

Gendering Your Portfolio:
How Asset Owners Can Support
Women Through Investing

Speakers Bios

New York
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Sharon Cunningham

Executive Director, Wealth Management, Financial Advisor, Senior Portfolio Management Director

The Cunningham Group at Morgan Stanley

Sharon has dedicated her entire career to providing highly customized life stage financial planning and investment growth strategies to individuals, families, organizations and nonprofits. Her approach includes a thorough planning process and a commitment to providing outstanding service and advice delivered with passion and integrity.

Sharon has been focusing on women's financial issues since she began working as an advisor in 1990. Recognizing that women were often excluded from financial discussions, she set out to change the industry norm. She has dedicated much of her efforts to empowering women through workshops designed specifically for them. More recently, she is credited with creating the HER Way at Morgan Stanley initiative- a cross platform community providing women with access to lifestyle information and professional resources to help them live their best lives. Sharon also takes an active role in supporting women's organizations, such as Mothers2Mothers, Women for Women International, and the Girl Scout Council of Greater New York.

Sharon is also passionate about understating and integrating socially responsible investing (SRI) issues into her investment decision-making process. When Morgan Stanley launched the Investing with Impact Platform in 2013, which was the first platform led by a major financial institution solely dedicated to sustainable investing, Sharon quickly recognized the importance of this initiative for her clients. Over the past decade, Sharon's team has devoted significant time and resources towards understanding how investing with impact can drive social change and greater gender equality, while also improving financial outcomes for clients. In recognition of Sharon's knowledge in this area, Sharon holds the Investing with Impact Director Designation from Morgan Stanley, a title that was developed by the firm in 2018 to recognize a select number of Financial Advisors at the Firm who are peer leaders in delivering holistic portfolio management for clients incorporating sustainable investing.

Over the years, Sharon has been recognized for her commitment to her clients and the organizations she supports. Most recently, she was named to Forbes Magazine's 2019 Top Women Wealth Advisor list and Forbes' 2019 Best-in-State Wealth Advisors list, which recognizes experienced Financial Advisors across the country who are setting the standard for professionalism, dedication, and exceptional client service. Sharon was also recognized by Working Mother Magazine on their "Top Wealth Advisor Moms" list for 2018 and 2017. This honor is given to a select group of women who, while pursuing careers as successful Financial Advisors, also juggle the responsibilities of having one or more children at home. At Morgan Stanley, Sharon's commitment to giving back, mentorship, and advancing women's issues earned her a spot in Morgan Stanley's

MAKERS “Class of 2018”, a platform celebrating the firm’s trailblazing women. Sharon was also the recipient of the firm’s 2014 John J. Mack Leadership Award. This honor, named on behalf of Morgan Stanley’s former CEO and Chairman of the Board, is bestowed upon individuals who are making a positive impact on their colleagues and communities.

Sharon’s career began in 1990 as a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ with IDS Financial Services. A graduate of Adelphi University with a degree in Business Management and Finance, she obtained her certificate in financial planning from New York University. Sharon currently resides in Rye Brook, NY, with her husband, Brian, and their two children, Olivia and Griffin.



Esther Pan Sloane
Head, Partnerships, Policy and Communications
UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

Esther Pan Sloane, a U.S. national, joined UNCDF as the Head of the Partnerships, Policy and Communications in October 2016. Prior to joining UNCDF, Esther was a U.S. diplomat for 10 years. As Adviser at the Permanent Mission of the United States to the United Nations in New York, she was on the U.S. team that negotiated the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. She also served on the Executive Boards of UNDP, UNICEF, UNOPS, and UNFPA, pushing the agencies to become more efficient, effective, and accountable for results. Esther previously served as a U.S. diplomat in China and the United Kingdom, as well as at the State Department Operations Center in Washington. Prior to joining the U.S. Foreign Service, Esther worked as a journalist in print, radio, and magazines. Esther graduated from Stanford University with a BA with honors in English and International Relations and earned an MA in Theater and Performance from the University of Cape Town, which she attended on a Fulbright Fellowship.



Melanie Hawken
Founder and CEO
Lionesses of Africa Public Benefit Corporation

Melanie Hawken is founder and CEO of Lionesses of Africa Public Benefit Corporation, a 750,000+ strong community working to grow women's entrepreneurship in Africa and supporting the start-up dreams of all women on the continent.

Melanie Hawken is a social entrepreneur on a mission to positively impact 1 Million African women entrepreneurs (the most underserved on the planet) by end 2019. An entrepreneur most of her life, Melanie has over 35 years' experience in media, publishing, and communications. She is now harnessing this expertise to build a powerful network of women entrepreneurs committed to sharing, inspiring and connecting with one another for accelerated success.

