## DPSF grantees believe freedom is possible and near – will you lend hope with a gift today?

-  Donate! There is no endowment and we seek no corporate support - we are grassroots!
-  Amplify! Share DPSF with friends who will support with a donation 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:** Mina D. Caulfield, Terry Davis.  
**Rest in Power:** C. Quentin Davis, H. Chandler Davis, Horace B. Davis, George and Janet Faxon, Sara Gordon, Robert and Jane Hodes, Jessie Lloyd O'Connor, Leonard Radinsky, Dirk Struik, and Ann and Katherine Timpson.

**Sponsors:** Huwaida Arraf, Lisa Brock, Margaret Burnham, Noam Chomsky, Johnnetta B. Cole, Angela Y. Davis, Lennox S. Hinds, Nancy J. Hodes, Robin D. G. Kelley, Jill Nelson, Jan Phillips, Barbara Ransby, Paul Schachter, Andrés Torres, Mary Helen Washington.

**Trustees:** Matt Birkhold, Karen Bueunavista Hanna, Manuela Delnevo, Ben Graham-Putter, Mia Henry, Cedric Johnson, Amanda Katapang, Carol J. Kraemer, Nathalie Meza Contreras, Lenina Nadal, Laura McSpedon, Walter L. Putter, Swati Rayasam, Rachel L. Stocking, PG Watkins, and Megan Ybarra.



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Image by César Mosquera

# 2024 2025



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# Davis-Putter grantees believe freedom is possible

*Davis-Putter grantees believe freedom is possible and near. In the face of state violence and repression, genocide and fascism our grantees bring their whole selves to the urgent work of building the power of the people to create a world that works for everyone. This belief gives hope and this hope gives strength for the struggle.*

## DPSF Class of 2024/25

**Alex Ball** works to address health disparities among traditionally-underserved Arkansans as a leader with Central Arkansas Harm Reduction Project, while studying Epidemiology in the MPH program at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. **Daisy Benitez Paz** is an educator/organizer with the George Wiley Center, a poor people's organizing group focusing on racial justice, economic and energy justice and building for systemic change, while pursuing an Associate's degree at the Community College of Rhode Island. **Sky Cambron** focuses on climate change with the Youth Climate Action Council and the Sunrise Movement and has been a leader with the Idaho Women's March, while beginning a BA in International Studies and Media Studies at Marymount Manhattan.

**Andre (AJ) Chonnay-Wallace** is an anti-oppression educator-organizer and teacher's union organizer working to abolish schools as we know them, abolish food apartheid and the school-to-prison pipeline while pursuing an MA in Teaching and Ethnic Studies at Southern Connecticut State University. **Lucille Elliott** is the creator of the intersectional radical zine, Riot Ghouls RVA and organizes with the Pride Liberation Project, a Queer student lobbying group, while studying painting

and printmaking at the Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts. **Nicholas Greven** is a long-time abolitionist community organizer from Indiana who is now pursuing a JD at the City University of New York School of Law to advance the causes of prisoner solidarity and abolition, tenant and worker defense.

**Destiny Hodges** is a Black queer organizer from Birmingham, Alabama and interdisciplinary communications major at Howard University whose work is rooted in the belief that climate justice and environmental justice are key components of Black liberation. **Victoria Huynh** is a leader with the Asian Prisoner Support Committee, advocating for refugees and migrants facing criminalized deportation and facilitating ROOTS, an Ethnic Studies program at San Quentin State Prison while seeking a PhD in Ethnic Studies at UC Berkeley. **Sally Jeon** is an MD student at the University of Minnesota (UMN) Medical School focused on community-based health education and advocacy, creating sustainable strategies in collective healing with the Berkeley Free Clinic and White Coats for Black Lives.

**Banah Khamis** established the Philly Palestine Coalition working toward land justice, Black, brown, indigenous, and queer liberation, and transnational solidarity and leads the Students for Justice in Palestine chapter while supporting mutual aid networks in Gaza and Cairo for displaced Gazans and pursuing a B.A. in Global Studies and Political Science at Drexel University. **AJ Kurdi** is a Ph.D. student of Ethnic Studies with a Designated Emphasis in Gender, Women, and Sexuality at the University of California, Berkeley, researching transnational social movements, immigration and

diaspora studies aligning with his commitment to advocating for interconnected struggles on a global scale while organizing with Queers for Palestine and Palestinian Youth Movement. **César Mosquera** organizes against capitalism and for the people as an Illustrator, graphic designer, web developer, and comic book artist with Comando Creativo, the Utopix Community Organization Commission, and the Union of Southern Service Workers while completing his Master's in Sequential Art at Savannah College of Art and Design.

**free Pierre** is a student of abolition and a poet at heart who supports movements within Black communities around liberation and community self-determination, while seeking a JD at UCLA School of Law. **Isaac Resendiz** is a cultural worker and organizer deeply invested in the environmental justice movement, holding the liberation of land and people as central, strategizing ways to combat extractive companies while attending San Francisco State University as an Ethnic Studies major. **Hasti Aryana Rostami** is an organizer for Palestinian liberation focusing her research on Marxist thought and practice in the Middle East and North Africa through the lens of Ethnomusicology and Media Studies as a master's student at the Hagop Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies at New York University.

**Gabriel Singer** is a Project Rebound student at San Francisco State University pursuing a degree in Criminal Justice with a minor in Reentry Services and dedicated to establishing restorative practices and justice with Initiate Justice Action, fighting to end mass incarceration. **Karter Strider** is seeking a BA in Gender, Race, and Identity at the University of Nevada, Reno engaging in intersectional

praxis, emphasizing decolonization, anti-racism, dismantling capitalism and oppressive power structures while organizing with Trans Support Reno, Palestine Solidarity Reno and River Justice. **Nakia Wallace** is a co-founder of Detroit Will Breathe, an anti-capitalist organization addressing police violence, evictions and gentrification, who successfully sued the police department for brutality of protesters, leading her to Law School at Wayne State. **Breanna Wheeler** is an activist prioritizing Indigenous land back fights, colonial violence in Native American and Palestinian communities, while working toward a Master's in Public Health at Harvard, researching public health impact of Native American traditional practices.

