African American Policy Forum

20th Anniversary Gala

Say Her Name: 20 Years of Intersectionality in Action

Saturday, June 10, 2017
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Leslie Mays
Catharine MacKinnon
Leslie McCall
Tanya McKinnon
Pat Mitchell
Margaret Montoya
Dorothy Roberts
Nina Simons
Ezra Young
Welcome from the Co-Founders

Dear Friends of AAPF,

In 1991, the term “intersectionality” emerged to grapple with the alarming erasure of women of color in the fight for gender and racial justice. For years, social justice movements had positioned the quests for gender equality and racial justice against one another. A framing problem existed, and we both knew that without an intersectional analysis of identity politics many people would continue to fall through the cracks of our social movements. So, in 1996, we co-founded the African American Policy Forum to be a clearinghouse for intersectional research and activism.

For the past 20 years, AAPF has been at the forefront of progressive political and social organizing, both in the US and abroad. From the inclusion of gender in the South African Equality Clause to reaching tens of thousands of students, faculty and laypersons through our Unequal Opportunity Workshop Series, AAPF has fostered cross-sector collaborations between activists, researchers, advocates, policy makers, artists, and other stakeholders across the world.

The struggle for human rights is constant and the work we do will never be finished. However, after 20 years of activism we are proud to commemorate this milestone anniversary by celebrating with our friends and community members. With your continued support, we are excited to walk boldly into this new era of community building, research, and activism dedicated to centering the lived experiences of Black women and girls.

Thank you for supporting the work of the African American Policy Forum and for celebrating 20 years of intersectional feminism and social justice at AAPF with us! Please enjoy our 20th Anniversary Gala!

Sincerely,

Kimberlé Crenshaw
Co-Founder

Luke Harris
Co-Founder
Welcome from the Board of Directors

Dear AAPF Friends and Allies,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, the 20th Anniversary Gala Committee, and the entire staff at AAPF, I would like to thank you for joining us as we celebrate our 20th anniversary with Say Her Name: 20 Years of Intersectionality in Action. The amazing generosity of donors like you enables us to continue nurturing and developing intersectional community building, activism, and research dedicated to centering and amplifying the voices of girls and women of color.

This year, AAPF has continued to spread our message to tens of thousands of people by leading workshops at universities and conferences across the country and internationally. In February, we released the Social Justice SOS report, featuring interviews with sixteen social justice leaders responding to the devastating 2016 election results. We have also provided public programming on the crises facing Black women and girls through our Breaking the Silence Town Hall series, which was held most recently in Greensboro, North Carolina, and our annual #HerDreamDeferred Series, which this year included a three-day residency at the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles.

Your support has sustained us, and your activism and partnership have helped power all that we do. Thank you for being comrades in the struggle and, tonight, for helping us celebrate 20 years of intersectional research, art, and activism.

Sincerely,

George Lipsitz
Chairman of the Board
Welcome from the Gala Co-Chairs

Dear AAPF Friends and Allies,

As the Co-Chairs of AAPF’s 20th Anniversary Gala, we welcome you to an amazing evening of music, performance, celebration, and rededication for the work that lies ahead.

The theme of our 20th Anniversary Gala is Say Her Name: 20 Years of Intersectionality in Action. We are told that intersectionality is the word of the year now. But we all know that Kimberlé Crenshaw’s bold and pathbreaking scholarship was the source of this powerful insight. Over the past two decades, AAPF and its co-founders Kimberlé Crenshaw and Luke Harris have changed the conversation on gender and racial justice, moving intersectional analysis to the forefront of public dialogue.

At tonight’s gathering, we will celebrate our tireless co-founders and AAPF’s work advancing and expanding racial justice, gender equality, and human rights. We will also salute four individuals whose outstanding contributions to intersectional social justice are an inspiration to us all.

Our honorees exemplify the progressive leadership and courage which at this time is perhaps more urgently needed than ever before. Representative Keith Ellison (D-Minn.) will receive the Shirley Chisholm Political Leadership Award; V-Day founder and playwright Eve Ensler will receive the Virginia Durr Solidarity Award; MSNBC correspondent and political commentator Joy-Ann Reid will receive the George Curry Drum Major for Justice Award For Excellence in Journalism; and Black feminist scholar and activist Barbara Smith will receive the Harriet Tubman Lifetime Achievement Award.

We thank you both for your support and your presence this evening. AAPF has led the way in putting the intersectionality critique into action, informing our understanding of the deeper barriers to equality across gender, race, and class, while at the same time inspiring us with a vision of true equality for the world as it should be. We invite you to join AAPF in building the way forward.

