**Data with Dignity:
People Behind the Numbers**

"Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge? Where is the knowledge we have lost in information?"
t.s. eliot

Data is information. It is used to determine insurance and health care coverage, educational initiatives, housing, advertising, how roads are designed, and what pops up on our screens saying "if you like that, you'll like this." We depend on data to craft public policy and inform our institutional decisions. Nearly all of the choices we make on a daily basis are based on data.

We are told that data doesn't lie, but are we sure?

Empirical data points only reflect the finite set of inputs used to generate them, and most people don't question what those are. We don't know if policy is data-driven or data-informed, and what is the difference? And how does it impact our daily work in community?

We hope to create as many questions as answers with this year's symposium. We hope that by developing data skepticism we can develop data literacy.

We will examine the role data play in determining which communities get services, how race and culture concerns can be subjugated by numbers, how racial policies that have existed for decades are often rooted in analytical prejudice and bias, and why the analyses of data is often unexamined. We will also look at how vulnerable communities are further marginalized by a lack of access to culturally appropriate health, safety and accessibility information. Who determines which communities receive high speed internet? How can every community access

culturally appropriate opportunities for civic engagement? Who is not included in data, and why? But most importantly, how can we understand the right questions to ask?

Keynote Speaker: Charlton McIlwain, Author of *Black Software*
Vice Provost for Faculty Engagement and Development at NYU

Just Data: Designing Technology for Racial Justice

Workshop A

Addressing Culture, Race, Ethnicity, Language and Accessibility: What Are We Waiting For?

Tekisha D. Everette, Executive Director, Health Equity Solutions

Vikki Katz, Associate Professor of Communication and Information, Rutgers University

Rebecca Cokley, Program Officer in the President's Office, Ford Foundation.

Moderator: Andrea Comer, Deputy Commissioner, Chair of Adult Use Cannabis Social Equity Council, Department of Consumer Protection

Workshop B

Critical Condition: The History And Future Of A Shape-Shifting Media

Juan Gonzalez, Professor of Communications and Public Policy, Rutgers University, and co-host of Democracy Now

Silvia Foster-Frau, Multiculturalism Reporter, The Washington Post

Dan Haar, Columnist and Associate Editor at Hearst Connecticut Media

Amy Yee, Equality Reporter at Bloomberg

Moderator: Kaitlyn Krasselt, Communications Director, Department of Consumer Protection

Workshop C

Underheard, Undercounted, And Underserved: Does Data Serve Equally?

Meredith Rolfe, Director, Data Analytics and Computational Social Science Program, University of Massachusetts

Sara Eisele-Dyrli, Assistant Director at Connecticut Data Collaborative (Connecticut State Data Center)

Susan R. Smith, Department of Social Services' Director of Business Intelligence + Analytics.

Moderator: Kasturi Pananjady, Data Reporter for CT Mirror