



Collective Work Coalition Members

Crimson Silano is the Executive Director of ***Comite Salvadoreno Paisanos Unidos (COSPU)***, a nonprofit organization nested in Harrisonburg VA whose goal is to empower immigrant families through charity, support, and advocacy for legislation changes that benefit immigrants. They provide help and support, leadership mentoring, cultural and civic education, and advocacy that benefit the immigrant community in Virginia and across the country. They envision a community where all immigrants can pursue their dreams and live with dignity, a place where they are recognized for their hard labor, success, and contributions to society and their communities.

Free Egunfemi Bangura is the founder and director of ***Untold RVA***, a ten-year-old tactical urbanism startup whose mission is to decolonize Richmond's untold histories of the brave, bold changemakers who fought for Black freedom and deserve to be remembered. Untold RVA researches, designs and curates interactive public memory experiences for self-discovery in positive, trauma-informed ways that do not require anyone to read in order to know. With a heart for ancestor remembrance, Untold RVA's sacred place keeping monuments serve as a community knowledge and wisdom exchange, inspiring all those who crave a deeper connection to the complex arc of diasporic Blackness embedded within the built environment.

Janell Sinclair is the founder and Executive Director of ***Hebron VA, Inc. (Heroines Evolving Beyond Rejection Obstacles & Negativity)***, a non-profit organization which is based in Petersburg, Virginia. Hebron's mission is to educate underserved females about etiquette and self-love, regardless of socio-economic status and ethnicity. Hebron specializes in helping women reduce the vulnerability to academic failure, school expulsions, suspensions, crime, teen pregnancy, drop-out rate, and juvenile justice involvement.

Jay Boone is a proud military daughter to two Navy Veterans growing up in different socioeconomic situations and found that no matter the location, the absence of basic human needs being met is the root to many issues. She founded ***K.U.S.P. (Keeping Us Secure and Prosperous)*** a non-profit focused on making disadvantaged communities whole by making sure their human needs are met through the creation of holistic programs & services that give The Community access to human need resources, programs and initiatives that build skills, and connect them to a network that will offer support. They pride themselves on working in collaboration with other great organizations with a united mission to serve and believe we are stronger together because everyone is able to play to their strengths and achieve a greater reach because they are supported.

Juanita Shanks is the founder and Executive Director of ***FailSafe-ERA***, a 501c3 nonprofit organization that provides reformative strategies to empower and restore hope to families impacted by incarceration through our Right Road and Caring Connections to Prevent Generations of Incarceration Programs. Their core purpose is to foster positive change in the lives of individuals and families affected by incarceration by providing strategies to improve outcomes. Their holistic approach to community reentry is for the whole family to promote family bonding, healing, and independent living. They serve Virginia's Planning District 16 (Fredericksburg City and Counties of Spotsylvania, Stafford, King George, and Caroline).



Katina Moss is the principle of **BLKHopeVA** that aims to utilize culture and the arts to organize for activism. The goal of BLKHopeVA is to function as a centralized hub for communication and political and economic power to uplift the voices and to provide a community platform for collective activism. K. Moss & Associates curates cultural events that enable youth and families to see and experience Black artistic expression and culture -as centered resources-in the community. In Hopewell, Virginia KMOSS Presents proprietary and signature works including First Friday Freedom Open Mic; Ujamaa Kwanzaa Festival; Tri-Cities Jazz & Arts Expo, and the Hopewell Juneteenth Freedom Festival.

Dr. Lafayette Jefferson is creating **Fearless Ubuntu** which he envisions as a membership-based learning organization structured as a nonprofit. They will train individuals and organizations state wide to become self-determining by formally training them in building power in their communities through community organizing. Their focus will be on growing community organizers that focus on engagement that will start small and progressively grow as skill sets increase. They will track engagements across the country to develop startup playbooks that will focus on the problems that plague communities (i.e. privatization, environmental justice, criminal justice system, etc.). A national database will track community organizing engagements and will be available to all members allowing organizers to learn from the efforts of other organizers with similar efforts.

Lorraine Wright is the founding Executive Director of the nonprofit **I Vote for Me**. Through empowering marginalized individuals and communities to take action, they seek to dismantle social, economic, and political systems that maintain a permanent class of poor and powerless citizens. They focus on empowering, educating, and igniting our marginalized and underserved communities in the Richmond area to advocate for themselves and tackle a broad range of issues but education and incarceration are two of the most significant and most intertwined challenges they face. They work to dismantle the “school-to-prison pipeline,” the process by which children accused of misbehaving at school are referred to police departments for citation and punishment. Young boys of color are disproportionately referred to law enforcement for school-based infractions, and that’s a major problem nationally and right here in the Richmond area.

Sheba Williams is the founder and Executive Director of **Nolef Turns Inc.**, a 501(c)(3) public charity that was established to build a network of resources for individuals with court and justice involvement to thrive post-conviction. Their goals are to fight against our unjust judicial system and to help end mass incarceration with a focus on the fight to allow justice-involved individuals to live a fair and self-sufficient life after they have completed all of their requirements of crime and punishment, as determined by the law. Most importantly, they fight to help those affected by the criminal justice system to maintain a stable support system and we support the leadership of those who are directly impacted by mass incarceration and court involvement, while engaging the support of those who are not directly impacted. This includes all stakeholders that are affected - the children of incarcerated parents, the caregivers of those left behind when a loved one is incarcerated, the communities in which returning citizens live and work.



Sulaymaan Alkarriem is the founder of ***We R Me Foundation Inc.***, a 501c(3) tax-exempt organization focused on providing ex-offenders with “all” the tools and services they need to become productive citizens in society. His vision is to not just provide ex-offenders with the resources and information to send them into society and figure the rest out on their own but to create a facility(s) to house ex-offenders upon release from the Virginia Department of Correction with a home-like environment to include in-house counselors that will conduct group and individual counseling services such as substance abuse, mental health, educational/ college placement, functional and daily living skills, parenting education, employment, credit repair/ restoration, help to attain drivers licenses, time management, budgeting, and money management skills.

Vilma Seymour is a board member for the Central Virginia affiliate of ***The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)***, founded in 1929, which is the oldest and most widely respected Hispanic civil rights organization in the United States of America. Founded in 2016, the Richmond charter advocacy programs and court actions have led to the desegregation of schools, and creation of the historic "Little Schools of the 400" which served as the model for today's Federal Head Start Program. Their counseling and scholarship programs have positively impacted 10% of all Latinos in college and they have created a network of community technology centers and job training programs to strengthen opportunities for the communities they serve.