



INNOVATE
INFLUENCE
INSPIRE



LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Women's Leadership Conference

Thursday, September 10, 2026

Pasadena Convention Center

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome	3
Conference Agenda	4 - 5
Conference Venue Map	6
Attendee Experiences	8
Welcome and Opening Remarks	9
Speakers and Sessions	10 - 20
Social Media	21
Conference Committee	22
2026 Conference Cover Artist	23
Sponsors	24
Gift & Prize Sponsors	25
Special Thanks	28



WELCOME TO THE 2026 Women's Leadership Conference

Welcome to the 14th Los Angeles County Women's Leadership Conference: Innovate, Influence, Inspire! On behalf of our Conference Planning Committee, we are delighted to welcome you to a day dedicated to empowerment, growth, and meaningful connection.

This program is your guide to the many opportunities that await, from networking with accomplished professionals and exploring innovative exhibits to strengthening your leadership skills through engaging speaker sessions and capturing a new professional headshot. Whether you are here to learn, connect, lead, or be inspired, today is an opportunity to embrace new possibilities, expand your impact, and celebrate the extraordinary strengths you already possess!

Sincerely,



Evelyn Chang
Co-Chair



Kara Plourde
Co-Chair



Laura Rockett
Co-Chair

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS



On behalf of Los Angeles County Public Works and our Women's Leadership Council, welcome to the beautiful Pasadena Convention Center.

Now celebrating its 14th event, the Los Angeles County Women's Leadership Conference has brought people together to learn from one another, build meaningful connections, and strengthen the leadership that moves LA County forward.

This year's gathering reflects the values at the heart of the LA County Public Works Equity Framework: creating a culture where people feel safe, respected, included, and empowered to contribute. It reminds us that equity is not simply a goal. It is how we listen, how we make decisions, and how we create opportunities for people to grow and lead.

When we welcome different experiences and perspectives, we become more innovative. When we communicate openly and act with cultural awareness, we build trust. And when we invest in people, we strengthen our workforce and the communities we serve. Thank you for bringing your voice, your experience, and your leadership to this conference. Together, we are building a more inclusive future where everyone has the opportunity to succeed.

Sincerely,
Mark Pestrella, P.E.
Director, Los Angeles County Public Works

CONFERENCE AGENDA

September 10, 2026

7:00 AM	Registration and Breakfast	Foyer
8:30 AM	Welcome Evelyn Chang, Kara Plourde, Laura Rockett Conference Co-Chairs Mark Pestrella, Director LA County Public Works	Main Ballroom
8:40 AM	Opening Remarks Hilda L. Solis LA County Supervisor 1st District	
9:00 AM	Stress Isn't The Enemy Gina Rollo White	Main Ballroom
9:45 AM	Exhibitor Fair & Networking	Foyer
10:30 AM	Morning Breakout Sessions (Concurrent) Every Room is a Leadership Room Kim Fuller Unlearning for Impact Carolina Caro Nothing to Hide Kristy Laschober Take the Doughnut Melissa Forziat	The Arroyo Room (101-102) The Rose Room (104-105) The Vista Room (107) The Orange Grove Room (106)
11:30 AM	Exhibitor Fair & Networking	Foyer
11:50 AM	Lunch	Main Ballroom
1:00 PM	Leading Change Dr. Aradhna Tripathi	Main Ballroom
1:50 PM	Exhibitor Fair & Networking	Foyer

