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WOMEN'S COUNCIL

International Women's Day

MARCH 5, 2020

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Front Row (l to r): Lauren Funk, Rebecca Schaffer, Yami Strauss, Vanessa Seltzer, C. Renee Peterson, Barbora Kassdikian, Amanda Levine, Yessenia Hernandez, Sue Meister, Alison Avayú
Back Row (l to r): Tayana Carper, Natacha Abreu, Malena Mendez-Dorn, Maria Medina, Ilanit Fischler, Karen Prescod, Graciela Valdes, Theresa Sebastian, Elaine Cruz Abril, Kandie Landers, Kristina DaSilva, Maggie Suazo

Welcome

Welcome to the Third Annual Excuse Me, That's My Seat Conference!

On behalf of the Women's Council of the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce, we are proud to bring you this out-of-the-box conference that not only provides a curated array of world-class speakers and programming, but is also a unique and FUN event.

Our theme this year is 20/20 vision. Clarity, purpose, and foresight will be the focal point of the conference.

The Excuse Me, That's My Seat conference was created as a continuation of the discussions that we have at our "A Seat At The Table" quarterly luncheons, which have been put in place to advocate for and educate professionals. We are overwhelmed by the support and enthusiasm with which this conference has been met. Because of the support from our community, we have successfully accomplished many of our goals as we work toward meeting our mission:

- To impact the economic success of our community
- To rise personally and professionally
- To empower and champion for women

Thank you to all our volunteers, artists, sponsors, board members, and committee members for your support, time, and talent. We would like to especially thank and recognize our title sponsor, the Florida House Experience, and the entire Chamber team for their invaluable contribution that has helped make this conference possible.

Finally, we sincerely thank you for taking a seat at the table, and hope that the energy and knowledge from our powerhouse lineup of speakers helps you rise personally and professionally while enjoying the journey.

With love,

Ilanit Fischler
Attorney at Fisher & Phillips
Women's Council 2020 Chair

Kristina DaSilva
CEO at HandsOn Broward
Conference Co-Chair

Graciela Valdes
Graciela Valdes Fine Art Photography
Conference Co-Chair

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Girl Scouts Lead the Way

A Luncheon Honoring Inspirational Women of Broward County

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Wednesday, September 16, 2020
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Networking Reception & Luncheon

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2020 Chairman of the Board
Greater Fort Lauderdale
Chamber of Commerce
Bill Feinberg

Congratulations to the Women's Council of the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce on another successful year. Through your vision and leadership, you have created one of the most successful and dynamic Councils within our Chamber.

The value that you bring to our members is second to none, and you continuously push the envelope to make it better. The importance that you bring to the business community, and women in particular, is so greatly appreciated. 2020 is off to an incredible start, and it's because of women like you that South Florida has the 12th largest economy in the entire country, and the 38th largest in the world.

Your voices are being heard, and they are stronger than ever. Today, we celebrate you!

The Chamber has a lot more exciting things planned this year, and there's no better time than now to invest in yourself and your own future. As we all know, small businesses are the backbone of our economy, and as a small business owner myself, the Chamber has helped me build my own business over the last thirty-six years, Allied Kitchen & Bath, and has been instrumental in our growth and success. It has taught me so much about business and relationships, and especially about 'Paying it Forward "and giving back to our community.

Congratulations again to all the members of this Council, the Chamber staff, and all those involved to make this collaborative effort a huge success.

Bill Feinberg

WiLC

Women's Initiative & Leadership Council

Fisher Phillips is proud of our tradition of inclusion and we continue to expand upon it.

Fisher Phillips Is honored to sponsor Excuse Me, That's My Seat 2020.

The Fisher Phillips Women's Initiative and Leadership Council strives to advance women within the firm and within the community.

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President & CEO
Greater Fort Lauderdale
Chamber of Commerce
Dan Lindblade, CAE

Welcome to the continuation of vision set by bold women business leaders who have a significant impact in South Florida. As the 12th largest regional economy by Gross Domestic Product in the United States, we recognize and value our female executives.

