Lori Nelson is a Principal Consultant and Director of Programs at JONES in San Diego. JONES is a diversity and organizational change consulting firm that develops leaders and human systems that counter oppression. For more than 20 years, Ms. Nelson has lead antiracism projects with schools and businesses. As the Director of Youth and Education Programs for the National Conference of Community and Justice, she developed multiple programs that addressed racism, including a social justice summer camp for teens, Whites Against Racism weekend retreats, and inclusive leadership training programs for adults and youth. Ms. Nelson has designed more than 40 programs for schools and organizations on a range of topics including intergenerational communication, the changing language of gender, stopping homophobic bullying, and creating safe classrooms for students who are targeted by racial bias.

Ms. Nelson is the Co-Chair of the Alliance Against Racist Mascots (ALLARM), a California coalition of American Indian organizations supported by civil rights and social justice organizational partners. In 1998, ALLARM succeeded in having Native American mascots removed from Los Angeles Unified School District schools and, in 2015, sponsored legislation that abolished the racial slur “Redskins” from California public schools.

For the past 10 years, Ms. Nelsoni has taught an inclusive leadership class at the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts. The popular class teaches young artists communication skills, cultural competency, and how to use their talents to create safer and more inclusive schools.