

[Michael Balaoing, Esq.](#)

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Michael Balaoing, Esq. has devoted his life to social change as a 25-year veteran of strategic communications, leadership development, corporate responsibility and global philanthropy.

Today, Michael coaches people on how to lead and communicate – whether you’re nonprofit staff in Faribanks, a start-up CEO in Silicon Valley, a philanthropist in Manhattan, or a high school student in Nairobi. He is the Founder of Candlelion LLC, former Senior Coach at Own The Room and past president of its parent company Blue Planet Training. He has personally trained over 10,000 people (ages 3 to 93) around the world, Chile to Kenya, Amazon to Uber, Sheryl Sandberg to Jessica Alba, Fortune 500 CEO’s and entrepreneurs to investors and executives in commerce, finance, media, entertainment, technology and education. Own The Room has since grown from a single coach to a world-class cadre of professional trainers fluent in 7 languages reaching 100 top businesses in 27 countries.

Michael’s private roster of professional clients has spanned a broad spectrum of industries: for example, Amazon, Amgen, Capital Group, DropBox, Facebook, Google, Greylock, The Honest Company, Johnson & Johnson, LinkedIn, Maersk, Mark Logic, MIT Media Lab, MTV/Viacom, New York Life, Pinterest, SAP, Siemens, Time, Inc., TPG, Tribune, TD Bank, Tutor.com, Uber, Visa, and Yahoo. He prepares leaders for high stakes presentations, panels, presentations, interviews and speeches – World Economic Forum, Clinton Global Initiative, The Today Show, THE NEW YORK TIMES, TED, Senate hearings, CEO summits, annual investor meetings, board retreats, and funder site visits.

As Senior Vice President at the Entertainment Industry Foundation (EIF) for a decade, Michael educated millions of people on issues of health, military families, and youth. Since 1942, EIF has leveraged the creative power of the U.S. entertainment community. Examples of impact range from a sustained 25% increase in colon cancer screenings in the U.S. (dubbed the “Couric Effect” by the University of Michigan) to \$500 million in donations raised through iconic campaigns (Stand Up To Cancer, American Idol’s “Idol Gives Back,” and Hope for Haiti Now).

Michael worked closely with the EIF Board on how to best invest industry time, money and talent to help children and families around the world. Specifically, he advised celebrated artists (Oscar, Grammy and Emmy Award winners, from George Clooney and Tom Hanks to Charlize Theron and Katie Couric) and global media corporations (i.e., Walt Disney Company). Partnering with the biggest movie studios, TV networks, talent agencies, guilds, unions, media conglomerates, and best known corporate brands, Michael worked to achieve an enduring vision: that the entertainment industry is uniquely positioned to help others.



A public interest attorney for the past 20 years, he has awarded over \$500 million in grants to charities, research centers and universities. From 1996 to 2001, as Program Director at The California Wellness Foundation, he co-designed and managed the largest philanthropic funding collaborative focused on preventing violence against youth in California – a ten-year, \$80 million partnership of nine foundations. Evaluations by RAND and Stanford University chronicled the health initiative’s lasting impact in terms of increased public investment in prevention programs, legislative changes in juvenile justice policy, lower incarceration and recidivism rates, and ongoing community activism.

He is the past Board Chairman of the Liberty Hill Foundation – the leading angel investor for “change, not charity” and a catalyst for advancing movements to end homophobia, racism, poverty and injustice in Los Angeles County. For 10 years, he has been a trustee of the Philippine Development Foundation – fighting poverty in the Philippines through technology, innovation and entrepreneurship. He served as Secretary on the Board of Directors of the Council on Foundations. Committed to social justice, Michael has advocated for women, youth, and immigrants through civic leadership on more than a dozen nonprofit boards, like Girls Inc. of Los Angeles, the California Coalition Against Sexual Assault, SIPA Community Development Corporation and V-DAY. He has worked in local and state government at the Los Angeles City Attorney’s Office (Family Violence Division), Los Angeles County Children’s Planning Council, and California Senate.

