

Presenters, Speakers, and Entertainment

Listed in alphabetical order.



Allison Hill
Owner, Hill Studio Toronto

Allison Hill is the Founder of Hill Studio Wellness, an organization dedicated to meeting the wellness needs of Black women. At Hill Studio, we embrace the joy of exploring diverse wellness practices, empowering our community to access hope, health, and happiness. What began as a salon in 2016 has since evolved into a vibrant wellness community for Black women across Canada. Our initiatives include Hill Run Club, the largest Black women's run club, Hill Reads Book Club, financial literacy programs, and Restore Education, which offers group counselling and movement therapy led by Black wellness practitioners.



Andrea Hazell
MPP, Scarborough – Guildwood

Andrea Hazell was elected as the MPP for Scarborough—Guildwood in July 2023.

Andrea has shown herself to be a proven and passionate leader for the Scarborough Community. She truly understands community and the power of working together. This is proven in her many years of committed community work throughout the Scarborough area as the former president of the Scarborough Business Association and the creation of Winspire National Women's Network Foundation.

She has been a champion in the expansion of healthcare access for the Scarborough community by serving as the Chair for the Caribbean Philanthropic Council—Scarborough Health Network. It is through this experience she has developed a strong direct connection between Hospitals and the Caribbean community and has hosted numerous fundraising events in which their proceeds have contributed to projects such as the diabetes hub clinic. It is due to this work; she was recognized by being selected as a recipient of Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Pin in 2022.

Andrea has been a long resident of Scarborough and continues to commit herself to the important work of building a strong Scarborough.

In office, Andrea pledges to be a powerful advocate for better healthcare, education, public transportation, better-paying jobs for families and to instill transparency and trust to our governance.



Anthony Grey
President & Board Chair,
Tropicana Community Services

Anthony is the CEO at NIKIA DX. He is a business manager with more than 30 years of success in financial services, business services management, transformation, business architecture, and operations management. Recognized as a thought leader, team builder, and results-oriented executive with extensive accomplishments in leadership roles at Mutual of Omaha, KPMG, American Express, and the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC). He is a visionary technology entrepreneur passionate about delivering extraordinary customer results by integrating best practices and innovation into successful client projects.



Darryl Wade "Mookey"
Media and Tech Engineer-Mookey,
Co-Founder & CTO, Mookey Media
Group Inc., Philanthropist, Author

Darryl Wade, known professionally as "Mookey," is a distinguished Media and Tech Engineer celebrated for his expertise in building systems that streamline digital operations and scale businesses. As the founder of Mookey Media Group Inc., Mookey has spearheaded innovative projects that push the boundaries of digital media and technology. The company's notable clients include the University of Toronto, RBC, Remax, Century 21, SelfStor (Cowie Capital Partners Inc.), Nicey's Foodmart, City of Brampton, Tropicana Community Services, and the City of Newmarket. They have also collaborated with Audio Visual Canada on projects for Staples, Shoppers Drug Mart, Miller, and Home Depot.

As the Co-Founder and CTO of Mookey Media Group Inc., Mookey, together with his wife Raquel Jacquett-Wade and initial concept collaborator Mehdi Kermally, leads a company renowned for its unique offering of integrated web, telecom, and marketing services. Mookey Media Group Inc. has garnered prestigious accolades, including the “Canada’s Choice Award for IT Solutions 2024.” Among its most notable clients is TD JerkFest, North America’s largest Jerk Food Event, which attracts between 50,000 and 60,000 attendees each year. Mookey oversees the web development and telecom services for this high-profile event, ensuring a seamless digital experience.



Dominique Dennerly
Founder & President, Obsidian
Leadership Development Centre

Dominique Dennerly is a fluently bilingual consultant, speaker, and coach who brings more than 25 years of experience supporting and engaging individual and group potential in the workplace. Through her professional and personal experiences around the world, she has developed a deep understanding of human growth, group dynamics, leadership, and, crucially, change adaptation.

Dominique has led high-level consultations across the country on topics such as housing insecurity, gender-based violence, and racism. She has also helped some of the toughest work environments in Canada untangle knots of resentment and dysfunction so employees and leaders alike can thrive.



Ekua Quansah
Founder & Principal Consultant,
Quansah Consulting

Ekua is a seasoned equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) leader and lawyer with over 15 years of experience in developing and implementing EDI strategies. A strong advocate for equity and anti-racism, she works with organizations to drive systemic change.

