



BLACK WOMEN FOR WELLNESS ANNUAL REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE CONFERENCE

HEALING FROM OUR PAST, PROTECTING OUR
PRESENT, AND PREPARING FOR OUR FUTURE

10
AUGUST
2023

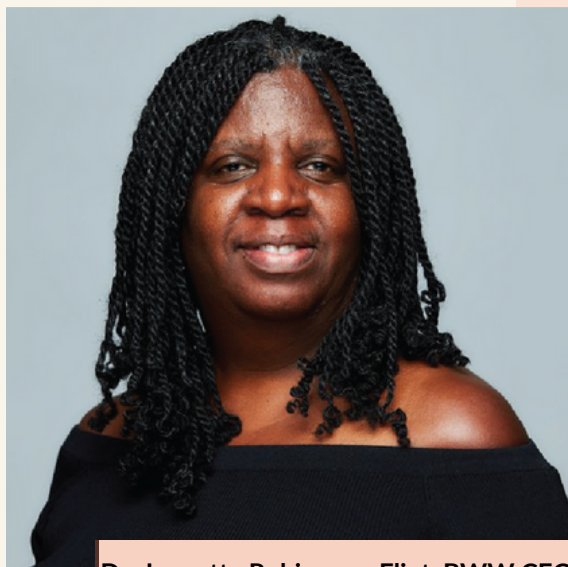


**CALIFORNIA
ENDOWMENT
CENTER**

1000 ALAMEDA
STREET, LOS
ANGELES, CA 90012

[HTTPS://BWWLA.ORG/2023-ANNUAL-REPRODUCTIVE-JUSTICE-CONFERENCE/](https://bwwla.org/2023-annual-reproductive-justice-conference/)

ASE



Dr. Jannette Robinson - Flint, BWW CEO

Letter from the CEO

Greetings Esteemed Attendees,

Women for Wellness warmly welcomes each of you to our Reproductive Justice Conference **"Black Women Healing from Our Past, Protecting Our Present, and Preparing For Our Future"**.

Since 1999, Black Women for Wellness has been gathering, centering Black women and girls in critical conversations, research, policy, and solutions regarding reproductive health, rights, and justice..... cont pg

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**BLACK WOMEN
FOR WELLNESS**
ANNUAL REPRODUCTIVE
JUSTICE CONFERENCE

Organizing Committee

Thank you!

A heartfelt thank you is extended to the Black Women for Wellness Annual Reproductive Justice Conference organizing committee. Without their dedication, hard work, and tireless efforts this conference would not have been possible. Thank you for your unwavering dedication.

Janette Robinson-Flint	Kim Robinson	Adrienne Spires
C. Regina Martin	Lonnell Schuler	Adjoa Jones
Stephanie Haynes	Meron Shita	Robert Akil Bell
Jennifer Kheti Queen	Onyemma Obiekea	Savannah Gibson,
Tianna Shaw Wakeman	Regina Kimbell	Miyana Evans
Gabrielle Brown	Astrid Williams	Anthnette Drone
Tonya Mckenzie	Charity White	

Event Photographer - Ashley Yang



LETTER FROM CEO



Dr. Jannette Robinson- Flint Black Women for Wellness CEO

Our theme this year reflects on the process, progress and trails we have open, it emphasizes the importance of protecting those victories by naming them and then asks us to look forward to our future, our children's future and plant seeds of hope, energy and vision.

Black women and girls have the fundamental right to bodily autonomy, each woman, irrespective of her circumstances, deserves respectful and comprehensive reproductive health

care. Yes abortion is part of reproductive health care, surviving birth is part of reproductive health care, access to treatment for infertility, infections and toxic free chemicals in our beauty products is part of reproductive health care. Navigating the complexities of protecting Black women in America require urgent attention, candid discussions, and effective solutions. We simply must address the social justice, voting rights, environmental, criminal justice movements as well the crisis with mental health and education. These issues and challenges are all very much interconnected and all integrated into reproductive justice movements. Black women do not live siloed lives.

