



St. Louis

SEPTEMBER 12-14, 2019

MINI RETREAT

THE RESURGENCE OF ST. LOUIS
THROUGH COLLABORATION,
INNOVATION, & CREATIVITY





2019 Belizean Grove Retreat



St. Louis, MO

Co-Founder and CEO: **Susan Stautberg** (Grover)

Co-Founder: **Edie Weiner** (Grover)

St. Louis Committee Chair: **Laura Herring** (Grover)

St. Louis Committee: **Susan Block** (Grover), **Beth Chesterton** (Tara), **Sharon Fiehler** (Grover), **Lauren Herring** (Tara), and **Kitty Ratcliffe** (Grover)

Non-Grove Committee Members: **Barbara Archer**, Managing Director, Partner, HighTower St. Louis Wealth Advisors
Wendy Henry, Managing Partner, BKD
Cabanne Howard, CEO, Kaleidoscope Management Group
Maureen Moore, Host of “Cocktails and Conversation,” 590AM The Fan, and Founder of Saddleback Chocolates
Lisa Nichols, CEO, Technology Partners
Susan Sherman, Chair Emeritus, Saint Louis Fashion Fund; Co-Founder, MERCH

Staff: **Leslie Dube** (561) 290-1476 or (561) 631-3743
leslie@belizeangrove.org;
Ellen Dube (561) 344-8304
ellen@belizeangrove.org

Sponsors: **BJC Healthcare**
Explore St. Louis
Enterprise Holdings
ICON Information Consultants
IMPACT Group
Kizmet Chocolates
Saddleback Chocolates
P. Woodmore Music
Susan Block
Laura Herring



Wednesday, September 11



Unofficial Pre-party at the residences of Laura Herring (Grover) and Susan Block (Grover), located in the historic residences at the Chase Park Plaza. This regal building is home to a celebrated history dating back to 1922. It has hosted celebrities and luminaries from Frank Sinatra to Jimmy Carter, and now, the Belizean Grove!

The Residences at the Chase

232 N. Kingshighway

St. Louis, MO 63141

*(Central West End of St. Louis,
Enter on Maryland Ave.,
Check in at Concierge Desk)*

Units #1701 & #1702

Susan Block and Laura Herring Residences

It's a 10 minute Lyft ride from the Hilton. Lyft codes below:

BELIZEANSTL19 - Existing Users

20% off 2 rides up to \$5.00 per ride

BELIZEANSTL19NEW - New Users

\$10 off your first ride

Heavy hors d'oeuvres and drinks will be served from 6:30-10:00 PM.

Fee: \$20.00

***RSVP Required, please contact Leslie Dube.
Hosted by Laura Herring and Susan Block***



Thursday, September 12



ARRIVAL IN ST. LOUIS

Pre-Retreat Options:

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

St. Louis Zoo Tour

10:45 AM – 2:30 PM

Missouri Botanical Garden Tour

Or sightseeing and great meals on your own!

1:00 – 5:30 PM

Registration at **Hilton Ballpark**

Location: Arch View Ballroom, Hilton Ballpark

1:00 – 5:30 PM

Pop-up Shops

3:00 – 4:00 PM

Book Signing and Sales

5:30 - 6:40 PM

Cocktails & Appetizers

Location: Arch View Ballroom

5:35 – 5:45 PM

Welcome Remarks by **Laura Herring** (Grover)

5:45 – 5:55 PM

Welcome to St. Louis by **STL Mayor Lyda Krewson**

5:55 – 6:20 PM

Short History of St. Louis by **Dr. Blanche Touhill** &
History of the Arch by **Kitty Ratcliffe** (Grover)

6:40 PM

Walk to the **Gateway Arch Museum**

7:00 PM

Go through security

You must be wearing your name badge in order to enter the Arch. If you miss registration, name badges will be located at the Arch prior to entering security.

7:20 – 7:45 PM

Tour the **Gateway Arch Museum**



Thursday, September 12 (cont.)



7:45 – 8:45 PM	Dinner at the Gateway Arch Museum Dessert provided by Saddleback Chocolates
8:15 PM	Opening Remarks by Susan Stautberg (Grover)
8:45 – 9:30 PM	CONVERSATION WITH Jackie Joyner-Kersee, interviewed by Maureen Moore , Host of “Cocktails and Conversation,” 590AM The Fan, and Founder of Saddleback Chocolates <i>Questions will be submitted ahead of time, there will not be a set Q&A session from the audience</i>
9:30 PM	Closing remarks, finish touring the museum, then short walk back to hotel
10:30 PM	ALL GUESTS MUST BE OUT OF THE MUSEUM



Friday, September 13



**BREAKFAST AND ALL MORNING PANELS WILL BE HELD
IN THE ARCH VIEW BALLROOM**

7:00 – 8:00 AM	Breakfast
8:00 – 8:30 AM	Updates on Upcoming Retreats <i>20th Anniversary Annual Retreat in Puerto Rico in January 2020, updates on the 20th Anniversary Celebrations (including class reunions and anniversary jewelry), and Argentina 2021</i>
8:30 – 9:25 AM	OPENING PANEL: Forward Through Ferguson MODERATOR: Adrienne Davis , Vice Provost, William M. Van Cleve Professor of Law & Director, Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity & Equity, Washington University in St. Louis
	PANELISTS: Theresa Carrington , Founder/CEO Ten by Three Bethany Johnson-Javois , CEO, St. Louis Integrated Health Network, Formerly the Managing Director for the Ferguson Commission Blake A. Strode , Executive Director, ArchCity Defenders
9:25 – 9:40 AM	Break
9:40 – 10:35 AM	“Lessons from the Battlefield,” a CONVERSATION WITH Two Female St. Louis Chairmen MODERATOR: Lauren Herring (Tara) , CEO, IMPACT Group



Friday, September 13 (cont.)



Kathy Mazzarella, Chairman, President and CEO, Graybar Electric Co.

Elizabeth Zucker, YPO International Chairman 2019 -2020; Managing Partner, Interior Investments of St. Louis, LLC

10:35 – 10:50 AM Snack Break

10:50 – 11:40 AM **PANEL: Innovations in Virtual Medicine**

MODERATOR: Dr. Mary “Peggy” Crow (Grover), Physician-in-Chief, Hospital for Special Surgery; Professor of Medicine, Weill Cornell Medical College

PANELISTS: Vijay Chauhan, GlobalSTL Lead at BioS

Dr. Mary Jo Gorman, Board of Directors, Curavi Health

Dr. Gavin Helton, President-Clinical Integration, Mercy Virtual

Dr. Thomas Maddox, Executive Director, Healthcare Innovation Lab at BJC HealthCare and the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis

11:40 – 11:50 AM Short Break

11:50 – 12:40 PM **PANEL: Improving the World Through Conservation**

MODERATOR: Toni Kutchan, PhD, VP Research, Danforth Plant Science Center



Friday, September 13 (cont.)



