



THE GREENLINING INSTITUTE-ACADEMY SUMMER ASSOCIATES

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DEVELOPING THE NEXT GENERATION OF  
DIVERSE LEADERS AND ADVOCATES

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## CLASS OF 2015 ACADEMY SUMMER ASSOCIATES





**Jordan Anderson**  
Development

Jordan is from central Los Angeles and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Urban Sociology from Wheaton College. She is currently pursuing her Master of Arts in Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago. Over the past five years, she has had a variety of professional experiences, including a Public Policy and International Affairs fellowship at the University of California-Berkeley, a Human Rights internship in Illinois state government and a position at an economic development firm within a marginalized Chicago neighborhood. She most recently volunteered at an inpatient unit of a children's hospital on the south-side of Chicago and a community resource center located on the north side of Chicago. Jordan is passionate about increasing financial investments and resources within communities of color and eagerly anticipates the opportunity to learn more about diversity within Philanthropy as a Summer Associate at The Greenlining Institute. As a shero, Jordan would be "Jordanger" and would prevent dangerous accidents from happening by incentivizing people to take a different course of action through luring them away from misfortune with unfathomably amazing baked delicacies.



**Ovanes Chobanian**  
Claiming Our Democracy

Ovanes was born in Mexico City while his family was emigrating to the U.S from Armenia and was raised in Los Angeles. He recently graduated from UC Berkeley with a B.A .in Sociology. Ovanes' passion for social justice derives from his experience growing up in a low-income, immigrant, single parent household and was further ignited when he spent a summer in Washington, D.C. working for Congresswoman Jackie Speier and for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. His experiences drew him closer to his community in Los Angeles where he now serves as an Executive Board member for the Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley. He wants to continue his social justice activism by pursuing his lifelong goal of becoming an attorney. Ovanes is very excited to be a Claiming Our Democracy Summer Associate and working towards creating a stronger and more effective government for communities of color. As a superhero, Ovanes would be The Amazing-O, with the power to heal broken hearts.





**Guadalupe Gonzalez**  
Environmental Equity

Guadalupe is from Fremont, California and graduated from Santa Clara University with a double degree in Political Science and English, with a minor in Women and Gender Studies. She is currently pursuing her J.D. at the University of California Hastings College of the Law. Guadalupe has worked as a resource aid and resource director in private schools in both the Fremont Unified and Union City Unified School Districts and has volunteered in over a dozen programs, working with marginalized communities around the greater San Jose and Fremont areas. She is passionate about bettering the human condition in communities most impacted by injustice. Ultimately, she wants to become an agent of change for communities that are often overlooked in the political process. As a Summer Associate, Guadalupe looks forward to the toolset The Greenlining Institute will provide to leverage her legal education to its fullest potential. As a superhero, she would be Capitan Maravilla; the female hybrid of Superwoman and Captain America, with the power of super strength and flight.



**Ivan Jimenez**  
Energy

Ivan is from the agricultural community of Santa Maria, California. He graduated in 2010 from Stanford University with a B.A. in Political Science and History. After graduating from Stanford he worked with the nonprofit Stanford College Prep Program that prepared low-income first-generation high school students to pursue a post-secondary education. Currently, he is a rising 3rd year law student at UC Hastings, where he enjoys learning about environmental law. He is a member of the La Raza Law Students Association, Hastings Environmental Law Association, and has interned at the Marin County Counsel's Office through the local government clinic. Ivan is passionate about environmental justice, educational equity and working with marginalized communities, and looks forward to further developing his advocacy skills through the Greenlining's summer associate program. As a superhero, he would be Mr. J and would have the ability to harness the sun's energy and shoot ice cream.





