# National Action Network Phoenix Metro
# 1st Annual Women's Conference
# June 21st, 2025

Elevate, Shift and Renew the Mindset

**Purpose & Mission: The Elevate, Shift, and Renew the Mindset Women's Conference exists to empower women to embrace growth, transformation, and renewal in every area of their lives. Through a focus on mindset change, we seek to inspire women to break through limitations, pursue bold new visions, and step confidently into their next season of purpose and leadership.**

## Welcome Letter from the Phoenix Metro President

Dear Community Members and Leaders,

On behalf of the National Action Network Phoenix Metro Chapter, it is my honor and sincere pleasure to welcome you to our **First Annual Women's Conference**.

This year's conference theme, **"Elevate, Shift, and Renew the Mindset,"** reflects our commitment to personal growth, collective empowerment, and transformative leadership. It calls us to rise above limitations, challenge outdated thinking, and embrace a renewed vision for ourselves, our communities, and future generations.

This inaugural event marks a significant milestone. It brings together women of purpose, passion, and resilience to engage in powerful dialogue, share lived experiences and explore actionable strategies that inspire change. Whether you are here to lead, to listen, or to learn, you are an essential part of this movement.

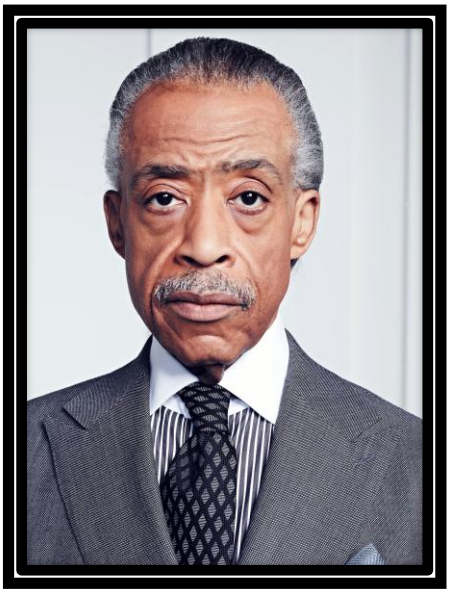
As we reflect, connect, and grow throughout this conference, may we also focus on **leveling up for the future**—equipping ourselves with the tools, mindset, and community support needed to step into our next chapter with boldness and clarity.

I am deeply grateful to our NAN Phoenix Metro planning team, volunteers, and community partners who made this day possible. Your presence here reaffirms that when we come together with intention, progress follows.

Thank you for joining us on this journey. May this experience elevate your vision, shift your perspective, and renew your spirit.

With purpose and unity,
**Dr. Bridget Tarkington**
President, NAN Phoenix Metro Chapter

## Founder of National Action Network



The **Reverend Al Sharpton** is an internationally renowned civil rights leader, founder and President of the National Action Network (NAN), which has more than 50 chapters across the country. Hailed by former President Barack Obama as a “champion for the downtrodden,” **Reverend Sharpton** is the host of “Politics Nation” on MSNBC; a nationally syndicated daily radio show “Keepin’ It Real”; and a nationally broadcast radio show on Sunday titled, “The Hour of Power.”

A fierce believer in the philosophy of nonviolent, direct-action protest, Reverend Sharpton founded National Action Network in 1991 and headquartered the organization in Harlem. As an astute political strategist, **Reverend Sharpton’s** analysis and his endorsement is frequently sought by political candidates seeking public office. **Reverend Sharpton’s** foray into electoral politics resulted in historic and groundbreaking runs for the U.S. Senate in 1992 and 1994, and he nearly forced a runoff in the Democratic primary for mayor of New York City in 1997.

The author of three books, **Reverend Sharpton** is a frequent lecturer on civil rights and political issues and has lent his expertise to several corporate diversity councils at Pepsi, Walmart and Charter Communications. He has received numerous awards, including the Harold Washington Award from the Congressional Black Caucus. He was also honored with the “Mandela Legacy Hope, Success & Empowerment Award” in recognition of his long history of achievements in advancing civil rights causes around the world.

