

## Dialogue: “Women Artists Making an Impact”



**H.E. Mrs. Simona-Mirela Miculescu, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Delegate of Romania to UNESCO.** Ambassador Miculescu has been serving as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Delegate of Romania to UNESCO since January 2021, after holding the position of Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of the UN Office in Belgrade, between 2015 and 2020. Prior to this, she was the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations, between 2008 and 2015. During her term in New York, Amb. Miculescu held several positions including: Vice-President of the UNICEF Executive Board, Vice-President of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, Vice-President of the Bureau of the Francophonie, Chair of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee of the General Assembly during its 66th Session, Vice-President

of the UN General Assembly for its 68th Session, and Chair of the 53rd Session of the UN Commission for Social Development. Amb. Miculescu's 30 years of diplomatic career include the positions of Spokesperson for the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Senior Media Advisor to the Minister (1993 and 1999), Director of the Press Department within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1994 and 2008), Press Secretary of the Embassy of Romania to the US (1994-1998), or Senior Public Information Officer at the Mission of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Kosovo (1999-2000). Between 2000 and 2004, she served as Foreign Policy Adviser to the President of Romania (with rank of minister), becoming eventually the first woman in the Romanian diplomatic history to be granted the rank of Ambassador. Between 2006 and 2007, she acted as Senior Advisor for Public Outreach to the Government of Iraq, within a USAID-funded project. Amb. Miculescu holds the titles of Doctor Honoris Causa Beneficiorum Publicorum of the Western University in Timișoara, as well as the title of Doctor Magna Cum Laude of the Babeș-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca. This is due to the fact that, in parallel with her diplomatic career, she has developed a rich academic and public communication experience that includes teaching international public relations courses at two universities in Romania, as well as publishing several books and articles on related topics. In her country, she is recognized also as one of the best experts in the field of international public relations management, being appreciated especially due to the elaboration of the first university curriculum on this subject, a study program currently used by several universities. Ambassador Miculescu has a passion for singing, and many times she matched it with projects of cultural diplomacy. During her term as Ambassador of Romania to the United Nations, she initiated several unprecedented music projects that included the “Ambassadors Sing for Peace” music album - containing peace-themed songs performed by ambassadors - and the UNRocks Music Group, that was the first ever music group in the UN circles composed of ambassadors, with which she released, in cooperation with Friendship Ambassadors Foundation, a music album called “Strong UN, Better World.” Ambassador Simona-Mirela Miculescu is married and has two children.



**Dr. Chantal Line Carpentier, Chief of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) New York Office of the UN Secretary-General.** Dr. Carpentier coordinates UNCTAD's input into the Financing for Sustainable Development, Science, Technology and Innovation, and monitors progress on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) processes. She is particularly interested in the role of micro, small and medium enterprise (MSMEs), entrepreneurship and gender equality in achieving a green, resilient, inclusive and connected economic system. Prior to 2014, as Major Groups Coordinator for the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) Division for Sustainable Development, she facilitated the engagement of and consultation with worldwide non-State actors (NGOs, women's groups, business and industry, etc.) in the SDGs negotiations and the United Nations Rio+20 Conference. As Sustainable Development Officer for UNDESA (2007-2010), she served as focal

point for food security and sustainable agriculture as well as sustainable consumption and production (SCP) where she successfully supported the negotiations of the 10 Year Framework of Program on SCP, now SDG12. Prior to joining the United Nations, she worked as Head, Environment, Economy and Trade Division of the North American Free Trade Agreement Commission for Environmental Cooperation (2000-2007), as policy analyst for the Wallace Institute for Alternative Agriculture (1998-2000) and as postdoctoral fellow for the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in the Brazilian Amazon (1996-1998). She is a World Academy of Art and Science Fellow, was chosen for the Ideagen 2016 and 2020 “100 Individuals and Organization empowering women and girl”, is a 2006 Yale World Fellow and a United Nations Environment Programme Who's Who's of Women and the Environment. She has co-authored a book on Ethical Investing and regularly publishes journal articles, book chapters and Secretary-General reports. Dr. Carpentier obtained her PhD. in Agricultural and Environmental Economics from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, as well as both her MSc. and BSc. in Agriculture Economics from McGill University. Born in Canada, Dr. Carpentier is fluent in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese and possess a strong knowledge of Mandarin. She competes in ultramarathon, ironmen and is second dan black belt



**Mr. 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.



**Ms. Sheila Shah, Producer, International Actress, Advocate and Humanitarian.** Sheila is focused on projects with social impact and social change. She serves as an ambassador for the March of Dimes of Canada and is also an advocate and ambassador for CARE to help fight poverty by empowering women and girls. Sheila is a strong advocate and an ambassador of White Ribbon USA and White Ribbon Canada which is the largest in the world MALE initiative, to help against violence towards women and children. She has helped and given her voice to other organizations such as David Lynch Foundation, United Nations and Go Campaign. In addition she has also hosted many NGO events. Sheila earned a Bachelor Degree in Chemistry, a Post Graduate Degree in Pharmaceutical Regulatory Affairs, and subsequently worked in the pharmaceutical industry. She also graduated with an Associate of Arts Degree in

Merchandise Marketing from The Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising.



