

MESSAGE from the Chair

How many times during 2020 did we proudly say, "ALF was built for times like these"?

Throughout the unbelievably challenging year, ALF's Senior Fellows were on the front lines, using their collaborative leadership skills to battle the COVID-19 pandemic, challenge racial injustices and address political divisiveness in our country. The American Leadership Forum worked diligently to adapt and create opportunities to support our more than 1,400 Fellows and Senior Fellows as they worked to address needs in the community at food banks, hospitals, religious institutions, and in so many other places across our region. Our virtual dialogues explored urgent issues, helped Fellows and Senior Fellows forge new relationships and provided a safe space for leaders' self-care. The relationships we have built (and continue to build) through the ALF network and the skills we have nurtured, are critical to leading through times like these!

I am extremely proud that we hosted ALF's first-ever virtual Joseph Jaworski Leadership Award event this past year. During this event, not only did we highlight the brilliant leadership of our honorees, but we also paid tribute to the tireless work of Fellows and Senior Fellows on the front lines as they served the community during the pandemic.

What's more, we raised record-breaking support for the ALF mission! I would like to personally thank each ALF Fellow, Senior Fellow, board member, committee member, volunteer and generous donor as well as our talented staff team and facilitators for your help doing all of this and creating essential pathways to sustain and grow our mission in 2020. Your support of ALF's mission is an investment in inspiring positive and collective long-term efforts across the region as we move forward. I look forward to forging new paths together throughout the coming year.

**HOANG QUAN VU** (Class XXXIV)
Partner, Foley & Lardner LLP

# MESSAGE from the President

### A Path Forward. Together.

As we begin the process of recovering and moving forward after a life altering year, many of us are asking ourselves powerful questions like: How do we center ourselves

and forge a courageous new path after a year like 2020, with so much uncertainty? How do we gain clarity on what is important to us and our vision for creating a more just and equitable society?

Many of us are grappling with these and similar questions. As Senior Fellows, we have undergone a process that has prepared us to lead - especially during times of great disequilibrium on a global scale. The capacities we have gained as Senior Fellows are essential as we move our community forward. ALF tools such as asking powerful questions, engaging in dialogues from a place of curiosity, cultivating empathy, and developing a vision that is inclusive and inspiring for all members of our society can help us in doing the work of leading.

For these reasons, we decided that it was critical that we move forward with our Fellows program during a global pandemic and quickly adapted the program to take place on a virtual platform. Our Fellows in Class L, LI and LII were our mavericks and proved to be resilient and committed to doing the inner leader work, learning new skills with openness and curiosity, and cultivating deep relationships with each other.

We also expanded our virtual convenings, dialogues and classes for our Senior Fellows to keep strengthening their capacity and ability to lead. We added opportunities for them to connect across classes through breakout sessions and nature hikes.

Throughout the many changes we experienced in 2020, ALF stayed focused and committed to fostering a community of interconnected leaders that are having a local impact. I am delighted to share some of our important adaptations and accomplishments in 2020 in this Annual Report. I join our Board Chairman, Hoang Quan Vu, in thanking each of you for making our work possible and invite you to lock arms with us as we blaze new trails and expand our vision for deepening the ALF impact in our community. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you and our community as the ALF-Houston President. I am proud to work with a dedicated team of board members, staff, and facilitators that are deeply committed to our mission to join and strengthen diverse leaders to serve the common good.

Lead on.

NORY ANGEL (Class XXX)

President,

American Leadership Forum

Benefits to the community include a continuing supply of effective and enlightened leaders trained in collaboration and consensus building, and coalitions created to build a more effective community in the Houston/Gulf Coast area.



