

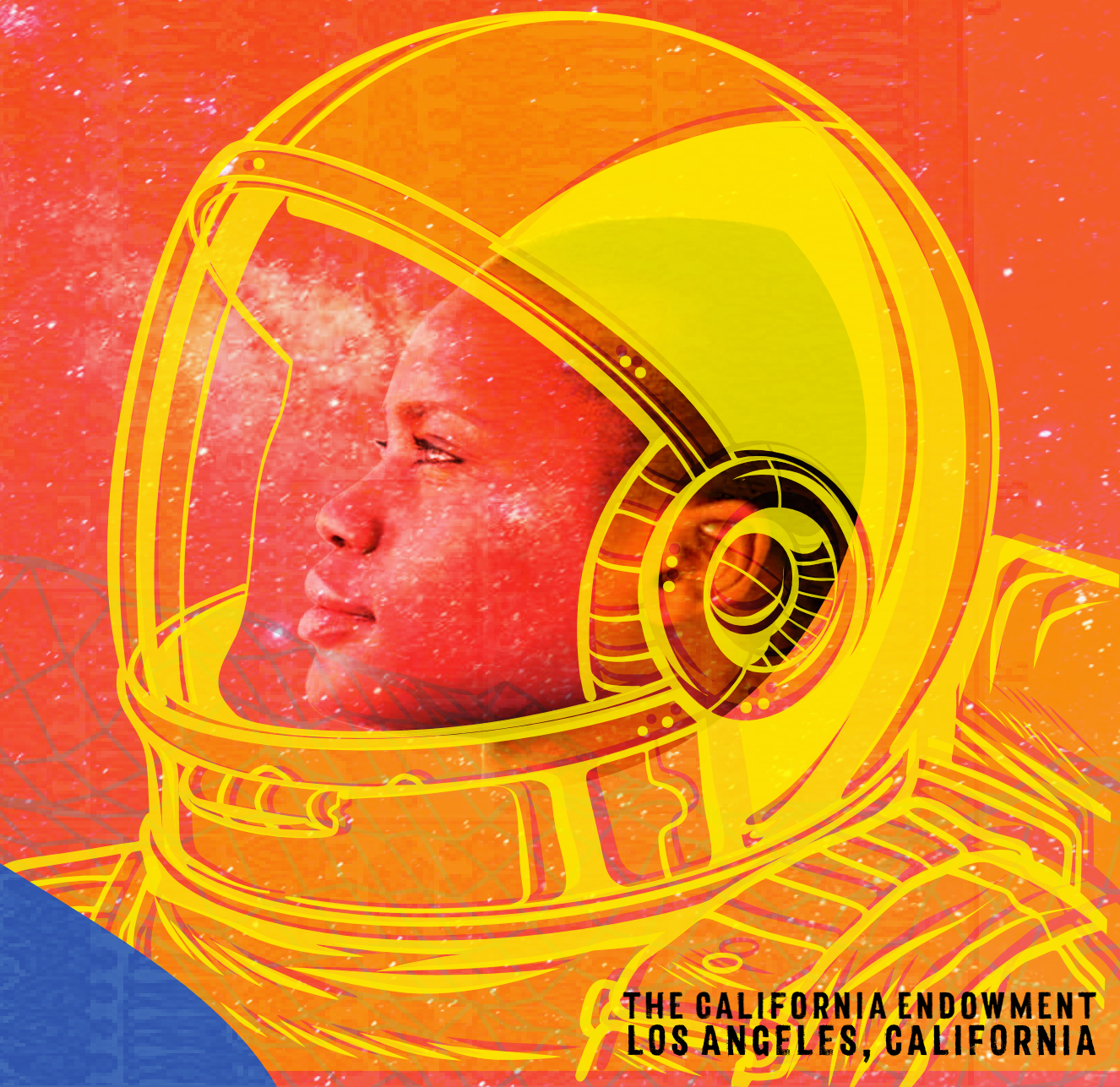
BLACK WOMEN FOR WELLNESS

400 *years*

REFLECTING ON LESSONS LEARNED &
IMAGINING OUR FUTURE

AUGUST 26, 2019

CONFERENCE PROGRAM BOOK



THE CALIFORNIA ENDOWMENT
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

REMEMBER THE PAST. IMAGINE THE FUTURE.

Planned Parenthood is honored to support Black Women for Wellness' 2019 Annual Reproductive Justice Conference, *400 Years: Reflections on Lessons Learned & Imagining our Futures.*

We applaud BWW as a leader in educating Black communities about sexual and reproductive health and for working to strengthen and support the well-being of Black women and girls.



 **Planned
Parenthood®**
Act. No matter what.

Planned Parenthood Advocacy Project
Los Angeles County Action Fund



Welcome

Greetings

400 hundred years ago this month, The Good Ship Jesus landed in Jamestown Virginia, ushering in a significant universal shift. Whether you have ancestors who were enslaved or not, the universe as Black women & girls are concerned, took a significant turn 400 years ago that requires a serious course correction right now. It began the systematic dehumanization of Black women's bodies and souls, it began to codify our reproductive lives in conjunction with the economic well being of owners rather than our own autonomy or family values. 1619 shifted migration patterns, through kidnap, enslavement, torture and forced immigration.

