

2023 NEIGHBORHOOD BEST PRACTICES CONFERENCE



“Stronger Together-Building Healthy Equitable and Resilient Neighborhoods!”





OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Dear Neighborhood Leaders,

On behalf of the City of Columbus, welcome to the 2023 Neighborhood Best Practices Conference! This conference has been designed by community leaders and stakeholders to provide a platform for communities to share, learn and empower central Ohio neighborhoods.

This year's theme is "Stronger Together- Building Healthy, Equitable and Resilient Neighborhood" is near and dear to my heart. Whether it's a safe home to sleep in at night, a job that supports a family, clean air to breathe or access to high-speed internet, there are things that everyone should have in America's 21st Century City. While Columbus is a city on the rise, it's also clear that Columbus' residents of color continue to experience the outcomes of systemic racism. Through my equity agenda, the City of Columbus will boldly collaborate with partners and residents, growing prosperity by dismantling racism together. This will benefit every Columbus resident through the community's improved economic stability, stronger health and wellbeing, and safer, more resilient neighborhoods.

As Mayor of the 14th largest city in the nation, I am proud of our diverse multi-cultural environment and our many historic neighborhoods. I am proud of our differences and our similarities. Our community includes vibrant art scenes, lively urban neighborhoods and true diversity. As a public servant, I appreciate any opportunity we have to improve our ability to serve our neighborhoods. This conference represents such an opportunity as it will give each of you a chance to explore and expand upon some of the best practices that are occurring around Columbus. We hope that you learn from each other and that we learn from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Andrew J. Ginther", is positioned below the "Sincerely," text.

Andrew J. Ginther,
Mayor

EVENT SCHEDULE

9:00 AM

Welcoming Remarks
Director Carla Williams-Scott

9:15 AM

Keynote Presentation
Dr. Mysheika W. Roberts

9:45 AM

Dan Charles Award Presentation

9:50 AM

Networking and Resource Tables

10:20 AM

Breakout Sessions

11:30 AM

Breakout Sessions

12:30 PM

Lunch and 20 Under 20 Presentation

1:30 PM

Conference Ends

Thank you Joanie Calem for the music presentation!



Health Commissioner Dr. Mysheika W. Roberts leads the organization and a team of more than 500 public health professionals who are focused on neighborhood-based approaches that address the social determinants of health from safe, affordable housing and education to jobs and food access in order to decrease the health disparities that exist.

Dr. Roberts has a prolific 20 year public health background at the local, state and national levels. Prior to her appointment as health commissioner in December 2017, she was the medical director and assistant health commissioner at Columbus Public Health. She also built a solid public health foundation early in her career by serving as an epidemic intelligence service officer for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Ohio and leading an STD clinic at the Baltimore City Health Department.

Dr. Roberts extends her service to the community beyond the walls of Columbus Public Health where she serves as: co-chair of The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center Health Equity Advisory Board; member of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Foundation Board of Directors; member of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Advisory Committee to the Director Health Equity Workgroup; member of the Lifeline of Ohio Minority Advisory Group; and, member of the OhioHealth Faith, Culture and Community Benefit Committee. She also is the immediate past chair of the Big Cities Health Coalition, a collaboration of health departments from the 35 largest cities in the country representing 61 million people.

She earned her doctor of medicine from the University of Maryland and a master of public health from the University of Michigan.

Keynote Speaker

MYSHEIKA W. ROBERTS, MD, MPH

**HEALTH COMMISSIONER
CITY OF COLUMBUS • COLUMBUS PUBLIC HEALTH**



THE DAN CHARLES AWARD

The Dan Charles Award is named after longtime and respected South Side resident Dan Charles. His leadership was demonstrated by his strong vision, engagement and desire for a transformative community. Dan created the Southside CAN (Community Action Network) “Helping Neighbors to Help Each Other”. He was a proud resident of the Southside and helped others to learn more about their community and each other. He was a very humble man with a huge heart.

CRITERIA:

Each year, The Dan Charles Award recognizes an individual who is an active leader in their community, who engages with diverse stakeholders and the City of Columbus, and who has a vision for a transformative community.

The Dan Charles Award was launched at the first Neighborhood Best Practices Conference in 2010.

PAST RECIPIENTS:

- 2011 Dan Charles, South Side CAN
- 2012 Lois Maier, Berwyn East, MACC and Block Watch Coordinator
- 2013 Peggy Murphy, Greater Columbus Growing Coalition & Highland Ave Garden
- 2014 Quay Barnes, Berwyn East Civic Association, MACC
- 2015 Katie Radford, Southern Orchards
- 2016 Alan Carrel & Ken Williams, Ganthers Place
- 2017 Doug Brownfield, Lowe’s Home Improvement
- 2018 Tiffany White, North Central Area Commission
- 2019 Lisa Boggs, Hilltop advocate and leader
- 2022 Peggy Williams, South Linden Area Commission



BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Breakout Session 1

Working Through Trauma to
Foster Resilience

Khadijia Yasin
Dr. Shawnte' Elbert
Vince Ford

Room 410

Breakout Session 2

Fostering Resilience through Trauma
Responsive Communication

De Lena P. Scales

Room 418

Breakout Session 3

Equity for All: City Programs Addressing
Lead Exposure

Emilie Eskridge
Luke Jacobs
Brittany White
Erica Hudson

Room 420

Breakout Session 4

Building a Healthy Community

Karima Samadi
Krizia Melendez
Robbin Kendall
Twyla Jones

Room 414

Select **TWO**
sessions!
Attend one choice
the first hour
and then another
for the second hour.

