Welcome!

Equity Summit 2022

BUILDING POWER FOR A NEW DAY

FRIDAY, MAY 6, 2022
9:30 AM - 12:30 PM CDT
Summit Agenda

**Land Recognition | 9:30 AM**
**Nevada Littlewolf, WFMN Board Chair**
We recognize and share gratitude for Indigenous culture within our communities and the land on which we gather, live, and work for change.

**Artistic Performance — Beyond Now | 9:35 AM**
**Shá Cage**
Shá’s commissioned piece will be a grounding performance to begin our day, inspired by this moment and our collective potential for building power to create a new vision of what our world can be.

**State of the Foundation | 9:40 AM**
**Gloria Perez, President & CEO, Women’s Foundation of Minnesota**
Gloria will share Foundation updates and highlight our new research, Strategic Plan, and the 20th anniversary of our girlsBuilding Economic Success Together program.

**Featured Speaker Introduction | 9:55 AM**
**Afiya Ward, WFMN Innovator**
As a returning Innovator, Afiya Ward is furthering young women’s leadership by creating leadership development workshops focused on building connections between the youth and female professionals. The WFMN Innovators program provides direct investments to young women and gender-expansive youth (ages 16-24) and supports their leadership development with mentorship and quarterly convenings.

**Keynote Address | 10:00 to 10:40 AM**
**Dr. Rachel Hardeman, Blue Cross Endowed Professor in Health and Racial Equity, Founding Director of the Center for Antiracism Research for Health Equity, University of Minnesota School of Public Health**
Dr. Hardeman will explore the intersections of reproductive justice and police violence. George Floyd's cry for his “Momma” resonates deeply with all of us—we all know what it feels like to need our mom in times of fear and distress. Yet, there is something else haunting and painful in Mr. Floyd’s words—a cry for help so profound it summoned all Black mothers in America, shaking us to our core, evoking images of our beloved Black sons and Black daughters stolen from us too soon. We are in an unprecedented moment and we each have a role to play in transforming this moment into a movement that shows that Black Lives Matter in reproductive health.

**Keynote Conversation | 10:40 to 10:55 AM**
**Dr. Rachel Hardeman & Gloria Perez, President & CEO**

**Artistic Performance | 10:55 AM**
**Joy Oladokun** performs “If You Got a Problem”

**Introduction of Presenting Sponsor | 11 AM**
**Gloria Perez, President & CEO**

**Presenting Sponsor Remarks**
**Corie Barry, CEO of Best Buy Co., Inc.**
Our gratitude to Best Buy as the returning WFMN Equity Summit Presenting Sponsor.
**BREAKOUT SESSIONS | 11:10 AM - 12:10 PM**

**Donor & Corporate Partner Session**  
*Building Leadership Through Cross-Sector Solutions*

**Chanda Smith Baker**, Chief Impact Officer and Senior Vice President of Impact, The Minneapolis Foundation; WFMN Board Vice Chair

**Maria Regan Gonzalez**, Systems Director of Equity Initiatives, M Health Fairview; Mayor of Richfield

**Dr. Nerita Hughes**, Dean, School of Business, Careers, Education & Workforce Innovation, North Hennepin Community College; President/Chief Executive Officer of JG Consulting, LLC

**Dr. Verna Price**, Founder/CEO of The Power of People Consulting

**Debarati Sen**, President, Construction & Home Improvement Division, 3M; WFMN Board Treasurer

How do today’s leaders see their role as agents for positive change? How can we all better coach, mentor, support, share power, and stay present during unique leadership challenges? In this session, leaders in government, corporate, nonprofits, philanthropy, and higher education will share their insights on what it takes to build power within institutions and as individuals for gender and racial equity and justice. Uncover new insights for building stronger pathways for women of color into leadership and executive positions.

**Organizational Leader & Grantee-Partner Session**  
*Amplifying Your Organization’s Story for Narrative Change*

**Sandra Kau-Nesian Gbeintor Oyinloye**, Co-founder, DanSan Creatives

**Daniel Oluwaseyi Oyinloye**, Co-founder, DanSan Creatives

How do you authentically share qualitative and quantitative data with your stakeholders? What are the components of powerful storytelling? What tools are available? In this session led by seasoned storytellers DanSan Creatives, grantee-partners will experience the power of storytelling, learn the recipe, and practice telling their own stories and stories of their community. Together, we’ll explore data-informed storytelling and sharing that knowledge with community stakeholders to maximize investment and impact.