With a background in law, sociology, and equity studies, Ekua has worked across various sectors, delivering training on anti-Black racism, microaggressions, and inclusive decision-making. She has also led initiatives in inclusive hiring, diversity data collection, and EDI action planning.

Ekua was the Changemaker-in-Residence at Massey College in 2021-2022 and she was named one of the Top 25 DEI Persons of the Year by the Canadian Multicultural Group in 2021.



Fatima Gould
Owner, Green Curtain, Author,
Speaker, Coach, DTM

Meet **Fatima**, an extraordinary coach, speaker, and author committed to sparking the potential within every individual she encounters. With a passion for fostering meaningful personal and professional growth, Fatima excels as a facilitator, workshop developer, and creator of impactful online courses.

Specializing in self-care, well-being, and balance, Fatima’s transformative workshops inspire participants to embrace a comprehensive understanding of these crucial areas. Her dynamic approach and engaging content ensure attendees leave with knowledge, a renewed sense of purpose, and confidence.



Hazel Lord
Founder & President, Pearl
Operational Design Inc.

Hazel Lord is an executive management professional with a passion for everything operational. Her specialty is analyzing, designing and planning for change that transforms cross functional operations to align with organizational culture, and strategic goals.

Hazel brings 30 years of success in helping organizations achieve operational excellence with principles rooted in respect, discipline, commitment and a continuous improvement. Hazel is an award-winning international leader and speaker.

Host



**Jacqueline
"Jackie" Clarke**
Founder of The Well
Connected and Event &
Sponsorship Architect

Jacqueline "Jackie" Clarke is a visionary Event & Sponsorship Architect, esteemed speaker, and the creative force behind The Well Connected. With a keen eye for detail and a passion for forging strategic connections, Jackie has become a trailblazer in the world of events and sponsorships.

As the founder of The Well Connected, Jackie has curated and executed a diverse array of events, ranging from high-profile galas to interactive brand activations. Her expertise lies in seamlessly blending creativity with strategic vision, ensuring each project stands out and leaves a lasting impression.

Recognized as one of BizBash's Top 40 Under 40 in 2023, Jackie continues to elevate the industry with her innovative approach. Named a Digital Creator for 2024 by The Canadian Choice Awards, she exemplifies excellence in the digital realm, further showcasing her commitment to pushing boundaries and driving success.

Whether speaking at prestigious events or facilitating The Well Connected's Sponsorship Strategy Summit, Jackie brings a wealth of knowledge and a dynamic presence to the stage. Her dedication to helping brands and individuals unlock their full potential through strategic connections and immersive experiences underscores her position as a leading figure in the events and sponsorship landscape.

Forgiveness, and Reconciliation process. With over two decades of experience, she has made an indelible impact on individuals, families, and communities, helping them heal, thrive, and reclaim their lives.

As a Registered Nurse with a master's degree in Community Health Nursing from D'Youville College and a Doctorate in Philosophy specializing in Mental Health Promotion from Western University, Dr. Joan brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to her work.

Dr. Joan is the visionary founder of the esteemed Becoming Institute Inc., which offers a comprehensive 12-month certificate program. Designed to prepare nurses and allied health professionals as Trauma Recovery Specialists, this program equips them with the skills and tools required to provide invaluable psychotherapy care.

In addition to her clinical practice, Dr. Joan serves as the Chair of the National Healing Journey, leading efforts to address historical traumas faced by the Afro-descent community. She recognizes the urgent need for healing and reconciliation from the impacts of European colonization, enslavement, intergenerational trauma, and daily experiences of racism.

Dr. Joan is an accomplished author, with influential books such as "490: Forgive and Live Fearlessly," "Forgive: Master the Art of Letting Go," and "Becoming the Journey to Love" to her credit.



Jyening Rose
Business Advisor, City of
Edmonton, Strategic Assistant/
Board Liaison, Habitat for
Humanity Edmonton

Jyening holds a degree in Psychology, and this foundational education coupled with her career and volunteer experiences reflect a dedication to leadership, strategic support, cultural enrichment, personal development, community involvement, and advancing mental health awareness.

