

Wednesday September 20, 2023 10:00 AM - 4:30 PM PST

Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre 1000 Burrard Street | Vancouver, BC

Panel Discussion Themes

- 1. Protecting identity, assets and data from cyber threats
- 2. Artificial intelligence and the importance of public policy for emerging technology
- 3. Creating a career pathway in technology
- 4. Bridging the digital divide skills gaps and opportunities to minimize the divide
- 5. Resources for professional development, negotiation, certification and IDEAS in technology

The Goal of this Symposium

This event is intended to build awareness of the significant and under-acknowledged contributions of Black Women in the technology field; as well as the systemic and ongoing barriers to the full participation of Black Women including youth in this important economic sector. Through the relationship building opportunities and education sessions offered by the symposium, participants will be able to build their individual and collective capacity to address these discriminatory barriers going forward.



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AGENDA

10:00 AM | Hosts: Sarah Onyango and Lolly Bennett

Land Acknowledgement & Remarks - Hon. Dr. Jean Augustine Co-Founder, 100ABC Women



Welcome - Mariat Jibril & Lola Adeniyi, TD Bank



Remarks - Deputy Mayor Lisa Dominato, City of Vancouver Dr. Yabome Gilpin-Jackson, Simon Fraser University





10:30 AM | Keynote Speaker: Claudette McGowan Cybersecurity



11:05 AM | Panel 1 - Data Driven Dreams - How Black Women can shape the future of technology using data science and analytics





Panelists: Kishawna Peck, Dr. Debbie Motilewa and Dr. Ife Adebara



Moderator: Nicole Waldron



12:00 PM I LUNCH BREAK



12:30 PM | Entertainment - Ndidi Cascade & Janelle Reid



Wednesday September 20, 2023 10:00 AM - 4:30 PM PST

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AGENDA

12:50 PM | Panel 2 - Emerging Careers in Technology - why creativity, equity and ethics matter

Panelists: Stacey Ann Berry, Queen Kukoyi

Nico Taylor and Dr. Oluwakemi Ola

Moderator: Sarah Onyango

1:50 PM | Ask Me Anything - The role of Black Women in technology within their respective organizations

Moderator: Mariat Jibril - Q&A with panelists

2:50 PM | COFFEE & SNACK BREAK

3:05 PM | Keynote Closing Speaker: Pasima Sule

3:50 PM | Special Message: Dauna Jones Simmonds

Co-Founder, 100ABC Women

3:55 PM | Closing Remarks: Sarah Onyango & Lolly Bennett

4:00 PM | NETWORKING - Shelley-Anne Vidal & Rasie Bamigbade

4:30 PM | Event Closing

























PANELIST

Data Driven Dreams - How Black Women can shape the future of technology using data science and analytics

Ife Adebara



Ife Adebara is a PhD researcher with over seven years of experience in natural language processing (NLP), linguistics, and language policy. She is a member of the Deep Learning and Natural Language Processing Group at UBC, an associate member of the African Languages Technology Initiative (ALT-i) in Nigeria, and a UBC Public Scholar. For her PhD dissertation, Ife is developing deep learning technologies for African Languages and is engaged in work to make "computers usable in African languages." In her research, Ife advocates for an Afrocentric

approach to technology development, to ensure that - what technologies to build, how to build, evaluate, and deploy them are based on the needs of local African communities. She has published her research at top NLP conferences including ACL, EMNLP, COLING, and the LT4ALL conference organized by UNESCO. Ife's work has also been recognized beyond the academic sphere, including media coverage by Global News Canada, AMD, and City News Vancouver. Ife's work on AfroLID and Serengeti—a language identification model and Natural Language Understanding Language Model for 517 African languages—received the Top 10 Outstanding Global AI Solutions Award from the IRCAI, under the auspices of UNESCO. This project holds profound implications for AI accessibility in Indigenous languages, preserving cultural heritage, promoting diversity, and inclusion in global discourse.