BREAKOUT SESSION 1

Working Through Trauma to Foster Resistance

This breakout session will examine the effects of trauma on today's youth. Presenters will explore challenges, coping strategies, and ways to foster resilience in a rapidly changing world.

Presenters:



**Dr. Shawnte' Elbert, Chief Health Equity Officer,
Columbus Public Health**

Dr. Elbert is a trailblazer in the realm of health and wellness, with a distinguished career spanning over 19 years.



**Khadijia Yasin, Student, Columbus Alternative High
School**

Khadijah is a member of the Amnesty Organization where she is an advocate for Social Justice and Human Rights. Khadijia is also an active member of the Franklin County Youth Council (FCYC).



Vince Ford, Program Manager, Columbus Public Health

As a trauma-responsive care trainer and program manager for the Linden Anti-Violence Team, Vince works to empower people, beautify places, and enhance community safety.

BREAKOUT SESSION 2

Fostering Resilience Through Trauma Responsive Communication

This breakout session will help participants understand the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) and community trauma on the brain and how life experiences impact the words people use and how they use them.

Presenter:



**De Lena P. Scales, Neighborhood Program Specialist,
Department of Neighborhoods**

De Lena is a level II Trauma Responsive Care Trainer with more than five years of trauma training experience. De Lena holds a degree in Communication from Ohio Dominican University.

BREAKOUT SESSION 3

Equity for All: City Programs that Address and Protect Residents from Lead Exposure

This breakout session will share the programs that are available to address lead exposure and the ways the City of Columbus is working to ensure equitable access to these important programs.



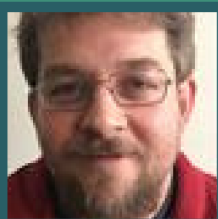
Emilie Eskridge, Regulatory Compliance Manager, Columbus Division of Water

Emilie manages the drinking water lead and copper program, oversees the water quality lab, and helps ensure that the City's drinking water is compliant with all state and federal standards.



Erica Hudson, Development Program Coordinator, Department of Development

Erica works as part of the Division of Housing's home repair and lead programs.



Luke Jacobs, Public Health Administrator, Columbus Public Health

Luke directs Environmental Health services for the City of Columbus, including lead investigations.



Brittany White, Development Program Manager, Columbus Department of Development

Brittany's responsibilities include managing the Lead Safe Columbus program, and providing grants to homeowners to address lead-based paint hazards.



BREAKOUT SESSION 4

Building a Healthy Community

During this breakout session, attendees will learn about programs from Columbus Public Health to address community health under a community resilience framework and participate in community resilience framework exercises.



Twyla Jones, Program Manager II, Columbus Public Health

Twyla, a licensed Social Worker with a Master's in Clinical Counseling, manages the Neighborhood Social Work program and the Resource Room.



Robbin Kendall, Youth Program Coordinator, Columbus Public Health

Robbin has a background in clinical care and works as part of the Center for Public Health Innovation at Columbus Public Health.



Karima Samadi, Program Manager II, Columbus Public Health

Karima supports the work of the Columbus and Franklin County Local Food Action Plan and has engaged in food systems work for over 15 years, in various programs ranging from child obesity prevention, food and agricultural education, and food security research.



Krizia Melendez, Capacity Building & Education Team Lead, Columbus Public Health

Krizia provides training and presentations on macroaggressions for the City of Columbus and other county health departments.



20 UNDER 20 AWARD

The 20 Under 20 Award honors outstanding young people who contribute to their communities through exemplary acts of volunteerism and advocacy.

Molly Tangorre, Home schooled, 9th Grade

Molly has been an inspirational and hardworking volunteer at the New Albany branch of the Columbus Metropolitan Library. She has worked with small children to help them learn how to read, helped run large-scale events, performed for youth story times, and maintained library collection materials. She has served 229 hours since June 2023.

Dani DeWeese, Hillard Davidson High School, 12th Grade

Dani goes above and beyond daily for the Hilliard community and Davidson school community. She is a leader on the Hope Squad and has been recognized at the state level by Grant us Hope for her work in spreading kindness and awareness of suicide prevention within the community.

Shreejana Bastola, The Ohio State University, Freshman

Shreejana organized a youth and refugee mental health conference. The event provided a platform for discussions on mental health, particularly among youth and refugees. Shreejana is engaging with partners and stakeholders across the community to make the conference an annual event.

Desmond Hunter, South High School, 2023 Graduate

Desmond has positively benefitted the South Side community through volunteer service at the library. As a library intern he consistently tried to improve processes and was respected by staff and customers. He helped with free snack distribution, and the Summer Reading and family programs.

