



Windcall Residents:

Fall 2023

Windcall is dedicated to nurturing and developing transformative learning and resilient leadership among community and labor organizers engaged in social justice for low-income communities and communities of color. Residencies are our flagship program. Since our founding over 30 years ago, these residencies have offered life changing experiences to over 700 community and labor organizers from around the country and all sectors of the social justice movement. The Windcall Residency is a nine-month experience that provides a highly supportive environment in three phases:

1. A robust onboard period to prepare individuals for the residency experience and introduce them to practices that lead to long-term sustainability and resilience
2. A one- to three-week residential retreat that removes many outside pressures and internal constraints that inhibit organizers' renewal.
3. An intentional offboarding period to support integration and continued learning through two debriefs with staff, a virtual webinar with residents' peer group, and six sessions with a Windcall coach.

Keep reading to learn more about each of the movement leaders who attended their Windcall Residency in the Fall of 2023.



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Resident Snapshot

DENICIA CADENA

Pronouns: Name/Denicia

Organization: Bold Futures/ Young Women United

Title: Interim Executive Director

City: Albuquerque, New Mexico



Denicia is a queer Chicana born and raised in southern New Mexico and now building a home in Albuquerque. Denicia has deep experience in reproductive justice, racial justice, and queer liberation. For many years, Denicia led change-making and culture shift strategies, by and for women and people of color in New Mexico at Bold Futures/Young Women United. Denicia loves drag, bubbles, puppies, queer and trans people, and creating openings for each of us to live in joy.

Resident Snapshot



JESS CAMPBELL

Pronouns: she/they

Organization: Rural Organizing Project

Title: Director & Organizer

City: Cottage Grove, Oregon

Jess grew up in a working poor family in the rural timber country of Oregon & began organizing in high school. Together they led walkouts of hundreds of students, ran military recruiters out of the school, and dropped the military recruitment rate down to less than 6%. As a Rural Org Project staff organizer since 2011, Jess has worked with the most rural communities in every corner of Oregon to lead statewide collective action to save post offices and libraries, to confront white nationalist organizing, and to advance experimental campaigns at the intersections of racial, economic, social, and climate justice.

Resident Snapshot



MICHELLE DEPASS

Pronouns: she/her

Organization: Tishman Environment
& Design Center

Title: Founder & Advisor

City: Fairfield, California



Michelle began her career as a community organizer and went on to institutional leadership at the intersections of social, economic & environmental justice, political strategy, progressive philanthropy and academia. She's led the Meyer Memorial Trust, the Milano School of International Affairs, and Tishman Professor of Environmental Policy and Management. As a Senate-confirmed presidential appointee in the Obama administration, she led the creation of the Office of International and Tribal Affairs at the Environmental Protection Agency, elevating the agency's recognition of the sovereign rights of indigenous peoples in the US.



Resident Snapshot



TESSA DOMINGUS

Pronouns: she/her

Organization: Mental Health

Association of Nebraska

Title: Program Coordinator

City: Lincoln, Nebraska

For over seven years, Tessa has dedicated herself to re-entry efforts. Working closely within Nebraska's prison system, she developed and implemented programs that provide crucial support to the incarcerated including peer supported transitional living houses. Having personally navigated trauma and the criminal legal system, Tessa has testified at local and state levels to advocate for more equitable policies. Tessa finds joy in nature and cherishes time spent with her extensive family— six children and four grandchildren.



Resident Snapshot

ANNITA LUCCHESI

Pronouns: she/her/they/them

Organization: Sovereign Bodies Institute

Title: Director

City: Colstrip, Montana



Annita is a Cheyenne woman living on her ancestral homelands in Montana. She is the director of Sovereign Bodies Institute (SBI), a non-profit research institute dedicated to ending violence against Indigenous peoples, & a service provider offering support to Indigenous survivors of violence & families of missing & murdered Indigenous people. Annita holds a PhD in Geography from the University of Arizona, & works with Indigenous peoples in asserting their sovereignty through cartography. She is a survivor of trafficking, intimate partner violence, sexual assault, and police violence, & upholds Indigenous self-determination & survivor leadership.