NETWORKING HOST

Rasie Bamigbade



Rasie is a leadership coach, book coach, speaker and bestseller author of Amazon Bestsellers "Lead In Your Truth" & "Heal On Your Terms." She supports corporate leaders in leading their teams more effectively through self leadership and supports experienced writers who become authors from idea to publishing of their books. She gives back to our world through her Youth Mentorship Program. Empowering and helping our youth take control of their lives. Closing the opportunity gap in leadership is at the core of Rasie's work. She does this through her successful

coaching program and youth mentorship program.

Rasie's services include:

- Leadership Coaching
- Book Coaching
- Guest Speaker

Books Rasie has authored:

- Lead In Your Truth https://www.amazon.com/Rasie-Bamigbade/e/B0922X9FLL
- Heal On Your Terms https://amzn.to/3ex7qLu

www.rasiebjc.com www.linkedin.com/in/rasie-bamigbade/ www.instagram.com/rb.jumpstart.coaching/ www.youtube.com/@rbjumpstartcoaching



HOST

Lolly Bennett



Lolly Bennett has called Vancouver home for over 35 years. She holds a Transport Canada operator's license and drives for Vancouver's iconic False Creek Ferries in Granville Island. As an independent agent, she successfully represents Landlords with a full spectrum of rental leasing needs, covering 4 properties totaling 37 individual units. A proud member and promoter of Vancouver's Black community, she has served on the Board and as a volunteer for BC's National Congress of

Black Women Foundation since the 80's up to 2019. She contributed as Mistress of Ceremonies for many events including: Brothers on the Bench, Sisters on the Bench, Legacy Awards, Black History month opening/closing ceremonies and Phenomenal Black Women, to name a few, showcasing many of Vancouver's proud and accomplished black community members.

She was the Curator of a 2018 Black History Month Exhibit at The Maritime Museum "Dressed in Black the Journey". She was the 2019 recipient of BC's prestigious Community Achievement Award. In 2020, Lolly was a jury contributor for BC's Community Achievement Award and the Recipient of Community Leadership and Service Award: National Congress of Black Women Foundation.

Lolly has been featured on the cover of Vancouver's West Ender, Inspire Magazine and BC TV's, the last word with Mike McCardell.



PANELIST

Emerging Careers in Technology - why creativity, equity and ethics matter

Stacey Ann Berry, BA (Hons.) MPPAL



Stacey Ann Berry is the founder and president of Bstellar® Group Inc., which provides professional development workshops as well as, consulting services in government relations, business development, community engagement and strategic planning.

Stacey is a service-driven leader who is passionate about capacity building and community development initiatives.

Stacey serves as the Toronto Chapter President for Blacks in Technology Foundation, which makes tech careers more accessible for black professionals and provides resources, mentorship, career development and scholarships.

As a former director for the Toronto Board of Health, she chaired the Public Health Champion Awards Selection Committee, served on the Performance Appraisal of the Medical Officer of Health Committee and the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) Board of Directors.

She has a Master's degree in Public Policy Administration and Law, as well as, an Honours BA in History and Law and Society from York University. She also has a diploma in Court and Tribunal Administration and a certificate in Alternative Dispute Resolution from Seneca College.

Stacey is the recipient of the "Outstanding Contribution to Student Experience" Award from York University. She was also recognized as one of the 100 Accomplished Black Canadian Women as well as, Canada's 100 Black Women to Watch by the Canadian International Black Women Excellence and recognized as one of the "150 Neighbors and Community Builders" by University of Toronto Scarborough. Stacey is also a recipient of the G. Raymond Chang Outstanding Volunteer Award from Toronto Metropolitan University.



Entertainer

Ndidi Cascade



Ndidi Cascade, who is of Nigerian-Italian-Irish-Canadian heritage, is a Vancouver born and based hip hop vocalist. She is also a songwriter, recording artist, educator, facilitator & curator. Ndidi has showcased her music across North America and internationally—from classrooms to stadiums, and her music has been featured on Much Music and MTV Canada. She has shared the stage with talents such as Wu-Tang Clan, Femi Kuti, Digable Planets, The Mad Professor, Nelly Furtado, De La Soul, K-OS and K'naan. Ndidi Cascade also facilitates and manages programs that use hip hop,

spoken word and dance as a medium for healthy self-expression. She is the founder of the "Word, Sound & Power" and "Elementalz" education programs, which are designed to raise awareness of the origins of the hip hop movement. Ndidi currently tours with her groups Originz & Metaphor, showcasing interactive hip hop shows in elementary and high schools around British Columbia. Ndidi is also a music & cultural curator for Black Music Month Vancouver & Ethos Lab www.ethoslab.ca.



