



United Way  
**PROJECT  
BLUEPRINT**

a blueprint for diversity in board leadership

# Project Blueprint Class XLIV **graduate profiles**

“Leadership is about finding your unique blueprint and expressing that courageously, confidently, and vulnerably.”  
— J. Mulholland



## Abigail Johnson

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**Title:** Relationship Manager

**Organization:** Comerica Bank

**Skills/Strengths:** Finance/Accounting, Strategic Planning, Advocacy

**About:** Abigail Johnson is currently a Relationship Manager at Comerica Bank for the Houston Middle Market Group. Abigail brings 10 years of financial and sales experience, having worked with privately held companies in a broad range of industries, including manufacturing, distribution, wholesale, professional services, and real estate. In the nonprofit community, Abigail has a passion for supporting and advocating for economic empowerment opportunities. She volunteers for Junior Achievement to empower young people to own their economic success. Abigail also volunteers for BakerRipley, an organization dedicated to building communities to keep Houston a place of opportunity for all who are working for a better life.



**Areas of Interest:** Education, Youth Development, Health

## Akaniyene "Kani" Udoh

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**Title:** Finance Manager

**Organization:** ExxonMobil

**Skills/Strengths:** Finance/Accounting, Strategic Planning, Leadership Development

**About:** Kani's passion for service stems from her belief that to whom much is given, much is required. She has had amazing opportunities to learn and develop important skills through her academic and corporate experiences that she can bring to bear in service of others. Currently, she serves in several different areas at her church, including the welfare ministry, and volunteers weekly to have dinner and Bible study with at-risk youth in Tamina, a majority Black community just east of The Woodlands, TX. Her previous experience providing pro-bono consulting services to nonprofit boards in the Washington DC area, as well as her over 15 years of Corporate Finance experience in cash management, investment analysis, stewardship, controls, and internal audits, has prepared her to be able to hit the ground running as an effective Board member. Kani is looking forward to serving on a human services nonprofit board where she can bring her expertise to bear while also getting deeply connected with her community.



**Areas of Interest:** Human Services, Education, Religious/Faith-Based

## Bruce Robinson

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**Title:** Senior Program Manager

**Organization:** Microsoft

**Skills/Strengths:** Leadership Development, Technology, Program Development

**About:** Bruce, a former US Diplomat and current Cybersecurity professional, is fueled by an unwavering commitment to serve and effect positive change in the world. His passion drives him to tackle pressing technical, social, and educational challenges head-on. Recognizing the pivotal role nonprofit organizations play in our communities, Bruce is eager to channel his energy into nonprofit board leadership. As a dedicated volunteer and former coach at Capturing Kids Hearts, an education-focused nonprofit, Bruce leveraged extensive leadership training and diverse experiences to empower public school teachers and administrators who serve at-risk communities across the United States. Now, Bruce eagerly embraces the opportunity to take those diverse experiences and serve on a nonprofit board, leading with an unwavering focus on impact.



**Areas of Interest:** Education, Arts and Culture, International

## Cherrise Gayle

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**Title:** Vice President- Talent Acquisition Consultant

**Organization:** Bank of America

**Skills/Strengths:** Facilitation, Strategic Planning, Volunteer Management

**About:** Cherrise has expertise in drafting marketing ideas and studying the market and communities that organizations serve. She excels in collaborating with other organizations and leadership to ensure the organization's goals prosper. She enjoys helping college students prepare for internships and graduation applications for higher learning. Cherrise is a compassionate teacher who loves to help people succeed in setting and achieving their goals for the future.



**Areas of Interest:** Governance, Strategic Planning, Recruitment

## David Sistica

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**Title:** Global Resource Manager - Staffing & Development

**Organization:** ExxonMobil

**Skills/Strengths:** Finance/Accounting, Strategic Planning, Leadership Development

**About:** David Sistica is an experienced Project Management professional with executive experience in planning and executing large capital projects across the globe. He is currently leading construction operations for the Baytown Olefins Plant expansion, making it one of the largest in the world. Additionally, he serves as the Global Vice-president for GOAL, an award-winning Hispanic/Latino ERG with over two thousand members. David is passionate about causes that advance education and economic empowerment for underprivileged youth in our community. He has served on several advisory boards for global nonprofit organizations and has led construction and educational missionary projects in Mexico, Colombia, Brazil, Thailand, and Myanmar.

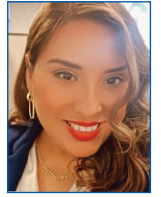


**Areas of Interest:** Education, Human Services, International

## Francis Rios

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**Title:** Senior Relationship Manager  
**Organization:** United Way of Greater Houston  
**Skills/Strengths:** Fundraising, Marketing, Public Relations



**About:** Francis brings a wealth of experience in communications, media relations, and fundraising, making her a versatile and well-rounded professional. Her diverse background has significantly influenced her leadership style, characterized by leading by example and fostering meaningful connections with others. Currently serving at United Way of Greater Houston, Francis plays a pivotal role in advising on new fundraising initiatives, drawing from her extensive past experiences and engagements with previous organizations. Beyond her current role, Francis is eager to leverage her rich knowledge and experience by contributing on a nonprofit board. Having navigated various adversities firsthand, she brings a unique perspective and firsthand understanding to the table.

