

Our Parent Board

The Safehaven Public Ecovillage operates under Youthaven Public Ecovillage's 501c3, IRS Employer Identification Number (EIN) 08-2135908



Glenn P. Kendall, Ph.D., Founder and Executive Director of the Board of Directors for Youthaven Public Ecovillage

Glenn Kendall, Ph.D. is the Founder and Executive Director of Safehaven Public Ecovillage, Inc., which is under the auspicious of Youthaven Public Ecovillage, Inc. He has over thirty years of experience managing and administering youth, residential, evaluation, drug treatment, and management services for the children and young adults living in the inner-city neighborhoods of New York City, and later in Morristown, New Jersey. He has been a founding board member on several boards including the Morristown Unity Charter School for Sustainability. He has volunteered at ProKids as a Court Appointed Special Advocate. In addition, Kendall attended four graduate schools: Earned three degrees, a Master's Degree from Cambridge College in the area of Humane Education, a Master's from Drew University in Theological Studies, and a Ph.D. from Union Institute & University in the field of Public Policy and Social Change concentrating on improving Group Homes. He also completed a Master's Degree program from Teachers College, Columbia University. Dr. Kendall was also a nominee for the Marvin B. Sussman Doctoral Award. Additionally, he served those most in need by also using his spiritual gifts and talents. He is a trained Reiki Master, a Therapeutic Touch student of Dr. Delores Krieger of NYU Graduate School of Nursing, and a Spiritual Restoration Coach.

In addition, Gilbert Walking Bull of the Lakota Nation, the Pine Ridge Reservation, trained Dr. Kendall as a Chanupa Peace Pipe Carrier. Dr. Kendall facilitated an intentional community conference with seventy attendees during the summer of 1990. He and eighteen conference members participated in a sweat, wherein a Black Eagle materialized. Shaman Dove of the Potato Clan of the Cherokee Nation led the sweat lodge and later that day revealed to Dr. Kendall that the Eagle was a gift and a naming ceremony from "Grandfather." She told Dr. Kendall that he was known in the Cherokee Heaven as Black Eagle Soaring, at which point a Black Eagle flew overhead against a clear blue sky. Two years earlier, the Light of the *Great Spirit* ordained him and six others as ministers in Inyokern, CA.

Orsella Kendall-Hicks, Chairperson



Orsella immigrated to the United States at the age of 14. Fluent in the Languages, Kirundi and French she had to quickly learn English while attending Withrow High school where she graduated Salutatorian. Earning an academic scholarship to Northern Kentucky University, she graduated Summa Cum Laude double majoring in Finance and Business Management where she was the keynote speaker of the graduating class. Orsella then accepted a position with Kroger's Corporate offices working her way up to a Labor

Contract Analyst having worked for Kroger since the age of 16 as a Cashier. In 2019, Orsella switched paths and took a role with Medline Industries as an analyst supporting the sales team. Her experience at Medline, provided her with a deep understanding of Supply Chain knowledge in the Healthcare industry. In 2021, she made the leap of faith and joined Cincinnati's Children's Hospital as a Sourcing Specialist for Medical Surgical products, where she is in charge of finding vendors & negotiating contracts. She is the Board's Co-chair.

Asia Harris, B.A. Co-Chair, Asia Harris Grant Writer Cincinnati, Ohio



Asia Harris graduated from Hampton University with a bachelor's degree in English Arts. She then began publishing work in 2016 as an editorial assistant at the Cincinnati Herald before serving as an Education Liaison assisting youth living in foster care and group homes. Dating back to 2017, Asia has experience coordinating youth programs through the renowned Duncanson Artist in Residence program at the Taft Art Museum in Cincinnati, Ohio. Throughout 2019-2020 she hosted a live broadcast segment on Cincinnati radio station, "The Influencers", on the Buzz 103.5 discussing books related to various subjects such as history and modern culture. She is an independent filmmaker having contributed to award winning short films which have screened in Cincinnati, Charlotte, North Carolina and Rotterdam, Netherlands. She is passionate about creating films, art and dialogue that challenge social injustices and bring awareness to underrepresented populations and intersecting current events with history through film. Asia is currently the Manager of Youth Programs at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center.

