

Kimahli Powell

Kimahli Powell (he/him) has a wide range of experience in the not-for-profit sector and has spent more than twenty years advocating for social justice, youth, and arts and culture. Prior to Rainbow Railroad, he held numerous director-level positions at organizations including the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, Dignitas International, Inside Out Toronto LGBT Film Festival and the YMCA.

Powell holds a CFRE and completed his undergraduate studies in Political Science at the University of Ottawa. He holds an Honorary Doctor of Laws from the University of Victoria. Among his career highlights, Powell helped launch the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network's legal challenge to Jamaica's anti-sodomy law and developed a monitoring and evaluation framework on legal advocacy. Since joining Rainbow Railroad as Executive Director, he has led the organization through transformational growth, which has resulted in successful interventions in Chechnya and Egypt. Powell and Rainbow Railroad have been recognized with several awards, including the International Lesbian & Gay Travel Association's Pathfinder Award, the Mark S. Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies' 2018 Award, and the 2018 Inspire Award for Community Organization of the Year.

Powell was the 2019 recipient of the Steinert & Ferreiro Award and was listed in Out Magazine's Out 100 profile of influential LGBT people.