

Celebrating Oregon's
Educators of Color

A large, stylized sunburst graphic in a golden-brown color, radiating from behind the year "2023".

2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Agenda 3

Thank You 5

Keynote Speaker 7

Facilitator Bios 9

Breakout Sessions 15

Panelists 19

“There is beauty in the camaraderie of creating a just world.”

DR. BETTINA LOVE

WELCOME

Growing up in rural Louisiana, my educational experience was rich with teachers of color, including my very first teacher, Ms. Culter.

To be honest, I didn’t know how rare it was to see myself reflected in the educators around me until I got to Oregon.

Education has always been a huge part of my life and work — starting out as a middle school science teacher in Baton Rouge before moving into education policy and advocacy. I credit that in large part to educators like you — those who do the work every day to inspire our students to believe in themselves and reach their full potential. Thank you for your commitment to students, to families, to your colleagues, to our communities and to our future.

In the last five years, Meyer Memorial Trust has spent roughly \$22 million on organizations and efforts that drive more equitable education outcomes, including

the important work to increase diverse representation among our educator workforce. The steady growth of this event is a testament to all those who have planned, contributed, and made time in their busy schedules to attend. Thank you for being here and for helping us to build our collective momentum towards justice!

Today, I hope you find knowledge, inspiration, wisdom and support in wild abundance as we unabashedly and unreservedly celebrate you, our educators of color.

