



LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Women's Leadership Conference

Speaker Biographies

November 29, 2018

STRONGER
TOGETHER
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BINDI BELANGER

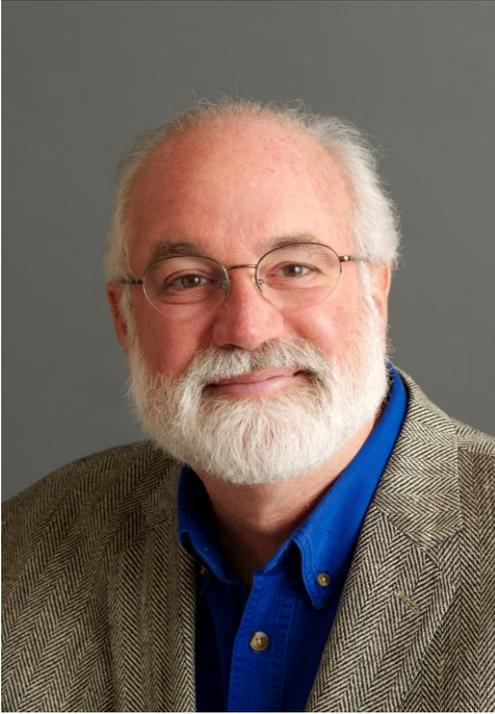
*VP, Governance &
Operational Planning,
Ticketmaster*

Bindi Belanger is currently VP of Governance & Operational Planning at Ticketmaster, based in Hollywood, CA. In her role, Bindi is responsible for management of the constantly evolving operating plan for the Product and Technology organizations. She also facilitates the governance and executive review of large, multi-million dollar technology programs.

Prior to Ticketmaster, Bindi served in various project, program and portfolio management roles at The Walt Disney Company, UnitedHealth Group, NBC Universal, and DIRECTV. Bindi holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from USC's Marshall School of Business.



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GREGORY BOYLE

Founder, Homeboy Industries

Gregory Boyle is the founder of Homeboy Industries, the largest gang-intervention, rehabilitation, and re-entry program in the world.

A native Angeleno and Jesuit priest, from 1986 to 1992 Father Boyle served as pastor of Dolores Mission Church in Boyle Heights, then the poorest Catholic parish in Los Angeles that also had the highest concentration of gang activity in the city.

Father Boyle witnessed the devastating impact of gang violence on his community during the so-called “decade of death” that began in the late 1980s and peaked at 1,000 gang-related killings in 1992. In the face of law enforcement tactics and criminal justice policies of suppression and mass incarceration as the means to end gang violence, he and parish and community members adopted what was a radical approach at the time: treat gang members as human beings.

In 1988 they started what would eventually become Homeboy Industries, which employs and trains former gang members in a range of social enterprises, as well as provides critical services to thousands of men and women who walk through its doors every year seeking a better life.

Father Boyle is the author of the 2010 *New York Times*-bestseller *Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion*. His 2017 book is the *Los Angeles Times*-bestseller *Barking to the Choir: The Power of Radical Kinship*.

He has received the California Peace Prize and been inducted into the California Hall of Fame. In 2014, the White House named Father Boyle a Champion of Change. He received the University of Notre Dame's 2017 Laetare Medal, the oldest honor given to American Catholics.



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LAUREN BURNELL

*US Public Sector
Programs/Cloud Alliances,
FireEye, Inc.*

Lauren Burnell is the US Public Sector (USPS) Programs/Cloud Alliances lead at FireEye, where she is responsible for developing FireEye's USPS Cloud strategy and strategic partnerships with the Cloud Service Providers (CSPs). Before joining private industry, Ms. Burnell served as a U.S. Navy Cryptologic Warfare Officer specializing in cyberspace operations, signals intelligence electronic warfare and data analytics.

Over her six-year commission in the U.S. Navy, she held numerous leadership roles supporting both Navy and National missions related to advanced tactics in cyber security and electromagnetic maneuver warfare. Ms. Burnell's tours included time as a Cyber Lead at the National Security Agency, driving the Navy's tactical response during its first named cyber security operation, and teaching information warfare curriculum to the Fleet. Upon honorable discharge from the Navy, she joined PCM-G, an IT solutions and services provider, as a security engineer. She then led PCM-G's Federal engineering team as Director of Engineering.

A published statistician, Ms. Burnell holds a B.S. Political Science from the United States Naval Academy, as well as a M.A. Government in Politics from the University of Maryland. Ms. Burnell's certifications and personal decorations include Certified Ethical Hacker, Security+, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (two awards), NSA/CSS Signals Intelligence Directorate Military Performer of the Quarter (Junior Officer category), and various industry technical certifications and military unit awards.