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**Reflections & Closing | 12:10 PM**  
**Gloria Perez**

**Artistic Performance | 12:15 PM**  
**Joy Oladokun** performs “Sunday”
Welcome to the 2022 WFMN Equity Summit

Thank you for joining us to build power towards a world where all women, girls, and gender-expansive people and their families thrive!

This Summit is a place to learn, connect, and celebrate progress while illuminating the inspiring work happening across sectors to combat injustice. By sharing community with one another - even virtually - we grow our collective power and drive transformational solutions for our state’s women, girls, gender-expansive people, and their families.

Our thanks to Best Buy, our presenting sponsor, and to each Summit sponsor for your generosity and commitment to our mission.

I am grateful to our incredible board, grantee-partners, donor and stakeholder partners, Summit speakers, and staff for being an essential component of driving systems change for gender and racial justice. You make our shared vision possible!

Gloria Perez
President & CEO
CHANDA SMITH BAKER
Donor & Corporate Partner Speaker

Chanda has more than 20 years of experience working in, for, and with underestimated communities. At the Minneapolis Foundation, which she joined in 2017, Chanda oversees grantmaking programs, provides strategic direction to community initiatives and partnerships, and is the founder and host of the award-winning podcast Conversations with Chanda. Previously, Chanda spent 17 years at Pillsbury United Communities, a complex community-based nonprofit where she served in a variety of leadership positions before assuming the role of president and CEO in 2011. In addition to leading Pillsbury in pursuing bold strategies to address systemic inequities, Chanda has served on numerous nonprofit and philanthropic boards throughout her career, and her civic leadership has been recognized with several awards and commendations. She unwinds by spending time with family and loves to travel, shop, and watch football.

CORIE BARRY
Presenting Sponsor

Corie Barry is CEO of Best Buy Co., Inc., the leading provider of consumer technology products and services, with approximately 100,000 employees in North America and $47 billion in annual revenue. She also serves on the company’s board of directors. Under Corie’s leadership, Best Buy is driving toward being one of the best places to work in America, doubling our significant customer relationship events to 50 million and growing annual revenue to $50 billion by fiscal 2025. Prior to becoming CEO in June 2019, Corie served in several other executive positions, playing a critical role in developing and executing the company’s Building the New Blue growth strategy and related transformation. Most recently, she was the company’s chief financial and strategic transformation officer, overseeing strategic transformation and growth, digital and technology, global finance, investor relations, enterprise risk and compliance, integration management, and Best Buy Health.
**SHÁ CAGE**  
**Artistic Performance**

Shá Cage is a cultural worker, writer, director, and consultant who has worked across the United States and internationally. As a thought leader, she’s been called a Change-maker, one of the leading artists of her generation, and a mover and maker. Currently, she stewards work with Catalyst Arts, The MN Artist Coalition and is a lead producer with Tru Ruts, a Black-led community organization with a 23-year history committed to the advancement of Black narratives. Shá Cage has been a leading lady on major stages including at the Penumbra Theater and the Guthrie Theater, a producer of feature films, a director and writer of plays, and a recipient of career achievement awards including an Emmy Award, Iveys, McKnight and TCG/ Fox Fellowships. However, her proudest work is community healing and transformation through art. She is also a gardener and is the proud mother of two.

**DR. RACHEL R. HARDEMAN**  
**Keynote Speaker**

Dr. Rachel R. Hardeman is a tenured Associate Professor in the Division of Health Policy & Management at the University of Minnesota’s School of Public Health, the Blue Cross Endowed Professor in Health and Racial Equity, and the Founding Director of the Center for Antiracism Research for Health Equity. A reproductive health equity researcher, she applies the tools of population health science and health services research to elucidate a critical and complex determinant of health inequity—racism. Dr. Hardeman leverages the frameworks of critical race theory and reproductive justice to inform her equity-centered work which aims to build the empirical evidence of racism’s impact on health particularly for Black birthing people and their babies. Dr. Hardeman’s research includes a partnership with Roots Community Birth Center, in North Minneapolis, one of five Black-owned freestanding birth centers in the United States. Her work also examines the potential mental health impacts for Black birthing people when living in a community that has experienced the killing of an unarmed Black person by police. Her overarching goal is to contribute to a body of knowledge that links structural racism to health in a tangible way, identifies opportunities for intervention, and dismantles the systems, structures, and institutions that allow inequities to persist.
DR. NERITA HUGHES
Donor & Corporate Partner Speaker

