

# Investing in Science, Technology & Art to Support Our Oceans

Thursday, June 24, 2021 from 1PM to 3:30PM, EDT



**Sergio Fernando de Cordova is the Chairman of PVBLIC Foundation**, as well as an active investor in many ventures. As Chairman of PVBLIC he leads the foundations engagement with Governments from the White House to the United Nations and multinationals; public & private. In all of his work, he leads the global development and policy work behind structuring Public Private Partnerships (PPP) that embrace social change. Over the last ten years Sergio has helped launch or played an instrumental role in developing platform and initiatives to advance impact across the globe. From his work at the United Nations helping develop the Private Sector Advisory Group (PSAG) of the SDG Fund at UN, Post-2015 Unit/Strategy Hub, SDG Media Zone, UN Family Office for Sustainable Development, Blockchain Commission, SDG Data Hub & Alliance, Alianza de Impacto Latino, to the White House's "It's On Us" & "Drink Up" initiatives to the Vatican supporting Pope Francis' Scholas Foundation via Transforming Education Donor Fund as well as many other notable global movements with associated Donor Advised Fund structures to support the investment of development of the various initiatives. Sergio has been celebrated locally & internationally for his work over the last 15 years. He was most recently honored with America's most distinguished award, the 2019 Ellis Island Medal of Honor given to American Immigrants

whose life work exemplifies the American Dream. Sergio is a graduate of Rutgers University with a Bachelor's in Sociology, Sergio also completed the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Birthing of Giants® executive program and the UNITAR executive diploma in International Law in the 21st Century and Diplomacy 4.0.



**H.E. Ms. Thilmeeza Hussain was appointed as the Ambassador of the Maldives to the United States and the Permanent Representative of the Maldives to the United Nations** on 18 April 2019 and assumed work at the Mission on 7 May 2019. After the coup d'état that overthrew the first democratic government in the Maldives, in 2012, she resigned from her previous position she held as the Deputy Permanent Representative at the Permanent Mission of the Maldives to the United Nations and Non-Resident Deputy Ambassador to The United States and Canada, in New York (November 2009 to February 2012). Since then, till her present appointment she was a key member of the Foreign Relations Committee (FRC) of the then main opposition party, the Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP), where she lobbied to maintain close relations with the government of the United States and other agencies to garner support in the restoration of democracy in the country. During her tenure as the Deputy Permanent Representative at the Permanent Mission of the Maldives to the United Nations, in New York, she held the Climate Change and Sustainable Development portfolio. She also led the work of Commercial Diplomacy at the Mission and was responsible for marketing various Maldivian government investment opportunities in the United States and Canada. In addition to this Ambassador Hussain

championed the climate change and sustainable development agenda, where she was the lead negotiator for the Maldives, at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) conference for two consecutive years, Co-chaired the Sustainable Development Working Group for the 48-members of Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS). She led the negotiations on the climate mitigation track for the Maldives at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) from 2010 to 2012, Co-chaired many AOSIS working groups including, Working Group on 5 Year Review of Mauritius Strategy for Implementation (MSI) of Barbados Program of Action (BPOA). She also facilitated various resolutions during the sessions of the UN General Assembly for the Group of 77 and China. Other important positions that Ambassador Hussain held include Minister of State for Home Affairs (North Province) during President Nasheed's government when decentralization of governance was a priority and rolled out for the first time. Prior to her appointment, Ambassador Hussain was an Adjunct Professor of Sustainability in Ramapo College, New Jersey, United States of America teaching World Sustainability at the School of Social Sciences and Human Services since 2015. She held the position of Co-Chair of Socially and Economically just Adaptation and Mitigation team of the United States Climate Action Network (USCAN), since 2016. Sustainability and environmental justice is one of her areas of personal interest as well. In addition to her formal work, Ambassador Hussain has a kinship for doing non-profit work for social good. The main areas of her work include gender and climate justice whereby she founded the Voice of Women (VoW) in the Maldives and was an Advisory Council Member for Climate Wise Women (CWW), and Women's Earth Climate Action Network (WECAN), to advocate for the cause. She was also named as a prestigious Aspen New Voices Fellow for the year 2018-2019 at the Aspen Institute. Ambassador Hussain holds a Master of Science in Business Management from Colorado Technical University; United States and Bachelor of Commerce from Murdoch University; Perth, Australia. Ambassador Hussain is married to Mohamed Shaheen, and they have a seven-year-old son. In her spare time, she enjoys baking and painting. Snorkeling and being in the ocean and beach, close to nature is what she enjoys most.