**Ms. Chanel DaSilva, Co-Founder and Artistic Director of MOVE|NYC|.** A native of Brooklyn, NY, Chanel DaSilva is a multifaceted artist whose work reflects her deep connection to the transformative power of the arts. She is a graduate of LaGuardia High School for the Performing Arts, The Juilliard School and was a member of the highly celebrated Trey McIntyre Project based in Boise, Idaho. In 2011 Chanel graced the cover of Dance Magazine and was a part of Brooklyn Academy of Music's "Dance Motion USA". Chanel has choreographed works for Parsons Dance Company, Gibney Company, Joffrey Ballet Academy, American Repertory Theater, Ariel Rivka Dance, and LaGuardia High School among others. She has taught master workshops and seminars across the nation for institutions such as The Juilliard School, Harvard

University, NYU, LaGuardia High School for the Performing Arts, Ballet Hispanico, and New Orleans Ballet Association among others and currently serves on the Advisory Board of *Broadway for Racial Justice*. In 2015, alongside her long-time friend and business partner, Nigel Campbell, Chanel co-founded MOVE|NYC|, a multi-pillared arts and social justice organization with the mission of creating greater equity and diversity in the dance field and beyond. Recently, Chanel and Nigel were featured on the cover of Dance Teacher Magazine's April 2020 issue "Changing The Face of Dance." In addition, Chanel has received recognition from numerous institutions including 2020 Joffrey Ballet Winning Works Choreographic Competition, the 2019 Martha Hill Dance Fund Mid-Career Award, a 2011 Princess Grace Award, and the 2008 Martha Hill Prize awarded by The Juilliard School. She is a 2004 National YoungArts Winner, was named a Presidential Scholar in the Arts, and was featured on the 2004 PBS Documentary "American Talent". In 2019 Chanel received a IRNE nomination for Best Choreography for "The Black Clown" which premiered at American Repertory Theater in Cambridge, MA.



**Ms. Sanaz Sotoudeh, International Classical Pianist and Advocate.** Sanaz has appeared in recitals at various venues and festivals around Europe, North America and Middle-East. As a versatile pianist she has been performing with well-known musicians, artists and orchestras around the world; as well as live performances and interview on BBC Radio 3 in UK, on Okarina Musique TV in France, on Abu Dhabi TV in UAE, and featured in all luxury and artistic magazines in Vancouver. Sanaz has performed and worked with Daniel Barenboim's 'West-eastern Divan Orchestra'; Vancouver Orchestra; NSO UAE National Orchestra; Middle-East choir festival at Dubai Opera House; Les Ballets Jazz de Montreal, and RedBull Music Festival. Sanaz has completed her studies in solo piano performance at the McGill University in Canada, and the

Royal Academy of Music in London, UK on full-scholarships. In this regard, music has had a great role to connect people closer to each-other as an universal language. As an international classical pianist, Sanaz experienced growing up and living in both eastern and western countries, she has always been passionate to bring intercultural dialogue, awareness and peace between cultures around the world through her concerts and projects. In this respect, she worked and performed with Daniel-Said Foundation and West- Eastern Divan Orchestra which unites youth musicians from Israel, Palestine and several Arab countries to promote international dialogue through music. In addition, she has been working with the Vancouver Intercultural Orchestra, Agha Khan Museum Foundation, and recently performed an inspiring virtual concert at the Global Hope Music Festival. She gave concerts for the benefit of charitable foundations; to name the few: Yari Foundation which has given thousands of children in Iran the opportunity to make an impact in their lives and communities through education; BC Children's Hospital Foundation/BCCHF which has been working to inspire people and communities to raise the bar for children's health care; Neekoo Foundation which had been providing financial assistance to students towards advancing their studies in Canadian university. Most recently she successfully organised a fundraising event, in collaboration with the Canadian-Iranian foundation and the Mimik Technology in Vancouver, raised money which provided clean water to all the villages in Sistan and Baluchistan in Iran which was effected by the current flood.