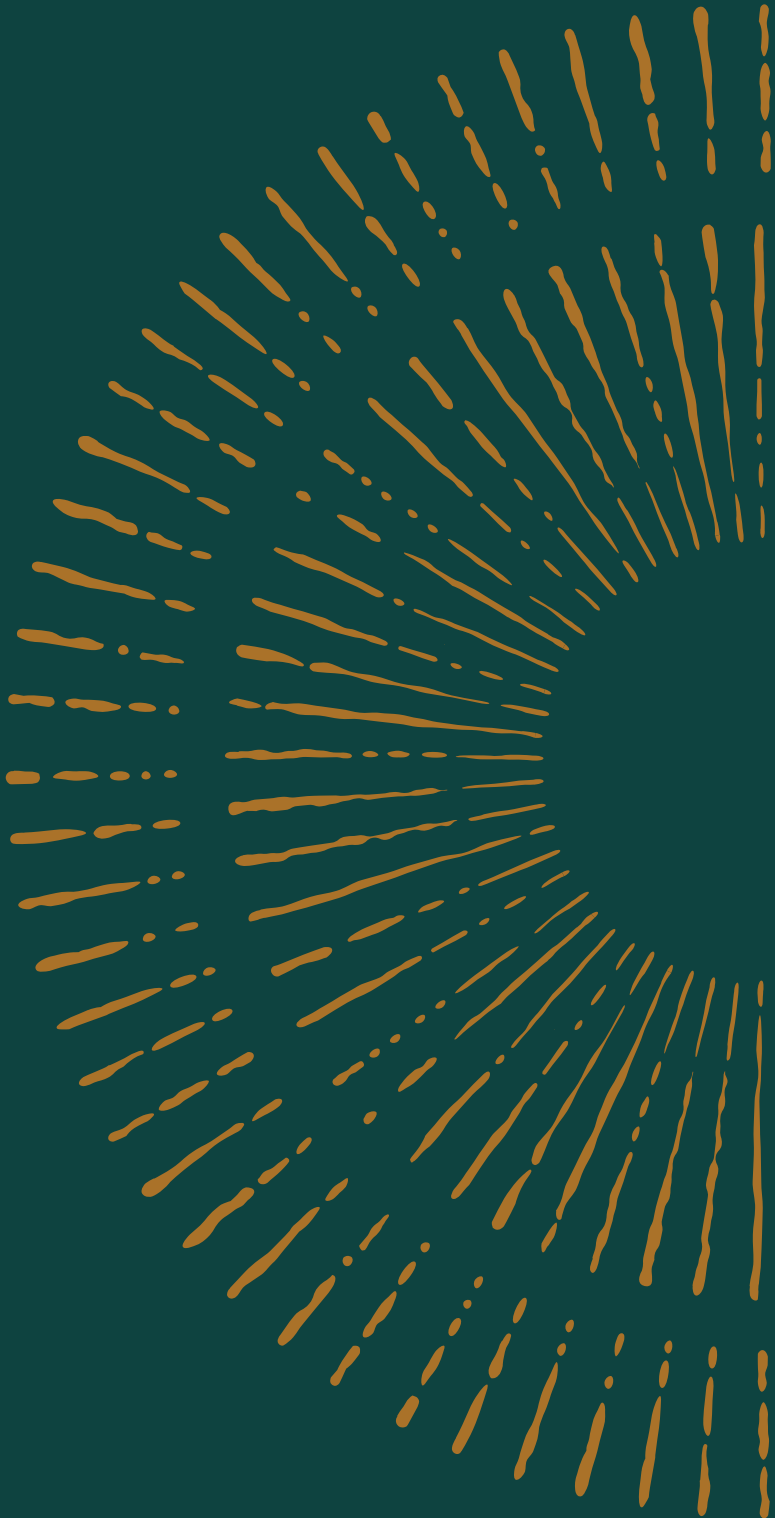
In appreciation,



Toya Fick


President & CEO,
Meyer Memorial Trust

Agenda



8:30 AM
Registration and Breakfast

9:30 AM
Welcome and Blessing
Toya Fick and Zalika Gardner



10:00 AM
Keynote Speaker
Dr. Bettina Love

11:00 AM
Reflect and Connect
Zalika Gardner

BREAK

11:30 AM
Breakout Sessions

LUNCH

Tamale Boy

12:40 to 1:40 PM

1:40 PM
Group Movement
Crystal Meneses

1:50 PM
Student Panel and Presentation

Moderator	Panelists
Zalika Gardner	Deonna Brogdon Zora Drake Trinity Porotesano Kennedy Phillips Julius Napaa

BREAK

2:30 PM
Breakout Sessions

BREAK

3:50 PM
Education Leadership Panel

Moderator	Panelists
Andre Goodlow	Dr. Shay James James Hiu Gillian Muir Carmen Urbina

5:30 PM
Closing Ceremonies
Zalika Gardner

5:30 PM
Reception
Embassy Suites, Portland Airport

Thank You

This event has grown from an intimate gathering of 25 teachers of color in downtown Portland to the large-scale event you’re attending today.

We believe you’ve been drawn to share this day with us for the same reason we agreed to plan it: you believe in the power, brilliance and importance of representing Oregon’s incredible diversity within our schools and for our children. You, like us, understand the struggles that arise from being “the only” or one of very few and the disproportionate burden this creates when serving a highly diverse student body. Over 40% of Oregon’s students are from diverse racial backgrounds, but we, collectively only make up 11% of the education workforce.

This means that we understand the joys and exhaustion that come from being not only a skilled educator but a cultural liaison and interpreter. Our collective presence in education is so meaningful to student well-being and achievement and yet, these high demands often leave us depleted.

We hope you find the Oregon Collective Summit to be the antidote for isolation and exhaustion! Here, we believe you’ll find a collective sense of joy as we gather to learn from one another, share experiences and find comfort in feeling represented and celebrated. Rarely if ever, even when discussing matters of race and racial justice in education, are our voices, skills and perspectives centered. As a diverse group of educators holding an array of positions from teachers to district leadership, representing our AAPI, Native, Black, Latine, and immigrant heritages, we have many differences.

However, we are united in our drive to support children, to promote liberation in education, and in our understanding of systemic racism, exclusion and bias. We offer this day to you as a counter to those damaging realities and hope you will find renewal and rejuvenation as you reconnect with old friends and build new, exciting relationships.

We believe that the seeds planted here today will grow to create the systemic transformation needed to ensure all of Oregon’s students thrive in our schools and communities. We encourage you to make new connections, ask questions, laugh freely and enjoy this space crafted to honor you!

Thank you, Dr. Bettina Love for accepting our invitation to deliver the keynote address and for sharing your love and wisdom with us! This event wouldn’t be possible without the incredible support

 Welcome to the 5th annual Oregon Collective Summit!

from Allister Byrd, Mike Philips, Helen Shum, and Helen Wong of Meyer Memorial Trust. We also hold immense gratitude for Trinh Ngo who has graciously shared her time and expertise to make this event happen. To our OCS speakers, caterers, volunteers and community partners — we are grateful for you!

In solidarity,
The OCS Planning Team

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Adriana Contreras | Ian Twiss |
| Alejandra Nava | Julie Rowell |
| Allister Byrd | Marty Perez |
| Andre Goodlow | Muhammad Rahman |
| Bekah Sabzalian | Nicole Butler-Hooton |
| Ethelyn Tumulad | Tracey Brown |
| Fred Trujillo | |

Keynote Speaker



Dr. Bettina L. Love is an award-winning author and the William F. Russell Professor at Teachers College, Columbia University.

