

# 2025 Nonprofit Power Players

PoliticsNY and amNY are proud to present the 2025 Nonprofit Power Players list. The leaders highlighted on this year's list are the driving forces behind a variety of programs and initiatives improving the lives of New Yorkers from all walks of life. Focusing on important issues such as education access, race and gender equity, immigrant justice, affordable housing, food insecurity and more, the 2025 Nonprofit Power Players are vital leaders in the fight for a better New York for all.



## **Na'ilah Amaru**

**Advocacy and Policy Strategist, BIPOC Democracy Table**

Na'ilah Amaru is an advocacy and policy strategist whose work bridges grassroots power and governing institutions. She partners with nonprofit and community leaders to advance issue campaigns that expand civic power and strengthen democratic infrastructure. Drawing on over two decades of experience in building civic engagement ecosystems, coalition strategy, and leadership development, Na'ilah expands the influence of historically marginalized communities in public policy and governance, strengthening how communities shape decisions that affect their lives.

### **What's one piece of advice you'd give to someone starting out in your field?**

Lead with your values. Fancy titles open doors, but what truly matters and what creates real, lasting change is your integrity, the relationships you build, and your ability to imagine new possibilities and turn those ideas into action. Learn how systems work, then organize people and power to make them work better for everyone.

### **How can policymakers and everyday New Yorkers support your organization?**

Policymakers can follow the leadership of those most impacted, investing in the civic infrastructure that supports community-led governance and decision-making. Everyday New Yorkers can strengthen democracy by staying engaged beyond election day, participating in local advocacy, and holding government leaders accountable to the communities they serve. Together, they help create the conditions for an inclusive democracy built on shared responsibility.

### **What are your organization's goals for 2026?**

The BIPOC Democracy Table is focused on deepening statewide collaboration among nonprofit and grassroots leaders of color and building the collective infrastructure needed to shape democracy reform. Our goal is to embed racial justice and collective leadership in New York's democracy by expanding collaboration, shared accountability, and sustainable power across the civic ecosystem.