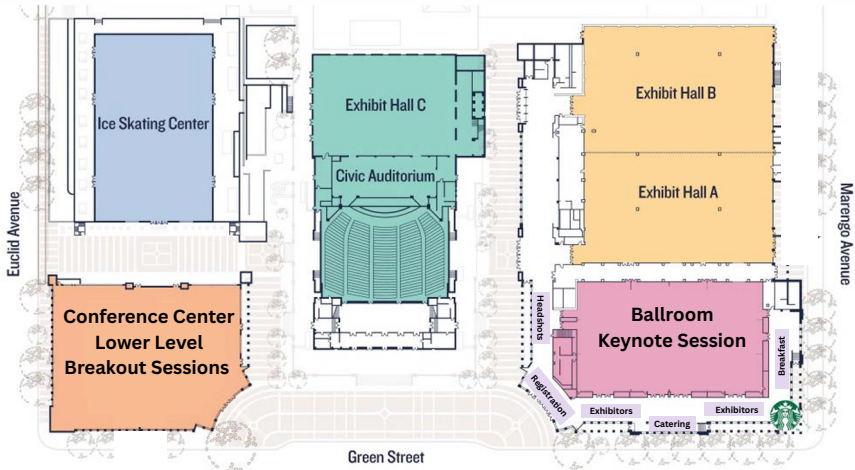
CONFERENCE AGENDA

September 10, 2026

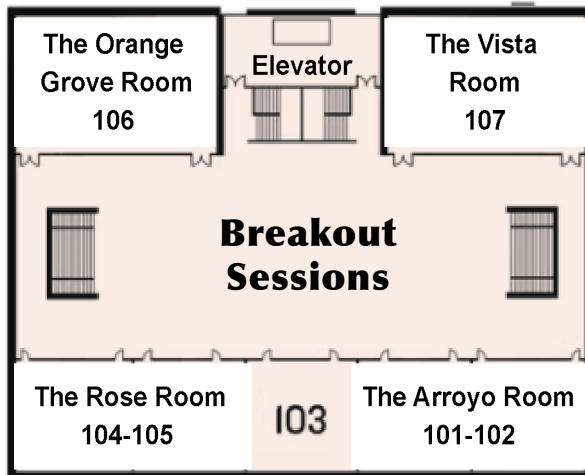
2:10 PM	Afternoon Breakout Sessions (Concurrent)	
	Resilient by Design	The Arroyo Room (101-102)
	Sabine Gedeon	
	Leading with Intention	The Rose Room (104-105)
	Joyce Chiao	
	A Moment of Healing	The Vista Room (107)
	Felicia “Onyi” Richards	
	Master the Moment	The Orange Grove Room (106)
	Kim Meninger	
3:10 PM	Exhibitor Fair & Networking	Main Ballroom
3:35 PM	Revolutionary Woman	Main Ballroom
	Shereen Thor	
4:35 PM	Closing Remarks	Main Ballroom
	Evelyn Chang, Kara Plourde, Laura Rockett Conference Co-Chairs	

Innovate
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Conference Venue Map

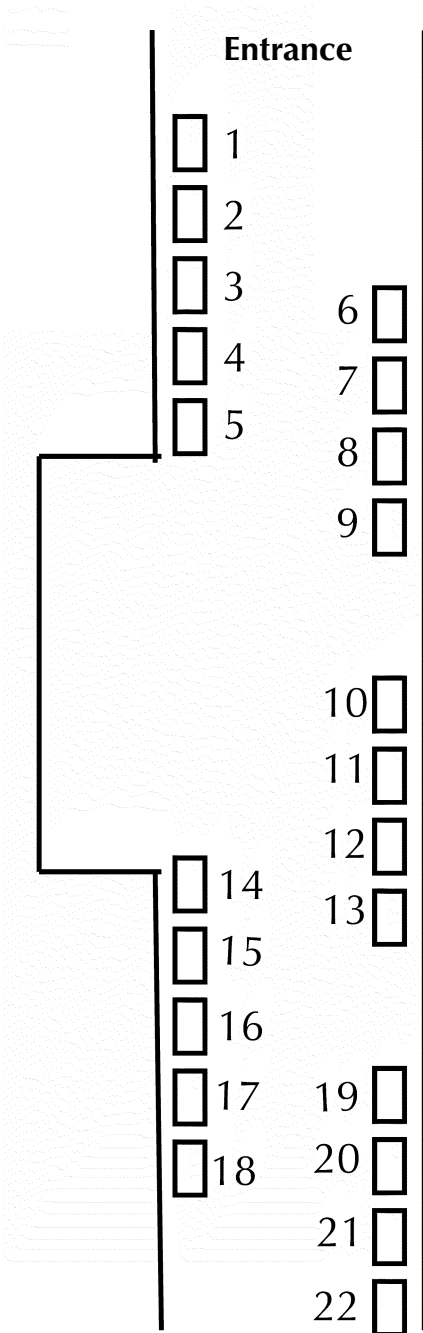


SEPTEMBER 10, 2026 | PASADENA CONVENTION CENTER



CONFERENCE CENTER
LOWER LEVEL

Exhibitor Map



2026 Exhibitors

1. CAPE x Blue Shield
2. The Employees Club of CA
3. Hensel Phelps
4. Athens Services
5. McCarthy
6. Credit Union of Southern CA
7. Metro
8. Los Angeles Urban League
9. Fusion Boutique
10. BMO
11. Mexican American Opportunity Foundation
12. Transtech Engineers
13. US Bank
14. Aflac
15. Citadel EHS
16. Center for Developing Leadership in Science
17. Women's Leadership Project LA
18. SCRC
19. Great Earth Pharmacy
20. Roham
21. Nothing but Bundt Cake
22. LA County Sanitation Districts

ATTENDEE EXPERIENCES

There's more to discover throughout the conference! Scan the QR code below or on the back of your name badge to explore activities, event updates, and opportunities to make the most of your Conference experience.



