

BLACK LIVES MATTER

Panelists and Coordinators

Nancy Beardall, PhD, is an Associate Professor and Program Coordinator of the Dance/Movement Therapy Program in the Graduate School of Art and Social Sciences at Lesley University. As a dance/movement therapist, consultant, Certified Movement Analyst, and educator, Dr. Beardall's work has focused on dance, dance therapy and cognitive, social/emotional and relational development using dance/movement and the expressive arts in the public schools with students K-12 of all populations. Dr. Beardall has developed numerous curricula for middle and high school students promoting wellness, decision-making skills, healthy relationships and making a difference in the school community. Her community building programs through the arts have involved students, parents and community members. Dr. Beardall's research studies have spanned a range of topics from the influence of creative dance on self-esteem in early adolescence to the effectiveness of bullying prevention and mentoring programs through the arts promoting gender respect and the prevention of sexual harassment and dating abuse.

Meenakshi Chhabra, PhD, is an Associate Professor in the Global Interdisciplinary Studies Program and in the International Higher Education Intercultural Relations Program, in the Graduate School of Art and Social Sciences at Lesley University. As a scholar and practitioner in Peace and Conflict Studies, Meenakshi has been recognized as a Fulbright Specialist in the same field. She has also been awarded two Fulbright Senior Scholarships for her research and teaching related to Peace Education. In addition to teaching at Lesley, Meenakshi has been working with youth and educators from conflicting countries through her work with Seeds of Peace, a non-governmental organization.

L'Merchie Frazier is a visual and performance artist/educator/consultant, a native of Jacksonville, Florida now based in Boston. A mother of two sons and one daughter, L'Merchie has been active in the New England community for over twenty years. As a visual artist she is known for her highly skilled hand crafted beaded jewelry, fiber and metal sculptures, and mixed media installations and quilt series, the "Quilted Chronicles" that celebrate the history of people, places and events of significance to the Black Atlantic World.

Mary R. Harvey, PhD, is an Associate Clinical Professor of Psychology in the Department of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and founding director of the Victims of Violence (VOV) Program of the Cambridge Health Alliance. A clinical and community psychologist, Dr. Harvey has lectured widely and written extensively about the ecological context of interpersonal and sexual violence, the treatment of psychological trauma and expressions of recovery and resiliency in trauma survivors. She is the co-author (with Mary P. Koss) of *The Rape Victim: Clinical and Community Interventions*. She is the co-editor (with Dr. Pratyusha Tummala-Narra) of and contributing author to "*Sources and expressions of resilience in trauma survivors: Ecological theory, multicultural practice.*" In September 2006, Dr. Harvey retired as Director of the Victims of Violence Program and entered the studio arts program of the School of the Museum of Fine Arts (SMFA) Boston where she received a Post-Baccalaureate certificate in 2008 and a Studio Arts Diploma in 2009. In 2007, she initiated the area's first Violence Transformed exhibit. Since then, Violence Transformed has evolved into an annual series of visual and performing arts events and a collaborative initiative of diverse academic and community organizations and of area artists, museum professionals, academics, community service providers and advocates for social justice and social change through the arts. Dr. Harvey serves as the Founding Director of Violence Transformed, now located at the Public Health Advocacy Institute at Northeastern University School of Law and as a Senior Psychologist at the Victims of Violence Program. She has a private clinical practice in Cambridge, Massachusetts and, as an emerging artist, has continued to produce and exhibit her own work at both Violence Transformed and other area venues.

Phillip Harvey received a BA in English from Morehouse College and a MA in Arts Administration from Columbia University. He is a Fellow of the National Endowment of the Arts (NEA) and US State Department International Visual Arts Institute as well as a JP Morgan Fellow in Arts Management. He is a regular contributor to the *International Review of African American Art* and managed the national arts research project *Changing the Beat: A Study of the Worklife of Jazz Musicians*, the NEA sponsored national study of jazz musicians. Harvey is the producer and host of C3Arts Radio, a global arts and culture talk show broadcast on City College New York's WHCR 90.3FM radio station. Harvey teaches on faculty for the Africana Studies Department at the John Jay College School of Criminal Justice and serves on the Board of Directors for the City College Center for the Arts. Additionally, he is the founding editor of Natcreole.com, an online magazine dedicated to the advocacy and promotion of global arts and culture slated for inclusion in the Library Congress, and an independent curator of art installation, music and film projects in New York, Tokyo and London.

Dev Luthra, Artistic Director of And Still We Rise Productions since 2007, devises and stages plays in collaboration with a company of actors, each of whom has been impacted by the experience of prison. With the establishment of a safe and creative training environment and the use of theater exercises and therapeutic techniques, And Still We Rise aims to: 1) help participants gain skills and self-confidence in shaping and asserting their personal stories; 2) weave their story-telling together into performances that move audiences to greater understanding and compassion for the struggles of these and other individuals who spend years incarcerated and then strive to integrate back into society; and 3) create a vital public forum where participants bring greater awareness and engagement to pressing criminal justice issues. Dev trained at the East 15 Acting School, London, England, Shakespeare and Company in Lenox, MA and in Forum Theatre and Rainbow of Desire (Cop in the Head) with Augusto and Julian Boal. andstillwerise.org

Bailey Ray is an editorial professional, freelance writer, and stage performer. She holds a B.A. in English from Green Mountain College, and an

M.A. in English from Simmons College. Her scholarly work focuses on gender and cultural studies with an emphasis on media and popular culture, and can be found in print and online. Her social justice interests include the eradication of indigenous mascotry in professional sports and post-secondary and higher education, the Black Lives Matter movement, finding ways to erase the stigma against the incarcerated queer and trans community, and the current global refugee crisis.