E Pluribus Unum National Advisory Council Member Biographies

E Pluribus Unum’s National Advisory Council is a network of respected leaders and experts from the fields of the arts and culture, business, higher education, history, media, philanthropy, public policy, and sports. This diverse group of professionals will lend its expertise and knowledge to advise on and support E Pluribus Unum’s programming and policy goals.

E Pluribus Unum’s National Advisory Council includes:

- Angela Glover Blackwell, Founder in Residence, PolicyLink
- Donna Brazile, veteran political strategist, adjunct professor, author, and syndicated columnist
- Bill Bynum, Chief Executive Officer, Hope Credit Union
- The Honorable Bill Clinton, 42nd President of the United States
- Michelle Ebanks, President, Essence Communications Inc.
- Oskar Eustis, Artistic Director, The Public Theater
- Drew Gilpin Faust, President Emeritus, Harvard University
- Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Alphonse Fletcher University Professor, Hutchins Center for African & African American Research, Harvard University
- Laurene Powell Jobs, Founder and President, Emerson Collective
- The Honorable John Lewis, United States Representative (GA-5)
- Michael L. Lomax, Ph.D., President and CEO, UNCF (United Negro College Fund)
- Fred Luter, Jr., Pastor, Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, former president, Southern Baptist Convention
- Marc H. Morial, President and CEO, National Urban League
- Adam Silver, Commissioner, National Basketball Association
- Cleo Wade, Author & Activist
- Darren Walker, President, Ford Foundation
Angela Glover Blackwell, Founder in Residence, PolicyLink

Angela Glover Blackwell is Founder in Residence at PolicyLink, the organization she started in 1999 to advance racial and economic equity for all. Under Angela’s leadership, PolicyLink gained national prominence in the movement to use public policy to improve access and opportunity for all low-income people and communities of color, particularly in the areas of health, housing, transportation, and infrastructure. Her Radical Imagination podcast debuted in September 2019, and introduces listeners to a world of talented, creative, progressive thinkers whose vision and determination are challenging the status quo to create the change we need.


As a leading voice in the movement for equity in America, Angela serves on numerous boards, and she advised the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve as one of 15 members of its inaugural Community Advisory Council. She is the 2018 recipient of the John W. Gardner Leadership Award, presented by the Independent Sector, and in 2017, she received the Peter E. Haas Public Service Award from the University of California, Berkeley.
Donna Brazile, veteran political strategist, adjunct professor, author, and syndicated columnist

Fox News contributor and veteran political strategist Donna Brazile is the former interim Chair of the Democratic National Committee and became the first African American woman to serve as the manager of a major party presidential campaign, running the campaign of former Vice President Al Gore. She is the author of the 2004 best-selling memoir *Cooking with Grease: Stirring the Pots in American Politics* and the 2017 New York Times Bestseller *Hacks: The Inside Story of the Break-Ins and Breakdowns That Put Donald Trump in The White House*. She is a co-author of *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Politics*, which won the 2019 NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work, Nonfiction.

Brazile has lectured at over 200 colleges and universities across the country. In 2013, Ms. Brazile was appointed by President Obama to serve on the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. She is also the proud recipient of more than ten honorary doctorate degrees from major colleges and universities, including her alma mater Louisiana State University. In October 2017, Ms. Brazile was the recipient of the W.E.B Du Bois Medal, Harvard’s highest honor in African American studies. Brazile has served as an adjunct professor at Georgetown University since 2002 and spent the fall of 2017 serving as a Joan Shorenstein fellow in Media, Politics and Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School. She is currently serving a second consecutive term as the Gwendolyn S. and Colbert I. King Endowed Chair in Public Policy at Howard University.
Bill Bynum, Chief Executive Officer, Hope Credit Union

For more than three decades, Bill Bynum has worked to advance economic opportunity for disenfranchised populations. He began his professional career in North Carolina by helping to establish Self-Help, a pioneer in the development finance industry, and later built nationally recognized programs at the NC Rural Economic Development Center. In 1994, Bill moved to Mississippi to become the founding CEO of the Enterprise Corporation of the Delta, and in 1995 organized Hope Community Credit Union.

Today, HOPE (Hope Enterprise Corporation, Hope Credit Union and Hope Policy Institute), is a family of organizations that provides financial services; leverages private, public and philanthropic resources; and engages in policy analysis to fulfill its mission of strengthening communities, building assets, and improving lives in economically distressed parts of Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee. Since 1994, HOPE has generated more than $2 billion in financing that has benefitted more than one million people in of the nation’s most impoverished regions.