To help us delve into these multifaceted issues we have designed Power Talks and Track sessions. Bringing in expertise, wisdom and lived experience from folks in the field. Our tracks offer a deep dive into subjects we hope will engage and enlighten. From the fashion industry's impact on reproductive health and our earth to how males influence birth outcomes are topics we are bravely lifting for more than simple discussion and recognition, but action plans that involve our entire community. We are privileged to have these diverse and dedicated speakers and through their insights and your active participation, we aim to address the realities, identify policy gaps, and discuss tangible solutions to push for necessary reforms. However, our work does not end within the confines of this conference. I urge each one of you to carry the knowledge and perspectives gained here back to your respective communities and organizations. Become our partners and allies, join us as we outreach, educate, inform, listen, agitate, advocate and all the things in lifting the voices and enhancing the health of Black women and girls. My sincere gratitude to all attendees for being a part of this conference, our dedicated team for their tireless efforts in organizing this event, and our sponsors for their generous support. Together, we are working towards a world where every woman is empowered to make choices about her body and her future. Asante Sana for being part of our WE

In solidarity,

Dr. Jannette Robinson-Flint
*Chief Executive Officer,
Black Women For Wellness*



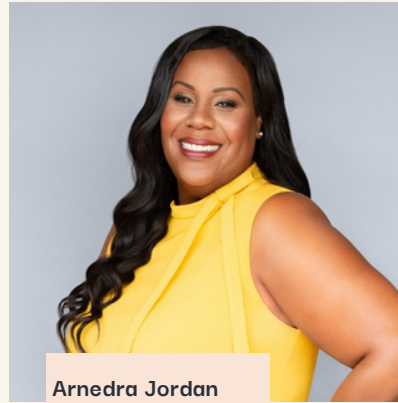




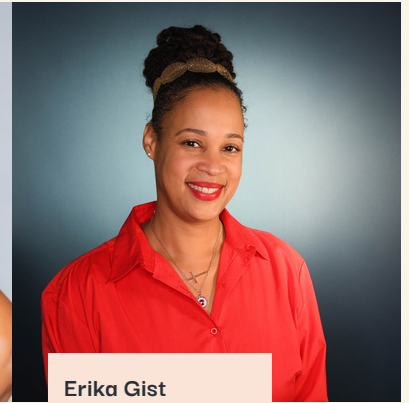
CO-CHAIR LETTER

Dear Esteemed Attendees,

We are delighted to welcome you to this year's Reproductive Justice Conference. As the co-chairs of this event, we feel deeply privileged to stand at the forefront of such an essential conversation surrounding the reproductive rights and health of black women and girls in America



Arnedra Jordan



Erika Gist

This year's conference, "Black Women Healing from Our Past, Protecting Our Present, and Preparing For Our Future", is a reflection of our collective commitment to not only address but also actively challenge the issues that disproportionately affect the health and wellness of black women and girls in our society.

We have an impressive lineup of distinguished speakers, panelists, and thought leaders who will be leading several specialized tracks throughout the conference. From "Grown and Sexy, Be Well" to "Civic Engagement and Reparations", "Environmental Focus", "Men's Track", "Public Policy/Advocacy Grassroots/Misinformation", and more, each session has been carefully curated to provide insightful discussions and actionable solutions.

It is our hope that the diversity of topics will resonate with all attendees, offering a space for everyone to learn, grow, and contribute meaningfully to the discourse on reproductive justice.

We want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has helped bring this conference to fruition : our dedicated team, our generous sponsors, and each one of you. Your presence and participation are what truly bring this conference to life.

.Remember, this conference is just a stepping stone in our journey toward achieving reproductive justice for all. Let us carry forward the knowledge and perspectives gained here back to our respective communities and continue our efforts in advocacy and education. Thank you for joining us on this important journey. We eagerly look forward to a day of rich learning, engaging conversations, and collective growth.

With warm regards,

Arnedra Jordan and Erka Gist,

Co-chairs, Reproductive Justice Conference
Black Women For Wellness



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KEYNOTE PANELIST

Dr. Byron K. Edmond

Author, Anesthesiologist

Dr. Byron "B.K." Edmond is a Board Certified Anesthesiologist, with over 25 years in the field. He is a graduate of Morehouse College in Atlanta, Harvard Medical School '90 and Harvard's Brigham and Women's Anesthesiology Residency. He is a former military physician and has worked at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center since 1994 where he is one of their Master Clinicians. He has been on staff at Johns Hopkins Anesthesia and Critical Care since 2009 where he works regularly in the Weinberg Cancer Center.

Dr. Edmond is also a talented writer, his acclaimed short story "Nana and The Bushwoman" emerged from research for The Breast Initiative Project. The story and its innovative approach to self-breast exams and the use of the short story medium have received a solid welcome from medical leaders such as Valerie Montgomery Rice, President of Morehouse School of Medicine, as well as from the three past presidents of the National Medical Association, Dr. Cedric M. Bright, Dr. Rahn Kennedy Bailey and Dr. Oliver Brook. In his free time Dr. Edmond's enjoys being actively engaged in mentoring and assisting underrepresented students interested in health professions with the Morehouse College Office of Health Professions Alumni group.





