**Vanessa bio: 75 words**

Entrepreneurship and a passion for social change drive the trajectory of Vanessa Wakeman’s career. As Founder and CEO of a leading social change agency, Vanessa is an influential futurist and trusted advisor in the nonprofit world. Her company, The Wakeman Agency (founded in 2003) provides strategic counsel, public relations, events and fundraising services that build support for mission-driven causes. She also created She Roars, the first thought leadership program for women working in social change.

**Vanessa bio: 250 words**

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As Founder and CEO of a leading social change agency, Vanessa is a trusted advisor and influential futurist in the nonprofit world. Her company, The Wakeman Agency, encompasses the full ecosystem of what nonprofits need to thrive: strategic counsel, public relations, events and fundraising. In 2016, Vanessa created She Roars, the first thought leadership program for women working in social change.

During her early career at Morgan Stanley, Vanessa re-engineered a technology department, while creating significant career opportunities for women and people of color. When her entrepreneurial spirit compelled her to leave the corporate world, she founded The Wakeman Agency in 2003. As one of the few black women to own a social change agency, she is known for her innovation.

With a focus on building support for mission-driven causes, Vanessa has led campaigns for clients that include: U.C.L.A.’s Civil Rights Project, Metropolitan College of New York, YWCA of NYC, New York Urban League, Africa-America Institute, Harlem Education Activities Fund, ChemoCars, Help for Children and many others. She was named one of “50 PR Game Changers” by *PR News* and to *PRWeek*’s list of “Champions of PR.”

As a thought leader on social change, Vanessa has been quoted by major media on critical issues and also hosts “The Social Change Diaries” podcast. A sought-after speaker, she has recently presented to UN Women, Hive, Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits and the Women’s Leadership Institute of New York.