**Ms. Sasha Hutchings, Co-Creator and Co-Host of The Chaos Twins, Creator of HomeGrownArts Alliance.** Sasha is a Stage and Television Actress, Teaching Artist, and Creative Producer. Sasha was most recently seen on Broadway as Laurey Williams in Oklahoma!, and is notably an original cast member of Hamilton featured in the Disney+ Hamilton Film. Additional Broadway credits include My Fair Lady, Rocky, Motown, and Memphis. In 2021 Sasha will appear in the premier season of Run The World on STARZ. Additional TV appearances include Fosse/Verdon, The Bold Type, Jessica Jones, Master of None, and Blue Bloods. As a freelance consultant in theatre education, Sasha designs curriculum around narrative building and storytelling through movement. She collaborates

regularly with New York City Department of Education theatre programs, Epic Theatre Ensemble, and The Arthur Miller Foundation, facilitating workshops for both students and educators and producing fundraising events. In 2020 Sasha created HomeGrownArts Alliance, an organization that connects professional artists with their hometown communities through online programming and provides local arts communities with exclusive resources. Sasha is the co-creator and co-host of THE CHAOS TWINS, a talk show on BroadwayWorld.com featuring guest interviews, discussion of current events, and non-sequiturs in an exploration of the cross-sections between arts and activism on stage, on-camera, off-line, and off-the-cuff. Sasha currently serves as Eastern Region Principal Councilor for the Actor's Equity Association. At the center of Sasha's work is a belief in equitable access to the arts, equity within the arts, and a passion for the unique ability of performance art to develop tools of empathy, communication, creative problem solving, and the radical imagination necessary to envision a better tomorrow.

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**Ms. Mara G. Haseltine, an International Artist and a Pioneer in the field of SciArt.**

Haseltine is an environmental activist and educator. She collaborates with scientists and engineers to create work that addresses the link to between our cultural and biological evolution. Her work takes place in the studio, lab and field infusing scientific inquiry with poetry. She was a pioneer in the translation of scientific data and bioinformatics into three-dimensional sculptures and became known for her outsized renditions of microscopic and sub-microscopic life. She created the first solar powered oyster reef in NYC and has studied sustainable reef restoration methods extensively for the past 15 years fusing art with sustainable solutions for 'SIDS' Small Island Developing States at the United Nations.

Haseltine has been a contributing member of the Explorers Club since 2008, she was awarded Return of the Flag with Honors for her work on the high seas with Tara Expeditions studying atmospheric climate change and its relationship to planktonic ecosystems. She is proud to be an Honorary Advisor of the NGOCS-D-NY. (For full CV go to [www.calamara.com](http://www.calamara.com))



**Ms. 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 NGOCS-D-NY with her impactful focus on considering social, ethical and environmental responsibility as a priority.



**Ms. Tijana Tatkovc, CEO Bergdorf Management Corp. and an International Artist.** Tijana is an entrepreneur, mother, was born in Split, Croatia. At the age of twenty, Tijana moved to the US to pursue her education. She studied at Baruch College in New York City and graduated from Zicklin Business School with a B.S. in Business Administration. Tijana established the property management firm Bergdorf Management Corp. in Miami in 2017 and built herself a career as an international artist. Living in Europe, New York and Miami. Tijana's art work speaks diversity and optimism. Tijana was born into a log line artistic family (including her mother and father) and she always possessed an innate passion for design and painting. Her artist name took off when she first relisted her work in April 2018. Since then, Tijana has

developed countless unique pieces directly on canvas and wood and her work has been shown in galleries internationally. She hosted a solo art exhibition in Dubai 2019 at Morozov Victor private gallery, Group exhibition at Palm Beach, International Art Fair, Palm Beach, FL, and Solo exhibition at Stone house resort and Spa, 2019 in Croatia. She has been an advocate for women's empowerment; she strives to evoke feminine strength and beauty in her art creations. Tijana is a committee member for "Angels for Humanity" charitable organization. She has helped raise money and helped collect toys for children in Haiti, the Dominican Republic and the Bahamas. Tijana is also an advocate for Stateraarts organization that supports and empowers women in Art. Tijana's personal mission is grounded in generosity and giving back to her community through the resonant beauty of her art.



**. Advisor of the Coalition for the UN We Need and Together First.** Jeffery represented CIVICUS at the UN High-Level Political Forum since its inception and was an organizing partner at the UN DESA NGO Major Group (2011-2016) responsible for guiding multi-stakeholder engagement of NGOs during the lead up to RIO+20 through the adoption of the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. Jeffery joined CIVICUS in 2009 as UN Representative (NY). Since 2017 the civil society-led initiative UN2020 has facilitated discussions with many member states, UN secretariat officials and civil society 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.15e was Chair of the 65<sup>th</sup> UN DPI/NGO Conference, “2015 and Beyond: Our Action Agenda,” UNHQ NY, 27-29 August 2014. Previously, Jeffery was elected Chair of the NGO/DPI Executive Committee (2007-2011), when the Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference was hosted abroad in Paris (2008), Mexico City (2009), Melbourne (2010) and Bonn (2011). He had previously served as Main UN Representative for the U.S. Baha’i Community 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.



**Ms. 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 Coordinating 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 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 Ocean Day/Week initiative. 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 support for the success of the UN2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, so we “Leave No One Behind.”

**Our Partners:** NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY, 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, EBW, Debate for Peace, Huairou Commission, Youth for a Better World:/Montessori Model UN, Youth Impact! Forum, Global Assembly of Partners, NGO Major Group Urban Cluster, Global Family for Love & Peace, ICW, CoNGO, and UNA-USA Council of Organizations.

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