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DR. LAURA DANLY

Curator, Griffith Observatory

Dr. Laura Danly is the Curator of Griffith Observatory in Los Angeles, California. Since her arrival at Griffith Observatory upon its reopening in 2006, she has developed and implemented the Observatory's educational, planetarium, gallery, telescope, and theatre programs. In particular, Dr. Danly has produced, directed, and co-written four of Griffith Observatory's most recent programs in the Samuel Oschin Planetarium. Recently Dr. Danly oversaw the renovation of all the technical systems in the planetarium theatre.

Dr. Danly got her PhD from the University of Wisconsin where she specialized in ultraviolet spectroscopy. She then spent ten years at the Space Telescope Science Institute (ST ScI) where she was a post-doctoral and Hubble Fellow conducting research with the Hubble Telescope (1987-1997). After her post-docs, she joined the scientific staff as ST ScI's first Project Scientist for Education. Dr. Danly left ST ScI NASA in 1997 to take a joint academic appointment as a Professor of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Denver, the first Curator of Space Science at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, and the first Chair of their new Space Sciences Department.

Dr. Danly then moved to New York City where she was the Senior Manager of Astrophysics Education at the American Museum of Natural History (2004-2006). Dr. Danly has appeared in numerous broadcast science and astronomy programs, and has served on advisory boards to the White House and NASA.



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ELDONNA LEWIS FERNANDEZ

*Professional Speaker,
Negotiation and Experiential
Training Expert, Dynamic
Vision International, Inc.*

As CEO of Dynamic Vision International Inc., Eldonna Lewis Fernandez dispenses leadership, negotiation and communication training to corporate clients and small business owners internationally. Her business is built on a 23-year career as a contract specialist in the Air Force, where she negotiated hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of domestic and international contracts.

After retiring from the Air Force, Eldonna spent 10 years as a contracts administrator, negotiator and systems analyst for aerospace companies such as Raytheon, Sparta and Parsons.. Today, her corporate workshops and keynotes cover a variety of topics – everything from negotiating skills to being a master negotiator, communicating with confidence and becoming a self-leader.

Eldonna has written two books: *Think Like A Negotiator ~ 50 Ways to Create Win Win Results by Understanding the Pitfalls to Avoid* and *GoPINK Rules of Engagement: 5 Foundational Principles for Taking Control of the Handlebars of Your Life*. She also co-authored *Heart of a Military Woman*, a compilation of stories by, for, and about military women and is contributing author in 5 books.



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JAMIE HAGIYA

Professional Athlete and Co-owner and Coach at Torrance Training Lab

Jamie Hagiya grew up in Torrance, California, where she was a standout player on the South High School basketball team. She and her team secured three Ocean League championships, and each time, Jamie was named MVP. After receiving a scholarship to the University of Southern California in 2003, she was a two-time team captain and led her team to two NCAA tournament appearances.

She finished her career for the Women of Troy in 2007, 4th all-time in career assists and 2nd all-time in career three-point field goals. After graduating from USC with a degree in Communication, Jamie played professional basketball in Greece and Spain. During the off season, she started her own youth basketball camps and clinics with Hagiya Basketball, which have run in California, Hawaii, and Washington. The turning point of Jamie's athletic career came in 2012, when she tried out for the WNBA, but did not make the team. Jamie then decided to redirect her focus, energy and efforts toward a second passion: CrossFit. She found CrossFit at the end of 2011, and a year later, traded in her Air Jordans to pursue CrossFit full-time.

Currently, Jamie is a competitive CrossFit athlete and co-owner/coach at Torrance Training Lab in Torrance, CA. She is a six-time CrossFit Regional competitor (2013-2018) and two-time CrossFit Games Athlete (Individual 2016 and Team 2018). She is also a double entrepreneur as she started her own clothing company called "Left Coast Vibes Co." At the gym, Jamie and her coaching staff work hard to ensure that members are achieving their fitness and health goals, while creating and upholding a tight-knit community. Everyone from the community is welcome, as her clients range from people brand new to fitness, to high school athletes, to adaptive athletes as she works with the LA Wheelchair Women's Basketball Team and clients with Cerebral Palsy. As a fitness enthusiast and advocate for body positivity, she hopes to inspire others to be comfortable in their own skin, go after their dreams, and know that anything is possible.



