

DISMANTLING THE SCHOOL TO PRISON PIPELINE

BIOGRAPHIES

Arnold L. Chandler

Forward Change Consulting



Arnold L. Chandler is an advocate, researcher, trainer and social change strategist who for more than 14 years has helped nonprofits and foundations to develop evidence-informed strategies to advance programs and policies focused on social and economic equity. He is the co-founder of Forward Change Consulting based in Oakland, California. Recently, he was a Senior Research Associate at the Warren Institute on Law and Social Policy at the U.C. Berkeley School of Law. Before that he was a research analyst working with a team to reform the Oakland Police Department as part of a federal lawsuit settled in 2001. Prior to that he was a researcher and policy strategist at Policy Link for six years. Chandler has authored several important policy analyses and studies in the social justice field as well as advised several nonprofit organizations on the use of Internet tools for supporting advocacy and social change efforts. He has a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and a M.S. in Information Systems. He lives in Oakland, California with his wife Janet.

Tia Elena Martinez

Forward Change Consulting



Tia Elena Martinez has over 25 years of experience doing social change work in low income communities and communities of color in the United States. Over the decades her work has spanned a wide range of issues including education reform, the HIV/AIDS epidemic, the war on drugs, homelessness, affordable housing, disconnected youth, and immigration. She is currently an independent consultant doing work on dismantling the school to prison pipeline and transforming life chances for boys and men of color. Prior to consulting, she was the Chief Equity Officer at the Stupski Foundation where she designed a R and D effort focused on applying knowledge from the psychology and neuroscience to help low income students and student of color own and drive their learning and increase academic achievement.

Tia came to the foundation from the Warren Institute on Race, Ethnicity and Diversity at UC Berkeley Law School, where she was acting director of education, leading a policy unit focused on issues related to education reform, teacher effectiveness, and racial justice. Prior to joining the Warren Institute, she served as strategic consultant to the Office for Civil Rights in the US Department of Education leading their strategic planning process and supporting rollout and implementation of the new strategy across 12 regional offices. Prior to working with the department, Tia was a senior manager with the Bridgespan Group where she led engagements with large, national foundations and major civil rights groups. She's also been a senior fellow at the Hewlett Foundation, a policy analyst for the Corporation for Supportive Housing and the San Francisco Mayor's HIV Health Services Planning Council, and a street outreach worker. Tia has an AB in History from Harvard University, a Master in Public Policy from the University of California, Berkeley Goldman School of Public Policy, and a JD from Stanford Law School.

Dr. Tommy Chang

Boston Public Schools Superintendent



Superintendent Tommy Chang took over as leader of the Boston Public Schools on July 1, 2015, succeeding retired Interim Superintendent John P. McDonough.

The Boston School Committee in March 2015 selected Dr. Chang as the new superintendent from a field of four finalists, awarding him a five-year contract – the longest of any in the country for the head of a large urban district. Nearly three months before officially starting as superintendent, Dr. Chang arrived in Boston and embarked on a “Listen and Learn Tour.” He and his transition team visited more than 30 schools across Boston and had meetings with over 1,500 community members.

The team’s work laid the foundation for BPS’s 100-Day Plan, which calls for the creation of a “Culture of We” – a concept that embraces greater collaboration and two-way communication between the district’s staff and the students, families and community members BPS serves at 125 schools.

“Innovation interrupts people’s norms but change is inevitable and necessary. Thus, it is the role of school-system leaders to foster innovation and create environments where teaching and learning can truly be transformed,” Dr. Chang said of his vision for putting Boston Public Schools on a path to provide a world-class education. “To create such an environment, there must be genuine empathy and authentic collaboration -- where relationships can be formed and best practices can be shared. Only in this way can we truly inspire excellence.”

Dr. Chang’s work during his first year as Superintendent has included launching the Excellence for All Initiative, which aims to expand the Advanced Work Class accelerated curriculum program for 4th grade students. Operating through the lens of equity, Dr. Chang also announced the expansion of the Exam School Initiative preparatory program. The expansion of this prep program targets students from traditionally underrepresented schools who are seeking admission into the district’s three “exam schools.”

Prior to joining the Boston Public Schools, Dr. Chang served as the local instructional superintendent of the Intensive Support & Innovation Center (ISIC) at the Los Angeles Unified School District, where he oversaw 135 schools and approximately 95,000 students.

Dr. Chang, a former biology teacher at Compton High School and a founding principal of a charter school in Venice, Calif., also previously served as special assistant to the superintendent of LAUSD. A native of Taiwan who immigrated with his family to the U.S. at age six and grew up in L.A., Dr. Chang holds an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from Loyola Marymount University, a M.Ed. from the Principals Leadership Institute at UCLA, a M.Ed. from the Teachers Education Program at UCLA, and a bachelor’s degree from the University of Pennsylvania.

Mo Barbosa

Associate Director for Training and Capacity Building at HRiA



As a practitioner, Mr. Barbosa's work has focused on expanding opportunities for community members and building equitable relationships between community members and institutions. He develops and provides training and technical assistance, leads and participates in planning initiatives (locally, statewide, and nationally), and promotes the profession and professionalization of the field through his work on legislation, youth worker networks, partnerships with higher education, and conferences. Mr. Barbosa has extensive expertise and experience facilitating community processes and has worked with gangs, parents, youth, political organizations, tenant councils, and community resident groups.

He is the chairperson of Men of Color Health Task Force, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Cambridge Health Alliance, board member of the Cambridge Public Health Committee, Chair of the Community Health Advisory Committee, member of Board of Trustees of the Phillips Brooks House

Association at Harvard University and on the board of the Design Studio for Social Intervention. Mr. Barbosa has served as an Adjunct Instructor at the College of Public and Community Service of the University of Massachusetts-Boston, helping to develop curricula focused on community youth work. Mo Barbosa is a native of Cape Verde Islands who grew up in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Michael Jones

Spoken Word Performer



Michael Jones is nineteen and a student at Boston Day and Evening Academy (BDEA), and also attended Excel High School. He is politically active and involved with a number of causes around social justice. He writes and performs spoken word, and has performed at a number of community venues, most recently at the May 26th Displaced Voices Talent Show, hosted by the Opportunity Youth Collaborative's Youth Voice Project. In April, he performed in Louder than a Bomb, a spoken word competition that is part of a national project. He participates in Lyricists' Lounge at BDEA, an interfaith advisory that performs spoken word, music and rap. He was a Boston finalist for the August Wilson Monologue in January.

Michael is interested in politics and history. He enjoys debating and debated with the Excel Debate Team. Ever an advocate, he is trying to convince BDEA to start a debating team. Over the summer, he plans to work with the Boston Student Advisory Council, a youth voice and advocacy group that has worked with the BPS on school discipline for a number of years. Michael's long term goal is to become a history teacher.