

The 2023 BIPOC Disability Justice Summit

OUR PRESENCE IS OUR POWER

Presented by  THE NAMED ADVOCATES

Virtual Summit

Tameka Citchen-Spruce

Tameka (she/her) is the Co-Director of LEAD, a leadership development program for BIPOC disabled individuals and their parents, at Michigan Disability Rights Coalition (MDRC). Tameka has a strong passion for disability advocacy and media. She is the 2021 ARC Detroit Advocate of the Year Awardee, 2022

NACCD's Betty Williams Equal Opportunity Awardee, 2022 Disability 30 List nominee and 2023 Unlock Her

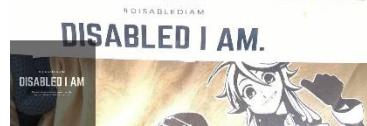
Potential Mentee. Her journey started at 21 years old, as Ms. Wheelchair MI 2006. As Ms. Wheelchair MI, Tameka spoke out about supporting women with disabilities who are being abused.



Tameka has been advocating for over 15 years for access to affordable and accessible housing, fighting against voting oppression towards people with disabilities, racial and gender injustices, and health equity. Because of the combination of her journalism knowledge and activism she learned the importance of telling a person's story. Tameka's short film, Justifiable Homicide, has been nominated and won an award and her My Girl Story documentary has been selected for film festivals. Tameka studied Broadcast Television and graduated with a bachelor's degree in journalism from Oakland University.

Timotheus “T.J.” Gordon Jr

Timotheus (He/his/him) is a co-founder of Chicagoland Disabled People of Color Coalition (Chicagoland DPOCC), which is supported by the Institute on Disability and Human Development. Chicagoland DPOCC is a group of disabled people of color in the Chicagoland area that promote disability pride, self-advocacy, and inclusion in communities of color throughout the Chicagoland area.



Timotheus is a research associate at the Institute on Disability and Human Development at University of Illinois at Chicago. Gordon uses his passion for self-advocacy, racial equity, disability culture, and autism acceptance to create webinars, training sessions, and publications on autism and race, inclusion in communities of color, inclusion in higher education and sports, exploration of sexuality in the disability community, coping with COVID-19 pandemic, mental health emergency services, and more. Gordon is a member of the 2020 National Disability Mentoring Coalition Hall of Fame

Keri Gray

Keri Gray (she/her) is a cancer survivor, entrepreneur, speaker, and facilitator. She is the CEO of the Keri Gray Consulting Group, LLC, where they strive to create professional communities of understanding through disability and racial justice education. She is also founder of the National Alliance of Melanin Disabled Advocates, which creates spaces for disabled leaders of color and BIPOC allies to gather, learn, connect, and grow around racial and disability justice.



Through her various roles, Keri has recruited approximately 4,000 professionals for over 100 organizations and Fortune 500 companies. She has also designed and managed programs for over 1,000 professionals that has helped participants secure competitive employment, identify transferable skills, build an influential network, and gain notable opportunities.

Keri's work has been featured in Teen Vogue, People Magazine, Time Magazine, Madamemoire, PBS Newshour, and the Diet Coke campaign #Unlabeled.

Kelly Green

Kelly Green (she/her) is a coach/consultant and evangelist of all things personal and professional branding! A Howard University alum and classmate of Sean "Diddy" Combs, her first big break in the music industry was interning for him at Bad Boy Records. Kelly worked her way up through the ranks of various record labels culminating in 2005 as Senior Director of Marketing at Universal Records.



She has had the privilege of working with such groundbreaking artists as Erykah Badu, Jill Scott, The Notorious B.I.G. and has won numerous awards and accolades.

Following a successful 15-year career in Music marketing, she launched her own Brand Strategy firm focused on growing small businesses and organizations. Inspired by her own personal journey living with multiple sclerosis, Kelly formed The Abilities WORKS! Project, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to create a more inclusive culture in employment, entertainment, and politics. Through training, consulting, and speaking, Kelly strives to help people with disabilities live a fuller life. She is currently writing her memoir, "Behind the SEEN" which chronicles her music career while battling the ups and downs of a chronic illness.

Leadership Brunch

Lydia X.Z. Brown

Lydia X.Z. Brown (they/them/theirs/themself or no pronouns) is a queer, disabled, and East Asian advocate, organizer, attorney, strategist, and writer.

They are the Director of Public Policy at the National Disability Institute, which works to advance economic opportunity and freedom for people with disabilities.

Lydia is also the founding Executive Director of the Autistic People of Color Fund, which advocates for disability, racial, and economic justice with a focus on

building generative economies and just transition while providing mutual aid, peer support, and community-funded reparations. They bring nearly 15 years of experience as a committed advocate, community organizer, and policy expert at the nexus of disability rights and disability justice. Lydia has spoken, facilitated, and consulted internationally and throughout the U.S. on a range of topics related to disability rights and disability justice, especially at the intersections of race, class, gender, and sexuality, and has published in numerous scholarly and community publications. Their work addresses the deep interconnections between ableism and other forms of systemic discrimination, marginalization, and oppression, and has often focused on interpersonal, state, and corporate violence, deprivation, and exploitation targeting disabled people at the margins of the margins.

Lydia holds a lecturer appointment in the Women's and Gender Studies Program and the Disability Studies Program at Georgetown University, as well as serving as Self-Advocacy Discipline Coordinator for the Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities Fellowship program at the Georgetown University Medical Center. They are also an adjunct professorial lecturer in American Studies in the Department of Critical Race, Gender, and Culture Studies at American University. Lydia serves as Vice Chair and Past President of the Disability Rights Bar Association and Disability Justice Committee representative on the National Lawyers Guild board. They are currently creating Disability Justice Wisdom Tarot.



Rodney Lebon

Rodney Lebon (he/any) a Haitian-American nationally certified American Sign Language Interpreter, is based in the nation's capital. If you see him, he's either dancing for fun or dancing while working. He's passionate about making ALL spaces, not just professional, accessible for the Deaf community with a particular focus on Black spaces and Black Deaf community. Being exposed to ASL at 8, with it being his 5th language at the time, Rodney has loved learning about and from marginalized communities since coming from one a first generation American. He's a big advocate for diversity in the field of sign language interpreting and changing the system that polices and gate keeps certain people and bodies from entering or staying in the field.



Zoya Rukh Awan

Zoya Rukh Awan (she/her) is the Director of Public Affairs at Walmart. Zoya is a free - spirit who currently finds herself navigating the Corporate World as a Director of Public Affairs for Walmart. In her role she directs the strategic outreach and engagement strategy for Walmart's partnerships within multicultural and minority communities including People with Disabilities, Indigenous, and Emerging Generations. Zoya is a proud Pakistani- American Muslim woman who loves to travel and explore all things in the world. [@LinkedIn](#).



Art Exhibit Curated By:

Jen White-Johnson

Jen White-Johnson (she/her) is a disabled and Neurodivergent Afro-Latina art activist and design educator whose visual work aims to uplift disability justice narratives in design. Jen uses photography, zines and collage art to explore the intersection of content and caregiving with an emphasis on redesigning ableist visual culture. Jen has presented her disability justice activist work and collaborated with a number of brands and art spaces across print and digital such as Twitter, Target, Converse, and Apple. Her photo and design work has been featured in The Washington Post, AfroPunk, and The New York Times and is permanently archived in libraries at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and National Museum of Women in the Arts in DC. In 2021 she was listed as 20 Latino Artists to watch on Today.com Jen has an MFA in Graphic Design from The Maryland Institute College of Art. She was born in Washington D.C. and currently lives in Baltimore with her husband and 10-year-old son.