Her writing, research, teaching, and educational advocacy work meet at the intersection of disrupting education reform and strengthening public education through abolitionist teaching, Black joy, and anti-racism. The aim of her scholarship is twofold: firstly, to advance how the field of education understands and critiques school reform and the systemic and structural racism of public education within the U.S.; and secondly, to advocate for abolitionist approaches in the field of education that seek new possibilities for educational justice. In the pursuit of making her scholarship a reality, she works with activists, communities, youth, families, and school districts to build communal, civically-engaged schools rooted in the aspirations of abolitionist strategies that love and affirm Black and Brown children. Towards that end, in 2020, Dr. Love co-founded the Abolitionist Teaching Network (ATN). ATN's mission is to develop and support teachers and parents to fight injustice within their schools and communities. To date, ATN has granted over \$160,000 to abolitionists around the country. She is also the creator of the Hip Hop civics curriculum.

Dr. Love is also a founding member of the Old 4th Ward Economic Security Task Force with the Atlanta City Council. The goal of the task force is to bring guaranteed income and income stability to Black women residents living in Atlanta. In 2022, the Task Force launched the program In Her Hands, distributing more than \$15 million to Black women living in Georgia. In Her Hands is one of the largest guaranteed income pilot programs in the U.S. As part of its 50th anniversary in 2022, the Kennedy

Center named Dr. Love one of the Next 50 Leaders who are making the world a more inspired, inclusive, and compassionate place.

Dr. Love is a sought-after public speaker on topics of abolitionist teaching, education reform, anti-racism, Hip Hop education, Black girlhood, queer youth, Hip Hop feminism, art-based education to foster youth civic engagement, and issues of diversity and inclusion. In 2014, she was invited to the White House Research Conference on Girls. For her work in the field of Hip Hop education, in 2016, Dr. Love was named the Nasir Jones HipHop Fellow at the Hutchins Center for African and African American Research at Harvard University. In April of 2017, Dr. Love participated in a one-on-one public lecture with bell hooks focused on the liberatory education practices of Black and Brown children. In 2018, Georgia's House of Representatives presented Dr. Love with a resolution for her impact on the field of education. She has also provided commentary for various news outlets including NPR, PBS, Ed Week, The Guardian, and the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

She is the author of *We Want to Do More Than Survive: Abolitionist Teaching and the Pursuit of Educational Freedom* and *Hip Hop's Li'l Sistas Speak: Negotiating Hip Hop Identities and Politics in the New South*. Her work has appeared in numerous publications, including *Educational Researcher*, *Urban Education*, *The Urban Review*, and the *Journal of LGBT Youth*.

Learn more at bettinalove.com

Facilitator Bios



EVENT MC

Zalika Gardner

She/Her

Education Consultant

Zalika Gardner is a visionary leader. She is a consultant, coach, and workshop facilitator partnering with leaders across both public and private sectors. She is a co-founder of the education organization KairosPDX, and an experienced speaker including her 2014 Tedx talk Listening Differently. She has served as a teacher, administrator, professor and organizational leader in her 30 year commitment to racial justice. Zalika's work is inspired by a deep belief in the human capacity for growth, love and collective good. She holds a BA in Psychology from Scripps College and a MA in Educational Leadership from Columbia University. She resides in Portland, Oregon with her husband and three children.

Currently Reading > Holding Change by adrienne maree brown



Antoinette Harrison

She/Her

Education Leader and Affinity Facilitator

Antoinette Harrison is the Assistant Principal at Parkrose Middle School in the Parkrose School District. She graduated with a Bachelor's in Elementary Education and a Master's in Educational Leadership and Administration from Concordia University.

Her passion reflects advocating for the students and families in underrepresented populations. She has worked in the educational field for over 20 years. Her experience ranges from an educational assistant, MS Humanities Teacher, Student Management Specialist, and Dean of Students to Administration.

She has really dedicated her work to helping communities of color navigate the school system that ultimately wasn't designed for their success. This includes helping families in the areas of Special Education. As we enter the post-pandemic era her work has shifted to helping educators reflect on the effects of post-pandemic trauma, not resorting to traditional practices and moving towards reimagining education effectively.

Listening To > Let Go by DeWayne Woods



Crystal Meneses

She/Her

Founder, Activate Arts

Crystal Meneses is an interdisciplinary creative who activates community music and art through activism and spiritual care. Learn more about her work and arts nonprofit at activateartsnow.com.

Listening To › I Am Wild by MaMuse



Jillene Joseph

She/Her

Co-Founder and Executive Director,
Native Wellness Institute

Jillene Joseph (A'aniih) is one of the founders of the Native Wellness Institute, a national organization that she serves as the Executive Director. For the past 38 years she has traveled throughout North America providing wellness and healing training and technical assistance to tribes, First Nations and aboriginal communities and organizations in a variety of areas such as youth leadership development, healthy relationships, wellness in the workplace and more. Jillene is one of the 8 members of the International Indigenous Council of the Healing Our Spirits Worldwide movement.

