

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

ENGAGE • EMPOWER • CONNECT

2024 SUMMIT



September 16, 2024 • 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS

The Board of Directors of SCFD thanks the 2024
EEC Planning Committee and the following
sponsors for playing an integral role in the
success of today's summit.

DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS



2024 ENGAGE - EMPOWER - CONNECT
PLANNING COMMITTEE

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WELCOME TO THE 2024 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 2024 Engage-Empower-Connect Summit.



LET'S GET SOCIAL!
#EEC2024 • #CULTUREFORALL • @SCFD_CO



2024 EEC - SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Professional development sessions will be held in Sturm Auditorium. A reception will follow in the Freyer-Newman Center atrium.

1:00 - 2:00 P.M. SCRAPPY FUNDRAISING

2:30 - 3:30 P.M. SUSTAINING THE SPARK

4:00 - 5:00 P.M. KEYNOTE ADDRESS

5:00 - 6:00 P.M. HAPPY HOUR RECEPTION

During the breaks between each session, please enjoy coffee and conversation in the atrium or informal discussion lounges located in Classrooms 1 and 2.

SCRAPPY FUNDRAISING



AMANDA BERG WILSON | The Catamounts

Amanda Berg Wilson is co-founder and Artistic Director of The Catamounts, where she has directed fifteen productions. Under her direction, The Catamounts have been the recipients of eight Westword Best of Denver awards, four True West awards, thirteen Colorado Theatre Guild nominations, and six Daily Camera Eye Awards, among others. She has doubled The Catamounts' operating budget two and half times in just eight years.

Prior to The Catamounts, she co-founded and served as Artistic Director of Striding Lion, a Chicago-based performance group that operated for sixteen seasons. She was a finalist for the 2018 True West Theatre Person of the Year, was highlighted in Westword magazine as one of "100 Colorado Creatives," received a 2014 BCAA Theatre Fellowship, and her work has been profiled in American Theatre magazine. Elsewhere in Colorado, she has performed with Curious Theatre Company and the Denver Center for the Performing Arts' Off-Center wing. Amanda graduated cum laude with a BA in English and Drama from Kenyon College in Ohio.



SARA MOORE | Colorado Dragon Boat

Sara Moore is the Executive Director for Colorado Dragon Boat, the umbrella organization that encompasses the Colorado Dragon Boat Festival, the Colorado Dragon Boat Film Festival, the AANHPI Emerging Leaders Program, and the new Riverdale Regional Park Dragon Boat Regatta. Sara brings over ten years of non-profit executive management experience. Sara has managed large scale events, significant fundraising efforts, and is a key leader in the AAPI community. Sara is most proud of bringing Colorado Dragon Boat into a stable and thriving financial position as well as leading the largest Dragon Boat Festival in the country with an average of 200,000 attendees per year. Sara's passions include rock climbing, hiking, and learning about her Japanese heritage. Sara earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Grand Valley State University in Michigan.



JOE PETTIT | Bird Conservancy of the Rockies

Joe Pettit is a development professional with two decades of experience spanning performing arts, conservation, climate change, foreign policy, political campaigns and urban horticulture. He has held leadership positions with responsibilities including development operations, major donor relationship management, event planning and annual giving. In his current role at Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, he leads development staff, cross departmental teams and volunteers in private sector strategies across foundations, corporate, individual, events and planned giving revenue streams. He grew up in eastern Nebraska and earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English from the University of Nebraska-Omaha. When not working, he can be found gardening, cycling, cooking, and, of course, birding.

SUSTAINING THE SPARK



MARCIA DONZIGER | The Art Garage, Culture CARES Global

Marcia Donziger serves as the interim Executive Director for The Art Garage, a nonprofit located in Park Hill. The organization's mission is to provide visual arts-based programs that inspire, empower, and promote creative self expression for people of all ages and backgrounds. Marcia also runs a boutique consulting firm, Culture CARES Global, to help social impact organizations reduce unwanted turnover, stress, and burnout through leadership coaching, management training, and advisory services. She is the architect of the Culture CARES® Model—a proven process leaders use to drive cultural transformation and employee engagement.

In 2007, Marcia founded MyLifeLine Cancer Foundation with a vision to transform the cancer experience through community and connection. She served as Executive Director for 10 years and led the successful merger of the organization into the global Cancer Support Community in 2018. For her pioneering efforts to reduce isolation and build community for 300,000+ cancer patients and their families worldwide, Marcia has been honored with the “John Hickenlooper Unsung Hero Award” and The Denver Channel’s “Everyday Hero Award.” In 2023, Marcia received the Outstanding Leader award at the Health 2.0 conference in Las Vegas.