TD BANK REPRESENTATIVE AND MODERATOR

Ask Me Anything - The role of Black Women in technology within their respective organizations

Mariat Jibril



Mariat is the Regional Manager, 2SLGBTQ+ Business Development BC & The Yukon for TD Bank Group. She advocates for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. This advocacy means using the lens of intersectionality for a just and equitable society while amplifying the voices, listening and serving the needs of diverse segments - BIPOC, Women, and Persons with Disabilities. Mariat is a key influencer in the community with a passion in creating success for business owners, employees, and communities.

Mariat was a VIP Guest Speaker at the 2023 Interplay Summit for Forbes Global Alliance where she spoke about Culture, Diversity and Inclusion. She has been recognized for successful projects by the Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade of Canada Hon. Mary Ng and the then Minister of Employment, Workforce development and Disability, Hon. Patty Hadju now Minister of Indigenous services.

A mother of three adult children, Mariat relocated to Canada from England in 2014 after 20 years. She is originally from Nigeria and takes great pride in celebrating her ethnic cultural background. Mariat holds an Executive MBA from Athabasca University and 23 years experience in Banking and Finance across England, Ireland and Canada.

Connect with Mariat on LinkedIn via - www.linkedin.com/in/mariatca



PANELIST

Emerging Careers in Technology - why creativity, equity and ethics matter

Queen Kukoyi



Queen Kukoyi (they/she), Black, Gender-Queer,
Nerodivergent, Mad Multidisciplinary Artist, Award winning
Multidisciplinary Creative Technology Artist, whose practice
encompasses Queer theory in a Meta-analytical Afrofuturistic
convergence of art and technology, mindfulness, sound, and
Noetic sciences. She is the Founding Co-Lead and
Collaborative Member of Oddside Arts, a grassroots
cultural arts not-for-profit and creative technology artist

collective, merging art, technology and wellness through Black speculative design.

Oddside Arts works from a point of view that prioritizes mental wellness and reimagines spaces for those who identify as part of Afrodiasporic and Indigenous communities, most especially women, gender-expansive and LGTBQ+ folks, to theorize, create, and contribute to the development of the equitable future.

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KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Claudette McGowan



Claudette McGowan is a global information technology leader with more than 20 years of success leading digital transformations, optimizing infrastructure and designing new approaches that improve service and cybersecurity experiences. She has worked in the technology industry for several organizations such as Deloitte, Metropolitan Police Services, North York General Hospital, Bank of Montreal (BMO) and TD Bank.

At BMO, Claudette served as the Chief Information Officer, Enterprise Technology Employee Experience, and at TD she was the Global Executive Officer for Protect Fusion & Cyber Experience.

Claudette is currently the Chief Executive Officer for Protexxa, a Canadian-based cybersecurity software and services company.

Claudette is an active member of the Canadian innovation ecosystem. She is the Founder of the Black Arts & Innovation Expo, and Chair of the Coalition of Innovation Leaders Against Racism (CILAR), a group of senior business leaders committed to creating platforms that break down systemic barriers within the innovation economy. McGowan recently co-led the launch of Phoenix Fire & The Firehood, a multi-million-dollar women-focused angel fund and network for women in technology.

Her commitment to community is evidenced by her multiple board seats for leading organizations such as Air Canada, MaRS Discovery District, SickKids Hospital Foundation, Black North, CILAR, Elevate Technology Festival, University of New Brunswick Canadian Institute for Cybersecurity, and the U.S. Consul General of Toronto U.S.-Canada Innovation Council.

Claudette holds a BA from Lakehead University, MBA from Athabasca University, Hon Doctor of Laws from Carleton University, and is currently in the Computer Science PhD program at Toronto Metropolitan University.



