Racial Justice Summit 2019

Theme: Transforming Our Future

Breakout Sessions List

***IMPORTANT NOTE:***
This list is reflective of the sessions that we know will be available thus far. There will be additional breakout sessions added in the coming weeks. Registrants will receive a final list of breakout sessions, as well as the date, time, and location of the session closer to the conference date.

Feel free to also check back on our website, as updates will be made there as we have them.
Be Ready: Children will ask about Race

Presenter(s) -- Kevin Gordon; Chloe Besser

Description -- Children are more than ready to talk about race, but are adults ready to facilitate these important conversations? In this session, we will learn how to engage children in discussions on race in a way that maximizes both emotional safety, understanding, and character development.

Audience -- Open to All

Breaking the Ocean: A Conversation on Belonging

Presenter(s) -- Annahid Dashtgard

Description -- Belonging is our individual and collective birthright. It is what happens when human structures shift to make room for other humans: it is a place at the intersection of the political and psychological, where privilege and wounding are both a part of the story. Tending it is our most human job. Join author, inclusion specialist and change-maker Annahid Dashtgard in this deep dive into the challenge of our times: how to create, cultivate and commit to cultures of belonging? This afternoon session is for equity leaders, organizational consultants, activists, entrepreneurs, healers and coaches… anyone who wants to sharpen their chops to address the growing polarization on issues of race and identity.

*This conversation builds on themes woven throughout Annahid’s memoir Breaking the Ocean: Race, Rebellion and Reconciliation

Audience -- Open to All

Madison Hip-Hop: Loved, Hated, Embraced, and Feared

Presenter(s) -- Karen Reece; ShaH Evans; Corey Whitmore

Description -- While Hip-Hop music and imagery has infiltrated pop culture, it remains misunderstood and even feared. This not only impacts social opportunities in our city, but also marginalizes a community and reinforces stereotypes that keep us locked in the status quo. In this workshop, we will look through the lens of Hip-Hop history and culture to help attendees envision a future where all artists have space for expression, and all forms of expression are valued.

Audience -- Open to All

Building Community to Transform: Communities of Practice as a Tool to Disrupt Whiteness in Out-of-School Time

Presenter(s) -- Nathan Beck; Bianca Baldridge

Description -- What happens when a group of youth workers from across different community organizations commit to spend all spring interrogating how their practices reinforce or interrupt white supremacy? What happens when they have a facilitator able to challenge them to think how structural and institutional norms of white supremacy manifest in their own organizational practices regardless of their worthwhile visions. Come learn how communities of practice...
can nurture community and build the skills needed to challenge white supremacy in our own “do good” organizations, and lay the groundwork for larger cohorts working at the structural level.

**Audience** -- Open to All * The workshop will be most relevant to audiences who work with and for young people

[] Niceness is Not Anti-Racism: How White Women Can (and Must) Step Up Their Game

**Presenter(s)** -- Jessi Corcoran; Nestic Morris

**Description** -- It’s not a secret that White women have continually failed Black women as allies. In this workshop, we will encourage White woman-identified participants to think more deeply about their allyship, discuss their failings honestly, and decide on some actions to improve. Presenters will deliver content and provide space for discussion around three main themes: Intersections of White Supremacy and Patriarchy, Anti-Blackness, and Ally vs. Co-Conspirator.

**Audience** -- White women, women and femme-identified folks. Appropriate for people who have had some experience/exposure to racial justice/equity analysis.

[] Person-to-Person Activism: Disarming Microaggressions and Leveraging Personal Narratives

**Presenter(s)** -- Stephanie Campbell; Alexandra Barber; Melina Knabe

**Description** -- Through small group discussions and reflective inquiry, participants will gain both practical skills and knowledge of recent literature about facing prejudice and promoting self-advocacy. Facilitators will share tactics to disarm microaggressions and will guide attendees as they develop personal narratives through text and/or art. This workshop will explore ways in which those from minoritized and privileged backgrounds alike can respond to indignities in ways that reduce the power of microaggressions. The potential of small-scale, individual activism will be highlighted and celebrated.