PANELISTS: Jeffrey P. Bonner, PhD, Dana Brown

President & CEO, Saint Louis Zoo

Dr. Peter Wyse Jackson, President, Missouri Botanical Gardens

Dr. Allison Miller, Member and Principal Investigator, Danforth Plant Science Center

12:40 PM Remarks and AFM Update by **Philanthropy Committee**

12:50 PM Walk to Lunch
Location: Ballpark Conference Center, Hilton Ballpark (Ballpark Conference Center is located one floor directly below the Arch View Ballroom)

12:50 – 2:00 PM **Table Topic Lunch**

2:00 PM Walk back to **Arch View Ballroom**, next panel will begin promptly at 2:10 PM

2:10 – 3:05 PM **PANEL: Breakthroughs in Cancer Treatment and Post-Partum Depression**

PANELISTS: Dr. Samuel Achilefu, Professor, Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis; Director, Optical Radiology Laboratory

Dr. Charles Zorumski, Head of the Department of Psychiatry at Washington University School of Medicine, Director of the Taylor Family Institute, and Chair of the Center for Brain Research in Mood Disorders.

3:05 – 3:15 PM Break



Friday, September 13 (cont.)



3:15 – 3:20 PM Remarks by **San Antonio Planning Committee**

3:20 – 4:00 PM **PANEL: Fashion and Art Re'design'ing St. Louis**

MODERATOR: Susan Block (Grover), Founder, The Designing Block

PANELISTS: Susan Barrett, President, Barrett Barrera Projects

Susan Sherman, Chair Emeritus, Saint Louis Fashion Fund; Co-Founder, MERCH

4:00 PM Free Time

5:30 PM Gather in **Lobby** to board buses

6:00 PM BUSES DEPART FOR DINNER

All buses Leave promptly at the same time! If you miss the bus, the Museum is a short Lyft ride away.

Travel to Forest Park with a brief tour of the area. A tour guide on the bus will point out all the must see attractions of the park: The Zoo, The Art Museum, the Jewel Box, and The Muny theater (largest outdoor theater in the country). The tour guide will also talk about the 1904 World's Fair Spanish Pavilion. Come back on Saturday and Sunday with a small group by Lyft to explore the area!



Friday, September 13 (cont.)



6:45 PM

Arrive at **Missouri History Museum**

Welcome by P. Woodmore Singers

Grace: Solo by Phil Woodmore, Composer of Antigone in Ferguson, a compelling theater and social justice project, that garnered headlines, and an international following.

"Make Them Hear You" from "Ragtime"

6:45 - 7:30 PM

Enjoy wine and appetizers after you tour the museum

7:30 PM

Seated for dinner and **Closing Remarks by Susan Stautberg** (Grover)

7:45 - 9:30 PM

Dinner and dancing at the **Missouri History Museum**

9:30 PM

FIRST MINI BUS DEPARTS FOR HOTEL

10:00 PM

SECOND BUS DEPARTS FOR HOTEL

10:30 PM

FINAL BUS DEPARTS FOR HOTEL



Saturday, September 14



OFFICIAL RETREAT CLOSING

8:00 – 9:00 AM

Breakfast Buffet

Location: Arch View Ballroom

Post-Retreat Options:

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM Architectural St. Louis Tour

10:00 AM – 5:00 PM Winery Tour

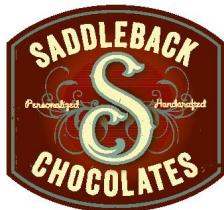


BJC HealthCare

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INFORMATION CONSULTANTS



SUSAN BLOCK

LAURA HERRING





Speaker Bios



LAURA HERRING

A pioneer in career/life transition support, psychologist Laura Herring is Founder and Chairwoman of IMPACT Group, a global, WBE certified career development firm that provides high touch solutions in global mobility, leadership development and career transition that drive individual and organizational performance.

Celebrating 28 years this year, IMPACT Group is a leader in the human resource consulting space with solutions delivered by dedicated, expert career consultants paired with next generation technology.

Under Laura's leadership, IMPACT Group received numerous awards including the Inc. 500 Fastest Growing Companies List, the Golden Plate Award by the Old Newsboys Day organization, the distinguished Jeffrey Butland Family-Owned Small Business Award, "Top 500 Woman-Owned Business" awarded by DiversityBusiness.com and the St. Louis' Top 50 Award by the Regional Chamber & Growth Association.

Past individual honors for Laura includes the Top Women Entrepreneurs in St. Louis for multiple years, The Alliance of Women's Organizations' 1993 "Woman of Achievement" award, and the "Top 50 Who's Who in St. Louis Business" in 1994. She was also a recipient of NAWBO's Distinguished Woman Entrepreneur of the Year Award and the St. Louis Business Journal's 25 Most Influential Business Women award in 2004.

She's been featured in articles in The Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, Boston Globe, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, St. Louis Business Journal, Chicago Tribune, USA TODAY, Newsweek, Fortune, Mobility Magazine and HR Executive.

Laura coaches CEOs on growing their companies and speaks to business and university groups about igniting their entrepreneurial passion for business. In 2015, she authored the number one Amazon international bestseller on entrepreneurship: "No Fear Allowed, A Story of Guts, Perseverance & Making an Impact."



Speaker Bios



MAYOR LYDA KREWSON

In April 2017, Lyda Krewson won a historic election to become the first woman to serve as mayor of St. Louis. Prior to the election, Krewson served as 28th Ward Alderwoman. She is also a CPA and served as the CFO for an international design firm until her election as Mayor in 2017.

As Mayor, Krewson has focused intently on public safety, naming Judge Jimmie Edwards as Director of Public Safety and John Hayden as Chief of Police. She also led the effort to pass Proposition P, a half cent sales tax to provide salary and benefit increases for police and firefighters, and a million each for summer jobs, recreation for kids, mental health, and demolition. Krewson is also focused on reducing vacant buildings, cleaning up St. Louis, increasing economic and workforce development, and providing good service to all St. Louis residents, businesses and visitors.

Krewson is known for her civility, determination and fairness in addressing issues.

During her tenure as 28th Ward Alderwoman, Krewson unapologetically took on tough and controversial issues including passing the comprehensive smoking ban, fighting for common sense gun regulation, leading the effort to reduce the Board of Aldermen from 28 to 14, and passing the city's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program. Krewson worked closely with Forest Park Forever to renovate Forest Park, and with developers to bring responsible development to the Central West End, Skinker DeBaliviere, and the Loop. She is also known for making neighborhoods more accessible for walkers and bike riders, planting over 1,500 trees, sponsoring the "doggie dining" bill, and spearheading the Sunflower + Program.

After graduating with an education degree from Truman State University, Krewson moved to St. Louis where she earned her accounting degree from the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Later she worked for Deloitte for 7 years.

In 1998, she married Mike Owens. Today, they enjoy neighborhood walks, gardening, and occasional hikes in the mountains.