Today, 400 years later, Black women are 243% more likely to die giving birth. A college educated financially secure Black woman has less chance than that of a white cigarette smoking eighth grade drop out with surviving childbirth. Our babies have the highest infant mortality (they die more) than in any industrialized country in world, with rates comparable to that of impoverished developing nations.

Federal program like Title X are threaten, health clinics like Planned Parenthood are being force to decreasing services and closing because of budget cuts, and fake clinics are now collecting government funding to mislead, mis direct and delay entry into reproductive care. 2019 is offering much opportunity to course correct for Black women, the good news is that we are up to the challenge.

Black women are voting more than ever, and our votes support progressive policies and people. Black women are running for office, commissions and stepping up as administrators/executives to positions of power and influence. Our voice is active and present inside social justice movements, local government, research institutions and with health care agencies. Black women are showing up, holding representatives and institutions accountable, flexing our Black woman muscles and magic.

It is time. 400 years is long enough to have learned a few lessons. It is time for us to set sight on a future that demonstrates we care about ourselves, the planet and generations to come. 2019 is a call to action, to organize, to mobilize, to build movement, to imagine a future that is bright, welcoming, inclusive of our values and supportive of our joy. Today at Black Women for Wellness conference, join us in planting seeds that grow a future of joy for Black women & girls, in resetting the trajectory of our experiences. Join us in fanning the Black girl magic and Black woman power that is giving strength to a moral and just world.

Thank you for coming, participating, dreaming and imagining our lives in 2419.

Janette

Agenda

Breakfast

8:00 am - 8:30 am

Welcome & Opening

8:30 am - 9:00 am

- Alyeshia Wise - Poet

Opening Panel/Plenary -Yosemite A

9:00 am - 10:45 am

- Looking Back to Move Forward: Considering Reproductive Justice and Injustice Within the United States. Speaker: Adjoa Sakofina
- Intersections of Our Lives: National Poll on What Motivates Women of Color to Vote and the Issues They Care About. Speaker: Marcela Howell
- Title X Update: What's At Stake in California. Speaker: Nomsa Khalfani
- Planned Parenthood on the Front Lines and The Historical Role of Black Women. Speaker: Nia Eshu Martin- Robinson

Workshop Session 1

11:00 am - 12:15 pm

- Inside The Belly: Mass Sterilization of Women of Color inside California State Institutions
- Mental Health And Addiction- The Impact It Has On Our Community
- Policing Black Mothers: The Coercive And Unchecked Power Of Child Safety Conferences And Its Impact On Black Mothering
- Impacts on Fertility: Cancer, Fibroids and Fertility Treatments
- Trauma and Resilience: Impacts on Maternal Health in the African American Community
- Black Women And Self-Care: An Interactive Workshop Using Five Principles

Break

12:15 pm - 12:30 pm

Lunch Keynote: Addressing Toxic Masculinity - Yosemite A

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm

Speakers: Donald Grant, Reegie Bunch, Jeremiah Headen



Workshop Session 2

1:30 pm - 2:45 pm

- Melt ICE/Diminish Fear: Building Allies and Protecting our Communities
- Benefit and Burden, The Role of Black Women in Social Justice Work
- The Black Breath Project: “Going Back to Go Forward”
- U=U, PrEP & TaSP: Breaking Down All This HIV Stuff
- Maternal Health Coordination: How Community Health Centers and Maternal Mortality Review Committees Can Impact Black Maternal Health Outcomes
- Is Our Health a Racial Justice Issue? Understanding How Black Women Frame Access to Health

Networking Break, Exhibits

2:45 pm - 3:15 pm

Afternoon Movement Break: African Dance Movement

3:15 pm - 3:30 pm

RJ Talks - [Yosemite A](#)

Thirteen 5 minute talks with MC Tia Oso

3:30 pm - 4:30pm

Call To Action - [Yosemite A](#)