PANELIST

Data Driven Dreams - How Black Women can shape the future of technology using data science and analytics

Debbie Motilewa



Debbie Motilewa's professional journey is at the intersection of innovation, education and community empowerment. At 20, she founded The VolunteerNG, a non profit bridging educational gaps in Nigeria. At 25, she achieved the distinction of being the youngest PhD graduate from Africa's esteemed Covenant University. At 28, she built Afrohub - a digital marketplace uniting consumers with black-owned businesses. She currently works as a Senior Product Manager at AWS IQ, driving the organization's growth strategy to empower small and medium sized businesses to unlock the

power of cloud computing. Prior to Amazon, she worked at Microsoft on Viva Engage/Yammer.

Debbie's influence goes beyond borders, having lived and worked on three continents - Europe, Africa and North America. When she is not shaping technological solutions or nurturing startups, she finds joy exploring the world and savoring diverse cuisines.



PANELIST

Emerging Careers in Technology - why creativity, equity and ethics matter

Dr. Oluwakemi Ola



Dr. Oluwakemi Ola is an Associate Professor of Teaching at the University of British Columbia. She completed her doctoral degree in Computer Science in 2017, specializing information visualization. Her dad is a storyteller, and her mom is a community builder. As their offspring, she skillfully merges these abilities, expertly weaving narratives while concurrently establishing educational communities. She currently holds the positions of educator, researcher, and activist. In her capacity as an educator, she imparts knowledge through teaching introductory programming and visualization courses at the prestigious University of British Columbia. In her role as a researcher, she meticulously

explores methodologies to eliminate impediments obstructing the learning process. Her research also involves the creation of robust support systems to address pervasive misconceptions and the comprehensive examination of socio-emotional factors influencing learning. As an activist, she is dedicated to driving change through the establishment of connections and the dismantling of systems of marginalization. She accomplishes this by offering mentorship, unveiling the hidden curriculum within the academy, and assuming diverse, high-impact leadership roles.



HOST AND MODERATOR

Emerging Careers in Technology - why creativity, equity and ethics matter

Sarah Onyango



Sarah Onyango is the community producer and host of the monthly African cultural program "Fontonfrom" on Rogers Television Channel 22 in Ottawa, as well as of the shows "Ici l'Afrique", "Afrika Revisited" and "Black on Black" on CHUO 89.1FM, the University of Ottawa's community radio station. A long-time advocate for Black history, culture and causes, she has served on the Board of Directors of Black History Ottawa since 2002 and is a volunteer presenter for the United Way Ontario East's Community Builder Awards program as well as co-chair of Welcoming Ottawa Week. She is a proud 2018 - 100

ABC Women honouree and a regular 100 ABC Women Fireside Chat moderator.



PANELIST

Data Driven Dreams - How Black Women can shape the future of technology using data science and analytics

Kishawna Peck



Kishawna Peck is the Founder and CEO of Womxn in Data Science with an ambitious goal to help a million women become data literate, increase the recruitment and retention of women in data roles, and increase the number of products and services powered by data that have inclusive design practices at their core. Kishawna has made it her mission to create spaces for women in data science, an industry that is booming and begging for more diversity. She has 5+ years of leading data teams and strategy in non-profits, fintech, and advertising

across all business teams. She started Womxn in Data Science in 2018 and took on the company full-time as of July 2021. She is an advocate and speaker for diversity and inclusion in STEM who has been featured in various media outlets such as The Globe and Mail, Breakfast Television, and CP24. Kishawna is completing her Master's of Management in Artificial Intelligence at Queen's University Smith School of Management.



KEYNOTE CLOSING SPEAKER

Pasima Sule



Pasima Sule is an entrepreneur and the Founder & Executive Director of the Black Women Business Network (BWBN), a professional network organization with a mission to connect, inspire, engage, equip, and advocate for Black Women professionals and entrepreneurs in Canada so that they experience equality, advance economically, and become leaders and key figures in their communities.