We are delighted to celebrate with you tonight!

Sincerely,

Thandie Newton
Gala Co-Chair

Ann F. Thomas
Gala Co-Chair
Host for the Evening
Laura Flanders

Remarks
Ann F. Thomas, George Lipsitz, Devon Carbado, Paul Butler

Keynote
Kimberlé Crenshaw

Shirley Chisholm Political Leadership Award presented to Representative Keith Ellison
Presented by Alexander Soros

Virginia Durr Solidarity Award presented to Eve Ensler
Presented by Kimberlé Crenshaw

George Curry Drum Major for Justice for Excellence in Journalism Award presented to Joy-Ann Reid
Presented by Rashad Robinson

Harriet Tubman Lifetime Achievement Award presented to Barbara Smith
Presented by Alicia Garza

Special Guests
Frances Garrett
Sharon Wilkerson

Performances
Climbing Poetree
Rosario Dawson
Abby Dobson
Bradd Marquis
Honorees
Shirley Chisholm Political Leadership Award

Representative Keith Ellison

Congressman Keith Ellison represents Minnesota’s 5th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. His guiding philosophy is based on generosity and inclusion and his priorities in Congress are building prosperity for working families, promoting peace, pursuing environmental sustainability, and advancing civil and human rights. A member of the House Financial Services Committee and the House Democratic Steering and Policy Committee, Ellison wrote the 2008 Protecting Tenants in Foreclosure Act, was elected co-chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus for the 113th Congress, and founded the Congressional Consumer Justice Caucus. He is also a member of the Congressional Black Caucus, and more than a dozen other caucuses that focus on issues ranging from social inclusion to environmental protection. Before being elected to Congress, Ellison was a noted community activist and ran a thriving civil rights, employment and criminal defense law practice in Minneapolis. He was elected to serve two terms in the Minnesota State House of Representatives. Ellison was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan. He has lived in Minnesota since earning his law degree from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1990 and is the proud father of four children.

Shirley Chisholm was the first Black woman to be elected to Congress and to run for president. A founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus and the National Women’s Political Caucus, she worked tirelessly in support of social services, healthcare and education. “Unbought and Unbossed” as her presidential campaign slogan declared, Chisholm was committed to serving the vulnerable and systemically disenfranchised. She believed women deserved a seat at the table and hired all women for her staff, half of whom were Black. Shirley Chisholm understood the necessity of intersectional political leadership before the word existed, and paved the way for the next generation of racially and gender inclusive political leadership.
Virginia Ensler

Eve Ensler is the Tony Award winning playwright, activist, performer and author of the theatrical phenomenon and Obie Award winning The Vagina Monologues, which has been published in 48 languages and performed in over 140 countries. Ensler’s plays include Floating Rhoda and the Glue Man, Extraordinary Measures, Necessary Targets, OPC, The Good Body and Emotional Creature. Her books include Insecure at Last: A Political Memoir, I Am An Emotional Creature and her critically acclaimed memoir, In the Body of the World, which she adapted into a play that debuted at the American Repertory Theatre. In January 2018, she will be premiering it at Manhattan Theatre Club. Ensler’s film credits include an HBO version of her performance of The Vagina Monologues. She also produced the film What I Want My Words to Do to You, a documentary about the writing group she led at the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility for Women. Ensler is the founder of V-Day, the almost 20-year-old global activist movement to end violence against women and girls which has raised over 100 million dollars for grassroots groups. V-Day led Ensler to found One Billion Rising, the biggest global mass action campaign to end violence against women in human history, now in over 200 countries.

Virginia Durr

Virginia Durr was an American activist and ally who devoted her life to the civil rights movement. She founded the Southern Conference for Human Welfare and helped pass the Voting Rights Act of 1965, supported the Freedom Riders and the sit-in movement. At the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, Durr became the “unofficial den mother for young activists,” providing food and housing to students working on voter registration issues in Montgomery, Alabama. Durr remained politically active her entire life and when she died in 1999 Rosa Parks said that her “upbringing of privilege did not prohibit her from wanting equality for all people.” Virginia Durr was the embodiment of solidarity and AAPF is proud to honor her legacy.
Joy-Ann Reid

