

Civic Futures Cohort 2021-22

Civil Society Fellows

Afsana Salik, Citizens UK

Afsana is a Community Organiser for Citizens UK (Tower Hamlets) and Women100 programme. She's helped win campaigns for inclusive school environments for Muslim mothers in Tower Hamlets, road safety on Mile End Road, and is currently working on campaigns on equal opportunities in education and health for ethnic minorities.

Ajay Pabial, Art Clubbers CIC

In 2018, Ajay set up Art Clubbers CIC, a not-for-profit Arts Organisation with the initial hope to act as stepping stone into the industry, providing opportunities and support to allow young Creative's the chance to develop and build their skills and portfolios as well as put in to practice their talents in community focused activities and projects.

Aleksandra Chlebos, Kensal Green Mutual Aid

Aleksandra is a passionate advocate for environment and sustainability issues and holds an MSc in Environmental Protection. Originally from a small town in Poland, Aleksandra dedicates her energy and knowledge to volunteering tirelessly for Kensal Green Mutual Aid, Climate Change Emergency and collaborates on number of climate and social justice projects.

Angela Singhate, Tell It Parents Network

Angela has a background in education with over 25 years' experience of teaching both primary and adult education. She has served on many school governing bodies and during her last 4-year term she served as the Chair of Governors. She then went on to be a part of a local neighbourhood forum which resulted in her leading a two-year campaign to set up London's first parish council. Over the last few years, Angela has used both her educational and community focused expertise to develop the work of Tell It Parents Network.

Chelsea McDonagh, Traveller Movement

Chelsea is a London born Irish Traveller and currently works as the Education Policy and Campaigns Officer at the Traveller Movement, and as a Youth Research and Participation Officer at Partnership for Young London. Chelsea is passionate about young people, education, and social justice. She believes that it is important to help young people become more politically aware and socially justice orientated in order to bring about meaningful change.

David Floyd, Social Spider CIC

David is Managing Director of Social Spider CIC. Social Spider CIC's newspapers combine professional journalism and community involvement to create a sustainable social enterprise model for local news. David is a non-executive director of Significant Seams CIC and Doing Social, and a trustee of Magma Poetry. He is a visiting lecturer at Goldsmiths, University of London and Leeds Beckett University

and has written about social investment and social entrepreneurship for The Guardian and Pioneers Post.

David McEwen, Studio Weave

David is a Colombian-born designer and researcher who has now found his home in London. Following a successful crowdfunding campaign, David and his colleagues at Unit 38 helped design a community plan for a Latin American market in Tottenham. Currently a designer and researcher at Studio Weave, David has recently completed projects in Dalston Town Centre, Enfield and Croydon - with a particular focus on the relationship between architecture, urban design and our physical, social and mental health and well-being.

Deborah Hayman-Nkhoma, Community Southwark

Deborah is the Director of VCS Support at Community Southwark. Deborah leads a team working with non-profit organisations to support a resilient and sustainable sector that runs legally and efficiently with a strong collective voice to influence local decision-making and improve the lives of people living in Southwark.

Jabez Lam, Hackney Chinese Community Services

Jabez has been active in Chinese community affairs since mid-1976 and is a fierce advocate for equality and diversity, campaigning for the Chinese community by working with local government. He has helped to found a number of Chinese community centres in and around London and is currently working at the Hackney Chinese Community Services.

Joon Lynn Goh, Asia Art Activism

Joon Lynn is a cultural organiser and producer, working across art and culture, migrant rights and community economies. Joon Lynn is the founding organiser of Migrants in Culture, co-founder of Asia Art Activism, and co-founder of Sex With Cancer. Joon Lynn has curated and produced for international performance festivals and venues, and from 2014-17 acted as a voluntary lead organiser with Citizens UK to lobby for and establish a Syrian refugee resettlement programme with Bristol City Council.

Laurie Belgrave, The Chateau

Laurie is a performer, artist and cultural producer working primarily in South East London. He is the founder of The Chateau, an LGBTIQ+ bar, cultural space and performance collective for SE London. Housed from mid-2018 in an ex religious themed cocktail bar in Camberwell, The Chateau sought to challenge the pervading narrative of decline in LGBTQ+ venues, bringing positivity into the scene through radical queer programming in a unique and inclusive space.

Mike Wilson, Pembroke House

Mike is Executive Director of Pembroke House in Walworth, Southwark. Founded in 1885 in response to growing inner-city inequality, Pembroke House is one London's original "settlement houses" – part of a movement that inspired the architects of the modern welfare state. Today, Mike is leading a programme to build a fresh settlement model for the 21st Century; one that can once again bring together civil society and public sector partners as equals.

Nii Anum, Paniym City Church

Nii serves as the Lead Pastor in Paniym City Church which aims to see the people of Feltham being supported, loved and empowered as they believe that this is the way to ultimately see Community Transformation. Nii also works as a Children & Family Services Manager at Feltham HMYOI. with justice and Rehabilitation is at the heart of everything he does, Nii is passionate about seeing people being empowered to become 'Agents of Transformation'. Nii wants to empower people to see life beyond themselves, and believes that age and experience shouldn't impact someone's ability to affect change in their communities.

