



## REDI for Change

*Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Education, Housing, and Workplace*

October 14, 2021

8:45-9:00 | **VIRTUAL PARTICIPANTS ARRIVE**

9:00-9:20 | **WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS**

Amy Owen, President and CEO, Community Foundation for Loudoun and Northern Fauquier Counties  
Lucky Wadehra, Board Chair, Community Foundation of Loudoun and Northern Fauquier Counties

9:20-9:35 | **ARTISTIC PRESENTATION: "COLORS" Performed by Zahria Ford**

Interviewer: Laurel Brown, Regional Head, Economic and Community Development, Global Infrastructure, Google

9:35-10:15 | **PANEL DISCUSSION: RACIAL EQUITY IN EDUCATION**

Moderator: Talia Bush, Chair, Minority Student Achievement Advisory Committee (MSAAC)

Dr. Shaun Woodly, Educator, Author, and CEO, Teach Hustle Inspire

Leigh Ann Erickson, Educator, Author, and CEO, Undone Educational Consulting

10:15-10:20 | **BOOK WINNERS/BREAK**

10:20-10:50 | **PANEL DISCUSSION: DIVERSITY IN HOUSING**

Moderator: Valmarie Turner, Assistant County Administrator, Loudoun County Government

Nikki D'Adamo-Damery, Community Engagement Specialist, HDAdvisors

Erica Sims, President, HDAdvisors

10:50-12:20 | **PRESENTATION: INCLUSIVITY IN THE WORKPLACE**

Introduction: Angela Mitchell, Chair, Loudoun Chamber of Commerce DEI; President and CEO, ARM Consulting

Mauricio Velásquez, President, Diversity Training Group

12:20-12:30 | **SUMMARY WRAP-UP**

Ruth LaToison Ifill, President and CEO, Washington Regional Association of Grantmakers

Ashanti Gardner, Graphic Recorder, VisualScribe.co

12:30 | **FINAL BOOK WINNERS AND CLOSING:** Amy Owen, President and CEO, Community Foundation for Loudoun and Northern Fauquier Counties

**Questions for our speakers?** You can submit them during the discussion!

**Share your experience!** Use #REDIforChange





**Lucky Wadehra**  
**Board Chair, Community Foundation**  
**Senior Vice President and Commercial Banking Leader,**  
**Wells Fargo & Company**  
**lwadehra@yahoo.com**

Lucky Wadehra is a Senior Vice President and Commercial Banking Leader for Wells Fargo's Middle Market Banking in the Capital region. Lucky leads a team of bankers who are responsible for managing and growing their respective portfolios of commercial clients. Her team members are tenured, experienced professionals deeply involved in the communities in which they live and serve.

Lucky has been with Wells Fargo and in banking for over 18 years in various roles. Prior to Wells Fargo, she worked for USAA for 3 years and prior to that in hospitality management in various international locations for 7 years. Lucky, throughout her career, has held positions in leadership and management roles requiring a strong skill set in customer service, sales, budgeting, financial and business acumen, developing talent and practicing diversity, equity and inclusion.

She holds a Bachelor of Business Administration with Honors from the University of Delhi and a Bachelor Degree in Hospitality Management from the Institute of Hotel Management Catering and Nutrition also in Delhi, India.

Lucky resides in Loudoun County with her husband and two children. She currently serves as Chair of the Board for The Community Foundation for Loudoun and Northern Fauquier and is a Founding Member of the Loudoun County Initiative.



**Laurel Brown**  
**Regional Head, Economic and Community Development,**  
**Global Infrastructure, Google**  
**[laurelkbrown@google.com](mailto:laurelkbrown@google.com)**

Laurel is the Regional Head of Economic and Community Development for Google's Global Infrastructure group. In this role, she works at the intersection of business, government, and community, leading the strategic investments that catalyze economic growth and social impact in the communities where Google has its infrastructure. An expert in public-private partnerships, Laurel spent nearly two decades prior to Google as an attorney, financier, and executive driving major, multi-million dollar revitalization initiatives that transformed struggling economies into thriving ecosystems.

Laurel speaks five languages and holds a JD from Harvard Law School, but still prides herself on being down-to-earth and approachable. She earned BA degrees in Economics and Computer Science from New York University, where she graduated magna cum laude.



**Zahria Ford**  
**Poet**  
**[zahriapoetry@gmail.com](mailto:zahriapoetry@gmail.com)**

Zahria Ford is a powerhouse poet who won the 2021 Strong Men & Women in Virginia History student contest with her poem, "Colors." She is a high school junior and has studied at JMU's Furious Flower Poetry Center, the nation's first academic center dedicated to serving, supporting, and inspiring Black emerging poets.