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CAROLINE HELDMAN

Research Director, Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media

Dr. Heldman is an Associate Professor of Politics at Occidental College in Los Angeles and the research director for the Geena Davis Institute for Gender in Media. Her research specializes in media, the presidency, and systems of power (race, class, gender). Dr. Heldman co-edited *Rethinking Madame President: Are We Ready for a Woman in the White House?* (Lynne Rienner, 2007) and authored *Protest Politics in the Marketplace: Consumer Activism in the Corporate Age* (Cornell University Press, 2017), *Women, Power, and Politics: The Fight for Gender Equality in the United States* (Oxford University Press, 2017), *The New Campus Anti-Rape Movement* (Lexington, 2018), and *Gender and Resistance in the 2016 Presidential Election* (Praeger, 2018).

Dr. Heldman has been active in “real world” politics as a professional pollster, campaign manager, and commentator for CNN, MSNBC, FOX News, and CNBC. She has also been featured in popular documentaries, including *Missrepresentation*, *The Mask You Live In*, *The Hunting Ground*, *Informant*, *Equal Means Equal*, and *Liberated*. Dr. Heldman was one of many women who went public with allegations of gender discrimination against Bill O’Reilly that led to his firing from Fox News. She splits her time between Los Angeles and New Orleans where she co-founded the New Orleans Women’s Shelter and the Lower Ninth Ward Living Museum. Dr. Heldman also co-founded End Rape on Campus (EROC), Faculty Against Rape (FAR), and End Rape Statute of Limitations (ERSOL).



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SCHARRELL JACKSON

*Partner, CFO/COO at Squar
Milner*

*Founder/CEO of Leadership in
Heels*

Scharrell Jackson has served as an executive in the field of Finance/Accounting and Operations for over 30 years, working in multiple industries. She is known for her remarkable business acumen and her commitment to developing leadership attributes in others, streamlining business operations and automating processes that drive growth and increase efficiency and bottom line profit.

Scharrell is a Partner, COO/CFO of Squar Milner LLP, one of the nation's 50 largest accounting firms. She provides executive leadership to the Accounting, Human Resources, Information Technology, and Administrative teams. Scharrell is also a highly sought-after dynamic and engaging keynote speaker and emcee. Many have benefited from her message on a variety of topics such as Authentic Leadership, Breaking the Glass Ceiling, Gender Communication Gap, Corporate Culture, Business Growth/Strategy, Diversity, Leading Millennials in the 21st Century, to name a few.

Scharrell founded "Leadership in Heels", a professional Speaker Series, for the sole purpose of making a significant difference professionally and personally in the lives of others. These sold out events have captured the Orange County community and is the talk of the town among OC business leaders. Scharrell serves on a number of boards, host a small group in her home and is a single mother of three amazing sons.



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ELIZABETH KILPATRICK

*Vice President, Development
& Operations, Geena Davis
Institute on Gender in Media*

Elizabeth Kilpatrick has worked with the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media for eight years, currently in the role of Vice President of Development and Operations. She has more than 20 years fundraising, marketing, research program management and strategic planning experience with major universities to volunteer-driven grassroots organizations. She has previously served in executive roles with Cure Autism Now (now Autism Speaks) the Alzheimer's Association of Orange County, the University of Southern California and Goodwill Industries of Southern California. She is also a coach, speaker, vlogger, and author in the area of weight loss transformation – having successfully maintained a 200-pound weight loss.



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ABBE LAND

Executive Director, Women and Girls Initiative

Abbe Land is the Executive Director of the LA County Women and Girls Initiative (WGI). The WGI was created to help improve the lives of women and girls through changes in policy, program development and strategic partnerships.

Abbe brings over 30 years of experience to her position with Los Angeles County having served as a leader within the non-profit and civic government worlds. She is the former Executive Director and CEO of the Trevor Project, a nationally recognized nonprofit providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention to LGBTQ youth. A recognized and respected health care professional and activist, Abbe has an impressive history of ensuring care to underrepresented populations and advocating for youth in the LGBTQ community. Prior to joining Trevor, Abbe served as Co-CEO of The Saban Community Clinic in Los Angeles, a preeminent community clinic that provides comprehensive medical care to low income people in the Los Angeles area.

She currently serves on Women Against Gun Violence Advisory Board; the L.A. County Department of Health Services' Women's Health Policy Council; Planned Parenthood Advocacy Project Board of Directors; TransCanWork Advisory Board; National Board of Directors; MAZON's Public Policy Committee and the AIDS Community Action Foundation Board of Directors. In March 2017, she co-founded an Indivisible Los Angeles Chapter: ROAR Resistance.

