

Juliana Tafur Announced as New Obama Foundation Scholar

New York, NY -- Last week, the Obama Foundation announced that Miami resident Juliana Tafur, Founder of **Story Powerhouse** and creator of **Listen Courageously** is among its fourth cohort of Obama Scholars, two groups of 12 emerging leaders from around the world who will study at Columbia University and the University of Chicago, respectively, for the 2021-2022 academic year.



Juliana was chosen for designing and implementing a listening methodology to inspire positive dialogue across differences and foster human connection. Since producing the award-winning film List(e)n, which brings together Americans with opposing viewpoints and facilitates opportunities for them to connect across their differences, she's been on a mission to provide tools to nurture heart-centered dialogue, to combat the polarization in our society. Juliana's Listen Courageously workshops have positively impacted thousands of people at corporate settings, academic institutions and non-profit organizations, guiding participants in empathic listening, providing tools to nurture heart-centered dialogue.



"It is truly remarkable to see the steadfast commitment of these rising leaders working to meet the economic, educational, and social needs of their communities across the globe," said Obama Foundation President Valerie Jarrett. "These individuals have displayed profound courage, dedication, and the spirit needed to create lasting change in the world, especially during challenging times. I'm thrilled to welcome this cohort of Scholars."

At Columbia University, the Obama Scholars will complete a nine-month residency with Columbia World Projects, an initiative that mobilizes the university's faculty and researchers to work with governments, nongovernmental organizations, businesses, and communities to create tangible solutions to real-world issues. Juliana will be expanding upon her work with Listen Courageously, and launching Story Powerhouse - to tackle some of our societal challenges, through film.

Launched in 2018, the **Obama Foundation Scholars** program is designed to inspire, empower, and connect emerging leaders with the tools they need to make their efforts more effective and impactful across their global communities. To learn more about the 2021-2022 cohort, please visit obama.org/scholars.

To learn more about the film that inspired the Listen Courageously movement and workshop series, visit

www.listencourageously.com/thefilm