

WALDORF EARLY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA

Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access Committee Member Directory



In our work with young children from pre-birth to age seven, WECAN is committed to the ideals upon which Waldorf/Steiner education was founded. These include respect for the dignity of each individual child and family in honoring diverse race, culture, religion, national origin, socioeconomic situation, gender identity and sexual orientation, family composition, and individual ability which form the backgrounds of their lives. Waldorf early childhood education is committed to supporting diversity, equity, and inclusion as a pathway to social justice and to rectify the explicit and implicit biases that undermine creation of healthy social life in our society.

-excerpt from WECAN Diversity Statement

Let's connect,

ltturner@waldorfeearlychildhood.org & lwetzoniswoolvertton@waldorfeearlychildhood.org

Nancy Blanning

Nancy (she/her) has been a Waldorf EC teacher in Denver, CO since 1982, serving as lead kindergarten teacher and therapeutic consultant on healthy early childhood development. She recently retired from the WECAN board and continues as the editor of Gateways, the WECAN journal. She has served on the IDEA committee since 2019 and acts as a liaison to the Waldorf teacher training programs for bringing DEIJ content and practices into our training curriculums.



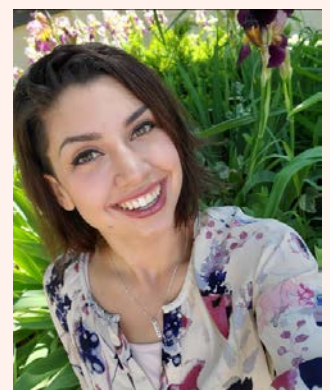
Gina Burger

Gina (she/her) is a Latinx Waldorf early childhood educator of 18 years, the parent of two Waldorf graduates and currently sits on the Seattle Waldorf School early childhood DEI committee. She is passionate about bringing more diversity to EC classrooms and would like to see Waldorf pedagogy become more accessible. Gina joined the WECAN IDEA Committee in 2020. She lives on the traditional land of the Coast Salish people, including the Duwamish People past and present.



Amber Chavez

Amber (she/her) has been involved in Waldorf education as a parent for 9 years. In her role as an educator, she has served in traditional, nature-based, and Waldorf settings. She holds a B.S. in Early Childhood Education and an M.S. in Cultural Foundations of Community Engagement and Education. She lives and works in Milwaukee on traditional Potawatomi, Ho-Chunk, and Menominee homelands along the southwest shores of Michigami, where the people of Wisconsin's sovereign Anishinaabe, Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Oneida, and Mohican nations remain present.



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Adrienne Doucette

Adrienne teaches parent-child classes at the Whatcom Hills Waldorf School in Bellingham, WA. She provides mentoring, evaluation and site visit services for schools and early childhood teachers in the Pacific Northwest Region. Adrienne is a WECAN Board member and is actively involved in WECAN's inclusion, diversity, equity, and access work



Laura Mason

Laura Mason was an educator in early childhood programs at Three Cedars Waldorf School and Eastside Community School in Bellevue, WA for 18 years. She is currently Membership Coordinator for WECAN and represents WECAN on the AWSNA Leadership Council and the Waldorf Associations Working Group. Laura has had a lifelong interest in issues of equity and joined the IDEA Committee in 2019. She was moved to do this work out of a sense of responsibility to make use of her relative privilege in working toward a more inclusive and just Waldorf early childhood community.



Kate May-Price

Kate May-Price (she/her) first found Anthroposophy while exploring subjects for her Masters thesis in Education at Cornell University in 2006. Her deep identification with the Anthroposophical worldview led to enrolling in a biodynamics training, foundation studies courses and Waldorf early childhood teacher training. She taught in the nursery at The Brooklyn Waldorf School, served as Honeybirds Playschool's Pedagogical Administrator and then spent a year as Administrative Director for a newly formed mixed-aged forest program, Honeytree Forest School, in Prospect Park, Brooklyn. Kate is currently enjoying the opportunity to serve as the Administrative Coordinator at the Center for Biography and Social Art and has been a member of the IDEA Committee since 2020. In the spring of 2021, she and her husband welcomed their first child to the world. They are treasuring and nurturing her deep and apparent love of the natural world despite the challenges of residing in deeply urban New York City (Lenapehoking).



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Juliana Pinto McKeen

Juliana Pinto McKeen (she, her) is a social worker and licensed therapist in Lenapehoking – Brooklyn, New York. She was born in Bogotá, Colombia and grew up in Atlanta, Georgia. As a previously undocumented person, Juliana worked as an in-home caregiver for over a decade. She co-founded and directed Honeybirds Playschool, a WECAN member program in Bed-Stuy, Brooklyn. Juliana is a founding member of the Brooklyn Coalition of Early Childhood Programs and a member of the Empire State Campaign for Childcare. She also worked on the Build Back Better campaign as the Policy and Program Manager at Closing the Women's Wealth Gap. She holds a master of social work from Columbia University and is published in the 2021 edition of the Columbia Social Work Review with an article titled, "Mind the Gap: Addressing Childcare Inequalities for Children and Caregivers." Juliana is committed to liberation and justice. She remains convinced that Waldorf education can shine a light towards equity and is capable of educating us all towards freedom. She has been a part of WECAN's IDEA committee since 2020.