Dr. Nerita is the Dean for the School of Business, Careers, Education & Workforce Innovation at North Hennepin Community College and the president/chief executive officer of JG Consulting, LLC. She is the former organizational effectiveness & development manager and workforce innovation & opportunity division manager at Ramsey County Workforce Solutions. She received her Bachelor of Science from National American University, and a Master of Business Administration and Doctor of Education in Leadership, both from Saint Mary’s University of Minnesota.

SANDRA KAU-NESIAN GBEINTOR OYINLOYE
Organization Leaders & Grantee-Partner Session Speaker

Sandra is co-founder of DanSan Creatives, an organization that fosters a positive, creative community. Committed to the empowerment of youth and creatives, we use arts and arts education to diversify narratives. Our vision is to innovate with stories as hinges, connecting creatives to a framework that unlocks their potential and provides resources as Midwest artists. DanSan works with community to create spaces that promote healing, justice, and liberation through stories, cultivating connections around identities, especially for black families. Sandra is a mother, phenomenal poet, film director, speaker, and creative. Alongside completing a bachelor’s degree in sociology and a master’s in education, she enjoys the process of telling a story and seeks to use this form as a catalyst to healing.
NEVADA LITTLEWOLF
Executive Director & Campaign Manager, Our Children MN; President & Co-Founder, Seven Teachings LLC; WFMN Board Chair

With over 25 years of executive experience, Nevada has held multiple leadership roles with foundations, government, nonprofits, and political and policy campaigns. She is an organizational and business founder and a former elected official, representing the City of Virginia, Minn., from 2002-2018. She is a citizen of Leech Lake Nation. Nevada has spent her life working with women, children, people with disability, LGTQIA+TS, communities of color, and Indigenous people. She builds power with communities, locally in Minnesota and across the country. Nevada holds a BFA from University of Minnesota Duluth and is currently an MPA graduate student at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs. She is a 2016 Bush Fellow and serves on the boards of ClearWay, MN Urban Debate League, and Oldenburg Arts and Cultural Community. She is co-owner and president of the business Seven Teachings and the executive director of Our Children MN, the campaign to pass the Page Amendment to create a civil right for Minnesota children to have a quality public education.

MYS HELEN MARTIN
Young Women & Youth Partner Session Moderator

Founder and lead strategist of business development agency The Admin, Mys Helen is a business strategist, educator, and organizer from St. Paul. In 2017, she was appointed by Governor Dayton to serve on the Young Women's Cabinet and as co-chair of Economic Opportunity for the Executive Council for YWI. She has also served on the board and finance committee of Youthprise. Her love of business development strategies commenced while facilitating NDC's Entrepreneur training class for small business owners in 2018. Mys Helen has a passion for underserved youth and devotes her free time to developing after-school programs designed to spark entrepreneurial pathways.
CHENIQUA JOHNSON
Young Women & Youth Partner Session Speaker

Cheniqua is a community organizer and advocate who supports nonprofit organizations across Minnesota through grantmaking. In community, Cheniqua is the Minnesota DFL State Outreach & Inclusion Officer, Co-Founder of In Sisterhood, We Brunch, and 2022 fellow of the New Leaders Council and Minnesota Young American Leaders Program. Cheniqua is an alumna of the WFMN Innovators program.

DANIEL OLUWASEYI OYINLOYE
Organization Leaders & Grantee-Partner Session Speaker

Co-founder of DanSan Creatives, Daniel is a storyteller taking the role as organizer, husband, father, and creative. Born in Nigeria, he unknowingly set out to expand his perspective in the States. As a filmmaker, Daniel enjoys the process of learning a story. He believes healing is crucial to human experience, and lack of platforms / spaces to share diverse stories hinders healing.

