

I am Black History

Meet the Panelist



Gary T. Taylor, LCSW
Uphold 3:18, Founder

Gary T. Taylor (He/him), aka Trey is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker born and raised in Caroline County, Virginia with his wife, daughter, and son. He has eleven years of experience in the Mental Health field. Taylor is currently working in private practice providing individual therapy to African-Americans with expertise on Black Men. He uses a social and racial justice lens blended with his lived experience and clinical expertise to meet Black Men where they are. Taylor is also an author, podcaster, sneakerhead, car enthusiast, and coffee lover!

Refresh: The Journey To Find Peace: <https://a.co/d/8Bs3NU8>

Learn more about Gary [here](#).



Yolo Akili Robinson
Founder and Executive Director of BEAM (Black Emotional and Mental Health Collective)

Yolo Akili Robinson is an award-winning writer, healing justice worker, yogi, and the founder and Executive Director of BEAM (Black Emotional and Mental Health Collective). Yolo has worked primarily in three areas: Batterers intervention/family counseling with Black men and boys, HIV/AIDS, and healing justice/wellness. In 2018, Yolo was awarded the prestigious Robert Wood Johnson Foundation "Health Equity Award" for his work. He was also featured at the 2020 BET Awards as an "Empowerful Spotlight," highlighting his work facilitating the vision of BEAM. His writings and work have appeared on Shondaland, GQ, Women's Health, USA Today, Vice, BET, Huffington Post, Cassius, Ebony, Everyday Feminisms, and more. He is the author of the social justice-themed affirmation book, "Dear Universe: Letters of Affirmation & Empowerment for All of Us" (Michael Todd Books, 2016) and a contributor to Tarana Burke and Dr. Brené Brown's anthology on Black vulnerability and shame resilience, "You are Your Best Thing" (2021, Random House Books).

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Learn more about Yolo [here](#).



Ashley McGirt

Founder and President of the Washington Therapy Fund

Ashley McGirt is the founder and President of the WA Therapy Fund. She is a psychotherapist, Tedx international speaker, and author who has been featured in Forbes, MSNBC, The young Turks, OWN, Bravo, & more. Ashley has received a Master's of Social Work from the University of Washington. She also holds a Bachelor of Science in Psychology. Ashley currently owns and operates her own private practice. In her private practice, she focuses primarily on racial trauma, depression, and anxiety. Ashley actively works toward de-stigmatizing mental illness and reducing high rates of recidivism in American prisons, in an attempt to create a more socially just society for all. Ashley offers presentations, workshops, group facilitation, and consultation specializing in racial trauma, mental health, crisis response, social justice, and racial equity. Ashley strives to help others find happiness and healing within themselves by unpacking their baggage, resting, reflecting, and restoring themselves to be who they were intended to be on this earth.

Learn more about Ashley [here](#).



Tylik McMillan

Internationally recognized young civil rights activist and movement strategist Tylik McMillan, is a native of Lawrenceville Virginia, by way of Harrisburg Pennsylvania, and a proud HBCU graduate of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University.

At a young age, Tylik got his foundation at the National Action Network (NAN). Under the leadership and mentorship of Rev. Al Sharpton, Tylik served as a Washington D.C. Bureau Senior Policy Advisor and National Director of Youth and College of NAN which

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is one of the nation's leading civil rights organizations working in the spirit and tradition of Dr. King, to promote the modern civil rights agenda.

In his capacity, he worked to educate lawmakers and stakeholders on the challenges and opportunities facing Black communities, by advocating for more resources and policies that help invest and advance economic and social equality in communities. His government affairs portfolio includes issues from tech, policing/criminal justice, federal sentencing reform, ending racial profiling, equal employment protection, immigration, access to affordable/quality education, voting rights protection, housing, and other various issues that impact social and economic status, mobility and empowerment of urban and underserved communities.

Tylik helped organize the 2020 Commitment March on Washington and 2021 March On for Voting Rights which drew hundreds of thousands to Washington DC and called for racial justice, police reform, voting rights protections, census participation, and more.

Tylik is a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc., Phi Beta Sigma Political Action Committee Board of Directors, member of the Association of Young Americans Board of Directors, and member of the Virginia Civics Advisory Council. Alongside Reverend Al Sharpton, Tylik is a former Thursday co-host of the nationally syndicated daily radio show Keepin' It Real. Within his work, Tylik has corresponded on MSNBC, BBC World News, and others. He was recognized as a Bloomberg 50 One to Watch and featured in the Washington Post, New York Times, Wall Street Journal, CNN, BBC, and BET among other global, national, and local outlets.

Tylik wishes to inspire other young people to get involved and make civic engagement the new norm, not the exception!

Learn more about Tylik [here](#).



Kenya Hutton
Deputy Director, Center for Black Equity

As a social justice, equity, HIV prevention, and sexual health advocate, Kenya Hutton has worked to address a number of determinants of health among communities heavily affected by HIV and other health disparities over the past two decades.

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Throughout his career, he has advocated for HIV prevention on the local and national level and brought awareness to LGBTQ young adults and members of the House/Ball community. As a result of his service to these communities, he has been honored with several accolades, including the Dorian Corey Wisdom Award, the Michael J. Harrington Humanitarian Award, the Award of Excellence from the Washington DC Ballroom Coalition, and the DC Black Pride President's Award, among others.

Kenya collaborated with local nonprofits and the DC Health Department in 2019 to develop an educational program focused on providing potential employment opportunities for ballroom community members interested in becoming certified Community Health Workers.

Kenya spearheaded the development of the Capitol Ballroom Council during this period, which allowed ballroom leaders to develop programming and advocacy for the House/Ballroom community in addition to providing valuable programming insight, which resulted in him being one of the co-founders of the Capitol Ballroom Council, Inc. A non-profit organization based in Washington D.C. Kenya continues to push the envelope in making ballroom culture recognized as a vibrant, resilient community worthy of praise and support by non-ballroom mainstream organizations. In recent years Kenya has been a leading voice in the discussion urging research and interventions addressing substance use within the ballroom community, especially Crystal Meth use, as well as developing systems to provide relief support for the ballroom community during the COVID-19 pandemic and most recently the MPV outbreak. The work of Kenya Hutton is dedicated to the enhancement of the health, economic, and social well-being of marginalized and disenfranchised communities.

Learn more about Kenya [here](#).



Mari Copeny

Philanthropist | Activist | Future President

14-year-old activist, philanthropist, and “future president” Mari Copeny is on the front lines helping kids to embrace their power through equal opportunity. When the Flint Water Crisis began in Flint instead of feeling helpless Mari decided to use her voice to help out her community

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and fight for the kids in Flint. Since then she has expanded her effort to help communities across the nation dealing with toxic water. “My generation will fix this mess of a government. Watch us.”

Learn more about Mari [here](#).