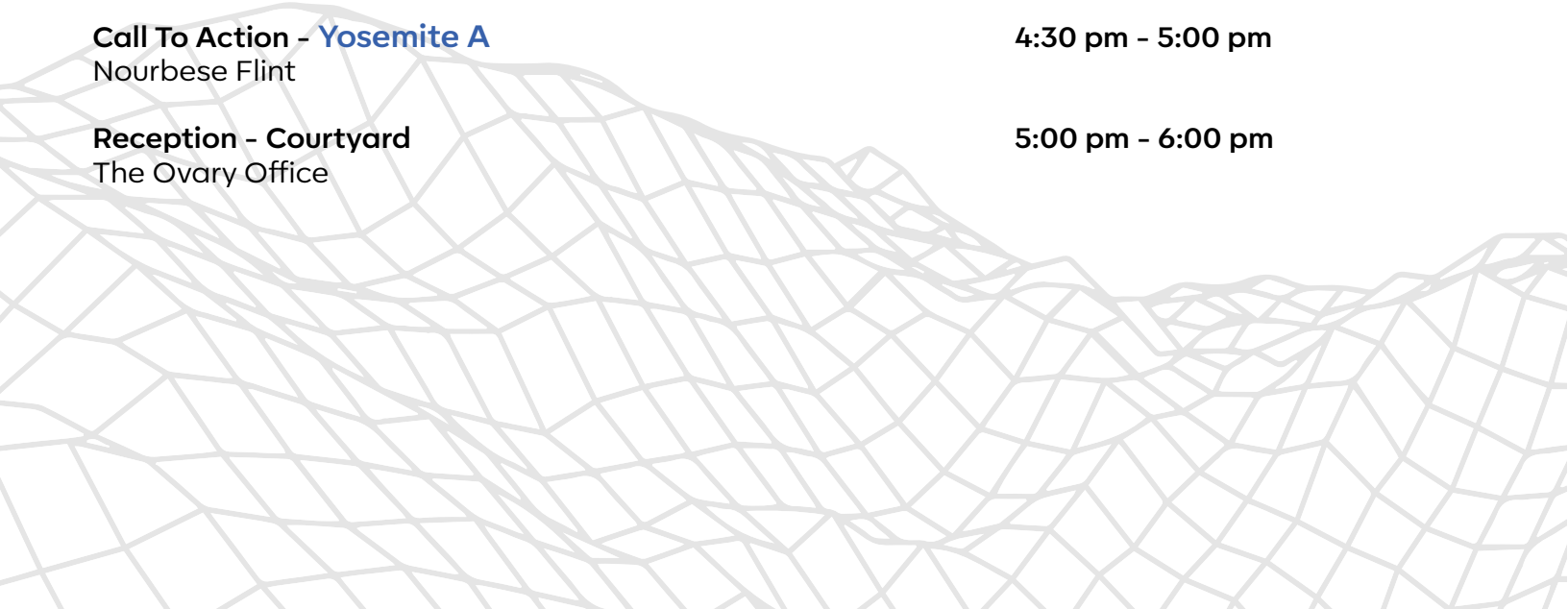
Nourbese Flint

4:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Reception - Courtyard

The Ovary Office

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm



BLACK WOMEN FOR WELLNESS programs

Sisters@ Eight - Sisters @ Eight, held on the 2nd Friday of the month, brings a wealth of information to health professionals, leadership, advocates and community to help empower, mobilize, and organize toward advocacy.

Sisters in Motion is program that goal is to decrease the incidents of heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes and obesity through regular exercise, physical activity and movement.

Kitchen Divas conducts food demonstrations and workshops, health education and advocacy supporting lifestyle change via nutrition and exercise.

National Diabetes Prevention Program – Change Your Lifestyle, Change Your Life works with employers offering lifestyle coaching and health education to prevent diabetes at the work site.

Sisters in Control Reproductive Justice program supports policy, utilizes program, works with advisory councils, commissions and boards to secure reproductive justice for women and girls.

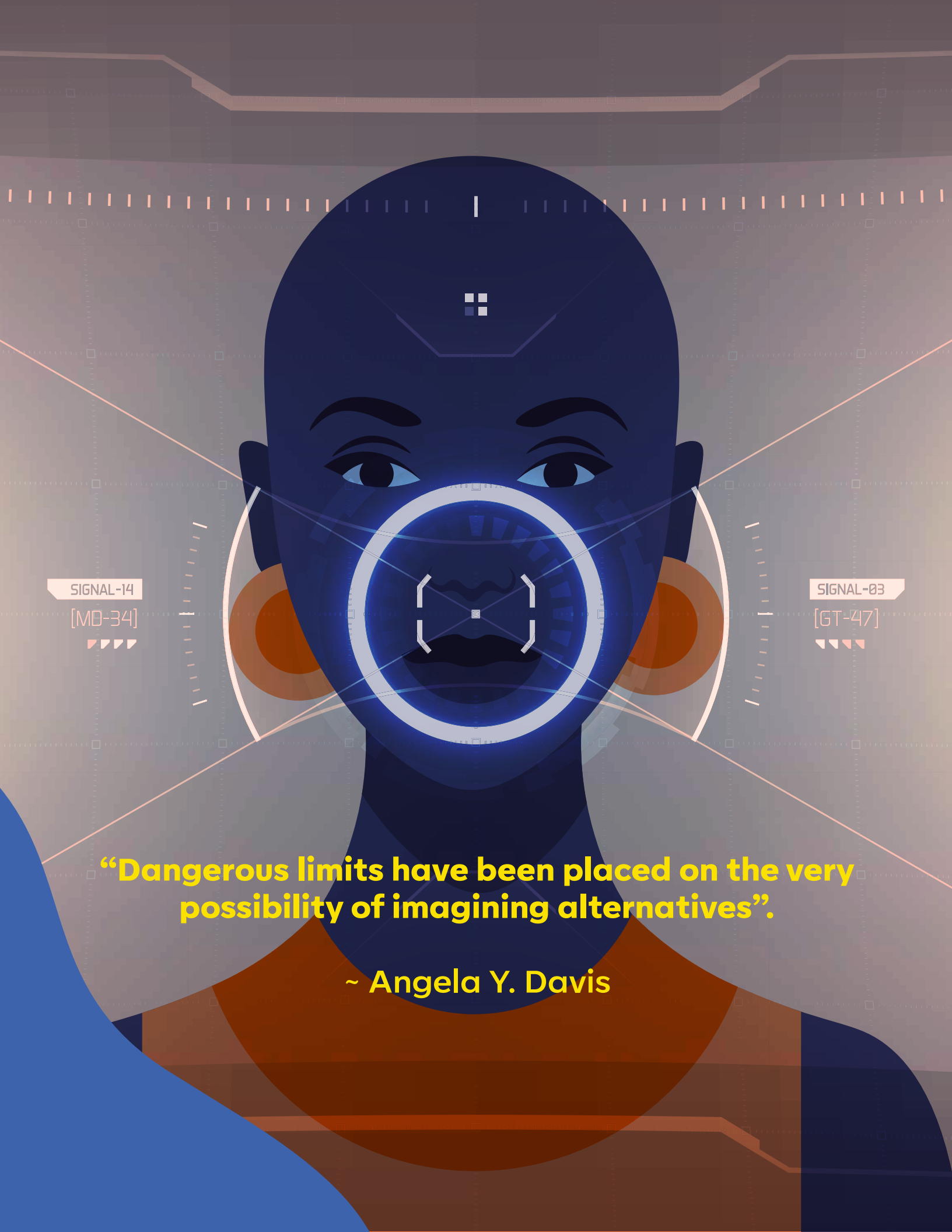
Get Smart B4U Get Sexy (GS B4U GS) supporting peer advocate shifting attitudes on sex and sexuality through comprehensive sex and sexuality education, promoting smart as sexy and making sex smart.

