



State Voices Names *Alexis Anderson-Reed* as New Executive Director

August 9, 2018

We are thrilled to announce the appointment of **Alexis Anderson-Reed** as the new Executive Director of State Voices, beginning September 4.

Alexis Anderson-Reed is a rising leader in the social justice movement, whose career has been dedicated to community organizing, coalition building, public policy, and strategic planning in the context of racial equity and the politics of power and privilege. She comes to State Voices from the Funders' Committee for Civic Participation—a national philanthropic affinity group that builds the capacity of progressive funders—where she has been deputy director since 2016.

This is a homecoming for Anderson-Reed. Before joining FCCP, she was the senior director of programs in the State Voices national office, leading efforts to support and expand the work of state tables. Prior to that, she was a state table director herself, as executive director of Wisconsin Voices, where she founded the Our Democracy 2020 Table to expand voting rights in the state.

“If we had set out to design an ideal executive director, we would have come up with Anderson-Reed,” said **Miles Rapoport, State Voices board chair**. *“She has a unique combination of experience as a national leader, a state director, and funder, a solid background in community organizing and democracy reform, plus a deep commitment to racial and gender equity. She will be an exceptional leader of State Voices.”*

The selection of Anderson-Reed as executive director was the result of a collaborative and transparent process that was open to the entire staff and board, and her appointment is enthusiastically supported by state table directors and the national team, many of whom know her as a colleague. **Board member Daaiyah Bilal-Threats** observed that Anderson-Reed was the unanimous choice of the board. *“We are delighted to welcome Alexis back to State Voices in a leadership role.”*

For more information, please contact communications@statevoices.org.

*“I could not be more excited to lead State Voices at this critical moment, when the stakes are so high for our democracy,” said **Anderson-Reed**. “State Voices has had a huge impact over the last ten years, improving lives in communities across the country. I’ve seen it firsthand—as a partner at the table, as the executive director of a state table, and as a member of the national team. I’m excited to return as executive director because I am so deeply invested in this organization and its potential to advance racial equity and make our democracy more accessible, inclusive, and representative.”*

Anderson-Reed's appointment has been hailed by her colleagues in the field:

Rashad Robinson, President, Color of Change, said *“Now more than ever, we need people like Alexis in the right positions of power to continue building the movement for change. Congrats to State Voices on this excellent choice.”* **Eric Marshall, Executive Director, Funders’ Committee for Civic Participation (FCCP)** commented, *“While FCCP is sad to see Alexis go, we know we will have a strong partner at State Voices. Alexis was an incredible leader for our network, and I have no doubt that she is the person best suited to helm State Voices.”* **Jennifer Epps-Addison, Network President & Co-Executive Director, Center for Popular Democracy & CPD Action** observed, *“Alexis is exactly the leader State Voices and our country need in this critical moment. She will lead with a collective and collaborative heart, and she will be a fierce advocate for diverse voices from both organizations that are State Voices partners and the broader movement ecosystem.”* **Chris Melody Fields Figueredo, Executive Director, Ballot Initiative Strategy Center (BISC)** remarked, *“Alexis is brilliant, a trusted partner, and committed to centering racial equity and justice in civic engagement to transform lives. I look forward to deepening the partnership between BISC and State Voices under her leadership.”* **Gary Bass, Executive Director, Bauman Foundation**, added *“Alexis has the experience, energy, and know-how to deal with today’s crises and can help transform State Voices into an even stronger, more powerful organization for advancing democratic reforms and social justice.”* And **Keesha Gaskins-Nathan, Director, Democratic Practice Program, United States, Rockefeller Brothers Fund**, noted, *“Alexis Anderson-Reed’s experience with state groups, understanding of national networks, and orientation toward justice is uniquely suited to leading State Voices. I have long respected Alexis’ strategic, thoughtful leadership, and I am thrilled to see her take on this important role.”*

ABOUT ALEXIS ANDERSON-REED

Alexis Anderson-Reed will become the executive director of State Voices in September 2018. A rising leader in the social justice movement, she has been an activist since she was a college student. Driven by the disparities in educational opportunity she encountered growing up in Wisconsin, she co-founded Youth Reclaiming Our Communities (Youth ROC), mobilizing students across the state to press for education finance reform. Since then, Anderson-Reed hasn't stopped working toward a vision of a more inclusive and more equitable society. She has dedicated her career to community organizing, coalition building, public policy, and strategic planning, exemplified by her work on issues of racial and gender equity and the politics of power and privilege.

Anderson-Reed comes to State Voices from the Funders' Committee for Civic Participation, a philanthropic affinity group dedicated to enhancing democratic participation in all aspects of civic life. As deputy director, she was a champion of innovation, ushering in projects with a focus on equitable and just giving practices. She helped launch the project that produced a new and original Theory of Impact to underpin and align the group's work. She rebuilt the Funders Census Initiative (FCI), and she spearheaded the State Circle Project, which will convene state-based hubs to help funders align resources and strategies. She led the development of an organizational equity plan that brought a racial and gender equity lens to all of FCCP's work. She was also known for organizing dynamic conferences, and emerged as a highly sought-after speaker and presenter.

