

NONPROFIT STATEN ISLAND
ANNUAL CONFERENCE



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2025
HILTON GARDEN INN • 1100 SOUTH AVE.



ROOTED & RISING



*13th annual
nonprofit conference*

Program Guide



Managed Technology Services
AI Enablement | Cybersecurity | IT | VoIP



We Take Your Business Personally

WORKSHOP SPONSORS



**OCTOBER 30, 2025
HILTON GARDEN INN - SI**



8:30 AM - Registration, Networking & Vendor Expo

Check in, grab coffee, and connect with peers at our all-day expo.

9:15 AM - Welcome + Fireside Chat Keynote: Rooted & Rising

Opening remarks, followed by a panel discussion with local leaders, reflecting on 20 years of nonprofit service in Staten Island and looking ahead at what this moment signals for the future of our sector.

10:15 – 11:15 AM - Session Block 1

- Maximizing Impact: Cost Efficiency & Budgeting for Large Nonprofits
- Laying the Groundwork: Essential Operations for Growing Nonprofits
- COMPAS Framework: Ethical AI Adoption in Nonprofits
- The Power of Intentional Leadership: Attracting Great Givers

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM - Session Block 2

- Board Builders: Elevating Governance to Drive Impact
- PR Toolkit: Amplifying New Voices
- Navigating the Multigenerational Workforce
- Collective Resilience: Nonprofits Driving Systems Change
- Inside a Hospital Cyberattack: Lessons in Resilience
- Social Care Network Help Desk

12:30 – 2:00 PM - Networking, Awards Luncheon, & Vendor Expo

Explore the vendor expo and connect with peers starting at 12:30. Join us at 1:00 for lunch and the presentation of awards to this year's honorees in Community Building, Community Voice, and Community Response.

2:15 – 3:15 PM - Session Block 3

- Leading with Agility & Abundance: Building Strong Teams
- Rooted in Community: Leveraging Networks & Partnerships
- Advocacy in Action: Building Your Organization's Voice
- Wellness at Work: Why the Sector Needs More CAREcapacity™
- Mindful Leadership in Motion
- Social Care Network Help Desk

3:30 – 5:30 PM - Networking Reception

Wrap up your day with food, drinks, and connections. Plus, trivia!



Plan Your Sessions

Looking to build skills, raise resources, or strengthen your team? Here are sample workshop paths to help you plan your day.

Keynote, luncheon, and reception are for everyone.

★ For Executives & Senior Leaders

- **10:15 AM** – There's something for every executive; choose what resonates with your priorities.
 - *Laying the Groundwork* – ideal for leaders of smaller/emerging orgs.
 - *Maximizing Impact* – for larger orgs navigating funding uncertainties.
 - *Intentional Leadership* – resonates if you're leading high-level fundraising or initiatives like Diamond Fund participation.
 - *COMPAS AI Framework* – relevant to all decision-makers balancing tools and policy.
- **11:30 AM** – Board Builders: Strengthen governance for long-term impact or Inside a Hospital Cyberattack
- **2:15 PM** – Options include Leading with Agility & Abundance (*teams*), Wellness at Work (*culture*), or Rooted in Community (*partnerships*).

👛 For Fundraisers & Development Staff

- **10:15 AM** – Intentional Leadership: How leadership presence drives donor engagement.
- **11:30 AM** – PR Toolkit: Visibility and storytelling fuel fundraising. Or choose Board Builders if focused on board-driven fundraising.
- **2:15 PM** – Advocacy in Action: Connecting fundraising to systems change. Or choose Rooted in Community to better leverage relationships and networks.

👤 For HR & Operations Professionals

- **10:15 AM** – Laying the Groundwork: Essential for smaller/emerging orgs. Or COMPAS AI Framework if focused on staff policy and risk management.
- **11:30 AM** – Navigating the Multigenerational Workforce: Practical strategies for inclusive workplace culture or Inside a Hospital Cyberattack
- **2:15 PM** – Wellness at Work: Building sustainable cultures. Or Leading with Agility & Abundance for broader team strategies.