**H.E. Mr. Odo Tevi, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Vanuatu to the United Nations.** Since May 2014, Ambassador Tevi became Vanuatu's Permanent Representative/Ambassador to the United Nations, New York in May 2014. Apart from this role, Ambassador Tevi also assumed other international roles at the UN. He is currently the Chairman of UN Disarmament Commission, was the Chairman of the Special Committee on UN Charter and Strengthening of the Role of the Organization and also was Chairman of the Asia Pacific Group, Vice-President for the UN Pledging Conference for Development Activities and Chairman of the joint Vanuatu and UN Consultative Forum on ICPD and National Sustainable Development Plan. He was extensively involved in the negotiation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the UN's Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR). From 2013-2014, he became an international consultant and did assignments for the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, European Union and the Melanesian Spearhead Group. For the latter he investigated whether the four countries (Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu) should adopt a common currency. From 2003 to 2013, Ambassador Tevi was the Governor of the Reserve Bank of Vanuatu. During this period, he

was also Vanuatu's Alternate Governor to the International Monetary Fund. His major achievement as Governor of the central bank during his 10 year stint was that Vanuatu was able to achieve monetary and financial stability and this was translated into record high economic growth. This was achieved despite the challenges imposed by the 2008 global financial crisis. Before becoming Governor, he was Head of the Macroeconomic Policy Division at the Vanuatu Ministry of Finance and Economic Management. He has a Bachelor of Economics degree from the University of Papua New Guinea. He then obtained a Masters of Arts (Development Economics) from the University of Sussex, UK. He has a graduate diploma from the Australian Institute of Company Directors and also an Advanced Diploma in Monitoring and Evaluation from New York University. He did his executive training at Harvard University Kennedy School of Government and also at Columbia University Business School. He and his wife Sharon have three young children and are residing in New York. He is an avid reader and loves music



**Christina Korp, Co-Founder of SPACE for a Better World and Executive Producer & President of Purpose Entertainment.** Christina is the former manager of Apollo 11 astronaut Buzz Aldrin. She started her career in entertainment and ran John Tesh's media company. She went on to spend ten years as Buzz Aldrin's Manager and Advisor as well as Chief Marketing Officer and VP of Business Development for Buzz Aldrin Enterprises, Inc., where she renewed Buzz's brand and oversaw all licensing, media and public appearances. She created standards based educational tools like the Giant Mars Map and Giant Moon Map for ShareSpace Education. She co-produced the Emmy-nominated and 2018 Webby-winning *Buzz Aldrin's Cycling Pathways to Mars* VR Experience with 8i and TIME LIVE VR. Christina executive produced the last five galas at Kennedy Space Center celebrating Apollo 11 including the Apollo 50th Gala at Kennedy Space Center in July of 2019 to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Apollo 11. She co-founded The People's Moon which was showcased on July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019 in Times Square NYC and London Piccadilly. The People's Moon

experiential installation resides as a permanent exhibit at Kennedy Space Center Florida. In August 2020, she produced Our Story 100: Portraits of Change, commissioned by the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission which consisted of a giant photo mosaic of Civil Rights leader Ida B. Wells at Union Station in Washington DC. She also produced HER STORY 100, a video project including notable women in STEM. In 2020, she co-founded SPACE for a Better World, a philanthropic space experience company.



**Nicole Stott, Founder of the Space for Art Foundation.** Nicole is an astronaut and artist who creatively combines the awe and wonder of her spaceflight experience with her artwork, in order to inspire everyone's appreciation of our role as crewmates here on Spaceship Earth. A veteran NASA Astronaut with two spaceflights and 104 days living and working in space as a crew member on both the International Space Station (ISS) and the Space Shuttle. Personal highlights of her time in space include performing a spacewalk (10th woman to do so), flying the robotic arm to capture the first HTV, painting a watercolor, working with her crew mates and the ground team on science that is all about improving life on Earth, and of course the view out the window. She is also a NASA Aquanaut and was a crew member on an 18-day saturation dive mission at the Aquarius undersea laboratory. Nicole believes that the international model of peaceful and successful cooperation we have experienced in the extreme environments of space and sea hold the key to the same kind of peaceful and successful cooperation for all of humanity here on Earth. As an Artist, and now retired

from NASA, Nicole combines her artwork and spaceflight experience to inspire creative thinking about solutions to our planetary challenges, to raise awareness of the surprising interplay between science and art, and to promote the amazing work being done every day in space to improve life right here on Earth. Her first book *Back to Earth*, is available for pre-order and will be released Oct 12, 2021.



