

# BEYOND THE BARS *UNTIL SHE'S FREE*

9TH ANNUAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY



A Night of Culture

**THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2019**

MIST Harlem

BEYOND  
THE  
BARS

# **Welcome to Beyond the Bars 2019: Until She's Free**

This year's conference is focusing on both the incarceration and criminalization of women and girls, as well as their families and communities. Our focus is inclusive of transgender, non-binary, and gender non-conforming people. The many struggles for justice, equity and safety led by women and girls directly impacted by the criminal legal system are at the heart of this conference, as we create a space to further strengthen and advance change.

## Conference Schedule

### **THURSDAY NIGHT**

#### **Until She's Free: A Night of Culture**

7:00-9:30pm, MIST Harlem  
(Doors at 6:30, Event Starts at 7:00pm)

### **FRIDAY NIGHT**

#### **Until She's Free: Building the Movement**

7:30-9:30pm, Lerner Hall, Columbia University  
(Doors at 6:45pm - Event Starts at 7:30pm)

### **SATURDAY**

#### **Until She's Free: Plenaries and Breakout Sessions**

9:30-5pm, Columbia School of Social Work

#### **Youth Summit: #SayHerMagicMatters**

9:30-5pm, Columbia School of Social Work

#### **Film Screenings and Talkbacks**

5:30-8pm, Columbia School of Social Work

### **SUNDAY**

#### **Building the Grassroots - Organizing Workshops**

10:00 - 5:00pm, Columbia School of Social Work

# UNTIL SHE'S FREE: A Night of Culture

## PROGRAM

### **Land Acknowledgement**

Murielle Borst-Tarrant (Kuna/Rappahannock Nations)

### **Performance**

"LIFE"

The Graduates

The Conquerors

Queens of the Nation

### **Performance**

"Untitled"

Robert Wright

### **Letter Reading**

Michelle Jones

### **Launch of the Women Transcending Collective Leadership Institute**

### **Performance**

"She Can Heal"

Women Beyond the Bars

### **Hosted by Piper Anderson**

*Welcome Music by Ivan Calaff*

## BIOS

**Piper Anderson** is a storyteller, coach, and facilitator. In spring 2016, Anderson was awarded a TED Residency to develop an innovative storytelling project called Mass Story Lab. Mass Story Lab has traveled to more than thirteen U.S cities making the stories of people impacted by incarceration an instrument of justice. In her TED Talk, “Can Stories Create Justice?”, she challenges us to throw out punitive notions of justice and imagine a system that builds and restores humanity. Best known for her masterful facilitation, she is in high demand nationally for her training, speaking, and consulting with institutions on how to make workplaces and communities more inclusive and equitable. With growing urgency within our culture on how to engage across difference, Fast Company turned to Anderson for her best strategies on how to facilitate difficult conversations. Piper Anderson is a Professor at NYU’s Gallatin School and a founding member of the advisory board and faculty of NYU’s Prison Education Program. She has guest lectured at universities across the country including Harvard Law, Columbia University, Georgetown, and the New School. She is a New School Writing Democracy Fellow, a Culture Push Fellow for Utopian Practice, and a Civic Hall Organizer in Residence. Piper Anderson has dedicated her life to providing leaders with the generative spaces and tools they need to define and build the kinds of communities they want to live and work in.

**Murielle Borst-Tarrant** (Kuna/Rappahannock Nations) is the Artistic Director at Safe Harbors Indigenous Collective

**Carlos Ivan Calaff** is a father, brother, friend, musician/songwriter, artist, bibliophile, scholar, poet, human rights activist, leader, and lover of knowledge.

**Michelle Jones** is a second-year doctoral student in the American Studies program New York University. After being granted a Bachelor’s degree from Ball State University, Michelle completed a four-year seminary ministerial diploma from the University of the South. Her interest in history, women, race, and prisons led her to participate in a scholarly project challenging the narratives of the history of women’s prison

with a group of incarcerated scholars. While incarcerated, she presented legislative testimony on a reentry alternative she created for long-term incarcerated people that was approved by the Indiana State Interim Committee on the Criminal Code. She is chairwoman of the board of Constructing Our Future, a reentry alternative for women created by incarcerated women in Indiana, which provides women leaving prison with access to rehabilitative programming, carpentry job skills and the means to earn their own home, and serves as Entrepreneurship Development Director for The Ladies of Hope Ministries as well as a 2017-18 Beyond the Bars fellow, a 2017-18 Research Fellow at the Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History at Harvard University, and a 2018-19 Ford Foundation Bearing Witness Fellow with Art for Justice. Michelle is a Co-Researcher in the Women Transcending Initiatives Oral History Project.

