



## **PRESS RELEASE** **for immediate release**

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### **Chilmark Town Affairs Council announces Keira Lapsley as new Chilmark Community Center Executive Director**

Chilmark Town Affairs Council (CTAC) is thrilled to announce Keira Lapsley has been hired as the new executive director for the Chilmark Community Center summer program. As an educator for over twenty years, a mother of two and an African-American woman, she brings years of experience and knowledge to the field and shares CTAC's vision for an inclusive and welcoming environment for our children.

Keira is the middle school history department chair at the Ethical Culture Fieldston School in New York City where she oversees the department's faculty, curriculum, and budget as well as teaches in the classroom. Her core focus is on diverse experiences, voices and lenses found throughout history. She redesigned the history curriculum at Fieldston to center the student experience on equity and inclusion, and to ensure that the course work reflects those stories that often go untold. Keira knows how to manage difficult conversations and recognizes the importance of calling in different voices. Prior to Fieldston she worked at the Calhoun School as the Assistant Middle School Director and lead humanities teacher.

Keira comes to us with extensive experience working with summer programs. Most recently she was Camp Director at Manhattan College Summer Camp where she trained, supervised and evaluated camp staff, created programming and managed parent relationships. With limited resources, she was successful in motivating the counselors to engage with the campers in a safe and fun environment. She has also been the assistant director and manager of operations at Fieldston Outdoors, a day camp run by the Fieldston School. She excels at programming and building and implementing systems both in the classroom and at summer camps.

Keira was raised in Massachusetts, attended the Noble and Greenough School, and is a graduate of Wesleyan University and Hunter College. She has vacationed on Martha's Vineyard for many summers where she fell in love with the island. "Martha's Vineyard is such a beautiful and unique place that holds many special memories for me. It is my honor to return to the island in service of the children and community members of the CCC. I look forward to advancing educational programming and participating in many favorable and diverse events this summer and for years to come." She will be on the island full time for the summer beginning in mid-June.

CTAC Board chair Suellen Lazarus said, "We can't wait to welcome Keira to the Center. We know she will be a game changer for the Center's programs and for building strong connections to the island community." CTAC Board member Morgan Baker said, "I found her enthusiasm and energy contagious."