


# JOY CHAT:

FINDING JOY THROUGH COMMUNITY

girl  
power!

mass  
mentoring **m**  
— AFFILIATE OF —  
 **MENTOR**

  
BLACK AND BROWN GIRL  
MENTORING MOVEMENT  
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# JOY CHAT

## FINDING JOY THROUGH COMMUNITY MEET YOUR MODERATOR



**Cynthia K. Orellana, Ph.D.**  
President and CEO, Mass  
Mentoring Partnership

Dr. Orellana is the President and CEO of Mass Mentoring Partnership, and joins the organization with nearly 20 years of experience in community organizing and advocacy, civic engagement and social policy, cross-organizational partnerships, educational access and justice, and the development of startup programs and initiatives. Her professional trajectory is reflective of her passion and commitment for inclusive and collaborative practices, racial equity and epistemic justice, bridging the opportunity divide, and driving systems change. Dr. Orellana has a history of service on boards and national and local advisory groups, including as a Founding Board Member of Chica Project focused on empowering young Women and Girls of Color with the skills, confidence, network, and mentoring relationships to succeed. Currently, she serves on the Board of Directors for Community Catalyst, a national organization which seeks to build the power of people to create a health system rooted in race equity and health justice.

She has been recognized for her work and leadership by the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus with a Latino Excellence Award in 2023, the Commonwealth Seminar's Civic Engagement Amplifier Award in 2021, Campus Compact's Nadinne Cruz Community Engagement Professional Award in 2020, Get Konneted's 25 Influential Millennial Leaders of Color and Amplify Latinx's list of 30 Amplifiers for the Latino community in Massachusetts in 2018; among others.

Dr. Orellana is a native and life-long resident of Cambridge, Massachusetts and the youngest of four children. She is the first generation born in the United States, the daughter of Salvadoran immigrants and first in her family to attend college. She holds a Ph.D. in higher education leadership from University of Massachusetts Boston, an MA in urban and environmental policy and planning from Tufts University, and a BS in political science from Northeastern University.



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### MEET THE PANELISTS



Jeneé Osterheldt is a culture columnist who covers identity and social justice through the lens of culture and the arts. She centers Black lives and the lives of people of color. Sometimes this means writing about Beyoncé and Black womanhood or unpacking the importance of public art and representation. Sometimes this means taking systemic racism, sexism, and oppression to task. It always means Black lives matter. She joined the Globe in 2018. A native of Alexandria, Va. and a graduate of Norfolk State University, Osterheldt was a 2017 Nieman Fellow at Harvard, where her studies focused on the intersection of art and justice. She previously worked as a Kansas City Star culture columnist.

### Jeneé Osterheldt

Deputy Managing Editor for Culture, Talent  
and Development  
Founder of A Beautiful Resistance  
@abeautifulresistance



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### MEET THE PANELISTS



**Dr. Yves Salomon-Fernández**  
President,  
Urban College of Boston

Dr. Yves Salomon-Fernández is the President of Urban College of Boston (UCB), an affiliate institution of Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU). Prior to joining UCB, Dr. Salomon-Fernández served as Senior Vice President for Operations Planning at SNHU. Before SNHU, Yves led several community colleges as president in Massachusetts and New Jersey.

In January 2021, Yves received the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U)-Cengage Inclusion Scholarship, recognizing her accomplishments as an inclusive leader in higher education whose efforts have reduced equity gaps, improved inclusion and belonging for minoritized students, and/or promoted diversity in hiring practices. In March 2018, *Diverse Issues in Higher Education* named her one of the Top 25 Women in Higher Education.

Dr. Salomon-Fernández emigrated with her family from Haiti and is a graduate of Boston Latin School. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Massachusetts Boston and holds a certificate from the University of Oxford. Her master's degree is from the London School of Economics, and her Ph.D. in measurement, statistics, and assessment is from Boston College. In addition to English, Dr. Salomon-Fernández is fluent in Haitian Creole, French, and Spanish.

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