



Presenter Bios

Virtual Nonprofit Conference

Friday, April 30, 2021 - 9:00am - 3:00pm

Saturday, May 1, 2021 - 9:00am - 12Noon

Mary Abraham is the Deputy Director of Grants for the Maryland Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth and Victim Services, which is the state's administering agency for criminal justice and crime prevention grants. The Office administers approximately \$200 million of state and federal grants. As Deputy Director of Grants, Mary works in conjunction with program, fiscal and audit divisions to provide technical assistance to applicants and successful recipients. Ms. Abraham's areas of expertise include program development, grants management, and stakeholder engagement skills developed as a grants manager in both Maryland and Washington D.C. She earned her bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Coppin State University, MD, and a master's in political science from Bowling Green State University, OH.

LaTasha Briscoe is the owner and Creative Director of LB Innovations Events, a full-service event planning and design firm which serves over 100 weddings, corporate functions and events with purpose annually. Through LB Innovations, she is the Brand Manager of All Year Gear, her son's business in which he uses his platform to create and motivate youth and young adults through apparel, speaking and social influence. She currently serves as the President for the FEW NW DC Chapter, as well as Director of Events and Outreach for the FEW DC Metro Region, and was recently appointed as the Director of Fundraising and Programs for the Phenomenal Young Women Incorporated.

Diana Léon Brown currently serves as the Director of Strategic Partnerships for the County Executive Office of Prince George's County. In this role, she leads and manages all cross-sector partnerships on behalf of the County Executive, Angela Alsobrooks. During her time in this role, Ms. Brown has increased the grants from 1.6 million to over 10 million dollars for the county's nonprofits. Diana graduated magna cum laude from Harvard University with a dual major in social science and economics. Additionally, she earned her MBA with high honors from the George Washington School of Business with a concentration in International Business.

Curtis Crutchfield is the News Director of CTV, an award winning, non-profit cable access facility that serves as the media hub of information for Prince George's County. He is a native of Washington, DC, and a current resident of Bowie. He is a graduate of Howard University and former radio reporter with WHUR. He is also a former legislative Aide for the Prince George's County Council and a former Press Officer in the Office of the Prince George's County Executive. He is a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and New Song Bible Fellowship Church.

Kevin Davenport is Senior Advisor for Coalitions and Campaigns at NCRC. Kevin was born and raised in Chicago, IL, and graduated Cum Laude from Fisk University with a B.A. in Political Science. He went on to receive his Masters in Theological Studies from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN. Kevin has over 15 years of civic engagement experience. He has worked on campaigns to increase the Illinois minimum wage, directed field campaigns for GOTV, organized a coalition of 250 faith-based institutions that engaged in Affordable Care Act enrollment, and recruited and trained community leaders for advocacy work at the state and local level. He specializes in political organizing, coalition building and public advocacy.

Darold “DJ” Kelly Jr. is currently a senior Computer Engineering major at the University of the District of Columbia and a Software Engineering intern at NASA, Marshall Space Flight Center. Having graduated with a B.A. in Political Science at Howard University, DJ pursued a second bachelor’s degree in STEM focusing on cybersecurity. During his matriculation, he studied abroad in Argentina, and taught English in Columbia, and served as president of the National Society of Black Engineers. Darold established the Black Cybersecurity Association (BCA), a non-profit focused on building community, mentorship, and job opportunities for underrepresented minorities in the cybersecurity space. On his free time, he loves playing video games, playing chess, basketball, hanging out with his fraternity members, and cracking the world's cheesiest jokes. Darold is 28 years old.

Karen M. Forbes is the Assistant Director of Community Access and Partnership at the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development’s Division of Neighborhood Revitalization where she manages the Division of Neighborhood Revitalization’s Community Investment Tax Credit, Endow Maryland Tax Credit and Technical Assistant Grant programs, which support non-profits and communities throughout Maryland. Previously she worked for the Maryland Legal Aid Bureau with the Housing Preservation Program (HPP) from 1999 – 2005. Ms. Forbes is an Advisory Board Member of the University of Baltimore’s Real Estate and Economic Development (REED) Program. She holds a B.A. and M.A. from The Pennsylvania State University and a J.D. from the University of Baltimore, School of Law.