# NAN West Regional Director

**Rev. Jonathan E. D. Moseley, Sr.,** serves as Western Regional Director, including California, Nevada, Arizona, Washington State, Colorado, and Oregon Chapters. A native of Los Angeles, **Rev. Moseley** graduated from Crenshaw High School Class of 1972. He worked in the music and sports industries following and founded his music consulting firm.

In 1999, **Rev. Jonathan Moseley** founded and organized The Ark Of Grace Ministries, where he pastored for 12 years. In later years, **Rev. Moseley** evolved and became a national evangelist and community organizer. He served as Vice President and liaison to the local union, community, and religious organizations. He championed initiatives and reform in education, health inequality, police brutality, homelessness, and climate change

# NAN Phoenix Metro Executive Board

**Dr. Bridget Tarkington**
**President**

**Lajuane Pleasant**
**Vice President**

**Donna K Wiley (Dee)**
**Secretary**

**Cynthia Davis**
**Treasurer**

# Agenda

**8:30 AM - 9:00 AM** Continental Breakfast

**Welcome**

**Dr. Bridget Tarkington**
**Councilwoman Kesha Hodge- Washington**

**Opening Prayer** Rev. LeSean Tarkington

**9:00 AM - 10:00 AM**

**Elevate Her: Rising Above the Noise**

A Kouture - Moderator
Dr. Bridget Tarkington
Dr. Camilla Westenberg
Vickey Simmons-Hart, LPC, NCC,MS

**10:00 AM - 10:15 AM Break**
**(Raffle Drawing ) Visit Vendor Booth**

**10:15 AM - 11:30 AM**

**Beyond the Bar: Elevating Voices, Shifting Power**

Attorney Chole Woods

Facilitator Dr Bridget Tarkington

**11:30 AM - 11:45 AM Break**
**(Raffle Drawing ) Visit Vendor Booth**

**11:45 AM - 1:00 PM**

**The Inclusion Revolution: Shaping a New Narrative**

Pat Gillum - Moderator
MacAuley Beloney
Princess Lucas Wilson NAACP
Cstevi Owens - Win with Black Women
Representative Quanta Crews

**1:00 PM - 2:00 PM**

**Closing Remarks Final Raffle & Visit Vendor Booth**

**Mindset Mixer, Sip, Savor, and Strengthen Your Outlook**
**(Lunchbox included)**

# City of Phoenix District 8 Welcome

**Kesha Hodge Washington** was sworn in as District 8 Councilwoman on April 17, 2023, she is the first African-American woman to be elected to the Phoenix City Council. **Councilwoman Hodge Washington** serves on the Economic Development and Housing and Transportation Infrastructure and Planning Subcommittees and her top priorities in the district are homelessness, affordable and attainable housing, and economic development. **Councilwoman Hodge Washington** moved to Arizona from the U.S. Virgin Islands in 1999 and has been active in Phoenix ever since. The daughter of a mechanic and a bookkeeper, she is a first-generation college graduate who earned her bachelor's degree from the University of the Virgin Islands and her law degree from Arizona State University College of Law.

After graduating from law school, she clerked at the Arizona Court of Appeals. She served as Assistant Attorney General working to protect children in physically and sexually abusive environments, before moving into private practice. **Councilwoman Hodge Washington** is a professional problem solver, lawyer, consensus builder, and passionate leader committed to the constructive development of our community. Her 20 years of experience in law firms, government practice, and in-house settings has given **Kesha** valuable insight on how to effectively achieve results.

Among her community service, she helps to raise scholarship money for high school and college students, mentor's young women, and provides free legal services to those in need. She is also active with several organizations including Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and the American Bar Association.

# Opening Prayer

**Rev. LeSean Tarkington**** is a distinguished leader recognized for his contributions in academia, community service, and entertainment. He graduated from Wilberforce University with a degree in political science and earned a Master of Divinity from the Interdenominational Theological Center and a certificate in Non-Profit Management from Georgia State University.

**Rev. Tarkington** is actively involved in organizations such as Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, 100 Black Men of America, and the Screen Actors Guild. His entertainment career includes appearances on *Sister-Sister*, *Saved by the Bell*, and in the film *Straight Outta Compton*. He has officiated events like the Homegoing Celebration of Angie Stone and mentors recording artists and professional athletes.