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KEYNOTE PANELIST

Prof. Deleso A. Alford

Lawyer, Professor, (Her)story

Professor Deleso A. Alford is a native of Shreveport, Louisiana, who is pioneering the integration of legal and medical education through storytelling. She passionately shares "HER stories," which are the unique and personalized lived experiences of black women in relation to healthcare and research.

Professor Alford earned a B.S., magna cum laude at Southern University A&M College, a J.D. at Southern University Law Center, and an LL.M. at Georgetown University Law Center. She also holds a Certification in Clinical Bioethics from the Medical College of Wisconsin.

Her academic pursuits and active involvement in establishing a pathway to legal education opportunities in the north Louisiana region have recently led to her appointment as the Managing Fellow for the Southern University Law Center (SULC) Health Equity Law & Policy Institute. Additionally, she serves as the Rachel Emanuel Endowed Professor and the Director of the Off-campus Instructional Site (OCIS) team.

(Her)story



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KEYNOTE MODERATOR

Tiara Flynn

Doula, Speaker, Business Advisor

Tiara Flynn is a wife, mother, Air Force veteran, serial entrepreneur, and small business owner who has dedicated all her adult life to serving others. She currently owns two small businesses and runs an online marketing membership platform. Tiara was born and raised in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Halfway through her military career, Tiara joined her family business as a majority owner and CEO of Sumnu Marketing. In her role Tiara has dedicated her life and business to help other small businesses grow through the marketing process.

In March 2019, Tiara started her certification process to become a full-spectrum doula. As a doula, Tiara offers services from prenatal, birth planning, support during labor, postpartum support, abortion, miscarriage/loss, and more. Her passion for women and child-birth led Tiara to launch her practice, Phenomenal Mama, in August 2021! Phenomenal Mama is a full-service support practice that offers Business Support Services, Doula Support Services.

Life Motto: "Evolve, but don't erase. Pain is part of the recipe." – T. Flynn




SUMNU
MARKETING





AGENDA

Check-in & Breakfast

08:30 AM - 9:00 AM

Commencement Ceremony

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

- Welcome- **Janette Robinson-Flint Ph.D.**
Executive Director Black Women For Wellness
- Spoken Word - **Barbara Fant, Poet**
- Grounding Session - **Raen Wolmark Sisters in Motion Lead Program Coordinator, Black Women For Wellness**
- House-keeping & Agenda Review -**Arnedra Jordan, MPA Project Manager Black Women For Wellness**

Power Talks

10:15 PM - 10:45 PM

Facilitated by **Dr. Amber Johnson, Assistant Professor Department of Health Science at California State University at Long Beach.**

- Civil Rights & Human Rights / Reparations
Kamilah Moore, JD Attorney, State of California Past Chair of the California Reparations Task
- Climate Change- **Ivory Rose Parnell-Chambeshi, Office of L.A. Mayor Karen Bass -- Watts Rising**
- Affirmative Action- **Brianna Claverie - BWW HCC Intern**

Break

10:45 PM - 11:00 PM

Breakout Session 1:

11:05 PM - 12:15 PM

Sessions:

- Men's Involvement in the Birthing Process - **Catalina**
- Let's Talk Reparations: California's Journey to Repairing Past Harms - **Mojave**





- Let's Talk Reparations: California's Journey to Repairing Past Harms - **Mojave**
- The Realness of the Maternal Infant Health Crisis - **Solis A**
- Realizing Reproductive Justice Through Systems Level Change. - **Joshua Tree**
- Sexual Health and Safer Sex - **Big Sur**

Lunch 12:30 PM - 1:15 PM

Keynote Panel 1:15 PM - 2:30 PM

Panelist: **Dr. Byron B.K. Edmond, MD MPH**
Johns Hopkins Hospital, Professor Deleso A. Alford, J.D., LL.M., Southern University

Facilitated by **Tiara Flynn,**

Phenomenalmama

Movement Break 2:30 PM - 2:45 PM

Facilitated by **Jalen, Enso's Dream**

Breakout Session 2 2:45 PM - 3:45 PM

Sessions:

- Black Men and Mental Health - **Catalina**
- Fashion for the Earth: How to Live Fashionably Well in a Fast Fashion Society - **Joshua Tree**
- The Pathway to Healing Our Womb - **Solis A**
- Sexual Intimacy and Wellness in Adults over 50 - **Mojave**
- Reproductive Life Planning: Real Talk, Real Options- **Big Sur**

Break 3:55 PM - 4:05 PM



AGENDA CONT.