# Forums and Dialogues

### Second Friday Breakfasts and Dialogues

### **→** Critical Issues Series

- Immigration
- Sustainability and Environmental Issues

### Connecting Our Community During the Coronavirus Pandemic

### Mindfulness Moments

- Led by Senior Fellows Michele Pola, Sean Fitzpatrick, Juanita Rasmus, Henderson Smith and Qusai Mahesri
- ALF "Deep" Check-Ins, facilitated by ALF Facilitator and Senior Fellow, Mel Taylor

### → Dialogues

- How might we work together around food insecurity during the Coronavirus Crisis?
- How might we best support learning for all children across our community during the Coronavirus Crisis?
- Philanthropy and Funding During the Coronavirus Crisis: What Does Philanthropy and Philanthropic Strategy Look Like in Times of a Crisis and How is this Strategy Different During the Coronavirus Crisis?
- How do we leave work at the office when our office is our living room?
- What Role will Workforce Play in Houston's Path Forward Out of the COVID-19 Crisis?
- Flattening the Domestic Violence Curve With Collaboration During and After the Coronavirus Crisis
- How Can Religious Communities Lead Change In Response to COVID-19?
- Reopening Our Region: How might we navigate the parallel challenges of both human and economic recovery?
- What if School Does Not Reopen In the fall?
  What are the Implications of Not Having a Normal School Year?
- Lives and Livelihood: The Ethics of a Pandemic
- How Will Innovation and Adaptability During the COVID-19 Pandemic Shape Society Going Forward?











# Forums and Dialogues

- Allyship and Inclusion in Support of Black Senior Fellows Across Our Network
- The COVID-19 Vaccines: How quickly will they be available? How safe will they be?
- Get To Know ALF's New President, Nory Angel
- Post-Election Analysis

### Reservations for Six at The Breakfast Klub

### Implicit Bias Training for Harris County Court System with Clay Bowman

### Second Annual Class Reunion Week

Nearly 250 people from 26 classes participated in virtual reunions to stay connected during the pandemic

### First Annual Check on Your Buddy Day

### Commencement of Fellows in Classes XLVII, XLVIII and XLIX

Launch of Classes L. LI and LII

### Nonprofit Leadership Collaborative

■ The 2020 Bank of America Leadership Symposium coordinated by Nonprofit Leadership Collaborative presented Jacqueline Carter in Mind of the Leader

### Virtual Annual Meeting: 2020 - A Year of Adaptive Leadership

### Class Experiences and Curriculum

- Orientation
- Transformational Dialogue
- Building Communities of Practice
- The Art of Powerful Questions
- Social Change
- Emotional Intelligence







- Engaging Across Differences,
  - Parts Land II
- Experience as Other
- Leading is Convening
- Taking Stock Retreat
- Virtual Commencement

# 2 Graduates



# Class of 47 Graduates XLVII

August Al-Uqdah - Co-Founder and Partner, Veritas Total Solutions

**Marie D. Arcos -** Executive Director, Community Development, YMCA of Greater Houston

Heath Butler - Venture Partner, Mercury Fund

**Andy Canales -** Executive Director, Greater Houston, Latinos for Education

Sang J. Cho - Manager of Finance, Keane Group Inc.

**Anne Clutterbuck -** Former Chair of the Board of Trustees, Harris Health System

**Deborah Roth Grabein -** Chief Practice Group Integration Officer, Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP

Giselle Greenwood - Editor In Chief, Houston Business Journal

**Phyllis Griffin Epps -** Consultant in Health Law/Policy, PGE Consulting

**Alison Harold -** President and CEO, The Frye Group Inc.

Kristen Hawkins - Judge, 11th District Court, Harris County, TX

Shelly Immel - Owner, Obsidian Learning

Chris Johnsen - COO/General Counsel, Amagazi LLC

**Bryce H. Kennard -** External Communications Manager, COMCAST

Judy Le - President, TakeRoot Leadership

**Bishop Hector Monterroso -** Bishop Assistant, Episcopal Diocese of Texas

**Chau Nguyen -** Chief Marketing and Development Officer, Houston Area Women's Center

**Virginia Parras -** President and CEO, Parras Grande & Associates, LLC

Samuel Peña - Fire Chief, City of Houston

**Karla Sainz -** Director of Organizational Initiatives, Arnold Ventures

**Antonio D. Tillis -** Interim President-UHD -- University of Houston, Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

