



# BARINU INSTITUTE

FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## **Barinu Institute Financial Inclusion Forum**

Friday, February 12th, 2016

1:00pm - 3:00pm

United Nations Headquarters NY

### **"The Convergence of Financial Inclusion, Infrastructure Development and Social Development"**

Topics to be covered include the evolution of the monetary system, financial engineering & fintech, micro-finance, the role of entrepreneurs in promoting social development efforts, and how countries can leverage contemporary financing avenues to fund infrastructure and social development projects.

The Forum is organized by the Barinu Institute for Economic Development, an organization in special consultancy status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since July 2013. Barinu Institute is committed to eliminating extreme poverty in the poorest regions of the world through economic development by providing infrastructure development and practical educational training.

#### **Program**

1:00pm - 1:15pm: Sign In / Networking

1:15pm - 1:25pm: Introduction, Uwaifo Aromose

1:25pm - 1:30pm: Perspective, Varelle Croes

1:30pm - 1:45pm: Keynote Talk, Georges Charles Bouchereau

1:45pm - 2:00pm: Keynote Conversation Kelly Hoey and Chanel Edwards

2:00pm - 2:30pm: Panel Discussion, Dustin Shay, Jesse Podell, Avi Karnani (moderated by Kelly Hoey)

2:30pm - 3:00pm: Questions / Closing Words

## Speaker Bios

### **Uwaifo Aromose, Chancellor at Barinu Institute for Economic Development**

Chancellor Uwaifo Aromose is a seasoned educator, innovator, businessman and international development expert. He was recently added to the Stanford Who's Who Black Book in recognition of the global impact his work has positively had on millions of lives. He has obtained advanced degrees from world renowned institutions on three continents.

### **Varelle Croes, Founder of The Liv Group**

Varelle is a strategist and ecosystem builder. She founded The Liv Group, a NY based venture studio focused on the acceleration of early-stage tech startups and development of startup ecosystems in up-and-coming tech hubs. She leads innovation initiatives and is dedicated to empowering founders to build socially conscious businesses. In 2015, an island native, Varelle co-founded ATECH\* with a mission to develop the startup and technology ecosystem in Aruba and the Caribbean region through community, an annual conference, and accelerator program (ATECH\* XL). Varelle is also on the founding team of eyevestor, a community based FinTech startup.

She was named a global change-maker by the World Bank Youth Steering Committee for her unique approach to leadership and inspiring entrepreneurs to drive change. Varelle is an accomplished keynote speaker and sought after thought-leader on startup ecosystems and FinTech. She has spoken at TEDx and The World Bank, and has been featured in Forbes, Tech.Co and other major international publications.

As a Private Equity and Growth Equity expert with over a decade of experience in Financial Services, Varelle has spearheaded billion dollar global deals and worked with several of the world's largest investment funds and Fortune 500 companies.

Prior to founding The Liv Group, Varelle has had a distinguished career as Director of International Tax Financial Services at PricewaterhouseCoopers New York. She has worked in The Netherlands and Aruba as a mergers and acquisitions tax lawyer. Varelle also specializes in LATAM, Caribbean, as well as Emerging markets. She received her Masters in Law from Leiden University, The Netherlands.

Varelle speaks and writes on topics including entrepreneurship, sharing economy, innovative finance, FinTech, startup ecosystems and leadership. She is also a mentor for the Startupbootcamp Fintech program.

### **Georges Charles Bouchereau, Experienced Ph.D. socio-economist**

George is a policy and programming development Certified Specialist, Certified Public Accountant, Senior Executive, Administrative Judge. Professor since 1980, Administrator in international, national, profit, non-profit, cooperative, public and private spheres. Broad based project management, engineering, auditing, insurance, academic, military and government. Areas of expertise include -bank credit risk policy toward indebtedness, -economic structure in the Caribbean region, -business management, -public audit; -curriculum design/ development and teacher of technical health management, -public finances, human resources management, - political economy, industrial accounting, auditing. Most important audits concerned investigation, discovery and control dealing with fraudulent public financial reporting problems and transaction fraud: auditing government transparency issuing standards of conduct and criteria for public responsibilities and disciplinary actions; leading the Ethic Commission of a National Association of Economists.

His recent main activities include coordination of an International Coalition for a Less Advanced Country; conceived a private central program to be financed through a Development Bank to restrain poverty and start its socio-economic development. George had a distinguished career in public administration including at the Office of a Supreme Audit Institution (INTOSAI , member) and Administrative Appellate

Court. He was an elected member of the Board by the Senate in 1992 for 10 years, auditor general, administrative and financial magistrate, vice president and legal president (2001-2004). He also served as vice-president for three years of the Court Supérieure des Comptes et du Contentieux Administratif (CSC/CA) in Haiti. George has a Ph. D. in Socio-Economy of Development, Economic option, University of Paris I, Sorbonne, France; qualifying diploma in economic System and Structure (1983).

#### **Chanel Edwards, Board Member of the “I Have A Dream Foundation”**

Chanel Edwards is a Visionary and Community Leader. Chanel is committed to social development matters such as the eradication of poverty through education. This commitment is evidenced through her work with the “I Have a Dream” Foundation, a national organization which seeks to close the opportunity gap for students from low-income neighborhoods through educational support. It was through the assistance of the organization that Chanel was able to attend college and law school.