🌍 For Community Leaders & Advocates

- **10:15 AM** – Intentional Leadership: Influence and vision to attract resources.
- **11:30 AM** – Collective Resilience: Shaping systems for community well-being.
- **2:15 PM** – Rooted in Community: Partnerships and networks that amplify your voice. Or choose Advocacy in Action to sharpen policy strategies.

🧐 **Have questions about the Social Care Network?** SI PPS will offer hands-on support during Sessions 2 & 3.

🌟 A Note for Everyone

Wear more than one hat? Don't worry — all sessions are open to everyone.

A mindfulness break will be available during Session 3 to help recharge before the reception.



Keynote Fireside Chat

9:30 AM

In honor of our 20th anniversary, this year's keynote brings together Laura Jean Watters and Brian Laline for a thoughtful dialogue about where Staten Island's nonprofit and civic landscape has been and where it's headed. In conversation with Nonprofit Staten Island's Executive Director, Tatiana Sabatelli, they'll reflect on the sector's evolution since the founding of Nonprofit Staten Island (SINFPA) in 2005. By revisiting the values that grounded our early work and exploring what's needed to continue building a strong, sustainable, and visionary future for our borough, they'll consider how today's leaders can stay rooted in purpose while rising to meet new challenges and opportunities ahead.



TATIANA SABATELLI

Executive
Director,
Nonprofit
Staten Island



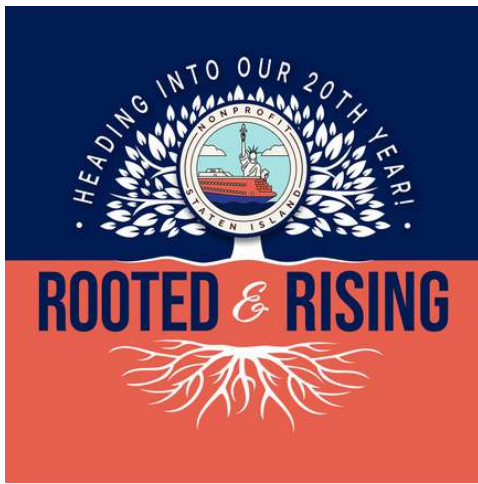
LAURAJEAN WATTERS

Executive
Director,
Staten Island
Foundation



BRIAN LALINE

Executive
Editor, Staten
Island
Advance



Session 1

10:15 AM

Scenario Planning for Nonprofit Leaders: Building Resilience and Sustaining Impact

**MICHELE
TOBIASSEN**

Your Part
Time
Controller

**Room: Britton
Oaks II & III**



In an ever-changing environment, nonprofit leaders must anticipate challenges and seize opportunities to remain resilient and mission-focused. This session explores practical scenario-planning and revenue-diversification strategies that strengthen financial sustainability and organizational adaptability. Through interactive discussion and real-world examples, participants will identify key questions to ask during the planning process, learn how to test financial assumptions, and leave with tools to help their organizations respond confidently to change—rooted in mission, ready to rise.

Growing organizations often find themselves building systems mid-flight. This session outlines the essential operational groundwork that supports stability and growth—from governance and financial controls to HR, communications, and infrastructure. Participants will learn practical steps to clarify processes, align roles, and strengthen internal coordination so their organizations can scale with confidence while maintaining culture and impact.

Laying the Groundwork: Essential Operations for Growing Nonprofits



DAVID MCGOY

Community
Resource
Exchange

**Room: Trevi
Garden**



Session 1

10:15 AM

The Power of Intentional Leadership: How Great Leaders Attract Great Givers



CHAD REYES

Lion's Pride
Leadership

High-capacity donors do not just respond to a mission, they respond to leaders who authentically connect and lead intentionally. This session will explore the role of leadership in donor engagement, including strategies to deepen relationships and inspire major support for organizational growth.

Room: Juneberry

Artificial Intelligence is transforming nonprofit operations—from data and communications to fundraising and service delivery—but ethics and equity must lead. This session introduces the COMPAS Framework, a practical model for evaluating readiness and guiding responsible AI adoption. Attendees will explore how to weigh opportunities and risks, safeguard data integrity, and ensure technology decisions align with organizational values. Whether you're AI-curious or cautious, you'll leave with a clear roadmap for integrating tools that support your mission without compromising trust.