Anjum Mir

For over 20 years, Anjum Mir has been supporting parents in establishing healthy home rhythms. Her teaching experience has taken her from public and private school to Waldorf Education, which she discovered while looking for an educational system that honored the development and spiritual well-being of her first child. Currently, Anjum, a mother of four, works in pedagogical administration and teaches parent-child classes at the Westside Waldorf school in Los Angeles, offers prenatal, infant and toddler focused workshops and seminars and holds parenting classes for parents of children through middle school. She is on the board of WECAN and several other education-focused organizations and is involved in teacher education and training. Anjum joined the IDEA Committee in 2020.



Jimena Salaza

Jimena Salazar is an early childhood educator, co-founder and teacher of the Waldorf initiative in Cancun Del Mar. She began her path in teaching as an elementary and English teacher in her hometown before working as a teacher and kindergarten coordinator in an inclusive school in Mexico City, with colleagues and children from different parts of the world and learning capacities. After completing her Waldorf teacher training, she moved to Cancun and helped found the Waldorf Del Mar initiative where she has served as kindergarten teacher, principal and elementary teacher. Jimena has taken a variety of different courses on topics such as parenting and pedagogical strategies. She loves to draw, play the ukulele, meditate, read, dive and sing. Jimena has been a member of the IDEA Committee since 2021.



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Magdalena Toran

Magdalena Toran is a WECAN board member and has been instrumental in bringing issues of inclusion, diversity, equity and access to the board over the last several years. She has been a member of the IDEA Committee since its inception in 2019. Magdalena is also the co-chair of the WECAN Birth to Three Working Group and has focused on the care of the youngest children in her work since 2001.



Lynn Turner

Lynn Turner (she/her) is a wife, mother of two children and the proud descendant of enslaved African people. She was born and raised on Piscataway Land and is a culturally responsive educator who is passionate about teaching young children and supporting families, work that she has done for over eleven years. Lynn holds a BA in Fine Arts from Sweet Briar College and an MAT in Early Childhood Education from Washington Trinity University and received her Waldorf Early Childhood Teaching Certificate in 2017. She is an adjunct professor at Mount Mary University and Great Lakes Waldorf Institute in their Waldorf Teacher Training Program. Lynn serves as WECAN's Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access Co-Coordinator and Co-Chair of the I.D.E.A. committee and has been an I.D.E.A. committee member since 2020. Lynn has been published in Gateways Magazine and has been a workshop presenter for diversity, equity and inclusion at the 2021 Waldorf Early Childhood Education Association of Northern America Teacher Conference. Lynn is also the co-founder of The AntiRacist Table, an organization dedicated to bringing AntiRacism into practice as a daily practice for all adults and families.



Otsistohkwí:yoor Melissa Elliott

Otsistohkwí:yo or Melissa Elliott is Kanyen'kehá:ka (Mohawk) from Six Nations of the Grand River Territory. She is currently working as the Ken Nikanenhá:sas (Little Seeds) Kindergarten Teacher and Kanen'shón:'a (Many types of seeds) Early Years Faculty Chair at Skaronhyase'kó:wa Everlasting Tree School, one of the first Waldorf-inspired Mohawk Immersion programs in Canada. Otsistohkwí:yo completed 3 years at Onkwawenna Kentyohkwa Adult immersion program and is fluent in Kanyen'kéha (the "Mohawk" language). Otsistohkwí:yo supports other Onkwehonwe (Indigenous) early years teachers who wish to use the Waldorf pedagogy to create new forms of holistic, earth based, traditional education, through workshops (offered by the newly formed Haudenosaunee and Waldorf Initiative – HAWI) and mentoring. She sits on the Onkwawenna Kentyohkwa Board of Directors and has been a member of the IDEA Committee since 2020. She is passionate about Kanyen'kéha (Mohawk language), traditional storytelling, puppetry, parenting, holistic healing, and being on the land.



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Meagan Wilson

Meagan Wilson is a parent educator and author of the now-retired seasonal series of Whole Family Rhythms. In addition to her foundation studies and Waldorf early childhood teacher training, she has certification as a Simplicity Parenting Family Life Coach and has supported hundreds of parents to create a strong family rhythm unique to their own values and culture. She has four young children currently attending the Toronto Waldorf School. Meagan provides resources, support and information to parents who want to bring personalized Waldorf pedagogy into their homes. She has served on the IDEA committee since 2020.



Leslie Wetzonis Woolverton

Leslie Wetzonis Woolverton (she/her) is a third generation Anthroposophist and is from a rich and proud African American/Cherokee lineage. Leslie serves as WECAN's Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access Co-Coordinator and Co-chair of the I.D.E.A committee. She has been an I.D.E.A committee member since 2020. Leslie is also an active member of the WECAN Early Childhood research group, and is a member of the core faculty at Sound Circle Center for Arts and Anthroposophy. Leslie taught at Acorn Hill Waldorf Kindergarten & Nursery School for more than 16 years teaching parent/child & three-day nursery classes. She has been published in Gateways and is a teacher mentor for Sunbridge Institute. Leslie also has been a residential Interior Designer for more than twenty years. Leslie's beloved son Matthew, is a senior, graduating in the fall at Vassar College and continues to be her beacon for her dedicated work in Diversity. (Piscataway Land)