Currently Reading › 7 Circles: Indigenous Teachings for Living Well by Chelsey Luger & Thosh Collins



Joe Truss

He/Him

Anti-Racist Educator
and Facilitator

Joe Truss is a racial equity consultant and coach. He supports several schools across the country with district wide transformation. He also provides leadership coaching, school trainings, and keynote presentations. He has presented workshops to over 12,000 educators on topics including project based learning, white supremacy culture, anti-racist teaching practices, and racial affinity groups. Learn more at Trussleadership.com.

Listening To › Tobe Nwigwe



Johnny Lake

He/Him

Inclusion Specialist and School
Administrator

Dr. Johnny Lake is an internationally recognized educator and speaker focused on leadership, identity, ethics, diversity, bias, communication, and cross-cultural interactions. Dr. Lake holds a BS degree in History, a Master's degree and Ph.D. in Educational Leadership:Policy, Management and Organization. He is a K-12 administrator, former chairman of the Oregon Commission on Black Affairs, and NAACP Education Chair. Dr. Lake was an Associate Professor of Education/Counseling at Pacific University. He was a Child Therapist for over 10 years and a strong advocate for children and families. He is very much a Southerner and appreciates your kindness and hospitality.

Listening To › On Coming From a Broken Home, Part 1 and 2 by Gil Scott-Heron



Martha Almendarez Langland

Ella/She/Her

Professor of Education,
Pacific University

Martha Almendarez Langland, [Ed.D Candidate] is an Assistant Professor and Forest Grove Bachelor of Education in Teaching Hybrid Program Coordinator. She has experience teaching in Middle school and secondary education with a focus on anti-racist, liberatory teaching practices. Her research focuses on color evasive practices that education uses to not discuss race in teaching, policies, and structures, all to validate the lived experience of BIPOC students in the Pk-20 education system. She is a bilingual, biliterate, immigrant Latinx woman.

Currently Reading › All About Love by Bell Hooks



Moé Yomamine

She/Her

Teacher Activist and Rethinking
Schools Editor

Moé Yomamine has been an advocate for youth in the Portland/Metro area for 20 years, and a high school social studies teacher for 10 years. She is a Rethinking Schools editor, author of multiple articles, and co-editor of the third edition of The New Teacher Book.

Currently Reading › From a Native Daughter by Haunani-Kay Trask



Monica YellowOwl

She/Her

Behavioral Health Manager,
Klamath Tribes

Monica (Yellowowl) Super, is an enrolled member of the Pit River Tribe of Northern California and a descendant of the Klamath Tribes. She has worked in the behavioral health field for 18 years serving the Klamath Tribes community in many capacities. She is a certified Prevention Specialist and CADC1. She has been seeking, learning, and adapting cultural values, beliefs and practices her entire life. Her life work is to develop culturally responsive prevention and mental health promotion efforts founded on cultural beliefs, tribal values, customs, and practices.

Listening To > Traditional songs of the Pit River, Klamath, Modoc people



Rena and Leah Dunbar

She/Her/Twe/Twus

Education Leaders and
Ethnic Studies Advocates

Drs. Rena and Leah Dunbar grew up Black/bi-racial on the traditional homelands of the Miami Nation in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Identical twins and lifelong teaching partners, the Dunbar sisters have taught a variety of Language Arts courses during their 20+ years in public school education, and are most proud of developing and co-facilitating Courageous Conversations, an ethnic studies course focused on healthy racial identity development, critical thinking, listening, (re)storying, and community-building co-designed with students who engage education as a strategy for undoing oppression and creating sustainable futures.

Leah's current role is as Language Arts/Social Studies Specialist on the School Improvement Team at Lane Educational Service District. She was recently named Eugene Weekly Reader's Choice "Teacher of the Year." Her interests lie in Indigenous and Ethnic Studies pedagogies, organizational and societal change, youth empowerment, healing from generational trauma, and dance.

Rena now works as as a research assistant with University of Oregon's Education Studies department and as program coordinator of the Sapsik'wala Grow Your Own (GYO) Future Teachers Project, located at the University of Oregon. She also co-facilitates a Community of Practice for educators teaching Tribal History/Shared History curricula in Lane County with Sapsik'wala co-director Leilani Sabzalian and twin sis, Leah Dunbar.