Marcia grew up in Anaheim, California, and yes, she worked at Disneyland in high school. In 2002, she moved to Denver and is a new empty nester as her 18-year-old twins started college in August.



MICHAEL YANKOVICH | Children’s Museum at Marsico Campus

Michael Yankovich, President and CEO of the Children’s Museum of Denver at Marsico Campus, has nearly 30 years of experience in the museum field, including time with the Denver Museum of Nature & Science and Port Discovery Children’s Museum in Baltimore. During his time at the Children’s Museum of Denver at Marsico Campus, Michael led the organization’s ambitious capital campaign and historic campus-wide expansion. Mike is a 2011 Livingston Fellow and was part of the 2013-14 class of the National Arts Strategies Executive Leadership Program, joining 50 international cultural leaders for a comprehensive one-year program on advancing leadership in the arts. In addition, he previously served as Board Chair of the Denver Preschool Program and Chair of the Association of Children’s Museums, and is currently a board member of the Bonfils-Stanton Foundation. He is the proud father of a curious and ambitious 16-year-old named Holly.

SUSTAINING THE SPARK



MALIK ROBINSON | Cleo Parker Robinson Dance

Malik Robinson grew up and into his role at Cleo Parker Robinson Dance. After graduating with a Bachelor's in African Studies from Regis University, he officially began his tenure as Development Director winning national awards for the acclaimed Ensemble. Malik then moved on to Booking Manager increasing the Ensemble's annual tours to 15 cities nationwide. Leading with the arts as a force for transformation and peace, he secured and lead tours to Israel and Egypt during times of heightened civil unrest. Before being named Executive Director in 2014, Malik developed and directed evidenced-based after-school programming recognized for positive findings. Malik is active on several arts organization boards and initiatives as well as a member of the Denver Metro Chamber's Leadership Denver Class of 2015 and a Bonfils Stanton Foundation 2015 Livingston Fellow.

MODERATED BY:



GINGER WHITE BRUNETTI | City of Aurora Library and Cultural Services Department

Ginger White Brunetti has over 25 years of experience in the public and nonprofit sectors. Through her experience, she has effectively positioned arts, culture and entertainment as significant contributors to a city's economic vitality, livability, placemaking and brand. Ginger currently serves as director of library and cultural services for the City of Aurora, overseeing the facility and operations of seven library branches and outreach programs, Aurora Fox Arts Center, Bicentennial Arts Center, Aurora History Museum & Historic Sites, Art in Public Places Program, Cultural Arts Education, finance and marketing teams. She serves as the staff liaison to the Aurora Cultural Arts Commission.

Ginger previously served as executive director of Denver Arts & Venues which operates and manages the Denver Performing Arts Complex, McNichols Civic Center Building, Red Rocks Amphitheatre, Denver Coliseum, Colorado Convention Center, Denver's Public Art Program and citywide cultural programs and investments. Additionally, she oversaw the Denver Commission on Cultural Affairs, a 24-member Mayoral-appointed body. Prior to her work as executive director, Ginger was deputy director of the agency for six years and before that the director of creative sector initiatives. During nearly 18 years with Denver Arts & Venues, she has been integral in launching Create Denver, Denver's first creative sector initiative and developing IMAGINE 2020, Denver's first cultural plan since 1989.

She holds a Bachelor of Science in political science from Xavier University and a Master of Urban Planning and Public Policy from the University of Illinois at Chicago. In 2023, she earned a certificate from the Harvard Kennedy School for completion of the Senior Executive in State and Local Government program as a Gates Family Foundation fellow. Ginger is a certified urban planner (AICP) from the American Planning Association. She was born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS



PAPA M. DIA | African Leadership Group

Papa M. Dia is Founder and Executive Director of the African Leadership Group (ALG), a Colorado nonprofit created in 2006 to help improve the quality of life for African immigrants and members of the diaspora.

A native of Senegal, Papa immigrated to Denver in 1998. He used his first job, stocking books, to teach himself how to read, write, and speak English. From an entry-level position in a local bank, Papa over the next 18 years climbed the ranks to become a regional vice president. In 2017, Papa left banking to focus his full attention on running and growing ALG.

Papa serves on the boards of the Denver Botanic Gardens, Energize Colorado, and is a member of the prestigious Livingston Fellowship.

In addition to running ALG, Papa leads several businesses and nonprofits working in or based in Senegal.



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