Issues facing women in business are real—limited funding, balancing responsibilities, inadequate support, gender inequality, sexual harassment, comparable worth…the list is lengthy. The Chamber will continue to fight for equality for all in the workplace.

As you work to build and grow in business, the Chamber is here to work with and support you. Our Women's Council, led by Ilanit Fischler, Fisher Phillips, and her capable Council members, will be the focal point for those efforts.

Put the rest of the world on hold today as you gain valuable lessons.

All my best,

HandsOn
BROWARD

Be the change. Volunteer.

HandsOn Broward is proud to support the **2020 Excuse Me, That's My Seat Conference**. At HandsOn Broward, we mobilize people to create meaningful impact for causes they care about. By leveraging the power of people and socially responsible businesses, we transform local communities through meaningful actions that make a difference in Broward County.

HandsOn Broward engages thousands of people each year in service to revitalize schools, parks, playgrounds, nonprofits and neighborhoods. Our volunteers create art in public spaces, build sustainable gardens, renovate community properties and work to protect the environment. We invite you to join us.

Visit www.HandsOnBroward.org or call us at 954.233.1300 to learn more about how you can join our team and be the change.

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After Party!

Keep the energy pumping after the conference.
Join us for the After Party of the year from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Celebrate International Women's Day featuring DJ Siso's high energy and FUN live DJ and drumming performance.

DJ Siso was born and raised in Israel and grew up with a natural talent for recognizing quality sound. Through exploration of different instruments, she discovered music was her way of life. She taught herself how to drum when she was 5. Siso finds a rhythm in every sound possible.

DJ Siso is the official resident DJ at Hard Rock-The Guitar Hotel where she deejays and drums often. You can also book her for charity events, clubs, galas, weddings and exclusive celebrity events and more.

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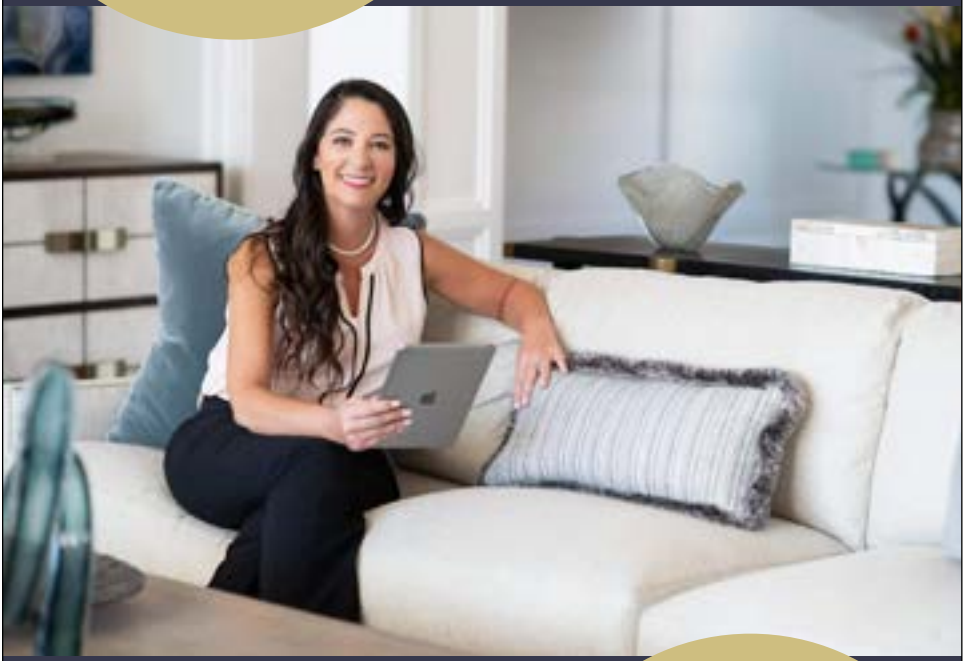
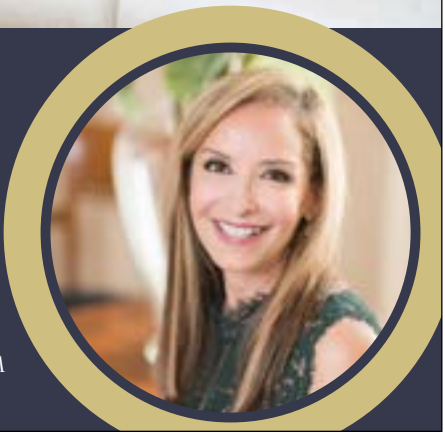