Listening To > Beyoncé: Renaissance album



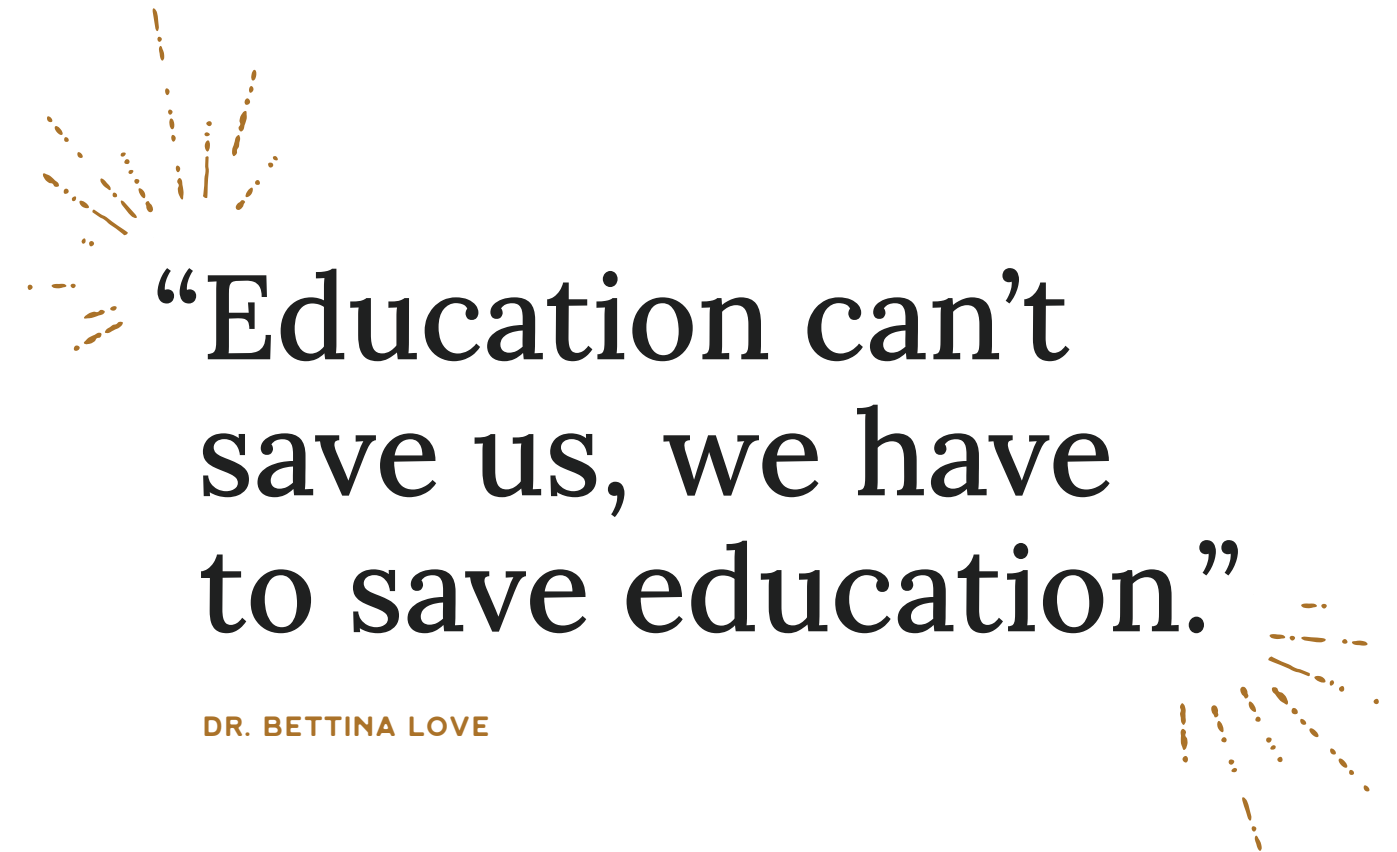
Shadiin Garcia

She/Her

Executive Vice President,
Metropolitan Group

Shadiin Garcia is Laguna Pueblo & Chicana from New Mexico and has lived in Oregon for 19 years. She has worked as a teacher, an administrator, a researcher, a policy analyst, an Indigenous education leader, and as a consultant. Across education, philanthropy, advocacy, policy, strategy and leadership, Shadiin works to counteract the systemic inequity and believes in centering the full humanity of all people. Most recently, she helped launch the Racial Justice Institute, a statewide program to support culturally and racially affirming environments for educators. She is currently an Executive Vice President at the Metropolitan Group. She describes herself as an awkward runner, voracious reader, irreverent storyteller, terrible dancer, and deep-belly laugher.