Aware of the unique opportunity she was given, Chanel has devoted her time to empowering young people to achieve their dreams. She is the first alum to serve as a national board member of the "I Have a Dream" Foundation and is Co-Chair of the board's Development Committee. Chanel has used her position as a board member as a platform to inspire students. Chanel encourages young people to create positive images of their futures, with education being the first of many steps in their journeys. For her commitment to education, Chanel was awarded the 2015 "Spirit of the Dream" Award by the "I Have a Dream" Foundation.

When not pursuing her personal passion for empowering others, Chanel is a leader in the business world, having achieved a life-long dream of becoming a lawyer. Prior to joining her current firm, Chanel was an International Tax Services Director at PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. Primarily working with hedge funds and private equity funds, Chanel advised on the international tax aspects of investments around the world, including the potential tax impact of such investments under U.S. and non-U.S. tax regimes. Upon her graduation from law school, Chanel joined the law firm of Schulte Roth & Zabel LLP as a Tax Associate. Chanel earned her A.B. in Government from Dartmouth College, her Juris Doctor from the University of Virginia School of Law and a Masters of Laws (LL.M.) in Taxation from New York University School of Law.

#### **Kelly Hoey, Investor & Author**

Listed by Fast Company and Business Insider for her social influence, Kelly is an expert in leveraging networks, building engaged communities and positioning strategies for rising above the networking noise, both online and off. She is the author of the forthcoming book *Build Your Dream Network* to be released in January 2017 by Tarcher Perigee. “Stop committing random acts of networking” is her frequent (and favorite) advice.

Kelly is an Inc.com columnist and appears regularly as an investor panelist on CNBC’s Power Pitch. A skilled moderator, she has guided conversations with leaders in technology, investment and innovation as part of Apple’s in-store Meet The Innovator speaker series. Kelly is sought out for her unique perspective into networking and community building, addressing members of the European Commission and audiences at SXSW, IEEE Women in Leadership, PGA Championship, The Walter Cronkite School of Journalism, Women In The Boardroom, Bank of America, Disruptors (Dublin), MoDev, MINC (Malmo), Philly Women in Tech Summit, amongst others. Her social media influence has been sought out by for projects with The New Yorker, HSBC, Coca-Cola, P&G, PBS, L’Oreal, ECCO and New York Life.

Kelly’s motto is “invest in the change you want to see in the world.” She is an acknowledged leader in the startup community for actively investing in women. In 2011, Kelly co-founded the first startup accelerator focused exclusively on fast-tracking the growth of early-stage mobile technology ventures with gender-diverse founding teams. Kelly continues to advise emerging technology companies and actively mentors startups through selected accelerator programs in New York City. She is the Chief Technology Ambassador for the YWCA of NYC’s Geek Girls Club and mentors on millennial career platform, Levo.

Previously, Kelly was immersed in the professional services world, initially as a corporate attorney, and then in management, leading the development of a global law firm's alumni, professional development and women's initiatives. In 2009, Kelly became the first president of the women's business networking group 85 Broads.

**Dustin Shay, Global Manager of Partnerships at Village Capital**

Dustin Shay serves as the Global Manager of Partnerships at Village Capital, responsible for connecting diverse organizations to support inclusive entrepreneurship. Prior to this role, Dustin worked extensively within Village Capital's financial inclusion practice, helping early-stage entrepreneurs to scale their businesses, foster relationships with potential strategic partners, and connect directly with investors worldwide.

Dustin began his career at the Sorenson Center for Global Impact in sourcing potential investments, leading diligence teams, and securing investment for early-stage social enterprises in the US and abroad. Dustin is a graduate of the University of Utah, and is driven by the notion that supporting strong, sustainable businesses that create social change is the fastest, most efficient way of creating a brighter future.

**Jesse Podell, Managing Director for Startupbootcamp FinTech**

Jesse is Managing Director for Startupbootcamp FinTech New York. SBC FinTech is the leading global accelerator program focused on financial innovation with locations in London, Singapore and New York. The program is supported locally by Mastercard, Rabobank, Santander, Thomson Reuters, Route 66 Ventures, Deutsche Bank and WilmerHale.

Prior to working in the fintech startup ecosystem, he spent twelve years in trading and business development roles at financial institutions such as Jefferies, KCG and Susquehanna.

Jesse was a founding team member of TechDay, a large scale event and online community based in New York City. Since its inception, TechDay has grown from a small crowd of 500 people to a community of tens of thousands in multiple markets worldwide. TechDay's diverse events have helped more than a thousand startups in connecting with members of the press, investors, technologists & early adopters. He was also a founder of DevShop, a ruby on rails development agency that was sold to DevWorks Lab. He was also a co-organizer for NY Fintech Startups, which is the largest fintech meetup in the United States.

**Avi Karnani, CEO at Alice Financial**

Avi is the CEO of Alice Financial, building financial services that put the needs and resources of low income users first. Alice's first product is a small-dollar credit building loan that helps New Yorkers afford the 30-day Metrocard. He believes that at their best, companies can act as force multipliers, taking new innovations that can improve people's lives and making them affordable and widely available. He is interested in projects that improve consumer decision-making, create more efficient markets, or deliver better services to groups who didn't have access to them before.

Before Alice, Avi started, funded, or mentored a number of projects that drive both social impact and commercial value, including Thrive (sold to LendingTree), a service that helped people make better financial decisions; Churnless, a consulting firm that helped clients implement technology driven behavior change.

Avi actively invests in and mentors new founders. He's worked with large banks, nonprofits, and state governments to assist their financial inclusion efforts. Avi will use virtually any surface as a whiteboard but his first and true love will always be graph paper.