

Forward Equitable Development Conference Conversation #4 Speaker Bios



Nigel Charles joined Bread & Roses in 2017 to support the growth of the Giving Project program, which guides participants through a process of collective learning, fundraising, and grantmaking.

A Philadelphia native, Nigel has worked in education and workforce development organizations in Philadelphia and Camden. He served as the community development assistant at Philadelphia LISC supporting program staff in planning and implementing community initiatives in Philadelphia neighborhoods.

Nigel has a master's degree in urban studies from Eastern University and is passionate about racial, social, and economic justice, community violence, and community/police relations. Nigel lives in the West Oak Lane neighborhood with his wife, Brittany, who is a school counselor.



Laura Otten, Ph.D. has served as a consultant and instructor for more than 30 years. In that time, she has distinguished herself on both the national and local levels, as an expert in nonprofit leadership, governance, strategic planning, evaluation, and other aspects of organizational management. Since 2001, she has led the Nonprofit Center at La Salle University, integrating a commitment to best practices in all aspects of nonprofit operations, and solidified our educational model to provide in-depth, high quality learning experiences that make The Nonprofit Center unique among any other organizations in the region. This same philosophy of integrated services and highly skilled and experienced experts also guides the consulting practice, in which she is also an active participant.

Laura's expertise in nonprofit leadership, and midwife to a host of governance best practices, is underscored by her latest role in 2013 as inaugural director of La Salle University's new M.S. in Nonprofit Leadership.



Edgar Villanueva is a globally-recognized expert on social justice philanthropy. Edgar serves as Chair of the Board of Directors of Native Americans in Philanthropy, NDN Collective, and is a Board Member of the Andrus Family Fund, a national foundation that works to improve outcomes for vulnerable youth.

Edgar currently serves as Senior Vice President at the Schott Foundation for Public Education where he oversees grant investment and capacity building supports for education justice campaigns across the United States.

Edgar is the award-winning author of *Decolonizing Wealth*, a bestselling book offering hopeful and compelling alternatives to the dynamics of colonization in the philanthropic and social finance sectors.

In addition to working in philanthropy for many years, he has consulted with numerous nonprofit organizations and national and global philanthropies on advancing racial equity inside of their institutions and through their investment strategies.

Edgar holds two degrees from the Gillings Global School of Public Health at The University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. Edgar is an enrolled member of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina and resides in Brooklyn, NY.