

DEDICATED TO

**the dream**

WORKING TOWARD

AWARENESS & CELEBRATION

*meet the team*



## CARMEN FRANCELLNO

Carmen Francellno is a Black woman and lifelong Evanston resident. She is a former classroom teacher with additional experience working in the social service and public service sectors. She has completed Beyond Diversity, SEED and Leadership Evanston. She works in the Engagement Services Department.



## COZBI A. CABRERA

Cozbi A. Cabrera is a multimedia artist. Trained as an art director, this Parsons School of Design grad left her dream job creating music packaging in NY (art direction and design for artists such as Yo-Yo Ma and award winning platinum selling artist Ginuwine) to make handmade collectible cloth dolls (Muñecas) in honor of her Honduran heritage. Her dolls were featured on the Oprah Winfrey Show, Martha Stewart Living, Land Of Nod catalogue, and many US networks. Solo exhibitions include Thread That Binds (2017-18) at the Jewish Fund Gallery, Ernest Rubenstein Galleries and the Lincoln Center Education Art Gallery. Her dolls, quilts and paintings exhibited concurrently with the Gees Bend Quilts at the Myrtle Beach Art Museum (2017).

Cozbi's star reviewed illustrated titles include: *Beauty Her Basket*/Sandra Belton, and *Thanks A Million*/Nikki Grimes, Greenwillow Books; *Stitchin' and Pullin' A Gees Bend Quilt*/Patricia McKissack, Random House; *Most Loved in All the World*/Tonya Cherie Hegamin, Houghton Mifflin; *Exquisite: The Poetry and Life of Gwendolyn Brooks*/Suzanne Slade, Abrams Books (ALA's Sibert Honor and Coretta Scott King Honor). She's currently painting *Elizabeth Jennings Takes a Stand*/ Amy Hill Hearth, Greenwillow Books, and has authored/illustrated *My Hair Is A Garden*/Albert Whitman and *Me and Mama*/Simon & Schuster (Coretta Scott King Honor, Caldecott Honor).



## JESSICA IVERSON

Jessica Iverson is a lifelong Evanstonian, and a white, cis female. After growing up with frequent visits to EPL and earning her Masters in Children's Literature, she was eager to join the children's department and has been with EPL for the last 6 years. While there, she has created and co-led the girls' empowerment workshop- Girls Be Heard and Graphic Novel Book Club for Kids, Community Understanding Project (CUP) an EDIS (equity, diversity, inclusion and social justice) book club which launched late 2020, and another upper elementary aged kids' programs in the works- a positive masculinity workshop- Boys Can Be. She is a current member of EPL's EDI (equity, diversity and inclusion) Committee, has received training through SEED (Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity), Beyond Diversity, and has attended multiple workshops through the YWCA's Equity Institute. Jessica loves being part of and supporting safe and brave spaces.



## KELLYE FLEMING

Kellye, a longtime Evanston resident, is a Branch Assistant at the Robert Crown Library Branch where she focuses on graphic novel/comic collection and multicultural programming.

She recently graduated with an MLIS from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee focusing on instructional technologies.



## SALLY BATTLE

Sally is a multiracial (Chinese, Japanese, and white) woman. She dabbled in several fields (sociology, education, and neurobiology) before she decided to stick with libraries as a career choice rather than just an excellent venue for a night out. She loves creating fun, curiosity-provoking programs for kids and families, and gets to do this work as both a Youth Services Assistant at the Des Plaines Public Library and as a Branch Assistant at the Evanston Public Library's Crown Branch. She is honored to work with this all-star team to provide opportunities for kids & families to build positive racial identities and schema to understand race and racism. Her passion for this work stems from her lifelong heartbreak over injustice and inequality in the world; her studies of race, poverty, and inequality as an undergrad; her continuing journey of her own racial identity; and her experiences as a mother in her multi- and trans-racial adoptive family.



## TRACY OLASIMBO

Tracy Olasimbo is a Nigerian-Ecuadorian Evanstonian. She is currently EPL's Family Engagement Coordinator, which supports her passion for helping others foster cultural awareness to build equitable and inclusive environments. As a master facilitator and a curriculum developer, she has developed and implemented professional development for educators and community partners, supported under-resourced schools, and built vital relationships in the community. At present, Tracy leads workshops and professional development for parents and District employees on the layered topics of race and education in Evanston, and is a parent herself. Tracy currently holds the role as a Board Chair for Free Lunch Academy, Board Member for Chicago Volunteer Doulas, and is a member of the African-American, Black, and Caribbean (ABC) Family Support Group's Planning Committee. She holds a BA in Psychology from the University of Illinois at Chicago.