She has been recognized by the West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation with a Lifetime Achievement Award for her commitment to affordable housing and by APLA Red Circle Project with a Spirit of CommUNITY Award for her work to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS. She also received the inaugural Legacy Award for Women in Leadership for her work on behalf of women in West Hollywood, the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles: Good Neighbor Voice Award 2016 for her work on behalf of the LGBTQ community, the 28th Congressional District 2016 Woman of the Year award, the National LGBTQ Task Force: Leadership Excellence Award 2017, the I Love Me Foundation's Ally of the Year and the 2017 Southern California Leadership Network Visionary 30 in 30 Award; as well as numerous other recognitions.



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DR. SHARONI DENISE LITTLE

CEO and Educator, The Strategist Company, LLC

Dr. Sharoni Denise Little, CEO, The Strategist Company, LLC, is an organizational and leadership development consultant, educator, corporate trainer, global facilitator, and media commentator, who helps organizations, executives, and communities devise evidence-based strategies and solutions to grow, strengthen, and transform their vision, strategy and outcomes. An author and renowned scholar, she shares her expertise both domestically and internationally on social justice, equity, and inclusion, organizational leadership and communication, and global strategy. A Professor of Clinical Business Communication at the USC, Marshall School of Business, Sharoni has received several excellence in teaching and research awards, and is completing her forthcoming books, *The Perpetual Surveillance of Black Men* (2019), and *Diapers and Dissertations: Women, Education, and Work* (2019). She has been featured in various media outlets, including NBC, Fox News, PBS, and her TEDx talk, *The Gift of Corrective Lenses*. Sharoni earned her Ph.D. from Indiana University in Rhetoric and Cultural Studies, and an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from the USC, Rossier School of Education. She also received her Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees in Organizational Communication from California State University, Los Angeles.

An educational and social advocate, Sharoni currently partners with the Aspen Institute, Obama Foundation, and Children's Defense Fund, is a founding member of the Compton Human Trafficking Task Force, and sits on several boards of trustees. While she values her role as a strategist, advocate, and scholar, Dr. Little's most cherished blessing is being the proud mother of twin sons, Jared and Jaren.

"To whom much is given, much is required".



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KAREN LOQUET

*Assistant Auditor Controller,
LA County Auditor Controller*

Karen Loquet is the Assistant Auditor-Controller, Los Angeles County, and oversees Countywide Payroll and Information Technology Operations with over \$53 million in Technology funding. As the Chief Information Officer, she has the responsibility for assisting the Auditor Controller with strategic planning and technology initiatives.

Karen has worked effectively over 38 years with dedicated service to Los Angeles County, with most of her experience in support of the County's Administrative Systems, for 39 County departments, which includes approximately 100, 000 County employees, and Tax systems for Los Angeles residents and taxpayers.

Ms. Loquet is a graduate of the Executive Leadership Development Program, through the University of Southern California (USC) Price School of Public Policy. She holds dual Bachelor of Science degrees with emphasis in Business Administration and Information Technology from California State University at Los Angeles (CSULA).



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MARK PESTRELLA, P.E.

Director, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

Mark Pestrella is the Director of the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works. In this capacity, he serves as the County Engineer, the County Road Commissioner, and the Chief Engineer of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District. With an annual budget of more than \$2.7 billion and a workforce of 4,000 employees, the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works is the largest municipal public works agency in the United States, providing vital public infrastructure and civic services to more than 10 million people across a 4,000-square-mile service area. The Department's diverse operations are defined within six core service areas: Water Resources, Transportation, Environmental Services, Public Buildings, Developmental Services, and Emergency Management.

Mr. Pestrella is a licensed civil engineer and a 30-year veteran of the Department and has held a variety of management positions. He is a native of Southern California and attended California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, where he received a Bachelor of Science Degree in civil engineering with concentrations in structural engineering and water resource management.



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SHERYL ROUSH

*CEO, Int'l Accredited
Speaker, Speaker Coach,
Sparkle Presentations,
Inc.*

Sheryl Roush
CEO, Sparkle Presentations, Inc.
Professional Speaker and Speaking Coach

Sheryl is an internationally top-rated presenter on communication skills. In 1993, she was only the 6th female to earn the elite Accredited Speakers designation in 142 countries. She was the 2009 Presidential Citation recipient from Toastmasters International for enhancing global communication and leadership. And she is the only recipient to be awarded Member of the Year from both Southern California Chapters of the National Speakers Association.

She has presented 120 seminars for LAUSD, plus keynoted LA County's Management Council (2x); Secretarial Council (3x); plus trained numerous of our department agencies.