CONNECT WITH EXHIBITORS

Explore innovative resources, meet industry professionals, and discover organizations supporting our community.



COMPLIMENTARY HEADSHOTS

Stop by the Headshot Booth to refresh your professional profile with a complimentary headshot!



CONFERENCE SURVEY

Complete by **4:00 PM** for a chance to win. Must be present to claim your prize.

GAMES & CONTESTS

Engage throughout the Conference for your chance to win exciting prizes!



PRIZE OPPORTUNITIES

Stay for the day! Prizes will be announced during the closing session.



SOCIAL MEDIA CONTESTS

Share how you innovate, influence, and inspire! Post your conference experience and use the official hashtags for a chance to win.



SCAVENGER HUNT

Explore the conference, solve clues, and discover hidden treasures!

And More! Scan the QR code for more activities and chances to win!

Follow us on Instagram and X
@LACWomenLeaders

Official Hashtags:
#LACWLC2026 and
#InnovateInfluenceInspire



Have a question?
Look for someone wearing this button!



WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS



Hilda L. Solis serves as Chair of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and represents the First District, which stretches from East Hollywood to Pomona and includes communities throughout Northeast Los Angeles, the Eastside, and the San Gabriel Valley.

A lifelong San Gabriel Valley resident and the daughter of immigrant parents from Nicaragua and Mexico, Chair Solis began her public service career on the Rio Hondo Community College District Board of Trustees before serving in the California State Assembly, the California State Senate, and the U.S. House of Representatives. In 2009, she became the first Latina to serve in a

U.S. presidential cabinet when President Barack Obama appointed her U.S. Secretary of Labor. Since joining the Board of Supervisors in 2014, Chair Solis has championed affordable housing, healthcare access, environmental justice, homelessness solutions, and economic opportunity for communities across Los Angeles County.



Mark Pestrella is the Director of Los Angeles County Public Works, the nation's largest municipal public works agency, with a focus on sustainable infrastructure and equitable service delivery.

Public Works' diverse operations encompass Water Resources, Transportation, Environmental Services, Construction Management, and Municipal Services. With an annual budget of \$4.5 billion, a Capital Project Program exceeding \$4.1 billion, and a workforce of more than 3,800 employees, the agency provides vital public infrastructure and civic services to more than 10 million people across a vast 4,000-square-mile service area.

Guided by a vision to be the most trusted public agency and a mission to build modern infrastructure that uplifts all communities, Public Works prioritizes safety, cultural awareness, human health, transparency, inclusivity, and innovation. Under Mr. Pestrella's leadership, Public Works has spearheaded numerous initiatives to enhance the region's infrastructure and foster collaboration. Notable examples include the voter-approved Safe, Clean Water Program, the regional adoption of the Los Angeles County Water Plan, and the convening of Infrastructure LA. This focus on innovation ensures that the diverse needs of the community are met with efficiency, equity, and excellence.

A native of Southern California, Mr. Pestrella attended California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. He is a 39-year veteran of Public Works and a licensed professional engineer. In addition to his role at Public Works, Mr. Pestrella serves on the board of directors of the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure and the Council for Watershed Health. He is the Chair of the American Society of Civil Engineers-Industry Leaders Council and a past president of the National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies.

MORNING PROGRAM KEYNOTE SPEAKER - GINA ROLLO WHITE

MAIN BALLROOM

STRESS ISN'T THE ENEMY - UNMANAGED STRESS IS



We hear a lot about why we're overwhelmed, burned out, and stressed. The reality is, stress is part of everything we do. Interestingly, stress isn't always a problem - it can get us out of bed in the morning, help us finish a time-sensitive project, and even push us through discomfort.

The key is learning to recognize the difference between helpful and unhelpful stress, especially in direct moments of chaos when regulation matters most, and knowing what strategies to use in response. Present moment awareness gives you agency, keeping you clear, focused, and effective. This talk breaks down the stress response system and how to recognize stress as it happens.

During the talk we will practice - real time - simple mindfulness interventions designed to plant a seed for developing a practical, personal way to reset and stay balanced under pressure. Because stress isn't the problem, unidentified and untrained stress is.