Bynum serves on the boards of the Aspen Institute, NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Prosperity Now, William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation and is a member of the US Partnership on Mobility from Poverty. Bill previously chaired the Treasury Department’s Community Development Advisory Board and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Consumer Advisory Board. A recipient of the University of North Carolina Distinguished Alumnus Award, Bynum’s honors include the John P. McNulty Prize (Aspen Global Leadership Network), Ned Gramlich Award for Responsible Finance (Opportunity Finance Network), National Entrepreneur of the Year (Ernst & Young/Kauffman Foundation), Rural Hero Award (National Rural Assembly), Pete Crear Lifetime Achievement Award (African American Credit Union Coalition) and Annie Vamper Helping Hands Award (National Federation of Community Development Credit Unions).
The Honorable Bill Clinton, 42nd President of the United States

William Jefferson Clinton, the first Democratic president in six decades to be elected twice, led the U.S. to the longest economic expansion in American history, including the creation of more than 22 million jobs.

After leaving the White House, President Clinton established the William J. Clinton Foundation, and today, the renamed Bill, Hillary & Chelsea Clinton Foundation, works to improve global health and wellness, increase opportunity for girls and women, reduce childhood obesity, create economic opportunity and growth, and help communities address the effects of climate change.

Today the Foundation has staff and volunteers around the world working to improve lives through several initiatives, including the independent Clinton Health Access Initiative, through which over 11.5 million people in more than 70 countries have access to CHAI-negotiated prices for HIV/AIDS medications. The Clinton Climate Initiative, the Clinton Development Initiative, and the Clinton Giustra Enterprise Partnership are applying a business-oriented approach to promote sustainable economic growth and to fight climate change worldwide and in Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean. In the U.S., the Foundation is working to combat the alarming rise in childhood obesity and preventable disease through the Alliance for a Healthier Generation and the Clinton Health Matters Initiative. Established in 2005, the Clinton Global Initiative brings together global leaders to devise and implement innovative solutions to some of the world’s most pressing issues. So far, more than 3,600 Clinton Global Initiative commitments have improved the lives of over 435 million people in more than 180 countries.

In addition to his Foundation work, President Clinton has joined with former President George H.W. Bush three times – after the 2004 tsunami in South Asia, Hurricane Katrina in 2005, and Hurricane Ike in 2008, and with President George W. Bush in Haiti in the aftermath of the 2010 earthquake. Today the Clinton Foundation supports economic growth, job creation, and sustainability in Haiti.

President Clinton was born on August 19, 1946, in Hope, Arkansas. He and his wife Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton have one daughter, Chelsea, and live in Chappaqua, New York.
Michelle Ebanks, President, Essence Communications Inc.

Michelle Ebanks serves as President of Essence Communications Inc. and President of People en Español; responsible for advancing Time Inc.’s businesses within the nation’s fastest growing population segments: African-Americans and Hispanics. As President of Essence Communications Inc., Ebanks leads the number one media and communications company dedicated to African-American women. The organization is comprised of diverse media and entertainment properties with total brand reach of 12 million including ESSENCE magazine, the preeminent lifestyle magazine for African-American women; ESSENCE.com, the award-winning, daily online destination for African-American women; and the internationally renowned Essence Festival, one of the largest annual live events in the world attracting more than 540,000 attendees to New Orleans during July Fourth weekend. Ebanks joined ESSENCE in March 2001 as Group Publisher. Since then, within an increasingly competitive media landscape, ESSENCE continues to increase its market share and remains well-positioned to serve its audience through innovative brand extensions, and expanding the ESSENCE brand across a number of multiple platforms, including digital, television, live events and social media. Recently named to the additional post of President of People en Español, Ebanks is responsible for managing the strategic development of one of the nation’s top-selling Hispanic magazines, reaching 7.3 million readers every month. The brand, including online property Peopleenespanol.com and the annual Festival in San Antonio, shares cultural values, beliefs and distinct narratives that resonate deeply with one of the fastest growing groups in the United States. Working closely with the People en Español management team, Ebanks is poised to take this exceptional brand to even greater heights particularly in the areas of live events, online, and magazine growth. Ebanks began her 15-year career at Time Inc. as the general manager and financial director for Time Inc.’s Money magazine. Subsequently, she was a vice-president in Time Inc.’s corporate division, where she led the acquisition of ESSENCE. Prior to joining Time Inc., she served as corporate business manager for Condé Nast’s 13 titles. Ebanks was appointed to the Board of Directors of Nordstrom, as well as the YMCA’s Arts & Letters Committee. She is a member of the Executive Leadership Council, and enjoys mentoring women and men from around the world.
Oskar Eustis, Artistic Director, The Public Theater