Environmental Justice engages community members to influence local, state and national level policies that regulate the safety of chemical use in cosmetics and personal care products.

Curls and Conversation generates and publishing community driven research by working with beauty professionals, hair stylist and nail technicians studying the impact of chemical use on health status.

Voting Rules Everything Around Me - Civic Engagement and Voter Education increases the electoral and political power of Black women through voter education, registration and outreach during and between elections

Black Women for Wellness convenes annual conferences and/or health institutes exploring in depth the causal factors impacting the health and wellbeing of women & girls.



SIGNAL-14

[MB-34]

SIGNAL-03

[GT-47]

“Dangerous limits have been placed on the very possibility of imagining alternatives”.

~ Angela Y. Davis

Workshops

SESSION ONE

Inside The Belly: Mass Sterilization Of Women Of Color Inside California State Institutions

Speaker: Kelli Dillon

Room: Yosemite A

Description: A quick overview of Eugenics and the discovery of its continual implementation through unlawful and non-consensual sterilizations in correctional and mental health institutions in the State of California. This workshop will also bring exposure to key institutions that have played a role in Black population control. It will include a discussion on how intimidation, low and mis-education, poverty, and the lifespan of abuse towards women of color creates vulnerability for women of color, specifically the black woman, to become a candidate for coercive sterilization. The importance and necessity to educate and empower black youth and women to identify and/or protect themselves on these subtle and malicious attacks on our reproductive health and rights. Also, bring exposure to key institutions that have played a role in Black population control.

Mental Health And Addiction - The Impact It Has On Our Community

Speakers: Dinah Adames-Ortiz, Noemi Cotto

Room: Yosemite B

Description: Mental health/Substance use is prevalent in our community and proper treatment or lack thereof has a negative impact on minority households where it can be the difference of being able to take care of one's family, maintaining gainful employment, and health and wellness overall. The importance of understanding the complexity of mental health and how detrimental it can be to something as minor as getting out of bed in the mornings is essential to our livelihood. (Work in the theme of the conference, what it means for Reproductive Justice, how substances have been used to enslave communities).

Policing Black Mothers: The Coercive And Unchecked Power Of Child Safety Conferences And Its Impact On Black Mothering

Speakers: Melissa Hamilton, Miriam Mack

Room: Catalina

Description: Reproductive justice includes the realization of a full range of reproductive choices, placing equal importance on the right: to have a child, not to have a child, and to parent the

children one has with dignity regardless of race. However, in communities like the South Bronx where the child protection system involvement is concentrated, babies born to women involved in the child welfare system are routinely removed at birth and placed in foster care—thus eliminating any access to choice or autonomy. For Black and Brown women who live in impoverished and unsupported communities, this often means experiencing the injustice and harm that is created when well-intentioned hospital staff, doctors, nurse, social workers, or others call state hotlines to report them for suspected neglect of their newborn. This presentation explores what happens after a call is made to the child welfare hotline, called the State Central Register (SCR) in New York, and specifically how the “Child Safety Conference” (CSC) functions as an oppressive means to coerce women into relinquishing their parental autonomy and places them on a path of policing and supervision that regulates poor black mothers to an underclass. This presentation focuses specifically on the CSC because it is the first step, following a call to the SCR, in a long process of investigation, policing, and family disruption.

Impacts on Fertility: Cancer, Fibroids and Fertility Treatments

Speakers: Arnedra L Jordan, Dionne Bensonsmith

Room: Mojave

Description: This workshop will explore the impact of certain cancers, i.e. uterine, ovarian, breast, cervical on fertility, how chemotherapy and hormone therapy can impact fertility and shorten the window of time to have children as well as what step women can take to help preserve fertility.

Transgenerational Trauma and Resilience: Impacts on Maternal Health in the African American Community

Speaker: Sayida Peprah

Room: Cabrillo

Description: This presentation will focus on increasing the competence, sensitivity and humility of maternal care providers, in an effort to promote the establishment of trauma-free, supportive maternal care environments for African American and other women of color. In addition, this presentation will focus on increasing provider's ability to detect and assess for significant stresses and strengths among African American women, which impact maternal-mental and physical health.

