

2019 Multi-Dialogue: Displacement & Solidarity

Meet our Facilitator Team!



Nada Elmasry

Nada is a Libyan-born Palestinian who came to the unceded land of the Coast Salish people just over 10 years ago. She currently oversees the refugee and new Canadian support programs at Simon Fraser University. She enjoys her work with newcomer students and is passionate about advancing equity work on campus. Nada is also involved in other programs and initiatives such as Beyond Borders: Refugee Livelihood Lab at RADIUS, The Inner Activist, and Fresh Voices Initiative of the Vancouver Foundation, which offers a way for racialized youth across B.C. to engage in dialogue and action to identify and remove barriers to their success. Nada is pursuing a Master's degree of Equity Studies in Education at SFU. In her free time, Nada enjoys playing, watching and talking about football (soccer).



Beverly Ho

Beverly is a queer Chinese artist and community organizer based in Chinatown. She started out at Emily Carr University of Art and Design and became heavily involved in anti-gentrification and housing justice movements in Vancouver's Chinatown and the Downtown Eastside. She has also campaigned in the last two municipal elections. Beverly currently teaches ceramics and works with drug users to support them as harm reduction leaders in their SROs (Single Room Occupancy).

Dacious Richardson

Dacious is a student at Douglas College pursuing a degree in Sports Science and Coaching. He has a background in wrestling, soccer, track/field and has competed at higher level. Dacious is one of the Co-leader for the Surrey Refugee Youth Team and a mentor and coach for the Yo Bro Yo Girl Youth Initiative. He serves on the Level Advisory Committee and many different committees. He is part of the RADIUS Refugee Livelihood Lab research team.

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Dacious is the organizer of the Surrey Youth Mini Soccer Tournament that supports low income families to be able to participate in sports activities. It is a great opportunity to connect different cultural background together promoting diversity and community building through playing soccer and having fun together.

He is passionate in advocating for change, engaging young people and promoting community building. Dacious wants to draw from his negative experience in the Liberian Civil War, which caused trauma in his life, and turning it into positivity to encourage youth and others to overcome any obstacles in life.



Sammie Jo Rumbaua

Sammie Jo was born in Winnipeg, M.B. but raised in Vancouver, B.C. by her single mom with 2 younger sisters and moved around a lot, moving to a different school every year. While growing up, Sammie Jo's mom instilled Filipino Values, Culture, Heritage and especially Language in their lives. This made her very involved in the Filipino Community by volunteering and organizing many different types of events such as fundraisers for the Typhoon Victims in the Philippines, Independence Day Celebrations and coordinated a group of Canadians to travel to the Philippines to construct homes in Norzagaray Bulacan. Sammie Jo has over 15+ years of experience as an advocate, mentor, community organizer and youth worker.

To Sammie Jo, giving voice to the vulnerable and empowering youth is the greatest way for us to make a difference in our community. It is the pathway to creating strong leadership and socially sustainable growth. Empowering others is one of the most important acts of leadership and growing. Sammie Jo believes in always learning and sharing ideas, thoughts, resources, networks and experiences.

In the past, she has worked and volunteered for many federal and provincial campaigns in B.C. In 2014, Sammie Jo took a big step into civic politics by being the first Filipina Park Board candidate in Vancouver. Although not obtaining a seat, she was able to captivate and mobilize a lot of new and young voters and encourage them to be involved in civic engagement.

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Robert Williams

Robert Williams, Tłakwagilagame, comes from the Kwakwaka'wakw Nation in British Columbia, Canada, particularly the Ławitsis Ma'amtagila Danaxdawx from his grandfather Chief Charlie Williams and the Musgamawgw Dzawada'enuxw Mamalilikula from his grandmother Uma Mary Williams.

Robert began singing and drumming at the age of 11 under the guidance of his Nula (*Oldest brother*) Rory Dawson, who is an artist, composer and song keeper. Since then he has been singing and speaking for dance groups, Hereditary Chiefs, and artists as well as canoe journeys, weddings, and funerals.

From Juneau and Ketchikan Alaska in the North to New York City to the East and Northwest America, Robert has been sharing his message and passion of Cultural Identity, Language Revitalization, Decolonizing and being an ambassador of peace, sustainability, ecological safety and protection.

Robert was inspired to speak his language, Kwak'wala, through his late grandfather and mentor, Chief Charlie Williams of the Ławitsis. In 2010, Robert got his first opportunity to speak when his late Uncle Chief Frank Nelson, renowned Hereditary Chief, asked him to speak for him during the Paddle to Makah in the United States — a great honour.

Since then, Robert has had the privilege and honour to learn from his grandfather, Chief William Peters, allowing him to apply his teachings and direction in the Gukwdzi (Bighouse) where Kwakwaka'wakw laws and protocols are practiced. Spending time with the old people and learning the language of his ancestors, Robert continues to carry on the teachings of respect embedded within Kwakwaka'wakw songs, dances, speaking and ceremony.

In 2008, Robert went to Ottawa for YOUCAN's Cross Cultural Resolution Training for Peaceful Solutions to participate and speak. And in 2009, Robert traveled with his sister Felicia Greekas (Gwixsisal's) to New York for the 9th Annual Youth Assembly that brought together youth to address the Millennium Development Goals.

Robert lives and breathes the teachings of his ancestors and he has been respectfully accepted the request of his hereditary Chiefs and Matriarchs to represent and deliver messages as an ambassador of his culture and people.