Joy Reid is a national correspondent and host of The Reid Report and AM Joy on MSNBC. She is the former Managing Editor of theGrio.com, a daily online news and opinion platform devoted to delivering stories and perspectives that reflect and affect African-American audiences. Reid joined theGrio.com with experience as a freelance columnist for the Miami Herald and as editor of the political blog The Reid Report. She is a former talk radio producer and host for Radio One, and previously served as an online news editor for the NBC affiliate WTVJ in Miramar, FL. During the 2004 presidential campaign, Reid served as the Florida deputy communications director for the 527 “America Coming Together” initiative, and was a press aide in the final stretch of President Barack Obama’s Florida campaign in 2008. Her columns and articles have appeared in the Miami Herald, South Florida Sun-Sentinel, South Florida Times and Salon.com and she’s currently producing a documentary, The Fight Years, which takes a look into the sport of boxing during the 1950s and 1960s in Miami. Reid graduated from Harvard University in 1991 with a concentration in film, and is a 2003 Knight Center for Specialized Journalism fellow. She lives in Brooklyn with her husband and family.

George Curry

George Curry was a pathbreaking journalist whose commentary in Black newspapers around the country earned him the title of “dean of the Black press columnists.” From 1993 to 2000, Curry served as editor of Emerge magazine, making it a premier news source for Black Americans. Emerge provided a valuable critique of Clarence Thomas’ Supreme Court nomination, and shined a light on the story of Kemba Smith, a young woman targeted by the War on Drugs whose 24-year sentence was commuted after the story ran. Curry was unafraid to take a bold stance, used his influence as a journalist to lift up the stories of people other media ignored, and for many years joined AAPF in championing an inclusive vision of racial justice. For his journalistic integrity and commitment to centering Black men and women, AAPF is proud to celebrate his legacy with the George Curry Drum Major For Justice Award.
Barbara Smith

Barbara Smith is the product of a powerful upbringing. As a young girl growing up in Cleveland, she was surrounded by an extended family made up entirely of intellectually and politically-oriented women. A librarian aunt brought books home and made the house a center for discussion and pointed political awareness. “I’m kind of a natural activist,” she later told Ms. magazine. “By the time I was eight I noticed that things were not fair.” A graduate of Mount Holyoke in 1969, Smith quickly joined a wave of scholars and critics who defined a distinctive African-American women’s literary tradition and established Black women’s studies in college curricula. In 1974, she co-founded the influential Black feminist group, the Combahee River Collective. Her leadership made the group a conscience for different movements by calling attention to the ways racism, classism, homophobia, and sexism intersect. When feminists were ignoring issues of race, Smith was there. And when African-Americans were indulging in homophobia, she was there, too. “We understood that dealing with sexual politics didn’t mean you weren’t a race woman, and that speaking out about homophobia didn’t mean that you didn’t want to end poverty.” Smith’s political action—recognized in a 2005 Nobel Peace Prize nomination—has continued to be interwoven with writing and criticism. She co-founded Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press, the first US publisher dedicated to women of color, in 1980. She is currently serving her second term as a member of the Albany Common Council.

Harriet Tubman was an abolitionist and women’s rights activist who earned the nickname “Moses” for leading men, women and children to freedom. Born into slavery, Tubman would become the first woman to lead an armed expedition for the US Army, and she led a raid that freed over 700 enslaved African-Americans during the Civil War. After the war, Tubman fought for women’s suffrage alongside other feminist icons and serves as one of the earliest symbols of a fight for women’s rights that is for the rights of all women. Tubman was a pioneer, who refused to adhere to the limits society placed on her race and gender. Her legacy continues to be an inspiration to the generations of Black women who came after her.
AAPF extends a special thanks to the following artists for their performances this evening on our main stage, receptions and Installation space:

AAPF Jazz Trio — Wes Mingus, James Preston III and Foster Brown
Climbing Poetree
Kai Davis
Rosario Dawson
Bella Dapilma
Abby Dobson
Cassandra Douglas
Kimani Fowlin
Patrice Jackson
Bradd Marquis
Sterling Strings Quartet
DJ Reborn
Michelle Y. Thompson
Christopher White III
Leadership

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Beverly Guy-Sheftall  
Ann F. Thomas

Event Planning Committee

Kimberlé Crenshaw, Co-Founder and Executive Director  
Luke Harris, Co-Founder and Program Director  
Ann F. Thomas, Gala Co-Chair and Board Member  
Thandie Newton, Gala Co-Chair  
Cynthia Greenberg, Gala Director  
Joel Silberman, Production Director  
Vaneh Assadourian, Installation Curator  
Darcie Crager, Installation Curator  
Abby Dobson, Artist-in-Residence  
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Kyndall Clark  
Brionne Janae  
Eb Brown  
Cherrell Brown  
Cynthia Luo  
Niya Kenny

Staff

Kimberlé Crenshaw, Co-Founder and Executive Director  
Luke Harris, Co-Founder and Program Director  
Julia Sharpe-Levine  
Cherrell Brown  
Kyndall Clark  
Teddy Fenster  
Brionne Janae  
Abby Dobson
The faculty, students, and administration of Columbia Law School celebrate our colleague Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw and The African American Policy Forum’s milestone achievement of 20 years in pursuit of justice for women and girls of color by

“Saying Her Name!”