**Fabien Cousteau, Founder and President of the Fabien Cousteau Ocean Learning Center.** Fabien is an aquanaut, ocean conservationist, and documentary filmmaker. As the first grandson of Jacques-Yves Cousteau, Fabien spent his early years aboard his grandfather's ships Calypso and Alcyone; learning how to scuba dive on his fourth birthday. From 2000–2002, Fabien was an Explorer-at-Large for National Geographic and collaborated on a TV special aimed at changing public conceptions about sharks called "Attack of the Mystery Shark". Then in 2003–2006, he produced the documentary "Mind of a Demon" that aired on CBS. With the help of a large crew, Fabien created a 14-foot, 1,200-pound, lifelike shark submarine called "Troy" that enabled him to immerse himself inside the shark world. For the next four years (2006–2010), Fabien was part of a multi-hour series for PBS called "Ocean Adventures" with his father, Jean-Michel Cousteau, and sister, Céline. Inspired by his grandfather's 1978 PBS series "Ocean Adventures." In early

2009 Fabien began working with local communities and children worldwide to help restore local water ecosystems. He continues to presently fulfill these initiatives through Fabien Cousteau Ocean Learning Center ("FCOLC") his non-profit 501(c)(3) founded in early 2016 dedicated to the restoration of the world's water bodies through active community engagement and education.



**Jeremy McKane, Founder of OCEAN™ and Co-Founder of UltraMarine.** Jeremy is an Artist with a background in technology. At 18, he found himself working in a startup that would one day become (for a time) the world's largest web hosting provider. Today the company is known as NTT VERIO. In that time the internet promised potential uses that we take for granted today. It was this early experience that provided an alternate perspective. As an artist, Jeremy's work has been shown around the world that often includes a mixture of technology and thought provoking imagery about our oceans. He uses Art to engage the public to do something about the threats facing the Ocean. He is also the founder of OCEAN™ that aims to protect Our Oceans by reducing enforcement expense and defining value with the biodiversity that exists within. OCEAN™ is a blockchain platform with a mission to protect 30% of the world's oceans by 2030. This is achieved by reducing the cost of enforcement and defining financial value of the Ocean's resources. Thus providing an basis for the theory that the life in the oceans are worth more alive than dead. OCEAN™ is

partnering up with technology firms to increase the amount of understanding we have in terms of the amount of fish, temperatures, and other data sets. If we can measure something, we can improve it. The OCEAN™ Platform enables other developers to take their ocean data and collaborate with others on a global network. In addition to this, Jeremy has autonomous ocean vehicles that analyze the health of Marine Protected Areas. By collecting millions of data points the hope is that we can actively predict dangers before they become full on catastrophic. In addition, the dual system called the MAKO serves as an autonomous enforcement system that will patrol areas looking for vessels that do not belong in the water. In extreme cases, these system will disable fishing vessels at sea that attempt to flee from enforcement. All of this can be done for the fraction of manned based systems. An independent study was done by the Blockchain Research Institute.





**Gaelin Rosenwaks, Founder of Global Ocean Exploration, Inc.** Gaelin is a marine scientist, explorer, photographer and filmmaker. Always fascinated by the marine world, she began diving at 14 and has since continued exploring ocean ecosystems. She began her career at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution where she researched over-wintering patterns of Southern Ocean zooplankton. Gaelin earned her Master's Degree in Coastal Environmental Management from Duke University working with the Tag-A- Giant program and conducting research on the migratory movements of Giant Bluefin Tunas. Alarmed by the changes happening in the oceans, Gaelin founded Global Ocean Exploration Inc (GOE) to share her passion for ocean exploration, marine conservation and photography. She now participates and conducts expeditions in every ocean to alert the public not only to the challenges facing the oceans, but also to what science is doing to understand these changes. Gaelin is a US Coast Guard Licensed Captain, and a Fellow of both the Royal Geographical Society, the Explorers Club and a member of the Society of Women Geographers. She has

published articles in scientific journals, newspapers and magazines and has delivered lectures at global conferences and many institutions including the Explorers Club, Patagonia, Inc, Duke University and Yale University. She has appeared as an expert on many TV programs including on The Discovery Channel, CBS News, and Business Insider, and as a presenter and angler on the National Geographic Channel Series, *Fish Warrior*. Her photography has been displayed in many exhibitions, including solo exhibitions at Duke University, The Maritime Aquarium, and the Patagonia Upper West Side Store in NYC. Gaelin serves as an Honorary Advisor of the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY and an Ambassador for Oceanic Global and is a proud partner of UN World Oceans Day. To Gaelin, there is nothing better than being in the open ocean surrounded by endless blue water and passing wildlife Gaelin's passion for the ocean and conservation is infectious and she hopes to inspire others to care about our planet through her work.



