



WOMEN OF *Color* EMPOWERMENT CONFERENCE

Presenters



Sheri
Belts



Cournee
Biscardi



DeAngela
Burns-Wallace



Waikinya J.S.
Clanton



Senator LaVon
Bracy Davis



Senator
Tracie Davis



Rosanna
Durruthy



Arthur L.
Fleming



Vivica A.
Fox



State Rep.
Ashley Gantt



Congresswoman
Robin Kelly



Paula
Madison



Ashley
O'Ferrall



Lita
Richardson



Genesis
Robinson



Lisa
Rogers-Cherry



Dr. Latisha
Rowe



Dr. Anna
Malaika Tubbs



Eric
Valinder



Kara
Vaval



Ethel Isaacs
Williams



Marisol
Zenteno

Facilitators



Dr. Anique
Bryan



Kathy
Eggleston



Bacardi
Jackson



Constance
Jones



Jennifer
Love



Burnadette
Norris-Weeks



Michelle
Austin Pamies



State Rep.
Felicia Robinson

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 - GRAND BALLROOM

2:00 PM

Registration

4:00 PM

Self-Care: Creating a Happy, Healthy, and More Peaceful Life

Facilitator: Kathy Eggleston, WOCEI Director

Panelists:

- Sheri Betts, Author, The ABC's of Self-Care
- Kara Vaval, Author, From Clearance to Priceless

Description: Women are expected to pour into everyone while neglecting themselves. Learn from these authors and experts about practical, sustainable self-care habits that will prevent burnout and support a happy, healthy and more peaceful life.

5:00 PM

Rising to Meet the Moment: Women Legislators Speaking from the Front Lines

Facilitator: Felicia Robinson, State Representative, District 104

Panelists:

- State Senator Tracie Davis, District 5
- State Senator LaVon Bracy Davis, District 15
- State Representative Ashley Gantt, District 109

Description: This dynamic conversation will explore what it means to lead from the front lines, advocate for communities often overlooked and remain grounded in purpose in today's political climate.

6:00 PM

Opening Networking Reception

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 (Wear Your Vibrant Colors)

7:00 AM

Registration and Breakfast

8:00 AM

Welcome and Recognition of Sponsoring Partners

8:10 AM

Hot Topics

A. **Grounding the Moment: Understanding the Times We Are Called to Lead**

Ethel Isaacs Williams, Immediate Past President, The Links, Incorporated

B. **Money Moves for Every Moment: Stretch, Save, Grow and Protect**

Panel Facilitator: Burnadette Norris-Weeks, Partner, Austin Pamies Norris Weeks Powell, PLLC and WOCEI Director

Lisa Rogers-Cherry, Author and Financial Literacy Coach

Eric Vainder, Senior Market Executive, Northern Trust

C. **Lessons from the Past: Who is Telling Our Story with Dr. Anna Malaika Tubbs**

10:50 AM-11:55 AM BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Purpose Track (Breakout Room Key West / Palm Beach)

Session A-1 | From Passion to Purpose: Making an Impact Through Civic Engagement**Facilitator:** Bacardi Jackson, Executive Director, ACLU of Florida

Description: This thought-provoking conversation will explore constructive, nonpartisan ways individuals can make a lasting impact in their communities through civic participation, advocacy, volunteerism, and informed leadership. Featuring voices from organizations dedicated to civic engagement, voting rights, and community empowerment. This panel will examine how people from every background can turn passion into purpose.

Panelists:

- Waikinya J.S. Clanton, Mississippi Director, Southern Poverty Law Center
- Congresswoman Robin Kelly, U.S. Representative, Illinois 2nd Congressional District
- Genesis Robinson, Executive Director, Equal Ground
- Marisol Zenteno, President, League of Women Voters of Miami-Dade

Power Track (Breakout Room Clearwater / Orlando)

A-2 Access to Capital: The Entrepreneurial Reset**Facilitator:** Michelle Austin Pamies, Partner, Austin Pamies Norris Weeks Powell, PLLC and WOCEI Director

Description: In today's rapidly changing economy, access to capital is no longer just about securing a loan—it is about understanding new funding pathways, building strategic relationships, and positioning your business for long-term growth. Hear from business leaders, investors, and financial experts as they share practical strategies for attracting capital, preparing for growth, and building businesses that are resilient, scalable, and ready for what comes next.

Panelists:

- Courtnee Biscardi, Executive Vice President, Urban League of Broward County/Central County Community Development Corporation
- Arthur L. Fleming, Capital Consultant, Fleming Connections, LLC
- Ashley O'Ferrall, Franchise Operations Executive and Franchise Owner

Progress Track (Breakout Room Jacksonville / Tallahassee)

A-3 | The Future of AI and Medicine with Dr. Latisha Rowe**Facilitator:** Dr. Anique Bryan

Description: As artificial intelligence rapidly reshapes the way we live, work, and lead, our greatest advantage will be embracing technology to work for us. This conversation about the future of AI and medicine will focus on how technology can help us extend our lifespans and lead longer, healthier lives.

12:00 PM

POWER LUNCHEON (Grand Ballroom)

Mistress of Ceremonies: Terri Crook, Entertainer and Producer**Blessing of Food:** Dionne Polite, Retired AARP Executive

~ Lunch Is Served ~

Words From Our WOCEI Founders – 15 Years of Empowerment.