SPEAKER BIO

Gina Rollo White is the founder and CEO of Mindful Junkie, a not-for-profit organization focused on first responder & military stress and trauma. Gina has over 20 years of experience as a mind-body teacher, educator, and author. Gina holds a Master's degree in Mindfulness Studies from Lesley University. Her graduate thesis, Mindfulness and Law Enforcement: An Effective Approach to Implementing Mindfulness for First Responders, laid the foundation for her work with trauma-sensitive populations.

Over the past decade, Gina has developed and delivered trauma-aware mindfulness and stress reduction programs tailored for law enforcement, fire services, medical professionals, military personnel, and other high-stress professions. She has trained hundreds of departments nationwide and is a nationally recognized keynote speaker, presenting at conferences across the U.S. on resilience, performance under pressure, and trauma recovery. Gina is the author of Tactical Brain Training: A Guide to Stress and Trauma Management for First Responders and Those Who Support Them and the Justice Department-approved Criminal Justice Mindfulness Training Curriculum, Tactical Brain Training®: Mindfulness for First Responders. She also created and delivered the First Responder Mindfulness Journey on the Dawn DTx app and the Learn To De-Stress 15-day course with Mindful magazine.

MORNING PROGRAM BREAKOUT SESSION - CAROLINA CARO

THE ROSE ROOM (104 - 105)

UNLEARNING FOR IMPACT: DOING LESS OF WHAT NO LONGER WORKS



Most professional development has been built on a model of addition, inviting leaders to learn more, do more, and become more. While the intention is positive, today this approach often leads to overload or even burnout.

When leaders grow by accumulating more answers, more control, and more responsibility for holding everything together, the experience can become overwhelming during times of change and uncertainty. And yet letting go of these behaviors can be difficult because they are often the very things that earned promotions, built credibility, and created career stability.

At the next level, however, the same strengths that once created success can begin to limit what is possible in a landscape that is moving quickly and demanding greater agility, adaptability, and innovation. This session introduces a counterintuitive approach. The next level of leadership is often reached through subtraction, by letting go of the identity patterns that shaped how leaders believe they are supposed to lead. Carolina introduces the POCA® Model for Unlearning, giving participants a practical way to recognize the outdated patterns influencing their leadership so they can shift them in real time.

Each identity shift is a deliberate act of letting go that creates space for new ways of thinking, deciding, and leading in complexity. These shifts start with the individual and ripple outward, strengthening team performance and organizational agility along the way.

SPEAKER BIO

Her signature approach, The Unlearning Advantage®, helps leaders and organizations let go of the patterns that limit performance, erode culture, and prevent lasting change. Her work guides leaders and teams to unlearn the patterns that shape how they show up. Change sticks because it starts at the root. A former HIV research scientist who held leadership roles at Merck and Pfizer before training as an actor at the Neighborhood Playhouse in New York, Carolina has lived the unlearning she asks of leaders. She set aside a known identity to discover what was possible on the other side.

She is the Founder and CEO of Conscious Leadership Partners, where she leads a team of coaches and facilitators delivering leadership academies, workshops, retreats, and executive and team coaching. Carolina has worked with leaders at NASA, the FBI, Warner Bros., Kaiser Permanente, and McDonald's. She holds a Master of Science and a Master of Business Administration, is a Certified Speaking Professional (CSP®) conferred by the National Speakers Association, and is a Professional Certified Coach (PCC) with the International Coaching Federation.

MORNING PROGRAM BREAKOUT SESSION - KRISTY LASCHOB

THE VISTA ROOM (107)

NOTHING TO HIDE: FINDING THE FREEDOM TO BE FULLY YOURSELF



What if the things we work hardest to hide are the very things keeping us from feeling truly free?

In this powerful and interactive session, Kristy Laschober explores the hidden weight we carry, the parts of our stories, struggles, fears, and realities we believe we have to manage alone. Through personal storytelling, reflection, and meaningful audience connection, Kristy challenges the belief that strength means having it all together.

Participants will discover that freedom doesn't require telling everyone everything. It begins when we stop

editing our reality, allow ourselves to be fully seen, and realize one of the most powerful truths of all: it's not just me.

Each identity shift is a deliberate act of letting go that creates space for new ways of thinking, deciding, and leading in complexity. These shifts start with the individual and ripple outward, strengthening team performance and organizational agility along the way.