**Audience** -- Open to All

[] Transforming Ourselves: The Liberating Power of Storytelling

**Presenter(s)** -- Marisol Gonzalez; Char Braxton; Tekeyla Benton; James Horton

**Description** -- “The Odyssey Project helped me unwrap my gifts and rewrite the story of my life.” This interactive workshop, led by Odyssey graduates, focuses on the transformative power of storytelling to heal trauma and give voice to those marginalized by racial and economic inequities. Storytelling is a powerful way to begin transforming ourselves and our community by allowing other people to see the struggles, challenges, victories, defeats, and dreams that shape our lives. Our stories balance the personal and the political, allowing for a fuller expression of our diverse experiences while at the same time informing the larger conversation about social justice. This workshop will explore storytelling as a public form that can lead to discoveries and new insights for both the writer and the audience, and how it can be used as a tool for social change. We will look at a few examples where storytelling was used to make inequity more visible, hear from those who have used their voices to influence larger conversations on racial equity, and spend some time exploring how our own stories can be used to heal, liberate, and advance social justice. The presenters are writers of color experiencing or who have overcome obstacles such as poverty, single parenthood, addiction, incarceration, depression, and domestic abuse.
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Sin Hogar: Interrupting Homelessness in the Latinx Community

Presenter(s) -- Helyn Luisi-Mills & Julio Garcia

Description -- This workshop will focus on how housing first is a stronger model for supporting families who also need support with family stabilization, immigration support, school attendance, etc. There is also the almost near total gap in housing services for families who don't speak English. In order to address the disparity in the homeless and doubled up system that underserves Latinx community members we invite ideas on advocacy in the state and national level including campaigns, working with advocacy agencies, and direct engagement with legislation. We will also discuss how to engage landlords, especially in renting to undocumented immigrants. We will also talk about how to collaborate with other agencies, services, and the resourcefulness within the Latinx community in Dane County.

Audience -- This workshop will benefit individuals and service providers that are bilingual, but is open to anyone who is interested.

Assessing Organizational Racism and Advocating for Anti-Racist Work Spaces

Presenter(s) -- Deborah Biddle

Description -- Creating and supporting teams with diverse skills, knowledge, backgrounds, and experiences is essential to developing vibrant workplaces where we value people and their journeys, as well as leverage their talents. Yet, workplaces persist where racism continues to disrupt employee engagement, belonging, collaboration, innovation and productivity. Over time and with intention, organizations, like individuals, can evolve to become anti-racist. The evolution begins with assessing organizational culture to gain a comprehensive understanding of how racism and oppression operate. In this session, we'll explore evaluative tools to determine how racism shows up in your organization. From decision-making and budgeting to accountability and power, you'll have a chance to think about your work environment and learn ways to advocate for the change necessary to transform individuals, teams and organizations.

Audience -- Open to All

Identity, Basic Human Needs and the Trauma Nexus: Implications for Social Policy and an Improved Response to Mental Health

Presenter(s) -- Dr. Algernon Felice

Description -- Have a much more rounded understanding of Trauma - its impact in-utero, how it affects growth & development, and physical & emotional health outcomes. Much of what we see as cultural pathology is better viewed through the lens of “normalized trauma.” The effects of “normalized trauma” on a culture are mind-altering. We need a shift in social policy if we want to truly tackle this challenge.

Audience -- Open to All

Transforming Our Legacy through Advocacy

Presenter(s) -- Annette Miller

Description -- If we expect the present and future to change we must be willing to change ourselves in preparation. How do you advocate and weigh in on community change? How do you re-imagine what it means to be engaged? As a person of color what is being asked of us today in this community (City and Dane County)?
Annette Miller will share what she has learned past and present on how engagement and advocacy has changed and where it is headed. She will share what she sees is being asked and what should be considered in terms of preparation in being heard.