In the African Methodist Episcopal Church, he has served as the former Connectional Vice President of the Richard Allen Young Adult Council and is currently the  Director of Evangelism and Ecumenical Affairs of the Richard Allen Young Adult Council. He has also been a member of the Board of Trustees at the Interdenominational Theological Seminary and worked as a legislative assistant to former Lt. Governor Mark Taylor.

# NAN Mistress Of Ceremony (MC)

**A Kouture**
**Assistant West Region Director**

**A Lenise Kouture** is a nationally renowned and experienced strategic adviser and communications liaison officer, specializing in facilitating, curating, and coaching simple yet impactful engagements, partnerships, and intersectional and inclusive conversations. Her expertise lies in creating action plans that enhance a company's or organization's value and voice in the marketplace, helping them discover and seize hidden and profitable value through growth, marketing, brand innovation, digital transformation, and strategic partnerships.

A's powerful insight, perspective, and storytelling have significantly increased brand and product awareness and loyalty for a range of clients, from high-growth tech startups to Fortune 500 companies. She excels at adding value to businesses looking to penetrate new markets, target new population groups, or turn around underperforming organizations.

**A Kouture** holds advanced degrees in Marketing and International Business, bringing over 20 years of corporate and entrepreneurial experience to her roles. She is a committed change agent who champions innovation, equity, and inclusion. As a marketer, prolific investor, advisor, entrepreneur, and board member, her multi-hyphenate career includes serving as the Assistant Western Regional Director of the National Action Network. In this role, she educates, energizes, and activates lawmakers, partners, and stakeholders, guided by the action agenda set forth by the national board and senior leadership.

# 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM – Session Panelist

## ElevateHer: Rising Above the Noise

### At the intersections: DEI, Social Pressures, and the Power of Consumer Action

**Moderator A Kouture**
**NAN Assistant West Region Director**

## Dr. Bridget Tarkington
## Ph.D. Information Technology

**Dr. Bridget Tarkington** is the President of the Phoenix Metro Chapter of the National Action Network (NAN), bringing over 25 years of experience in the Information Technology industry and more than 30 years in the corporate sector. She is a PMO Director, Certified Scrum Leader, Lean Six Sigma Greenbelt, OKR Coach, AWS Certified, and a Human-Centered Design Thinking Coach.

A passionate advocate for diversity and inclusion. **Dr. Tarkington** has demonstrated an unwavering commitment through her extensive professional work and volunteer service with numerous organizations. Her leadership is rooted in empowering others and creating inclusive spaces, especially for women and underrepresented communities in technology.

**Dr. Tarkington** is a proud member of Top Ladies of Distinction (TLOD), where she currently serves as Second Vice President and Chapter Historian. She has previously served as Chair of the Status of Women Committee. Throughout her career, she has held several influential leadership positions and continues to drive impact through mentorship and service. **Dr. Tarkington** continues to expand her impact beyond the corporate and tech sector - she is currently undergoing certification as a court-appointed advocate for foster children, further demonstrating her dedication to community service and social justice.

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## ElevateHer: Rising Above the Noise

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**Moderator A Kouture**
**NAN Assistant West Region Director**

## Dr. Camilla A. H. Westenberg, Ed.D.

**Dr. Camilla A. H. Westenber**g is from Arkansas and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education and English from the University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff; a Master of Arts degree in Communication, focusing on code switching from the Black dialect to Standard English from Arizona State University, and a Doctor of Education, focusing on Curriculum Development from Nova University. She has a Developmental Education Specialist Certification from the Kellogg Institute, Center for Developmental Education at Appalachian State University. She is a Phoenix College - English Department professor emeritus There she coordinated Developmental English and chaired the Developmental Education Program. She also advised the Phoenix College NAACP/BSU and was a faculty SAS advisor for the athletic department. **Dr. Westenberg** also taught African-American Literature and created a class titled “Rap Literature: The Oral Tradition” and has presented on the genre nationally and internationally. Previously, she taught general music in the Murphy School District and English and music in the Phoenix Union High School District. **Camilla** is involved in various community organizations. **Dr. Westenberg i**s a life member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. - Delta Beta Omega Chapter. There she has served as vice president, as the public relations chair, and continues to coordinate the annual HBCU Fair..

