



Voices of Community Activists & Leaders (VOCAL-NY) is a statewide grassroots membership organization that builds power among low-income people affected by HIV/AIDS, drug use, mass incarceration, and homelessness in order to create healthy and just communities. They accomplish this through community organizing, leadership development, advocacy, direct services, participatory research and direct action.

At VOCAL-NY, they fight for systemic change rooted in justice, compassion, and love. They approach this work with a firm belief in reducing harm and ending stigma, and the knowledge that the issues impacting our communities are driven by institutional oppression, not personal failings. Their campaigns and services have saved or improved the lives of hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers across the state.

### **Accepting the Accepting the Edward J. Davis Community Service Award on behalf of VOCAL-NY:**

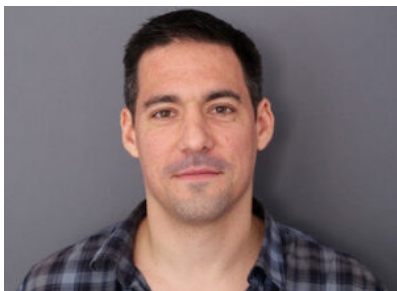


#### **Alyssa Aguilera, Co-Executive Director**

Alyssa has been the Co-Executive Director of VOCAL-NY since 2016, and was the organization's Political Director from 2013-2016.

At VOCAL-NY, Alyssa oversees the organization's direct services, advocacy, infrastructure, and development work. Under her leadership, VOCAL-NY has quadrupled its budget and staff, expanded its harm reduction services program, and won dozens of laws and policies that promote health, safety, and justice for some of New York's most marginalized communities.

Alyssa has previously organized in the Health Justice program at New York Lawyers for the Public Interest and SEIU's Justice for Janitors campaign. She is a board member of Communities United for Police Reform Action Fund, People's Action Institute, and Brooklyn Perinatal Network. She graduated from Harvard with a BA in government and Latin American studies.



#### **Jeremy Saunders, Co-Executive Director**

Jeremy has been the Co-Executive Director of VOCAL-NY since January 2016 and was previously the Lead Organizer at VOCAL-NY for eight years. Jeremy oversees community organizing, leadership development, and campaign work.

He has worked as a professional organizer in NYC for fifteen years, training and supervising dozens of community organizers and winning major victories that have improved the lives of tens of thousands of low-income New Yorkers across the city and state. His brother, a former member of ACT UP New York and long-time AIDS activist, was one of his inspirations for coming to work at VOCAL-NY.