For the Discerning
Entrepreneur



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graciela@gracielavaldes.com

Aniela McGuinness

F@#$ you, Charles:
A Story About Speaking Up

Mistress of Ceremonies

Aniela McGuinness fills her wallet by being an actress and can be seen on the small to the big screen, with shows like "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel", and feature film, "Rock of Ages", with Tom Cruise, to name drop a few.

To fill her soul, she teaches and performs improv comedy with Sick Puppies Comedy and volunteers at Gilda's Club teaching people effected with cancer how to connect and be silly. A two-time cancer survivor herself, her unique and humorous mastectomy photo series went internationally viral and was featured on DailyMail, Huffington Post, Buzzfeed, Cosmopolitan, to name drop just a few more.

Monica Mitchell-Taylor

Spoken Word Artist
Performing:
Phenomenal Woman
by Maya Angelou

Born and raised in the Great City of Miami, Florida, Monica Taylor's speaking and oratorical career began in church and progressed into local recitals, oratorical competitions, women empowerment events, and professional conferences/workshops.

In 2012, Monica founded the "I Call U Beautiful" mentoring program for teenage and young adult women. Designed to empower and equip young women with essential life skills, confidence, and the ability to see themselves through the eyes of strength and grace, it received Keiser University's 2014 Service Award in honor of its life changing contributions to its members. Her Access Granted Prayercast airs via social media.

Dr. Vikki Johnson

Sisterhood is Your Superpower

Dr. Vikki Johnson is a transformational speaker, chaplain and best-selling author of 12 books.

Vikki started Girl Talk Unplugged in 2000 and has since transformed the lives of over a half million women via multiple media outlets. In 2014, her passion for empowering women evolved into SOUL WEALTH!

Today, the "Soul Wealth Sacred Sisterhood" is an online community with lots of in person engagement mentoring women leaders as they build their own communities.

An Emmy Award winning media professional with over 35 years in entertainment & 20 years in marketplace social impact, she had a successful 18 year career at BET Networks/VIACOM. Currently she serves at the District of Columbia Office of Cable Television, Film, Music & Entertainment where she plays a major role in the film division. In this role, she is also a member of the Mayor's Special Events Task Group for the District of Columbia. A graduate of Howard University, she is a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and many other women's organizations.

Dr. Johnson mentors women to break up with the status quo in their lives, be great in the mirror first, then amazing in the marketplace. Her mission is to strengthen multi-generational relationships among women so they experience ascended living filled with vision, compassion, authenticity, abundance and legacy.

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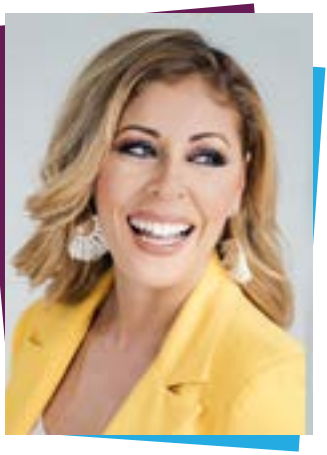
Tara Matthews

Facing Fear as You Rise

Early in her career, Tara Matthews learned the importance of advocating for herself, channeling her fears and never letting stereotypes get in the way of her success. With 14 years of experience in medical device manufacturing, Tara is now Director of Advanced Operations at Stryker's Robotics Division, where she develops and launches innovative robotic products designed for optimal market efficiency. Through her career, she has carved a path in the traditionally male dominated fields of technology and manufacturing. By the age of 34, Tara had achieved the position of Operations Director for Stryker's fastest growing products.