Melanie passionately believes it's time to provide the support, the business tools and inspiration to ensure the next generation of women-led businesses in Africa can flourish and fulfil their potential. Born in England, but a global traveler all her life, Melanie splits her time between Africa, the US and Europe. She holds an Honours Degree in History of Art from University of London.



Jenny Abramson
Founder & Managing Partner
Rethink Impact

Jenny Abramson is the Founder & Managing Partner of Rethink Impact, sitting on the boards of Ellevest, FutureFuel.io, Sempre Health and as a board observer for Neurotrack and Werk.

Previously, Jenny served as CEO of LiveSafe, a tech security company focused on preventing school shootings and sexual assaults. She also held leadership roles at The Washington Post, Personal (a data tech company), The Boston Consulting Group, D.C. Public Schools, and Teach for America.

Jenny is a board member of the NFL Players, Inc., DC Prep, and is board chair of Georgetown Day School. She is also an active member of All Raise, co-leading their data efforts. Finally, she is an Advisory Board member of the Camden Partners Nexus Fund (an early stage health focused VC fund).

Jenny has been covered in Forbes, on CNN, in The New York Times, and in The Washington Post, interviewed on Squawk Box, featured at the Code Conference, at the United Nations, at the G7, and on Capitol Hill, and was named Top 40 Under 40, a DC Power Women in Tech and a DC Tech Titan. She received bachelor's and master's degrees with honors from Stanford University, an MBA with honors and the Dean's Award from Harvard Business School (where she also served on the Investment Committee for Shareholder Responsibility for Harvard University) and was a Fulbright Scholar at The London School of Economics.





Bahiyah Robinson

Founder and CEO

VC Include

Bahiyah is the Founder + CEO of VC Include, an advocacy organization that connects female and diverse emerging managers in the Venture Capital and Impact Investment space with LPs that care about returns, impact and inclusion across the lens of gender, ethnicity, sexual identity and race.

VC Include has produced curated convenings in New York City, Los Angeles, Salt Lake City, and San Francisco. These intimate gatherings are designed to create meaningful, longterm relationships through knowledge exchange and pattern matching, while creating a more diverse pipeline of investors in the alternative investments ecosystem.

Bahiyah is also CEO of Robinson (+) Consulting Group, a New York City based company that provides insights, strategy and investor connections to corporations, NGOs and ecosystems of startups, with a focus on women, women of color, and the African Diaspora. She's lead multiple technology, investment, fundraising and social impact initiatives in the US, Brazil and across Sub-Saharan Africa since 2001. Her collaborations and investments have been recognized over the years by the Knight Foundation, Echoing Green, Entrepreneur, CNN and Forbes.

Bahiyah was born in Palo Alto, California. She was raised and educated around the themes of science, technology, and equity.



Vicky Lay

Managing Director

Artesian

Vicky is on a mission to uncap human potential. She uses her “portfolio life” of speaking, writing, mentoring, leading projects and directing capital towards positive social and environmental outcomes to do this.

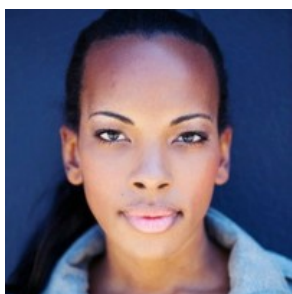
As a Managing Director at [Artesian](#), an early-stage venture capital and fixed income business with offices in Sydney, Melbourne, Singapore, Shanghai, New York and London, Vicky is building innovation ecosystems and helping more mission-driven founders secure funding. She is also a co-founder of [zookal.com](#), a Silicon Valley venture-backed EdTech startup and previously served on the boards of non-profit organizations fostering youth empowerment and entrepreneurship including [JA](#)

[Australia](#) and Young Achievement Australia. Vicky was recognized as a Forbes Asia 30 under 30 list maker in April 2017.

Specifically, she is committed to:

1. Helping more people build companies/lead projects that change the world
2. Developing the youth into the type of world leaders she would follow
3. Increasing the number of women-led startups, boards, and investments
4. Facilitating human potential – in all its forms

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Sarah Kunst
Managing Director
Cleo Capital

Sarah Kunst is an African-American entrepreneur and angel fund investor and currently the Managing Director of Cleo Capital.

Kunst began her career at Apple, was an investor at Mohr Davidow Ventures, and was on the Board of Venture for America. She is a contributing editor at Marie Claire magazine.