

# RUCKUS ROUNDTABLE

NOVEMBER 16 | 7-8PM VIA ZOOM

## ARTS & SOCIAL JUSTICE

### YOUR HOST:

**RUBY MARDEN (SHE/HERS)**

**Junior, Messalonskee HS & GAB member**

This is Ruby's second year with GAB. Ruby is president of her class and loves theater, singing, soccer, tennis, and spending time with her family and dogs. She also loves any excuse to do arts and crafts, specifically ceramics.

BUILDING  
ONLINE COMMUNITY  
FROM  
KNOWLEDGE TO ACTION

### WITH PANELISTS:

**JORDIA BENJAMIN (SHE/HERS)**

**Deputy Director, Indigo Arts Alliance**

Jordia Benjamin is a community engagement specialist with a passion for creating compelling programs, cultivating and curating creative environments for artists and communities to thrive using art as the mechanism for change. She embodies a commitment to equity, inclusion, empowerment and advocacy for communities of color. Jordia co-leads with the Executive Director IAA's day-to-day operations. Her role ensures that the quality and impact of IAA's activities and programs directly support its mission.

**ZAMZAM ELMOGE (SHE/HERS)**

**Filmmaker & Student @ Emerson College**

ZamZam Elmore is a filmmaker, hoping to someday become a working film director. She graduated from Lewiston HS in 2020 and started at Emerson College this fall. As a documentary filmmaker, she is adept at creating trusting connections with people to draw out their personal narratives, and to encourage self-reflection. As a community leader, she has been involved in youth mentorship, coalition-building and peace-making initiatives through Seeds of Peace Camp and Gateway Community Service's COVID-19 Youth Coalition. She is the founder of the Gen Z Project, which joins her two passions of filmmaking and community empowerment through uplifting the voices of underrepresented youth onscreen. During her time in high school, she directed and produced two feature-premiere, full-length documentaries.

**RENÉ GODDESS JOHNSON (SHE/HERS)**

**Performance Artist and Equity Consultant**

René Goddess Johnson is a Performance Artist, Activist and an Embodied Equity Consultant dismantling white supremacy and empowering Black, Brown, Indigenous, Asian people of the global majority in Maine, using the arts, performance, and education.

**ANDREA NARNO (SHE/THEY/ELLA)**

**Printmaker**

Andrea Narno is a self-taught mexican queer printmaker, living in Pittsburgh. Andrea believes art is a tool of transformation, contributing to social change during these uncertain times. Andrea centers their work around the symbolism of plants as a way to express thoughts, feelings and ideas, as well as a means to explore topics like migration, absence and grief.

**SKYE GOSSELIN (SHE/HERS)**

**Youth Activist, Community Organizer with Maine Youth Justice, & Student @ USM**

Skye Gosselin currently runs the political education team at Maine Youth Justice. She is enrolled at USM for political education and hopes to further her education after graduation. "I was incarcerated as a youth and realized that what was happening to me and a lot of other kids like me wasn't right. I joined Maine Inside Out when I was seventeen years old. We did theater of the oppressed and shared our experiences with the communities to show what was going on right in their own backyard. Then I realized, it wasn't enough to share art, we needed to do more. So Maine Youth Justice came out of that idea. I was one of the first youth organizers of Maine Youth Justice. I am now on the full time staff and work everyday to call to action to change how things currently are in Maine. MYJ is a youth led campaign and that's who makes the decisions. I believe people with lived experience are the experts on what we need. I also believe that the current juvenile justice system that is in place is traumatic and we need to dismantle it. In my free time when I'm not working, I love to spend time outside when the weather is right. In the summertime I love to go tubing and spend as much time at the lake. I also like to sit outside on my swing and do some writing. In the winter I love to do some art and anything that allows me to be creative."