Speaker Bios



DR. BLANCHE TOUHILL

Blanche M. Touhill is Chancellor Emeritus and Professor Emeritus of History and Education at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. With nearly 17,000 students, UMSL is the third largest university in Missouri and the only public research university in the St. Louis metropolitan region.

Touhill served as chancellor at UMSL for more than 12 years. She was named interim chancellor in 1990 and appointed chancellor in April 1991. She retired on Dec. 31, 2002.

During her tenure as chancellor, UMSL added 30 academic programs, 32 endowed professors, 138 acres and several new buildings, including a \$10 million student-housing complex, \$32 million student center and \$52 million performing arts center that bears her name.

Touhill's commitment to collaboration and diversity earned her recognition from the Urban League, the Ethical Society, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. State Celebrations Commission and the Conference of Christians and Jews. In 1997, Touhill became the first women to receive the St. Louis Citizen of the Year Award.

Born in St. Louis in July 1931, Touhill began her career in education at Queens College, City University of New York. She joined UMSL as an assistant professor in 1965 and became a full professor in 1983.

In addition to her teaching duties, Touhill assumed administrative duties as associate dean of faculties in 1974 and associate vice chancellor for academic affairs two years later. She was named vice chancellor for academic affairs in 1987 and served in that role until moving to the Chancellor's Office.

Touhill holds bachelor's and doctoral degrees in history and a master's degree in geography -- all from Saint Louis University. Her areas of expertise include 19th century Irish and Australian history and social studies education. She has published four books, including *The Emerging University: The University of Missouri-St. Louis, 1963-1983*, and numerous other articles and writings.



Speaker Bios



KITTY RATCLIFFE (GROVER)

Kathleen Ratcliffe is the president of Explore St. Louis, responsible for the sales and marketing of St. Louis as a destination for visitors and the operations of both the Convention Center and The Dome at America's Center. She is the only woman in the country running the operations of all three entities and has been doing so for more than a dozen years.

Kitty is a past international Chairwoman of Meeting Professionals International (MPI), the largest global association of meeting professionals, and is a recipient of their International Supplier of

the Year Award. She serves on the board of the Professional Convention Management Association and has co-chaired PCMA's annual convention, Convening Leaders, the annual gathering focused on education for the business events industry. She has received the Destinations International's Leadership in Environmentally Responsible Tourism award and in 2019 was inducted into their Hall of Fame for significant contributions to tourism and shaping the future of destination marketing.

In 2018 she received the Apex Award from Black Meetings & Tourism, and has been named as one of the Most Influential Businesswomen in St. Louis by the St. Louis Business Journal, as well as a Leader of Distinction by the YWCA of Metro St. Louis, a Regional Leadership Award from the St. Louis Community Empowerment Foundation and an Athena Award from the Hellenic Spirit Foundation.

Dedicated to growing and strengthening the economy of the St. Louis region through tourism development, she believes that St. Louis is a community on the rise.



Speaker Bios



JACKIE JOYNER-KERSEE

One of the most decorated female athletes of all-time.

Jackie dominated the track and field circuit for over 20 years and won three gold, one silver and two bronze medals spanning four Olympic Games during her illustrious career.

Jackie received the Jesse Owens Award in both 1986 and 1987. She still holds the world record in the heptathlon (7291 points) and is the American record holder in both the heptathlon and long jump (24-7). On December 3, 2004, she was inducted into the U.S. Track and Field Hall of Fame.

The inaugural recipient of the Humanitarian Athlete of the Year, Jackie is known worldwide for her interest in aiding others. She has helped to build the Jackie Joyner-Kersee Youth Center Foundation in her hometown of East St. Louis, Ill., that has raised more than \$12 million.

In 2007, along with several notable athletes, she founded Athletes for Hope, a charitable organization of professional athletes who get involved in charitable causes and inspire millions of non-athletes to volunteer and support their community.

In 2010, Jackie was honored with an NCAA Silver Anniversary Award given each year by the American National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) to recognize six distinguished former student-athletes on their 25th anniversary as college graduates. Most recently, Jackie was selected as the recipient of the 2011 Dick Enberg Award. The Award is presented annually to a person whose actions and commitment have furthered the meaning and reach of the Academic All-America® Teams Program and/or the student-athlete while promoting the values of education and academics.

Jackie received the Stan Musial Lifetime Achievement Award from the St. Louis Sports Commission in 2017. The Stan Musial Lifetime Achievement Award is the pinnacle honor bestowed at the Musial Awards and the highest award for sportsmanship. It recognizes iconic sports figures who exemplify sportsmanship and embody the class, dignity, generosity, excellence, civility and integrity synonymous with Stan The Man.



Speaker Bios



MAUREEN MOORE

Maureen Moore is the Founder and Queen of Saddleback LLC, offering hand-crafted Saddleback Chocolates, soaps and jams. In 2018 Moore also launched "Be Well Now" products featuring the new "Kizmet" Hemp CBD infused chocolates, Saddleback Suds, handmade soaps, "Kizmet Klenz", CBD infused soaps and "Not Your Nanna's Jams", CBD infused pepper jelly and breakfast jams.

Across the board...Saddleback offers premium distinctive hand-crafted chocolates that are personalized, tasteful and elegant. Saddleback LLC also offers unique gifts for discerning clients in the corporate arena as well as in many hotels, retail stores and boutiques...both nationally and internationally.

Additionally, Maureen hosts and produces "Cocktails and Conversation", chatting one hour each week with extraordinary women on 590 The Fan Radio. The crux of the show- Strong Women: May We Know Them, May We Be Them, May We Raise Them and May WE PRAISE THEM. Moore is also the President and CEO of Inspiring Success, as creator of the Leaders in Education program. Peabody Energy was the exclusive partner with Leaders serving as Peabody's flagship community relations outreach program in the United States.

Prior to joining Peabody Energy, Moore led the 84 Million dollar funding campaign for Chaifetz Arena at St. Louis University, served as the President and CEO of the Illinois Health and Sports Foundation, President of the National Congress of State Games and Founder of the State Games of America. She also served as the first female President and Vice President of the National Congress of State Games, Vice President of The Jackie Joyner-Kersee Foundation, Chairwoman of the Bob Emig Foundation and a board member of the Cardinal Glennon Hospital Foundation. Moore was named a 2016 "Woman of Distinction" of the Missouri Athletic Club. Maureen and her husband, Michael founded Saddleback Stables in 2001, a thoroughbred breeding and racing venture. They have two sons, Patrick and Kyle.



Speaker Bios



ADRIENNE DAVIS

Adrienne Davis holds appointments at Washington University in St. Louis as the William M. Van Cleve Professor of Law; Vice Provost; and the founding Director of the Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity & Equity, a new center that brings the research force of Washington University to study how race and ethnicity are integral to the most complex and challenging issues of our time.