**Isaac Reshad, Managing Director of Global Access Partner, LLC, Co-Founder and President of SDG Relief Fund.** Global Access Partner specializes in Public Private Partnerships, foreign direct investment, impact investing and global business development. Mr. Reshad also co-founded SDG Relief Fund with a focus to provide long-term rehabilitation and relief to regions that have been impacted by disasters and are facing economic instability, social and environmental vulnerability. SDG Relief Fund is also working with a broad array of groups including Family Offices, local and national authorities to support United Nations programs such as the 17 SDGs for the UN 2030 Agenda. Along with serving on the boards of several professional and charitable organizations, Mr. Reshad has supported several global projects and he is regularly invited to speak at the UN. Prior to founding Global Access Partner, he worked as a business consultant, specializing in strategic business development including capital raising for SMEs and start-ups, working with Private Equity and Venture Capital partners. Many of his successful concepts were concentrated

in emerging markets, infrastructure, real estate, sustainable and fashion related industries.



**Vasser Seydel, Director of Deep Seabed Mining Campaign at The Oxygen Project.** Vasser graduated with cum laude honors from the University of Georgia, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications. During her time in Athens, Vasser worked for UGA'S Office of Sustainability as the Grants and Engagement Director, represented the university as the UGA Student Sustainability Ambassador, and pursued an education outside the classroom as an intern at the United Nations Foundation and TEDWomen. After graduation, she began consulting with non-profit, business, and individual clients, specializing in communications, digital media, and strategic development, to enhance brands that create positive impacts on society. Vasser continues to promote and support her family's legacy and commitment to environmental responsibility through her family's foundation, the Turner Foundation, as a board member and the first Chairperson of the Turner 3rd Generation board. Additionally, she serves on the board of directors for the National Center of Family Philanthropy and is a Global Ambassador for Julian Lennon's, White Feather

Foundation, and an Arctic Angel for Global Choices. Most recently, Vasser has taken on the Deep Seabed Mining issue as the Campaign Director at The Oxygen Project and has the honor of representing the International Union for the Conservation of Nature as the IUCN Environmental Youth Ambassador.



**Ia Faraoni Founder & Designer of Ia's Threads.** Ia Faraoni is an Award-winning international Fashion Designer, and recognized as Remodista Women2Watch in Business Disruption Honoree 2019 & 2020, Ia Faraoni is the Founder and Designer of Ia's Threads - a sustainable fashion brand best known for their sustainable luxury bags & Minaudière, ethically sourced in collaborations with small communities across the Philippines. These bags are intricately handwoven from natural plant fibers and part of an economic development program that provide income to families of weavers. Born and raised in the Philippines, she aims to break the cycle of poverty and at the same time, connect cultural differences through fashion while highlighting environmental awareness and sustainability. She is the prolific force behind the brand's innovative zero-waste fashion clothing that was launched at New York Fashion Week ReGen Runway - with a focus on preserving the oceans using a design method that is informed by the use of upcycled waste fabrics and post-consumer textiles innovatively combined with eco-friendly T'nalak fabrics, woven by T'Boli

communities of Mindanao Island in the Philippines. She also co-founded Ira's Helping Hands, providing backpacks, school supplies and clean water to children in need as well as providing feeding program for undernourished children in Davao del Norte, Philippines. With designing and marketing as her core skills, Ia was awarded as best international designer in Paris, France. As a designer-entrepreneur she has executed business strategies that landed global brand awareness, as well as widespread press coverage for Ia's Threads. She is proud to be an Honorary Advisor for the NGOCSD-NY with her impactful focus on considering social, ethical and environmental responsibility as a priority.



**Runa Ray, Founder & Designer of Runa Ray Designs.** She is an Indian born who established her line in 2012. Branding her label a sustainable fashion company with commitments to fair trade garments, organic fabrics and zero waste initiatives. The company donates portions of proceeds to fund environmental educational programming to further promote sustainability. Bolstered by her ecologically driven approach and 'design with the end in mind', Ray commits her brand to fashion environmentalism and the 'reduce, reuse, recycle' model while executing a low emissions manufacturing process, converting garment scraps to paper to offset her companies carbon footprint. From the sourcing of natural fibers, to zero wastage reuse of surplus fabrics and the recycling of biodegradable materials, Runa Ray is intentional about her companies pledge to sustainability.



