

## Hill-Snowdon Foundation Announces Election of Community Trustees to Board

The [Hill-Snowdon Foundation](#) (HSF), a Washington, DC-based family foundation, has announced the election of three Community Trustees to join its current Board of seven Hill-Snowdon family members. The first class of Community Trustees for HSF include: Maria Brenes, Executive Director of Inner City Struggle; Judith Browne Dianis, Executive Director of the Advancement Project (national office); and Will Cordery, Advisor & Consultant, Leverage Philanthropic Partners, LLC. Ms. Brenes, Ms. Browne Dianis and Mr. Cordery will officially begin their terms in January 2021.

Over the past 63 years, HSF has evolved from a traditional “kitchen table” family philanthropy into a “small but mighty” family foundation committed to achieving social, racial, gender and economic justice across the country. The HSF Board recognized that in order to broaden and deepen this commitment, it needed to expand its table to increase access and share power with social justice practitioners who are fighting every day for a fair and just society. The HSF Board decided in 2019 to expand the seats on the Board to include Community Trustees, or non-family trustees who represent grassroots partners, national social justice leaders and social justice funders.

“Given the intersecting public health, economic and racial justice crises facing the nation today, we could not have chosen a better time to have these incredible social justice leaders join us and help guide our work,” said Nat Chioke Williams, Executive Director of the Hill-Snowdon Foundation. “Even before they were officially elected onto the Board, Maria, Judith and Will participated in our May Board meeting and provided critical insight and guidance that helped shape HSF’s Meeting the Moment Plan in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, they have been critical partners as we develop our expanded strategy in support of fostering powerful and thriving Black communities during this current moment of uprising and beyond.”

Added Elizabeth Snowdon Bonner, President of the HSF Board, “We are thrilled to welcome Maria, Judith and Will to not only our Board, but also to the expanded and extended HSF family. It is an honor to be joined in our work towards dismantling systemic racism by such a talented, thoughtful and deeply committed group of individuals.”

Maria Brenes is the Executive Director of [Inner City Struggle](#), a multi-issue community organizing group based in the Eastside of Los Angeles. Ms. Brenes, who has been a community activist for more than 20 years, said, “I am excited to serve as a Community Trustee of the Hill-Snowdon Foundation at this historical juncture for our nation. The Foundation has a deeply-rooted history of supporting power building in communities of color; as a long-time Latinx community organizer, I am proud to elevate grassroots strategies and approaches in this new role to help center building power as the way forward for the transformation of our society.”

Judith Browne Dianis is the Executive Director of the [Advancement Project](#)'s National Office in Washington, DC, where she leads the organization's work in combating structural racism in education, voting, policing, criminal justice and immigration. Ms. Browne Dianis said, "I look forward to joining HSF as a Community Trustee in such an important moment as this. There's much work to be done, and HSF is ready to lean in to support the critical work of grassroots organizations on the frontlines of undoing structural racism and bringing about the change we need."

Will Cordery, based in New York City, is an Advisor and Consultant with Leverage Philanthropic Partners, LLC. Mr. Cordery brings 17 years of experience in social justice advocacy, organizing, fundraising and grantmaking. He stated, "The Foundation's family trustees have been on a journey to not only transform their family philanthropy's giving, but of doing the deep and uncomfortable work of aligning their hearts and minds with their wealth. This work includes bringing non-family voices into positions of power that inform their funding and leveraging strategies. I'm honored to join them on this important journey."

The Hill-Snowdon Foundation is a Washington, DC-based family foundation whose mission is to work with low-income families and communities to create a fair and just society. HSF seeks to accomplish this mission by providing grants to organization that work directly to build power in low-income communities of color; leveraging its and others' resources; and promoting opportunities for learning and growth. The Foundation recently launched its Meeting the Moment Plan in response to the COVID-19 crisis, committing to double its grants budget for 2020.

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