

SCFD, DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS AND
THE COLLABORATIVE OF THE SCFD PRESENT:

ENGAGE • EMPOWER • CONNECT

2023 SUMMIT



September 19, 2023 • 1:00 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.
DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS

The Board of Directors of SCFD thanks the 2023
EEC Planning Committee and the following
sponsors for playing an integral role in the
success of today's summit.

DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS



THE COLLABORATIVE
OF THE **SCFD**

2023 ENGAGE - EMPOWER - CONNECT
PLANNING COMMITTEE

BRIAN VOGT
JENNIFER RILEY-CHETWYND
JANNETT MATUSIAK
DEBORAH JORDY
JESSICA KATO
EMMA MANTOOTH

WELCOME TO THE 2023 ENGAGE-EMPOWER-CONNECT SUMMIT

SCFD is proud to support funded cultural organizations throughout the seven-county district. We hope that today's summit sparks conversations, relationships and collaboration in support of our community.

It is in this spirit that we present to you the 2023 Engage-Empower-Connect Summit.



LET'S GET SOCIAL!
#EEC2023 • #CULTUREFORALL • @SCFD_CO







2023 EEC - SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

1:00 - 2:15 p.m.

-  Best Practices in Issues Communications
-  Development in Changing Times
-  IDEA Implementation
-  Wellness in the Workplace

2:30 - 3:45 p.m.

-  Best Practices in Issues Communications
-  Development in Changing Times
-  IDEA Implementation
-  Wellness in the Workplace

4:00 - 5:15 p.m.

Sturm Family Auditorium - Keynote Panel
Leadership Lessons From Local Legends

5:15 - 6:15 p.m.

Freyer-Newman Center Atrium - Reception

 Classroom 1

 Classroom 2

 Classroom 3

 Classroom 4

BREAKOUT PANELISTS

BEST PRACTICES IN ISSUES COMMUNICATIONS

KRISTY BASSUENER | Denver Art Museum

Kristy Bassuener serves as the Director of Communications and Public Affairs at the Denver Art Museum. She oversees the museum's media relations and internal communication strategies, as well as government affairs. Kristy holds a master's degree in communications from the University of Colorado at Boulder and a bachelor's degree in English and Environmental Policy from the University of Florida. In the community, she co-chairs the Golden Triangle Creative District Board of Directors and also serves on the Scientific and Cultural Collaborative Board for expanding public and student access to arts and cultural opportunities. Kristy enjoys skiing, hiking and generally goofing off with her husband, Chris Schneider, and their son, Ronan, as well as extended family in Denver.

MICHELE AMES | Michele Ames Consulting

Michele Ames specializes in issues management, political and public policy communications and media relations efforts for government, commercial and nonprofit entities. She has worked extensively with corporate, civic, elected and nonprofit leaders in proactively positioning their organizations and issues and managing challenging circumstances. Prior to her work in communications, Michele was a political reporter for the Rocky Mountain News and the Colorado Springs Gazette.

BREAKOUT PANELISTS

DEVELOPMENT IN CHANGING TIMES

SONYA ULIBARRI | Latino Community Foundation of Colorado

Sonya Ulibarri is the Chief Impact Officer for the Latino Community Foundation of Colorado (LCFC), a state-wide philanthropic foundation that builds influence, equity, and opportunity for all Latino Coloradans. Prior to joining LCFC, Sonya was the President & CEO of Girls Inc. of Metro Denver for 11 years, where she advanced their mission to inspire all girls to be strong, smart, and bold. Sonya has also served in previous leadership roles as the Executive Director of YouthBiz and the Grassroots Institute for Fundraising Training. She is a seasoned executive and successful fundraiser with over 20 years of experience in the nonprofit sector. An active leader in the community, Sonya is the President of the Denver Public Library Commission and has served on over a dozen boards and commissions. She is a Bonfils Stanton Foundation Livingston Fellow, NYU Women of Color Policy Institute Lead the Way Fellow, Latino Leadership Institute Fellow, and Hispanas Organized for Political Equity (HOPE) Bi-National Fellow. Sonya is a Colorado native, CU Denver alumna, and mother of two who speaks frequently on issues that include: racial and gender equity, leadership development, fundraising and philanthropy, social enterprise, and youth development.