Columbia Law School
New York Law School Salutes
the African American Policy Forum

Congratulations to the Honorees and
Gala Co-Chair and New York Law School
Professor Ann F. Thomas!

nyls.edu
The faculty, students, and administration of UCLA SCHOOL OF LAW warmly congratulate our colleague KIM CRENSHAW and AAPF on 20 years of pathbreaking intersectional advocacy and powerful mobilization to amplify the voices of women and girls of color.
Congratulations!

We thank

The African American Policy Forum,
Kim Crenshaw
and Luke Harris

for 20 years of leadership, scholarship and advocacy.

This is what an intersectional feminist looks like

Daniel L. Rabinowitz and Ann F. Thomas
Sam Rabinowitz
Caleb Rabinowitz and Lisa Walldoz
THE CRITICAL RACE THEORY SCHOLARS THANK

Kimberle Crenshaw
&
The African American Policy Forum

For Putting Critical Race Theory Into Action.

Sameer Ashar, Sahar Aziz, Mario Barnes, Paul Butler, Bennett Capers, Devon Carbado, Sumi Cho, Rose Cuisin-Villazor, Andrea Freeman, Kaaryn Gustafson, Ian F. Haney Lopez, Cheryl I. Harris, Tanya Hernandez, Berta Esperanza Hernández-Truyol, Emily Houh, Charles Lawrence, Cynthia Lee, Nancy Leong, Mari Matsuda, Margaret Montoya (for Diana Martinez, Javier Martinez, and Alejandra Montoyo-Boyer), Angela Onwuachi-Willig, Leah S. Richardson, Victor Romero, Patricia Williams, and Adrien K. Wing.
The Critical Race Studies Faculty at UCLA School of Law extend our warmest congratulations to

Kimberlé Crenshaw

for the powerful ways in which she has used
The African American Policy Forum
to
Think
Teach
&
Transform

Khaled Abou el Fadl
Tendayi Achiume
Aslı Bâli
Devon Carbado
Laura Gómez
Cheryl Harris
Jerry Kang

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Kim Crenshaw
&
The African American Policy Forum

FOR SAYING HER NAME.

Bret Ashbury, Mario Barnes, Paul Butler, Bennett Capers, Devon Carbado, Guy-Uriel Charles, Charlton Copeland, Brian Fair, James Foreman, Jonathan Glater, Hosea Harvey (Angel), Charles Lawrence, Ngai Pindel (Angel), Russell K. Robinson, Frank Rudy-Cooper, in honor of John Mercer Langston, Terry Smith, Sherod Thaxton, and Tony Tolbert.
Planned Parenthood Federation of America is proud to support the African American Policy Forum.

We applaud and celebrate you on 20 years of progressive political and social organizing work that elevates the voices of women and girls of color.

Congratulations to all the incredible Say Her Name: 20 Years of Intersectionality in Action Gala honorees!

The Charlotte Sheedy Literary Agency is grateful for the vitally important work of the African American Policy Forum!
THE NATIONAL WOMEN’S STUDIES ASSOCIATION
celebrates 20 years of AAPF

Congratulations to AAPF Honoree
Combahee Collective Co-Founder
Barbara Smith

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Congratulations African American Policy Forum for your 20 invaluable years of intersectional research and progressive activism both in the US and abroad!

IWPR looks forward to our continued partnership for many years to come.

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African American Policy Forum

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**Rep. Keith Ellison (D-MN)**
The Shirley Chisholm Political Leadership Award

**Eve Ensler**
The Virginia Dunn Solidarity Award

**Joy-Ann Reid**
The George Curry Drum Major For Justice Award for Excellence in Journalism

**Barbara Smith**
The Harriet Tubman Lifetime Achievement Award

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**CONGRATULATIONS TO**

The African American Policy Forum, Kimberlé Crenshaw, and Dr. Luke C. Harris, Jr.

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– Charlene Carruthers, National Director, BYP 100

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California NOW sends congratulations to all of the AAPF 20th Anniversary Gala Awardees!

Keep Saying Her Name!
Thank you to tonight’s generous sponsors!

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