Tara earned a Master of Business Administration from the University of Florida and a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering from Florida International University. Relying on her passion for investing in people, Tara sits on her local Stryker's Women Network Steering Team and serves on the Board of Directors for South Florida Manufacturing Association. She enjoys spending her free time with her family.

Erika Obando



Tools for Becoming Victorious in Life

Erika Obando is quite the serial entrepreneur. With successful careers in legal, commercial interior design and a visual artist under her belt, she has experience in the TV and Media industry wearing many hats such as on-screen talent, Host, Producer, Community Outreach Coordinator and many more. She currently directs the philanthropic division and curates internal culture at BrandStar TV Studios. A Mom, Partner, Author and active community volunteer, her vision is to leave a legacy that changes people's lives instead of working to build a resume.

She is an influential speaker that focuses her efforts on women empowerment, youth enrichment and advocating entrepreneurship using the art of reinvention. She took the renown TEDx Stage in which she shared her story of "When Breaking Points Lead to Empowerment"; a look into her life's journey of resiliency and perseverance.

From broken child to empowered Woman, Erika's mission is to help others through their journeys of finding inner peace, forgiveness, ultimate strength and purpose in the most difficult of experiences. Using her own story's success as the platform, she shares the tools of changing your narrative from Victim to Victorious!

Michelle Y. Talbert

Make HerPower Moves That Create Cash Flow Unapologetically

Over the past eight years Michelle Y. Talbert has helped hundreds of women improve their lives and businesses through her podcasts and workshops.

Her connections and vast business network have created massive opportunities, ranging from an invitation from The Obama White House to speaking on stages across the country. Michelle has contributed to Black Enterprise magazine and others on social issues, technology and business. She has been featured in Forbes, EBONY, The Washington Post, Huffington Post, USA Today and others. Michelle's HerPower Hustle Podcast launched on Women's Entrepreneurship Day 2014.

Michelle's a graduate of Cornell University and the University of Pennsylvania School of Law and holds a Certificate in Business Policy and Management from the Wharton School of Business, all achieved while raising her two school-aged children as a divorced, single mom.

She hosts networking masterminds and goal-setting intensives for women in business around the country with her flagship brand, Her Power Moves - Broward, based in South Florida. And, in January 2020, Michelle launched Broward County's first Black Woman Owned coworking space, HerPower Space.

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Women's Council
on another successful
conference!

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Arminda "Mindy" Figueroa

How Tech Touches Everything Panel Moderator

Founder and CEO, Latin2Latin Marketing + Communications (L2L) is celebrating her 12th year at the helm of L2L, a multiple award-winning engagement solutions agency headquartered in downtown Fort Lauderdale with satellite offices in New York, North Carolina and Puerto Rico.

A true maverick, Figueroa is a long-recognized leader in the traditional, multicultural, direct and digital marketing fields. She has built a successful career focused on generating awareness of the essential role of the multicultural market in corporate America. Prior to launching L2L, Figueroa was Project Director for Scholastic Media, and oversaw the launch of the #1 ranked PBS children's television series, Maya & Miguel.

Today, she serves on many, many key organizations in Fort Lauderdale and South Florida. She has been recognized by El Diario/La Prensa as one of the "50 Most Influential Latinas," and by South Florida Business Journal as one of the top "Influential Business Women of 2017," and she also received the Golden Mouse Award for Multicultural Marketing Leader of the Year by the Florida Chapter of Women in Ecommerce. In 2018, she was awarded the Diversity in Business by the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce. Most recently, she was selected as one of the FACES of Latin Marketing by the 50 FACES of Gold Coast Magazine.