CHRISTIANO SOSA | Rose Community Foundation

Christiano Sosa has served Coloradans for 25 years in both the nonprofit and philanthropic sectors. He is currently Vice President of Community Impact at Rose Community Foundation. In his previous position as The Arc of Colorado's executive director, he led public policy efforts to promote and protect the rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities while managing a statewide membership organization with 14 local chapters. He also spent 12 years at The Denver Foundation where, as director of capacity building and philanthropic partnerships, he established grantmaking programs for donor-directed grants and oversaw the technical assistance grantmaking program. A member of the Regis University faculty for 13 years, Sosa has taught courses on philanthropy and asset-based community development. As a former executive director of the Northern Colorado AIDS Project, he worked to equitably meet the evolving needs of people affected by HIV and other health conditions through prevention, care and advocacy. Sosa also previously served as a Gill Foundation program officer, a regional prevention specialist at Rocky Mountain Center for Health Education & Promotion, and as Project Angel Heart's director of client services.

BREAKOUT PANELISTS

INCLUSIVITY, DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND ACCESSIBILITY (IDEA) IMPLEMENTATION

MAE LIN PLUMMER | IDEA Center for Public Gardens

Mae Lin serves as Director of the IDEA (Inclusion Diversity Equity Accessibility) Center for Public Gardens, a partnership between Denver Botanic Gardens and the American Public Gardens Association, with support from the Institute for Museum and Library Services. Mae Lin believes gardens can help change the world! She has been a passionate advocate for public gardens ever since leaving a nearly 20-year career in the corporate financial industry to become a horticulturist. Public gardens and green spaces contribute to creating a more connected world, with nature, with each other and within ourselves. The joy and wonder cultivated by public gardens and missions related to the protection of biodiversity must include human connection and relevance to diverse communities. Mae Lin holds a bachelor's in international studies and certificates in horticulture and native plant studies. She is a 2020 graduate of the esteemed Longwood Fellows Program at Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania. She currently serves on the board of the Ecological Landscape Alliance and is the creator behind Never Stop Talking Associates and podcast "Plant People in Plant Places".

JULIA ALVAREZ | Point b(e) Strategies

Julia is passionate about organizational development and social change, and brings nearly 20 years of experience in the nonprofit sector to her work as CEO of Point b(e) Strategies. With expertise in strategic planning, facilitation, justice, equity, diversity and inclusion (JEDI) initiatives, and board and staff development, Julia loves partnering with clients to identify, articulate and start to solve the most pressing challenges they face. In addition to her expertise in capacity building, Julia has served as the executive director of a grassroots international development organization and spent many years working in positive youth development spaces. Julia has completed JEDI initiatives for several scientific, arts and cultural organizations, and loves the opportunity to help organizations think differently about equity and belonging. Julia has her bachelor's degree in international studies from Kenyon College and her master's degree in international peace studies from the United Nations mandated University for Peace in Costa Rica. When she's not nerding out over equity and belonging, board governance, and strategic questions, you can find Julia serving as Board Chair for Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains or exploring the Colorado hills and trails with her Husky.

BREAKOUT PANELISTS

WELLNESS IN THE WORKPLACE

TOHBIAJ JUNIEL | Cleo Parker Robinson Dance

Tohbias Juniel is a Denver-born musician, educator, arranger, and entrepreneur. In recent years Tohbias has co-developed international education programs in South America, Central Europe, and North America while also traveling as a U.S. Ambassador of arts and education for the United States Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. In 2013 Tohbias joined the music faculty at San Diego State University as the director of marching percussion studies. While at SDSU, Tohbias implemented a culturally considerate curriculum designed for max inclusion and optimum efficacy. Tohbias travels and performs with many of today's top recording artists and continues to add symphonic, pit orchestra, composition, and film scoring credits to his name. Today, Tohbias leads programming for Moving AHEAD (Advocating for Health Equity through Arts and Dance), also known as the Colorado Arts Alliance for Health Equity. His pursuits of excellence brought him to Cleo Parker Robinson Dance in 2021, where he is the first and current Director of Advocacy & Engagement.

BRIDGETTE BINFORD | Kaiser Permanente

Bridgette Binford is a Senior Workforce Health Consultant at Kaiser Permanente who works with large group employers to create and implement strategic plans for employee well-being. She is part of Kaiser Permanente's Thriving Schools team which provides support and resources for staff wellness in schools. Bridgette has a master's degree in public health from the University of Colorado, a Bachelor of Science in Health Promotion from the University of Georgia (GO DAWGS!) and is a certified Health and Well-being Coach through Wellcoaches School of Coaching. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time outdoors with her husband and two children, training for burro races, and gardening.

