



2021 NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
Nashville, TN • June 27 - July 1, 2021

Inclusion, Access, Equity, and Diversity Panel

SESSION MODERATOR:

SABRINA THOMPSON MITCHELL

CEO, Director, Producer, & Photographer - Kuu Productions

Sabrina Thompson Mitchell is a filmmaker, director, photographer and owner of Kuu (pronounced koo) productions, a dynamic media production company specializing in TV commercials, documentaries, world photography, social media campaigns and now crafting television docu-series and scripted dramas. Her clients range from HBO, AT&T to RocNation Sports along with a host of amazing clients worldwide. Sabrina's campaigns and work have been featured in/on NBC, Entertainment Tonight, The New York Times, Vogue Magazine, People Magazine and art galleries in U.S. Embassies in Australia, Rwanda & North America. In 2007, she and three friends co-founded WEEN (Women in Entertainment Empowerment Network), a NYC-based women's non-profit that served 80k+ young women over a span of 15 years that focused on molding young women of color to be executives in entertainment and technology. Sabrina is a former high school teacher and former TV producer for Courtroom Television Network and Columbia TriStar syndicated talk shows. In 2012, she went on the wildest adventure of a lifetime and appeared on SURVIVOR on CBS where she was the runner-up of the Emmy award-winning program. She served as Hillary Clinton's cinematographer during the 2016 Presidential campaign and was the lead photographer for the historic women's March in Washington, DC in 2017. She is a native of Wilson, NC and a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Long Island University. Visit www.kuuproductions.com to view Sabrina's work. In high school Sabrina's dream career was leaning towards a career as a physical therapist.



Book Recommendation: [The Autobiography of Malcolm X](#)

Movie Recommendation: [The Goonies](#)

Podcast Recommendation: [Cheat hosted by Alzo Slade of Vice News](#)



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PANELISTS:

CHRIS MILES

Head Honcho - Starting Grid, Inc.

Diversity and inclusion strategist within the motorsports industry for 27 years; presently the diversity and inclusion strategist and Global Motorsport Marketing Advisor for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. In high school Chris' dream career was to be a professional race car driver.

Book Recommendation: [Chop Wood, Carry Water by Joshua Medcalf](#)



MIA RUSSELL

Content Strategy and Integration Leader - Wells Fargo's Hands on Banking®

Mia Baytop Russell serves as the Content Strategy and Integration leader for Wells Fargo's Hands on Banking® program, an award-winning program that provides free financial education, tools and resources to children, teens, adults, seniors, military and entrepreneurs. In her role, Russell is responsible for developing financial education content and measuring program outcomes to advance financial capability and demonstrate the program's effectiveness and impact.



SERENA SAYLES

Principal in Residence - KIPP Nashville

Serena has served as a public-school educator in Nashville since 2011. As a former High-School English teacher, she is passionate about literacy instruction, student achievement, equity in secondary education. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in English Education and a Master of Education in Instructional Leadership. She proudly serves as a Principal in Residence at KIPP Nashville Collegiate High School. In high school Serena's career dream was to be a High School English Teacher.



Book Recommendation: [Making the Unequal Metropolis: School Desegregation and Its Limits by Ansley Erickson](#)

Podcast Recommendation: ["Be the Champion" \(Trauma Informed Education Podcast\)](#)



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DR. LAQUITA R. STRIBLING

Senior Vice President - Randstad USA

For more than two decades, Laquita Stribling worked her way up from entry-level associate to senior vice president at Randstad USA. Laquita is now responsible for three districts and twelve offices, and approximately 1,500 employees. Laquita also serves on Randstad's Executive Diversity Council. Laquita served as President of the 3rd largest Rotary Club in the world and was the first African American female to serve in that role. Laquita also served as the District Governor for Rotary International District 6760 (July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019). The district was comprised of 62 Rotary Clubs and 3,500 Rotarians across Middle and West Tennessee. She was the first African-American to hold this position. In acknowledgement for her work and leadership in Rotary, Former Nashville Mayor David Briley declared July 14, 2018, Laquita Stribling Day. Currently, Laquita serves as President and Board Chair of Nashville Cable, Co-Chair of the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce Education Report Committee, Teach for America Nashville/Chattanooga and on several other boards of director in the Nashville area. In 2017, Laquita was inducted into the YWCA's Academy for Women of Achievement and was awarded Mt. Zion's Bridge Builder Award and CABLE's Civic Outreach Award. In 2018, Laquita was recognized as a Woman of Influence by the Nashville Business Journal. Laquita earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff and she obtained a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Memphis. Laquita graduated from Trevecca Nazarene University with a doctorate in Leadership and Professional Practices. Laquita is married to Finis Stribling III, and they have three sons: Finis IV, Kylan and Tre'. In high school Laquita's dream career was to be an English teacher.