Schedule

9:00 am	Registration Morning Marketplace Breakfast on the Waterfront
10:00 am	Monica Mitchell-Taylor *Spoken Word Artist*
10:30 am	Dr. Vikki Johnson *Sisterhood is Your Superpower*
11:00 am	Tara Matthews *Facing Fear as You Rise*
11:30 am	Erika Obando *Tools for Becoming Victorious in Life*
12:00 pm	Lunch on the Terrace Live music by Shauna Sweeney DJ BreeDaddy Shopping Raffles and Prizes Voter Registration *with the League of Women Voters*

1:00 pm	Michelle Y. Talbert *Make HerPower Moves That Create Cash Flow Unapologetically*
1:45 pm	How Tech Touches Everything *Panel moderated by Mindy Figueroa*
2:35 pm	Break
2:40 pm	Aniela McGuinness *F@#$ you, Charles: A Story About Speaking Up*
3:15 pm	Rhoda Mae Kerr *From Coach to Chief: Climbing the Glass Ladder*
3:45 pm	Raffle Winners
4:00 pm	The VIP Experience
5:00 pm	The After Party

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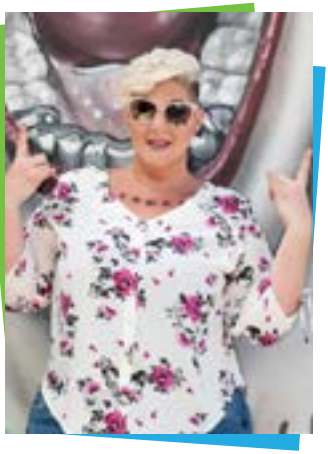
Emily Cohen



How Tech Touches Everything Panel Diversity & Inclusion Specialist

Emily Cohen is a Business Development Consultant specializing in diversity and inclusion. She works with owners of both small and large companies, HR professionals, and department directors to develop and implement inclusion strategies that broaden the customer base externally and strengthen employee retention internally. With over a decade of experience, Emily continues to create and facilitate diversity and inclusion competency trainings for the purposes of professional development and certification.

Formally trained as a clinical social worker, she has also found her niche in the macro world of program development, specifically creating community programming for women and the LGBTQ community. Emily currently manages ProSquared Consulting, a business development company specializing in diversity and inclusion and social media engagement, and is the Executive Director of Ignite Community Services, a non-profit organization focused on community building and advocacy for LGBTQ people on the margins.

Heather Lopez

How Tech Touches Everything Panel
Mom Blogger Specialist

Heather Lopez, aka @heatherlopezceo, founded Bloggin' Mamas 10 years ago as a means to assist other mom bloggers in monetizing their social influence. As a married mom of two school-aged kids, a blogger and a marketing professional; she knows how to build mutually beneficial relationships between brands and bloggers that really impact the mom consumer market. Heather began blogging in 1997, and made her way into mom blogging in 2009, with Happy and Healthy Mom. Her Twitter acumen led her to be named one of the Top Twenty Most Responsive Women on Twitter by The Work at Home Woman. In 2010, she co-founded the Super Mom Entrepreneur Conference and Expo. In 2011and 2012, she was named a Leading Mom in Business by Startup Nation. In 2014, she was endorsed by an original Shark Tank shark, Kevin Harrington, and Loral Langemeier (The Secret), as they placed Bloggin' Mamas as the first business on their crowdfunding site. In 2014, Bloggin' Mamas was named as one of Miami's Hottest Startups by Tech Cocktail. In 2018, in partnership with The Allen Lewis Agency, their event series with Nissan garnered a Digital PR & Social Media Award from PR Daily, as well as a Silver Quill Award. In addition to Bloggin' Mamas and her blogs, Heather manages several Facebook Communities centered on a variety of topics, as her passion is to connect people.

Janet Granger

How Tech Touches Everything Panel Boomer-Millennial Connector

Janet Granger is a successful marketing consultant who speaks on successful marketing strategies and tactics. Her speaking experience includes groups of all sizes, including professional associations, local organizations, and national businesses; Janet also delivered the opening keynote for the Digital Transformation Summit. Janet's speaking style is dynamic, engaging, and conversational; she welcomes interaction and questions from the audience.