Listening To > The Sad Femme Club



Breakout Sessions

“We are not drowning! We are fighting!” Teaching Climate Change, Island Solidarity and Indigenous Rights

In this hands-on workshop, participants will engage with a suite of teaching activities centering the resistance of Indigenous Pacific Island peoples to environmental injustice and the climate crisis. The workshop explores both historical and recent experiences of different island territories and nations through engaging in role play and in connecting with the Pacific Climate Warriors movement through poetry. Attendees will leave with new ideas about what it means to “teach for climate justice” and creative pedagogical strategies that work across grade levels and content areas.

Room
281
Facilitator
Moé Yomamine

Cultivating Ethnic Studies Partnerships

This session will highlight the strategies of two practitioners who center student voice, fierce love, and critical consciousness in the k-12 space. The Dunbar Twins approach ethnic studies education through an ecosystem lens rather than a discrete closed door classroom and will share tools, tips and techniques for building intentional communities in classrooms and among colleagues that can help educators, students, and families make the shift from a school system designed for one person to a school ecosystem that is in right relationship with its entire community.

Room
283
Facilitator
Leah and Rena
Dunbar

Humanizing Historical Trauma: A Storytelling Experience

The Klamath, Modoc, and Yahooskin peoples climb an uphill journey to heal from the genetic impacts of historical trauma. Having only 196 years of contact, in a short time they have been riddled with change, adversity, and inequity. The old adage of “just get over it” or “those things happened a long time ago” holds no weight to the indigenous experience. This session will take you through the pre- and post-colonial contact eras, helping to make sense of the impacts on a human level.

Room
238
Facilitator
Monica YellowOwl

Strength in Numbers: Using Racial Affinity Groups to Advocate for Systemic Racial Justice

In the session, I hope to share some of the work that I see educators of color doing across the country and how they are using racial affinity groups to advance racial justice. Participants will share some of their experiences of being in racial affinity groups and brainstorm possibilities of restructuring them and harnessing their power for change. The session will also examine frameworks to facilitate the work.

Room
236
Facilitator
Joe Truss

Dr. Love’s Words as Foundation for Teacher Preparation

Participants will review content from We Want to Do More Than Survive by Dr. Bettina Love. The session will address ways in which anti-racism is addressed in teaching education programs. This session will be interactive and it will include the voices of current BIPOC students engaging with the content of Dr. Love’s book at Pacific University. We will address anti-blackness in teaching prep, curriculum, and the socio-political context of teaching in the state of Oregon.

Room
234
Facilitator
Martha Almendarez
Langland

Persistence of Racialized Privilege in Multicultural Schools

Education is critical for everyone to embrace their identities, recognize opportunities, and to achieve success. The current context of our diverse American society can be complex and confusing. Whiteness as the norm for racial privilege has been sustained structurally by the entire American society, including in education. The closer one is able to locate themselves to the identity of the white, middle-class male, the more power one is likely to accrue and maintain. In this session we will explore the arenas of race, culture, racial identity, definitions and meanings that arise in education and society in our struggles for success.

Room
247
Facilitator
Johnny Lake

Oregon State Song | Intergenerational Civic Engagement

In this session participants will learn about how a collective of arts organizers is engaging youth civic action across Oregon. You will practice equity through song, poetry, and reflection as you learn about the history of the Oregon State Song and the movement of writing a new, more inclusive one.

Room
284
Facilitator
Crystal Meneses

The Culture of Education Post-Pandemic: Time to Reset and Imagine Education

During this session, we will reflect on the culture of education post-pandemic. The culture of education has been impacted by vicarious trauma and compassion fatigue. Explore this problem of practice to see how you can reevaluate and reset the culture of education that supports students and staff while reimaging what education can look like in the future.

Room
243
Facilitator
Antoinette Harrison

Making Good Trouble: Strategies, Healing & Educator Safety

Over the last few years, the field of education has been increasingly politicized both on the state and national levels. We have seen this in the news and we have felt this in our communities, school buildings, and sometimes even our classrooms. This session will explore what on the ground practitioners need to know and think about in order to keep themselves and their community protected from the onslaught of this political climate while also remaining steadfast with deep resolve to the values that brought them to the profession in the first place: joy and love of learning.

Room
241
Facilitator
Shadiin Garcia

Making Healing A Classroom Norm

This session will include a discussion on what is “Healing” and how do you integrate it into the classroom as well as your life. An Indigenous worldview will be shared and participants will engage in activities that can be replicated with various ages.

Room
239
Facilitator
Jillene Joseph

Panelists



Student Panel

Deonna Brogdon

She/Her

Deonna Brogdon is a freshman attending Gresham High School who hopes to be a lawyer when she grows up. She plays basketball, runs track, and works at Burgerville. She is in Speech and Debate club as well as two other clubs. She hopes to attend an Ivy League university!