Growing up in Los Angeles, Michael has been a lifelong volunteer since the age of 9. First appointed by former Governor Gray Davis in 2000, he served 3 governors and led California Volunteers, the state commission once headed by First Lady Maria Shriver to engage 37 million Californians in service and volunteering, from AmeriCorps to disaster preparedness. Every month, he continues to coach children, youth and nonprofits worldwide: i.e., Akili Dada, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Ascend, City Year, DonorsChoose, Generation On, Global Giving Back Circle, Greenpeace International, Independent Sector, International Medical Corps, Jewish Federations (of Los Angeles and San Francisco), Lean In, Montana Nonprofit Association, National Center for Family Philanthropy, National Domestic Workers Alliance, and Points of Light/HandsOn Network.

Michael teaches corporate social responsibility as assistant adjunct professor at the New York University Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service. He lectures on sports philanthropy (the world’s only certificate program of its kind) as adjunct faculty at the George Washington University School of Business. He has taught students, staff and faculty throughout the U.S., from USC and UCSF to Northwestern and MIT.

At age 16, he started Princeton University and earned a B.A. in International Relations from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. He graduated from UCLA School of Law, where he was Editor of UCLA LAW REVIEW, Editor-in-Chief of the UCLA ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN LAW JOURNAL and a member of the Admissions Committee. The German Marshall Fund of the U.S. awarded him the American Marshall Memorial Fellowship as an emerging leader under 40. His career has taken him to 45 countries and more than 200 cities on 6 continents. Michael currently lives in New York City and Palo Alto and travels with a yoga mat and running shoes.



SAMPLE FEEDBACK FROM CLIENTS



Michael has been my superpower behind my commencement speeches. His advice and mentorship have given me some of the most influential insights in how to better communicate with people. When I'm tired and I want to say we're done with editing, he won't quit. He pushes and pushed to go from good to great. If you're doing any form of communication, he's your go to coach, mentor and friend.

-- D.J. PATIL

U.S. CHIEF DATA SCIENTIST, WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY
FORMER HEAD OF PRODUCTS, CHIEF SCIENTIST, CHIEF SECURITY OFFICER, LINKEDIN (ATHERTON, CA)

Michael not only enhanced my speaking and presenting skills but more importantly, he provided me the confidence and ability to communicate more effectively in ALL areas of my life. Whether working with at risk youth, corporate executives or individuals such as myself, the skills and techniques he imparts are only surpassed by the compassion, wisdom and dedication he so easily shares.

-- JULIE FISHER CUMMINGS

CHAIRMAN & CO-FOUNDER, LOVELIGHT FOUNDATION; VICE CHAIR, MAX M. & MARJORIE S. FISHER FOUNDATION; TRUSTEE, MAILMAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY (MIAMI, FL)



It's hard to overstate the impact Michael Balaoing had on our staff. Michael's coaching transformed our staff meetings, gave the entire staff greater range as presenters and revealed hidden talent and leadership within our ranks.

-- KAFI D. BLUMENFIELD

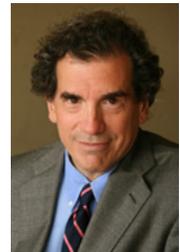
PAST PRESIDENT & CEO, LIBERTY HILL FOUNDATION
FOUNDING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DISCOVERY CUBE
(LOS ANGELES, CA)



The transformation produced by Michael Balaoing's workshop was obvious almost immediately. He started in the morning with a roomful of graduate students who advertised their loathing of public speaking, and by lunch, their newfound confidence and capabilities were shining. Michael has the rare ability to connect with someone at their own level, wherever they are, and help them find a voice. I expect the results will be important and enduring.

-- ROBERTO SURO

PROFESSOR IN THE ANNENBERG SCHOOL FOR COMMUNICATION & JOURNALISM
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (USC) (LOS ANGELES, CA)



I watched Michael take a room full of shy teenage girls, and over a two day training period, transform them into articulate young women. Using a dynamic and engaging training method, Michael is able to effortlessly bridge cultural and other gaps and connect profoundly with his clients.

-- DR. WANJIRU KAMAU-RUTENBERG

FOUNDER, AKILI DADA; DIRECTOR, AFRICAN WOMEN IN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (NAIROBI, KENYA)

