



## Fellows in Public Affairs Program

# MEET THE 2022-23 COHORT

We are excited to introduce the Fellows in Public Affairs 2023 cohort! During their nine months as Coro Fellows, they will examine some of the institutions of New York which influence public affairs -- government, business, labor, media, political campaigns and community organizations.



### Christopher Chin [in](#)

**MUHLENBERG COLLEGE '19 | SAN FRANCISCO, CA**

Chris is a Bay Area native and graduate from Muhlenberg College with a B.A. in Political Economy & Public Policy. During his time in undergrad, he worked to build community partnerships and collaborative programming with the East Coast Asian American Student Union, igniting his passion as an organizer. After graduation Chris moved back home and began working as a community advocate with Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus, building stronger civic engagement in AAPI communities across CA. He hopes to continue working within the lens of policy and law to advocate for a more equitable future in the realms of affordable housing and urban planning. In his free time Chris can be found tending to his houseplants or exploring the outdoors.



### Dyenaba Laguda [in](#)

**NEW YORK UNIVERSITY '22 | BRONX, NY**

Dyenaba Laguda is a recent graduate from New York University's Gallatin School of Individualized Study, where she created her own major with a concentration in Political Economy and Social Change in West African Society with a minor in History. During her time at NYU, Dyenaba had the opportunity to work on several projects regarding the African continent and everyday social life within it. She served as the African Student Union's Political Action Chair where she was able to explore and spread awareness of news and events on the African continent to fellow club members. While curating her major at NYU, focused on the intersections of things such as public service, technology, race, culture, migration, law, and economy both abroad and here in the U.S. Dyenaba hopes to someday expand her talents to the law sector and in the long-run hopefully work in Africa.



## Enrique LaSalle [in](#)

**QUEENS COLLEGE '22 | FRESH MEADOWS, NY**

At Queens College, Enrique was driven by a desire to learn how the political system of the United States operated to prepare for a future of advocacy and changemaking. Throughout his studies and extracurricular activities, including the Speech and Debate Society, Enrique got more comfortable using his voice to speak truth to power. With experiences at his school's External Affairs department and Model United Nations, Enrique was able to better grasp how local government functions and how global diplomacy is accomplished. A recent Phi Beta Kappa graduate, Enrique hopes to use the knowledge he has gathered and love for art to reach many people with goal to unite people and create community irrespective of background. Enrique enjoys making music with his friends and telling jokes.



## Hannah Plumb [in](#)

**GEORGIA COLLEGE '19 | WALTHAM, MA**

At Georgia College, Hannah received a degree in Mass Communication. While there, Hannah acted as a peer facilitator for Project BRAVE, raising awareness about rape culture and red flags for abusive relationships. During her studies, her passion for nonprofit and intercultural communication grew, which is how she became a Peace Corps Volunteer in Indonesia. Sadly, due to COVID-19, that experience was cut short. After that, she worked doing outreach for COVID-19 vaccines and created her own vaccine ambassador volunteer program. During this time, she expanded her skills in training and capacity building. Hannah brought these skills to Brandeis University to pursue a Master's in Sustainable International Development. For her thesis, Hannah will be investigating how capacity building can help organizations address root causes of social issues instead of acting as a band-aid fix. After graduate school, Hannah hopes to work for a gender-focused foundation, doing capacity building with grantee partners.



## Isaac James [in](#)

**UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN '22 | ARLINGTON, TX**

Isaac James is a recent graduate of the University of Texas at Austin with a B.A. in Government and Plan II Honors and a minor in LGBTQ+ Studies. A proud Texan, Isaac found his passion for community-based advocacy as a student leader on campus and as a member of the GLSEN Austin Board of Directors. As an intern with the Texas House LGBTQ Caucus during the brutal 2021 legislative session, Isaac spearheaded the drafting and introduction process for the first bill in state history seeking to prohibit bullying and harassment based on LGBTQIA+ identities. He spent his final semester of college in Washington, D.C. as an intern with The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, developing experience with coalitional advocacy in the broader federal civil rights community. In the future, Isaac hopes to pursue opportunities at the intersection of education policy and civil rights law.



## Jake Foley-Keene [in](#)

**UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND-COLLEGE PARK '22 | SILVER SPRING, MD**

Jake Foley-Keene graduated summa cum laude with honors from the University of Maryland—College Park with a degree in Government and Politics. At UMD, Jake focused on improving the lives of students, as he advocated for more academic support through the Honors College Student Advisory Board, led a civil rights course as an undergraduate teaching assistant, and called out bad actors as the opinion editor for the student paper. He fought for economic justice while interning with the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law and spearheaded progressive legislation on affordable housing and rental rights in the Maryland General Assembly as a legislative assistant for Delegate Vaughn Stewart. Jake has an intense interest in the law, as he completed a 146-page thesis on progressive district attorneys' accountability to constituents and intends to become a public interest lawyer. He is an avid supporter of New England sports teams.



## Laura Chen [in](#)

**MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY '22 | CALIFON, NJ**

Laura studied chemical engineering and minored in public policy at MIT. She is passionate about sustainability, equity, and participation, and she hopes to interweave these pursuits in her career. She is particularly interested in climate/environmental justice and improving protections for the most vulnerable. Her passion for enhancing participation led her to co-found Civic Synergy, an organization focused on political depolarization through youth. Leading the MIT Water Club and its annual conference, as well as internships in county-level climate planning and a stormwater start-up, sparked interests in cross-sector collaboration and systems thinking. She was also involved with research on the U.S. water affordability crisis, energy-efficient industrial membranes, and Boston eviction dynamics, which furthered her interest in different scales and approaches to problem-solving. Laura had the pleasure of playing on her school's varsity field hockey team and continues to love being active and outdoors.



## Samantha Wilner [in](#)

**TUFTS UNIVERSITY '22 | NEW YORK, NY**

Samantha graduated from Tufts University with a B.A. in Sociology, Spanish and Education. While at Tufts, she designed and taught a course about CIA intervention in Latin America to first-year students. She also worked as a Teaching Assistant at a Spanish and English bilingual education program in Somerville, Massachusetts. In 2020, Samantha led the initiative at Tufts to disaffiliate from traditional sororities and to create new, value-driven social organizations on campus. Samantha aspires to reform education policy in urban areas, particularly in New York City where she grew up. She is interested in the intersection between education and housing policy and aims to find a way to allocate funding more equitably amongst public schools. Samantha's hobbies include reading recipes, writing recipes, and cooking.



## Zoe Donnenfield

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES '22 | PETALUMA, CA**

Taking three gap years to successfully pursue a professional ballet career and later backpacking solo across Europe, unconventionally prepared Zoe to succeed both in life and college. These disparate experiences led her to pursue Global Studies and History at UCLA, where she graduated with Latin honors. Before transferring to UCLA, Zoe facilitated a tree-planting initiative in collaboration with her community college and local university as a public service. She also arranged for California's former 19th Senate District director to speak to students on the topic of racism. She later interned at that district office. While at UCLA, Zoe wrote a policy memorandum outlining ways to change US global trade policy to better support the American middle-class. Zoe's appreciation for multiculturalism originated at her Chinese immersion K-8 school. Her ability to speak Mandarin inspires her to cultivate relationships which contribute to her interest in global policy work. BTW, Zoe loves museums.