**Sheryl D. Victorian -** Assistant Chief,
Patrol Region 2 Command, Houston Police Department

**John D. Walther -** Business Manager / Consultant, Emergency Aid Coalition

Nicole West - President, NCA Investigations

# 2020 Graduates



# Class of 48 Graduates XLVIII

**Jacquie Baly -** President & CEO, BalyProjects

**Jacqueline Bostic McElroy -** Assistant District Attorney, Fort Bend County District Attorney's Office

**Dolly Brenneman -** President/Founder, Soaring to Greatness, LLC-Coaching & Consulting for Business & Individual Transformation

**Karen Carter Richards -** CEO/Publisher/Editor, Forward Times Publishing Company

**Michael Chu -** Assistant U.S. Attorney, US Attorney's Office, U.S. Department of Justice

Garvin H. Davis - Ophthalmologist

April Day - President, Women's Business Enterprise Alliance

Theresa Kosmoski - Director, Kosmoski Consulting

**Courtney Lamm -** Chief Development Officer, Houston Public Media - University of Houston

**Patrick Lancton -** President, Houston Professional Fire Fighters Assoc.

Perryn Leech - General Director, Canadian Opera Company

Sergio Lira - Education Consultant

Sheroo Mukhtiar - CEO/Executive Director, SER Jobs

**Juan S. Munoz -** President, University of Houston-Downtown

**Ruby L. Powers -** Founder & Managing Attorney, Powers Law Group, P.C.

**Sandra Rodriguez -** Human Service Program Manager -Area C, Houston Health Department

Carmen Roe - Attorney, Carmen Roe Law Firm

Jevaughn Sterling - Senior Vice President, Amegy Bank

Daniel L. Stoecker - CEO, The Alliance

Carlos Villagrana - Program Officer, Houston Endowment, Inc.

Margaret Wallace Brown - Director,

Planning and Development City of Houston

Byron A. Young - Asst. VP, Relationship Manager, Chase Bank

# 2020 Graduates



# Class of 49 Graduates XLIX

Alim Adatia - Attorney, Outreach Strategists

John W. Boerstler - CEO, Combined Arms

**Sheila Briones -** Director of Community Development & Shared Services, Houston Community College

**Monica Brown - Broussard -** Chief Advancement & Administrative Officer, Council on Recovery

**Tammie Lang Campbell -** Founder & Executive Director, Honey Brown Hope Foundation

Pierre Cannings - Assistant Pastor/Professor, Living Word Fellowship Church/College of Biblical Studies

**Kevin Dancy Jr. -** Community Development Advisor, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas/Houston Branch

Jerry V. Davis - Vice Mayor Pro-Tem, City of Houston

Cydonii Fairfax - EVP & General Counsel, METRO

Melanie Fisk - Sr. Director of Adult Education, Baker Ripley

Kevin Foyle - VP for Development & Public Affairs, UTHealth

Matt Frederick - K&D Pipeline Services, Inc.

**Jim Granato -** Executive Director- Hobby School of Public Affairs, University of Houston Grace Kim - Head of Strategic Projects, Goldhill Management

Michele Leal - Consultant, EnFocus Strategies

**Grant Martinez -** Associate, YetterColeman LLP

**Michael W. Moore -** Founder/President, Empowermental, Inc.

**Ritu Nadkarni -** Associate Director -Medical Affairs, Merck & Co.

Sue Sim - Community Volunteer

**Conte Terrell -** President/ED, Fresh Spring Wellness for Women, Inc.

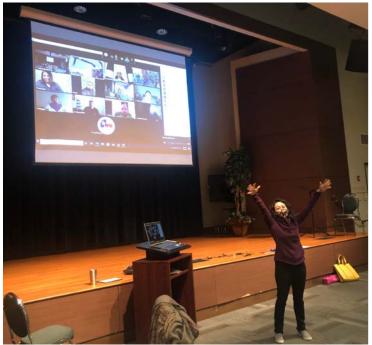
Saul Valentin - Founding Principal, Collaborate

**Cristina J. Vetrano -** President & CEO, Ronald McDonald House Houston

Jennifer Waldner - Head of Citizenship, AIG

**Ryan Walsh -** Executive Director, Harris County Sports & Convention Corp-NRG Park

**Constance Ann White -** Former Executive Director, Spindletop Charities







## **Adapting for Continued Impact**

In 2020 with a global pandemic, an economic crisis and a social movement born of long-standing racial injustice and inequity in our country, the American Leadership Forum quickly pivoted and adapted its programs for continued impact.

