

# ASHLEY FIRESTONE

Philanthropic and cultural leader with 15 years of diverse experience  
in the public, private, and non-profit sectors.

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## LEADERSHIP

### Panels & Presentations

- **Session Organizer:** "Centering Equity in Municipal Grantmaking: Case Studies in Reforms from New York City and Los Angeles"
  - GIA National Conference | 2022
- **Session Presenter & Facilitator:** "Public Sector Possibilities through Transformation : Advancing Racial Equity through Cultural Policy Structures"
  - GIA National Conference | 2022
- **Panelist:** "Funder Insights" Mosaic Network | 2022
- **Panelist:** "Arts Philanthropy: What is the Funder's Role?" Playwrights Realm | 2021

### Professional Development

- 21/64 Certified Advisor | 2023
- Co-Chair, NY Grantmakers in the Arts | 2021 - 2023
- Inaugural Cultural Policy Action Lab, GIA | 2022
- Mosaic Funder Learning Intensive, NY Community Trust | 2022
- Coro Leadership New York (LNY30): Education | 2019

## RELEVANT EXPERTISE

### Founder | Jan 2023 - Present

*Kintentions, LLC*

Client-focused boutique consultancy dedicated to devising and activating values-based philanthropic practice for institutions and individuals. Recent clients include:

- Ford Foundation
- Howard Gilman Foundation
- Simons Foundation

### Director, Equity & Partnerships | Feb 2022 - Mar 2023

### Senior Program Officer | Jul 2015 - Feb 2022

### Program Officer | Aug 2012 - Jul 2015

*City of New York Department of Cultural Affairs (DCLA)*

- **Policy Design & Implementation:** Spearhead and implement research and resultant reform to grantmaking process with focus on equitable outcomes for nation's largest municipal arts funder.
- **Personnel Management:** Hire and manage up to 4 concurrent part- and full-time temporary staff.
- **Equity Advising:** Serve as agency point person for integrating justice through equitable practices.
- **Public Speaking:** Design and lead 12-15 annual constituent workshops, seminars and webinars.
- **Panel Facilitation:** Lead 6-12 expert peer-review panels annually, including anti-bias intervention and accountability practices.
- **Constituent Service:** Build trust and relationships with a portfolio of over 200 cultural organizations.
- **Evaluation:** Analyze evolving data and compliance; make policy and strategy recommendations.
- **Grants Management:** As a member of senior staff, steward taxpayer funds to over 1,100 grantees (\$58M in FY23).
- **Organizational Citizenship:** Serve on agency-wide DEI committee; lead white allies affinity group.

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## EDUCATION

### MA, New York University

Performing Arts Administration

- Thesis: "When For-Profit Meets Non-Profit: The Future of Corporate Funding for the Arts"
- M.B.A. Coursework: Consumer Behavior, Marketing, Financial Accounting, Managing Organizations

### BA, Brandeis University

Linguistics and Cognitive Sciences,  
Theatre Arts

- Achievement Award for Scholarship & Community
- Memorial Prize for Academic Excellence & Leadership
- Performer & Business Manager, Starving Artists Co-Ed A Cappella Group

## JOY

### Summer Resident | 2021 - Present

Rosmarin's Bungalow Colony,  
Monroe NY

### Creative Expression & Participation

- Rhythmic fiber arts
- Vocal performance
- Broadway musicals

### Parent | 2012 - Present

- Marshall, age 11
- Leo, age 8

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### Board Secretary | 2023 - Present

### Trustee | 2022 - Present

### Chair, Parent Diversity Committee | 2017 - 2022

*Hannah Senesh Community Day School*

- Rooted in Jewish values and wisdom, we foster a love of learning guided by intellectual curiosity and social responsibility in a vibrant and inclusive K-8 independent school community.

### Advisory Committee | 2023 - Present

*The Service Collective*

- Driven by the needs of our non-profit partners, we engage and empower youth to take action in their community through volunteer service.

### Volunteer Reader

J.M.K. Innovation Prize | 2019 - Present

Black Art Futures Fund | 2018 - 2021 (sunset)

### Founder | 2017 - 2022

Minds at Work Giving Circle

- Organized a shared leadership structure for a grassroots collaborative philanthropic vehicle that moved \$25,000 to local and national values-aligned grantees.