Resident Snapshot



MELANIE MYERS

Pronouns: she/her

Organization: American Federation
of Teachers

Title: Senior Associate Director

City: Folsom, California

Melanie has worked for 20 years on economic and social justice issues for labor unions in the education and healthcare industries, focusing on policy, organizing, institutional investments and strategic campaigns. Her efforts include to push for overhauling the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program to address the national student debt crisis & policy education on the use of Environmental, Social and Governance factors in institutional investments. Melanie is passionate about empowering working people through leadership in their unions.



Resident Snapshot

CHRIS NOVATON

Pronouns: They/Them

Organization: Sierra Student Coalition

Title: Grassroots Training Director

City: Atlanta, Georgia



Chris is a Black, Queer, Disabled, Puerto Rican/Cuban born and raised by a single mother in Miami, FL. They grew up next to train tracks and seven blocks away from mangroves. Chris is a Sagittarius with a moon in Scorpio, and ascendant in Virgo, which means they're pretty great! They've been organizing, training and facilitating in environmental and climate justice spaces for the last decade. They love watching The Great British Baking Show, tending to plants, and spending time with their partner and dog in Atlanta, GA.

Resident Snapshot



ESTHEFANIE SOLANO

Pronouns: She/Her/Ella

Organization: InnerCity Struggle

Title: Communications Director/
Strategist

City: Long Beach, California

Esthef is a queer, CaliMexicana who has been organizing since the age of 15. Raised by a single, immigrant mother, Esthef learned how exploitation, broken immigration laws, and disinvestments in high need neighborhoods took a toll on families' wellbeing. Organizing became the tool she used to heal, transform and empower her community and herself. Esthef has organized alongside youth and parents on campaigns that have led to a drastic increase in equitable school funding, secured the construction of a comprehensive school based wellness center and won landmark tenant protections for Angelenos and LA County residents. Esthef enjoys learning about restorative justice and herbal, traditional ways of healing.



Resident Snapshot

SARRA TEKOLA

Pronouns: they/them/he/him

Organizations: PhxEJ Coalition &
Black Lives Matter Phoenix

Title: CoDirector & Lead

City: Phoenix, Arizona



Sarra has a Ph.D. in Sustainability. They are a co-founder and co-director for Black Lives Matter Phoenix Metro. They were a lead organizer in Divest UW, where they divested coal. They helped to start a “Block the Bunker” campaign in Seattle that blocked a police station from being built in a POC community. They started a campaign at ASU that won multicultural centers on all 5 campuses. Their activism has been featured in Democracy Now, CNN, Rolling Stone, New York Times Magazine and was named by Outside Magazine as one of the “30 under 30” in 2016 and was a Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellow from 2018-2021.

Resident Snapshot



CONSUELA HENDRICKS

Pronouns: she/her

Organization: People Matter

Title: Co-Founder and Co-President

City: Chicago, Illinois

A 4th generation Chicago native, Consuela has over a decade's experience improving race relations between Black/ Latine /Asian communities. As co-founder of People Matter (PM), Consuela invented PM's Community Language Program, one of the world's only dual immersion Cantonese/English classes taught through a social justice lens, and the annual Black Heroes of Chinatown celebration. She has a background in tech, urban studies, and youth mentorship. She has experience with government and policy at Senator Tammy Duckworth's office, participatory planning at the Obama Foundation, and combatting displacement in Chicago's gentrifying neighborhoods. She loves hearing and telling stories and watching youtube videos.

Resident Snapshot



SABRA WILLIAMS

Pronouns: she/her

Organization: Creative Acts

Title: Executive Director/Founder

City: Los Angeles, California



Sabra has received international acclaim for her work as an actor, host and founding director of The Actors' Gang Prison Project, including being named by President Obama a, "2016 Champion of Change," and being honored with a British Empire Medal for services to the Arts & Prison Reform by Queen Elizabeth in 2018. Sabra is co-founder of Creative Acts, a Social Justice initiative that uses the Arts as transformation including engagement programs in juvenile facilities and adult maximum security prisons and solitary confinement. Sabra is a lecturer at UCLA, an Adjunct Professor at USC, and a Bellagio Rockefeller Resident Fellow.