Sherise Holden, PMP is the creator of the Joyful Life Planner Co., an online planner and stationery boutique. She is also the founder and President of SheRises, Inc., a nonprofit that supports young mothers. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Maryland. She also possesses a Master of Science in Project Management, as well as a Master of Business Administration. In her professional career as a certified Project Management Professional (PMP), she manages multi-million dollar projects for the Federal Government. Using her areas of expertise in project management, time management, goal setting, productivity, college preparation, and career development, she has inspired, mentored, and coached women to rise up and shine.

Jimmie Jones is an accomplished community banker, former entrepreneur and small business advocate. After a 4 year stretch in Houston, TX as a Community Business Development Officer with BB&T, Jimmie returned to the Washington DC area with his family in early 2020. Jimmie brings a world of banking and private sector experience to his role as Community Development Manager in the Greater Washington DC area. In addition to his 16 years of service with BB&T, he also ran a Community Development Financial Institution in Jacksonville FL, and managed lending services at an affordable housing developer in the Baltimore/Washington region. While Jimmie is an El Paso, TX native, he considers Washington DC as an adopted home since he lived here for almost 20 years previously.

Barbara Kearney serves as Project Manager for the Community Investment Tax Credit (CITC) Program for the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). She has broad experience in both the public and private sectors as well with for-profit and non-profit organizations in both staff and volunteer roles. She holds a bachelor's degree and post-graduate Certification in Historic Preservation from Goucher College in Baltimore. Additionally, she has staffed small museum projects and local historical societies as restoration project manager, as well as in fundraising and grant writing, and as executive director. She has worked for over a decade in comprehensive and community planning at both the municipal and county level drafting community comprehensive plans, functional plans for environmental, hazard mitigation, and transportation projects. Her volunteer work has included founding community advocacy organizations, board service with local & county historical societies, sailing organizations, and as a patient volunteer with her local Hospice network.

Dr. Debyii Sababu-Thomas is an effective consultant and practitioner with over 20 years in communications, training and development. She is one of the pioneers of a university-wide training initiative that focused on improving customer service and eventually led to the establishment of the Howard University Professional Development and Leadership Academy. She has developed curriculum and become a lead trainer in a variety of courses such as Principals for Effective Management. She currently develops training programs, and provides keynote addresses to groups such as the Association of Social Workers, American Heart Association, and the Black Public Administrators.

Michael Schlein is the Division Administrator for the Charities & Legal Services Division at the Maryland Office of the Secretary of State. The Charities & Legal Services Division is responsible for regulating organizations that solicit charitable contributions in the State of Maryland, notaries public, extraditions, condominiums, flags, special police, and more. The division also administers the Maryland Charity Campaign, a workplace charitable giving program that offers State Employees and eligible Retirees the opportunity to contribute to charities. Michael has been with the Secretary of State for 16 years. During that time, he served as an Investigator, investigating charities and notaries public; and as Extradition Coordinator. In November 2016, he became Division Administrator where he oversees the day-to-day activities of the Division. Michael earned a B.A. in Economics and Certificate in Management Science from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC).

Anna Tatro Anna Tatro serves as the Grants Collection Specialist at Enoch Pratt Free Library, where she brings resources, structure and support to Nonprofits in the state of Maryland. Through her work she provides one-on-one consulting, grant research assistance, and workshop trainings. Anna serves as a board member for The Initiative: Baltimore and, in 2013 she was named Librarian of the Year by the Southeast Atlantic Region of the Medical Library Association for her work as the Program Manager of the Student Health Advocates Redefining Empowerment (SHARE). As an outreach and nonprofit specialist her passion is bringing people, organizations, and resources together to create an inclusive environment that fosters positive change.