ALF launched new and relevant programs on a virtual platform to support and connect Senior Fellows during the pandemic and reshaped the core Fellows program to successfully launch three new cohorts. ALF explored creative ways to support our Fellows in Classes 50, 51 and 52 in deepening their connections and safely meeting in person through nature hikes and other socially distanced gatherings. Our Fellows proved to be resilient and committed as they participated in the ALF program virtually while continuing to connect with their classmates in their one on ones. Our Fellows explored what it means to lead through uncertainty, to experiment with possibilities and to envision a more just, equitable and inclusive society that benefits all. Our Core Fellows program was revamped for a virtual platform and included adding new curriculum on the Harvard Adaptive Leadership framework as well as adding the Emotional Quotient Inventory (EQ-i) which enabled our Fellows to better understand their own emotional intelligence and its impact on their leadership. Fellows did not let limitations or changes get in the way of forming incredible bonds and community, as they connected with one another electronically.

Rick Cruz, a Fellow in ALF's Class L, HISD's Chief Strategy and Innovation Officer, shared, "Some might have said that the timing was not fortuitous, as it was the beginning of a pandemic. However, it has turned out to be a blessing and has given me time to step away from my work and to reflect on what it means to be a leader in the company of others."



# ALF Offers "Deep" Check-Ins: A Vital Source of Support for Leaders During the Pandemic

Long before the COVID-19 pandemic started, the American Leadership Forum provided a safe space for leaders to access the support and resources that they need to continue to impact their organizations and community. With the onset of the pandemic, it became evident to ALF that it could more deeply support its leaders during these times of great uncertainty. Thus, ALF launched its "Deep" Check-ins to provide a safe space where senior level leaders could share feelings, fears, and anxieties and talk about how they were navigating during the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic.

Lisa Caruthers, Criminal Justice 5, Director, Cooperative for After-School Enrichment (CASE) and a participant in a "Deep" Check-in shared, "Leadership during this Pandemic has been a challenging journey. Never before have I had to lead my team, my children and myself through on-going and ever evolving trauma. Participation in the ALF "Deep" Check-in gave me permission to be myself and dialogue about the key factors that are influencing my decisions and coping strategies through such a troubled time." Mel Taylor, ALF Facilitator and Senior Fellow, led these check-ins. He explained, "It occurred to me that a way to be of service was to offer leaders a brief respite from the day to day, to take pause, listen to others, reflect and frankly just breathe. The unexpected outcome has been that others have reported not feeling so isolated and alone, feeling safe with other ALFers, and gaining clarity about how to get through these times."

# Senior Fellows Work Together to Provide Discounted Hotel Rooms to Medical Personnel Battling the COVID-19 Pandemic

Dr. Kim Monday, Class XLVI, Vice Chair, Clinical Operations Department of Neurology, McGovern Medical School and former Chair of the Harris Health System Board of Trustees, received a call from an ER physician colleague who was worried about coming home to an elderly mother undergoing chemotherapy after treating COVID-19 patients. Dr. Monday contacted Anne Clutterbuck, Class XLVII, former Chair, Harris Health System Board of Trustees, to see if she could help. Anne mentioned this idea on a virtual ALF Class XLVII Check-In in early March 2020 during Houston's Stay-at-Home order and that is where the ALF magic began.

Dan Snare, former President of ALF reached out to John Kajander, Class XXXV, Strategic Business Consultant, Houstonfirst Corporation and "floated the possibility of some hotels being able to provide housing so these "at risk" employees did not bring the virus back to their families". John said, "I told Dan that I would work the internal process at Houstonfirst and see if this was an idea that may be considered by our hotel partners in the community." Within 24 hours this idea took off.

John explained, "ALF allowed people who had an interest and an idea of a way to help to cut through administrative red tape and allow for something great to occur. We were able to connect quickly and with real velocity. More than 35 hotels responded with discounted rates. The value of ALF was being able to connect the right people quickly and then knowing how to step back and let those people make things happen." Anne added, "ALF provided a variety of connections in our network to get this accomplished, though none of us really want to take credit for it. I really believe that the end result isn't measured in numbers, but in experiences and relationships built for the future."