Davis's academic teaching and research focus on what she calls "the law of daily life," including Property, Contracts, and Trusts & Estates. She also brings that lens to bear on the legal history of American slavery as well contemporary issues in gender and racial equality. Her work has been published in the Stanford Law Review, Columbia Law Review, and California Law Review, and she has been the recipient of a Bellagio Fellowship from the Rockefeller Foundation and a grant from the Eli Lilly Foundation to support a collaboration between Washington University's medical school and Meharry Medical College.

As Vice Provost, she works for the University's chief academic officer on a suite of initiatives to support faculty hiring, retention, and development, as well as designing infrastructure to support students. In fall 2017 Davis was recognized with a Washington University Founders Day Distinguished Faculty Award.

Outside of work, Davis is passionate about the arts and St. Louis and embraces opportunities to combine her two loves. Davis served for three years as the President of the Board of Trustees of the St. Louis Art Museum; currently, she is the Secretary to the Art Museum's Board of Commissioners. She is also a member of the boards of Opera Theatre St. Louis, Our Little Haven, December literary magazine, Fashion Fund St. Louis, and the St. Louis Visionary Awards. She served on the Board for Laumeier Sculpture Park for seven years and chaired their Executive Director search in 2017. In 2017 Davis was honored as a St. Louis Woman of Achievement for Arts Advocacy.



Speaker Bios



THERESA CARRINGTON

Growing up in poverty in the Midwest, Theresa drew upon her life experiences to innovative approaches to ending poverty. Fifteen years later, Theresa and her team have discovered a formula which sustainably ends poverty. This formula has been successfully replicated in 8 developing nations, reignited more than 65 local economies across three continents and positively impacted the lives of more than 8,000 people and 32,000 of their family members.

Theresa was inspired to start her organization after experiencing a life-altering crisis. Friends, family, and strangers showered her with cards and letters of support. Placing the cards in a basket, Theresa returned

to the basket daily reading the cards and letters, finding strength to face the next day. Calling it her “Blessing Basket” Theresa began speaking to women’s group about overcoming struggle, and as women wanted to purchase one of their own, The Blessing Basket Project® was born. The objective, help artisans sustainably exit extreme poverty.

Over the past 15 years, Theresa and her team discovered the tipping point from extreme poverty to prosperity came when an artisan sold ten products a month at Prosperity Wages for three years. In 2018 The Blessing Basket Project changed its name change to Ten by Three®, the formula Theresa and her team discovered which ends poverty.

In 2016 Ten by Three was one of only 10 Non-Profits in the world honored by the United Nations for the innovative way the organization brings cultures together through its Artisan&You® platform. Artisan&You is the world’s largest artisan engagement platform and allows consumers to connect with the artisan who made their products.

To date, the organization has created more than 300,000 human connection opportunities and thousands of letters have been exchanged between customers and artisans. Among her honors, in 2008 Theresa received the prestigious St. Louis Award. In 2013, she was named one of the St. Louis Business Journal’s Most Influential Business Women and YWCA Nonprofit Leader of Distinction. By 2015 Theresa was listed as 1 of 100 Most Influential women by Empowering a Billion Women By 2020.



Speaker Bios

**BETHANY JOHNSON-JAVOIS**

As CEO of the St. Louis Integrated Health Network (IHN), Ms. Johnson-Javois leads a \$2.5 million non-profit that serves the region's safety net health care providers and the local community to promote the mission of providing quality, affordable, accessible care to all residents of Metropolitan St. Louis, with an emphasis on the medically underserved. Her leadership in the healthcare sector has garnered notable recognition including being selected by Mental Health America of Eastern Missouri as a 2016 Silver Bell Award recipient for her outstanding community service, leadership, vision and values, and being selected as St. Louis Children's Hospital 2015 Community Advocate of the Year. She was also selected by the St. Louis Business Journal

2015 Class Diverse Business Leaders and received the Access to Equal Justice Award from the Washington University School of Law's Clinical Education Program. Under her leadership, the IHN was chosen as the St. Louis American's Advocacy Organization of the Year.

She possesses over 15 years of experience working and volunteering in the non-profit sector for organizations that positively impact the quality of life for disadvantaged populations. Her expertise lies in developing strategies to transform systems to be more responsive and equitable for the people for whom our public systems are accountable to serve. She currently serves on the board for Missouri Foundation for Health, chairs the board of Alive and Well Communities, LLC, and is former Trustee for the Deaconess Foundation and former member of the Executive Advisory Council for Missouri State University College of Business. As a licensed Evangelist Missionary in the Church of God in Christ, she holds numerous leadership roles and is a motivational speaker, trainer, and facilitator around spiritual development and leadership.

Notably, Ms. Johnson-Javois was named the Managing Director for the Ferguson Commission. The Ferguson Commission, an independent, volunteer group appointed by Missouri Governor Jay Nixon, was charged with addressing the underlying root causes that led to the unrest in the wake of Michael Brown's death. After a comprehensive study that included extensive community engagement, the Commission published an unflinching report of its findings and 189 calls to action that chart a new path toward healing and positive change for the residents of the St. Louis region.



Speaker Bios



BLAKE A. STRODE

Blake Strode is the Executive Director of ArchCity Defenders, a nonprofit civil rights law firm in St. Louis, Missouri providing holistic legal advocacy and combating the criminalization of poverty and state violence against poor people and people of color. Blake is a native of the St. Louis region and joined ArchCity as a Skadden Fellow and Staff Attorney following his graduation from Harvard Law School in 2015. Blake attended the University of Arkansas and majored in International Economics and Spanish. Blake helped to establish the Civil Rights Litigation unit at ArchCity, which has brought challenges to a variety of unlawful and predatory practices including debtors' prisons, police misconduct, and inhumane jail conditions, among others.

In the past few years, Blake and his colleagues have filed more than 50 civil rights cases in state and federal court, impacting upwards of 40,000 people in the St. Louis region. Blake also played a significant role in the class-action debtors' prison case against the City of Jennings, Missouri that reached final settlement in December 2016. The landmark case provides a blueprint for permanent legal reform in the region's courts and afforded monetary relief to hundreds of individuals who were jailed because of their inability to pay court debts.

Blake has spoken at conferences and panels throughout the country and recently authored multiple columns and essays for national publications on issues of race, policing, and criminal justice, including coauthoring "Debtors' Prison in 21st-Century America," which appeared in The Atlantic in February of 2016



Speaker Bios



LAUREN HERRING (TARA)

Lauren Herring passionately provides leadership to IMPACT Group as CEO, where she has transformed the company into a global leader in career and leadership development. Prior to her current role, Lauren was President of Global Services where she was responsible for all international business development and operations. Under Lauren's leadership, IMPACT Group now operates in more than 65 international locations in the Americas, Europe and Asia.

Over the last decade, IMPACT Group has acquired five competitors in the corporate relocation and outplacement space, and continues to innovate new

career management solutions, developing cutting edge service delivery options and expanding its reach into new markets. In 2016, Lauren authored *This Side Up! A Simple Guide to Your Successful Relocation*, which provides expert advice on managing each phase of the relocation based on the thousands of individuals IMPACT Group has moved across the globe over the last three decades.

