

NICC 2022

NATIONAL INNOVATIVE COMMUNITIES CONFERENCE

Hosted by:



REACH OUT
Strengthening Communities



**PARTNERS FOR
INNOVATIVE COMMUNITIES**



"YOU ARE THE FIRE"

Healing Communities Through

  Equity and Social Justice  



Keynote Speaker
KELLI DILLON

Panel Discussion Moderated by Margarita Luna



Gabriel Maldonado
TruEvolution



Luz Gallegos
Todec Legal Center



Janice Rooths
RootWize



Malek Bendelhoum
Sahaba Initiative

A Message From the Executive Director

Hello Friends, Partners and Justice Warriors,

What a joy it is to gather after such an exceptional two years which brought anguishing affronts to human and civil rights, a deadly virus, and heroic responses to both from so many people in countless ways.

It is all too human to have our commitment to racial and social justice issues start to fade a bit now that we are busier than ever. We need to ensure that our calls for change are not simply reactions reignited by the next horrible thing in the news cycle. With mindfulness, active engagement, and continued learning we can stop that fading because YOU ARE THE FIRE!

My hope for you today is that you will surround yourself with the beautiful forces of friendship, love, partnership, shared commitment to build an impenetrable fortress of anti-racism, and support for our immigrant and LGBTQ+ communities here in the Inland Empire and across the country.

Let us all recommit ourselves today to take action! Before you leave the convention center today, write down at least one thing that you will do to support racial and social justice and carry it with you like a torch banishing the darkness, reminding us to follow through. So many people are counting on you, on me, on all of us together to keep the fire for justice burning!

You have my personal commitment to support you in any way that we can. Call on me, call on Reach Out. We can only fight injustice together.

Blaze brightly in unity,



Diana Fox
Executive Director
Reach Out



Reach Out's Bill of Rights for All Residents of the Inland Empire

I. Quality Healthcare

The right to quality, affordable, integrated healthcare and preventative services, regardless of ability to pay or formal status.

II. Education

The right to effective and in-demand educational opportunities that advance a climate of safety, accountability, and innovation-based academic rigor.

III. Equitable Economic Opportunity

The right to equity-focused economic development that improves quality of life, and advances fairness, inclusion, and opportunity.

IV. Dignity in Justice

The right to a fair and constructive relationship with law enforcement and an immigration system that respects human rights.

V. Housing

The right to affordable, stable housing.

VI. Safe Homes, Neighborhoods & Schools

The right to nurturing and safe homes, neighborhoods, and schools that are free from substance use, violence and fear.

VII. Healthy Foods & Environment

The right to a healthy physical environment and fresh, locally grown foods that promote personal and community health and well-being.

VIII. Voice & Leadership

The right to speak up about social issues and feel safe to express beliefs, culture, and opinions that allow communities to work together in unity for the greater good.

NICC 2022 Conference Agenda

Tuesday, June 21st, 2022

11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.



- 10:00 AM Registration and Networking
- 11:00 AM Welcome Address
- Barry E. Knight, President, Reach Out Board of Directors; Founder & CEO, BEK Impact Co.
- 11:10 AM Keynote Speaker Kelli Dillon
Executive Director, Back to the Basics Community Empowerment
- 11:55 AM Luncheon is Served
- 12:10 PM Juneteenth Recognition
- Dr. Regina Patton Stell, President, Riverside Chapter NAACP
- 12:15 PM Dance Presentation, Bre Dance Studio
- Send in the Drums
Music: James Asher
Choreographer: Clifford Breland
Dancers: Anaiya Bausley, Chelsi Hopkins, Kasey Knapper
 - Train Wreck
Music: James Arthur
Choreographer: Clifford Breland
Dancer: Troy Terrell
- 12:25 PM You are the Fire Equity Panel, Moderated by Margarita Luna, The California Endowment
- Malek Bendelhoum, Executive Director & Co-Founder, Sahaba Initiative
 - Luz Gallego, Executive Director, TODEC Legal Center
 - Janice Rooths, CEO, RootWize; Co-Founder, Antiracist Riverside
 - Gabriel Maldonado, Executive Director, TruEvolution
- 1:05 PM Racial Justice and COVID-19 Equity Work Recognition
- 1:20 PM Closing Remarks
- Barry E. Knight, President, Reach Out Board of Directors; Founder & CEO, BEK Impact Co.



