Maya Soetoro is a Consultant at the Obama Foundation, helping to develop programming in the Asia-Pacific region. Prior to her work at the Obama Foundation, she was the Director of the Matsunaga Institute for Peace at the University of Hawai‘i where, in addition to leading outreach and development initiatives, she also taught Leadership for Social Change, Peace Movements, Peace Education, and Conflict Management. For many years, she worked at the University of Hawai‘i College of Education where she taught Multicultural Education, Social Studies Methods, and Peace Education at both the graduate and undergraduate levels.

Maya sits on several voluntary boards and is a Co-Founder of the non-profits Ceeds of Peace, The Peace Studio, and the Institute for Climate and Peace.

Judy Rodgers was working in media when she turned her attention to a study of consciousness and meditation twenty-five years ago. She held executive positions in media companies such as CBS/Fox Video and New World Entertainment for fifteen years, translating the ideas of authors and thought leaders to video. In 1999 she helped found Images & Voices of Hope, a global media initiative dedicated to media as a force for good. She oversaw the merger of ivoh with The Peace Studio in 2020.

Her interest in raja yoga meditation as taught by the Brahma Kumaris led to an extended study of consciousness and applied spirituality on how the quality of our awareness affects our thoughts, vision and experience in the world. Over the past twenty-five years she has returned to India roughly forty times to continue her study and practice of raj yoga and has supported many Brahma Kumaris initiatives. In 2009 she co-authored a book on altruism called Something Beyond Greatness.

She divides her time between her work as a consultant and communication strategist and her commitment to a raja yoga meditation practice. She lives in a retreat center in the Catskill Mountains, north of New York City.
VIJAY GUPTA

is a violinist, speaker and citizen-artist dedicated to creating spaces of wholeness through music. He is the founder and Artistic Director of Street Symphony, a community of musicians creating spaces of connection for people in reentry from homelessness, addiction and incarceration in Los Angeles, and a co-founder of the Skid Row Arts Alliance.

Vijay was the recipient of a 2018 MacArthur Fellowship. He has performed as an international recitalist, soloist, chamber musician, and orchestral musician for over 20 years, playing his solo debut with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Zubin Mehta. Vijay was a member of the first violin section of the Los Angeles Philharmonic for 12 years, and has collaborated with the Kronos Quartet, the Philharmonia Orchestra of London, Yo-Yo Ma, and appears regularly with the Strings Festival in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Currently, he serves as the Senior Artistic and Programs Advisor for Young Musicians Foundation. He holds a Bachelor’s degree in Biology from Marist College, and a Master’s in Music from the Yale School of Music.

DEBORAH GREENE

Known as “The Peace Traveler”, with over 25 years in the field of community building, she is a writer, educator, UN Delegate and international speaker. Coining the theory of “3 feet of Peace” during her travels, she is recognized as a leader in peace technology and is currently working towards a Masters in Global Diversity Governance at Coventry University's Center for Trust, and is involved in Peace & Social Relations research focused on the efficacy of filmmaking and technology in peace building, as well as the study of policy and emerging theory of diversity. Her dissertation is a global study on the effect racial identity and theory has on personal peace.

Deborah is currently director of TEDxHartlandHill, in Woodstock, Vermont this Fall. TEDxHartlandHill has created a forum to find the best new ideas for building more cohesive communities and to celebrate local innovation with respect for the past and an eye towards the future.
Journalist Barbara Rodgers’ career in television broadcasting spans more than 45 years. She began her years on the air at WORK-TV in Rochester, New York, where she was the first African-American and the first female reporter that station had ever hired. She left Rochester in 1979 when she was hired by KPIX5 TV, the CBS owned station in San Francisco. Barbara retired from KPIX in 2008 after almost 30 years at that station where she became one of the most recognizable faces in Bay Area TV. During her years as a working journalist, Barbara held a number of positions, including News Anchor, Reporter and Show Host. She even had her own radio program in 2009, called “Live From San Francisco, It’s Barbara Rodgers.”

Barbara has received scores of honors for her work both in television and in the community. In 1992, the San Francisco Chapter of the League of Women Voters chose her as one of its "Women Who Could Be President."

She has won eight EMMY® Awards from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences and five Excellence in Journalism Awards from the National Association of Black Journalists. She was the first African American female journalist to be awarded a prestigious William Benton Fellowship in Broadcast Journalism at the University of Chicago. In 1993, Barbara was chosen as one of five journalists to participate in a South Africa Journalists Exchange. She spent a month reporting from South Africa and won an EMMY for the hour-long documentary she produced, entitled “South Africa After Apartheid.” She also had a chance to meet Nelson Mandela while she was in South Africa.

Barbara has interviewed more well-known personalities than she can easily list, but the names include Spike Lee, Shirley McClain, Terry McMillan, Rev. Jesse Jackson, Ella Fitzgerald, Cab Calloway, Jane Fonda, Kareem Abdul Jabbar, Kerry Washington and President George H. W. Bush, whom she interviewed at The White House during his tenure there. Barbara’s life story is one of the African American oral histories collected by the History Makers. Her History Makers interview was recently added to the permanent collection at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC.