Dear Executives’ Alliance colleagues and partners:

As 2017 draws to a close, “chaos theory” is in full effect. Governance by chaos is the order of the day. Political alliances are being tested and reshaped. Agendas that were once on the verge of success have seen deep retrenchment. Protests are drowned out by counter-protests. Traditional notions of coordination and alignment are either elusive or irrelevant. Some are making policy happen; others are seeing policy “happen” to them. All the while, the faces that were at the “bottom of the well” last year remain in much the same place. Boys and men of color, their families, and their communities are still struggling, striving, hoping, and dying.

With such confusion on so many fronts, it can be difficult for funders and advocates to maintain our bearings and keep our eyes on the prize. In times like these, we need a strategic compass to help guide us. For us, that means re-focusing on the why, the what, and the how of our collective work on behalf of boys and men of color. Why are we engaged? What are we fighting for and against? And how are we advancing the cause for the short-term and the long-term?

At our Spring 2017 Executives’ Alliance meeting, we spent time focusing on the why and the what, using the metaphor of a climb up a tough “mountain” to success for boys and men of color. We were clear that we are fighting for liberation, and that we do it out of a profound love and compassion.

During this week’s meeting we will focus on the how. In many ways, how we do the work of supporting boys and men of color matters just as much as what we do and why we do it.

Last year, a group of young leaders pushed us with this question of how. They challenged funders in the Executives’ Alliance network to focus on the voices, lived experiences, and leadership of young men of color. They told us there can be “nothing about us without us.” They helped us understand that any strategy devised by foundation executives would be incomplete, and ultimately unsuccessful, if it is not deeply informed by young men of color.

In response, Executives’ Alliance members provided $3 million in seed funding for the National Youth Alliance for Boys and Men of Color, which has re-granted funds to local youth-led campaigns, created a fellowship program to develop young leaders, and served as a key partner on various facets of our operations and philanthropic strategy.

Yes, we have done something on the question of how. But we can do more. Let’s challenge ourselves to answer the following questions about how we are doing the work, individually and collectively:

- Have we transformed the BMOC field into one that not only lifts up young men of color as assets, but also works to change the policies, systems, and structures that impede their success?
- Are we imagining that we can change life cycles through grants, or are we leveraging our fiscal and reputational capital to build political will, leverage public resources, and change policy for boys and men of color?
- If we believe the dominant narratives about boys and men of color are false and deficit-based, are we willing to reconsider our own thinking and actions, which are also impacted by those dominant narratives?
- If we know that some of the work of well-intentioned colleagues actually promotes counter-productive narratives, are we willing to insist that they change course?
- Have we heeded the cry from young men of color that their liberation is inextricably linked to the liberation of their sisters, mothers, and partners?
- If we believe in young men’s promise and potential, are we willing to not only invest generously in their development, but also trust their leadership as the architects of their own liberation?

Answering these questions requires us to be clear about our how. The process may be uncomfortable at times. But we must be honest, transparent, and reflective about what we are willing to do, and what we are willing to do differently, to help boys and men of color achieve liberation by their own design.

Damon T. Hewitt
Executive Director
Executives’ Alliance for Boys and Men of Color
### HIS STORY NARRATIVE EXHIBIT

The Executives’ Alliance is proud to present a pop-up exhibition and story booth in conjunction with the printed release of *His-Story: Shifting Narratives for Boys and Men of Color*, a resource guide produced by the Executives’ Alliance and written by Perception Institute. The exhibition features images and quotes by members of the Executives’ Alliance and current change makers in literature, journalism, art, film, public policy, philanthropy, and grassroots organizing.

### BREAKFAST

8:00am – 9:00am  
Studio 1,2,3

### OPENING

**MEETING FACILITATOR**

Greg Hodge - Owner and Principal Consultant, Khepera Consulting @gregoryehodge

**NATIONAL YOUTH ALLIANCE FOR BOYS AND MEN OF COLOR**

**CO-CHAIRS AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Tonya Allen - President and CEO, The Skillman Foundation @allen_tonya  
Dr. Robert Ross - President and CEO, The California Endowment @CalEndow  
Damon Hewitt - Executive Director, Executives’ Alliance for Boys and Men of Color @DamonTHewitt

#OURliberation @EXECSSALLIANCE
10:00am – 11:45am
Great Room 1 (A&B)
Second Floor

BUILDING POLITICAL WILL, LEVERAGING PUBLIC RESOURCES AND SHIFTING POLICY

MODERATOR
Marc Philpart – Senior Director PolicyLink @mphilpart

PRESENTERS
Brent Jones – Chief Strategy and Partnership Officer, Seattle Public Schools @seapubschools
Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, Sr. – Representing the 59th California Assembly District @jonessawyer59
Senator John McCoy – 38th District @jrm38ld
Dr. Edwin M. Quezada – Superintendent of Schools, Yonkers Public Schools @quezada1229
Respondents from the Executives’ Alliance Network

11:45am – 1:15pm
Great Room 1 (A&B)
Second Floor

LUNCH
Lunch Buffet Break (11:45am – 12:30pm)

UPDATES ON COLLABORATION IN ACTION

COMMUNITIES TRANSFORMING POLICING FUND + RESOURCE HUB
Tim Silard – President and CEO, Rosenberg Foundation @timsilard
Tanya Coke – Senior Program Officer, Ford Foundation @tanyacoke