**Areas of Interest:** Human Services, Education, Arts & Culture

## Gia Lott

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**Title:** Global HR Manager, Talent Acquisition  
**Organization:** Chevron Corporation  
**Skills/Strengths:** Facilitation, Human Resources, Leadership Development



**About:** Gia is an experienced global human resources leader for a Fortune 10 corporation and is passionate about ensuring everyone has access to mentors, skills, resources, and education/training to become productive members of our community, especially those in underrepresented affinity groups and underprivileged communities. She also currently serves as the Global President of Chevron's Black employee resource group. Gia is looking to leverage her leadership experience to give back to her community via board service. Her strengths and most valuable skill sets include HR expertise, managing multi-million dollar budgets, leadership development, large-scale event planning, fundraising, public speaking, engaging senior leaders, project management, and facilitating meetings and events.

**Areas of Interest:** Human Services, Youth Development, Education

## Laura Mayorga

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**Title:** External Affairs, Community Relations Sr. Specialist

**Organization:** Comcast

**Skills/Strengths:** Marketing, Technology, Volunteer Management

**About:** Laura Mayorga is an avid community activist who gives back tirelessly to support the Greater Houston community. She currently serves as the Senior Community Relations Specialist for the Comcast Texas Region, where she manages community engagement programming and grant funding. With more than 15 years of experience in community relations, Laura has helped elevate the Comcast brand within the Texas community. In her role, she manages key employee engagement initiatives such as the Comcast Matching Gifts program and Team UP volunteer activities. Her passion for mentoring and working with young children has been the catalyst for her volunteering with Big Brothers Big Sisters for more than 10 years. In 2020, she was honored with the Big Sister of the Year award by the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Houston. Laura has been recognized by the Houston East End Chamber and the Cámara de Empresarios Latinos de Houston for her outstanding volunteerism and community service.



**Areas of Interest:** Housing & Community Development, Youth Development, Arts & Culture

## Nakinna Young, DPT, NCS

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**Title:** Physical Therapist, Coordinator for Clinical Education

**Organization:** TIRR Memorial Hermann, Purple Fortitude

**Skills/Strengths:** Advocacy, Written Communication, Strategic Planning

**About:** Nakinna Young, DPT, NCS, is a dedicated board-certified neurologic clinical specialist in physical therapy whose passion for aquatic exercise, yoga, and holistic care is evident in both her professional and personal pursuits. She is particularly drawn to equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) initiatives, especially those addressing health disparities. Her dedication to EDI initiatives in her workplace is evident as she serves as a community council and employer council champion, facilitates Safe Space discussions, and contributes as a culture committee member. Driven by her passion for making a positive impact, Dr. Young looks forward to furthering her contributions to nonprofit organizations in a more formal capacity, continuing her journey of service and advocacy in her community.



**Areas of Interest:** Health, Arts & Culture, Education

## Nalini Singh-Lutchmedial

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**Title:** Finance Manager

**Organization:** Woodside Energy

**Skills/Strengths:** Finance/Accounting, Management, Strategic Planning

**About:** Nalini is an experienced finance professional and people leader in the energy industry. She is passionate about inclusion and diversity, ensuring that everyone has a voice at the table. Nalini is a committee member and past co-chair of Woodside's Employees Driving Gender Equity (EDGE) group. Additionally, she is a qualified yoga instructor committed to combining mental wellness with a sense of purpose.



**Areas of Interest:** Women's Empowerment, Mental Health, Financial Literacy

## Rafael Nolasco

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**Title:** Director of Internal Audit  
**Organization:** Ports America  
**Skills/Strengths:** Advocacy, Finance/Accounting, Leadership Development



**About:** Rafael Nolasco is a dedicated volunteer with a passion for giving back to his community. He currently donates his time and talents to Power on Heels (POHF) and the Association of Latin Professionals For America (ALPFA), both nonprofit organizations that empower the Latino community through academic support, cultural enrichment, and social advocacy.

**Areas of Interest:** Arts and Culture, Youth Development, Social Justice

## Renee Rodriguez

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**Title:** Refinery Optimization Engineer  
**Organization:** LyondellBasell  
**Skills/Strengths:** Facilitation, Volunteer Management, Written Communication



**About:** Renee believes in leaving something better than she found it and achieves this through volunteering. Outside of her work, she volunteers as a CPR instructor through the Junior League and participates in volunteer activities with the Houston Marathon and Houston Open. Renee is a lieutenant for the volunteer Emergency Response Team at the LyondellBasell refinery. Additionally, she currently serves as the vice president of her condominium's HOA board. Renee believes in giving her time and skills to organizations and causes she is passionate about. She is committed to serving as a board member for nonprofits to bring new perspectives, leadership, and diversity to those organizations. Renee also believes in representing the Hispanic community with dignity and integrity through her work.