Oskar Eustis has served as the artistic director of The Public Theater since 2005, after serving as the artistic director at Trinity Repertory Company in Providence, RI from 1994 to 2005. Throughout his career, Eustis has been dedicated to the development of new work that speaks to the great issues of our time and has worked with countless artists in pursuit of that aim, including Tony Kushner, Suzan-Lori Parks, David Henry Hwang, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Richard Nelson, Rinne Groff, Tarell Alvin McCraney, and Lisa Kron. He is currently a professor at New York University and has held professorships at UCLA, Middlebury College, and Brown University.
Drew Gilpin Faust, President Emeritus, Harvard University

Drew Gilpin Faust is President Emerita of Harvard University and the Arthur Kingsley Porter University Professor.

As president of Harvard from 2007 to 2018, Faust expanded financial aid to improve access to Harvard College for students of all economic backgrounds and advocated for increased federal funding for scientific research. She broadened the University’s international reach, led a highly successful capital campaign, updated University governance, raised the profile of the arts on campus, promoted diversity and inclusion, embraced sustainability, launched edX, the online learning partnership with MIT, and promoted collaboration across academic disciplines and administrative units as she guided the University through a period of significant financial challenges.

Faust previously served as founding dean of the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study (2001-2007). Before coming to Radcliffe, she was the Annenberg Professor of History at the University of Pennsylvania.

She is the author of six books, including most recently This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War (2008), which chronicles the impact of the Civil War’s enormous death toll on the lives of nineteenth-century Americans. It was awarded the 2009 Bancroft Prize, the New-York Historical Society’s 2009 American History Book Prize, and was recognized by The New York Times as one of the “Ten Best Books of 2008.” This Republic of Suffering is the basis for a 2012 Emmy-nominated episode of the PBS American Experience documentaries titled Death and the Civil War, directed by Ric Burns. She is a contributing writer at The Atlantic.

Faust’s honors include awards in 1982 and 1996 for distinguished teaching at the University of Pennsylvania. She was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1994, the Society of American Historians in 1993, and the American Philosophical Society in 2004. In September of 2018 she was awarded the John W. Kluge Prize for Achievement in the Study of Humanity by the Library of Congress. She received her bachelor’s degree from Bryn Mawr in 1968, magna cum laude with honors in history, and master’s (1971) and doctoral (1975) degrees in American civilization from the University of Pennsylvania.
Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Alphonse Fletcher University Professor, Hutchins Center for African & African American Research, Harvard University

Henry Louis Gates, Jr., is the Alphonse Fletcher University Professor and Director of the Hutchins Center for African and African American Research at Harvard University. Emmy Award-winning filmmaker, literary scholar, journalist, cultural critic, and institution builder, Professor Gates has authored or co-authored twenty-one books and created fifteen documentary films, including Wonders of the African World, African American Lives, Faces of America, Black in Latin America, and Finding Your Roots, his groundbreaking genealogy series now in its third season on PBS. His six-part PBS documentary series, The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross (2013), which he wrote, executive produced, and hosted, earned the Emmy Award for Outstanding Historical Program—Long Form, as well as the Peabody Award, Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Award, and NAACP Image Award. Having written for such leading publications as The New Yorker, The New York Times, and Time, Professor Gates now serves as chairman of TheRoot.com, a daily online magazine he co-founded in 2008, while overseeing the Oxford African American Studies Center, the first comprehensive scholarly online resource in the field. He has also received grant funding to develop a Finding Your Roots curriculum to teach students science through genetics and genealogy. In 2012, The Henry Louis Gates, Jr. Reader, a collection of his writings edited by Abby Wolf, was published. His next film is the four-hour documentary series, And Still I Rise: Black America since MLK, airing on PBS in April 2016; a companion book, which he co-authored with Kevin M. Burke, was published by Ecco/HarperCollins in 2015.

The recipient of fifty-five honorary degrees and numerous prizes, Professor Gates was a member of the first class awarded “genius grants” by the MacArthur Foundation in 1981, and in 1998, he became the first African American scholar to be awarded the National Humanities Medal. He was named to Time’s 25 Most Influential Americans list in 1997, to Ebony’s Power 150 list in 2009, and to Ebony’s Power 100 list in 2010 and 2012. He earned his B.A. in English Language and Literature, summa cum laude, from Yale University in 1973, and his M.A. and Ph.D. in English Literature from Clare College at the University of Cambridge in 1979. Professor Gates has directed the W. E. B. Institute for African and African American Research—now the Hutchins Center—since arriving at Harvard in 1991, and during his first fifteen years on campus, he chaired the Department of Afro-American Studies as it expanded into the Department of African and African American Studies with a full-fledged doctoral program. He also is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters and serves on a wide array of boards, including the New York Public Library, the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, the Aspen Institute, Jazz at Lincoln Center, the Whitney Museum of American Art, Library of America, and the Brookings Institution.
Laurene Powell Jobs, Founder and President, Emerson Collective