Black Women And Self-Care: An Interactive Workshop Using Five Principles

Speaker: Paris (AJ) Adkins-Jackson

Room: Joshua Tree

Description: The purpose of this workshop is to help participants explore their self-care needs through various activities based on the five principles of self-care for Black women: Deep Work, Authority, Reconnection, Exploration, and Accountability. These principles were developed using data from a mixed method sequential QUAL + QUANT study with two parallel samples of Black women. The study was conducted to examine the content and construct validity of self-care with Black women and the actions/activities most appropriate to measure this behavior. Findings suggest: 1). Experiences of racism and sexism result in poorer health and imbalance for Black women for which self-care is employed to restore health and balance; and 2). Self-care is a “consciousness” and a way of operating in the world that encompasses a Black woman's holistic wellbeing. Therefore, self-care activities should be selected based on the needs of a Black woman's self-care consciousness. This research is covered during the workshop, with the bulk of the workshop involving hands-on engagement with activities that illuminate the five principles. Participants will learn about self-care for Black women, the five principles, and do activities essential to developing a self-care consciousness.

Workshops

SESSION TWO

Melt ICE/Diminish Fear: Building Allies and Protecting our Communities

Speaker: Xiomara Corpeno, Michaelle Louis, Haimanot Habtu, Senait Admassu,

Room: Yosemite A

Description: Immigration policy or lack thereof is moving up our list of priorities and rightly so. Whether you call them detention or concentration camps, people and their children caged at the border is morally, ethically and spiritually wrong. Immigration has been used as a divide and rule (wedge) issue among people of color far too long yet Black immigrants face challenges at the intersection of racism and immigration. This workshop session will explore the historical use of manifest destiny in exploiting people of color, hoarding power & resources and fanning white nationalism to its present terrorist state. Presenters will provide tools to empower, share networks offering authentic services and real news on the situation, avenues to be of support and assistance (how to be an ally) and importantly diminish the subtle yet growing fear and isolation from simply watching the news happen.

Benefit And Burden, The Role Of Black Women In Social Justice Work

Speaker: Nicole D. Vick, MPH, CHES

Room: Yosemite B

Description: Black women play a significant role in advancing important social justice/public health issues in Los Angeles County and beyond. They often hold a unique set of skills and experience that draw from lived experience as well as educational background. Often, they face barriers from two key areas: institutional and workplace barriers such as structural racism and sexism that keep women, particularly black women in the lower levels of these professions the very interesting dichotomy of having the benefit of advanced education and work experience to understand highly complex social justice issues (black infant/maternal mortality, school to prison pipeline, etc) and also being a member of a class of people that are greatly impacted by those very same social justice issues. These two barriers are traumatic and can lead to burnout, stress, and hopelessness. This presentation will outline one woman's experience working in public health and academia and how she leveraged her unique combination of lived experience and expertise to create greater impact.

The Black Breath Project: "Going Back to Go Forward"

Speakers: Krissy Leahy, Monique Hall, Brie Ortega

Room: Mojave

Description How do we stay connected to our breath as Black people when it is so often being taken away from us? From environmental toxins that disproportionately pollute neighborhoods of people of color to dealing with microaggressions in whatever environment we may be in to state police violence, breathing while Black in America is complicated and oftentimes these moments

can steal our breath away from ourselves if we are not aware of what is happening to our breath. Engaging the radical Black imagination and using practical breathing tools, our presentation will experientially use the breath to connect participants to ancestors and future generations to emphasize the importance of breathing deeply-- past present and future. Beginning with a guided breath narrative meditation, participants will explore their ancestor's lives through intentional breathing and will engage in the imaginative practice of sending breath to their ancestors while learning healthy breathing techniques to be used in the present. Participants will also engage in discussion, tactical "play" with plants and essential oils, and will walk away with a deeper understanding of the importance of breath and how to breathe for relaxation and wellbeing.

U=U, PrEP & TaSP: Breaking Down All This HIV Stuff

Speakers :Andre' Molette

Room: Catalina

Description: Current trends in the treatment and prevention of HIV have resulted in the ability to eliminate the viral load with adherence to treatment, which is exciting news. But what does this mean for the Black community, where there continues to be disproportionate rates of new infection and HIV disease compared to other groups. This session will review how prevention strategies that utilize PrEP, PEP and 'Treatment as Prevention' have the potential to dramatically reduce the spread of HIV in a number of ways, with the most important aspect being getting this vital information out into the Black community in a way that resonates with them. These interventions can be a particularly important strategy to empower black women to take charge of their health and HIV status independent of cooperation from their partners.

Maternal Health Coordination: How Community Health Centers and Maternal Mortality Review Committees Can Impact Black Maternal Health Outcomes

Speaker: Megan Chichester

Room: Cabrillo

Description: This research examines the increasing maternal mortality rate in the U.S. The research question asks how can community health centers (CHCs) in Washington, D.C. coordinate with the incoming Maternal Mortality Review Committee (MMRC) to decrease maternal mortality rates among black women? Washington, D.C. was analyzed as a case study due to the high black maternal mortality rate in the city. The research utilized qualitative methodologies to assess the current state of maternal mortality in the District, as well as perspectives for potential intervention and prevention opportunities to improve the overall health status of black mothers. Through document analysis of DC Health's "Perinatal Health and Infant Mortality Report" and semi-structured interviews, this research finds that there is a large amount of room for improvement. This includes engaging black women with the healthcare system prior to pregnancy, improving the standard and quality of care for black women, and addressing racial bias directly. This research argues that MMRCs should partner with CHCs to specifically target black mothers and improve health outcomes. This may be accomplished in a number of ways including utilizing a life-course perspective, improving access to care, and engaging in explicit conversations about race.