**Andrew Matsas**  
Economic Equity

Andrew Matsas is from the Chicago metroland area and received a B.A. in Cultural Anthropology from Boston University. He is working towards a master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from UCLA with a focus on community economic development and housing. Andrew currently sits on the steering committee for UCLA's Planners of Color for Social Equity and is interning at two community development corporations, one in South Los Angeles and the other in Little Tokyo. Andrew strives for economic, social, and racial justice in our cities, ensuring inclusive economic growth for low-income residents and communities of color. He is eager to learn how to use homeownership as a tool for economic justice and how to enforce equitable investment from the financial sector through critical progressive policy advocacy. As a superhero, Andrew would be Perspective Man, removing biased judgment through the power of understanding and respect.



**Irene Rojas-Carroll**  
Environmental Equity

Irene grew up in El Cerrito, California and is a recent graduate of Brown University where she earned her A.B. in Africana Studies. While studying at Brown, Irene led the Queer Alliance in building infrastructure and mentoring leaders of color, facilitated leadership development workshops with the Sarah Doyle Women's Center, and volunteered as an interpreter and doorknocker for Direct Action for Rights and Equality, a racial justice and housing rights organization. She interned with the Brown Boi Project in Oakland for two summers, where she co-coordinated a series of racial and gender justice trainings for youth and nonprofit staff and ramped up communications. Irene is a 2013 Davis Putter Scholar and a 2014 Point Scholarship Semifinalist. She has a deep passion for growing things (food, justice, leadership, organizations) for which she is grateful to her parents and countless mentors, and is especially excited to learn from and alongside the Greenlining team this summer working for environmental equity in her home state. As a superhero, Irene would be able to have people feel what others feel.





**Kerry Sakimoto**  
Bridges to Health

Kerry is originally from Honolulu, Hawaii and is a recent graduate from Occidental College in Los Angeles with a background in politics, public policy, and legal studies. He attributes much of his understanding of community and passion for racial equity to his family and home. Kerry has been fortunate to have been a PPIA Fellow at the University of California, Berkeley, an intern at both Asian Americans Advancing Justice and the UCLA Downtown Labor Center, and to have organized coalition building movements while in college. As a Summer Associate, he looks forward to further breaking down the political and social barriers to health for marginalized communities while bringing a more holistic understanding to health policy. He hopes to one day attend law school, focusing on the practice of community lawyering to provide legal support and services to the underrepresented to collectively bargain for improved conditions. As a superhero, Kerry would be Yellow Power and spread awareness and promote action for Asian and/or Pacific Islander communities in coalition with other communities of color.



**Aisha Sleiman**  
Telecommunications

Aisha is the daughter of Lebanese immigrants, who eventually settled in Danville, California. She is a community college transfer to UCLA, where she earned her degree in Middle Eastern Studies and proudly and successfully completed her first year of law school at UCLA School of Law. As an undergraduate, Aisha served her community as a participant in the Muslim Student Association and as a student leader at community service organizations. She is passionate about uplifting and empowering people who have been consistently pushed down and kept out of opportunities. As a summer associate, Aisha hopes to gain the essential advocacy skills to bring about change in legal policies that disproportionately impact communities of color as well as working with like-minded individuals and learning from the experience. As a superhero, Aisha would be a healer with the power to heal all living beings' inner and external pain.







**Jubek Yongo-Bure**  
Special Projects

Jubek is from Flint, Michigan and holds a B.A. in Sociology with a minor in Community Action Social Change from the University of Michigan. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in City and Regional Planning, with a focus on economic and community development, at Cornell University. Jubek has worked as outreach coordinator with the Flint Farmers' Market on healthy food access initiatives, and has volunteered at Flint summer camps with the AmeriCorps VISTA Program. At the University of Michigan she has worked with the Diversity Peer Education Program and is currently working on Community Development Programming at Cornell University with the Office of Academic and Diversity Initiatives. Jubek is passionate about racial justice, economic equity, gender equity, and equitable access to food, health, and education resources for marginalized communities both domestically and internationally. As a Summer Associate, Jubek looks forward to learning from the experienced leaders at Greenlining and putting the knowledge she's learned in the past to good use in order to empower communities of color. As a super shero, Jubek would be Social Justice Womyn and plant/activate social justice seeds throughout the world in order to make it a better place for all.