# 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM- Session Panelist

## ElevateHer: Rising Above the Noise

### At the intersections: DEI, Social Pressures, and the Power of Consumer Action

**Moderator A Kouture**
**NAN Assistant West Region Director**

## Vickey Simmons-Hart, LPC, NCC, MS

**Licensed Professional Clinical**
**Mental Health Counselor**

IMW
INCLUSIVE MENTAL WELLNESS

**Vickey Simmons-Hart**, a proud Arizona native, lifelong learner, and deeply curious human who believes in the power of healing through connection, culture, and science. Before becoming a licensed professional counselor (LPC), **Vickey** spent years as an educator, adult learning specialist, and advocate which were roles that shaped her approach to therapy as both a teacher and student of the human experience.

With advanced training in trauma modalities like EMDR, Brainspotting, Internal Family Systems (IFS), and somatic work, Vickey bring a holistic, evidence-based lens to every session.

**Vickey** is not just a clinician, she an entrepreneur, storyteller, and community-rooted woman who understands the complexities of holding space for others while trying to heal yourself. Inclusive Mental Wellness is the result of both lived experience and clinical intention. It's a space where Black women, LGBTQIA+ folks, and anyone carrying the weight of survival can lay it down — even for a moment — and be seen as whole.

# 10:15 AM - 11:30 AM

## Beyond the Bar: Elevating Voices, Shifting Power

**A Fireside Chat on Amplifying Unheard Voices and Reimagining Power Dynamics.**

**Chloé R. Woods** is a licensed attorney, air force veteran, and training facilitator with experience providing legal counsel to government and private organizations, representing clients in state and federal courts, as well as administrative proceedings. Her practice consists of 7 years of government service at the city, state, and federal levels, as well as a Judge Advocate in the United States Air Force. She has truly charted her own path and not followed a traditional trajectory of what one's career in the legal profession can be.

In 2016, **Chloé** launched a litigation consulting firm that ghostwrites responsive pleadings and appeals for other practitioners; freeing them up to handle marketing and law practice management. With D,E, & I efforts near and dear to her heart, Chloé runs the National Bar Associate Advancement Academy for Excellence, a diversity pipeline program for new lawyers. **Chloé** is also the Delegation Agreement Coordinator for the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), Chloé oversees the administration of the State's groundwater programs as delegated to the fifteen counties of Arizona.

***Facilitator Dr Bridget Tarkington***

***NAN Phoenix Metro President***

A native of Phoenix, Arizona, Dr. Tarkington holds a master's degree in business management and earned her Ph.D. in Information Technology, with a published dissertation on Digital Ubiquity. She actively mentor's women pursuing careers in tech, particularly in program and project management.

## 11:45 AM - 1:00 PM – Session Moderator

### The Inclusion Revolution: Shaping a New Narrative

**Exploring Community Building, Mentorship, Activism and Advocacy for positive change.**

**Pat Gillum** is an Award-winning International Speaker, Best Selling Author, and Certified Business and Women's Empowerment Coach. Her mission is focused on helping women overcome barriers to success, by gaining clarity and understanding of self-limiting beliefs, that hold them back from getting what they desire.

As the owner of **Pat Gillum** Consulting, she leads a leadership development and training company that equips individuals and organizations with the tools and strategies needed for effective leadership and professional growth. Additionally, **Pat** is the founder of The Sisterhood Extravaganza Foundation, a 501(c) 3 Nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering women and teen girls through advocacy and education.

Under her visionary leadership, the foundation has helped countless women achieve seemingly impossible dreams, from launching successful businesses and becoming bestselling authors to instilling the confidence needed for career advancement.

**Pat** champions the power of sisterhood and firmly believes in the collective strength of women to create positive change in the world.

# 11:45 AM - 1:00 PM – SESSION PANELISTS

## The Inclusion Revolution: Shaping a New Narrative

**Exploring Community Building, Mentorship, Activism and Advocacy for positive change.**

**MacAuley Beloney Southwest Wealth Advisory Group Vice President** Investment Advisor Representative **MacAuley** has been a Financial Advisor since the early 1990s. He joined American Express Financial Advisors in 1991 and began specializing in Wealth Accumulation & Portfolio Management. In 2000, while at American Express Financial Advisors, he established Beloney & Associates, a Financial Advisory Branch of American Express after becoming a Branch Manager. Feeling the need to be more objective and impartial for his clients, in 2002 **MacAuley** moved to a more independent platform where there would not be any proprietary investment requirements for his clients.

