



14TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
BUILT *to* LAST
STRONGER NONPROFITS. STRONGER STATEN ISLAND.
OCTOBER 22, 2026 THE HILTON GARDEN INN

PLAN YOUR DAY

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22 | HILTON GARDEN INN

8:30 AM

Registration and coffee

Exhibitor Expo opens

9:15 AM

Breakfast and welcome

9:30 AM

What Sustains Us?

The whole room, together, until 10:30

10:45 AM

Breakout Session 1



12:00 PM

Breakout Session 2



1:00 PM

Awards luncheon

Honoring community leaders in Community Building, Community Voice, and Community Response

2:30 PM

Breakout Session 3



3:30 PM

Networking reception

Until 5:30 in Persimmon

EVERY SESSION, BY TRACK: NEXT PAGE

EVERY SESSION, BY TRACK

Each track has its own room all day. Follow one track or move between them.



LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE

ROOM: BRITTON OAKS II & III

10:45 AM

Strategic Planning in Nonprofit Organizations: From Vision to Implementation

David Sorkin, DH Sorkin Consultation Group

12:00 PM

Board Engagement That Actually Works

Doreen Cugno, St. George Theatre

2:30 PM

Preparing Organizations for Leadership Transition Before the Moment Arrives

Sharmila Rao Thakkar, SRT Advising & Consulting (moderator), with Agatha Vassallo, Pride Center of Staten Island, and Dr. Darlene Williams, Project Hospitality



FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY & FUNDRAISING

ROOM: JUNE BERRY

10:45 AM

Revenue Diversification Without Mission Drift

Shakeia McPherson and Laura Jean Watters, The Staten Island Foundation

12:00 PM

Utilities Investing in Local Impact

Josh Rivera and Amanda Straniere, Con Edison

2:30 PM

Building a Fundraising System

Kerry Watterson, CFRE, Fundraising Well



TALENT & OPERATIONS

ROOM: IVY

10:45 AM

Building and Supporting Nonprofit Leaders

Randie Vitucci, JCC of Staten Island

12:00 PM

Managing for Success: HR Practices Across the Employee Lifecycle

Jessica Phillips, Historic Richmond Town

2:30 PM

Operational Systems That Keep Your Organization on Track

Elser Llanos, A Chance in Life



STRATEGY, TECHNOLOGY & IMPACT

ROOM: TREVI GARDEN

10:45 AM

Applying AI to Strengthen Your Organization

Josh Braverman, Tekie Geek, and Chris Ferrera, ComServ Connect; moderated by Alex Lutz, RUMC

12:00 PM

Using Advocacy to Strengthen Your Organization's Impact

Carlyn Cowen, Chinese-American Planning Council

2:30 PM

Data, Dashboards and Decision-Making

Dr. Olivia Idefonso, North Arrow



CONNECT WITH NONPROFIT STATEN ISLAND

ROOM: WISTERIA

10:45 AM

Blue Skies, Grey Skies: Preparing Together with SI COAD

Dr. Ginny Mantello, Office of the Staten Island Borough President

12:00 PM

Maximize Your Membership with Nonprofit Staten Island

Michelle Bascome and Rasheeda Edmonds, Nonprofit Staten Island

2:30 PM

Learn About the LUCHA Leadership Initiative

Deana Jean, Intentional Excellence Consulting