

Adoption Museum Project's History Initiative **Vision and Strategy Group: Bios**

Linnea Anderson

Linnea is the Archivist for the Social Welfare History Archives at the University of Minnesota Libraries.

Connection to adoption: Linnea has no personal connection to adoption. She relates to adoption through her work with historical records of adoption policy and practice.

Identities: white, cisgender female

Pronouns: she/her

Resides in: Minneapolis, MN

Laura Callen

Laura is the Founder/Director of the Adoption Museum Project.

Connection to adoption: adopted person (domestic, same-race)

Identities: white, cisgender female

Pronouns: she/her

Resides in: Berkeley, CA

Kelly Condit-Shrestha

Kelly is a migration and adoption studies historian, and Post-Doctoral Research Associate in the Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. She is currently working on a book manuscript, tentatively titled *Adoption and American Empire: Migration, Race-Making, and the Child, 1845-1988*.

Connection to adoption: adopted person (international, transracial, Korea)

Identities: Asian American, cisgender female

Pronouns: she/her

Resides in: Minneapolis, MN

Shannon Gibney

Shannon is a writer, educator, activist, and the author of *See No Color* (Carolrhoda Lab, 2015), a young adult novel featuring themes of transracial adoption that won the 2016 Minnesota Book Award in Young Peoples' Literature. She is faculty in English at Minneapolis Community and Technical College.

Connection to adoption: Adult Black domestic transracial adoptee

Identities: Writer, Professor, Activist, Mom, Community member

Pronouns: she/her

Resides in: Minneapolis, MN

Samantha Gonzalez

Samantha is a student, journalist, and aspiring teacher. She provides instructional support for students with Autism and works as an educator with *Adoption...It's Complicated*, a birth parent group dedicated to illustrating the realistic complexities related to adoption.

Connection to adoption: birth/first parent (domestic, transracial)

Identities: multiracial (black, white), female

Pronouns: she/her

Resides in: Sacramento, CA

Susan Devan Harness

Susan works with American Indian youth as the Field Director for the Tri-Ethnic Center for Prevention Research at Colorado State University. She authored the book *Mixing Cultural Identities Through Transracial Adoption: Outcomes of the Indian Adoption Project (1958-1967)*. Her second book, *Bitterroot: A Salish Memoir of Transracial Adoption*, will be published in the summer of 2018 by University of Nebraska Press. Susan's website includes writing on American Indian transracial adoption: www.susanharness.com.

Connection to adoption: adopted person (American Indian, transracial)

Identities: American Indian (Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribes), cisgender female

Pronouns: she/her

Resides in: Fort Collins, CO

Liz Latty

Liz is a writer, activist, and educator whose work has been featured in numerous magazines, journals, and anthologies. She is the founder of Open Record Consulting, where she works as a support and education consultant with people, families, and professionals connected to adoption. Liz is also an adult literacy curriculum developer for The City University of New York.

Connection to adoption: adopted person (domestic, same-race)

Identities: white, cisgender female, queer

Pronouns: she/her

Resides in: Brooklyn, NY

Susan Dusza Guerra Leksander

Susan is a licensed psychotherapist and works as the First/Birth Family Specialist at Pact, An Adoption Alliance. Susan is also on the Leadership Team of the Adoption Museum Project.

Connection to adoption: adopted person (domestic, transracial) and first mother

Identities: Latina, cisgender female, heterosexual

Pronouns: she/her

Resides in: Oakland, CA

Suzi Martinez Carter

Suzi is the History Fellow at the Adoption Museum Project. She is a social justice resource organizer, and strategy and startup consultant for nonprofits and co-ops. Born and raised in NY and nurtured in the U.S. South, Suzi joined the History Initiative in Sep 2017 in order to evolve her paid work and activism towards the intersection of adoption and social justice.

Connection to adoption: adopted twin and former foster care child (domestic, transethnic)

Identities: Puerto Rican/Boricua/Latinx, multiracial, cis female, bisexual

Pronouns: she/her

Resides in: Portland, OR

Rosemarie Peña

Rosemarie is a PhD candidate in Childhood Studies at Rutgers University - Camden. She is also the founder and president of the Black German Heritage and Research Association (BGHRA)

Connection to adoption: adopted person (international, dual-heritage, Germany)

Identities: Black German American, cisgender female

Pronouns: she/her

Resides in: Marlton, New Jersey