Through Woodbury Financial Services in 2008, he partnered Southwest Wealth Advisory Group, L.L.C., to combine their unique strengths, expertise, and experience in different areas of finance and education.

**MacAuley** holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance from Arizona State University. He is licensed by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA), holds Series 7, 63 & 66 securities licenses, as well as Life, Accident & Health Insurance licenses.

**Princess Lucas-Wilson NAACP Maricopa** is an Educator, a Retired Public Policy Manager and serves as a Social Work Expert Witness in civil court cases. **Ms. Lucas-Wilson** holds a Masters Degree in social work and a certification in public management. She has worked as a counselor, a practitioner, manager and administrator in both the public and private sector. As an Educator in higher Ed.

NAACP
Maricopa County Branch

**Ms. Lucas-Wilson** has served as a Professor and Instructor at the college and university level where she has taught numerous courses in social work, public policy, advocacy, community practice, counseling, victimology, etc. Additionally, **Ms. Lucas-Wilson** has extensive professional experience as a Diversity Trainer for social workers, administrative law judges, police officers, community agencies and the private sector.

**Ms. Lucas-Wilson** has also served as an Executive Director for a faith based non-profit and was responsible for several community programs. Early in her career, **Ms. Lucas-Wilson** developed an interest in public policy as a social work practitioner. She became keenly aware that public policy had a major role in determining the type of help families and individuals could receive, as well as the ways in which social systems influenced all of our lives. Because of this perspective, **Ms. Lucas-Wilson** views and equity concerns through a holistic lens of social justice & civil rights.

# 11:45 AM - 1:00 PM – SESSION PANELISTS

## The Inclusion Revolution: Shaping a New Narrative

**Exploring Community Building, Mentorship, Activism and Advocacy for positive change.**

**Cstephani (Cstevi) Owens** is a visionary leader, advocate and strategist with a lifelong commitment to justice, equity and innovation. As CEO and Board Chair of the National Victim Advocacy Alliance, she champions the rights of survivors of gender-based violence. A W.P. Carey School of Business alum, **Cstephani** blends creative strategy with operational excellence while driving forward community-centered solutions and coalition-building. She is a passionate voting, women's civil rights activist, and a patent-holding changemaker recognized for her ability to turn bold ideas into transformative action.

**Cstephani** continues to empower marginalized voices and push for lasting social and political change through her work with Win With Black Women Arizona where she leads the collective whose work is centered around eliminating the racist and sexist attacks on Black women, working within personal capacities to support the historic number of Black women running for elected office and elevating the agenda and collective power of Black women as well as supporting and uplifting Black women in business and beyond.

**Rep Quantá Crews** is a bold voice for justice, service, and community. An ordained A.M.E. minister, real estate appraiser, and educator, she brings both lived experience and professional expertise to the Arizona Legislature. Raised just outside Detroit in a union household, **Quantá k**nows the grit it takes to overcome housing insecurity and economic hardship. She proudly marched as a Lady of Distinction Flag Girl at Alabama State University and later earned her degree from Grand Canyon University.

Now serving her second term representing Legislative District 26, **Quantá i**s the Democratic Caucus Co-Whip and a fierce advocate for equity, transparency, and opportunity. She serves on the Ways and Means Committee and is the Ranking Democrat on Public Safety and Law Enforcement.

A devoted mother, poet, and woman of deep faith, she believes the government should work for the people! Her mission: build an Arizona where every family thrives.

# DJ Dark Vader

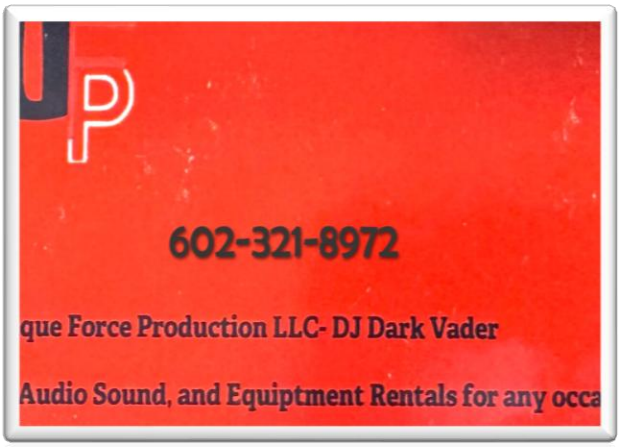
Unique Force Production LLC DJ Dark Vader

**Michael Whyte** was born in Port of Spain, Trinidad. He immigrated to the United States when he was 16 years old. He lived in New York while he attended high school. It is in New York that he began his career as a mobile DJ.