**Talia Bush**

**Chair, Minority Student Achievement Advisory Committee  
(MSAAC)**

**[MSAACChair@lcps.org](mailto:MSAACChair@lcps.org)**

Talia Bush is the Chair of the Minority Student Achievement Advisory Committee (MSAAC), a parent-led body serving Loudoun County Public Schools that promotes the achievement needs of minority students and equitable learning experiences for all. She believes that a community's first charge is to steward the next generation responsibly and equitably. She defines equity as showing love, service, and truth telling, and believes it is a calling no one should ignore. As the MSAAC Chair, she hopes to help empower parents and the community to be greater advocates for the rights of all children.

Mrs. Bush is a wife, mother, and business owner who provides family mediation services rooted in principles of faith and applied positive psychology. Previously, Mrs. Bush served as a US Navy analyst and government consultant supporting national security missions for 23 years.



**Dr. Shaun Woodly**  
**Educator, Author, and CEO, Teach Hustle Inspire**  
**shaun@teachhustleinspire.com**

A graduate of Hampton University, Dr. Shaun Woodly obtained his Bachelor's degree in 2004, Master's degree in 2005, followed by his Ph.D. in 2014. Dr. Woodly has dedicated his professional career to education. He is a decorated K-12 teacher, University professor and author whose deep passion and research have allowed him great success as an educator and entrepreneur.

Dr. Woodly has received multiple honors including being named teacher of the year, receiving a district inspiration award, and several commendations of distinction for outstanding teaching and leadership. He is the architect behind the educator movement "Teach Hustle Inspire", and has written the best-selling book "MC Means Move the Class: How to Spark Engagement and Motivation in Urban and Culturally Diverse Classrooms".

His philosophy of education subscribes to a collaborative style that harnesses the power of others and promotes a sense of teamwork and community, all with the aim of preparing students to become effective, contributing members of society.

In both education and life, Dr. Woodly believes in having fun! He educates with love, enthusiasm, motivation and hustle!



**Leigh Ann Erickson**  
**Educator, Author, and CEO, Undone Educational Consulting**  
**[leighann@undoneconsulting.com](mailto:leighann@undoneconsulting.com)**

Leigh Ann is the proud sister, daughter and granddaughter of teachers. She has taught in rural, suburban, and urban schools witnessing disparities in U.S. Education and working to dismantle them. That work includes teaching predominantly white student populations to recognize historical truth and privilege and dismantle systemic racism. To do this, Leigh Ann developed an extensive curriculum and created the Connect, Absorb, Respond, and Empower (CARE) conference which brings authentic and relationship building conversations about race and bias into high schools. Erickson is the founder of Undone Education Consulting and the Undone Movement- a nationwide movement of racial reconciling. She is the author of *What is White Privilege*, and was a 2019 Iowa TOY finalist. Erickson is grateful to play a small part in a conversation about race and equity that has been happening in this country for centuries, and is thankful to her family for their constant support.



**Valmarie Turner**  
**Assistant County Administrator, Loudoun County Government**  
**[Valmarie.Turner@loudoun.gov](mailto:Valmarie.Turner@loudoun.gov)**

Valmarie H. Turner was appointed as the Assistant County Administrator November 2017. She is an ICMA Credentialed Manager, and a seasoned manager of affordable housing and community development projects, human services and financial assistance programs, veterans' services, juvenile diversion programs and mandated services. She brings a wealth of knowledge to Loudoun County through several local governments in Georgia and Florida.

Ms. Turner currently oversees the departments of Planning and Zoning; Building and Development; Economic Development; and the Office of Housing. Ms. Turner also serves as the lead in the County's Equity Workgroup.

Previously, Ms. Turner served as the liaison to the departments of Family Services; Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Developmental Services; Community Corrections and the Office of Housing. She also served as the liaison for the Juvenile Court Services Unit and the Health Department – both state agencies.

Ms. Turner is a graduate of Florida A&M University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Economics as well as Walden University with a Master of Public Administration Degree. Ms. Turner is also a graduate of the Senior Executive Institute with the University of Virginia and a member of the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform (CJJR) Fellows Network with Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy.

Valmarie is a Licensed Real Estate Salesperson in the State of Florida and Georgia, Certified Housing Counselor, Certified HOME Program Specialist – Regulations and Administration, and Certified Housing Development Finance Professional. Additionally, she previously served as an online Faculty Member with the University of Phoenix.

She resides in the area and very active in the community as she participates on a number of boards and community events.



