

Poverty & Opportunity Training Forum:

Illuminate

KEYNOTE ADDRESS



Rinku Sen

Executive Director

Narrative Initiative

Rinku is a writer and social justice strategist. She is formerly the Executive Director of Race Forward and was Publisher of their award-winning news site *Colorlines*. Under Sen's leadership, Race Forward generated some of

the most impactful racial justice successes of recent years, including Drop the I-Word, a campaign for media outlets to stop referring to immigrants as "illegal," resulting in the Associated Press, USA Today, LA Times, and many more outlets changing their practice. She was also the architect of the Shattered Families report, which identified the number of kids in foster care whose parents had been deported.

Her books *Stir it Up* and *The Accidental American* theorize a model of community organizing that integrates a political analysis of race, gender, class, poverty, sexuality, and other systems. As a consultant, Rinku has worked on narrative and political strategy with numerous organizations and foundations, including PolicyLink, the ACLU and the Nathan Cummings Foundation.

Rinku's skill at taking big ideas live is legendary. Since the 1980s she has been bringing racial justice to feminism and feminism to racial justice, and fair economy to all of it. She has mentored dozens of organizers, community leaders, philanthropists and artists through her nearly 40-year career.

In her current role as the Executive Director of [Narrative Initiative](#), she leads a cross-functional team that weaves the power of narrative with other social movement strategies to achieve long term equity and justice.