When she's not speaking, Janet has her own marketing agency and works with marinas, attorneys, and other local businesses who struggle with measuring and understanding their marketing results, and would like to sell more products, service more clients, and retain existing clients.

Janet Granger has over 25 years of marketing experience and published a book, Digital Influence for Baby Boomers: Why you should care and yes, you can do this!

She lives in Fort Lauderdale, FL and is on the Board of Directors for the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce. She's a member of WISTA (Women in Shipping and Trade Association) and hosts a monthly webinar, sponsored by the Marine Ad Network, on marketing for the marine industry.

We are proud to support

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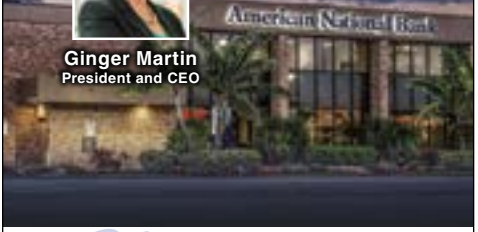
Ginger Martin
President and CEO



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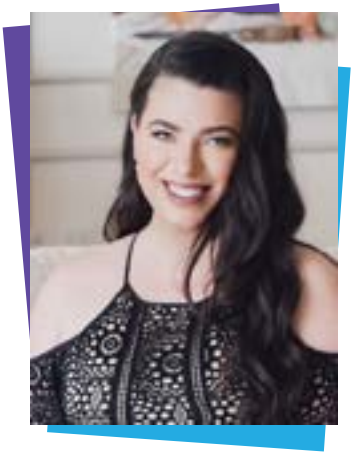
Julie Cabezas



How Tech Touches Everything Panel
Instagram Specialist

Ms. Cabezas is the CEO of Copy Crimes. She's a copywriter to high-performance experts, coaches, and savants in design, education, tech, and the arts. Her early career as a marketing exec in Medtech start-ups transitioned to entrepreneurship after a $1B exit. Thereafter, Julie became an acclaimed personal brand strategist and copy expert. She lives in South Florida with her Cuban-Irish familia + her goofy Rottweiler Duke.

Suzette Turnbull

How Tech Touches Everything Panel Facebook Specialist

Suzzette Turnbull is an award-winning Author, Speaker, and Founder/CEO of Uncommon Marketing. Her experience includes a successful 20-year tenure in management, marketing and branding, and social media marketing. Suzzette specializes in leveraging her social media expertise and vast experience to help organizations grow their brands. She is the author of The Ultimate Guide to Understanding and Getting Started with Social Media. Suzzette is currently a doctoral candidate at Ashford University pursuing Organizational Development and Leadership with a specialization in Social Media and Technology. Notable clients have included Henry Fernandez Ministries – a global mega ministry; The Faith Center Ministries – mega ministry in South Florida; JAVEN – an internationally acclaimed recording artist; and Terrell Fletcher, former NFL athlete, author and senior pastor. These clients along with countless others have attributed their online brand recognition and/or their audience's development to Suzzette Turnbull and her company.

Chief Rhoda Mae Kerr

From Coach to Chief: Climbing the Glass Ladder

Rhoda Mae Kerr was sworn in as the City of Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue Chief on July 2, 2018, becoming the City's first female Fire Chief in the 106-year history of the department.

A fourth-generation firefighter, Kerr began her career in the fire service in 1983 with the City of Fort Lauderdale. Over the next 20 years, she steadily rose through the ranks serving as a Firefighter, Driver/Engineer, Lieutenant, Battalion Chief, and Division Chief. She then went on to serve as Fire Chief of Little Rock Arkansas for 5 years and then spent almost 10 years as Fire Chief of the City of Austin, Texas, managing one of the nation's 20 largest fire departments.