ANISA OMAR
Young Women & Youth Partner Session Speaker

Anisa Omar is a graduate from Minnesota State University Mankato with a degree in political science and a minor in ethnic studies. Anisa is committed to creating an equitable and just society for all individuals inclusive of race, religion, ethnicity, and socioeconomic background. Anisa is a member of the Governor-appointed Young Women’s Cabinet and serves on multiple organizations and committees, including Ignite the Youth and the Mankato Public Safety Advisory Committee. Anisa will be attending University of St. Thomas Law School in the fall.
JOY OLADOKUN  
Artistic Performance

Acclaimed singer, songwriter, and musician Joy Oladokun is forging her own path, sharing the unique perspective she’s gained from living in today’s world as a black, queer woman and first-generation child of Nigerian immigrants. Born in Arizona and now living in Nashville, her musical exploration began at age 10 when she was inspired to learn guitar after seeing a video of Tracy Chapman—the first time she’d ever seen a black woman play the instrument. In the midst of a breakthrough year, Oladokun recently released her new song, “Fortune Favors The Bold,” after her 2021 album, “in defense of my own happiness.”

ALISSA PARIS  
Young Women & Youth Partner Session Speaker

Alissa Paris is a mother, teaching artist, and space-maker who identifies as a queer, Black/latine/white, cisgender women with light skin privilege, living on the stolen lands of the Anishanaabeg & Dakhóta peoples (Minneapolis, MN). As co-founder of MidWest Mixed, Paris aspires to address the need for increasingly nuanced discussions on identity. She has worked as a teaching artist in the Twin Cities and across the US for 13 years with a special focus on the ways performance art can reveal healing pathways toward social change. Paris lives in Minneapolis and is peacefully co-parenting her six-year-old child, Khalil.

DR. Verna Cornelia Price  
Donor & Corporate Partner Session Moderator

Dr. Verna Cornelia Price is an internationally known human potential expert who specializes in personal power, leadership, change and cross-cultural communications. In 2005, Dr. Verna founded Girls Taking Action, a mentoring and empowerment leadership program for girls in grades 6-12, which has now reached more than 5,500 girls across USA and abroad.
MARIA REGAN GONZALEZ
Donor & Corporate Partner Session Speaker

Maria Regan Gonzalez’s passion and skills lie in supporting youth, women, and BIPOC communities to step into their power and lead collaboratively to transform inequitable systems and decision-making. As Minnesota’s first Latina mayor and public health professional focusing on population scale and equity-driven initiatives that address social determinants of health, she understands the impact that expanding civic leadership and bridging across differences has on addressing widening racial inequities. Her award-winning and nationally recognized body of work spans corporate, academic, public and community settings, and her methodologies are rooted in weaving together public health practices, racial justice organizing, and strengthening civic capital. She holds a BA in global studies and Spanish studies and a master’s degree in public health from the University of Minnesota.

DEBARATI SEN
Donor & Corporate Partner Session Speaker

AFIYA WARD
Keynote Speaker Introduction

Afiya Ward, a WFMN Innovator, grew up in Saint Paul. She is a sophomore at Florida A&M University, studying agricultural science and business. Afiya has been committed to creating and expanding opportunities for youth leadership in her community through her work developing and directing a youth leadership program as an advanced program offering of the ARTS-Us Center for the African Diaspora in Saint Paul. She is dedicated to growing this work and continuing to provide opportunities for young people across the state.
This year, we celebrate the 20th anniversary of our girlsBEST (girls Building Economic Success Together) program. Shaped by research and listening in 14 communities around the state, girlsBEST was created to invest in girls as the best way to build opportunities and boost their future economic success. Economic opportunity is a key factor in increasing equity and justice for girls; it increases their safety, improves their health outcomes; and impacts their access to leadership opportunities.

Using a race, place, and income lens, our goal was to develop an ecosystem of change led by organizations serving girls from across the state. The girlsBEST program engages low-income girls with an emphasis on girls of color, American Indian girls, and girls in greater and rural Minnesota, LGBTQ+ youth, and girls with disabilities.

Since we began in 2002, we have grown in understanding the importance of culturally relevant and specific programming, stability in staffing, financial literacy, and multigenerational approaches that ultimately led us to create the Young Women’s Initiative of Minnesota and deepen our mission to gender and racial justice.

girlsBEST grantee-partners share a vision of eliminating barriers that impact girls’ future economic success and developing leaders empowered to create change. For 20 years, girlsBEST participants have shown us they are the next generation of social changemakers.