Jay Hicks, Treasurer



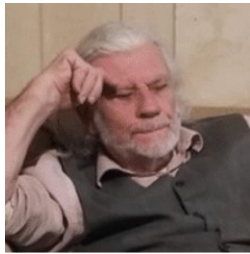
Jay Hicks After graduating from Elder High School in Cincinnati, he studied information technology at the University of Cincinnati. Before long, First Financial Bank hired him as their Software Architect. In this capacity, he has the overall responsibility to integrate systems so that they work synergistically while being significantly responsible for improving the efficiency of First National banking operations. Over the nine years at this bank, he worked closely with key managers in loan servicing, deposits, investments, and with the treasurer to make banking decisions more beneficial for the bank's customers. His core aim is to help improve proficiency and productivity by designing automation systems, software, and enhanced computer programming. With the experience of producing artwork at Art World, he has successfully integrated his creative talents with the technological skills to function as the Board's Treasurer.

Carmela Laya-Saccardo, M.Ed., is Educational Specialist



Education has always been my passion. I believe that every child can learn. I think we must provide the necessary environment, tools, and skills for all children to feel and be successful, despite their circumstances or backgrounds. My name is Carmela Laya; I am an Intermediate Special Education teacher in a Self-Contained classroom. I work specifically with students with disabilities, including high to low functioning Autism, Occupational Defiant Disorder (ODD), Attention Hyperactivity Deficit Disorder (ADHD/ADD), Emotionally Disturbed, and students with moderate cognitive and motor functions. I have a Master's Degree in Early Childhood Special Education and a strong background in early childhood development. I also have a dual certification in general education for children Birth to 6th grade in both Washington and New York state. My peers who share my own worldview has continuously recognized me as a gifted with certain spiritual abilities. I have a close affinity of protecting nature using various non-intrusive strategies while also being a Reiki Master.

Peter Hartgens, MSW, Clinical Services



Helping and providing assistance to inner-city people is a deep passion of mine. In order to gain the knowledge and credentials, I attended and graduated from Columbia University School of Social Work, New York City. Worked as a clinical social worker at La Casita in the Bronx. In this capacity provided therapy, spiritual counseling, and community services for agency's innovative mother and child program that served over forty clients. Designed new cognitive therapeutic approaches that were compatible with the diverse Hispanic Culture of the South Bronx. I am active with the Friends Society in California as well as serving a pivotal role at my church "without walls." My experience also extends into the spiritual realm, and I have clinically helped people navigate through what Thomas Moore calls, "The Dark Nights of the Soul."

Trazana A. Staples, Environmental Law & Grants Cincinnati, Ohio



Trazana holds a master's degree in Environmental Law and Policy from Vermont Law and Graduate School before graduating from Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville, Tennessee. She held several key management positions and has improved the quality of services in her immediate community. She was the executive director of Gabriel's Place in Avondale, Cincinnati, which used positive food experiences through a holistic paradigm. She is an author and is an entrepreneurial owner of Trazana's Natural Essentials. In addition to these credits, she was the Interim Farm Manager, Environmental Sustainability Instructor, grant writer, and Project Coordinator at City Rising Farm. She spent considerable time at The Farm, forty miles outside Nashville, Tennessee. The Farm is a destination site for many individuals interested in intentional communities, ecovillages, and sustainability. Even as a stroke survivor, she became the Founder of Trazana A. Staples

Alternative Stroke Recovery Fund. This fund assists stroke survivors, those with chronic health conditions, and those just seeking to have a healthy lifestyle change with information and education on alternative healing methods, including neuro-chiropractic, massage, acupuncture, and healthy eating.