



Lea Gilmore – Executive Director

Lea Gilmore was named the first-ever Executive Director of the New Day Campaign in December 2016, assuming its leadership from the founder, artist and curator Peter Bruun. Lea is a proud Marylander and a native Baltimorean known for her exquisite voice, bright smile, quick wit, and infectious sense of humor. She brings decades of expertise honed through her career in both nonprofit leadership and management and as an internationally-acclaimed musician who uses art as a tool for social justice, peace, and human rights.

Lea has worked in leadership roles at the Moving Maryland Forward Network (MMFN), Equality Maryland, NAF, the Association for Baltimore Area Grantmakers, and the ACLU of Maryland. She is also one of the world's most respected and in-demand Gospel, Blues, Jazz and Inspirational vocalists and an internationally-acclaimed social justice artist and advocate. It has been said that "Lea Gilmore's rich and passionate voice is a gift from her soul to our ears." Lea has lent her voice, literally and figuratively, to advocacy for the underserved around the world and in her own backyard.

Lea has been the recipient of numerous prestigious awards:

- 2016 Golden Formstone Award from the Creative Alliance for her work with the arts in the community and her commitment to social justice, and an accompanying award from Senator Barbara Mikulski honoring Lea's diversity of work.
- 2014 One of the "Top 100 Women in Maryland" by The Daily Record
- 2014 and 2007 Selected by the United States Embassy of France as a music ambassador and toured France lecturing on civil rights and performing in concerts across the country.
- 2013 Winner of the McCauley Award for work in social justice, highest honor for Mercy High School graduate
- 2013 "Consumer Advocate of the Year" Award from the Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition
- 2012-2014 Social Justice Fellow at the Robert W. Deutsch Foundation.
- 2011 "Ally of the Year" award from Equality Maryland for her dedication and work for the LGBTQ communities.
- 2010 One of the first recipients of the James Baldwin Medal for Civil Rights for her dedication to equality and justice.
- 2005 One of "25 Women Shaping the World" by ESSENCE

Blues) award winner for her historical work on the contributions of women to the Blues.

Lea is a graduate of Morgan State University with a degree in Political Science/Economics and minor in music performance; and is a member of the Pi Gamma Mu International Honor Society for the Social Sciences; the Association of Fundraising Professionals and the Association of Professional Women. She is married to Pastor David T. Gilmore and they have two sons.

Lea has been proudly associated with Centerstage Theatre in Kilmarnock, Scotland since its inception ten years ago and was most recently asked by the Cabinet Secretary on Culture and External Affairs of Scotland to be an advisor on inclusion and how the arts can be used as a vehicle for social justice. Back at home, in the aftermath of the 2015 uprising in Baltimore, Lea organized a series of "Community Sing" events which she continues to lead and facilitate to inspire, to work for change, to heal trauma, and create a safe space to discuss "soul issues." Also in 2015, Lea founded Umoja Musica, an international effort that embraces the power and reach of African-American traditional music in union with the traditional music of other cultures to promote using the arts as a bridge to discuss diversity, inclusion, cultural understanding, peace, tolerance nonviolence, and social justice. Lea is also the founder of Baltimore Voices, a choral program for underserved middle school students promoting self-empowerment through the vocal arts.

Lea previously served as the Cultural Editor for the Marc Steiner Show on WEAA 88.9 FM and a regular co-host. She continues to lecture on human rights and performs to sold-out and enthusiastic audiences in the United States, France, Luxembourg, Germany, the United Kingdom, Italy, The Netherlands, Switzerland, Italy and Siberia, Russia and has published digital and print articles on a variety of subjects and in several publications.