SPEAKER BIO

Kristy Laschober is a keynote speaker, bestselling author, and founder of The Freedom Exchange Project. She helps women stop hiding, embrace their worth, and step boldly into the next chapter of their lives. Kristy's journey is one of extraordinary resilience and reinvention. Born with a rare congenital condition, she has endured more than 40 surgeries throughout her life. She also faced incarceration, an experience that became the catalyst for profound personal transformation. Rather than allowing her circumstances to define her, Kristy chose to rebuild her life from the inside out.

After her release, she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Innovation and Leadership, graduating summa cum laude, and went on to become an author, advocate, and speaker dedicated to helping others discover possibility beyond their past.

Today, Kristy inspires audiences with her message that every part of our story matters. Through honesty, humor, and practical wisdom, she helps women move beyond self-doubt, perfectionism, and fear so they can live with greater confidence, authenticity, and purpose. Kristy is the bestselling author of *Perfectly Flawed: Uncovering Your Greatest Purpose* and believes that our greatest freedom begins when we stop hiding and fully embrace who we are.

MORNING PROGRAM BREAKOUT SESSION - MELISSA FORZIAT

THE ORANGE GROVE ROOM (106)

TAKE THE DOUGHNUT: HOW TO GO AFTER WHAT YOU WANT



Have you missed an opportunity in life, because you didn't go for it? Are you missing one right now? Whatever it is you want, you are more likely to get it if you do something about it. You can design the life you desire, and it all starts with going after what you want – not sitting back and letting it pass you by!

Together, let's have some fun as we take action to make our dreams happen. Melissa combines personal stories, live polls, games, and giveaways to inspire you to #TakeTheDoughnut and go after what you want.

Takeaways:

- Identify goals and who can help you achieve them
- Recognize action-stopping thoughts
- Build confidence to ask for what you want
- Empower yourself with tools for overcoming impostor syndrome

SPEAKER BIO

Melissa Forziat is a professional speaker, YouTube host, and a former competitive gymnast who parlayed her experience as an athlete into Olympic-level opportunities in her career. And it all started with a doughnut.

Her career began with dream jobs at the Torino and Vancouver Olympic Winter Games, the New Zealand Rugby World Cup, and customizing a position for herself with the US Olympic Committee in Colorado Springs.

In 2012, Melissa accidentally began her own business. One of her self-proclaimed biggest accomplishments was returning to New Zealand – where she used to live – as a professional speaker to do her first international talk for the Bed & Breakfast Association New Zealand.

MORNING PROGRAM BREAKOUT SESSION - KIM FULLER

THE ARROYO ROOM (101 - 102)

EVERY ROOM IS A LEADERSHIP ROOM: COMMUNICATION SKILLS THAT WORK EVERYWHERE



Leadership doesn't end when you leave the office, it shows up at the dinner table, in a hard conversation with a friend, and in the moments your community needs you to speak up.

In this interactive session, licensed therapist and resilience strategist Kim Fuller shares practical, tangible communication skills women can use everywhere leadership actually happens; at home, with family, among friends, and within their communities.

Attendees will learn how to get clear on what they want to convey before they speak, stay centered and grounded when conversations turn emotionally heavy, and create the conditions for successful, connected exchanges, even in the hardest moments. Rooted in a framework of structured compassion, this session equips leaders with skills that travel far beyond the boardroom.

SPEAKER BIO

Kim Fuller, LMFT, is a licensed marriage and family therapist, entrepreneur, and resilience strategist with over 25 years of experience supporting children, teens, and families through anxiety, trauma, and emotional overwhelm.

A former Senior Director of Outpatient Services, Kim traded institutional leadership for purpose-driven entrepreneurship, founding Fuller Life Concepts Inc. in 2011 — a multilingual group practice serving children and teens in English, Arabic, and Tagalog through accessible, culturally responsive care. Drawing on her own experience becoming a solo parent and widow in 2010, Kim also created Worthy Widows, a coaching program supporting widowed parents so they don't have to wait as long as she did to feel seen and start truly living again.

Beyond the clinical, Kim is an athlete and community builder who believes healing happens in motion — whether crossing a finish line or sharing a meal over tea. Through her practice, workshops, and trainings for parents, children, and communities, she helps families move from overwhelm to confidence and connection.

LUNCH PROGRAM KEYNOTE SPEAKER - DR. ARADHNA TRIPATI

MAIN BALLROOM

LEADING CHANGE:
WOMEN, INNOVATION, AND IMPACT



Dr. Aradhna Tripathi will explore how women can use their expertise, lived experiences, and leadership to challenge traditional systems and create meaningful change.