Since launching girlsBEST, WFMN has funded six cohorts of grantee partners with multi-year funding across the state:

- **$5.1M**
  - planning and implementation grants
  - granted to 134 girl-led and girl-driven programs statewide

- **394**
  - young women & their families engaged

- **45,202**

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF girlsBEST
GIRLSBEST AIMS TO INCREASE GIRLS’ READINESS TO ACHIEVE ECONOMIC WELL-BEING THROUGH:

Increased **AWARENESS** of systematic gender inequity that affects economic potential

Increased sense of **AGENCY** to influence change through leadership

Increased capacity for individual and collective **ACTIVISM & ADVOCACY**

**KEY OUTCOMES:**

- **98 percent** of girlsBEST participants graduate from high school
- **93 percent** enroll in post-secondary education
- **99 percent** of girlsBEST participants avoided unintended pregnancy

**NOTABLE PRACTICES:**
Girl-led programs that develop the economic potential of girls share some notable practices:

- Financial Literacy
- Leadership Development
- Mentoring
- Build on Cultural Strengths
- Collaboration
- Multigenerational Approach
- Healing and Wellness

**THANK YOU** to our long-time donor-partners for supporting girlsBEST, including Hugh J. Andersen Foundation • Anonymous • Blandin Foundation • Otto Bremer Trust • Margaret A. Cargill Foundation • Charlson Foundation • Marbrook Foundation • Carl and Eloise Pohlad Family Foundation • The Travelers Foundation • Walmart Foundation • Ellie Ogden (deceased) • Barbara & Jack Reis
Grantee-Partners 2012-2022
(fiscal year April 1, 2021 - March 31, 2022)

Our gratitude to the organizations and individuals leading in communities across the state:

Ain Dah Yung Center
Annex Teen Clinic
Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency
Asian American Organizing Project
Asian Media Access
Asian Women United of Minnesota
Augsburg University-MN Urban Debate League
Bagosendaan
Black Visions
Centro Tyrone Guzman
Change Starts with Community
City of Minneapolis-Trans Equity Summit
Committee Against Domestic Abuse
Comunidades Latinas Unidas En
Servicio, Inc.
CornerHouse
Dakota Wicohan
discapacitados abriendose caminos
Division of Indian Work
Dress for Success Twin Cities
Esperanza United
Family Safety Network
Family Tree Clinic
FamilyWise Services
Gender Justice
Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys
Global Rights for Women
Her Purpose
Hmong American Partnership
Hnub Tshiab: Hmong Women Achieving Together
Hope Community
Kitana Holland
Leslie Barlow
Liberty Community Church, PCUSA
Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota-SELF
Men as Peacemakers
MIGIZI Communications, Inc.
Minneapolis Public Schools-Office of Black Student Achievement
Minnesota African Women’s Association (MAWA)
Minnesota Indian Women’s Sexual Assault Coalition
Minnesota State Community & Technical College
Minnesota Youth Collective
Education Fund
Missions, Inc.
MN8
Our Justice
Outfront Minnesota Community Services
Phumulani MN African Women Against Violence
Pillsbury United Communities
Planned Parenthood North Central States
Program for Aid to Victims of Sexual Assault
Project DIVA International
Project FINE
Radical Monarchs
Rainbow Research
Range Engineering Council
RECLAIM!
Restoration for All
Rice County Neighbors United
Ruth’s House of Hope, Inc.
SHEletta Makes Me Laugh
Sisters in Christ Global
Southeast Asian Diaspora Project (SEAD)
St. Catherine University-MN Center for Diversity in Economics (MCDE)
St. Paul Youth Services
Terebinth Refuge
The ANIKA Foundation
The Fields at Rootsprings
The Firecracker Foundation
The Link
The Power of the People Leadership Institute
The SEAD Project
uCodeGirl
United Community Action Partnership
Violence Intervention Project, Inc.
Voices for Racial Justice
Way to Grow
Women for Political Change Education and Advocacy Fund
Women of Nations
Women’s Foundation of the South
YMCA of the North
YWCA of Minneapolis
YWCA St. Paul