Is Our Health a Racial Justice Issue? Understanding How Black Women Frame Access to Health

Speaker: Marie-Fatima Hyacinthe, Maya Merriweather

Room: Joshua Tree

Description: In July 2019, the Black AIDS Institute joined other organizations as part of Black Women United for Healthy Sex, and provided HIV education and test kits at Essence Festival in New Orleans. At the largest convening of Black women in the country, this coalition surveyed over 1200 people on their ideas about how access to healthcare, especially HIV care and reproductive healthcare, fit into a racial justice framework. This session will share the results of these surveys for the first time. During this session, we will also discuss the implications of these results for how organizations and providers frame conversations with Black women about our health.

R.J. Talks

FIVE MINUTE TED TALK LIKE CONVERSATIONS ABOUT REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE ISSUES.

TOPICS	SPEAKERS
Surrogacy: Bodies, Rights, and Reproductive Justice	Emily Galpern
Black Trans Folks in America	Krystal Redman
Cannabis Economy & Health	Dejanae Evins
Environmental Health	Eva Levingston
Census, Redistricting and the Black Community	James Woodson
Homelessness and Its Impact on Women	Maria De Jesus Gomez Celina Alvarez
Sexuality in Black Women Over 50	Traci Bivens-Davis
The Impact of Stress on Black Women's Mental Health	Sonya Adaam Young
Lesbian Health	Jewel Williams
Artificial Intelligence: Yes They Are Listening	Lori Mitchell
Intimate Partner Violence and Black Women & Girls	Angela Parker
Medical Mistrust in Black Community	Nina Harawa
Black Trans Women in America - What We Need To Know	Ashlee Marie Preston



Speakers



Adjoa Sankofia Tetteh is an advocate in the field of sexual/reproductive health, rights, and justice. She currently serves as a project director at CAI where she helps to build capacity around health systems and improve the health outcomes of clients.



AJ - Paris Adkins-Jackson is a postdoctoral scholar at UCLA Center for the Study of Racism, Social Justice, and Health where she is currently working on developing a measure of institutional racism. She is a community-based multidisciplinary researcher who works to increase the quality of life of under-resources communities.



Alyesha Wise is the co-founder of Spoken Literature Art Movement which is an organization providing poetry education and extensive programming for poets. She is the proud author of a collection of poems that detail her life's journey and fears entitled Carnival.



André-Jamison Molette is currently a Community Embedded Disease Intervention Specialist (CEDIS) with Essential Access Health in Los Angeles, where he focuses on providing partner counseling, elicitation and notification for STD positive clients in South Los Angeles.



Dr. Angela N. Parker is currently the Director of Training and Programs for Jenesse Center, Inc. She facilitates outreach and education that focuses on relationships and domestic violence for youth, teens, young adults, businesses and churches. Her goal, which she accomplishes through her non-profit, is to mentor young girls of color and empower them.



Arnedra Jordan is a dedicated educator and adjunct professor of Political Science at West Los Angeles college. Arnedra works as a public health consultant for the Susan G. Komen Foundation in Los Angeles. Through her leadership, the Komen Foundation has successfully provided over 5,000 mammograms at no cost to women in need over the last five years.



Brie Ortega is a health advocate who has worked in higher education, career development, and mental health fields. Her practice and philosophy are influenced by her experiences with intergenerational illnesses and health-diminishing behavior patterns.



Celina Alvarez is the executive director of Housing Works where she serves individuals experiencing chronic homelessness—doing whatever it takes for as long as it takes—to move them off the streets and into housing. Alvarez has played a key role in contributing to the implementation of best practice strategies within the realm of permanent supportive housing.



DeJanae Evins, the founder of Green Goddess Glow, is a cannabis educator and researcher. She encourages mindfulness, conscious consumption, and spiritual activism by empowering women, and especially women of color, with the education they need to explore cannabis as a tool for healing.



Dinah Adames-Ortiz is the Parent Advocate Supervisor with the Family Defense Practice at The Bronx Defenders. She advocates for vulnerable women, specifically women of color in a variety of contexts from substance use to incarceration. She has spoken on such topics as, “Police Violence Against Black Women/Women of Color.”



Dr. Dionne Benson-Smith is a founding member and research associate/scholar of practice with Interfaith Voices for Reproductive Justice (IVRJ). She works to build an interfaith movement of progressive voices to construct new, progressive theological and ethical paradigms that affirms women's moral capacity.



Dr. Donald E Grant Jr serves as Executive Director of the Center for Community and Social Impact (CCSI). He has a long history of direct mental health service delivery and administrative oversight for foster care systems, child welfare programs, education systems and homeless mental wellness services. He is also the author of, "Black Male Behavioral Health & Intergenerational Colonialism: A Nooses Across Nations."



Emily Galpern is a consultant focused on the intersection of human biotechnologies and reproductive justice. She specializes in policy advocacy, capacity building and education in relation to assisted reproductive technologies and their impact on women's health and rights.



