

## 2006 NYC Social Justice Fellows

### MANUELA ARCINEGAS

#### *The Legacy Circle*

The Legacy Circle is a cultural arts and social justice organization that will train and place teaching artists of the African Diaspora's cultural arts in residencies to impact the youth of their home communities. The youth will be able to learn skills, identify issues that affect them, and use their cultural art skills to express their feelings about these issues.

"It's disgraceful that in a city of primarily African descendants, Africa occupies a marginal place in the curriculum and daily lives of youth. Bringing teaching artists and youth together to transform communities, and knowing that everyone will have fun while doing it, now that's power."



### ANDRE LANCASTER

#### *Freedom Train Productions*

FTP will select Black playwrights and pair them with community-based organizations whose missions reflect social health and justice. Theatre workshops and a playwright residency program will develop artists to combat HIV in the Black LGBTSG (Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Transgender, Same Gender Loving) community.

"I believe Black Gay America's vibrant culture - captured by our musicians, artists, and storytellers - has the potential to lead us out of a state of emergency and into to a spirit of hope. This is what my theatre work at FTP is all about."



### ANDRES MARES-MURO

#### *Escuela Justicia y Libertad (Justice and Freedom School)*

Using popular education, Escuela Justicia y Libertad will provide training sessions on community organizing for Spanish speaking immigrants with the aim of activating an immigrant action network throughout the city.



“The border town of El Paso, Texas, is where I was born and raised. I recall witnessing a lot of poverty as a child, for example, boys about my age begging for money or food. The avagery of daily life in such a harsh environment inflamed me with a passion for social justice and with indignation that such stark inequality could exist.”

**GLORIA ROSS**

***Taking the L.E.A.D. (Leadership, Education, Action, Development)***

Taking the LEAD will engage TLGBTSQQ (Transgender, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Two-spirit, Queer and Questioning) youth of color in trainings and direct action organizing that keeps public space available, reduces the harm caused by police harassment and advocates for relevant social services.



“As a queer woman of color living in the U.S., I know intimately that our system does not protect the rights of everyone -- a reality that links our struggles together. Our right to a space where we feel safe and free is being challenged daily through gentrification, police harassment, and anti-immigration laws. By using our collective power, we can change the system and change ourselves -- the ways we think, act, and treat each other.”

**NATHALY RUBIO-TORRES**

***Voces Latinas HIV Immigrant Latina Peer Education Project***

Voces Latinas will increase HIV and AIDS awareness in the community, by facilitating community workshops and peer trainings that provide prevention education and healthier decision-making to empower immigrant Latinas living with and at high risk for HIV/AIDS to be advocates and mentors to other Latinas.



“They told me other groups were at higher risk - and that other agencies were already serving this group. So I asked: then why is HIV/AIDS among Latinas skyrocketing? I knew more could be done; so I set out to start my own group so that immigrant Latinas living with and at high risk for HIV/AIDS can voice the needs of their own community.”

**RASHID SHABAZZ**

*New York City Anti-Criminalization of Youth Project  
"Liberate our Image"*

A youth-led public awareness campaign designed to reframe and challenge the negative stereotypes popularized by media and local government officials about youth in New York City public schools and to empower youth to shift the current discussion from crime to a larger public discourse on providing a quality education for all.



"There is obviously a need for major change in our education system and for public awareness of this crisis, when students themselves are saying that New York City public schools are becoming more like prisons and makes them feel like criminals."

**IJEOMA UDE**  
*Voices United*

Using popular education, poetry, spoken word and creative writing, Voices United will engage immigrant women and girls with ongoing sessions to allow for collective healing, collective power-building and collective action. The women will create digital stories about their experiences of gender violence to use as an organizing tool.



"As a community worker and organizer, I grew frustrated with hearing people's individual stories of intimate violence -- the shame they carried with them and the isolation they felt. This motivated me to think about creating spaces where we can heal through art, music and dialogue and take action to prevent further violence in our communities."