**Audience** -- People of Color affinity group. Appropriate for people who have had some experience/exposure to racial justice/equity analysis

### Re-Image Advocacy within Systems

**Presenter(s)** -- Annette Miller

**Description** -- If we expect the present and future to change we must be willing to change ourselves in preparation. You do not need to be in power to make powerful change! The purpose of this session is to discuss how to dismantle policies, practices, and organizational culture to be inclusive and open and welcoming to all regardless of their identity and life choices. We will talk about how you can advocate for and make change within the system.

Annette Miller will share what she has learned on how to make change in the space you work, live and play. She will share what she sees is being asked of people who don’t see themselves as leaders but in action truly lead change. Let’s explore together what it means to be a change agent!

**Audience** -- Appropriate for people who have had some experience/exposure to racial justice/equity analysis, Appropriate for practitioners who provide training in the field of racial justice/equity.

### Minoritized yet Excluded: Dismantling the "Model Minority" Myth

**Presenter(s)** -- Shuzi Meng; Soobin Im; Stephanie M Campbell

**Description** -- Masked by the positive stereotype, Asians are often left out in the discussion of institutional racism which is faced by many, if not all, Asian subgroups. The implicit racial biases against the Asian community (e.g., Asians are wealthier and better at academics), have deprived them access to resources that could help with poverty issues, mental health stigma, and education problems. Through skill-building activities, didactic presentations, and interactive inquiries, participants from all racial backgrounds will learn to recognize and identify how “positive stereotypes” could hurt not only the Asian community, but all racial/ethnic groups. This workshop will help increase attendees’ confidence in interacting with, advocating for, and assisting individuals who fall victim to such biases.

**Audience** -- Open to All

### The Taming of a Wild Tongue: Americanization and the Loss of our native languages

**Presenter(s)** -- Manuel Cerda

**Description** -- “Ethnic identity is twin skin to linguistic identity- I am my language” - Gloria Anzaldúa.

In this workshop, we will discuss how Americanization and schooling "encourages" us POC to abandon our native tongues and adopt English as our primary language. We will discuss the history behind this push for linguistic assimilation, what part our families and the dominant white supremacist culture plays in this, and come to acknowledge the pain behind this loss. We will then end by sharing our rebellion stories/strategies, encouraging self care as we work to reclaim our linguistic narratives and transform our futures.
Intergenerational Trauma and Reconciliation: Considering Rwandan approaches for mental health services with communities of color in the United States.

Presenter(s) -- Lynnetta Latham; Brittany Neal; Karma Tseadon; Belinda Richardson

Description -- This session will start with a brief overview of the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi in Rwanda then go into an exploration of therapeutic approaches and community organizing strategies we learned through our Amplify Madison project in this country. During our time there, we learned from professionals and organizations working with clients and communities of color, they shared with us holistic approaches to historical trauma that is making healing possible in the Rwandan context in the midst of challenges and against all odds. As mental health practitioners ourselves, we are excited to share our experience, finding connections and applications with participants in this workshop in a way that can better serve and facilitate healing for communities of color in the United States.

Mindfulness: A skillful response to racism, oppression and white supremacy

Presenter(s) -- Michael Waupoose

Description -- In this workshop we will explore how mindfulness can support and benefit us in responding to the racialized stress in our lives. We will examine our relationship to the stress and oppression we experience and its consequences to the body, mind, and spirit. We will engage in an experiential exploration of ways to cultivate mindfulness. Finally, we will delve into what the benefits might be of developing a mindfulness practice as a skillful response to racializes stress and oppression and white supremacy.

Awakened Justice: Heightening Awareness to Heal

Presenter(s) -- Antonio Hoye; Betsy Delzer

Description -- We will be sharing introspective practices and the power of healing in justice and activism. Together we will explore our relationships to power and the structures that uphold a white-centered culture. We will enable you to leave with practices to continue your journey in awakened justice -- a lens through which we live utilizing awareness for the purpose of disrupting patterns and tendencies that stagger and separate us from one another.