CLOSING YPRHISONS
Katayoon Majd – Program Director for Youth Justice, Public Welfare Foundation @publicwelfare

NATIONAL YOUTH ALLIANCE CAMPAIGN FUND
Jamal Jones – Executive Director, Baltimore Algebra Project/ National Youth Alliance @410blackman
Antonio Travis – Executive Director, Black Men Rising, FFLIC/ National Youth Alliance @tonystory50

1:15pm – 1:30pm
Second Floor

NAACP MOVES FORWARD
Derrick Johnson – President and CEO, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People @DerrickNAACP

1:15pm – 1:30pm
TRANSITION BREAK

#OURliberation @EXECSALLIANCE
FOUNDATION CEOS-ONLY SESSION

1:30pm – 3:30pm
Studio 4&5
Third Floor

INCUBATION LABS - CONCURRENT SESSIONS

INVESTING IN TRANSFORMATIVE LEADERSHIP

Studio 1

- **Lashon Amado** – Program Associate, National Youth Alliance/Youth Build USA @lashon_YB
- **William P. Jackson** – Chief Dreamer, Village Wisdom @PPeriod
- **DeMar Pitman** – Founder, Discriminology.com @demarEdward
- **Tiffany Thompson** – Senior Associate, Echoing Green @tiffthomp
- **Calvin Williams** – Senior Associate, Movement Strategy Center, Coordinator, National Youth Alliance @calvinwilliams3

Studio 2

INFUSING SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

- **Jason Baker** – Director, Office of Sustatainability and Special Assistant to the Mayor
- **Rev. Dr. Jim Bostic** – Executive Director, Nepperhan Community Center @bostic12
- **Mike Brady** – CEO, Greystone Social Enterprise
- **Shawn Dove** – CEO, Campaign for Black Male Achievement @dovesoars
- **Adam Jackson** – CEO, Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle @smartblackman
- **Jamal Jones** – Co-Executive Director, Baltimore Algebra Project/ National Youth Alliance @410blackman
- **Dayvon Love** – Director Public Policy, Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle @dayvonlove
- **Dr. Edwin Quezada** – Superintendent of Schools, Yonkers Public Schools @quezada1229

Studio 3

HIS STORY: NARRATIVE CHANGE IN ACTION

- **Ben Alex Dupris** – Filmmaker, Poet, Producer of Akicita @benalexdupris
- **Crystal Echo Hawk** – President, Echo Hawk Consulting @CrystalEchoHawk
- **Alexis McGill Johnson** – Executive Director, Perception Institute @alexismcgill
- **Oronde Miller** – Program Officer, W. K. Kellogg Foundation @orondemiller
- **Toya Randall** – Senior Director of Community Initiatives, Casey Family Programs @CaseyFamilyPrograms
- **Michael Roberts** – President and CEO, First Nations Development Institute

#OURliberation @EXECSALLIANCE
3:15pm – 3:45pm
NETWORKING BREAK

3:45pm – 4:45pm
Great Room 1 (A&B)
Second Floor
OUR LIBERATION, OUR NARRATIVE

MODERATOR
Calvin Williams – Senior Associate, Movement Strategy Center, Coordinator, National Youth Alliance @calvinwilliams3

PRESENTERS
David Celedon – Organizer, National Youth Alliance for BMOC; Resilience OC/Sons & Brothers
Greg Hodge – Owner and Principal Consultant, Khepera Consulting
Jamal Jones – Co-Executive Director, Baltimore Algebra Project/ National Youth Alliance @410blackman
Andres Pacificar, Outreach Coordinator, F.I.G.H.T.
Lateefah Simon – President, Akonadi Foundation @lateefahsimon

4:45pm – 5:00pm
Great Room 1 (A&B)
Second Floor
CLOSING

5:30pm – 6:15pm
Studio 4&5
Third Floor
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

6:30pm – 8:00pm
Von’s 1000 Spirits
1225 1st Ave
Seattle, WA 98101
OPTIONAL DINNER CONVERSATION

CHANGING NARRATIVES ABOUT MOVEMENTS FOR GIRLS & BOYS OF COLOR

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO...
Casey Family Programs
Marguerite Casey Foundation
Girl Friday Event Productions
Jason Killinger Design & Direction
Emazing Photography
Quincy Bates
Nicole Lisberg

EA Governance Committee:
Tonya Allen, The Skillman Foundation
William Bell, Casey Family Programs
Clotilde Perez-Bode Dedecker, Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo
John Jackson, The Schott Foundation for Public Education
Leticia Peguero, Andrus Family Fund
Robert Ross, The California Endowment
La June Montgomery Tabron, W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Fall Meeting Planning Committee:
Lashon Amado, National Youth Alliance
Kathy Ko Chin, Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
Emilio Garza, The Washington Bus
Glenn Love, The Aspen Institute
Andres Pacificar, F.I.G.H.T.
Todd Shenk, Casey Family Programs
Anthony Shoecraft, City of Seattle
Christy Slater, W.K. Kellogg Foundation
Anthony Smith, Cities United
Decker Tanke Ngongang, PACE

#OURliberation @EXECSALLIANCE
“IF YOU WANT TO GO FAST, GO ALONE.

IF YOU WANT TO GO FAR, GO TOGETHER.”