

# SOLIDARITY LOOM

Weaving a Global Network of Engaged Creatives

in a world of rising authoritarianism

virtual series January-June 2026

## ARTS, CULTURE, AND DEMOCRACY: UNDERSTANDING GLOBAL AUTHORITARIANISM

### February 26

11 am EST | 1 pm BRT | 5 pm CET

5 pm WAT | 7 pm EAT | 7 pm AST

9:30 pm IST

REGISTER at:  
[www.impactart.org](http://www.impactart.org)



# THE SESSION FLOW

**5 minutes**

## **Welcome and Introduction**

Armine Avetisyan, Cynthia Cohen (IMPACT)

**5 minutes**

## **OPENING RITUAL**

Wendy Shenefelt (Alternate ROOTS)

**20 minutes**

## **PRESENTATION: TOOLS AND FRAMEWORKS FOR COUNTERING AUTHORITARIANISM**

Julia Roig (Horizons Project)

**30 minutes**

## **RESPONSES TO THE PRESENTATION**

Carlton Turner (Mississippi Center for Cultural Production)  
Chandanie Orgias (Everyday Democracy)  
Jorge Díaz Ortiz (AgitArte )

**5 minutes**

## **ENERGIZER**

Wendy Shenefelt (Alternate ROOTS)

**20 minutes**

## **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION**

Facilitated by Paloma Dallas (Kettering Foundation),  
IMPACT Board Members

**20 minutes**

## **SHARING INSIGHTS FROM GROUP DISCUSSION**

**5 minutes**

## **WRAP UP AND CLOSURE**

## **JULIA ROIG**

### **Horizons Project (USA)**

Julia Roig, Founder & Chief Network Weaver of the Horizons Project, brings over 30 years of global experience in democratic change and conflict transformation. Formerly President and CEO of PartnersGlobal for 14 years, she launched the Horizons Project in 2022 to focus on peacebuilding, social justice, and democracy in the US. Julia pioneers innovative research on Narratives for Peace, collaborating with philanthropists, nonprofits, and movement leaders to integrate narrative competency for societal reconciliation and democratic values. With extensive fieldwork spanning 50+ countries, including roles such as Country Director in Serbia and expertise in community justice in Colombia, she also serves as a trustee for organizations like the Othering & Belonging Institute and the Alliance for Peacebuilding.



## **CHANDANIE ORGIAS**

### **Everyday Democracy (USA)**

Chandanie Orgias is a dynamic leader with over 14 years of experience driving people-centered initiatives across education, arts, and community engagement. Her work spans coaching school leaders across New York City, amplifying youth voices in arts and activism at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and guiding organizations through racial equity initiatives. As National Director of Narrative and Culture at Everyday Democracy, she brings a passion for using storytelling and cultural organizing to inspire collective action in local communities.

Chandanie is a member of the Arts/Culture/Democracy team of the Horizons Project.



## JORGE 'CANO CANGREJO' DÍAZ ORTIZ

### AgitArte (Puerto Rico)

Jorge co-founded AgitArte in 1997. Since then, he has been Co-Director of the organization. He also co-edited the book, When We Fight, We Win! He has 20 years of experience as a puppeteer, DJ, popular educator, and bicultural activist. Jorge is deeply committed to the struggles of the working class against systems of oppression such as colonialism, patriarchy, white supremacy, and capitalism. He is also a founding member of Papel Machete, a collective of radical artists, theater makers, and puppeteers dedicated to educational, solidarity, and agitation work in 21st-century Puerto Rico and its diaspora.

Jorge earned a bachelor's degree in communications from Emerson College in Boston, Massachusetts. He lives in his hometown, Santurce, Puerto Rico.



## CARLTON TURNER

### Mississippi Center for Cultural Production (USA)

Carlton Turner is a performing artist, arts advocate, and cultural policy leader working at the intersection of art, justice, and rural community development. He is the founder of the Mississippi Center for Cultural Production, which uses arts and agriculture to support cultural and economic development in Utica, Mississippi, where he lives with his family. Carlton is also co-founder and co-artistic director of M.U.G.A.B.E.E., a Mississippi-based performance collective blending jazz, hip-hop, spoken word, and soul with nontraditional storytelling.

A former Executive Director of Alternate ROOTS, Carlton serves on numerous national boards and advisory committees and has been recognized with honors including the Ford Foundation Art of Change Fellowship and the Sidney Yates Award for Advocacy in the Performing Arts. His current work, *River Sols*, explores race, identity, and difference across African American and South Asian communities through the lens of the river.



## WENDY SHENEFELT

### Alternate ROOTS (USA)

Wendy Shenefelt (she/her) supports the cultural organizing work of Alternate ROOTS, strengthening connections across its membership, staff, and broader field while aligning strategy with organizational vision. With over 25 years of experience in arts administration, advocacy, policy, and organizing—primarily in the U.S. South—her work is rooted in a deep belief in the power of people to create change. Since 2013, she has supported organizations through strategic planning, programming, and large-scale events, including the 50th anniversaries of the March on Washington and Freedom Summer. A dancer and Texas Woman’s University alum, Wendy continues to perform and create from her home in Mississippi.

Wendy is a member of the Arts/Culture/Democracy team of the Horizons Project.



## PALOMA DALLAS

### Kettering Foundation (USA)

Paloma Dallas is Senior Program Officer for Democracy around the Globe at the Charles F. Kettering Foundation, where she leads international efforts to strengthen democratic resilience amid rising authoritarianism. Her work focuses on fostering cross-border learning and developing pro-democracy coalitions and alliances, while advancing inclusive democratic narratives, building on earlier initiatives at the intersection of arts, culture, journalism, and civic life.

A former journalist and editor, Paloma has worked with reporters worldwide and coedited *Reinventing Journalism to Strengthen Democracy* (2023). Before joining Kettering, she directed Del Pueblo, a nonprofit fostering cross-cultural community connection, and worked as a reporter for Reuters in Bogotá and with the Committee to Protect Journalists. She holds degrees from Macalester College, Columbia University’s SIPA, and Spalding University.





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