Currently Reading › The Sun Is Also A Star by Nicola Yoon

Zora Drake

All Pronouns

Zora Drake was born and raised in Chicago and moved to Portland in the fifth grade. They are a freshman at David Douglas High School. Zora loves music, reading, theater, and writing. They are interested in the STEM field, specifically engineering. Zora plans on attending M.I.T or Howard University in the future

Listening To › Heaven Knows I'm Miserable by The Smiths

Trinity Porotesano

She/Her

Trinity Porotesano is a first generation Sāmoan-American woman, born and raised in Portland, Oregon. She is currently a senior in high school at Clackamas High School. Trinity is CHS's current ASB president and Asian Pacific Islander Student Union President (making her the first Pacific Islander president). She is very involved in her community and Trinity's current goals are to make equitable efforts in her school and pursue a higher education after graduating.

Listening To › Ella Mai and Fiji

Kennedy Phillips

She/Her

Kennedy Phillips is a Parkrose High School senior who plans on attending a 4 year university in the fall of this year to study public policy, civic engagement, and probably political science. Recently she's taken up the activities of photography and theater. So far photography has become her favorite passing time activity!

Listening To › Can't Take My Eyes Off of You by Lauryn Hill

Julius Napaa
He/Him

Julius Napaa is a hardworking and outgoing senior at Parkrose High School. His most prominent leadership qualities are that no matter the task, he is dedicated in all his work and he is always trying to better his community. As an outgoing person, he’s able to positively communicate with many different groups and types of people.

Listening To › Just A Feeling by S.E.S.

Education Leadership Panel

Dr. Shay James
She/Her
Superintendent,
North Clackamas School District

Dr. Shay James became Superintendent of the North Clackamas School District (NCSD) on July 1, 2021. Dr. James joined NCSD in 2016 and previously served as its Assistant Superintendent of Education and Executive Director of High School Programs. Prior to her work at NCSD, she held several roles with Portland Public Schools, where she worked as a teacher, Assistant Principal, Vice Principal, Principal, and Senior Director of High Schools and College and Career Readiness.

In addition to over 23 years of educational experience, Dr. James has a Bachelor of Science (BS) and Masters in Education (M.ED) from Portland State University, and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership (Ed.D.) from Lewis and Clark College. Additionally, she taught as an adjunct professor at Washington State University in Vancouver, Washington for two years.

Currently Reading › Finding Me: A Memoir by Viola Davis

James Hiu
He/Him
Superintendent,
Gresham Barlow School District

Superintendent James Hiu is completing his thirty-second year in public education all in the state of Oregon. He has worked in the Gresham-Barlow School District for the past twenty years and has served as a building administrator and district office administrator. His message to you is “Live Aloha Everyone!”

Listening To › Maui Hawaiian Superman by Israel Kamakawiwo’ole.

Gillian Murr
She/Her
Academic Director of Indian
Education, Portland Public Schools

Gillian Murr is a Walla Walla, Dakota, and European-American educator who grew up in Portland, Oregon and the Umatilla Indian Reservation. She is an American Urban Teaching Program alumni and recently completed the First Nations Administrator and Knowledge Keepers Program at Portland State where she earned her initial principal license. Gillian has been a middle school language arts and social studies teacher and school climate coach before transferring to her new role as the Academic Director of Indian Education with Portland Public Schools.

Listening To › Calvin Harris

Carmen Urbina
She/Her
Deputy Director,
Oregon Department of Education

Carmen Xiomara Urbina is currently the Deputy Director of the Oregon Department of Education, a bilingual and bicultural professional with over 30 years of experience working with communities of color and education systems. She is a mother, a nana of 3 and believes we need to create spaces of racial healing.