Her professional journey with the City of Edmonton included roles such as a Tribunals Clerk, Business Advisor, and Tribunals Officer. As the Strategic Assistant and Board Liaison with Habitat for Humanity Edmonton,

Special Guest Speaker



**Dr. Joan Samuels-
Dennis, RN, PhD**
Dean of Students,
Becoming Institute, Healing

Dr. Joan is an internationally acclaimed and award-winning speaker renowned for her expertise in trauma recovery and the Truth,

she manages multiple strategic & governance projects.

In October 2021, Jyening founded and became the host of Or So She Thought, a podcast dedicated to exploring Black mental health in Canada. She is also certified in Mental Health First Aid and has been a Course Facilitator for The Working Mind since March 2019, providing training on mental health in the workplace.

She sits as Vice Chair of the Council of Canadians of African & Canadian Heritage (CCACH), Chair of the WECAN Food Basket Society's Governance Committee, is a member of the Edmonton Public School Board's Equity Advisory Committee, and is an Anti-racism Grant Assessor with the City of Edmonton.

In her ongoing professional and personal pursuits, Jyening continues to enhance her expertise through webinars, research, and strategic initiatives and is excited to grow and serve as a board member with Tropicana Community Services.



Karen Soltau
Head, People Operations and
Director, Supporting Black Canadian
Communities Initiative (SBCCI),
Tropicana Community Services

Karen Soltau is the head of People Operations at Tropicana Community Services. As a Human Resource Professional Karen focuses on creating a workplace culture where individuals have a positive employee experience and where individuals can grow and develop while achieving their professional goals. When Karen is not working, she enjoys spending time with her family, nature and connecting with friends.

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader".
—John Quincy Adams



Louis-Edgar Jean-François
CPA, CEO, Groupe 3737

A member of the Order of Chartered Professional Accountants of Quebec, **Louis-Edgar Jean-François** is the architect and strategist behind the implementation of the vision of the co-founders of Groupe 3737, whose impact has grown exponentially under his leadership. The first pan Canadian non-profit organization offering support, mentoring and support tools to entrepreneurs from

ethnocultural diversity for more than 10 years, Groupe 3737 now has 12 offices across the country. His mandate is clear: to sustain the organization. He is doing it: setting up the national structure; establishment/ confirmation of strategic partnerships; realization of reciprocal collaborations; obtaining funding; and creation/ consolidation of self-generated revenue streams, etc.

Formerly of Deloitte, Bombardier and RDS, he founded in 2009 an accounting and legal services firm which, following his arrival at Groupe 3737, experienced great growth along with other companies. He wants to help others do the same and promote large-scale job creation.

Affectionately called "Baby 3737", he has been a direct witness and actor in its evolution from the beginning. G3737 has supported more than 2200 entrepreneurs, helped create more than 1300 jobs, contributed to the development of more than 114 companies in its infrastructure and participated in the collective generation of close to 200 million dollars by the companies supported.

With a view to developing organizations/enterprises, it has secured federal investments to support black communities in the province of Quebec with a fund that currently stands at \$175 million. He initiated and actively contributed to the federal government's confirmation of direct and significant sources of funding today of \$272 million for entrepreneurs from black communities in Canada, communities hard hit by COVID-19. He is the co-founder of a coalition of organizations that manages a portion of this amount, F.A.C.E. coalition, and is the chairman of the board of directors.



Matthew Martel
CEO, Black Business Initiative

A Certified Project Manager who believes in a "people first" approach to business, **Matthew James Martel** is the Chief Executive Officer at the Black Business Initiative (BBI). He holds a master's degree in technology, Entrepreneurship, and Innovation from the Sobey School of Business. A serial entrepreneur, Matthew also has an extensive background in leadership, Human Resources, change management, and strategic planning.

Matthew is passionate about Canadian entrepreneurship, especially in working to foster and grow minority-led enterprises. His ability to observe and understand the contributions of different facets of a company allows him to effectively work with individuals and teams to innovate organizational processes.

Keynote Speaker



Mitzie Hunter

President and CEO, Canadian Women's Foundation

Mitzie Hunter is a dynamic, community-grounded trailblazer whose 30 years of leadership spans the nonprofit sector, private sector, and government. She was the first Black woman to serve as Ontario's Minister of Education. She also served as Ontario's Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development and Associate Minister of Finance. Mitzie is a respected advocate for women, girls, and gender-diverse people. She is known for her expertise in an array of issues, from women's leadership to inclusive economies to sustainable neighbourhood and city building.