Laurene Powell Jobs is founder and president of Emerson Collective. Based in Palo Alto with a strong presence in Oakland, Chicago, and Washington, D.C., Emerson Collective uses philanthropy, impact investing, and promoting policy solutions to reimagine some of society’s most calcified systems and create new possibilities for individuals, families, and communities. Emerson’s mission centers on advancing immigration policies, preserving the environment, re-envisioning the future of high school, and ending gun violence in Chicago.

Powell Jobs serves as board chair of The XQ Institute and College Track, a college completion program she founded in 1997 to combat the alarming achievement gap among students of color. She also serves on the Stanford University Board of Trustees and the boards of Chicago CRED, Conservation International, and The Council on Foreign Relations. She is co-owner of The Atlantic, Anonymous Content and Concordia Studio, and an investor in Monumental Sports & Entertainment.

Powell Jobs earned her bachelor’s degree in political science and economics from the University of Pennsylvania, and an MBA from Stanford University’s Graduate School of Business.
The Honorable John Lewis, United States Representative (GA-5)

Often called "one of the most courageous persons the Civil Rights Movement ever produced," John Lewis has dedicated his life to protecting human rights, securing civil liberties, and building what he calls "The Beloved Community" in America.

He was born the son of sharecroppers on February 21, 1940, outside of Troy, Alabama. He grew up on his family's farm and attended segregated public schools in Pike County, Alabama. As a young boy, he was inspired by the activism surrounding the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the words of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., which he heard on radio broadcasts. In those pivotal moments, he made a decision to become a part of the Civil Rights Movement. Ever since then, he has remained at the vanguard of progressive social movements and the human rights struggle in the United States.

In 1961, he volunteered to participate in the Freedom Rides, which challenged segregation at interstate bus terminals across the South.

By 1963, he was dubbed one of the Big Six leaders of the Civil Rights Movement.

In 1964, John Lewis coordinated Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) efforts to organize voter registration drives and community action programs during the Mississippi Freedom Summer. The following year, Lewis helped spearhead one of the most seminal moments of the Civil Rights Movement.

Despite more than 40 arrests, physical attacks and serious injuries, John Lewis remained a devoted advocate of the philosophy of nonviolence.

In 1977, John Lewis was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to direct more than 250,000 volunteers of ACTION, the federal volunteer agency.

In 1981, he was elected to the Atlanta City Council. He was elected to Congress in November 1986 and has served as U.S. Representative of Georgia's Fifth Congressional District since then. He is Senior Chief Deputy Whip for the Democratic Party in leadership in the House, a member of the House Ways & Means Committee, and Chairman of its Subcommittee on Oversight.

John Lewis holds a B.A. in Religion and Philosophy from Fisk University, and he is a graduate of the American Baptist Theological Seminary, both in Nashville, Tennessee.

John Lewis lives in Atlanta, Georgia. He has one son, John Miles.
Michael L. Lomax, Ph.D., President and CEO, UNCF (United Negro College Fund)

Since 2004, Dr. Michael L. Lomax has served as president and CEO of UNCF, the nation’s largest private provider of scholarship and other educational support to African American students and a leading advocate of college readiness: students’ need for an education, from pre-school through high school, that prepares them for college success. Under his leadership, UNCF has raised more than $1.5 billion and helped more than 110,000 students earn college degrees and launch careers. Annually, UNCF’s work enables 60,000 students to go to college with UNCF scholarships and attend its 37 member historically black college and universities (HBCUs).

At UNCF’s helm, Dr. Lomax oversees the organization’s 400 scholarship programs, which award 10,000 scholarships a year. He also launched the UNCF Institute for Capacity Building, which helps UNCF’s member HBCUs become stronger, more effective and more self-sustaining.

Under Dr. Lomax's leadership, UNCF has fought for college readiness and education reform through partnerships with reform-focused leaders and organizations and worked to further advance HBCUs with Congress, the administration and the Department of Education. He serves on the boards of the KIPP Foundation, America’s Promise, the Smithsonian Institution’s Museum of African American History and Culture and the Studio Museum in Harlem.