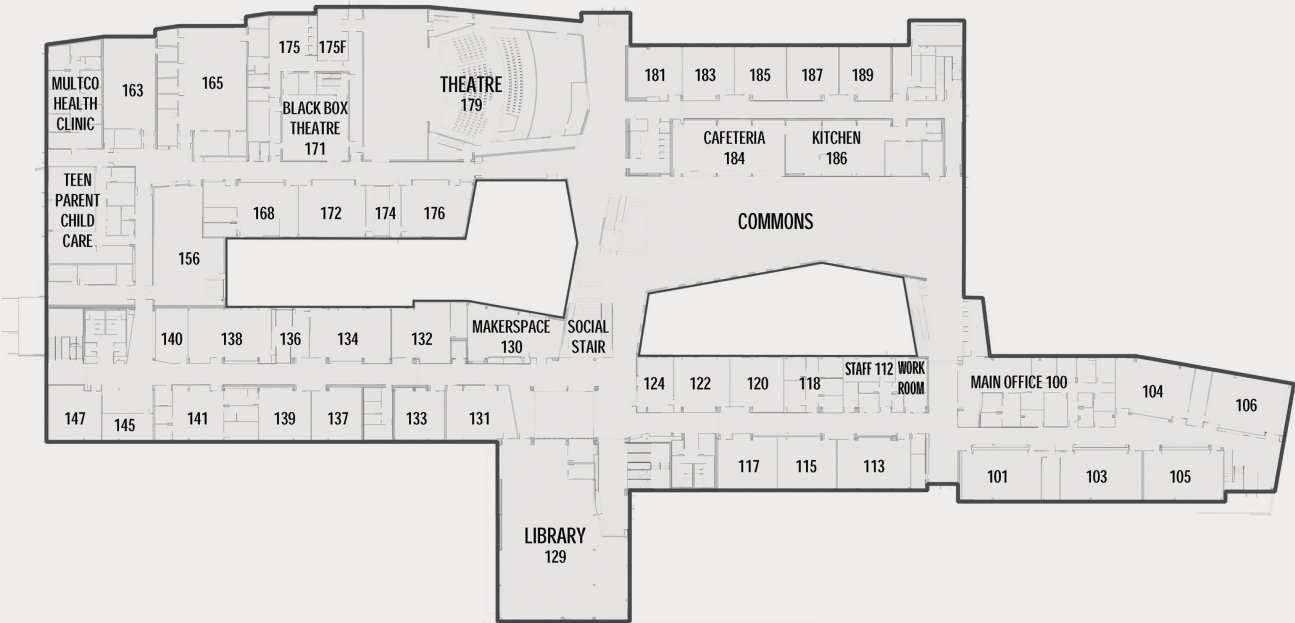
Currently Reading › Rest is Resistance by Tricia Hersey and Just Schools: Building Equitable Collaborations with Families and Communities by Ann M. Ishimaru and James A. Banks

Venue Details

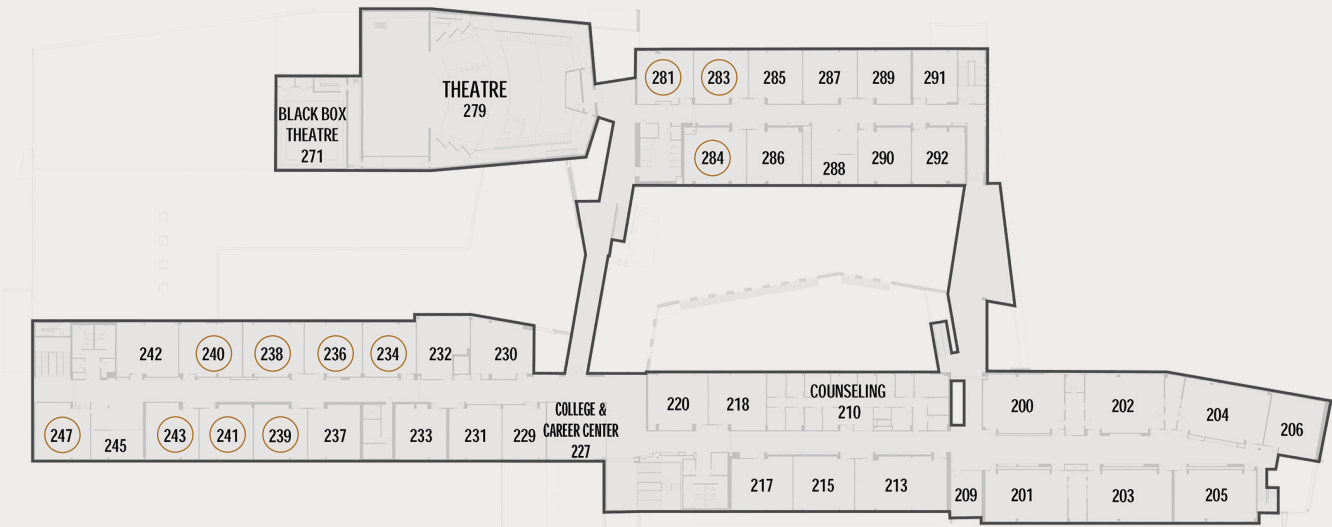
Location Leodis V. McDaniel High School

Wifi As a guest of McDaniel HS, WiFi is available without a password.

LEVEL 1



LEVEL 2



KEY