**Queens of the Nation** are the women of the indigenous culture of New Orleans, the Blackmasking Indians known worldwide as the Mardi Gras Indians. The tradition of “masking” goes back to the early 1800s and is an act of resistance amongst the people of color in New Orleans. There are over 75 tribes or nations. The Queens present today include Laurita Dollis of The Wild Magnolias, Kelly Pearson of the Creole Osceola and Ausettua AmorAmenkum of The Washitaw Nation.

**The Conquerors, Veronica Scaief, Barbara Scott and Jacqueline H Williams**, met in 1998 in Harrison County Jail in Mississippi. They are from different parts of the Country, yet they met at one of the lowest points in their lives. The Conquerors started singing in jail and continued their ministry of music and testimony, traveling around the US, giving God the glory for their new lives, and giving hope to families and individuals who have been destroyed by drug use and separation from their loved ones because of incarceration. It's never to late to get back on track and do what God has for you to do. The Conquerors are proof of that. Call: (228) 365-0203 to contact the Conquerors.

**The Graduates**, founded in 2012, is a performance ensemble composed of four formerly incarcerated women from Louisiana, who were former members of the 23-year-old Drama Club at the Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women (LCIW) in St.

Gabriel: Taece Defillo, Carry Emerson, Fox Rich and Jacqueline H Williams. The Graduates and the LCIW Drama Club are co-directed by Kathy Randels of ArtSpot Productions and Ausetua AmorAmenkum of Kumbuka African Drum & Dance Collective and co-produced by these two companies. Their performances focus on the experiences that women from Louisiana have when they interact with the prison system and are designed to move and motivate audiences to become active in helping to end mass incarceration in Louisiana. We are Robert Rauschenberg Racial Justice Fellows and our work has been supported by Alternate ROOTS, The Mellon Foundation, and Emerging Philanthropists of New Orleans. Visit [www.thegraduates.net](http://www.thegraduates.net) and our Won't Bow Down! Facebook page for more information.

**The Women Transcending Collective Leadership Institute (CLI)** offers leadership development, movement history, community organizing, and skills development to an annual cohort of directly-impacted women. CLI will include intensive training in organizing, and will create a learning space for women to gain critical skills to strengthen their leadership in the movement to end mass incarceration. Directly responding to the request of women impacted by mass incarceration, this Institute's gender-specific learning opportunities are designed by and for impacted women to expand their capacity to contribute to the women's justice movement.

We are excited announce our inaugural cohort coming from eight different states: **Marissa Alexander, Tiheba Bain, Miyhosi Benton, Marilyn Lee, Rusti Miller, Tiara Moore, Jhody Polk, Fox Rich, Tabitha Rodriguez, Stacy Rojas, and Cynthia Shank.**

**Women Beyond the Bars** is a group of formerly incarcerated women dedicated to using theater as a vehicle to educate people on the issues surrounding incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women and girls. Women Beyond the Bars' original performances are based on ensemble member's life stories and experiences with the criminal justice system and as returning citizens.

**Robert Wright** is a research assistant at the Center for Justice at Columbia University. Since joining the Center, Robert has participated in a number of panel discussions and events addressing social injustice, contributed to educational curriculum for programs serving youth and adults involved with the justice system or at risk of involvement, and mentored undergraduate students. He is currently working on a number of articles examining the effects of trauma and punitive practices on urban communities. In his writings, which have been published in the Center's website and the Marshall Project, he combines personal experience and research to develop informed opinions about social injustice, mass incarceration, and prison reform. While incarcerated, Robert was enrolled in a bachelor's degree program in behavioral science; he will be receiving his diploma from Mercy College in the spring.

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