Before joining UNCF, Dr. Lomax was president of Dillard University in New Orleans and a literature professor at UNCF-member institutions Morehouse and Spelman Colleges. He also founded the National Black Arts Festival and served as chairman of the Fulton County Commission in Atlanta, the first African American elected to that post.
Fred Luter, Jr., Pastor, Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, former president, Southern Baptist Convention

Fred J. Luter Jr. (born 1956 November 11 in New Orleans) is a former president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC). He was elected on 2012 June 19, and he is SBC’s first African-American president. Luter is senior minister of the Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans.

Before Hurricane Katrina struck in 2005, the congregation had grown to over 7000 members, making it the largest congregation affiliated with SBC in Louisiana.

Luter led the rebuilding of the membership after the diaspora from Katrina, and as of his election to the Southern Baptist presidency the congregation had 5000 members. In 1980 Fred Luter married Elizabeth W. Luter. The couple has two children.
Marc H. Morial, President and CEO, National Urban League

Marc Morial, who has been described as one of the few national leaders to possess “street smarts”, and “boardroom savvy”, is the current President and CEO of the National Urban League, the nation’s largest historic civil rights and urban advocacy organization.

He served as the highly successful and popular Mayor of New Orleans as well as the President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. He previously was a Louisiana State Senator, and was a lawyer in New Orleans with an active, high profile practice.

He is a leading voice on the national stage in the battle for jobs, education, housing and voting rights equity.

A graduate of Georgetown University Law Center, and the University of Pennsylvania, he has been recognized as one of the 100 most influential Black Americans by Ebony Magazine, one of the top 50 Non Profit Leaders by the Non Profit Times, one of the 100 Most Influential Black Lawyers in America and he has also been inducted into the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame in Atlanta, GA.
Adam Silver, Commissioner, National Basketball Association

Adam Silver was unanimously elected NBA Commissioner on Feb. 1, 2014, by the NBA Board of Governors.

Silver presides over a global sports and media business built around four professional sports leagues: the National Basketball Association, Women’s National Basketball Association, NBA G League and NBA 2K League. He is dedicated to growing basketball around the world, embracing innovation and new technologies, increasing transparency and using basketball to bring people together and promote health and fitness.

Silver has been ranked No. 1 on SportsBusiness Journal’s annual list of the 50 Most Influential People in Sports Business. He was also named to TIME’s 100 Most Influential People, Fortune’s World’s 50 Greatest Leaders, and The Bloomberg 50, Bloomberg Businessweek’s list of 50 people who defined global business. Additionally, Silver has earned Sports Executive of the Year honors at the Sports Business Awards and was named Sports Illustrated’s Executive of the Year.

Prior to becoming commissioner, Silver served as NBA Deputy Commissioner and Chief Operating Officer for eight years. He has been instrumental to many of the league’s signature achievements, including the negotiation of three collective bargaining agreements with the National Basketball Players Association; the development of the WNBA, NBA G League, NBA 2K League and the Basketball Africa League; the partnership with Turner Broadcasting to manage the NBA’s digital assets; and the creation of NBA China.
Cleo Wade, Author and Activist

Cleo Wade is the author of the best-selling book, “Heart Talk: Poetic Wisdom for a Better Life.” Her latest book, “Where To Begin: A Small Book About Your Power To Create Big Change In Our Crazy World” was released on October 7, 2019 and is available wherever books are sold.

Her poetry, artwork, and prose speaks to our collective power to create change through an individual commitment to self-care, beloved community building, and social justice.

Cleo has been named one of America’s 50 Most Influential Women by Marie Claire, 100 most creative people in business by Fast Company, and “The Millennial Oprah” by New York Magazine.

Cleo lives in New York City where she sits on the board of The Lower East Side Girls Club, The National Black Theatre in Harlem, as well as the advisory board of Gucci’s Chime for Change.
Darren Walker, President, Ford Foundation

Darren Walker is president of the Ford Foundation, a $13 billion international social justice philanthropy with offices in the U.S. and ten regions around the globe. For two decades, he has been a leader in the nonprofit and philanthropic sectors.

Darren led the philanthropy committee that helped bring a resolution to the city of Detroit’s historic bankruptcy, and chairs the U.S. Impact Investing Alliance and the Presidents’ Council on Disability Inclusion in Philanthropy. He co-chairs New York City’s Mayoral Advisory Commission on City Art, Monuments, and Markers, and serves on the The Independent Commission on New York City Criminal Justice and Incarceration Reform and the UN International Labour Organization Global Commission on the Future of Work.

He also serves on the boards of Carnegie Hall, the High Line, VOW to End Child Marriage, the Committee to Protect Journalists, the National Gallery of Art, and the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History & Culture. He is also a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Educated exclusively in public schools, Darren was a member of the first class of Head Start in 1965 and received his bachelor’s and law degrees from The University of Texas at Austin.