Drawing from her work in climate science, higher education, and STEM transformation, she will share how expanding access, fostering belonging, and creating opportunities for others can reshape institutions and strengthen communities.

Her session will highlight the power of mentorship, innovation, and community-centered leadership, and how women can use their influence to open doors, inspire the next generation, and build more inclusive pathways for future changemakers.

SPEAKER BIO

Dr. Aradhna Tripathi is a climate scientist and higher education leader who is a professor at UCLA. She is the founding director of the UCLA Center for Developing Leadership in Science, the Consortium for Developing Leadership in Science, and co-founder with biologist and health scientist Robert Eagle of the Climate and Community Futures Lab.

This body of work is recognized nationally as a model for STEM transformation and puts educational theory into practice within an innovative framework that cultivates community and supports access, belonging, and equal opportunity. The center has supported more than 600 early career fellows, community fellows, and faculty fellows. Aradhna has personally advised, mentored, and trained over 130 postdoctoral fellows, graduate students, undergraduates, and high school teachers and students.

She received her B.S. in Geological Sciences from California State University, Los Angeles,, her Ph.D. in Earth Sciences from the University of California, Santa Cruz, was a research fellow at the University of Cambridge, and a research scientist at Caltech, prior to joining the faculty at UCLA in 2009.

AFTERNOON PROGRAM BREAKOUT SESSION - SABINE GEDEON

THE ARROYO ROOM (101 - 102)

RESILIENT BY DESIGN: LEADING WITH RESILIENCE IN TIMES OF CHANGE AND UNCERTAINTY



Most leadership frameworks treat resilience as endurance, a matter of staying productive no matter what. But real resilience is about capacity. The ability to stay rooted in yourself while leading through volatility, uncertainty, and pressure.

This session is designed for leaders navigating nonstop demands, changing priorities, and the emotional weight of holding space for others.

Key Takeaways:

- Insight into the emotional phases people move through during organizational transitions and how to support them effectively
- Practical ways to support employees through uncertainty while managing your own response to the transition
- Leadership practices that help teams stay connected, grounded, and focused during periods of ambiguity and change

SPEAKER BIO

Sabine Gedeon is a transformational speaker and executive advisor with 20 years of experience supporting leaders, founders, and professionals through growth and change.

She helps organizations rethink how growth happens through strategic relationships, positioning, and decision-making. Sabine holds a Master's in Management & Organizational Leadership, is an ICF PCC, and is the author of *Transformed: The Journey to Becoming*.

AFTERNOON PROGRAM

BREAKOUT SESSION - FELICIA "ONYI" RICHARDS

THE VISTA ROOM (107)

A MOMENT OF HEALING



A Moment of Healing for Women Leaders of LA is a Sound Immersion experience offered through the ONYI LOVE HEAL the HEALERS Initiative, which is committed to nourishing those who lead, serve, and pour into the collective.

Led by Felicia "Onyi" Richards, this session invites attendees into a sacred pause: a space of grounding, energetic clearing, and restoration through the healing frequencies of crystal and metal singing bowls, voice, breath, mindful awareness, connection, and presence.

Designed to honor the full humanity of the women in the room—not just their professional production and excellence—this experience offers a moment of holding, release, and renewal. All conference attendees are welcome.

SPEAKER BIO

Felicia "Onyi" Richards is a multimodal healer, multidisciplinary creative artist, initiated priestess, and educator who weaves ancestral wisdom, energy work, and the expressive arts to support individual and collective transformation.

Through her company ONYI LOVE, she offers immersive healing experiences, spiritual consultation, and creative mentorship rooted in ritual, sound, and storytelling. In 2022 she launched HEAL the HEALERS, an initiative focused on healers, leaders, artists, and changemakers, ensuring that those who hold space for others are resourced, restored, and realigned.

Onyi is an Iya Ọsun and Ọbatala, initiated within the Adesanya Awoyade lineage of Ode Remo, Nigeria, and a devoted practitioner of Ifá—the traditional spiritual system of the Yorùbá people. A member of the LA-based Ifá community Ile Orunmila Afedefeyo, her spiritual practice lies at the core of her work. Her devotion to sound as medicine, ritual technology, and the transformative power of Orí Work are central to her healing arts practice.

With a background in corporate leadership and holistic consulting, Onyi brings a grounded and integrative approach to every space she enters. Her mission is to guide others back to their joy, clarity, peace, and authentic power, and she does so through presence, purpose, and a deep reverence for the sacred.