COMPAS: A Practical Framework for Ethical AI Adoption in Nonprofits



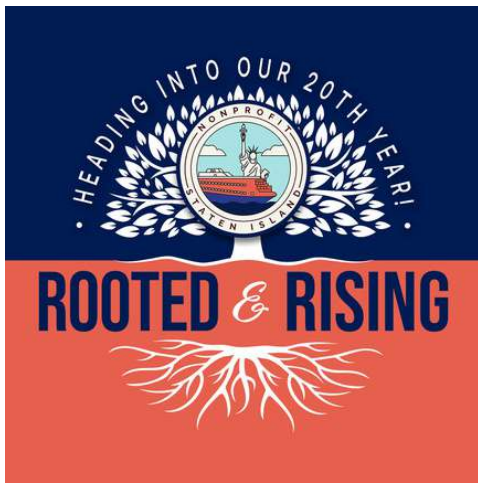
JOSHUA & JESSICA PESKAY

Meet the
Moment



Round Table
Technology

Room: Ivy



ALSO HAPPENING DURING SESSION 1:



ALL-DAY VENDOR EXPO

Explore the Vendor Expo

Connect with over two dozen vendors offering resources, services, and partnerships to help your organization grow. From funders and consultants to local businesses and capacity-building providers, the Expo is your place to discover new ideas, make valuable connections, and find practical tools to support your mission.



LAURAJEAN WATTERS

Staten Island
Foundation

Connect with The Staten Island Foundation

Have something on your mind? Representatives from The Staten Island Foundation will be available for brief one-on-one conversations during the conference to hear from grantees and partners.

Appointment required and space is limited; reach out early to reserve your slot.

Room: Suite



Session 2

11:30 AM

Board Builders: Elevating Governance to Drive Mission Impact

CLASS EHLERS

Support
Center



Room: Britton Oaks II & III

An engaged board is more than oversight—it's a catalyst for mission impact. This session will help nonprofit leaders and board members strengthen governance practices that inspire accountability, alignment, and results. Learn how to recruit strategically, clarify roles, and build a culture of shared ownership between board and staff. Through real examples and practical frameworks, participants will gain tools to elevate their boards from passive oversight to active partnership in driving vision and sustainability.

Public Relations shapes your reputation. Media Relations shares your story. In this hands-on session, participants will learn how to craft a clear elevator speech, write a strong press release, and build effective relationships with local media. Drawing from real examples and award-winning strategies, Alex Lutz will walk you through the essential elements of PR messaging, from writing headlines that capture attention to managing challenges with transparency and credibility. You'll leave with a practical toolkit and a one-page reference guide you can adapt for your next announcement, campaign, or media pitch.

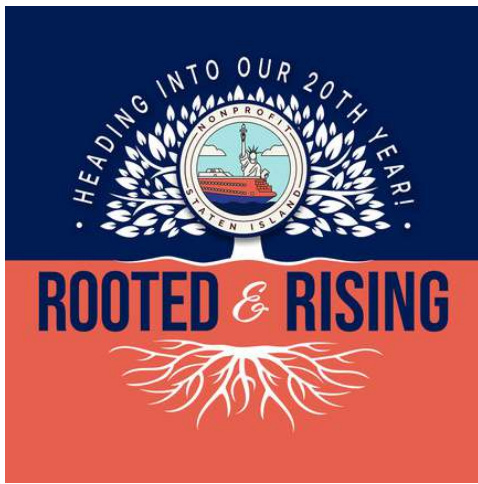
Telling Your Story: PR Toolkit to Amplify New Voices