## The Formation of ALF's

### **Racial Justice Steering Committee**

After George Floyd died in May of 2020, ALF's Houston/Gulf Coast chapter held a series of convenings to bring African American Senior Fellows and allies together to identify ways to support the learning, growth and action of Senior Fellows around racial justice and equity. Out of these dialogues, a group of Senior Fellows, passionate about continuing this work formed the ALF Racial Justice Steering Committee (RJSC). They developed the following purpose statement to guide this work.



### We Believe...

We believe that the ALF Houston mission can be accomplished more fully if we understand and address how systemic racism, and the failure to afford racial justice, affects our community. We believe that effectively leading in our current multi-ethnic, multi-cultural environment requires leaders to examine their own biases and to become aware of how these biases impact how they lead.

We believe that racial justice is the systematic fair treatment of people of all races, resulting in equitable opportunities and outcomes for all.

We believe that our work as Senior Fellows includes advancing racial justice through leadership development.

### Therefore...

In keeping with American Leadership Forum's mission to join and strengthen diverse leaders to serve the common good, and in the context of the principles outlined above, the Racial Justice Steering Committee is committed to:

- 1. Providing a plan and a framework by which ALF Houston can evaluate and modify its curriculum and programming to better reflect its mission in light of issues concerning racial justice and systemic racism.
- 2. Proposing programs and resources by which Senior Fellows can engage, individually and collectively, in internal work to examine our own biases and to develop awareness of how these biases impact how we lead.
- 3. Developing mechanisms through which Senior Fellows can engage, as individuals and collectively, in community work concerning racial justice and systemic racism.

The Racial Justice Steering Committee is currently developing an ALF Diversity Equity and Inclusion Program Model and pursuing funding to support the launching of this model in 2021.





### 2020 JOSEPH JAWORSKI LEADERSHIP AWARD VIRTUAL EVENT

American Leadership Forum - Houston/Gulf Coast Chapter

# A Sall to LEAD

Randy and Sue Sim were presented with the Joseph Jaworski Leadership Award and Daniel W. Snare received the 2020 ALF Public Service Award on September 17, 2020 at the organization's first-ever virtual event: A Call to Lead. The event raised \$300,000 to support the American Leadership Forum's mission of joining and strengthening diverse leaders to serve the common good.

Master of Ceremonies for this special evening, ALF Senior Fellow, Khambrel Marshall, Meteorologist, KPRC TV Channel 2, guided the evening's festivities.



Show highlights included Senior Fellows answering the Call to Lead during the COVID-19 pandemic including Brian Greene, President/CEO of the Houston Food Bank, who helped to distribute millions of meals through its network of 1,500 community partners which include food pantries, soup kitchens, social service providers and in schools in southeast Texas, Dr. Maria Elena Bottazzi, Associate Dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine, Professor of Pediatrics and Co-director of Texas Children's Center for Vaccine Development at Baylor College of Medicine and who lead a team working to develop a COVID-19 vaccine at Baylor and Mia Wright, Co-Pastor, Director of Ministries, The Fountain of Praise Church, who led the final viewing and funeral of George Floyd for his family. Each shared stories about how ALF helped them lead and enhanced their leadership capacity for the greater Houston region, especially through unprecedented moments of adversity. The special evening concluded with a message of inspiration and thanks ALF's new President, Nory Angel.

ALF gratefully acknowledges all contributions to the 2020 event and especially the following ALF Classes who reached the Class Leadership Sponsor Level together, with cumulative gifts of \$2,500 or more.

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Class XIV (14)	Class XXVIII (28)	top fundraiser!
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top fundraiser!	Class XXXII (32)	Class XLIII (43)

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ass XXXVIII (38)	Class XLIX (49)	
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ass XLIII (43)	Class LI (51)	



Class XLV (45)







The challenges and opportunities have never been greater - and the work of leaders has never been more important. Every gift made to ALF is an investment in the future of our community and our leaders - and the future of ALF. ALF values and appreciates all contributions made in support of our mission of joining and strengthening diverse leaders to serve the common good. ALF would like to acknowledge donors who made significant contributions in support of our programming and scholarships in 2020 through grants, the Annual Giving Campaign, the Joseph Jaworski Leadership Award Event, and Endowed Scholarship Funds.