Power Talks

4:10 PM - 4:30 PM

Facilitated by **Keyva Clark MPM, Carnegie Mellon University**

- **Breast Health - Jennifer Wilson, Founder Cupcake and Shine**
- **The Mouth Body Connection - Reproductive Health - Erika Gist, MPH Senior Health Educator Los Angeles County Department of Public Health**
- **Domestic Violence /Intimate Partner Violence- Sumayya Fire, Founder and host of Finding and Sharing Freedom Podcast**

Closing Remarks

4:30 PM - 4:45 PM

Janette Robinson-Flint Ph.D. Executive Director Black Women For Wellness

Please note that this is a tentative schedule and is subject to changes. We encourage all participants to remain flexible and be open to modifications to the agenda.



Session 1- 11:05am-12:15pm



MEN'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE BIRTHING PROCESS

Men's Track

This session will delve into the critical roles that men play in the family planning and birthing processes.: we will discuss the importance of men's active participation in the planning and birthing process by preparing fathers for pre-birth and day of birth legal responsibilities, birth certificates, health insurance, and power of attorney and the strategies for involvement, and the benefits it brings for both the mother and the baby.

Panelists: Davion Mauldin MS. -Fatherhood Coordinator for LA County PEI African American Infant & Maternal Mortality initiative.

Erik Emel MD Lead Physician Kaiser Permanente, **Nigha Robertson Advocate**

Facilitator: Robert Akil Bell, Grants Manager, Black Women for Wellness

Panel Moderator: Tony Wafford, President and CEO of I Choose Life Health and Wellness Center.

CATALINA



LET'S TALK REPARATIONS: CALIFORNIA'S JOURNEY TO REPAIRING PAST HARMS

Civic Engagement Track

In this session, we will delve into the monumental release of The California Reparations Task Force's final report, explore their proposed recommendations to address lingering consequences and get an exclusive opportunity to engage with Kamilah Moore, the chair of the Taskforce, as she shares insights into the comprehensive report's development process, its significance for us, and how we can collectively ensure our demands are met.

Facilitator: Meron Shita, Manager BWV Civic Engagement Program

MOJAVE



THE REALNESS OF THE MATERNAL INFANT HEALTH CRISIS

Maternal Health Track

In this session, we will delve into the contributing factors that lead to disproportionately high maternal and infant mortality rates among Black women and their babies. Topics to be covered include systemic racism in healthcare, lack of access to quality prenatal care, and the unique social and economic challenges faced by Black mothers.

Panelists: **Bree Anderson**, Co Founder, Daughters Beyond Incarceration and A'sani Heartbeat Foundation, **Ashley Skiffer-Thompson**, Program coordinator, AAIM for LA County Department of Public Health, **Toy Hightower**, Program Coordinator, Care First Community Investment African American Infant and Maternal Mortality Prevention Initiative for LA County Department of Public Health, **Debbie Allen**, Licensed Midwife, Founder of Tribe Midwifery and Co Founder of Well-Being Alliance

Facilitator: **Adjoa Jones**, MBA, CLES, Doula Director, Outreach & Engagement, African American Infant/Maternal Mortality (AAIMM) Prevention Initiative

SOLIS A



REALIZING REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE THROUGH SYSTEMS LEVEL CHANGE

Advocacy Track

In this empowering session, we turn our attention to the crucial role of advocacy in achieving reproductive justice for Black women. With a system-level change lens, we will dissect the multifaceted ways we can work to combat systemic inequities that disproportionately affect Black women's reproductive health.

Panelists: **Karli Eisenberg**, Supervising Deputy Attorney General, California Department of Justice, **Laura Jiménez**, Executive Director, California Latinas for Reproductive Justice (CLRJ) **Mae Gates**, Chief of Staff, Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas **Martha Pineda**, Lead Community Organizer, California Latinas for Reproductive Justice (CLRJ)

Facilitator: **Onyemma Obiekea**, Policy Director, Black Women for Wellness

JOSHUA
TREE



SEXUAL HEALTH AND SAFER SEX

Youth Track

This workshop will include fun and engaging trivia questions about STIs and safer sex and will cover topics such as STD/STI prevention, HIV, HPV vaccines, self-exams, regular testing, and communicating with your partner(s) about your collective wellness.

Facilitator: Lonnell Schuler, Sisters in Control Program Lead, Black Women For Wellness, **Miyana Evans**, Get Smart Before You Get Sexy Program Coordinator, Black Women for Wellness

BIG SUR

Session 2- 2:45pm-3:45pm



BLACK MEN AND MENTAL HEALTH

Men's Track

In this session, participants will have the opportunity to attend a panel discussion that addresses the crucial issue of mental health within the Black male community. Engaging and informative, the discussion will shed light on the challenges faced by Black men and explore strategies to promote mental wellbeing and support in our community..

