Aunty Puanani Burgess

Aunty Puanani Burgess is a poet, priest, aunty, and friend to many. She has been a community activist in the Native Hawaiian sovereignty movement for over fifty years. As the designer and facilitator for Building the Beloved Community – a process that brings ceremony, storytelling, and circles of trust and respect – Aunty Pua has shared Native Hawaiian practices throughout the world to bring healing and reconciliation.

She served as the Myles and Zilphia Horton Chair for the Highlander Research and Education Center in Tennessee and as a community scholar in residence at the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Hawai‘i. Aunty Pua is an ordained Zen Buddhist priest in the International Daihonzan Chozen-ji.

Dr. Maya Soetoro-Ng

Dr. Maya Soetoro-Ng is a Faculty Specialist in the College of Social Sciences at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. She also serves as the University’s liaison to the Obama Foundation and works with the Foundation’s Leaders program and Global Girls Alliance on initiatives in Hawai‘i and the Asia-Pacific region.

Previously, she was the Director of the Matsunaga Institute for Peace at the University of Hawai‘i, where, in addition to leading outreach and development initiatives, she also taught Leadership for Social Change, Peace Movements, Peace Education, and Conflict Management. For many years, she worked at the College of Education at the University, where she taught Multicultural Education, Social Studies Methods, and Peace Education at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. Maya sits on several voluntary boards and is the Co-Founder of the non-profits Ceeds of Peace, The Peace Studio, and The Institute for Climate and Peace. In 2021, Maya launched a podcast entitled “The Bravethrough Series: Courageous Conversations on Community” in partnership with KTUH Honolulu.

Karen Grattan

Karen Grattan is the Founder and CEO of Engaging Inquiry. As a senior consultant with over 25 years of experience, Karen is best known for her practice of accompanying impact-focused organizations as they endeavor to stimulate sustainable social and organizational change at scale. She is a weaver of methods and approaches, and especially loves designing novel analytics embedded within participatory organizational processes. Karen has supported various Non-Governmental and US Government clients in policy and strategy-making, including The Omidyar Group where she has been supporting the development of the systems practice being used by its initiative teams and board. Karen is co-author of the The Omidyar Group’s Systems Practice workbook, which is also the centerpiece of a +Acumen course.

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