As a speaking coach clients include sci-fi stars, Olympians, NFL cheerleaders, Southwest Airlines, and the Creator of Pictionary. Sheryl also started the US Olympic Training Speakers Bureau in San Diego.

A 17-time published author, Sheryl received the 2016 Author of Influence award. Her award-winning books include: Heart of a Woman in Business; Heart of a Mother; and Sparkle-Tudes!

For more, visit: SherylRoush.com and SparklePresentations.com



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CHRISTINE SIMMONS

President & COO, Los Angeles Sparks

Christine Simmons is President & Chief Operations Officer of the three-time WNBA Champion Los Angeles Sparks.

Simmons is heading into her sixth season with the team and the fifth in her official capacity. She leads all aspects of the team's business operations including ticket and sponsorship sales and service, marketing, game operations, communications, community relations and finance. Under her leadership the team has seen a 68% increase in ticket sales, increased viewership on Spectrum SportsNet and impacted nearly 100,000 lives through community programs in the 2018 season. Prior to joining the Sparks, she was an Executive Vice President with Magic Johnson Enterprises where she evaluated investment opportunities and was responsible for business development. Simmons has over a decade of leadership experience in creating strategic alliances, leading business development and driving corporate initiatives. She has worked with many Fortune 500 corporations and multi-million dollar companies and has been on the business side of entertainment for over a decade working for organizations such as Disney and NBCUniversal.

A proud UCLA graduate, she serves as Regent-designate for the UCLA Regent Board of Directors, Immediate Past President of the Board of the UCLA Alumni Association and was named to the University of California President's list of 2016 Remarkable Women of UC. She is an active member of the Los Angeles community, serving on the Board of Directors for the LA Sports Council, the Positive Coaching Alliance and formerly served on the NBA's Global Inclusion Council. Her dedication and passion for giving back has earned her a number of honors including: the LA Business Journal's 2016, 2017 & 2018 list of 500 most influential people in Los Angeles and a 2017 WISE LA Woman of Inspiration. She also volunteers for Better Futures for Thomazeau, a small, grassroots nonprofit that provides aid to Haiti.



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AMY STANTON

*Founder and CEO,
Stanton & Company*

With a background in traditional marketing and deep experience in marketing to and building brands for women, Amy Stanton has a unique perspective on the women's landscape, the role of femininity in personal and professional lives, and the impact that unleashing our true feminine power can have on happiness.

Amy founded Stanton & Company (S&Co) with a passion for promoting and building positive female role models and messaging for women. Since 2006, when the company opened its doors, S&Co has built a roster of philosophy-driven brands, including exceptional athletes, lifestyle experts, and brands in the healthy, active living space.

Between her leadership roles on Fortune 500 accounts in advertising, her role as the CMO at Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia, and, most recently, as founder and CEO of an eleven-year-strong marketing and PR agency focused on building female-focused brands, Amy has deep experience in the women's space and a wide range of relationships with powerful women who have inspired her thinking about femininity and how women can be our best. Amy has received accolades and awards from the *Sports Business Journal* and Women in Sports and Events (WISE) LA, and Stanton & Company has been recognized as an industry leader. She speaks about marketing and representation, women in sports, and women's leadership.

Amy recently wrote a book called *The Feminine Revolution* with co-author Catherine Connors, challenging the idea that femininity and feminine qualities are weak, and encouraging women to define and embrace their feminine behaviors as sources of power.



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ROOZAN ZARIFIAN

*Chief Information
Officer, County of Los
Angeles*

With over 30 years of Information Technology (IT) experience, Roozan Zarifian has held key positions within 4 County departments, and currently serves as Chief Information Officer for Department of Human Resources. In this position she coordinates with and provides advice to the Department's senior leadership regarding IT strategic direction and governance.

As the CIO, Ms. Zarifian is responsible for implementing and supporting a number of enterprise technology initiatives; leading cross functional and vendor teams on system development; and ensuring the technology systems lead to outcomes in line with business and County initiatives.

Over the years, she has contributed to a wide range of enterprise IT solutions, including several national award-winning technology systems, including National Association of Counties for NEOGOV, County's applicant tracking and examination system; OpenText Award for Digital Transformation Excellent for ePR, County's electronic personnel records management system; and Government Technology Outstanding IT Project award for Business Intelligence.

Ms. Zarifian holds a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from University of Mary Washington. She is a graduate of the Executive Leadership Development Program, through the University of Southern California (USC) Price School of Public Policy. She is also a member of the Los Angeles County Management Council and the County Chief Information Officer Leadership Council.