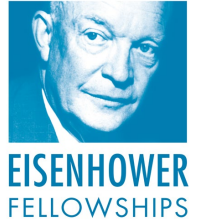


2023

# EISENHOWER FELLOWS



## USA Program



**Mikal Anderson** | HOUSTON, TX

Founder • Prototype Entities

With offices in New Orleans, Houston and the District of Columbia, Mikal Anderson leads a management consulting firm that advises non-profits, government agencies, schools and think tanks on issues of diversity, inclusion and racial equity. On fellowship in Brazil and Germany he wants to meet with various business leaders and seek answers to the questions: How do conversations about racial equity emerge at their organizations? And how do they promote advancement of all people in an equitable way? The goal of his research is to devise an assessment tool that views workforce development through a racial-equity lens.



**Rosie Arroyo** | LOS ANGELES, CA

Senior Program Officer • California Community Foundation

Rosie Arroyo oversees the immigration portfolio of the California Community Foundation, a charity that manages nearly \$2 billion in assets supporting education, youth empowerment, health, housing and integration of immigrants into American society. Arroyo played a strategic role in the development and implementation of the L.A. Justice Fund, a \$20 million public-private partnership to increase access to legal representation for immigrants facing deportation. On fellowship, she plans to visit Germany and Spain to explore the role that immigrants have played in their societies, the public's perceptions of the newcomers and the way that policymakers have responded.



**Aubrey Bettencourt** | SAN FRANCISCO, CA

President and CEO • Almond Alliance

Audrey Bettencourt leads the Almond Alliance, a non-profit trade association for almond growers, processors, hullers, shellers and related businesses based in California, where 7,600 farms produce 80 percent of the world's supply of almonds. Bettencourt oversees the organization's work as the voice of the American almond industry in state and federal policy, political, and regulatory affairs on matters ranging from climate change, supply chain, water supply, trade, and more. On fellowship she plans to visit Israel to study innovations in irrigation technology and Mexico to learn about its growing manufacturing capability.

**Leaders bettering the world around them.**



**Michelle Carrera Morales** | PHILADELPHIA, PA

Executive Director • Norris Square Community Alliance

Michelle Carrera Morales leads the Norris Square Community Alliance, a nonprofit that works to advance the social mobility of its predominantly Latino clients by providing support for early childhood education, affordable housing, financial counseling and workforce development. Founded in 1982, and formerly known as the Norris Square Civic Association, the organization serves 3,000 individuals annually in a section of Philadelphia where 64 percent of residents live in poverty. Under her leadership since 2020, the Alliance added to its inventory of 200 affordable housing units an additional 50 building lots and began construction on 10 new homes. On fellowship in Egypt and the Netherlands she wants to explore social programs designed to alleviate poverty and inequality.



**Rana el Kaliouby** | BOSTON, MA

Deputy CEO • Smart Eye

In the growing field of artificial intelligence, Rana El Kaliouby focuses on “human insight AI,” an emerging technology that understands, supports and predicts human behavior, with potential applications in health, wellness, automotive, aerospace, robotics, biomedicine and other fields. A scientist turned entrepreneur, her memoir, *Girl Decoded: A Scientist’s Quest to Reclaim Our Humanity by Bringing Emotional Intelligence to Technology*, follows her journey from her birth in Egypt to the United States, where, for the past 20 years, she has been on a mission to bring more women into AI and to humanize machine learning before it dehumanizes the world. On fellowship she wants to explore the AI investment landscapes in India and Belgium.



**Heather Fischer** | MCLEAN, VA

Senior Advisor for Human Rights Crimes • Thomson Reuters Special Services

In 2020, Heather Fischer served as the first White House special advisor on human trafficking, overseeing interagency efforts to monitor and combat forced labor and child exploitation under the Trump administration. At Thomson Reuters, the multibillion-dollar, 25,000-employee, data and media company she joined in 2021, she coordinates internal business decisions designed to safeguard human rights. On fellowship in Malaysia and Thailand she wants to study exploitation in agriculture and manufacturing and develop a public-awareness campaign to prevent goods and services created by forced labor from entering U.S. supply chains.

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**Ricardo Herrero** | WASHINGTON, D.C.

Executive Director • Cuba Study Group

As a lawyer working at the intersection of international relations, politics, media and philanthropy, Herrero shapes public opinion in support of efforts to normalize relations between the United States and Cuba. He advocates lifting U.S. economic sanctions that he argues disproportionately hurt Cuban citizens instead of the island's Communist Party leadership they are meant to target. On fellowship he wants to produce a public-private framework to facilitate direct diaspora investment in Cuba's private sector, capitalizing on the nearly 14 percent of island-born Cubans who live abroad, mostly in the U.S. He wants to visit and draw lessons from Taiwan, where capital from expatriates sparked growth as a manufacturing hub, and Vietnam, where normalizing ties with the U.S. in the 1990s stimulated significant Vietnamese exile investment.



**Raegan Johnson** | ST. LOUIS, MO

Director of Community • Edward Jones

Dr. Raegan Johnson shapes and leads community outreach initiatives at Edward Jones, a financial services firm with approximately 50,000 employees, 19,000 branches and seven million investors across North America. Using her background in communications, journalism and public policy, Johnson oversees the strategy for branch associates to make significant community contributions through volunteerism and philanthropy. On fellowship in Sweden and Colombia she plans to focus on the impact of financial literacy with the goal of developing a mentoring program linking financial services experts with children from disadvantaged communities. Partnering with public schools, she wants the project to teach students how to manage and grow a donated stipend which they get to keep at the conclusion of the program.



**Aalok Mehta** | WASHINGTON, D.C.

Lead, U.S. Public Policy • OpenAI

Aalok Mehta leads U.S. governmental and civil society relations for OpenAI, a leading artificial intelligence firm. With fewer than 400 employees, OpenAI developed ChatGPT, the fastest growing consumer application in history. Launched in November 2022, ChatGPT had more than 100 million users within its first few months of existence. OpenAI also has launched some of the industry's other most talked-about innovations, including DALL-E-2, which allows users to generate images using language prompts, and Whisper, a speech recognition tool. In his role, Mehta engages with U.S. lawmakers and civil society organizations as the company seeks regulation to establish rules of the road for this powerful but potentially perilous new technology. On fellowship, Mehta plans to visit India and Sweden to understand their uniquely successful job-security and vocational training programs.

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**Lisa Reijula** | CHICAGO, IL

Director, Communications and Outreach • Pandemic Response Accountability Committee (PRAC)

Lisa Reijula leads public outreach efforts for the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee, established by Congress in 2020 as the U.S. government's primary oversight body for tracking more than \$5 trillion in Covid pandemic-relief spending and uncovering related fraud. A former U.S. State Department official, Reijula on fellowship plans to visit Australia, which funded a robust response to the health and economic impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic without experiencing significant levels of fraud and waste. Her goal is to study its system of internal controls and data analytics to detect identity theft and other scams.



**Christina Snider-Ashtari** | SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Tribal Affairs Secretary • Office of Governor Gavin Newsom

Christina Snider-Ashtari is a lawyer who serves as California's most senior official in Native American affairs. Home to the largest population of Native Americans in the U.S., California is a laboratory for restorative justice and tribal-state relations. Snider, a member of the Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians, is the author of California's executive orders apologizing to Native peoples for the state's role in their genocide and establishing a Truth and Healing Council to examine the destruction of ancestral lands. The Council is expected to make recommendations regarding reparations in a report scheduled for public release in 2025. On fellowship in New Zealand and Australia, she plans to study those nations' respective reconciliation efforts with their Maori and aboriginal populations.

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