

**Carla Fernandez** has a passion for building creatively-driven experiences to move individuals, communities and organizations forward. She is the co-founder of [The Dinner Party](#), now active in 100+ cities and written about in [New York Times](#), [NPR](#), and [OnBeing](#). The Dinner Party is a community in over 150 cities committed to taking some of our most tabooed topics – grief, loss, political disenfranchisement – out of the closet, and onto the table, transforming hard-to-touch topics into sources of deep connection and progress.

She is a founding team member of enso, leading impact work with top brands like Google, Pepsi, and Nature Conservancy.

**As an experience designer, community strategist and brand builder, her work:**

- Drives strategies for positive social impact in the corners where we need it most — democracy, climate change, and mental health
- Is grounded in universal human rituals — gathering, breaking bread, telling stories, creating, play and returning to nature
- Builds the kinds of relationships and communities — online and IRL — that can stitch us back together again

**Some of her other projects include:**

- **American + Jewish + Democracy:** Designed and facilitated a convening of 12 leading Jewish foundations to discuss the future of giving in the protection of democracy
- **Census 2020:** Designed and facilitated sprints for Mayor Garcetti's office, and cross-sector partners for the 2020 Census in the hardest to count city in the hardest to count county in the hardest to count state.
- **Finding What Feeds Us:** Co-authored a book and 4 city event series exploring the rituals we've inherited and invented to live well after loss.
- **Shared Mission Network:** Launched a network of 75 change makers in partnership with enso to create an impact agency with no walls.

- **Cielito Lindo Retreat:** Reinvented a home in Joshua Tree, CA to create a retreat space for creatives, activists, and feminists needing time in nature to refuel before keeping up the good fight.

## **Writing / Talking**

- KPFK: Experience Talks: The Art of Dying and Dining
- KQED: The Forum with Michael Krasney
- Fortune: Will the ad industry's new Sheryl Sandberg-backed award go far enough on gender equality?
- Facing the Hard Stuff With Cheryl Espinosa-Jones
- Virgin Unite, 100% Human At Work: Creating Supportive and Inclusive Workplaces for People Experiencing Hard Times
- Classy Collaborative: Why You Need to Appeal to the Next Generation of Donors
- CMX Pro: How to Build Micro Community - A Webinar of Community Leaders
- Omidyar Network Tech and Society Solutions Lab - Grief of our Pre-Tech Lives

## **Honors / Affiliations**

- NYU Reynold's Scholar in Social Entrepreneurship
- LA Weekly, Most Interesting People in Los Angeles
- USC Annenberg School of Innovation, Senior Fellow
- Nexus Global Fellow
- Nomadic School of Wonder, Wonder Bunny