

*For Immediate Release*

**The New York Women's Foundation and the YWCA of the City of New York  
Partner for Girls IGNITE! Grantmaking Fellowship**

***Unique Grantmaking Initiative Allows Young Women to Become Funders***

(New York, November 21, 2016) – This fall, 15 racially and culturally diverse teenage girls and gender-fluid youth became the first recipients of the Girls IGNITE Grantmaking Fellowship, a partnership between The New York Women's Foundation (The Foundation) and the YWCA of the City of New York (YW) to empower the next generation through philanthropic education and giving. The fellows are exploring social justice issues, leadership, advocacy, peer group dynamics, consensus building, community engagement and financial decision making.

"The New York Women's Foundation has engaged members of the community in grantmaking since its inception. We believe that philanthropy is more than an act of giving, it is a highly participatory and broadly influential engine for social change that helps shape the world. Thus, we are proud to introduce a participatory grantmaking program for young women to engage the next generation of philanthropists, while also providing an opportunity to develop them as leaders. Dr. Danielle Moss Lee and the YWCA of the City of New York are champions of women and girls, and committed to eliminating racism, and thus are perfect partners in this endeavor," said Ana L. Oliveira, President and CEO of The New York Women's Foundation.

The innovative nine-month program offers participants the opportunity to work as a team to distribute The Foundation's youth grantmaking funds to local, youth-led nonprofit organizations or projects that the group selects.

"Under Ana Oliveira's leadership, The New York Women's Foundation has made amazing headway in emphasizing the kind of philanthropic urgency that matches the immediate needs of our city's most vulnerable women and girls. This initiative signals an important milestone in The Foundation's legacy of participatory philanthropy which firmly plants those whose lives are affected by good works at the center of problem-solving and solution creation. The YWCA of the City of New York considers this partnership a true honor and an opportunity to exemplify what it looks like when philanthropy meets its highest purpose," said Dr. Danielle Moss Lee, President of the YWCA of the City of New York.

Before the participants begin their grantmaking, the fellows will complete 11 sessions of curriculum to learn how nonprofits work, trends in philanthropy, and the process of grant making, including designing a request for proposal, evaluating proposals, making site

visits, and creating recommendations for funding. The participants will have \$30,000 to distribute.

Each fellow will be encouraged to become a philanthropist by donating 10 percent of her stipend, in addition to the \$30,000 decided upon as a group, to an organization of her personal choice, as a way to instill that meaningful giving comes in all denominations.

The fellows represent a diverse cross-cultural alliance of girls throughout New York City. The YW recruited the fellows from public and private high schools, foster care agencies, LGBTQAI youth organizations, religious institutions, public housing resident groups, youth shelters, adolescent health centers, and community based organizations.

#### [About The New York Women's Foundation](#)

The New York Women's Foundation is a voice for women and a force for change. We are a cross-cultural alliance of women catalyzing partnerships and leveraging human and financial capital to achieve sustained economic security and justice for women and girls. With fierce determination, we mobilize hearts, minds and resources to create an equitable and just future for women, families and communities in New York City.

#### [About the YWCA of the City of New York](#)

Established in 1858, the YWCA of the City of New York (YW) is one of the nation's oldest nonprofits committed to eliminate racism, empower women, and promote peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all, through community-based programs and advocacy efforts that partner with community members to produce results. While independently operated, the YW is connected to a network of sister YWCAs serving 25 million people in more than 120 countries. The YW serves over 2,500 women and families across 13 New York City locations, through Early Learn programs; after-school services for elementary, middle and high school students; STEM and Leadership programming; and High School, College and Career Readiness programs. The YW reaches incalculably more people as a movement, with a long history of shifting culture for the most disenfranchised.

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