AGENDA

9:00am Opening Session: “Tips and Strategies for Leading in Unprecedented Times” presented by Fanning faculty

9:50am Transition

10:00am Breakout Session 1 (75 minutes)

- **Session A:** Fostering Strong Civil Societies through Conversation (Part 1) – Terence Johnson and Raye Rawls

  Finding ways to engage in conversations that challenge our worldview and reflect our differences while allowing us to remain in community is critical to fostering strong civil societies. The Reflective Structured Dialogue (RSD) approach is one method we can use to facilitate a process of engagement that can lead to mutual understanding, a foundation for problem solving, collaboration, and unity—indeed, for peaceful and constructive coexistence.

  Created over 25 years ago and used around the globe, RSD is a structured conversation designed to provide people sufficient safety to develop understanding of perspectives and worldviews that may be different from their own. RSD is a tool for managing conversations in spaces where “You are either for me or against me” is the prevailing attitude, where people on the sidelines become marginalized, ignored, shouted down, hurt or even killed. The goal of RSD is to open or reopen spaces for communication that have been closed.

- **Session B:** The Silver Linings of Leading Through a Pandemic (or How I Learned to Love Crisis Management) – Lauren Koontz YMCA of Metro Atlanta, President and CEO

  Within 10 days in March 2020, as a result of the pandemic, the YMCA of Metro Atlanta shut our 18 locations for member programming and got to work addressing the sudden flood of food insecurity in our community and the need for essential worker childcare. With traditional sources of revenue hampered by the closures, our commitment to the Atlanta community was still a constant. How did we overcome obstacles to continue our service during this critical time? The “Silver Linings of Leading Through a Pandemic” is the story of how our Y locked arms with partners across the city to confront the practical and societal needs of the moment, aligned our capabilities to
meet circumstances, shifted thinking about our potential and embraced our role as a crucial leader in the nonprofit and equity spaces for the health and wellbeing of Atlanta. It’s been a challenging ride with joy in the journey. We’ve learned a lot and grown even more. I can’t wait to share the why and how of it all with you.

11:15am    Innovations in Community Leadership Awards Presentation
11:30am    Lunch on your own
1:00pm    Breakout Session 2 (75 minutes)

- **Session A:** Fostering Strong Civil Societies through Conversation (Part 2) – Terence Johnson and Raye Rawls

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- **Session B:** Engaging with Your Board Around Diversity, Equity and Inclusion – Sayge Medlin

The words, “Diversity, Equity and Inclusion” (or DEI) are being used more and more frequently. What do they mean for your nonprofit currently? What should they mean? How do you ingrain them into practices that become long-lasting components of your organizational culture? This workshop will explore these questions through the lens of board engagement.
2:15pm Break/Transition

2:30pm Breakout Session 3 (75 minutes)

- **Session A:** Un-Zipping the Zip Code – Tanisha Baker, Project GRAD Knoxville and Vrondelia Chandler, Executive Director - Project GRAD Knoxville, ELPNO Alumni (2015)

  There are barriers that emerge as a direct result of one’s environment. Before we are understood, we must seek to understand. We must understand community characteristics, perceptions and challenges. Research supports that one’s zip code influences outcomes and opportunities. Predictions of academic proficiency, progress and success are often linked to a student’s demographics. Unfortunately, many people residing in areas with a high concentration of poverty or minority families fall within the lowest bracket when it comes to academic achievement and progression through higher education. There are students that are underserved and underrepresented in higher education due to obstacles tied to environment. There are barriers that emerge as a direct result of one’s zip code. Demographic profiles can be used to identify trends that will guide understanding, assessing and addressing inequities in opportunities and access for communities facing concentrated challenges.

- **Session B:** Youth Town Hall Collaborative – Lori Tiller and Lauren Healey

  Youth-serving organizations across Georgia were forced to change their procedures to continue meeting the needs of youth during the unprecedented events of 2020. The Fanning Institute partnered with two organizations to conduct a series of virtual youth and adult town hall sessions across the state to capture the opportunities and innovations that have emerged. In this session, participants will learn about the town-hall design and explore how this process could work within their local communities or organizations.

3:45pm Conference Closing

4:00pm End