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Thank you to Class XVII for raising \$12,379 in memory of classmate Joe Williams, providing vital funds to offer ALF scholarships.

### **In-Kind Support**

### Amegy Bank and DePelchin Children's Center

Video Partners for the 2020 Joseph Jaworski Leadership Award Event

### **CenterPoint Energy**

Donor of in-kind printing services

### The Council on Recovery

Host of numerous dialogues and class sessions

### **David Brown**

**Dabfoto Creative Services** 

### Houston Business Journal, Univision, KHOU 11

Media Partners for the 2020 Joseph Jaworski Leadership Award Event

### Dr. Stephen Klineberg

Virtual Event Partner for the 2020 Joseph Jaworski Leadership Award Event

### Qusai Mahesri, Henderson Smith, Michele Pola Juanita Rasmus and Sean Fitzpatrick

Leaders of Mindfulness sessions

### Khambrel Marshall

Emcee of the

2020 Joseph Jaworski Leadership Award Event

### **Mel Tavlor**

ALF "Deep" Check-In Facilitator

### Teresa B. Southwell

Graphic Design

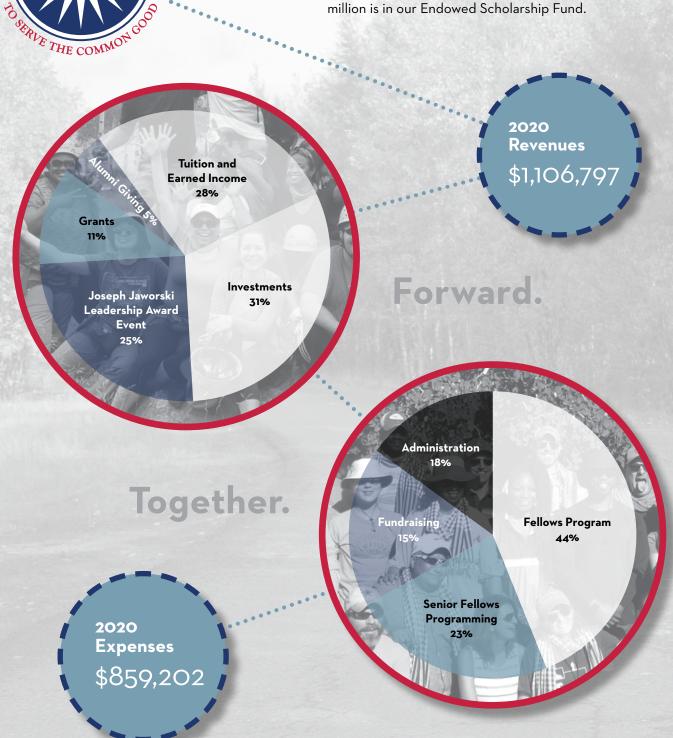
### Vision

Production Partner for the 2020 Joseph Jaworski Leadership Award Event



# Report on FINANCES

For 2020 ALF had revenues of \$1,106,797 and expenses of \$859,202. At year end ALF had investment assets of \$3.398 million of which \$2.098 million million is in our Endowed Scholarship Fund.



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# **ALF's Core Values**

- Primacy of relationship
- Appreciation, exploration and inclusion of diversity
- ► Dialogue and collaboration
- ► Service to the common good
- Inner reflection and personal growth

# Mission Statement

The American Leadership Forum (ALF) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to join and strengthen diverse leaders to serve the common good.



"Let's commit to activating our individual and collective leadership where it is needed the most and in a way that inspires others to discover their own inner leader.

Let's envision new possibilities that move beyond pre-COVID habits and divisiveness and lead to true and lasting transformation of our community.

Let's forge a new path. Together.

Are you in?"

-- Nory Angel, Class XXX, ALF President



### AMERICAN LEADERSHIP FORUM

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