**La Tisha Parkinson, Peace Boat Ocean and Climate Youth Ambassador, Trinidad and Tobago (2017).** La Tisha is a proud island girl, working at the intersection of education and ocean conservation. My biggest passion is people. My main goal is to ensure everyone has the ability to live their best lives. She holds a Bachelor's of Science in Biology from the University of the West Indies. She is working with the Environmental Research Institute of Charlottesville on MPA stakeholder consultation and fisher folk communication training on a UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Site.



**Jeffery Huffines is Senior Advisor of the Coalition for the UN We Need and Together First.** Since 2017 the civil society-led UN2020 initiative had facilitated discussions with member states, UN officials and civil society advocates on the need for a robust, well prepared 75th anniversary commemoration for the UN in 2020, one that includes a meaningful process of stocktaking, review and strengthening of the organization. In December 2020, the UN2020 campaign was renamed the Coalition for the UN We Need. Together First is a network of individuals, civil society organizations, practitioners, parliamentarians, business leaders and activists from all regions of the world committed to fair, open and inclusive solutions to improve global governance. Jeffery had previously represented CIVICUS as UN Representative (NY), where he was an organizing partner of the UN DESA NGO Major Group (2011-2016) responsible for guiding multi-stakeholder engagement of NGOs in the lead up to Rio+20 through the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. He was Chair of the 65th UN DPI/NGO Conference, "2015 and Beyond: Our Action Agenda", UN HQ NY, 27-29 August 2014.

He was also Chair of the NGO/DPI Executive Committee (2007-2011), helping to organize the annual UN DPI/NGO Conferences hosted abroad in Paris (2008), Mexico City (2009), Melbourne (2010) and Bonn (2011). Jeffery was previously UN Representative (NY) for the U.S. Baha'i Community (1996-2009) where he led a number of NGO initiatives as Co-Chair of the Faith and Ethics Network for the International Criminal Court (FENICC); Chair of the UN Association/USA's New York Council of Organizations; President of the Committee of Religious NGOs; and co-founder of the Tripartite Forum on International Cooperation for Peace



**Margo LaZaro, President and Chair of the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY. She is Co-Founder & CSO of the SDG Impact Awards Community.** Margo is a Coalition Partner of the Coalition for the UN We Need and the Director of UN Relations for Global Family, and Chair of the Board of Advisors for Youth for a Better World/Montessori Model UN, Youth Impact! Forum and she represents the Huairou Commission at the UN. She is proud to be a Board member of Soroptimist International Metro New York Chapter and a Climate Reality Project Leader. She is the Convener of the NGO Major Group Urban Thematic Cluster, as well as a member of the Women's Major Group for the UN High Level Political Forum. Margo is a Designer and Artist with a career in Film, Theatre & TV production. In addition, she is an activist dedicated to supporting the causes related to the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals. She has worked within the UN Community as a Chief Developer of meetings, conferences and Special Events with over thirty years of experience at the United Nations. She collaborates with all stakeholders in developing inclusive and impactful

programs and projects. The NGOCS-D-NY has been proud to be a Partner of the UN Secretary General's UN75 Anniversary Dialogues and the UN Friends of World Oceans Day/Month initiatives. Margo is mainly focused on connecting all areas of the 17 UN SDGs. She passionately champions SDG 17 on Building Partnerships and she believes in the NGOCS-D-NY motto: "Turn Your Passions into Actions for Change.". Margo brings entrepreneurs of all ages and the private sector into the United Nations discourse to foster investing in the SDG solutions to support the success of the UN2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, so we "Leave No One Behind."

**Partners:** NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY, PVBLC Foundation, Coalition for the UN We Need, SDG Relief Fund, Together First, SDG Impact Awards Community, Global Family, Soroptimist International, World Federalist Movement-Canada, Humanitarian Focus Foundation, Salvation Army International Social Justice Commission, Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization, COVIDxNOW, Empower a Billion Women-EBW, Debate for Peace, Huairou Commission, Youth for a Better World/Montessori Model UN, Youth Impact! Forum, General Assembly of Partners, NGO Major Group Urban Cluster, Global Family for Love & Peace, ICW, CoNGO, and UNA-USA Council of Organizations.

*"Turn Your Passions into Actions for Change"*

<http://www.ngocsd-ny.org>