Musical Selections – Anita Faye, “Dancing in the Storm”

Introduction of Luncheon Speaker: Juliet Murphy Roulhac, Senior Director of External Affairs for Florida Power & Light

Luncheon Speaker: DeAngela Burns-Wallace, Ed.D., Author of “Made for This”.
A conversation about moving beyond inspiration and embracing strategy, resilience, healing, influence, and action.**1:30 PM****Keeping the Door Open from the Inside****Facilitator:** Jennifer Love, Retired/Former Chief Security Officer and SVP, Safety, Security and Public Health, Royal Caribbean Cruises and Retired Assistant Director Federal Bureau of Investigation**Panelists:**

- Rosanna Durruthy, Vice President, Belonging, Learning and Employee Experience, LinkedIn
- Paula Madison, Pioneering media executive and news industry icon; former GE Company Officer, NBC Universal EVP of Diversity, Owner/CEO of Los Angeles Sparks and Principal Owner of The Africa Channel
- Lita Richardson, former Executive Vice President of Content and Brand Strategy for CBS Media Ventures

Description: This powerful conversation brings together extraordinary women who have reached the highest levels of leadership across business, media, and technology to explore what it truly means to create opportunity from positions of influence. From developing the next generation of leaders and sponsoring emerging talent to challenging institutional barriers and building lasting pathways for advancement, this panel will examine the responsibility that comes with being “inside the room” and keeping the door open.**2:30 PM****A Conversation with Vivica A. Fox: Reinvention, Resilience & Owning Your Power****Facilitator:** Constance Jones, NBC 6 Today Weekend Anchor**Description:** Join acclaimed actress, producer, entrepreneur, and philanthropist Vivica A. Fox for an inspiring conversation about what it takes to build a lasting legacy in an ever-changing world. From breaking barriers in Hollywood to successfully navigating business, branding, and personal reinvention, Vivica will share the lessons that have shaped her remarkable career. Through candid stories and practical wisdom, attendees will gain valuable insights on embracing opportunity, overcoming setbacks, and defining success on their own terms.**3:30 PM****RECEPTION • BOOK SIGNING • MACY'S ENGAGEMENT**



WOMEN OF COLOR EMPOWERMENT CONFERENCE

Friday, September 11 – Sunday, September 13

"Made for this Moment: Purpose, Power & Progress"

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 | IMPACT & LEGACY AWARDS GALA

7:00 PM Reception | 8:00 PM Dinner
(Mermaid Colors Optional)

An unforgettable celebration of leadership, excellence, and impact. Set against the stunning backdrop of the ocean, guests will enjoy an elegant reception, exquisite dining, live entertainment, and an inspiring program honoring three extraordinary trailblazers whose work has transformed communities and expanded opportunities for others.

Honorees include Judge J. Michelle Childs, whose distinguished judicial career has shaped the nation's legal landscape; Benjamin Crump, Esq., one of the country's foremost advocates for justice and civil rights; and Paula Madison, an internationally respected business leader whose visionary leadership has opened doors for generations.

This milestone celebration commemorates fifteen years of building relationships, empowering women of color, and creating pathways to leadership across every sector. This evening will feature meaningful connections, and joyful celebration as we honor the past, celebrate the present, and invest in the future of courageous leadership.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 (Wear White)

6:45 AM

Sunrise Sisterhood Health and Wellness Breakfast on the Beach

Yoga at 6:45 AM; Casual white attire and swimsuits welcomed.

See a registration representative for transportation options to the venue

Committee Members

DIRECTORS



**Burnadette
Norris-Weeks**



**Michelle
Austin Pamies**



**Kathy
Eggleston**

COMMITTEE

PROGRAM DIRECTOR



**Christina Rose
Hutchins**



**Anique
Bryan**



**Suzanne
Boyd**



**Terri
Crook**



**Toshia
Drummond**



**Adamma
DuCille**



**Bacardi
Jackson**



**Tonya
Johnson**



**Marilyn
Jones**



**Shirlyon
McWhorter**



**Brenda
Morrison**



**Erica
Ricketts**



**Susan
Spragg**



**Tiera
Thompson**



**Keisha
Grey**



**Paula
Hopkins**



**Brendalyn
Edwards**



**Chan
Abney**



**Wilneeda
Emmanuel**



**Courtney
Easley**

MORE THAN A CONFERENCE

Empowerment That Continues Beyond the Moment

The Women of Color Empowerment Institute brings women of color together across industries, generations, and communities to exchange ideas, build meaningful relationships, and expand what is possible. Through leadership opportunities, mentorship, education, and community-building programs, WOCEI helps women strengthen their voices, advance their goals, and create lasting impact.



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LEAVE A LEGACY

Your Impact Does Not End at the Conference.

The Women of Color Empowerment Institute's Forever Fund, established with the Community Foundation of Broward, helps ensure that future generations of women continue to have access to leadership opportunities, mentorship, and programs that inspire lasting change.

Join us in building the next chapter of WOCEI's legacy.

SUPPORT THE WOCEI FOREVER FUND



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