

## Meet Our 2024 Brandeis/Heller Segal Fellows

The Segal Citizen Leadership Program welcomes and extends our congratulations to our five new 2024 Segal Fellows. These inspiring and dedicated individuals join a Network of 163 lifelong Fellows making an impact across a wide range of issue areas and sectors. Through their participation in the Program, each Fellow will be supported with resources and training to continue their development as leaders and agents for social change.



### **Mandy Feuerman (Brandeis Undergraduate Segal Fellow)**

Mandy Feuerman a junior from South Florida double majoring in politics and English. As a research assistant and teaching assistant for professor Jytte Klausen's Western Extremism Project, Mandy studies terrorism in the Western Hemisphere. In addition, she studies campaign finance as a research assistant for professor Zachary Albert. Mandy enjoys teaching English classes to immigrants in the Waltham area as a volunteer with the Waltham Group's Language Empowering Action Project. She serves on the executive boards of Brandeis Democrats, VoteDeis, and the Brandeis Journal of Politics.

She is the director of TEDxBrandeisU, an Undergraduate Departmental Representative for the Department of Politics, and a community advisor in Massell Quad. She is particularly interested in campaign finance, democratic reform, and voting rights. **Mandy is excited to spend her summer exploring the intersection of research and public policy as a Segal Fellow.**



### **Brandie Garcia (Brandeis Undergraduate Segal Fellow)**

Brandie Garcia (any pronouns) is a Brandeis MLK Fellow majoring in Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Studies and an independent interdisciplinary major in Black Music Studies with a planned Theater Arts minor in the works. Described prior as a "Chelsea Champion" in their hometown of Chelsea, Massachusetts, a low-income and majority-Latino community, Brandie was exposed to many influential non-profit organizations such as La Colaborativa, The Neighborhood Developers, and GreenRoots, that aimed to give justice to its residents. Primarily

working in the community in regards to tenant and worker rights education, Brandie gained many skills organizing within these social movements, but fell in love with one primarily – community outreach. Fortunately, they were able to combine their passion for the arts with this vital skill when they joined Boston Children's Chorus (BCC) in 2019. Quickly exposed to a higher level of music education, Brandie began questioning why they did not have as much

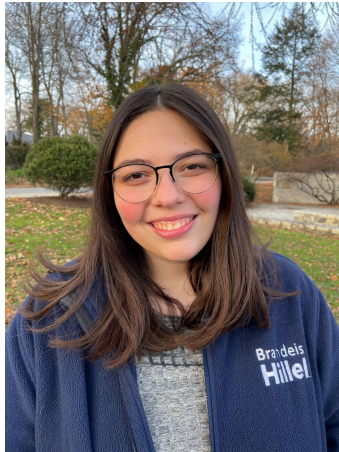
access to a thorough arts education in Chelsea. Thus, Brandie sought to close the music education gap within the Greater Boston community alongside BCC, assisting the development of a partnership between Chelsea Public Schools and the Boston Children's Chorus that would grant access to local elementary students to an affordable and thorough music education that they would otherwise not have access to. Through their studies of Black music at Brandeis, they have better understood the arts as not only as a tool for self expression, but also a historical means of change. Therefore, Brandie does not view the lack of access to proper and thorough arts education as only furthering the education gap to those who have been disadvantaged, but also a mode of oppression to censor radical thought that has historically been proven to transform the minds of the American masses time and time again. **As a Segal Fellow, Brandie is excited to gain the skills to create a better and more just education for arts education to prosper, both inside and outside of the public school system.**



**Kai Kibilko (Brandeis Undergraduate Segal Fellow)**

Kai Kibilko is a Junior and aspiring researcher at Brandeis University studying Health: Science, Society, Policy, as well as Environmental Studies, Legal Studies, and Social Policy. Kai has lived in Orlando, Kansas City, South Carolina, and Boston, all of which have given them a unique perspective on people's interactions with the built environment and the effects that it can have on our health. Over the 2020-2021 academic year, Kai served as a City Year member in a virtual 3rd grade classroom in Boston. Through this experience, Kai witnessed how certain traditional leadership styles can make people feel unseen and unheard if their

individual contexts and circumstances are not valued. Because of this experience, Kai has made engagement and consideration of communities'/individuals' input a core tenet of their work. If communities and individuals feel seen and heard, they can be empowered to fight for the change they want to see. In the Summer of 2023, Kai started working in the Environmental Health department at BUSPH learning about many of the exposure disparities that populations in the Boston area face, such as excess heat and air pollution. In their career, Kai hopes to engage with populations around environmental health challenges they could be facing in order to have community input be the guiding factor for addressing the problems at hand. **As a Segal Fellow this summer, Kai is excited to gain a further understanding of Environmental Health through an organization that shares their vision of community engagement guiding research that supports equity-centered policy initiatives.**



**Riley Genevieve Miner (Brandeis Undergraduate Segal Fellow)**

Riley Genevieve Miner (she/her) is a passionate community builder and organizer from El Paso, Texas. Growing up in a small but very active Jewish community, she has become a leader dedicated to connecting people over shared heritage, traditions, values, and experiences. At Brandeis, she is the 2024 President of Brandeis Hillel, previously serving as the 2023 Vice President, a Community Advisor who fosters connections in the residence halls on campus, and both a religious school teacher and program coordinator through the Boston-Area Jewish Education Program (BJEP). Riley is an alumna of the Mandel Center for Studies in Jewish Education Undergraduate Teaching Fellowship and the Samuels Scholars Program through COMPACT, which have provided her with

opportunities and skills that have enhanced how she has approached community engagement and partnership building. When she is not actively planning or running a community-building program, Riley spends time crafting, reading at local bookstores, or assisting in leading a Youth Participatory Action Research program that is being run by the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC). Studying Health: Science, Society, and Policy, Anthropology, and Near Eastern and Judaic Studies, Riley has spent time in fellowships through Jewish organizations like the RAC, JOIN for Justice, and currently the Nachshon Project's Undergraduate Fellowship, connecting her passion for justice work to her Jewish identity. **Riley is very excited to spend this summer exploring her passions for health equity and youth empowerment, applying skills she has in pursuit of tikkun olam, or repairing the world.**



**Ela Petit Frere (Heller MPP Segal Fellow)**

Ela Petit Frere is an MPP graduate student at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University concentrating on Children, Youth, and Family Policy.

Before coming to Heller, she graduated in 2020 from UMass Amherst with a Bachelor's in Health Science. She had accumulated experience as a 2022-2023 Commonwealth Corps service member, serving the Office of Food Access and Healthy Community, and the Project Soup food pantry focused on community-level approaches to improving food access and housing in Somerville, MA. She is dedicated to community

development and focused on creating better determinants of health for immigrant families. She is eager to identify and develop policies tailored to building advantageous social benefits for local communities in need around Boston. She is originally from Haiti, and a contemporary artist creating watercolor, oil painting, and digital art, illustrating a message of love, care, and compassion. **This summer, Ela is excited to have an impact on family policy and learn more about researching, evaluating, and data analyzing policy regarding child care, the foster care system, maternal leave, and social welfare benefits for families, etc.**