Eva Livingston specializes in policy advocacy, capacity building and education in relation to assisted reproductive technologies and their impact on women's health and rights. She interned over the summer with Black Women for Wellness where she was responsible for maintaining collaborative relationships with community partners by attending coalition meetings and co-leading a workshop that brought together community members.



(Fatima) Marie-Fatima Hyacinthe leads the training and capacity building work of the Black AIDS Institute. She facilitates trainings about PrEP, medical mistrust, and other topics relating to social determinants of health. Fatima also leads the Institutes' programming for Black women, including the inaugural Black Women's Biomedical Ambassador Program.



Haimanot Habtu is a Los Angeles based attorney with a practice focused on immigration and personal injury areas of law. She represents clients in immigration court against removal and deportation proceedings. Currently, Haimanot handles all aspects of immigration matters including asylum filings, work visas and citizenship visas.



James Woodson is currently the Policy and Special Projects Manager at California Calls Education Fund. He specializes in lifting the voices and perspectives of Black-led and/or Black serving individuals and organizations. Previously, James served as the Director of Programs for the Boys & Girls Club of Newark, NJ and in a variety of capacities within the Democratic National Committee, the NJ Democratic State Committee, Obama For America, and the NJ Health Care for America Now campaign.



Jeremiah Headen supports grassroots organizers as the Manager of Field Organizing through his work at the Praxis Project. Combining his Political Science background with his love for people, Jeremiah advocates for a community's right to self-determination as he believes that those who live closest to an issue are often the best equipped to address it.



Jewel Williams is the founder of several organizations, one of which is The Minority AIDS Project. Jewel is also a certified NADA Practitioner, which is an ear acupuncture treatment for addictions and post-traumatic stress syndrome. Her latest endeavors are Founder and Executive Director of the Village Health Foundation, a non-profit organization consisting of a complementary medical clinic based upon traditional Chinese medicine, herbal treatments and other methodologies of healing.



Kelli L. Dillion is a survivor of domestic/gang violence and an advocate for violence prevention and intervention. She testified in the California Senate as a witness to the unlawful and uncivil acts performed against women in the California State Prison. Kelli now works as a Violence Intervention Expert.



Krissy Leahy inspires positive health change by combining storytelling with public health topics. She is a public health educator and advocate whose experiences lie in sexual health. In addition, Krissy has clinical experience, working at a Planned Parenthood health center in San Francisco where she supported in providing family planning and abortion clinical services and coordinating the flow of the health center.



Dr. Krystal Redman is a self-published Author, and a frequent speaker throughout public health and reproductive health, and justice industries. Dr. Redman brings over 13 years of experience in managing health promotion and disease prevention initiatives, as well as public health access and community-based youth development programs. Dr. Redman currently serves as the Executive Director of SPARK



Marcela Howell is the founder and President of the In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda, a national-state partnership with eight Black women's Reproductive Justice organizations. An advocate and policy strategist, Ms. Howell is recognized for her expertise in strategic communications, leadership development and policy forecasting.



María de Jesús Gómez currently works as an Intensive Case Management Service (ICMS) provider. She serves individuals experiencing chronic homelessness in an effort to move them off the streets and into housing. Her passion is to walk alongside women who are determined to claim control of their own lives, she loves to assist anyone who is seeking to grow spiritually and mentally in becoming the best human beings they can be.



Maya Merriweather is a Project Manager at the Black AIDS Institute. Maya develops content for trainings and educational campaigns, such as the Brown Bag Lunch webinar series, and the Black Women and PrEP Toolkit. Before her stint at The Institute, Maya worked for the LA-based organization Healthy African American Families.



Megan Chichester holds a degree in Urban and Environmental Policy (UEP) and a minor in Public Health. She is passionate about population health and championing the shift from disease management to disease prevention and wellness.



Melissa Hamilton is the Program Coordinator of Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies, a program within The Bronx Defenders Family Defense Practice that focuses on keeping infants safely at home with their parents by working with pregnant women who are at risk of losing their newborns to foster care. She also co-founded the parent support group at the Bronx Defender office for parents involved in the child welfare system who are clients of the Bronx Defenders.



Michaelle Louis, graduate of psychology from Haiti Faculty of Ethnology, is a founder of Association of Girls and Women in the sun where she champions for the defense of women's rights. She now works as a community organizer at Espacio Migrante where she finds herself learning about immigration, gender and racial profiling.



Miriam Mack is a staff attorney with The Bronx Defenders Family Defense Practice. She is committed to fighting for all women to maintain their bodily autonomy, to bear children or not, and to parent the children they bear in safe, healthy and sustainable communities.



Monique Hall saw a need to start teaching a weekly restorative yoga class based on the lack of diversity within the wellness world. Her heartfelt commitment to her community leads her to create new programs such as Sister Speaks, a monthly discussion group targeting African American women.



Nia Eshu Martin-Robinson professional focus is centered around reproductive health, rights and justice. Currently, Nia is lending her talents and expertise to Planned Parenthood Federation of America and Planned Parenthood Action Fund as their Director of Black Leadership and Engagement, working to build a collective strategy and vision for Black work at the organization.



Nicole Vick is a seasoned and respected public health professional with strong relationships with community-based organizations, academia, and other stakeholders. Ms. Vick's area of expertise is health equity and the social determinants of health. Currently, she manages the Health Education Administration for the LA County Department of Public Health.