Lauren has been the recipient of numerous awards and recognition including: Workforce Magazine's Top 25 Game Changers Award, St. Louis Business Journal's Top Women-owned Business, St. Louis Business Journal's Most Influential Women in Business and 2015 Enterprising Women of the Year by Enterprising Women Magazine. Lauren was awarded the prestigious 40 Under 40 Award by the St. Louis Business Journal and was previously awarded the 30 Under 30 Award.

Lauren is an internationally recognized speaker on the topic of career development and global mobility, has been quoted in the Wall Street Journal and Forbes Magazine and has published in HR Executive and GlobalHR Magazine, among others. She is not only fluent in Spanish, but prior to joining IMPACT Group, Lauren worked in economic development in Puerto Rico.

Lauren is on the Board for the St. Louis Regional Chamber, where she is excited to support the economic development of the St. Louis community. She is also on the board at COCA (the Center of Creative Arts), Boy Scouts of Greater St. Louis, Connections to Success and serves on Washington University's Steering Committee and Women's Leadership Forum where she passionately dedicates her expertise, resources and time to making a difference in others' lives.



Speaker Bios



KATHY MAZZARELLA

Kathleen M. Mazzarella is Chairman, President and CEO of Graybar, a FORTUNE 500 distributor of electrical, communications and data networking products.

Kathy joined Graybar in 1980 in customer service and soon became one of Graybar's top salespeople. She advanced into field sales management and later was promoted into corporate product management. At Graybar's corporate headquarters, she held executive-level positions in strategic accounts, human resources, strategic planning, sales and marketing. Kathy was appointed Graybar's 11th president and CEO in

2012, and she became chairman of Graybar's board of directors the following year.

Kathy holds an associate degree in telecommunications engineering, a bachelor's degree in applied behavioral sciences and a master's degree in business administration. She serves on several boards, including the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, St. Louis Regional Chamber, United Way of Greater St. Louis, Civic Progress, the Saint Louis Club and the NAW Institute. She also serves on the NAED Channel Advantage Partnership Council and the Webster University School of Business and Technology's Advisory Board. In addition, she is a member of The Committee of 200 and a member of the International Women's Forum.

Kathy was recognized by the St. Louis Business Journal with the "40 Under 40" award in 2000 and as one of St. Louis' "Most Influential Businesswomen" in 2004. In 2011, she received the Outstanding Alumna Award from the George Herbert Walker School of Business & Technology at Webster University. In 2014, Kathy was recognized by the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis as one of its distinguished women in leadership. This year, she was recognized with the National Association of Electrical Distributors' Trailblazer Award for her contributions to women in the electrical distribution industry.



Speaker Bios



ELIZABETH ZUCKER

Elizabeth Zucker is the 2019-2020 YPO Chairman, the organization's highest elected officer. As a member of YPO Saint Louis Gateway, she became the 68th YPO Chairman on 1 July 2019.

Elizabeth joined YPO Saint Louis Gateway (formerly YPO Lewis & Clark) in 2007. She quickly became involved with the chapter, holding more than seven chapter officer roles over the years. In 2014, she joined the Central U.S. Regional Executive Committee and served from 2013-2015 as the Regional Integration Officer. From 2015-2016 she served as the Central U.S. Regional Chair. In July 2016, Elizabeth became a member of the YPO Board of Directors.

Throughout her tenure, she served on the YPO Membership Committee, Governance and Succession Committee, Chapters and Regions Committee, Compensation and HR Committee and as YPO Council Chair.

Elizabeth is Managing Partner at Interior Investments of St. Louis, LLC, an Illinois Limited Liability Company, and a subsidiary of I3 Group, Inc.

In July 2004, I3 Group acquired Workplace Resource, a struggling USD5 million furniture dealership in St. Louis, Missouri, USA. Through a hub and spoke business model and Elizabeth's leadership, Interior Investments of St. Louis, LLC, has grown to a \$40 million dealership.

From its inception, the company has achieved tremendous annual growth, is virtually debt-free, and has solidified itself as the second largest Herman Miller dealer and one of the most sophisticated and fastest growing contract furniture distributorships in the United States.

A native of Ft. Wayne, Indiana, USA, Elizabeth attended Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, USA, where she earned a bachelor of arts degree in political science. She also serves on the board of directors of Arch Grants in St. Louis.



Speaker Bios

**DR. MARY "PEGGY" CROW (GROVER)**

Mary K. Crow, M.D., is Physician-in-Chief and Chair of the Department of Medicine at Hospital for Special Surgery, Joseph P. Routh Professor of Rheumatic Diseases in Medicine and Chief of the Rheumatology Division at Weill Cornell Medical College, and Professor of Immunology in its Graduate School of Medical Sciences. Dr. Crow is also Senior Scientist, Co-Director of the Mary Kirkland Center for Lupus Research, and Director of the Autoimmunity and Inflammation Program Hospital for Special Surgery's Research Institute where she holds the Benjamin M. Rosen Chair in Immunology and Inflammation Research.

Dr. Crow received her M.D. from Cornell University Medical College, Internal Medicine and Rheumatology subspecialty training at New York Hospital and Hospital for Special Surgery, and post-doctoral research training at Rockefeller University. Dr. Crow's research has focused on the induction and regulation of human autoimmune diseases, and she continues to investigate the cellular and cytokine mediators of immune system activation and inflammation in those disorders.

Her leadership roles have included president of the American College of Rheumatology, president of the Henry Kunkel Society, and she is currently co-chair of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Lupus Research Alliance. In 2017 Dr. Crow was named an honorary member of the European League Against Rheumatism, and in 2018 she received the Presidential Gold Medal of the American College of Rheumatology in recognition of outstanding contributions to rheumatology over an entire career.



Speaker Bios



VIJAY CHAUHAN

Vijay Chauhan is a startup CEO of multiple companies in the Life Sciences space including: renewable energy, cancer diagnostics and consumer healthcare. He is leading BioSTL's initiative to attract Israeli companies to St. Louis that are a fit with St. Louis corporations and investors. Vijay served as Senior Entrepreneur in Residence (EIR) at the BioGenerator, the St. Louis region's premier venture development organization for Life Science startups. As EIR at BioGenerator, Vijay worked with over 22 startups, raising capital and developing investable business plans for six companies.

Vijay has significant experience raising capital from angel, venture capital, private equity, strategic and governmental investors, developing business plans and forming strong management teams.

Vijay previously worked at Monsanto in St. Louis, MO as Vice President, General Manager, Nutrition and Consumer Sector where he worked on multiple M&A transactions investing over \$5 billion towards the implementation of Monsanto's Agriculture Biotech and Life Sciences strategy. He also developed a new business in the areas of consumer health/functional foods during his time with Monsanto.



Speaker Bios

**DR. MARY JO GORMAN**

Dr. Mary Jo Gorman, CEO and founder of Advanced ICU Care, is nationally recognized as a leader, innovator and pioneer in critical care medicine, with more than 20 years of clinical, healthcare management, and entrepreneurial experience.