AFTERNOON PROGRAM BREAKOUT SESSION - JOYCE CHIAO

THE ROSE ROOM (104 - 105)

LEADING WITH INTENTION: IMAGINING AND BUILDING EQUITABLE WORLDS



Most of us can feel the distance between the world we have and the world we want. Fewer of us have had the space to really sit with what that world could look like, and even fewer have walked away from that reflection with something concrete to do about it.

This session creates that space. We will start by imagining what equity looks like in our workplaces, organizations, and communities. We will look to history as proof that worlds have been remade before, explore what made that possible, and leverage a framework for identifying how you can help move equity forward from wherever you sit, in service of a world where all of us can do our best work, live fuller lives, and go beyond surviving to thriving.

SPEAKER BIO

Joyce Chiao is the founder and CEO of Abundance, where she works at the intersection of organizational strategy and DEI as a consultant, facilitator, speaker, and writer.

Her work focuses on partnering with organizations to build spaces and strategies in which everyone can thrive and teams can deliver their greatest impact in service of an equitable, just world. Her approach connects personal experience, collective identity, and systemic forces to build strategies that are concrete, contextualized, and built to last. Joyce has partnered with organizations across sectors, industries, and scales, from local community nonprofits to public agencies to global tech giants. Her work and writings have appeared on HuffPost, EdPost, and other platforms.

Joyce calls Southern California her home, where she is often on a quest to find the best Taiwanese-style rice noodles. Her love language is sharing food in community – boba, hot pot, dim sum, the list is extensive. She will also belt karaoke any chance she gets.

AFTERNOON PROGRAM BREAKOUT SESSION - KIM MENINGER

THE ORANGE GROVE ROOM (106)

MASTER THE MOMENT: BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN REACTIVITY & INTENTIONAL LEADERSHIP



Leaders today are navigating constant change, rising expectations and relentless pressure. In these moments, the brain often shifts into survival mode, making it harder to communicate effectively, build trust and make sound decisions.

In this session, leadership coach and consultant Kim Meninger introduces the LEADS framework, a practical approach that helps leaders recognize their triggers, manage their reactions and respond with greater intentionality.

Participants will leave with actionable strategies to lead more effectively when the stakes are highest.

SPEAKER BIO

Kim Meninger is a leadership coach, consultant and speaker who helps leaders lead with greater confidence and steadiness under pressure. Kim focuses on the internal dynamics that shape how people show up at work, including emotional regulation, self-trust and sustainable performance.

She supports leaders in moving beyond reactivity so they can act with intentionality and align with their values. Kim partners with organizations through keynotes, interactive workshops and coaching programs that support personal growth while strengthening team effectiveness and psychological safety. Her approach is practical, research-informed and deeply human, helping people lead in ways that feel both effective and authentic.

Kim previously held leadership positions managing strategic relationships at EMC and Monster. She holds a BA in psychology and an MBA from Boston College. She is also an ICF Professional Certified Coach with certifications in confidence, career, executive and leadership development coaching. Kim writes weekly for Forbes, hosts the Impostor Syndrome Files podcast and leads a weekly Leading Humans discussion forum, which is free and open to all.

AFTERNOON PROGRAM KEYNOTE SPEAKER - SHEREEN THOR

MAIN BALLROOM

REVOLUTIONARY WOMAN: HOW TO LEAD IN A WORLD THAT'S SET UP FOR YOU TO FOLLOW



The women in your audience look like they have it together. Most of them are quietly running on empty — not because they're failing, but because they've spent years giving everything and asking for very little in return. The research reflects what many women already feel. 59% of women report burnout — nearly 13 points higher than men. Women pursue new opportunities only when they meet 100% of the qualifications, while men go for it at 60%. And even among women who are the primary earner, only 35% feel appreciated for the role. This is not a confidence problem. It is a conditioning problem.

In *Revolutionary Woman*, Shereen Thor, bestselling author, executive coach, and international keynote speaker — draws on her book, behavioral science, and over twenty years of coaching high-achieving women to name what her audiences are living but rarely say out loud, and give them a framework to begin choosing differently.

This keynote is for organizations ready to invest in the women who are holding everything together — and give them something to hold onto for themselves.

SPEAKER BIO

Shereen Thor is a comedian-turned-executive coach and keynote speaker who helps leaders build high-performing cultures through courage, emotional intelligence, and authenticity. She has shared the stage with icons such as Serena Williams, Prince Harry, and Les Brown, and is the bestselling author of *Revolutionary Woman*, a book empowering women leaders to redefine power and lead with alignment.

