

CCCADI's New Professional Development Program Celebrates Mid-Career Cultural Advocates

[NEW YORK, NY - SEPTEMBER 14, 2015] – On September 19, 2015, **20 mid-career professionals take the next step towards becoming leaders in the fields of cultural arts, public policy, and advocacy** when they complete the Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute's (CCCADI) Innovative Cultural Advocacy Fellowship (ICA). The Fellows represent a broad range of engaged, talented, and passionate arts advocacy professionals committed to effective and timely art-based equity policies throughout NYC.

These 20 remarkable individuals are part of the Fellowship's first class, which ran from June to September 2015. During this time, the fellowship recipients engaged in a series of collaborative exchanges with experts in the field and participated in select assignments designed to nurture and motivate innovative thinking. The program exposed its fellows to leaders in cultural arts fields who have paved the way for both diversity in arts advocacy and for cultural equity systems that reflect the aesthetic standards of New York City's diverse communities.

In the words of Dr. Marta Moreno Vega, CCCADI's president and founder, "The ICA fellows at CCCADI have been exposed to the leadership of the field that have created institutions and public change strategies and actions, to individuals and groups who have contributed to dismantling society's systemic inequities. It was important for us to make sure that our fellows tackled these issues head-on. They have been exposed to cultural mentors that reflect New York City's diversity, its racial and cultural groups, and that are at the fulcrum of social and cultural justice. This cadre of fellows will follow in their footsteps and engage in the next level of social engagement."

The ICA holds particular weight at this point in New York City's history. Back in May, the city made strides towards artistic inclusivity by passing legislation mandating the first-ever comprehensive cultural plan for the city. In this environment, it's crucial that young professionals from cultural, political and gender diverse backgrounds take part in the conversation to shape this new plan. CCCADI's first group of Innovative Cultural Advocacy will do just that.

About the Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute (CCCADI)

The Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute (CCCADI) values, connects, and advocates for the traditions, history, culture, and advancement of the African Diaspora. Through the dual tenants of arts and advocacy, CCCADI aims to create a paradigm shift within the global community toward cultural equity and social justice via new standards, policies, and language. The Center has been, and will remain, an accessible community resource, and a "first voice" institution, which produces culturally grounded, purpose-driven, and activist-oriented works, while simultaneously serving as a beacon of motivation and inspiration for many.

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