Both/And: Implementing Racial Justice through School-Based Mental Health Programs

Presenter(s) -- Armando Hernandez

Description -- This presentation will (a) nurture the courage to further explore belonging, intersectional equity, and racial justice in school-based mental health, (b) consider the common language and key concepts to support the implementation of culturally responsive practices, and (c) reflect on innovative ways to create the personal and organizational context needed to disrupt inequities and support all students.
Audience -- This is best for mental health, healthcare, human service, and school staff/practitioners, but is open to anyone who is interested. Appropriate for people who have had some experience/exposure to racial justice/equity analysis

[] Integrated School by and For Youth  
Youth Presenter(s) -- Gersely Rios; Jurie Mayo  
Description -- Our idea is to show the public the process of school designing by actually letting them build a rough draft of their own High School. We also want to show them a little bit about our process and how did we get with Milestone Democratic School by the consensus process in which everyone agrees with the ideas proposed. Lastly, we want to reflect on our own ideas and how they will actually look in a high school where students are being affected by the racial and segregational issues that are possible by the system that is currently in place.  
Audience -- Open to All

[] Become a Changemaker!  
Presenter(s) -- Roxie Hentz  
Description -- You are invited to roll up your sleeves and join us in this interactive workshop where you will learn the first steps to transforming an idea into a business or business-like activity for social good. You'll begin to identify a problem you care about, understand the considerations needed for impact, and plot out an entrepreneurial plan to address it. Leave this hands-on workshop with a draft plan in hand!  
Audience -- Open to All

[] American Indian Studies: Implementing Wisconsin Act 31  
Presenter(s) -- David O’Connor  
Description— The presentation will provide in-depth presentation and discussion on American Indian Studies in Wisconsin (often referenced as Wisconsin Act 31). The focus of the training is to help participants understand and implement Wisconsin Act 31, which is a state law requiring all public school districts and pre-service teacher programs to provide instruction on the history, culture, and tribal sovereignty of the eleven federally-recognized American Indian nations in the state of Wisconsin.  
Audience: Open to All

[] What Effect Has History Had on Our Culture & Our Soul?  
Presenter(s) -- Brandi Grayson; Jael Currie  
Description -- We explore the etiology of many of the adaptive survival behaviors in African American communities throughout the United States and the Diaspora. We'll also explore how the historical practices of White American—including cognitive dissonance—has created a culture where empathy and compassion are almost non-existent. Leading to the dehumanization of White people and the people known as Black. A consequence of multi-generational oppression of Africans and their descendants resulting from centuries of chattel slavery. A form of
slavery which was predicated on the belief that African Americans were inherently/genetically inferior to whites. This was then followed by institutionalized racism which continues to perpetuate injury. How do we break free of this insidious cycle? How do we begin to heal?

**Audience** -- Black people and practitioners

## Storytelling Our Future: Transformative Communication Skills for Social Justice

**Presenter(s)** -- Anjali Misra

**Description** -- Informed by the legacies of global civil rights leaders across intersecting movements (gender, race, religious, labor and immigrant rights), this workshop will equip participants with the critical messaging skills to craft narratives that align with intersectional justice and bridge the gap between personal and political values. Participants will hone their writing and public speaking talents to produce press releases, campaign mission statements, op-eds and other significant writings that support the forward movement of social justice projects.

**Audience** -- Primarily for People of Color with a racial justice lens and ongoing practice. White attendees with a racial justice lens and ongoing practice may also join.