Prior to founding Advanced ICU Care, she served as the chief medical officer at IPC – The Hospitalist Company, where she developed programs to enhance clinical performance and patient care in hospitals across the U.S. She was also the founder and president of Inpatient Care Group, the first hospitalist services company in St. Louis, and Critical Services, Inc., which provides around-the-clock intensivists services at community hospitals.

Within the medical profession, Mary Jo Gorman has practiced as an intensivist and a hospitalist, and held numerous leadership positions locally and nationally in these specialties.

A former president and six-year board member of the Society of Hospital Medicine, she was awarded the Master in Hospital Medicine in 2010 for her contributions in that field. She is a current member of the American College of Physician Executives, the Society of Critical Care Medicine and the American Telemedicine Association.

In recognition of her leadership and entrepreneurial accomplishments, Mary Jo Gorman was named one of the Top 25 Women in Healthcare by Modern Healthcare in 2009, and selected as one of Ernst & Young's ten Entrepreneurial Winning Women in the United States in 2011.

Mary Jo Gorman received her M.D. from Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, her M.B.A. from the Olin School of Business, Washington University in St. Louis, and her B.A. in chemistry and biology from St. Louis University.



Speaker Bios



DR. GAVIN HELTON

In March 2018, Dr. J. Gavin Helton assumed the position of President – Clinical Integration of Mercy Virtual alongside Vance Moore, President – Business Integration. As co-leaders, they share accountability for virtual care strategy, with Dr. Helton focusing on clinical care and Moore on operations.

A primary care physician for nearly two decades, Dr. Helton assumed the role of medical director of ambulatory medicine for Mercy Virtual in 2015 and led the successful launch of the vEngagement program (formerly Engagement@Home). In 2017, he took on additional responsibility as medical director for all Mercy Virtual patient care service lines.

Dr. Helton believes the integration of virtual care is the next major step in restructuring care delivery – a true patient-focused care continuum.

Dr. Helton received his undergraduate degree from Saint Louis University and attended medical school at the University of Alabama School of Medicine. He completed his internship and residency at Mercy Hospital St. Louis, where he also served as Chief Medical Resident. As a member of the faculty staff, he has continued to be an educator for internal medicine residents throughout his career.



Speaker Bios



DR. THOMAS MADDOX

Dr. Maddox is the inaugural Executive Director of the Healthcare Innovation Lab at BJC HealthCare and the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. He is also a practicing cardiologist, a Professor of Medicine (Cardiology) at the Washington University School of Medicine, and a health services researcher.

The Innovation Lab identifies and implements care delivery innovations using data, analytics, and technology to improve the health of patients and their communities. Cross-disciplinary in nature, the Lab facilitates health delivery innovations by bringing together clinicians, patients, informaticians,

researchers, public health experts, and private industry. As promising innovations are developed, the Lab helps implement, evaluate, and spread them across BJC HealthCare and Washington University care delivery sites, the broader St. Louis community, and beyond. The Lab also serves as a conduit to the national and international healthcare innovation community, facilitating a bidirectional conversation that will accelerate collaborative innovation.

The Lab is specifically focused on developing innovations in four areas: 1) utilizing personalized health data - from genomics to social determinants - to optimally inform care, 2) moving care delivery closer to where patients live, work, and play, 3) harnessing community data for community health, and 4) engaging patients in shared decision-making and longitudinal health behaviors.

Dr. Maddox's research interests have focused on "learning healthcare systems", which use real-time clinical data to inform high-value cardiology practice and research, and health care delivery innovation to achieve high-quality health care and outcomes. He has authored over 190 peer-reviewed publications, received multiple grants exploring optimal cardiac care and outcomes, and holds national leadership positions in the American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Association.



Speaker Bios



TONI KUTCHAN

Toni M. Kutchan is the Oliver M. Langenberg Distinguished Investigator and Vice President for Research at the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center and Adjunct Professor of Biology at Washington University in St. Louis and at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Previously, she spent twenty years leading research in Germany, most recently as Professor and Department Head at the Leibniz Institute for Plant Biochemistry in Halle, Germany, as well as Managing Director of that institute. Her primary research interests are the biosynthesis of plant medicinal

compounds such as alkaloids and the development of plant synthetic biology systems.

She has been a member of the Board of Scientific Advisors of the Schering Research Foundation and a member of the Central Selection Committee of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in Germany. She is currently a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the William L. Brown Center for Plant Genetic Resources of the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis, of the Forshungszentrum Jülich in Germany and of the BioDiscovery Institute of the University of North Texas. She is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Academy of Science-St. Louis and a member of the STEM Advisory Committee of the Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri. Dr. Kutchan is a member of the Berlin-Brandenberg Academy of Sciences, a Fellow of the Academy of Science-St. Louis, and a member of the German National Academy of Science Leopoldina and a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

She holds a B.S. in Chemistry from the Illinois Institute of Technology, a Ph.D. in Biochemistry from St. Louis University, the Dr. Habil. and venia legendi in biochemistry from the University of Munich.



Speaker Bios

**JEFFREY P. BONNER, PH.D.**

In April 2002 Dr. Bonner was appointed President & CEO of the Saint Louis Zoo. In 2009 his position was endowed by the Dana Brown Charitable Trust. He has chaired the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, the Amphibian Ark, the International Species Information System and the Madagascar Fauna and Flora Group. He has served on the board of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums and currently serves on several boards, including the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, BioSTL, Forest Park Forever and St. Louis Regional Chamber of Growth Association (RCGA). He is a member of The Explorers Club, the Academy of Science and the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. Dr. Bonner received his Ph.D. from

Columbia University in New York. He is a Burgess Fellow, Traveling Fellow, Fulbright Scholar, President's Fellow and a recipient of the National Research Service Award. Dr. Bonner is the author of numerous articles and books, including *Sailing with Noah, Stories from the World of Zoos*.

**DR. ALLISON MILLER**

Allison Miller is a Professor in the Department of Biology at Saint Louis University and a Principal Investigator at the Danforth Plant Science Center. She is also a Research Associate at the Missouri Botanical Garden. Her research program investigates evolutionary processes in contemporary and emerging perennial crops and their wild relatives. Ongoing work in her group focuses on grapevines, perennial, herbaceous legumes, and tropical fruit trees. Originally from the Chicago area, Allison became interested in plants through trips to nearby prairie patches and summer vacations in northern Wisconsin. She earned BS and MS degrees in Botany

from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio and Colorado State University respectively, and holds a PhD in Ecology, Evolution, and Population Biology from Washington University in St. Louis. She is passionate about uniting botanical diversity research with plant breeding communities to facilitate crop improvement, sustainable agriculture, and the conservation of crop genetic resources.