ALEX LUTZ

Richmond
University
Medical
Center

Room: Trevi Garden



Session 2

11:30 AM

Navigating the Multigenerational Workforce: Managing & Leading Across Ages

**ALLISON
QUIGNEY**

Public
Works
Partners

Room: Juneberry



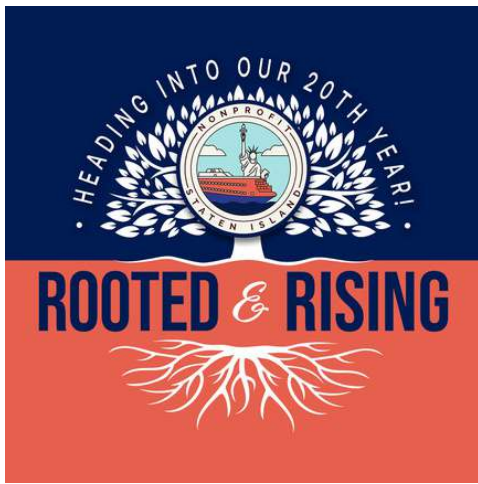
With up to five generations now working side by side, today's nonprofit leaders must balance diverse communication styles, motivations, and values. This session explores how to build inclusive teams that honor experience while fostering innovation. Learn strategies to engage and retain staff across generations, strengthen intergenerational collaboration, and align workplace culture with mission and modern expectations. Attendees will leave with actionable insights to improve communication, mentoring, and management practices that sustain a thriving, multigenerational workforce.

True resilience extends beyond any single organization; it's built through collective effort. This session explores how Staten Island's nonprofit community is shaping systems change to advance health, equity, and climate resilience. Drawing from real local initiatives, participants will learn how collaboration, shared infrastructure, and cross-sector partnerships drive more effective, equitable outcomes. The discussion highlights how nonprofits can use their on-the-ground expertise to influence policy, strengthen networks, and co-create solutions that sustain both organizations and the communities they serve.

Collective Resilience: Nonprofits Driving Systems Change for Community Well-Being



Room: Ivy



ALSO HAPPENING DURING SESSION 2:



JOSEPH CUOZZO
Richmond University
Medical Center

Inside a Hospital Cyberattack: Lessons in Resilience

Get a behind-the-scenes look at a real cyberattack on a healthcare system. Joseph Cuzzo will walk through the timeline from initial alert to full restoration, highlighting operational impacts, key decision points, and coordination across organizational leadership. He'll close with actionable recommendations nonprofit leaders can use to bolster preparedness and resilience.

Room: Wisteria



CHRIS DOWLING
Staten Island
Performing
Providers System

Get Connected: Social Care Network Help Desk

Have questions about the Staten Island Social Care Network? Drop in for a hands-on conversation with the SI PPS team to learn how the platform connects health and human service providers, supports referrals, and strengthens collaboration in service to our community. Whether you're already part of the Network or exploring how to join, team members will be available to answer questions, walk through onboarding steps, and share practical tips to help you get connected and make the most of this growing resource.

Room: Britton Oaks I



Session 3

2:15 PM

Wellness at Work: Why
the Nonprofit Sector
Needs More CAREcapacity™

**RAMONA
THOMAS**

Community
Resource
Exchange



Burnout isn't a badge of honor; it's a systems problem. This session reframes "self-care" as organizational CAREcapacity™: the policies, practices, and norms that let people do great work without sacrificing well-being. We'll unpack practical strategies for staffing, supervision, workload clarity, and reflective practice, with tools you can adapt for teams of any size. You'll leave with an actionable framework to measure culture and capacity so your people and your impact are sustainable.

Room: Britton Oaks II & III

Partnerships aren't just nice-to-have—they're how community-rooted organizations scale impact. This session explores practical ways to map stakeholders, cultivate public-private alliances, and navigate government processes while staying mission-anchored. We'll cover how to position your organization, frame mutual value, and structure collaborations that unlock visibility, resources, and policy momentum—so your network becomes an engine for growth.

Rooted in Community:
Leveraging Networks and
Partnerships for Growth



**TERESA
GONZALEZ**

Bolton-St.
John's

Room: Trevi Garden



Session 3

2:15 PM

Advocacy in Action: Building Your Organization's Voice for Systems Change

**ALANA
TORNELLO
&
MARIANELA
DIAZ**



Human Services
Council

Room: Juneberry

Advocacy is a team sport. Learn how to translate front-line experience into clear policy asks, align board and staff roles, and plug into coalitions without mission drift. This practical session will help you set priorities, build a simple message map, and prepare your organization for budget, legislative, and regulatory moments—so you can move from reacting to shaping the systems your community needs.