**Nikki D'Adamo-Damery**  
**Community Engagement Specialist, HDAvisors**  
**[nikki@mwclt.org](mailto:nikki@mwclt.org)**

Nikki D'Adamo-Damery serves as the Community Coordinator for the HDA client, Maggie Walker Community Land Trust. She has a B.A. in Cultural Anthropology from Duke University and an M.S. in Sustainable Agriculture and Sociology with a certificate in Social Justice from Iowa State University. Nikki grew up in the Richmond area and has worked on community development and justice issues in Arkansas, Alabama, Northern Ireland, Iowa, and central Appalachia. She is excited to return to her roots and put her energy into the MWCLT.



**Erica Sims**  
**President, HDAvisors**  
**[erica@hdadvisors.net](mailto:erica@hdadvisors.net)**

As President of HDAvisors (HDA), a Virginia-based affordable housing consulting firm, Ms. Sims oversees a number of projects related to affordable housing production, policy and management. In particular, Ms. Sims serves as the CEO of HDA's long-standing client, the Maggie Walker Community Land Trust and Richmond Land Bank.

Erica Sims has worked in the non-profit management, affordable housing development, and community organizing fields for over 20 years. Her focus has been social and economic justice through housing and economic development. Ms. Sims has held private sector, nonprofit, and government roles and has overseen the development of over 2,500 units of affordable housing and 50,000 square feet of commercial development space in new construction and renovation projects.

Prior to joining HDAvisors in 2017, she was the Deputy Executive Director of Mutual Housing Association of New York, a non-profit affordable housing developer, owner, and manager with a portfolio over 1,500 units of affordable housing. She received a Bachelor's in Economics and a Bachelor's in Urban Planning from the University of Michigan and a Masters of Business Administration from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



## **Angela Mitchell**

**Chair, Loudoun Chamber of Commerce DEI; ARM Consulting  
amitchell@armconsultingonline.com**

Angela Mitchell is the founder of ARM Consulting (ARM), where she serves as the President and CEO. Angela took her vision to work in healthcare focusing on health disparities and access to quality healthcare, thus weaving in her passion for equity into building sound strategy and executable solutions for disenfranchised communities. She instinctively foresees threads of opportunities and ties them together while enabling others to operate and think beyond general possibilities. She is respected as a credible voice in decision making, business partnerships, and strategic alliances. She is an inspirational leader who stimulates action combined with a savvy business acumen. As President and CEO of ARM, she is spearheading the transformation of healthcare and expanding the company's human resources and IT services as an enabler of innovation for clients while incorporating Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, (DEI) principles.

She chairs and serves on several Boards including Loudoun Health Commission; Advisory Board Member for Northwest Federal Credit Union; Chair for the Loudoun Coalition on Women and Girls; and the Loudoun Chamber of Commerce where she serves as the DEI Committee Chair.

Angela began her career in public health and healthcare working for not-for-profits, for profit, federal and local governments. She holds an MHA from The Ohio State University and BS in Human Development from Howard University.



**Mauricio Velásquez**  
**President, Diversity Training Group**  
**[mauriciovelasquez@diversitydtg.com](mailto:mauriciovelasquez@diversitydtg.com)**

Mauricio Velásquez is an industry-leading strategist, consultant, coach, trainer, and President of the Diversity Training Group, a nationally recognized diversity assessment, strategy, training and consulting boutique based in Herndon, VA. He offers more than 30 years of experience in the areas of diversity and inclusion, harassment prevention and respectful workplace. Other areas of expertise include executive coaching, and multicultural marketing, sales and customer service.

Mauricio shares: “Growing up as the son of immigrant parents, I was always curious why some people could be so mean to me and my parents. The awkwardness, the looks, the stares, the strange questions about me, my family, etc. I was driven internally (my deepest curiosity) and externally (by things that happened to me) to pursue an interest in the field that I currently consider more of a vocation than a profession. I truly love what I do - diversity strategy, consulting and training, sexual harassment prevention training and executive coaching.”



**Ruth LaToison Ifill**  
**President and CEO,**  
**Washington Regional Association of Grantmakers**  
**[latoisonifill@washingtongrantmakers.org](mailto:latoisonifill@washingtongrantmakers.org)**

Ruth is the President and CEO of The Washington Regional Association of Grantmakers (WRAG). WRAG is a regional association of foundations and corporate giving programs that embrace and advance a vision of a racially just and equitable National Capital region in which all can participate and prosper. Though born and raised in Houston, TX, Ruth began her professional career in Washington, DC at MCIP, now the Columbia Heights Educational Campus, which provides educational and wraparound supports to undocumented students and their families. Ruth previously led the DEI and racial equity portfolio at the Council on Foundations as Vice President of Culture, Talent and Equity. Before joining the Council on Foundations, Ruth led multi-million-dollar national workforce development programs at Goodwill Industries International. Ruth's pride and joy is found in her husband and two children. She loves hiking and will buy a dog when she can convince her husband it won't be his full responsibility.