



**THE NEW YORK WOMEN'S FOUNDATION HONORS TRAILBLAZING WOMEN LEADERS DURING 2021  
CELEBRATING WOMEN® BREAKFAST**

**Journalists Amanda Farinacci, Vivian Lee, Jeanine Ramirez,  
Kristen Shaughnessy & Roma Torre;**

**Artist Jordan Casteel;**

**Activist & Philanthropist Sheri Sandler;**

**and**

**Latina Leadership Platform Poderistas**

**Recognized for Their Outstanding Contributions to Advancing Economic,  
Gender and Racial Equality for Women and Girls**

**New York, NY, May 19, 2021** – Supporters from community, nonprofit, philanthropy, and business joined with The New York Women's Foundation to honor extraordinary women leaders whose vision, energy, and achievements have had a transformative effect at the 34<sup>th</sup> annual Celebrating Women® Breakfast held on May 19, 2021. The Breakfast, held for the first time virtually due to the pandemic, also honored The Foundation's grantee partners – dynamic women-led, community-based organizations that promote economic security, safety, and health of the under-resourced women in New York City and beyond.

This year's honorees of the Celebrating Women Award, which is given to a woman, group, or organization whose achievements are influencing the lives of and proving as role models for women and girls everywhere, are:

- Journalists **Amanda Farinacci, Vivian Lee, Jeanine Ramirez, Kristen Shaughnessy, and Roma Torre** for their work combatting age and gender discrimination in the workplace;
- Artist **Jordan Casteel** for her nearly life-size portraits that chronicle personal observations of the human experience.
- Latina network **Poderistas** for building a community that inspires, affirms, and informs Latinas to leverage their power in their own lives and families and within their communities.

The 2021 Celebrating Women® Breakfast recognized **Sheri Sander** with the Vision Award for her work and dedication to supporting community-based organizations that provide services to women in the areas of safety and economic justice. Sandler is an activist, philanthropist, founder of the Reba Judith Sandler Foundation, and a former board member of The New York Women's Foundation.

More than 50 grantee partners of The New York Women's Foundation were featured in a Virtual Expo Hall which allowed attendees to learn more about their organizations. In addition, two grantee partners, Jahajee Sisters and Start Small Think Big, and recipients of their services were highlighted during the Celebrating Women® Breakfast program through documentary-style featurettes. Jahajee Sisters is an Indo-Caribbean organization committed to creating a safe and equitable society. Start Small Think Big helps under-resourced entrepreneurs

build businesses in underserved areas to increase their personal financial security and stimulate economic activity in communities.

This year's Celebrating Women Awards were presented to honorees by Maria Hinojosa, Latina pioneer in journalism and a prior Celebrating Women Award recipient; Rita Zimmer, Founder and Executive Director of HousingPlus, and Foundation Board Chair Members Grainne McNamara and Yvonne Moore.

Ana L. Oliveira, President, and CEO of The New York Women's Foundation, said, "It is so important for us to be together, especially in times like this. The Breakfast inspires us to witness each other and honor those that create a world that we want to live in, a world that expresses our yearning for justice, equity, and freedom from violence. We see women as agents of solutions, as hubs in their communities, families, places of work, and educational settings. We fund women who are pioneering and mobilizing solutions in your communities. These solutions are ingeniously viable and not only deal with the challenges but also express a vision of justice."

Immediately following the Celebrating Women Breakfast were VIP Breakout Sessions that featured lively conversations with honorees and grantee partner organizations around four specific topics: Combating Age and Gender Discrimination, Movement Building in Latina Communities, and Expanding Impact and Philanthropy in Puerto Rico. Investing in Movement Journalism.

The annual Celebrating Women® Breakfast raises more than \$1 million in funds for The New York Women's Foundation grantmaking efforts. To donate, please visit [nywf.org/CWB2021](http://nywf.org/CWB2021) or text CWB21 to 44-321.

The New York Women's Foundation 2021 Celebrating Women Breakfast Steering Committee was led by co-chairs Haydee Morales\* and Lola C. West\*. The Steering Committee members included Mary Baglivo\*, Maria Cilenti, Betty C. Jones, Rita German, Teresa Gonzalez, Adria S. Hillman, Gail Hochman, Lauren Leyden, Olivia Merchant, Tomasita Luz Sherer\* and Erika Ryback. \*Denotes The New York Women's Foundation Board Member.

Corporate sponsors for the Celebrating Women Breakfast were Morgan Stanley, Bank of America, EY, Latham & Watkins LLP, Metropolitan Commercial Bank, Glenmede, JPMorgan Chase & Co., Regeneron, Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP, Bernstein Litowitz Berger & Grossmann LLP, Cahill, Northern Trust, PVH, PwC, and Turner.

### **About The New York Women's Foundation**

The New York Women's Foundation is a voice for women and a force for change. The Foundation's mission is to create an equitable and just future for women and families. It achieves this goal by uniting cross-cultural and community alliances that ignite action. The Foundation invests in women-led, innovative, and bold community-based solutions that promote the economic security, safety, and health of the most vulnerable women. By the end of 2021, The Foundation will have distributed more than \$100 million in its 34-year existence to over 500 organizations, impacting millions of women and girls across New York City and beyond. To learn more about The New York Women's Foundation's work to transform lives, families, and communities, please visit [www.nywf.org](http://www.nywf.org).

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