



2018 CAPACITY BUILDERS CONFERENCE

Re-envisioning Our Field: Advancing Racial Equity & Leading Innovation in Capacity Building
OCT 10-12, 2018 | HARTFORD, CT

Meet Our Conference Speakers and Panelists



Jay Williams



Sam Cobb



Cynthia Silva
Parker



Trina Jackson



Oscar Chacón



Cyndi Suarez

Thursday Welcome Keynote:

Jay Williams, President, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving

Prior to the Hartford Foundation, Williams served as U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development where he led the federal economic development agenda for the United States. He also served as Deputy Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs at the White House where he was the principal liaison between the President of the United States and local elected officials. He served as the Mayor of the City of Youngstown, Ohio for over five years and as the executive director of the federal Office of Recovery for Auto Communities and Workers. He brings experience and knowledge in capacity building, workforce readiness, economic security and urban revitalization.

Thursday, Lunch Keynote Address:

Sam Cobbs, Chief Program Officer at Tipping Point Community

Sam Cobbs is the Chief Program Officer at Tipping Point Community, an organization which fights poverty in the Bay Area. He is a national expert on using both data and human connection to achieve innovation and maximum impact. In his 20 years of work in the nonprofit field, he has created and implemented programs that successfully reduce poverty and homelessness among vulnerable young people and has been one of the leading voices in advocating for better access to housing, education, employment and health programs that improve their lives. Sam has been recognized for his leadership by national organizations and was awarded the Annie E. Casey Foundation Children and Family Fellowship, the 2010 James Irvine Foundation Leadership Award, and the Red Cross Community Hero Award.

Friday Keynote Lunch Panel: Advancing Racial Equity and Capacity Building: Challenges and Future Directions

Oscar A. Chacón, Co-Founder and Executive Director of Alianza Americas

Oscar A. Chacón, is the Executive Director of Alianza Americas, one of the largest activist national coalition of immigrant-led and immigrant serving organizations. He has been an organizer, capacity-builder, and a leader on community justice issues at the local, national and international levels for over 30 years. He has occupied leadership positions in multiple organizations including Oxfam America, Centro Presente, the Northern California Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, and Heartland Alliance for Human Needs and Human Rights. Oscar is a member of the Inter-American Dialogue and the



recently founded Latino-Jewish Leadership Council. Oscar is a frequent spokesperson on economic, social, political and cultural issues, particularly as they relate to Latin American communities in the US. Alianza Americas mission is to improve the quality of life of Latin American immigrant communities in the US, as well as of peoples throughout the Americas.

Cyndi Suarez, Senior Editor, *The Nonprofit Quarterly*

Cyndi Suarez is a Senior Editor at the *Nonprofit Quarterly* and has written extensively on racial equity and power issues. She is the author of a recently published book, "*The Power Manual: How to Master Complex Power Dynamics*," in which she outlines a new theory and practice of power. She has worked as a strategy and innovation consultant with a focus on networks and platforms for social movements. She studied Feminist Theory and organizational development for social change.

Cynthia Silva Parker, Interaction Institute for Social Change

Cynthia Silva Parker is an advocate for equity and justice and builds the capacity of individuals, organizations and networks to work collaboratively for social justice. She has served as a Senior Associate at the Interaction Institute for Social Change since 1998. She delivers training, consulting, coaching, and facilitation services to nonprofit and public organizations focused on racial equity, environmental sustainability, community development and other aspects of social justice work. Cynthia's prior leadership experience includes Director of Boston Freedom Summer and the Ten Point Coalition's faith-based youth leadership and community development project. Cynthia holds a BA from Harvard-Radcliffe Colleges and a Master of Public Policy/MCRP from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard.

Trina Jackson, Community Engagement Manager of TSNE/Mission Works

Trina Jackson has nearly 20 years of community-based experience as an organizer, facilitator, and strategist in the social justice movement. Her background includes activism within communities of color in Boston, facilitating community dialogues, and consulting on issues of anti-oppression, collaboration, and movement building. She is the Community Engagement Manager of TSNE MissionWorks, which includes the Inclusion Initiative, a grant that supports cross-sector networks in communities of color to address root causes of poverty and economic inequality. She also co-coordinates a community-based grassroots project, the Network of Immigrant and African American Solidarity which seeks to build solidarity between African Americans and immigrants of color through storytelling.