Shereen's work has been featured in *Forbes*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *TEDx*, *Insider*, and major media outlets nationwide. Known for blending behavioral science with bold storytelling and humor, she equips leaders with practical tools to improve performance, strengthen culture, and lead with impact.

When she's not speaking, Shereen can be found outdoors with her family or intentionally unplugging to practice what she teaches. To learn more go to shereenthor.com

SOCIAL MEDIA

Dr. Aradhna Tripathi

<https://tripati-lab.netlify.app/>

Carolina Caro

[Linkedin.com/in/carolinacar/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/carolinacar/)

Felicia "Onyi" Richards

Instagram - @onyi.love

Gina Rollo White

Instagram - @mindfuljunkie

Joyce Chiao

[Linkedin.com/in/joycechiao](https://www.linkedin.com/in/joycechiao)

Kim Fuller

Instagram - @fullerlifestyle

Kim Meninger

[Linkedin.com/in/KimMeninger](https://www.linkedin.com/in/KimMeninger)

Kristy Laschober

Instagram - @kristylaschober

Melissa Forziat

Instagram - @melissaforz

LinkedIn - @melissa-forziat

Sabine Gedeon

Instagram - @sabinegedeon

Shereen Thor

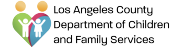
Instagram - @shereenthor



CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Los Angeles County extends its heartfelt appreciation to the members of the 2026 Los Angeles County Women's Leadership Conference Committee for your leadership and dedication. Thank you for bringing Innovate, Influence, Inspire to life and helping create an unforgettable conference experience.

- Beverly Jones
- Calvin Tran
- Carla Canales
- Christina Michii-Raggio
- Dara Smith
- Eleni Pappas
- Emily Bradford
- Evelyn Chang
- Francy Perez
- Heidi Oliva
- Jennifer Leyva
- Jenelle King
- Kara Plourde
- Karin Burger
- Karissa Reynoso
- Kawsar Vazifdar
- Kristina Lee
- Lance Cervantes
- Laura Guillermo
- Laura Rockett
- Lina Bhambhani
- Marianne Yamato
- Nam Doan
- Nicole White-Gamble
- Octavia Ford
- Pamela Loi
- Precious Crosby
- Rebecca Kauma
- Susan Curry
- Tamara Gayden
- Tamika Gray-Bunch
- Toral Malik
- Tranette Sanders
- Tyra Lindsay





2026 COVER ARTIST

Emma Gomez

@emmus.art

Emma Gomez is a high school junior with a passion for STEAM and hope to pursue a career as either a civil engineer or game developer. She is a Girl Scout, a member of her high school golf team, and an active volunteer in her community.

Outside of school, Emma enjoys spending time with her friends, exploring nature, fishing, listening to music, and camping. She has a love for art, especially creating drawings filled with bright, vibrant colors. Through art, Emma hopes to continue developing her creativity and skills while inspiring and influencing others.

Emma's artwork was inspired by the theme of this year's conference, "Innovate, Influence, Inspire". She believes it is important for women to support each other, use their voices, and inspire positive change in their community.

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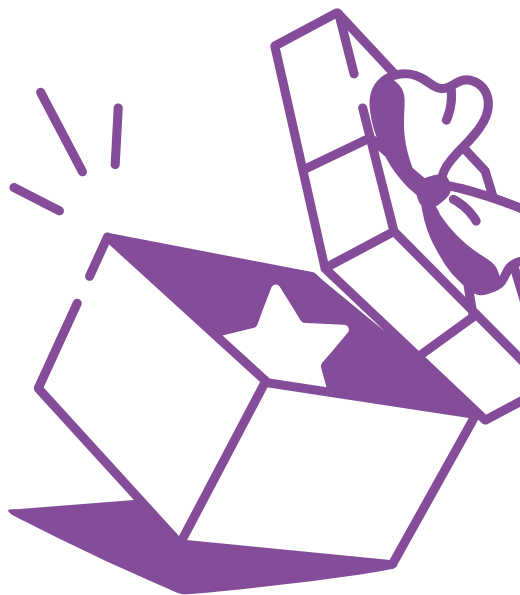


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- Jazmin Aragon
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- Lin Chau

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- Anjali Ray

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- Jeremy Mack
- Leon Nyarecha
- Matthew Oquendo
- Marvin Machon
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NOTES

[illegible]

NOTES

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal blue lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a guide for writing. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

NOTES

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