Prior to joining FCCP in 2016, Anderson-Reed served as the senior director of programs for State Voices, leading efforts to support and expand the work of its national network of state tables in promoting civic engagement, civic access, and civic representation. Her work at State Voices included the development of a comprehensive, national voter registration plan and oversight of its signature Tools for All programs. She came to the national office of State Voices after serving for three and a half years as executive director of Wisconsin Voices, where she founded the Our Democracy 2020 Table to expand voting rights in the state. Her work in Wisconsin included a campaign to defend Same Day Registration and extensive work on money in politics, voting rights and re-enfranchisement, redistricting reform, and fair courts. As a leader of the Wisconsin Economic Justice Steering Committee, she played a key role in securing passage of a historic Living Wage ordinance in Milwaukee County.

Anderson-Reed graduated with honors from Alverno College with a degree in History and Political Science, and is completing a Master of Arts from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Alexis serves on the boards of the Alliance for Youth Organizing and the Analyst Institute. When not at work, she can be found trying out new recipes for family and friends and traveling with her husband, Derek.

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

I've known Alexis for many years and I have always admired her commitment to racial and economic justice. Building the power to change the rules requires the infrastructure to channel hopes and dreams into action and real change. Alexis knows this and has lived it. She has never backed down from the fight to end the rules that hold our people back. Now more than ever, we need people like Alexis in the right positions of power to continue building the movement for change. Congrats to State Voices on this excellent choice.

—Rashad Robinson

President, Color of Change

Alexis Anderson-Reed's experience with state groups, understanding of national networks, and orientation toward justice is uniquely suited to leading State Voices. Alexis understands the structural challenges to democracy and the economy in the United States as well as the issues and crises affecting people's daily lives. Her ability to support local leadership while advancing solutions to address systemic challenges to underrepresented, targeted populations is essential to leading an institution like State Voices. I have long-respected Alexis' strategic, thoughtful leadership, and I am thrilled to see her take on this important role.

—Keesha Gaskins-Nathan

Director, Democratic Practice Program, United States, Rockefeller Brothers Fund

Alexis is the right person at the right time to lead State Voices into the future. I've had the honor of working side-by-side with Alexis at the state and national level—she is brilliant, a trusted partner, and committed to centering racial equity and justice in civic engagement to transform lives. I look forward to deepening the partnership between BISC and State Voices under her leadership so we can support state leaders, organizations, and campaigns to strengthen our democracy.

—Chris Melody Fields Figueredo

Executive Director, Ballot Initiative Strategy Center (BISC)

I've known and worked with Alexis for over a decade. I've watched her build incredible organizations and campaigns from scratch. I've been awed by her ability to invest in and grow the capacity of leaders of color to have real ownership of their work. I've seen her revitalize institutions and programs, and witnessed first-hand how she empowers those around her to dream bigger and act more boldly. Alexis is exactly the leader State Voices and our country needs in this critical moment. She will lead with a collective and collaborative heart, she will inspire transformation in our strategies, and she will be a fierce advocate for diverse voices from both organizations that are State Voices partners and the broader movement ecosystem. Congratulations to everyone in the State Voices network, you've selected an amazing leader and the entire progressive movement will benefit from your decision.

A stylized graphic of a flame or fire, composed of several overlapping, curved, teardrop-like shapes in a light blue color, positioned to the right of the first testimonial.

—Jennifer Epps-Addison

Network President & Co-Executive Director, Center for Popular Democracy & CPD Action

While FCCP is sad to see Alexis go, we know we will have a strong partner at State Voices. Alexis was an incredible leader for our network and a strong partner with me as we expanded FCCP's reach and the depth of our programming. I have no doubt that Alexis is the person best suited to helm State Voices as it moves forward during these critical times.

A stylized graphic of a flame or fire, composed of several overlapping, curved, teardrop-like shapes in a light blue color, positioned to the right of the second testimonial.

—Eric Marshall

Executive Director, Funders' Committee for Civic Participation (FCCP)

This is a critical moment for the country and for State Voices as an institution. Alexis has the experience, energy, and know-how to deal with today's crises and can help transform State Voices into an even stronger, more powerful organization for advancing democratic reforms and social justice. Her experience working on the census, through the Funders Census Initiative, will be invaluable as State Voices works to ensure that the census reflects an accurate picture of our nation and that historically undercounted populations are included in the census.

A stylized graphic of a flame or fire, composed of several overlapping, curved, teardrop-like shapes in a light blue color, positioned to the right of the third testimonial.

—Gary Bass

Executive Director, Bauman Foundation

ABOUT STATE VOICES

The State Voices network of nonpartisan state coalitions, called “tables,” works with hundreds of grassroots organizations to break down barriers to civic participation and to bring underrepresented and marginalized populations—and their issues—to the center of public discourse. State Voices tables connect these groups to one another and to organizations from different sectors, creating multi-cultural, multi-issue coalitions that can leverage their collective power to transform our democracy. In addition, our Tools for All program provides participating organizations with access to data and technology that helps them engage more effectively with their communities and with each other. As we celebrate our 10th anniversary, the network has grown to 23 state tables, with the recent addition of tables in Missouri, Nebraska, and Louisiana.