**Areas of Interest:** Human Services, Animal Welfare, Public & Societal Benefit

## Rhonda Holmes

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**Title:** Community Relations Specialist  
**Organization:** Harris County Judge's Office  
**Skills/Strengths:** Program Development, Public Relations, Leadership Development



**About:** Over the span of two decades as a youth leadership director and community organizer, Rhonda Holmes has mentored over 700 young people. Rhonda's passion for working with youth led her to revive the Youth Police Advisory Council (YPAC), where she assumed the role of Program Director. As a community organizer, Rhonda plans events that serve Houston's vulnerable communities and provide an opportunity for volunteers to actively engage with the community while meeting their needs. Ms. Holmes also created a professional development training program for Houston Police new hires in the Mayor's Hire Houston Youth initiative and taught professional dress for the City of Houston's professional development training course. Rhonda currently holds a key role as the Community Relations Specialist with the Harris County Judge's office. There, she serves as the face, eyes, and ears for the Judge, acting as a reliable source of information and insight.

**Areas of Interest:** Youth Development, Transitional Services, Community Development

## Seun Harris

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**Title:** Senior Facilities Engineer

**Organization:** Chevron

**Skills/Strengths:** Facilitation, Program Development, Strategic Planning

**About:** Seun Harris is an engineer in the energy industry with 16 years of experience. In addition to his professional work, Seun is passionate about giving back to his community. His most rewarding volunteer experience has been with Big Brothers Big Sisters, where he mentors young people and helps them unlock their full potential. Seun has also volunteered with No Kid Hungry, working to address food insecurity in his local area. Additionally, Seun has spoken at career days at high schools, sharing his insights and experiences to inspire the next generation of leaders and innovators. Through his volunteer work and public speaking, Seun demonstrates a deep commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of others. Seun has a desire to deepen his commitment to making positive change by serving on a nonprofit board where his unique insights can be leveraged in the attainment of the organization's mission.



**Areas of Interest:** Youth Development, Arts & Culture, Houston & Community Development

## Teresa Lopez

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**Title:** Lubricants Supply Chain Optimization Lead

**Organization:** Phillips 66

**Skills/Strengths:** Program Development, Volunteer Management, Written Communication

**About:** Teresa is a female engineer passionate about young women in STEM education. As a devout Christian, Teresa feels strongly about loving others and giving back. "If God so loved us, we also ought to love one another" (1 John 4:11). Teresa sees loving others as demonstrating compassion and serving those truly in need. She strives daily to not only "love with words or speech, but with actions and in truth" (1 John 3:18). Teresa understands there is no greater feeling than knowing you are providing love and support to those who need it most.



**Areas of Interest:** Education - STEM, Human Services, Youth Development



## Tolu Opeloye

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**Title:** Chief Executive Officer

**Organization:** Med Shop Plus, Inc.

**Skills/Strengths:** Fundraising, Strategic Planning, Leadership Development

**About:** Tolu Opeloye Sr. is a 2019 Houston Business Journal 40 under 40 honoree and was awarded the Mack H. Hannah Upstart Award through the Greater Houston Black Chamber in 2019. He is a promising serial entrepreneur and general management executive with extensive and diverse experience in business development. Tolu is committed to empowering young men to become responsible and productive members of their families and communities. He serves as the Board Chairman for the Urban Enrichment Institute and a board member with Elliott Chandler Foundation where his focus is mentoring, public relations and marketing. He is a proud member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. and a leadership graduate of Leadership Houston & Houston Black Leadership Institute.



**Areas of Interest:** Empowering Young Men, Education, Housing

## Tressie Conde-Parker

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**Title:** FP&A Manager

**Organization:** Phillips 66

**Skills/Strengths:** Finance/Accounting, Strategic Planning, Written Communication

**About:** Tressie appreciates the opportunity to utilize the skills gained as a corporate finance professional to make an impact on her community. She is especially passionate about women's empowerment, financial literacy, and social equity. Before relocating to Houston from Lake Charles, Louisiana, in 2023, Tressie served on both the Policy and Finance Committees of the Literacy Council of Southwest Louisiana, a community-based non-profit organization committed to literacy and lifelong learning. Currently, Tressie serves on a Corporate Board as the Accounting and Finance Chair of the WRB Refining Joint Venture between Phillips 66 and Cenovus Energy, and she has seven years of experience serving on corporate and nonprofit boards.



**Areas of Interest:** Human Services, Education, Youth Development