## Marilyn Buck Award

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 continued connection through supportive notes from her jail cell. To honor her memory and legacy, The Marilyn Buck Award is given to an incarcerated or formerly incarcerated activist working for justice. This year, our awardee is



**Dustin Gordan.** Dustin co-founded a Restorative Justice Club where he and other incarcerated members organized a Social Justice Video Conference, Radical Mission: Inspiring Collaborative

Action Through Restorative Culture. It has become an annual event. He spearheaded a first of its kind peer-mentorship program, volunteers training therapy dogs and teaching English classes to college bound incarcerated activists while working in Michigan's only prison hospital on the hospice wing taking care of incarcerated men dying alone. He is completing an M.A. in Humanities from California State University that focuses on Prison Abolition and Liberation.

## Jessie Lloyd O'Connor Scholar

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 **Nathan Cheung** who is an interdisciplinary artist, abolitionist, and dreamer. He grew up in Hong Kong and is based in Los Angeles, where he is obtaining his MFA at the California Institute of the Arts. His work centers around working class power, the freedom of movement and queer joy. Through his art, he builds a world where systems in place are life-affirming instead of dehumanizing and where all feel a connectedness with, and responsibility for, each other. He also works with Housing Now!, a coalition fighting for affordable housing in California, and has worked for nearly a decade in the immigrant rights and labor rights space as an organizer.



## Brock/Ransby Award

The Brock/Ransby Award was created to honor the international solidarity and racial justice work of Dr. Lisa Brock and Dr. Barbara Ransby both Chicago-based historian/scholar-activists who organized against South-African Apartheid. This award is given to a graduate student activist with an international solidarity focus, rooted in racial



justice. **Luz Burgos Lopez**, who is a Queer, white Puerto Rican, passionate about racial justice and equity in education and committed to decolonizing praxis and scholarship is our inaugural

awardee. As a scholar-activist, Luz organizes with Puerto Rican community-based collectives creating links between Puerto Rican and Palestinian oppression and in response to the genocide has shifted their work around global solidarity which includes the Congo, Sudan, and Peru. Luz is a doctoral student at the Neag School of Education concentrating on higher education, racial justice, and decolonization and is pursuing a certificate of Intersectional Idigeneity, Race, Ethnicity, and Politics at the University of Connecticut-Storr.



Alex Ball



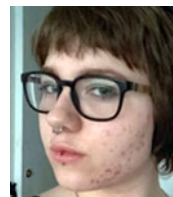
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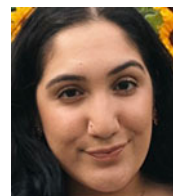
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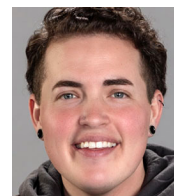
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Karter Strider



Nakia Wallace



Breanna Wheeler

Read more about our 2024/25 grantees and DPSF leadership at [davisputter.org](https://davisputter.org)

# DPSF 2024/25 Grantee Gathering

In September, members of the Class of 2024/25 came together for a powerful weekend in Nashville, TN at the historic Scarritt College. To ground us in the movement history of the place and connect with DPSF lineage, 1986-88 alum, Sue Thrasher, joined in via Zoom to share some of her journey. She shared about her time at Scarritt and how the Nashville Student Movement changed the trajectory of her life, becoming a leader with SNCC and the Southern Students Organizing Committee and ultimately committing her life to movements for racial justice.

Grantee Sals Jeon shared the following about the gathering...”Learning [in this] place about organizing for civil rights in the deep south to facilitated conversations centering heart, mind, body, spirit, soul to thoughtful commitment to supporting folx like Dustin (a current grantee) who are incarcerated - every moment resonated, striking chords, generating a song within of joy, grief, and love. It is a rare moment to feel such a strong shared resonance in values and passion across so many different fields of study/disciplines and to be able to feel that connection individually and as a collective in such a short amount of time. I've been in a lot of cohort/fellowship experiences, each one special, unique, meaningful - but this one gave me courage, hope, and strength of a unique flavor. It was another medicine I didn't know I needed. I just feel honored, privileged to be able to be a part of this network and to feel closer to the collective struggle through the relationships formed this weekend.”

Another grantee, Nakia Wallace wrote the following during the weekend to share with her cohort and now, excerpts from the poem here with you. To read all of Nakia's poem, visit the News from the Fund section at [www.davisputter.org](http://www.davisputter.org)



Photo by Nathan Cheung

## A Poem for my Cohort Nakia Wallace, September 2024

The city that made me is  
a beacon of love,  
A story of strength,  
perseverance, and struggle.  
Struggle against racism,  
Struggle against segregation,  
Struggle against police,

A fight song,  
Where all who know it, sing it.  
Where all who know it, Scream it.  
Where all who know it, Believe it.  
Onward we march,  
Towards freedom,  
Towards liberation,  
Towards our enemies,  
Towards battle.

I,  
went to war with the state,  
And lived to tell the story.  
I resisted my own death,  
I refused to participate  
in my own erasure,  
And always I believe,  
Freedom is possible and near.

Embroided in class struggle,  
In Detroit,  
We say “What up Doe?”  
A question and a statement,  
In the Blackest city in the nation,  
The longest stronghold of  
Black power.

## 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, along with family and friends, 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, now totaling 1129, 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.

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