Panelists: LeHenry Solomon, LMFT Department of Public Health , **Dr. Donald E. Grant Jr.**, Executive Director Global Mindful Training Solutions

Facilitator: Robert Akil Bell, Grants Manager, Black Women for Wellnes

CATALINA



HOW TO LIVE FASHIONABLY WELL IN A FAST FASHION SOCIETY

Environmental Justice Track

Fast fashion has completely revolutionized the apparel industry, but not for the better. Behind every piece of clothing in a store, there is an industry stripping the Earth of its limited resources and exploiting the labor force that works in its garment factories. The concerns of workforce labor and reproductive health with the sourcing of textiles, manufacturing and distribution of these materials for clothing and apparel is a huge concern. Largely, women in these countries are women of color and children especially throughout the African Diaspora. As a byproduct, tremendous waste characterizes this industry as it depletes healthy soil, contaminates fresh water sources, pollutes the air we breathe, defiles our oceans, destroys forests and damages both ecosystems and the health and well-being of communities.

Panelist: Samata Pattinson, FRSA Cultural Sustainability Pioneer

Facilitator: Dr. Astrid Williams, Environmental Justice Program Manager, Black Women for Wellness

JOSHUA
TREE



THE PATHWAY TO HEALING OUR WOMB

Maternal Health Track

This session aims to create a deeper connection between participants and their wombs, fostering a sense of reverence, respect, and responsibility for this incredible aspect of our bodies. So, whether you're looking to learn more about your womb, seek healing, or simply enjoy the rhythmic movements of belly dance, we welcome you to join us for this enlightening and invigorating session.

Facilitators: Adjoe Jones, MBA, CLES, Doula Director, Outreach & Engagement, African American Infant/Maternal Mortality (AAIMM) Prevention Initiative, **Gabrielle Brown**, Maternal Health Program Manager

Session Host: Rev. Pilar Mama Ma'at Midwife/birth worker + belly dancing expert

SOLIS A



SEXUAL INTIMACY AND WELLNESS IN ADULTS OVER 50

Grown and Sexy Track

This session aims to address a subject often overlooked in popular discussions - the sexual health and pleasure of women aged 50 and older. This dynamic and interactive session will be led by Dr. Anastasia Gordon who will bring her expertise and insights into the unique issues that these women, particularly women of color, face due to prevalent sexual and racial stereotypes.

Speaker: Dr. Anastasia Gordon, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist

Facilitators: Kimberly Robinson, Community Liaison Black Women For Wellness and **Stephanie Haynes**, Coordinator of Grown & Sexy Black Women For Wellness

MOJAVE



REPRODUCTIVE LIFE PLANNING: REAL TALK, REAL OPTIONS

Youth Track

This workshop will support young people to understand their access and how to advocate for their health and will cover topics such as how identity can influence health and health decision-making, identifying valid sources of health information, and determining the accessibility of those resources.

Presenters: Gwendolynne Y. Cole, BSB/A S.M.E Perinatal Equity Initiative Coordinator Division of Maternal, Child & Adolescent Health Health Promotion Bureau Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, **Helen O'Connor**, MSPH, MA, LES Health Program Analyst, Division of Maternal, Child, & Adolescent Health Health Promotion Bureau Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

Moderator: Lonnell Schuler, Sisters in Control Program Lead

BIG SUR



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NOTES





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NOTES





Map Key



Men's Restroom



Women's Restroom



Gender Neutral Bathroom



Cellphone Area



Lactation Room



In emergency contact 911

Thank you to our 2023 sponsors!

Thank you to our esteemed sponsors for supporting the Black Women for Wellness Reproductive Justice Conference. Your generous contributions have been instrumental in making this event a remarkable success. Through your support, we are able to continue our mission of centering Black women and girls in vital conversations surrounding reproductive health, rights, and justice. Thank you for standing with us and investing in the well-being and advancement of Black women and girls.

coming clean

Environmental
Justice Health
Alliance for Chemical
Policy Reform



CHARLES R. DREW UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND MEDICINE



L.A. Care
HEALTH PLAN



Planned Parenthood Advocacy Project Los Angeles County



Reproductive
Justice
Evaluation
Form 2023



BLACK WOMEN FOR WELLNESS



Continuing Education Units (CEUs)

Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES)

Attendees will earn up to 5 Continuing Education Credits in Category I entry level CHES and advanced MCHES pending approval by NCHEC (CHES®/MCHES®): LA County Department of Public Health, Health Education Administration.

Nurses

Provider approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing, Provider Number 01429 for up to 4 contact hours