Sabeha Miah, St Hilda's East Community Centre

Sabeha has had a career in the community sector spanning almost 20 years. In this time she has created many community projects at St Hilda's East Community Centre, focusing on socially excluded Bangladeshi and BAME women. She also set up the award-winning social enterprise Juta Shoes, and most recently has been working with Cycle Sisters and Hubbub to create a Tower Hamlets based women's cycling group.

Sue Agyakwa, Bromley by Bow Centre

A proud Londoner of Ghanaian decent, Sue has worked in east London for many years. She is currently at the Bromley by Bow Centre where she designs and delivers a range of inclusive community-based arts and cultural programmes, anything from opera to gardening and an All Women's Disco. She's passionate about working collaboratively with people and peers to bring about good change.

Local Government Fellows

Alison May, Lambeth Council

Alison is the recently appointed Assistant Director for Employment & Skills at Lambeth Council (LBL). She leads the Council's approach to skills and employment support for residents, ensuring the benefits of growth and recovery post Covid-19 are felt by all residents.

Chloe Harvey, Southwark Council

After more than a decade in the voluntary sector (mainly in North-West England), Chloe joined Southwark Council in 2019 as the External Opportunities Lead for Children and Adults - This outward facing role looks to the community, innovation programmes, thought leaders and best practice to identify opportunities to advance innovative approaches and improve outcomes across social care and education.

Dilwara Khatun, Redbridge Council

Dilwara is a community organiser for the recently established Redbridge Community Hub programme. Through listening, connecting, and engaging, Dilwara works with her team to partner with local people to integrate different services and facilities under one roof, and provide a place where residents can come together to run activities. The hubs will be tailored to local needs and improve the quality of services for residents.

Grace Williams, Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC)

Grace is the Great Place Scheme Programme Manager at OPDC, leading a 3-year arts and heritage programme (funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund and ACE) which is designed to uncover and celebrate the little-known heritage and culture of Old Oak and Park Royal through a series of participatory art projects and community initiatives.

Jane Brueseke, Waltham Forest Council

Jane is the Youth Engagement and Participation Principal Officer for Waltham Forest Council. She is passionate about ensuring the voice of young people are at the heart of decision-making in the borough and beyond. Jane is a trustee of the South Leytonstone Area Regeneration (SLADA) Charity and is a founding and current member of the Violent Crime Prevention Board.

Liam Weeks, Greater London Authority

Liam is a Senior Project and Policy Officer in the Greater London Authority's Food Team, which works to make London's food system healthier and more sustainable. He is responsible for leading and supporting the development and delivery of grant programmes, the design and procurement of research, food policy development, external advocacy and the coordination of stakeholder networks.

Mohammed Mukit, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

Mohammed is the Third Sector Development Officer at Kensington and Chelsea Council. He joined the community engagement team in May 2017 and works on building and maintaining partnership work with the voluntary and community sector in the borough.

Noel Hatch, Camden Council

Noel has worked as a researcher & communications officer at Demos, New Local Government Network and the Young Foundation, frontline worker, transformation lead, partnerships & service design manager at Kent County Council, cooperative council programme manager at Lambeth Council, head of strategy & performance at Ealing Council, and is currently head of strategy at Camden Council.

Sara Conway, Barnet Council

Sara is a councillor in Burnt Oak and Barnet Labour Community Leadership and Libraries Spokesperson (which includes the voluntary, charity, and faith sectors), and a member of the Barnet Together Covid19 Community Response Fund Panel.

Shadi Brazell, Greater London Authority

Shadi is a South-Londoner born and bred, currently working in affordable housing delivery at the Greater London Authority. She has previously served as Senior Adviser to the Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development, and Parliamentary Assistant to Helen Hayes MP.

Shahaveer (Shubo) Hussain, Camden Council

Shubo has been working at Camden Council for the past 2 years as a Neighbourhood Housing Officer. He also recently set up the Utilize Project on the Isle of Dogs in Tower Hamlets - a not-for-profit organisation that saves empty spaces from going to waste.

Shamiso Oneka, London Borough of Haringey

Shamiso is an Urban Design Officer at the London Borough of Haringey, leading on providing architectural and urban design expertise to shape regeneration, policy and housing projects and programmes with the aim to secure the best overall outcomes for local people.

Tahira Bakhtiari, Harrow Council

Tahira is an Assistant Policy Officer at Harrow Council, where she manages partnerships on community engagement, chairs the New Pathways Partnership Forum on early youth intervention, and develops key policies and strategies to deliver the Borough Plan. She is a youth board member for the Mayor's Fund for London and in her role, champions for upward social mobility of all young Londoners.

Tess Lanning, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

Tess is currently Head of Enterprise and Employment Strategy for the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, where she oversees the council's strategy to improve the quantity and quality of jobs available to local people.

Vanessa Gabriel-Robinson, Greater London Authority

Vanessa is Senior Project Officer at the Greater London Authority (GLA). She is part of the Mayor's Digital Talent Programme, which aims to increase the opportunities for young women and young Londoners from BAME communities in the digital and tech sector. Vanessa is also chairwoman of the Latin-American Women Resources Services (LAWRS).