Podcast Recommendations: [Next Level Leadership](#) and [The Promise Podcast](#)

MARIE R. SUEING

Senior Vice President, Diversity & Inclusion - Nashville Convention and Visitors Bureau

Marie Sueing is the Senior Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion for the Nashville Convention & Visitors Corporation (NCVC). In this role, her efforts include increasing convention and tourism sales for the city and enhancing community relations and perception by promoting Nashville's diverse offerings through product development and events. Originally from Brooklyn, NY, Marie moved south in 1986 to attend college in Atlanta, GA. Since then, she has served in a variety of hospitality roles for over thirty years in Atlanta, Memphis and Nashville. Prior to joining the NCVC in 2006, she gained invaluable industry experience in hotel sales and operations with Marriott International, Gaylord Opryland, and Starwood Hotels Worldwide, respectively. Marie is a member of the National Coalition of Black Meeting Professionals and serves on the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Task Force for Destinations International. She is a life member of both the Nashville Chapter of the NAACP and the Native American Indian Association. Marie's board service includes the National Museum of African American Music, the Nashville Children's Theatre, the Nashville Area Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and From the Heart International Education Foundation. She is the 2020 recipient of The Dr. Evelyn Fancher Community Service Award presented by the Nashville Chapter of Les Gemmes, Inc., the Apex Award for Distinguished Service presented by Black Meetings and Tourism Magazine, Nashville Business Journal's Women of Influence Award, and was part of a coalition to receive the Events Industry Council Social Impact Award. Most recently, Marie's efforts have led to the creation of the inaugural NCVC Diversity Council to strengthen the organization's existing diversity efforts and to promote and develop new initiatives that further highlight Nashville's cultural offerings to visitors and locals alike. Her recent induction into the Nashville Chapter of the Links, Incorporated further highlights her commitment of service to her community. In high school Marie's dream career was in early childhood education.





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PORTIA REDDICK WHITE

Vice President of Strategic Partnerships - Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids

Portia Reddick White is Vice-President of Strategic Partnerships with the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids (CTFK). She leads the overall strategic direction on outreach and implementation in building, cultivating, and sustaining relationships with external partnerships with a particular emphasis on those disproportionately impacted by tobacco. In previous roles she has served as Senior Advisor with Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, as Lobbyist with the National Education Association and Director of Legislative and Political Affairs at Transport Workers Union of America. Additionally, she has participated in leadership roles with AARP and the 2016 Democratic National Convention. With portfolios that included various interest including health care, she has managed outreach, strategy, counsel and served as primary liaison to groups such as the Congressional Black Caucus, the Hispanic Congressional Caucus, the Congressional Progressive Caucus and more. Cumulatively, Portia has over twenty years of experience in advocacy and grassroots organizing and building. In high school Portia's dream career was in the entertainment business with a passion for music.



Movie Recommendation: [Hitsville: The Making of Motown](#). A great documentary that can be dissected to learn how to dream, manage and make desires in every arena become real.

MANTILL WILLIAMS

Vice President of Public Relations & Communications Strategy - The National Association of REALTORS®

Mantill Williams is an award-winning association executive with more than 24 years' experience in public relations, grassroots and advertising outreach. In early March of 2019, he was named the Vice President of Public Relations and Communication strategy for the National Association of Realtors. In this position he leads NAR's Advocacy and Consumer public relations outreach team. Before NAR he served as the Director of Advocacy for the American Public Transportation for twelve years, where he led the association's public relations, grassroots and advertising outreach. Before this position, he served as the Director of public relations for AAA, which is the nation's largest membership association for nearly 10 years. In high school Mantill's dream career was in journalism.



Book Recommendation: [The Color of Law by Richard Rothstein](#)

Movie Recommendation: [The Banker](#)