Speaker Bios



DR. PETER WYSE JACKSON

Peter Wyse Jackson is the president of the Missouri Botanical Garden and George Engelmann Professor of Botany at Washington University in St. Louis, MO. Born in Kilkenny, Ireland, Wyse Jackson obtained a B.A. (Mod.) in botany and an M.A. from Trinity College Dublin, where he subsequently obtained a Ph.D. for work on the taxonomy of Irish Cruciferae.

As one of the world's foremost and best known botanists and plant conservationists, Wyse Jackson has played an influential role in reshaping and leading the international botanic garden community over the past two decades. He has worked exten-

sively with botanic gardens and their network organizations worldwide, helping to establish or develop botanic gardens and other organizations in over 30 countries. He played a lead role in the development and implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, adopted by the U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity in 2002, and has been chairman of the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation since 2004. He was co-author of the International Agenda for Botanic Gardens in Conservation, now endorsed by some 500 botanic gardens.

Wyse Jackson has been a member of the boards of numerous botanical, conservation and horticultural organizations around the world. He was founding chairman (and currently continues as co-chair) of the World Flora Online Consortium, an organization launched in 2012 to prepare an online Flora of the world by 2020. In 1995, he founded the European Botanic Gardens Consortium, an organization that links botanic gardens through Europe.

In St. Louis, he is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center, a member of the Board of Commissioners of Tower Grove Park, a member of the Board of Webster University, an Ex Officio Trustee of the Academy of Science St. Louis and an ex officio member of the St. Louis Regional Chamber. He is an honorary member of the St Louis and Ladue Garden Clubs.

His publications include twelve books and over 250 scientific papers and other articles.



Speaker Bios



DR. SAMUEL ACHILEFU

Dr. Samuel Achilefu is the Michel M. Ter-Pogossian Professor of Radiology and Vice Chair for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology, Washington University School of Medicine. He holds joint appointments as a professor of Medicine, Biochemistry & Molecular Biophysics, and Biomedical Engineering. He currently serves the Director of the Washington University Molecular Imaging Center and the privately funded Theranostic Innovation Program. He is co-Director of the Center for Multiple Myeloma Nanotherapy and co-Leader of the Oncologic Imaging Program of the Siteman Cancer Center at Washington University.

Dr. Achilefu is a fellow of the National Academy of Inventors as well as many professional societies, including the Royal Society of Chemistry, American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Optical Society of America, the International Society for Optics and Photonics Engineers (SPIE), the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering, and the St. Louis Academy of Science. He was a member of the College of Reviewers for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and serves as member and chair of review panels for the NIH and the Department of Defense (DoD).

Dr. Achilefu is a world renowned expert in the development and use of light-sensitive drugs for cancer detection, imaging, and therapy. Recently, he conceived and led the development of a novel wearable cancer viewing goggles for the accurate removal of cancer cells during surgery. He also discovered a novel treatment paradigm for cancer using a special type of light and non-pharmacological doses of drugs to selectively trigger cancer cell death without harming healthy tissue. These and many other innovations have resulted in 59 US issued patents and over 300 scientific papers.

Dr. Achilefu has received over 30 local, national, and international honors and awards, including the prestigious Britton Chance Biomedical Optics Award in 2019 (SPIE), Distinguished Investigator Award in 2018 (Academy for Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Research), the Carl and Gerty Cori Faculty Achievement Award in 2018 (Washington University), Excellence in Healthcare Award in 2017 (St. Louis American), the first Department of Defense Distinguished Investigator Award in 2016 (DoD Breast Cancer Research Program), the St. Louis Award in 2014 (St. Louis Award Committee), and many others.



Speaker Bios

**DR. CHARLES ZORUMSKI**

Dr. Zorumski is the Samuel B. Guze (Goo-ZAY) Professor and Head of the Department of Psychiatry and Professor of Neuroscience at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. Dr. Zorumski is also Psychiatrist-in-Chief at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and Director of the Taylor Family Institute for Innovative Psychiatric Research. Dr. Zorumski's laboratory studies synaptic transmission in the hippocampus. His studies focus on short- and long-term modulation of the glutamate and GABA neurotransmitter systems, with emphasis on how these transmitter systems participate in memory and neuropsychiatric illnesses. A long-standing interest concerns the mechanisms by which neurosteroids and oxysterols modulate GABA and glutamate receptors. Clinically, Dr. Zorumski is interested in the treatment of refractory mood disorders. He has published more than 320 scientific papers and holds five patents. His work has been continuously funded by the National Institutes of Health since 1987.

Dr. Zorumski was named Head of the Washington University Department of Psychiatry in 1997 and Samuel B. Guze Professor in 1998. Since 1997, he has served on the Steering Committees of the McDonnell Center for Cellular and Molecular Neurobiology and the McDonnell Center for Systems Neuroscience, and was Director of the Center for Cellular and Molecular Neurobiology from 2002 to 2013. Dr. Zorumski was named founding Director of the Taylor Family Institute in 2012. In 2015, Dr. Zorumski became Chair of the Oversight Committee for the Center for Brain Research in Mood Disorders. He serves on the Editorial Boards of *JAMA Psychiatry* and *Cerebrum*, and served on the Board of Scientific Counselors for the NIMH Intramural Research Program from 2009 to 2013. Dr. Zorumski is a distinguished fellow of the American Psychiatric Association, and a fellow of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology and the American Psychopathological Association. Dr. Zorumski was elected to the National Academy of Medicine (Institute of Medicine) in 2012 and previously served on the Academy's Forum on Neuroscience and Nervous System Disorders. Since 2011, he has also served on the Scientific Advisory Board of Sage Therapeutics, a publically-traded company developing neurosteroids and oxysterols as treatments for neuropsychiatric illnesses.



Speaker Bios



SUSAN BLOCK (GROVER)

Susan Block has been actively involved in the St. Louis community for over 40 years, having served on many not for profit boards, chairing galas, serving on committees, and designing and implementing decor for events.

She currently serves on the boards of the St. Louis Art Museum, St. Louis Zoo, Arts and Education, Washington University Alumni Board of Governors, Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Arts National Council, The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Women of Achievement and The Fashion Fund. She was also co-founder of The Spirit of St. Louis Women's Fund, a collective bringing women together by equal

contributions to make bigger contributions to the St. Louis community. Over \$2.2 million has been contributed to over 80 nonprofits that are improving life in our community. She also serves on this board as an Ex Officio member.

Susan started her business The Designing Block in 1980. She has been an interior decorator, stylist and mentor to many. She believes in and has helped promote and guide local designers in fashion and jewelry go to the next level. Susan has given talks and demonstrations on accessorizing and wearing jewelry. As a fashion consultant, she helps women find their style and pushing them out of the box in a confident way. She opened a retail store The Designing Block in 1996.

Ms. Block was named a Women of Achievement for her creative philanthropy, a Women of Worth from the Older Women's Society, Distinguished Alumni from Washington University in St. Louis and received the Local Hero/Distinguished Alumni award from Ladue High School.