## Internalized Islamophobia: Dismantling White Supremacist Notions of Orientalism Within Young American Muslims Through Advocacy and Activism

**Presenter(s)** -- Mouna Algahaithi; Sedgwick Smith Jr

**Description** -- One of the most understudied aspects of Islamophobia is the way young Muslims ingest negative stereotypes and attitudes towards their faith. According to a recent study by the Yaqeen Institute for Islamic Research, 1 in 2 young Muslims didn’t know if they could be American and Muslim at the same time. This is due to tenants of white supremacy that have cast Muslims as perpetual others to be feared. This workshop will be a deep dive into the impact of Islamophobia and racialized othering on American Muslim identities and provide a space for collaboration on how to dismantle those notions through empowering Muslim youth through youth-led activism.

**Audience** -- Open to All

## The 1.5 Generation; A Historical Uncovering & Stories of Latinx Education

**Presenter(s)** -- Alondra Quechol-Ramirez; Margarita Garcia Rojas

**Description** -- Within the time frame of the Chicano Movement, there is emphasis on the setbacks and successes in achieving economic, social, and political civil rights for Mexicans in the United States. As a result of El Movimiento Chicano, today we are able to witness the evolution of education amongst Latinos in Wisconsin. When comparing the University of Wisconsin-Madison with the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, the staff, support, resources, outreach, and programs have had different results in fulfilling that goal. We invite you to partake in the uncovering and stories of local Latino students in the movement for educational rights since the 1950s to today. See how you can be part of El Movimiento.

**Audience** -- Open to All
[] Clothing, Music, and Social Media: Transforming our Future through Children of the Diaspora

**Presenter(s)** -- Ali Khan

**Description** -- Of the Diaspora is a multimedia platform that explores diaspora communities through mediums of photography, film, music, clothing, writing and art. Through this initiative and through storytelling, we will be exploring transnational social causes and the way that they impact the identity of youth of color. More importantly, we will learn how to better our shared future by amplifying the voices of children of the diaspora.

**Audience** -- Open to All

[] You drank the Lemonade, took a Seat at the Table and won a seat in Congress. So, Now What?

**Presenter(s)** -- T.R. Williams

**Description** -- This workshop will explore health care policy as revolution for women of color and use a historical lens to speak to the structural and institutional racism against women of color as it relates specifically to policy. From this point we will briefly analyze Governor Evers "Healthy Women, Healthy Babies" initiative to facilitate a guided exercise in writing healthcare policy that would bring about change for women of color.

**Audience** -- Open to All

[] Leadership Development starts on the BLOC(K)

**Presenter** -- Angela Lang

**Description** -- In order to develop leaders in an intentional way, people need to invest and be patient when it comes to developing directly impacted people. In this session, we will talk about one model on how to be intentional about how we center directly impacted people and empower people to discover their power and agency to be change makers. We will also dig into the issues, concerns, and values that our investment and engagement in the Black community in Milwaukee and throughout Wisconsin has revealed.

**Audience** -- Open to All

[] Justified Anger: Three Session Series

**Presenter(s)** -- Harry Hawkins and Rev. Dr. Alexander Gee, Jr.

**Descriptions:**

**Justified Anger--Session 1: Grassroots Leadership Development**

In session, learn more about Justified Anger's strategies for supporting the critical work African American grassroots leaders are doing in Madison neighborhoods. Part of these strategies highlight the need to activate organizations and funders to recognize these leaders as experts and key thought leaders in Madison and beyond.
Justified Anger--Session 2: **Creating Community and Capacity for Black Professionals**

In this session, learn about Nehemiah/Justified Anger’s Leadership Institute for black professionals. For years, Madison has seen highly talented professionals leave for other cities due, in part, to micro and macro aggressions in predominantly white work spaces and lack of social gathering space. This Leadership Institute, along with other strategies, are designed to develop African American professionals through skills training and network building.

Justified Anger--Session 3: **Mobilizing Greater Madison for Change**

In this session, learn about what Justified Anger has been doing to mobilize primarily white community members to impact Black:white racial disparities in the Greater Madison Area. From educating about US history to cultural engagement training, hundreds of volunteers are learning to recognize and reduce racist behaviors and thought patterns while focusing their skills on tasks to fight racism on many levels using their own spheres of influence.

**Audience** -- Open to All