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**funders'
collaborative
on youth
organizing**

The Funders' Collaborative on Youth Organizing Announces New Executive Director

NEW YORK, NY (December 20, 2005) – The Funders' Collaborative on Youth Organizing is pleased to announce that we will ring in the New Year with a new Executive Director, Elisabeth E. Garrett. Garrett, affectionately called Lisa, will direct FCYO's efforts to cultivate resources for young people taking action to build healthy and equitable communities. She will also provide leadership in our next stage of growth through the development and implementation of the FCYO's exciting new strategic plan. Lisa was voted in by unanimous decision at the FCYO board meeting in December 2005 and begins her tenure with us in mid-January 2006.

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The FCYO board co-chair, Robert Sherman, expressed his sentiments: "We have had extraordinary leadership from our founding Executive Director Vera Miao. She helped us fashion a highly unusual collaborative which brings funders and activists into direct relationships and allows us to co-create an organization which serves a fast-moving and forward-moving field. Vera's vision and energy have brought us a great distance...In our next era we look forward to our new leader, Lisa Garrett. Lisa brings a wealth of organizational experience, significant personal commitment, sustained values and work, and great energy to our organization. We welcome her with great enthusiasm and look forward to her taking us to new levels of effectiveness and growth."

A skilled and experienced fundraiser, grant maker, youth organizer, and trainer, Lisa brings experience from both sides of the foundation table. She comes with a strong and demonstrated commitment to youth organizing and social justice. Prior to joining the FCYO, Lisa ran her own consulting company to provide technical assistance to nonprofits in organizational development, fundraising, and community organizing. She also served as the Indigenous Program Officer for the Oxfam International Youth Parliament and as Director of Native American Funding Programs at the Seva Foundation. Previous to those positions, she committed herself to strengthening Native youth leadership and activism as the Youth Program Manager at the Indian Dispute Resolution Services and as a Program Coordinator at the International Indian Treaty Council. She has worked passionately in Native organizing and the environmental justice movement domestically and internationally.

Lisa, a native of California, is a martial arts expert. She is looking forward to moving to New York and integrating herself into the work of the FCYO. Stay tuned for our winter electronic newsletter, *Pipeline*, to learn more about Lisa and the FCYO's new strategic directions.