Kelli Dillon Keynote Speaker

A leading light for social justice, Kelli Dillon confronted one of the greatest injustices in 21st century America - a modern-day eugenics movement... and she won. Dillon earned reparations for herself, and women forcibly sterilized by the State of California as recently as 2010. Her fight, bolstered by an advocate with Justice Now, Inc., was documented in the Emmy award-winning movie *Belly of the Beast*.

This fight for justice and healing was not the first or the most difficult of Dillon's life. Dillon survived several years in an increasingly violent marriage. When she defended herself from an attack by her abuser, the consequence was 15 years in prison, along with many other women incarcerated for similar reasons.

Upon returning home at 35, Dillon immediately went to work protecting survivors of domestic violence. For 10 years, she has guided victims out of abusive relationships, counseled abusers, and supported children. In 2017, Dillon founded Back to the Basics, a non-profit intervention agency specializing in the intersection of gang and domestic violence. She currently serves as the gender-based violence program analyst for the city of Oakland's Department of Violence Prevention. This year, the Los Angeles County Commission for Women recognized Dillon as the Woman of the Year in Law and Public Safety. The Auburn Seminary honored Dillon with its Lifetimes of Commitment Award.



Margarita Luna *The California Endowment*

Margarita Luna joined The California Endowment in June 2007. As Senior Program Manager for the South Region overseeing TCEs Schools-related investments, Luna manages a grant portfolio focused on improving community health through quality, inclusive and equitable education via community engagement in policy/advocacy and systems change. Prior to joining The Endowment, Luna served as a Pedro Zamora Fellow with AIDS United (formerly AIDS Action), Keck-Vivian Weinstein Child Advocacy Fellow and later Senior Social Worker for Public Counsel among many other positions advancing the health and well-being of the most disenfranchised.



Juneteenth is a holiday celebrating the emancipation of those who had been enslaved in the United States. Originating in Galveston, Texas in 1866, it has been celebrated annually on June 19 throughout the United States as an official federal holiday since 2021, when President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act.



Gabriel Maldonado, MBA *CEO, TruEvolution*

Gabriel Maldonado is a leader on LGBTQ+, HIV, housing and health disparities, he founded TruEvolution Inc. fifteen years ago and has grown the organization from offering HIV/STI prevention and care services to include mental health, emergency housing, and now leads the organization’s \$20M housing development work. He previously served on President Barack Obama’s Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS, and serves on regional boards, including Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest, Borrego Healthcare Foundation, and global organizations such as the AIDS Healthcare Foundation. He is an advisory member for ViiV Healthcare’s National Advisory Board and Merck & CO.

Luz Gallegos *Executive Director, TODEC Legal Center*

Luz Gallegos was born and raised in the Inland Empire. She began, “en la causa, el movimiento” as a very young child with the guidance of her parents. Advocating for social justice, organizing, and marching alongside great leaders like Bert Corona, Soledad “Chole” Alatorre, and Cesar E. Chavez. Gallegos is a natural leader. Her organizing and advocating experience came first hand throughout her childhood. At a very young age she developed a community conscious and commitment that has become part of her life. She has led hundreds of community programs and campaigns dealing with an array of issues, immigrant rights, and civic engagement. Gallegos has mentored hundreds of youth and has motivated them to continue with their education while not forgetting their roots. She continues to lead in TODEC Legal Center to give continuity to her family’s community commitment and legacy.