**Michael** moved to Phoenix, Arizona to attend DeVry University and study electronics. While he completed school he continued to work towards a career in music. He became known as DJ Dark Vader and the rest is history.

## Career and Achievement

**Michael's** first love is soca and dancehall music although he can play any genre of music for any gathering. He provides DJ services as well as sound and light equipment rentals to many aspiring DJs in the valley. He is an expert at turning any space into a nightclub for an event.



# Momentum Maker Sponsor

**Thank You to Our Momentum Maker Sponsor – IBF Law Group**

We extend our heartfelt thanks to **IBF Law Group** for your generous **Momentum Maker Sponsorship** in support of the first annual National Action Network Phoenix Metro Women's Conference.

Because of your sponsorship, we will be able to provide a wonderful experience for our guests—one that fosters connection, empowerment, and inspiration throughout the day.

Your support helps us continue the vital work of uplifting women and advancing justice in our community. Thank you for being a true partner in this movement.

With gratitude,
**National Action Network Phoenix Metro Chapter**

# NAN Vendors

**Grateful Basket**
**Janice Baber Hardy**

**Mary Kay by Kellee**
**Kellee Ford**

**Wellness Shopping Club**
**Tedar Cross**

**Kristil Scent Candles**
**Kristil Hightower**

**Amazing Bling by A**
**Adrienne Henderson-Cole**
**www.azabling.com**

**Diva Slay**
**Tina**
**Richardson**

**Sassy Dee Sashin**
**Dee Pearson**
**sassydeesash@gmail.com**

**National Action Network**
**Phoenix Metro**
**https://nanphoenixmetro.net/**

**Prettay**
**Clean**
**Natural**
**Handmade**
**www.prettayclean.com**

**Pamela Clark**

# NAN Photo Gallery

# She Rose: A Juneteenth Tribute

*In honor of freedom, sisterhood, and the journey forward She rose from chains not by choice worn tight,*

*Into the dawn from a centuries-long night. Juneteenth rang out—a long-promised song,*

*Proclaiming at last what had been denied too long.*

*She rose where soil knew the sweat of her toil, Where dreams took*

*root in resistant soil.*

*With hands lifted high and hearts burning bright, She marched for justice, for truth, and for right. She rose in cotton fields, courtrooms, and pews, In kitchen-table plans and front-page news.*

*She braided resilience into each strand and built futures with*

*her unshaken hand.*

*She rose not alone—but arm in arm, With sisters whose voices became a storm. Bold, unbought, undeterred by the cost, She rose to reclaim all that was lost. Today we gather—free and unbowed, Lifted by legacies fierce and proud.*

*From Juneteenth's cry to this sacred space, We carry her power,*

*her wisdom, her grace.*

*Let freedom ring through all we pursue,*

*As we elevate her—the Black woman who knew: Freedom is more than the breaking of chains— It's the building of nations, the birthing of change.*

**—Written by The National Action Network Phoenix Metro, 2025**

# NAN Informational Page

## Become a Member
## Scan the QR

## Purchase Raffle Tickets
## 1- for $5.00 / 3 – for $10.00

## Give Us Your Feedback
## NAN Conference Survey

**A portion of our raffle ticket proceeds will support ExCEL Learning Corporation in empowering a young girl with a passion for technology to learn how to code.**

**Thank you for joining us for this year's National Action Network Women's Conference. Your presence, passion, and participation helped make this event a meaningful and powerful experience.**

**To our speakers, panelists, volunteers, and everyone who worked behind the scenes. Thank you for your time, energy, and commitment.**

**Let's take what we've learned and continue pushing for equity, justice, and empowerment in our communities.**

**Thank you again—and we'll see you next year!**