Monique Crichlow

Executive Director, Schwartz Reisman Institute for Technology and Society

Monique is a knowledgeable professional who leads the design and delivery of data as a Public Good. A thought leader and strategic planner, with the diligence to push projects through from inception to delivery. She is experienced in addressing system-level issues, and designs solutions that enhance the user experience.

Specialties: advanced computing, big data, digital health, government relations, policy, strategy & business planning, program management, trust, privacy and change management.



Nana Obeng

MBA, P. Eng, Fractional COO, HIGHPOINT Management Consulting, Board Advisor, Print Label Company

Nana Obeng is a Fractional COO and Strategic Partner to business owners and founders of service-based enterprises and businesses that manufacture and sell physical products. Her primary function is to drive operational excellence by integrating business functions and optimizing daily operations using a human-centred approach.

Nana is an engineer, entrepreneur and holds an MBA from the Kellogg-Schulich Executive program. She has over 15 years of experience in various industries and sectors including pharmaceuticals, manufacturing and not-for-profit. With her broad experience and her passion for business, she welcomes opportunities to share her knowledge by leading workshops, mentoring and moderating discussions related to business operations and entrepreneurship.



Philippe Vitu

President, Express International Translations Inc.

Philippe Vitu obtained an international education studying and living in several US cities, in Europe and in Asia. As the son of a foreign diplomat, he spent a great number of years in Austria, France, and Japan, fuelling his interest in languages from a very young age.

In 1984, he received his Law Degree (Strasbourg—France) and was awarded a Masters of Political Science (Strasbourg). Eight years later, in 1992, he earned an MBA from the University of Hartford (Connecticut, USA).

Philippe is fluent in French, English and German, conversant in Russian, Korean, Japanese, and Catalan.

In addition to running Express International Translations Inc. Philippe is also an arbitrator and soccer referee.



Raquel Jacquett-Wade
Co-Founder & COO- Mookey,
Media Group Inc., Business
Strategist, Entrepreneur

Raquel leads an award-winning tech solutions company recognized with the Canada Choice Award for IT Solutions in 2024. With several years of expertise in the staffing and recruitment industry, Raquel has led teams of recruiters on various large-scale projects across multiple industries while working for one of Canada's top staffing agencies. She has managed over 40 business accounts and collaborated with major companies like DHL, UPS, Microsoft, Honeywell, Walmart, and TD Bank, establishing a proven track record of success. Her ability to place mid-level employees who have advanced to executive roles has generated millions in revenue and solidified her reputation for delivering results.

As the Co-Founder and CTO of Mookey Media Inc., Raquel, together with her husband Darryl Wade (Mookey), leads a company renowned for its unique offering of integrated web, telecom, and marketing services. At Mookey, Raquel leverages her extensive background in business operations and strategic planning to help businesses of all sizes transition into the digital space.

In addition to her role at Mookey Media Group Inc., Raquel is the Founder of Motivating Mom/Me, a community dedicated to supporting mompreneurs. Motivating Mom/Me empowers mothers to start and run successful service-based businesses, offering a platform for them to connect, share experiences, learn from, and encourage one another.



Rodcliff Chung
Owner Operator, Fresh Start
4 Youth Services Inc.

Rod has dedicated his career to serving the community and fostering positive change. With over 22 years of experience with the Toronto Police, where he held various roles of increasing responsibility, Rod also transitioned as the Program Director of Fresh Start 4 Youth Services Inc. For the past 16 years, he has been instrumental in leading Fresh Start's mission to empower young individuals and provide them with the tools for success.

As a devoted father, son, and uncle, Rod understands the importance of guidance and support in shaping young lives. His passion for working with youth stems from his belief in second chances and the transformative power of mentorship. Rod's commitment to creating opportunities for individuals to embark on a new journey is evident in his unwavering dedication to Fresh Start.

With a wealth of experience in law enforcement and a deep-seated desire to make a difference, Rod brings a unique perspective to his role. He believes in the inherent potential of every individual and strives to cultivate an environment where young people can thrive and achieve their aspirations.

Outside of his professional endeavours, Rod enjoys spending quality time with his family and exploring new ways to give back to the community. His unwavering dedication to helping others and his genuine passion for making a positive impact continue to inspire those around him.



Shaun Chen
MP, Scarborough North

Shaun Chen has dedicated his life to public service and the people of Scarborough North. Born in Toronto, Shaun has deep roots growing up in the Scarborough community he is proud to call home and serve over the past 14 years.