Janice Rooths, MBA *CEO, RootWize*

Janice Rooths, MBA, is a racial equity champion and CEO of RootWize, an equity implementation firm. Through her Equity Leadership Academy, she helps guide organizations to operationalize equity and achieve their goals of equality for all. She is also Vice President at Parents Anonymous® Inc., a 53-year-old family strengthening organization. Rooths has built over 35 years of management consulting experience in strategic planning, operationalizing visions, project management, and community organizing. She resides in Riverside California and is also Co-Founder of Antiracist Riverside, Co-Director of the Center Against Racism and Trauma, a member the Riverside Mayor’s Bipartisan Task Force on Homelessness, and President of The Charles A. Bibbs African American Museum and Cultural Center which will launch on June 12, 2022 with The Bibbs AfroNoon in White Park in downtown Riverside CA.



Malek Bendelhoum *Executive Director, Sahaba Initiative*

Malek Bendelhoum is a dynamic speaker and storyteller who is regularly sought out all over the country speaking at conferences, Mosques, and institutions of higher learning. He regularly speaks on Islam and Muslims, Social Change, Nonprofit growth, Social Entrepreneurship, and more. In college, Bendelhoum Co-founded Sahaba Initiative, an organization that serves underserved communities in the Inland Empire. Currently, he serves as the organization’s Executive Director. In 2018 Sahaba Initiative was voted Nonprofit of the year in California. Bendelhoum has received many awards and distinctions for his leadership such as being the youngest director of a Shura council (Religious Council) in the nation gaining the position at 26-years-old, being named one of the 30 most influential people under 30 by the California State Assembly, the Community Leader of the Year Award from USCMO, and was named 2021 Changemaker of the year for his work with Sahaba Initiative.



RACIAL JUSTICE

Center for Civic Policy & Leadership

Healing Communities through Racial Justice

Our community leaders of CCPL have a deep commitment to racial justice.



The Center for Civic Policy & Leadership (CCPL) engages leaders throughout the Inland Region to support building healthy, safe, and peaceful communities. CCPL focuses on our diverse communities that face significant challenges to equity, justice and health. The 15-month fellowship develops allies and advocates for the racial justice movement, while also building racial responsiveness/inclusivity within the participating agencies' internal and external policies and structures. In April, CCPL graduated 47 Fellows representing organizations.



COVID-19 Vaccine Equity

Special Recognition of Equity Leadership for the Inland Empire

- Kim Saruwatari, Director; and Dr. Geoffrey Leung, Health Officer, Riverside University Health Systems-Public Health
- Joshua Dugas, Director; and Dr. Michael Sequeira, Health Officer, San Bernardino County Public Health

Reach Out is the facilitator and backbone organization for the vaccine equity work in both Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. There are over 30 local organizations from multi-geographical areas that partner with Reach Out to assist in promoting vaccine outreach and education to marginalized communities in the Inland Empire. The goal of the vaccine equity work over these past two years is to reduce hesitancy and increase vaccination rates of families in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties in communities disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.

Vaccine Equity Partners:

- Building Resilient Communities
- Bread of Life Church
- El Sol Neighborhood Educational Center
- Faith in Action-San Gorgonio Pass
- Escuela de la Raza Unida
- Motivating.Action.Leadership.Opportunity. (MALO)
- Mom & Dad Project
- Moses House
- Riverside Black Chamber of Commerce
- Sahaba Initiative
- SBX Youth & Family Services
- TODEC Legal Center
- TruEvolution
- Visión y Compromiso
- Walden Family Services

1.5 Million *Masks Distributed*

57,000 *Individuals received vaccine-related Information*

> 2 Million *Residents Reached*

1,800 *People Tested & Vaccinated*



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Upload a photo on social media and use:

#NICC2022

#WeAreReachOut

#YouAretheFire

#NationalSelfieDay

Connect with us!



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@WeReachOutMedia

Thank you for making the 2022 National Innovative Communities Conference a memorable event.



A community collaboration presented by Reach Out and Partners for Innovative Communities