In a resource-constrained world, strong teams grow from clarity, trust, and intentional practice. This session offers pragmatic tools for aligning structure to strategy, planning through uncertainty, and cultivating a culture of learning and accountability. You'll leave with a lightweight framework for team roles and rhythms, plus coaching-style techniques to develop people while advancing results.

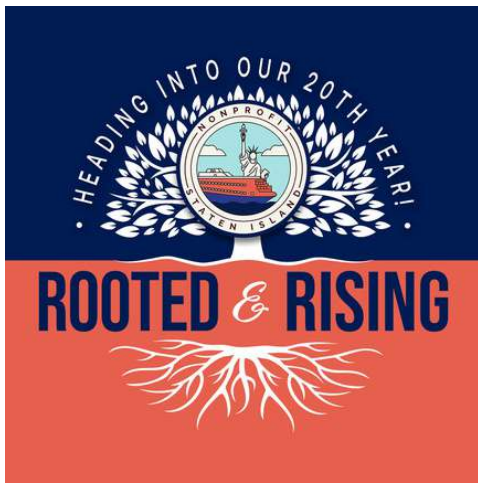
Leading with Agility and Abundance: Building Strong Nonprofit Teams



SUSAN MADON

Minerva
Nonprofit
Management
Consulting

Room: Ivy



ALSO HAPPENING DURING SESSION 3:



MICHAEL DEVITO
New York Center
for Interpersonal
Development

Mindful Leadership in Motion

Take a restorative pause with the NYCID team. Recharge after a full day before jumping into more networking at our Trivia & Treats reception. This session centers well-being, presence, and calm amid a full day of learning and connection. Experience a few mindful moments that reflect the balance and intentional leadership that support meaningful work and sustainable impact.

Room: Wisteria

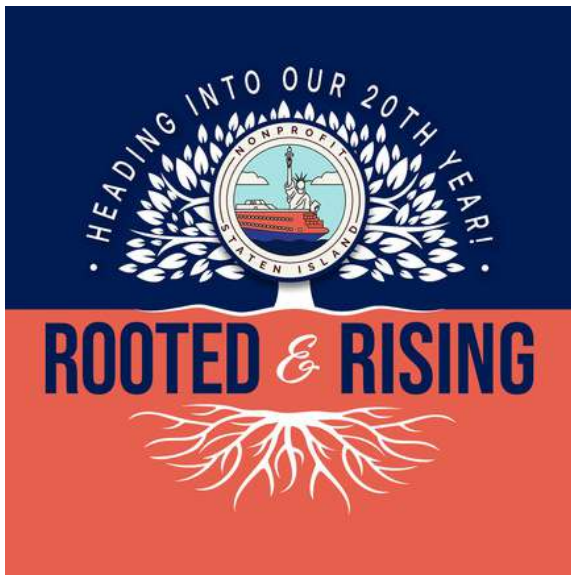


CHRIS DOWLING
Staten Island
Performing
Providers System

Get Connected: Social Care Network Help Desk

Have questions about the Staten Island Social Care Network? Drop in for a hands-on conversation with the SI PPS team to learn how the platform connects health and human service providers, supports referrals, and strengthens collaboration in service to our community. Whether you're already part of the Network or exploring how to join, team members will be available to answer questions, walk through onboarding steps, and share practical tips to help you get connected and make the most of this growing resource.

Room: Britton Oaks I



DON'T MISS OUR TRIVIA & TREATS RECEPTION

3:30 PM – 5:30 PM
Persimmon

— Signature Drink —

VAMPIRE BLOOD
SANGRIA

Thank you
to our
reception
sponsor!

MERGE
EVENT SOLUTIONS
www.mergemgt.com 212.457.1006



Dash of Class
PLATINUM
WEDDING DJ ENTERTAINMENT
A MERGE EVENT SOLUTION COMPANY

prosho
A MERGE EVENT SOLUTION COMPANY