A lifelong advocate for children and youth, Shaun was first elected in 2006 to the Toronto District School Board as our Trustee for Ward 21, Scarborough-Rouge River. In 2014, he was elected as Chair of the Board, the first Scarborough Trustee to hold the post.

Shaun led Canada's largest school board to approve a balanced \$3 billion operating budget, enact a new whistle-blower policy, and establish an integrity commissioner, while remaining focused on helping every student achieve their potential.

As our Member of Parliament since 2015, Shaun has championed the needs of everyday families in our diverse and dynamic riding. He has served on the Standing Committees on Canadian Heritage, Citizenship and Immigration, Library of Parliament, Public Accounts, and Veterans Affairs.



The Recipee Band

With over 20 years of professional experience among them in performing, arranging, producing and mixing, Jason Larmond, Juwayon (pr. “Zhu-way-on”) Clarke, Otis Williams, Johnathan Kerr and Omar Lunan are The Recipee Band. As a collective, their contagious energy at live events and extensively diverse repertoire continue to make them the preferred band for local crowds and internationally touring Canadian acts.

Artists and venues that The Recipee have played for include: the Harbourfront Centre Toronto, The Rogers Centre, The Air Canada Centre, The Hummingbird, Justin Bieber, Brandy, Deborah Cox, Mýa, Tank, Usher, Kardinal Offishall, Glenn Lewis, JRDN and many more. The Recipee Band’s dedication to constant learning, staying current while being rooted in the origins of gospel, rock, soul, funk, country, jazz, reggae & blues ensure that they will find the right “mix” for any crowd.



Vinod Rajasekaran

An award-winning innovator, Vinod Rajasekaran is CEO & Editor-in-Chief of Future of Good, a fast-growing media, learning and research organization equipping changemakers with essential news, insights and knowledge on transformations and solutions shaping the social purpose world. Tens of thousands of changemakers subscribe to Future of Good every day to fuel their learning, development and decision-making. Future of Good’s groundbreaking summits on Black Leadership in Social Impact, Changemaker Wellbeing, Dismantling Digital Barriers and Social Finance Forum have convened more than 7000 changemakers to learn, gain practical knowledge and make a bigger difference at work and on the causes they care about.

Vinod is also the author of Future of Good’s annual “Trends & Tensions Shaping the Social Purpose World” report, a widely referenced annual essential briefing for leaders and teams on signals to watch. In addition to leading Future of Good, Vinod teaches a master’s level course on the trends and debates shaping the future of philanthropy at Carleton University. Prior to launching Future of Good, Vinod oversaw strategy and business

model development as the founding Managing Director of Rideau Hall Foundation, chaired by former Governor General David Johnston. He was Co-founder and Executive Director of Impact Hub Ottawa, the largest multi-sector coworking environment in Canada’s capital. Vinod also launched Canada’s social R&D network as a Fellow with SiG and McConnell Foundation working to strengthen R&D capacity in Canada’s non-profits. His ground breaking work in social R&D is referenced around the world. Vinod has also worked abroad with various international development organizations.

Vinod is on the Advisory Board to the Equality Fund. He was designated as a Global Shaper by the World Economic Forum, a winner of the prestigious Lewis Perinbam Award for social innovation, is a member of the Banff Forum and NEXUS communities, and is a recipient of The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for his contribution to Canada.

Vinod is a regular commentator in the media, an invited speaker and moderator to conferences around the world on emerging trends in social impact, shifting narratives, social finance, social innovation, philanthropy, and corporate social responsibility.

Special Guest Speaker



Dr. Wesley Crichlow, Ph.D.
Professor, University of Ontario
Institute of Technology, Visiting
Scholar, Egale Canada

Dr. Wesley Crichlow (Ph.D., University of Toronto, 1998) is an African/Black Canadian Critical Race Theorist Intersectional Decolonial Queer Scholar. Whose work critically connects Theories of Anti-Black Racism, Intersectionality and Decoloniality as the signature praxis and framing for research, teaching and service. My work aims to provide measures to alleviate anti-Black racism, heterocisnormativity, transmisogyny, structural, and systemic inequalities. Dr. Crichlow teaches at Ontario Tech University (2003-present) within the youth and criminal justice discipline with over 25 years of Critical Race Theory approaches to intersectionality university community mobilization and development.