Ekam Judge, Licking Heights Middle School, 8th Grade

Ekam is using what she is learning in her honors and AP courses to support younger students in the Licking Heights Middle School Help Center. She is consistently available to support younger students with their homework.

Michelle Morrison, Linden-McKinley STEM, 8th Grade

Michelle helped to lift up the community by volunteering at the library where she signed patrons up for the summer reading challenge, helped care for baby chicks, serve lunch and snack, and assisted with cleaning and summer programming.

Sedric Irasubiza, East Linden Elementary School, 2nd Grade

Sedric's family arrived from Rwanda as refugees. Sedric assists both his mother and father with interpreting and supports an art program where he helps make clay and do projects with Congolese and Rwandan women through CRIS health and wellness programming.

Tamana Omarzai, Hillard Davidson High School, 12th Grade

Tamana helps others by serving as a Pashto interpreter for her high school. She advocates for her peers to ensure they are in the correct schooling, getting all the resources available to them and by being a cultural ambassador for her community.

Onyinyechi (Chi Chi) Saunders, Bishop Ready High School, 12th Grade

Onyinyechi interns with the Columbus Metropolitan Library where she uses her problem-solving skills to complete complex research assignments, assist with inventory management and come up with creative solutions to unexpected issues. Her supervisor noted her level of maturity and insight.

Magnolia (Lia) McMillian, PAST Innovation Lab, 11th Grade

Lia is a prolific inventor, artist, and innovator. As a participant in the Ohio Invention Convention she has advanced to the national competition twice. She is an intern at PAST Foundation, and at a Mezzacello Urban Farm where she helped engineer a 3D printed puppet show to model quantum effects for elementary school students. She is a published author and playwright, and who has had her play performed at MadLab.

20 UNDER 20 AWARD

Caliana Song, Columbus Preparatory, 11th Grade

Caliana is a volunteer at the Hilltop Early Learning Center where she assists during the end of day pick-up by greeting families and answering questions about enrollment and center operations. She keeps the food pantry at the center organized and stocked and helps the preschool teachers prepare for their lessons by gathering materials and preparing activities.

Aditit Pyakurel, Reynoldsburg High School, 10th Grade

Through Aditit's participation with 4 H, she brought diversity to a traditionally non-diverse organization and helped new members thrive. She has helped to increase awareness about the Bhutanese immigrant community in Central Ohio and volunteered at her local library to support the Summer Reading program.

Leshon Breckenridge, Valor, 9th Grade

Leshon has volunteered over 120 hours at the library. She is a leader among her peers and a consistent helper with the Reading Buddies program that helps school aged children develop their reading skills

Larkin Harrelson, Metro Early College, 8th Grade

Larkin has been a helpful and consistent volunteer at the library by assisting with the Reading Buddies program, enrolling people in the Summer Reading program and helping kids with school work in the School Help Center.

Madelyn Thompson, Reynoldsburg High School, 12th Grade

Madelyn has utilized her knowledge of STEM to boost her Robotics Team's non-profit outreach initiatives including the Refugee and Immigrant STEM Experience (RISE) with Columbus Refugee Immigrant Services and Step Ahead Tech to host seminars for youth.

Tia Ward, Centennial High School, 12th Grade

Tia is a violinist who shares her gift with the community by playing at social events. She helps to bring a smile to the faces of those most in need of comfort, and joy by playing for nursing home residents and at hospitals.

Jasmine Davis, Columbus School for Girls, 5th Grade

Jasmine uses her voice to show that young girls have a place in central Ohio. She has written and delivered original speeches as Little Miss Black Ohio Junior and for the groundbreaking of the new Dream Big STEM Center and Maker Space, the Dr. Martin Luther King Oratorical Contest, Girls on the Run International, National Council of Negro Women, Inc., Columbus Chapter, Give That Girl the MIC Talent Showcase, Commission on Black Girls Crown Act Story Event, and the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus State of the Black Family Keynote.

Alek Boyd, The Columbus Academy, 11th Grade

Alek organizes activities and community service events on a monthly basis as President of Jack and Jill Columbus Senior Teens Columbus Chapter. She leads in the development of the senior teens yearly strategic initiatives that are designed to positively impact the lives of African-American communities.

Khadijia Yasin, Columbus Alternative High School, 11th Grade

Khadijia has a strong passion for helping others by empowering them to reach their best quality of life through a focus on mental health, teen suicide prevention and social justice. Khadijia volunteers at Faith Mission, the YWCA Family Center and Mid-Ohio Food Bank and is a member for the (FCYC)

Dexter Jones, Worthington Kilbourne High School, 12th Grade

Dexter reignited a neighborhood 4th of July float building tradition by fundraising, and organizing adults to come together to build a float for the Worthington Hills 4th of July Parade. He is a swim coach for the Worthington Wave swim team and Captain of the Worthington Kilbourne Water Polo and Swim teams.

Let's Connect!

DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOODS
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www.columbus.gov/neighborhoods

@cbusneighbor



THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS
ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

**DEPARTMENT OF
NEIGHBORHOODS**