Speaker Bios



SUSAN BARRETT

Susan Barrett believes that art is a verb. This belief has guided the companies she has started, the projects she has led and her work with nonprofits. Her companies, Barrett Barrera Projects and projects + gallery, produce exhibitions and projects that create a dialogue on contemporary issues through art and design.

For over 30 years, Susan has fought for the arts to be a part of public transportation, city planning and social change. She is a visionary with a background in painting, architecture and fashion design, which has influenced the projects she has spearheaded and championed. Notable among

these, Susan conceptualized and developed the St. Louis Chess Club and served as the founding executive director of the World Chess Hall of Fame, where she created the innovative exhibit A Queen Within which is still touring internationally. And in 2004, she implemented the Cross-Country art project for the Metro Transit's Arts in Transit program.

She currently sits on the executive board of the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis and the board of the St. Louis Fashion Fund. She has served on the boards of Sheldon Art Galleries, Laumeier Sculpture Park, White Flag Projects, Arts in Transit, Landmarks Association, Southside School, the Hip Hop Chess Federation, the St. Louis Chess Club and the Airport Arts Commission.



Speaker Bios



SUSAN SHERMAN

Susan Sherman is Chair Emeritus of the Saint Louis Fashion Fund, a non-profit which enriches St. Louis through the business of fashion. Located in the heart of the Garment District, at 1533 Washington Avenue, the Fund supports emerging designers, provides education to high school students interested in careers in fashion and design, and works with the City of St. Louis on the redevelopment of the old Garment District in downtown St. Louis.

Sherman is also Co-Founder of MERCH, an experiential retail concept, which was launched in April 2019. MERCH brings intriguing global brands in fashion, beauty and home to St. Louis, and hopes to expand to other cities in the near future.

Sherman worked for over 30 years in public relations, special events and fundraising, in Atlanta, New York, and Paris before moving to St. Louis in 1993. She has served on numerous boards including the Contemporary Art Museum (where she is a former Chair), Grand Center, COCA and American Ballet Theatre in NY. She is a recipient of a 2006 Woman of Achievement Award, and Grand Center's Visionary Award.

Sherman has a husband, David, and two children - Sylvie, who lives in New York and works for New York Magazine, and Keil, a Junior at the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD).



Speaker Bios



PHIL WOODMORE

Saint Louis native, Phil Woodmore has been an active member of the St. Louis music community for many years. Phil received his bachelors from Saint Louis University in Business Marketing and Music Vocal Performance and then went on to receive his masters from Webster University in Music Education.

He is currently in the final stages of his PhD in Music Education at the University of Missouri-Columbia and is currently writing his dissertation on the transformative power of the music in the production, Antigone in Ferguson and how the choir is affected by the music in the process of learning and performing the show. Phil taught

choir one year at Ferguson and Berkley Middle Schools in the Ferguson-Florissant School District and then went on to become the choir director at Crestview Middle School in the Rockwood School District where he taught for twelve years to over 3,000 students. Along with his work in Rockwood, Phil was the Coordinator of the Voice Program at the Center of Creative Arts (COCA) and the artist director of the Allegro Music Company from 2008-2017, he is the director of the Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department Choir, was the director of the Northern Arizona University Gospel Choir from 2014-2017, Artist in Residency for the State of Arizona for a two year term 2016-2018, minister of music at Trinity Community Church, and vocal coach to many in the St. Louis and New York.

In August 2016 Phil was asked to compose an original score of a version of Antigone translated by Bryan Doerries called Antigone in Ferguson which has been traveling the country for the past three years and premiered in Athens, Greece in the summer of 2017. Since the success of Antigone in Ferguson, Phil has written an original score for Dr. Martin Luther King's last sermon The Drum Major Instinct and also for a speech by Frederick Douglass. During the summer of 2018, The Drum Major Instinct premiered in Athens, Greece and was performed on several college campuses during the 2018-2019 school year. In 2018, Antigone in Ferguson ran in an Off-Broadway theater in New York for a five-week workshop and this summer ran in New York for ten-weeks at the St. Ann and Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Brooklyn.



Speaker Bios

The Phil Woodmore Singers assembled in 2017 after Artist Director of Theater of War Company, Bryan Doerries commissioned Phil Woodmore to compose musical selections for *Antigone in Ferguson*, a show based on a new translation of the classic Greek play, which premiered in Saint Louis, MO on September 17, 2016.

The choir is comprised of members of the Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department Choir, Trinity Community Church Choir, students from the Center of Creative Arts (COCA) in University City, as well as singers from the greater Saint Louis community. Four talented musicians accompany the choir: Sergeant Ja'Mes Davis on saxophone, Assistant Chief of Police Jason Davis on keyboard, Bernard Long Jr. on drums, and Pastor Willie D. Woodmore on guitar.

Phil Woodmore, a Saint Louis native, has been directing choirs for the past twenty years and is grateful for the opportunity to direct the Phil Woodmore Singers. Since the premiere of *Antigone in Ferguson*, the choir has performed at the Onassis Center in New York, New York; the PopTech Conference in Camden, Maine; Coppin State University in Baltimore, Maryland; the BRIC organization in Brooklyn, New York; Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire; Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts; and Holy Cross College in Worcester, Massachusetts.

The Phil Woodmore Singers made their national television debut in 2017 at the Veiled Prophet Parade on July 1st. The group performed in the opening number, sang on a float presentation and performed an original arrangement of *America the Beautiful* written by director Phil Woodmore during the finale. In June 2017 the Phil Woodmore Singers had the honor of traveling to Greece for an *Antigone in Ferguson* workshop and performance followed by a performance in Brooklyn, New York July 2017. In June of 2018 the Phil Woodmore Singers traveled back to Athens, Greece to perform Phil's second project with the Theater of War Company, *The Drum Major Instinct*, for its international debut. Follow two successful trips to Greece, the Phil Woodmore Singers were honored to be invited to perform in *Antigone in Ferguson*'s Off-Broadway run at the Harlem Stage in the fall of 2018 and at the St. Ann and Holy Trinity Church for a ten-week run in Brooklyn in 2019. To God be the glory for the great things He has done!



Expect the unexpected! The schedule is subject to change!

NO PICTURES OR VIDEOS OF THE RETREAT ARE PERMITTED ON FACEBOOK OR OTHER SOCIAL MEDIA. Let's protect everyone's privacy.

Please wear your name badge at all times that you are with the group, this includes, breakfast, lunch, and dinner, as well as the morning speaker sessions.

Dress is business casual. As usual, the program will take place in an air conditioned space, please come prepared with extra layers to feel comfortable in a cooler venue. We will be doing some walking so high heels are not recommended.

What to expect with the weather– The weather during the day will be warm. In September, St. Louis has an average high temperature of 81°F with an average low temperature of 61°F. Please bring a light sweater or jacket to wear in the evening, especially when walking to/from locations. Don't forget the appropriate hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen to use during the day.



“Live as if you were to die tomorrow.

Learn as if you were to live forever.” – Gandhi

Belizean Grove

Adventures for the Mind