BRIAN HARPER | Kaiser Permanente

Brian Harper has been with Kaiser Permanente's Educational Theatre in Colorado since 1996. He has served as a performer, director, writer, facilitator, and manager. His personal passion is around improv comedy and has 15 years of experience, and co-owned Madcap Theatre in Westminster, Colorado. Brian is a 5-time Regional Emmy Award winner for his work on "Student Voices", a program through Comcast, where he facilitated a discussion between youth, community leaders and subject matter experts to address issues relevant to young people. Brian is honored to bring an arts-based approach and levity to his work so that we can truly listen, share, and see the humanity in each of us and our communities.

KEYNOTE PANEL

LEADERSHIP LESSONS FROM LOCAL LEGENDS

PATRICIA CALHOUN | Westword

Patricia Calhoun co-founded Westword in 1977; she's been the editor ever since. She's a regular on the weekly PBS12 roundtable Colorado Inside Out, played a real journalist in John Sayles's Silver City, once interviewed President Bill Clinton while wearing flip-flops, and has been honored with numerous national awards for her columns and feature-writing. She will be moderating the "Leadership Lessons from Local Legends" keynote panel at the 2023 Engage-Empower-Connect Summit.

DARRELL ANDERSON | D A Art Studio

Darrell Anderson loves life, and he is passionate about community. His philosophy is to give back to the world what it has freely given him. For Anderson, making art allows space for personal growth and reflection, and to connect and grow with others. A keen observer, his diverse talents are expressed in the array of commissions and public artworks he has created over his 50-year career. Anderson's impressive background has granted him the opportunity to participate in juried and invitational exhibits such as the Cherry Creek Arts Festival and Celebrate Colorado Artists. From murals in Brest, France to the mosaic floors in Denver International Airport's Concourse A, Darrell Anderson's works are viewed by many. Anderson is also a mentor in both the Denver arts and philanthropic communities. He has proudly served on boards such as the City Park Alliance, City Park Golf Course's First Tee program and CherryArts. Anderson also partners with business and civic organizations such as Sister Cities International and the National Western Stock Show to foster creativity and teamwork. The Mile High Stadium District recently selected Anderson to be a member of their inaugural Public Art Advisory Committee. And in 2022, Anderson was awarded the SCFD Rex Morgan Community Engagement Award for his outstanding community work.

KEYNOTE PANEL

LEADERSHIP LESSONS FROM LOCAL LEGENDS

NAMITA KHANNA NARIANI | Mudra Dance

Namita Khanna Nariani is a fully actualized master dancer in numerous forms of East Indian dance. She has mastered Kathak, learning from the esteemed Guru Bhima Shankar and his father, the Late Pandit Gauri Shankar for 14 years, in Mumbai, India. She also had the great opportunity of learning Bharat Natyam for 3 years and was able to create an expertise in a number of folk dances from the diverse parts of India, including Bhangra, Gidda from Punjab, Dandia Raas and Garba from Gujarat, Lavani from Maharashtra, Kuthu from Tamil Nadu and many more. Namita has also been able to learn and choreograph Manipuri, a beautiful classical folk blend from Bengal, East India. In 1993, Namita founded Mudra Dance. She is a choreographer, a teacher of over 125 currently enrolled, highly diverse students in the state of Colorado, a studio director, an artist working through the mediums of dance, video, music and costume, along with being a beloved mentor for her senior students, all of whom now teach and choreograph. Professionally, Namita is also a practicing Architect, with a Bachelors from Bombay University and a Masters from CU Denver, specializing in residential, commercial and telecommunication design. She and her husband have a design firm established in Aurora, Colorado since 2007.

ANTHONY GARCIA | Su Teatro

Anthony J. Garcia is the Executive Artistic Director at Su Teatro Cultural and Performing Arts Center. He joined Su Teatro in 1972. He is a playwright, director and a faculty member of the Chicano/a Studies Department at Metropolitan State University-Denver. He has contributed more than 40 original works to the American Theater canon. His plays have toured and been produced nationally. Recognitions include the prestigious United States Artist Award, NEA/Theater Communications Group Directing Fellowship and the Colorado Council on the Arts Fellowship, Excellence in Playwriting, Best New Play-Denver Drama Critics Award, the Denver Post's Ovation Award -Best New Play and Westword's Award for Best Production and the Denver Post's 2010 Theatre Person of the Year, Bonfils-Stanton Annual Award and Hilos Culturales Lifetime Achievement Award.

NOTES

FOLLOW UP



Scan the QR code above to find resources from today's Summit!



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