In 2015, Chief Kerr was the first woman elected President of the International Association of Fire Chiefs in the 142-year history of the organization. She has served as President of the Metropolitan "Metro" Fire Chiefs Association and is a former President of the National Society of Executive Fire Officers.

In December 2016, Chief Kerr was appointed by President Barack Obama to the National Infrastructure Advisory Council, where she, along with academic, public, and private sector experts, advises the sitting President on matters regarding the security of critical infrastructure and related information systems.

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"Empowered women, empower women."
– Unknown

We Agree.

Stearns Weaver Miller is proud to support the Women's Council of the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce and the Excuse Me, That's My Seat Conference.

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Entertainment

DJ BreeDaddy

Brianna, a Delaware/Philadelphia-raised soul, touched her first turntable her senior year of high school.DJ'ing became her passion in late 2016. She moved to Miami, FL for college where she attended St. Thomas University.

Bree is energetic and loves to get everyone hype and happy, laughing and smiling - she loves spreading amazing energy! She has launched an app in the Apple IOS store "Vybez" where people can discover an event tailored to their taste.

Shauna Sweeney

Shauna Sweeney is a singer, songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist known for her dynamic voice, percussive guitar style and warm stage presence. Her folk/rock sensibilities and pop melodies have landed her 2500+ shows, including opening for 10,000 Maniacs and Gin Blossoms. Sweeney has collaborated with Grammy-winning musicians and independently produced and released 4 original EPs. Her songs have been featured by USA Today, the Miami Sun Sentinel, and the Palm Beach Post.

Florencia Clement De Grandprey

Florencia Clement de Grandprey was born and raised in southern Spain by an American mother and French/Italian father. Florencia is a self-taught artist, with no formal art training. Her mission is to empower and inspire through positive and meaningful work.

Through her artwork, Florencia desires to portray strong, elegant, and confident women and men to celebrate what makes us unique as well what aides us in the healing due to the suffering that we experience throughout our lives.

Conference Host Committee

Thank you for contributing your time and energy into making Excuse Me That's My Seat a success for the third year in a row! We could not do this without you.

With love,

Ilanit Fischler
Attorney at Fisher & Phillips
Women's Council 2020 Chair

Kristina DaSilva
CEO at HandsOn Broward
Conference Co-Chair

Graciela Valdes
Graciela Valdes Fine Art Photography
Conference Co-Chair

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Thank you to our volunteers and vendors for supporting our vision and contributing to the success of this event!

I am Woman, Hear Me Roar!

My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style.

Maya Angelou

Be stingy with your time and spend it in spaces that fill you up.

Janet Mock

We are the women our parents warned us against, and we are proud.

Gloria Steinem

Don't you dare underestimate the power of your own instinct.

Barbara Corcoran

We only have what we give.

Isabel Allende

I raise up my voice-not so I can shout but so that those without a voice can

Malala Yousafzai

I've been abssolutely terrified every moment of my life and I've never let it keep me from doing a single thing that I wanted to do.

Georgia O'Keeffe

We as women should shine light on our accomplishments and not feel egotistical when we do. It's a way to let the world know that we as women can accomplish great things!

Dolores Huerta

Remember that no one succeeds alone. Never walk alone in your future paths.

Sonia Sotomayor

What is fundamentally beautiful is compassion for yourself and for those around you. That kind of beauty enflames the heart and enchants the soul.

Lupita Nyong'o

A Woman who never gives up, can never lose.

Abby Wambach

Woman belong in all places where decisions are being made.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg

The question isn't who is going to let me, it's who is going to stop me.

Ayn Rand

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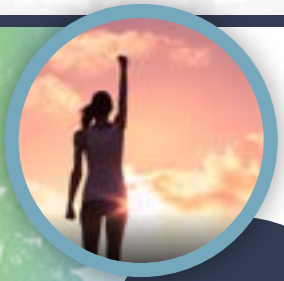

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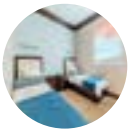

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