

Our Values Champions

Jean Manney

US Director

Restless Development USA

Jean (middle) with US Hub colleagues
Lorraine (left) and Douglas (right).



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Her Restless Story

Jean joined Restless Development in September 2011 as the US Country Representative, and launched the new US hub as a one-woman office for the first few years. As the profile, scope and influence of Restless Development in the US grew, Jean’s role grew to become US Director. She was recognised as a values champion by her peers for her leadership, professionalism, passion and commitment to youth-led development.

Which of our Values speaks to you the most and why?

“I believe that our four values together are incredibly powerful, but if I had to pick one, it would be Heart. In all of our hubs at all levels, Restless Development attracts people who are passionate, restlessly committed to change and development, and not afraid to take on challenges. Having a vision for how the US hub can help other hubs and the global agency achieve our goals, and constantly being inspired by staff and volunteers is what drives me every day.”



What do you think makes Restless Development so special?

“There are so many things! Our commitment to transparency, equity and to our values. Our people, and how we provide opportunities and leadership development. And our youth-led and community-led model of course.”

What’s your favourite part of Restless Development...in your job or beyond?

“Connecting with amazing colleagues around the world, and fiercely working to help them achieve the impact they have set out to have. I love that what Restless does is informed and led by the young people and communities where we work, and in the US Hub, we’re just here to be a catalyst for that.”

If you could say one thing to your colleagues across Restless Development, what would it be?

“During challenging times, I often reflect on a saying that Martin Luther King Jr. used - ‘the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice.’ I believe that it is each generation of young people who keep bending that arc towards justice. When we see how this Peak Youth generation is willing to drop everything to support their fellow citizens in an emergency, when they volunteer a year of their lives to empower their peers, when they advocate for Global Goals, when they inform the future of development practice -- we can see hope for a future world that is just and sustainable for all.”



As part of ongoing celebration of our values, a values champion will be profiled every month. Champions were nominated by their peers and selected based on their commitment to the Values and ideals of Restless Development. To learn more about our values, visit www.restlessdevelopment.org/our-values