Dr. Nina Harawa is a Professor-in-Residence with the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. Much of her work has involved partnering with local governmental and community organizations in order to address health issues in populations that experience major health disparities.



Noemi Cotto works as a Social Work Supervisor at The Bronx Defenders. Noemi is a passionate advocate for her clients and serves her community with pride. She has experience teaching abstinence and healthy relationship workshops.



Nomsa Khalfani is the Executive Vice President at Essential Access Health, where she leads key initiatives in support of Essential Access' strategic priorities, to further the growth and position of the organization. She also launched Essential Access Health Solutions, which offers a broad range of consulting and product solutions.



Nourbese Flint serves as the Policy Director at Black Women for Wellness (BWW) and the Executive Director at Black Women for Wellness Action Project. Before joining BWW, Nourbese studied women's health in both Spain and Cuba and journalism in Scotland as well as worked at various non-profit organizations.



The Ovary Office was founded by V.Kali, poetry director, The World Stage. The Ovary Office features black female poets who read strong, activist-based, poetry placing the pussy, front and center (so to speak.) The group was formed at the World Stage, located off Crenshaw along the new metro line in Leimert Park. Leimert Park is considered the black art mecca of Los Angeles for music and literary arts operating Los Angeles for 30 years.



Evan Regis "Reegie" Bunch is the Membership Engagement Coordinator who helps formerly incarcerated folks and their families stop Sheriff violence in Los Angeles County. Reegie now takes his activism to Los Angeles to fight for the abolition of prisons and jails



Dr. Sayida Peprah is a licensed clinical psychologist and trained birth doula who specializes in multicultural psychology, trauma, suicide prevention and maternal mental health. Dr. Sayida is an active member of the Black Women Birthing Justice Collective and a Collaborator with the Black Mamas Matter Alliance, promoting research, education and community-based services to positively transform birthing experiences of black families.



Senait Admassu is the founder of the African Communities Public Health Coalition. Her passion and life's mission is to reduce the stigma and raise awareness of mental health of mental health issues in the African descent communities. One way that she will accomplish this mission is to motivate the African communities (through ACPHC) to become self-sufficient as they fulfill their individual missions and reach diverse communities.



SHINE MUWASI- ALL FEMALE DRUM & DANCE COMPANY was founded with the intent and purpose to raise awareness and spread knowledge of the healing energy and sense of empowerment obtained from the West African drum and dance culture. The artists attending are Nzingha Camara, Rene Fisher-Mims, Makeda Jackson, and Teresa Smith.



Sonya Young Adams endeavors to develop and support transformative intervention in under-resourced, urban communities. Sonya's deep passion for the overall health and uplifting of Black women is driven by her rearing as a woman of deep faith, commitment to social equity, and the heartfelt sentiment that "...we lift as we climb."



Tia Oso a transformational organizer and strategist specializes in social change initiatives. She currently serves as Director of Impact at Revolve Impact working to transform global power, politics, and people.



Traci Bivens-Davis, MA stands at the intersection of Health and Advocacy. As an intervention Trainer, she has taught strategies for Harm Reduction, Health Awareness, and Psychological Well-Being. Currently, she supervises the development, coordination and facilitation of professional development curricula targeting staffs of Federally Qualified Health Centers.



Xiomara Eugenia Corpeño is known and respected across California and the country for her dedication to immigrant and refugee rights, as well as racial justice. Xiomara has transitioned from working as the Groundswell Fund's Director of Capacity Building Programs to being on a one-year fellowship for Transborder Migrant Justice. Xiomara continues to work with organizations and individuals, assisting migrants in getting to their family members across the United States as well as connecting migrants to host families across the U.S. for those who have no family members here.



Ashlee Marie Preston is an award-winning Media Personality, Producer and Civil Rights Activist. She is historically the first trans woman to become Editor in Chief of a national publication and the first openly trans person to run for state office in California. Ashlee Marie was named one of The Root 100's "Most Influential African Americans of 2017", profiled as one of LOGO/NewNowNext's 30 Most Influential LGBTQ Influencers of 2017 & 2018, PopSugar's top 40 LGBTQ's of 2017, and was listed on OUT Magazine's OUT100 of 2018. In addition, she made her TED talk debut in September of 2018 and chosen as one of Coca-Cola's "Next Generation LGBTQ Leadership" influencers of 2018.



Reggie Morris has been a lifelong music lover. He grew up listening to Blues, Jazz, and R&B (Particularly the Motown Sound) which was played in his home regularly from the time he was a little boy. He is currently the Taco Tuesday, Happy Hour DJ at the local Bar and Grill "Crenshaw Live" located on 39th and Crenshaw.



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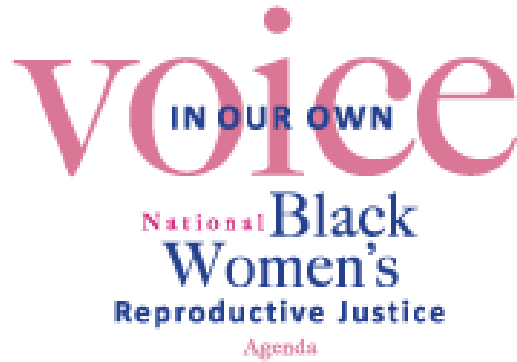
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