WE DO THIS TO FREE US: ARTISTS AND THE SOLIDARITY ECONOMY

Presenters: **Hope Ghazala**, Licensed Social Worker, facilitator, organizer, PeoplesHub; **Caroline Woolard**, Open Collective Foundation, Pratt Institute, art.coop; **Angie Kim**, Center for Cultural Innovation; **Karen Ristuben**, Essex County Community Foundation; **Stratton Lloyd**, Essex County Community Foundation

In spring of this year, GIA released *Solidarity Not Charity: Arts & Culture Grantmaking in the Solidarity Economy*, a report that explores how the grantmaking community can support culture workers and artists through an increasingly just economy. “Creatives are ‘going back to the future’ to practices of shared livelihoods rooted in cultural traditions,” report authors Caroline Woolard and Natalia Linares remind us.

In collaboration with artists who contributed to the report and GIA members Essex County Community Foundation (ECCF) and Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI), this workshop will amplify the foundations and current labor of artists and cultural workers anchoring the solidarity economy. Participants will discuss their own efforts and challenges and will learn about the challenges and impacts of ECCF’s Creative County Initiative, CCI ChangeMakers, a cohort-learning leadership support program, and collectively imagine a cooperative center for the study of cultural liberation.

Join us for a dynamic discussion of one another’s work and these emerging case studies to develop actionable recommendations for how to invest and support BIPOC creatives who are innovating models for self-determination and community wealth.

Please note this session will be presented in English. Captions and live interpretation will be provided throughout in both English and Spanish.

**Agenda:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Who</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2:30 PM</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
<td>Eddie Torres</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:50 PM</td>
<td>Mini-Workshop: For whom do we do this work?</td>
<td>Hope Ghazala, Angie Kim, Stratton Llyod, Karen Ristuben, Caroline Woolard, and participants</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:30 PM</td>
<td>Debrief &amp; Mapping Discussion</td>
<td>All facilitators and participants</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:50 PM</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>4:05 PM</td>
<td>Mini-Workshop: At what points in the system do you intervene and how?</td>
<td>Hope Ghazala, Angie Kim, Stratton Llyod, Karen</td>
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Preconference Presenter Bios:

**Hope Ghazala**, Licensed Social Worker, facilitator, organizer, PeoplesHub

Hope (no pronouns, name only) is a Licensed Social Worker, facilitator, and organizer. Hope has grounded herself in fostering leadership development, particularly for youth of color. Experiences working as a popular and political educator in museums, consent campaigns, and the youth climate movement have expanded Hope's passion for making information accessible and spaces value multicultural experiences. As a proud Muslim and self-proclaimed “Egypt-o-Rican”, Hope receives power and guidance from Hope’s spiritual and cultural identities. Hope
finds purpose in cross-pollinating and uplifting the needs and voices of disinvested communities. Currently, Hope works at PeoplesHub, an online movement school, where Hope focuses on connecting people with each other and with the knowledge to sustain and thrive. Hope also provides digital organizing for CWA Local 1102 on Staten Island. Hope is a native New Yorker who loves exploring NYC, traveling internationally, dancing, and reading cross-cultural fiction.

Caroline Woolard, Open Collective Foundation, Pratt Institute, art.coop

Angie Kim, Center for Cultural Innovation
California-based knowledge and financial services incubator for individual artists, since 2015. She also heads CCI’s national, pooled fund program, AmbitioUS, which invests in alternative economic paradigms of and federated infrastructure by those most dispossessed—primarily African American and Native American communities—who are seeking financial self-determination in order to preserve and support their cultural identity and artistic expressions on their own terms. Angie has 20 years of experience in the arts and in philanthropy, having worked in various roles as a grantmaker, evaluator, and in communications at the Getty and Flintridge foundations, and as director of programs at Southern California Grantmakers. In addition, while successfully pursuing her doctorate on the topic of U.S. private philanthropy, she worked as a consultant helping arts and social justice foundations in connecting strategic program design with evaluation outcomes. She has been a lecturer on philanthropy at Claremont Graduate University and University of Southern California and has served as an advisor of numerous arts initiatives. Angie served on the boards of California Humanities, Leveraging Investments in Creativity, and as vice-chair of Grantmakers in the Arts. She received her B.A. in art history and English literature from Linfield College, M.A. in art history from University of Southern California, and Ph.D. in public policy from Walden University.

Karen Ristuben, Essex County Community Foundation

Karen Ristuben is an arts leader and creative connector based in her hometown of Gloucester, Mass. She received her Master of Fine Arts from the Vermont College of Fine Arts, BFA and teaching degrees from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts/Tufts University, and JD from Suffolk University Law School.
Karen serves as Program Director of Creative County Initiative, building cross-sector support for arts, culture, and creativity with the Essex County Community Foundation. With a visual art and music practice as time allows, Karen brings her experience in advocacy, education, and nonprofit management to her community-focused work in the arts. With ECCF and its collaborators, Karen is committed to helping build an equitable and sustainable ecosystem for artists and cultural organizations across the thirty-four diverse communities of Essex County.

Stratton Lloyd, Essex County Community Foundation

As Executive Vice President & COO at the Essex County Community Foundation, I manage the Foundation’s strategy, finance, investment and business operations and serve as the lead for our systems philanthropy initiatives, which focus on tackling some of the most complex social issues facing Essex County today.

I joined the ECCF staff in July 2018 after serving as a strategic advisor on Impact Essex County, the Foundation's lasting commitment to effecting positive change in our region. Since then, I
have been consistently inspired by the relentless efforts, smart ideas and passion of the many community partners that we collaborate with on this work.

Prior to joining ECCF, I served as executive vice president of Strategy, Product Management and Customer Operations at EBSCO Information Services, a private Fortune 200 company based in Ipswich, where I worked for 14 years. I was also the founder and managing director of First Look, Inc., now known as YouthServe, a nonprofit global youth service-education organization that empowers young people through volunteerism and leadership.

Outside of work, you can often find me biking the roads and trails of Essex County. I also enjoy spending time with my family of three girls and sweet dog, Sunny, reading and skiing. I love to travel, especially to Latin America, and practicing my Spanish whenever I get the chance.