Before entrepreneurship and BWBN, she worked for 18 years as an Information Technology Professional and IT Project Manager, for Chevron Oil and Gas Corporation in the USA, England, France, and Angola. She led and managed global, multimillion dollars, and multi-discipline Technology projects. Some of which include Information Security, Data Center deployment, Data Analytics, and Application development projects.

One of Pasima's great passions is increasing the representation of Black Women in the Tech Sector. As a result, she is currently spearheading the transformative Black Women in Tech Project and Research funded by Women and Gender Equality, Canada (WAGE) and recently featured in an article by WAGE: From tech consumers to creators Women and Gender Equality Canada.

This barrier-breaking project aims to empower Black women and girls to confidently pursue, thrive, and progress in Tech education and careers. Simultaneously, it aims to equip Tech employers with the knowledge and tools to support the attraction, recruitment, retention, and advancement of Black women in Tech.

Pasima also serves as a board member for the Centre For Digital Media, is a Council Member for entrepreneurship@UBC, and serves as a coach for alumni UBC leveraging her experience and expertise to mentor and guide UBC alumni.



PANELIST

Emerging Careers in Technology - why creativity, equity and ethics matter

Nico Taylor



Nico Taylor is a trained performer, digital artist, and curator with a Master of Arts at Concordia University on decolonial practices, feminism, cosplay subculture, and Afrofuturism. She is the Founding Co-Lead of Oddside Arts, a grassroots cultural arts not-for-profit and creative technology artist collective, merging art, technology and wellness through Black speculative design.

Oddside Arts works from a point of view that prioritizes mental wellness and reimagines spaces for those who

identify as part of Afrodiasporic and Indigenous communities, most especially women, gender-expansive and LGTBQ+ folks, to theorize, create, and contribute to the development of the equitable future.

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NETWORKING HOST

Shelley-Anne Vidal



Shelley-Anne Vidal, (She/Her/Hers) is a published author, coach, speaker, facilitator, advocate, and compassionate leader who approaches life with curiosity, kindness, and an open mind. For nearly 15 years, Shelley has facilitated intercultural leadership, intercultural communication, business, career development and social justice (equity, diversity, inclusion and anti-racism) workshops.

Shelley earned a Master's in Higher Education Administration and Leadership, a Bachelor of Arts in Communication with a minor in

Sociology and she is presently pursuing her executive coaching certificate. Currently, Shelley works as a college instructor and a community facilitator where she supports students and clients through their career journeys as well as provides support to enhance people's confidence, communication skills and intercultural as well as equity, diversity and inclusion awareness. In addition to running her own business, ACT by Vidal, she is the co-founder of Kaiso Careers a platform and training company that amplifies the voices and work of BIPOC people. Additionally, Shelley works with the following organizations HRx, Synergy on Boards, DIVERSEcity Community Resources Society and UBC Extended Learning. Shelley also sits on the following boards, The Langara Faculty Association, the BC College of Nurses and Midwives, and the Black Business Association of BC (Advisory Board). She is also an active member of Black CAN (formerly Black Voters Matter) and BlackEd BC Educators Network.

When Shelley's not caring for her young daughter, or teaching and supporting community activism, she enjoys meeting new people, travelling and going for walks.

You Only Need One Good Egg, Manifesting a Miracle, is Shelley's first book. Find out more about Shelley-Anne Vidal connect with her on LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/shelleyannevidal/



MODERATOR

Data Driven Dreams - How Black Women can shape the future of technology using data science and analytics

Nicole Waldron



A professional event specialist, transformation speaker, social change advocate, author, emcee, voice animator, and podcaster, the multi-faceted Nicole Waldron works tirelessly for the advancement, progress and prosperity of her community.

She serves on various boards and committees advocating on several issues some of which include Mental Health, Co-operative Housing & Violence Against Women.

Nicole is the host of the Victory Speaks Show and Podcast. She is one of the moderators for the 100 ABC Women Fireside Chats.

She was named as one of the Outstanding Black Women in Canada by Shifter Magazine (IWD 2023). She is a 2018 – 100 ABC Women honoree. She was highlighted as one of 150 Women in Canada by How She Hustles' HERstory in Black.Nicole is also the recipient of the 2020 Brian Burch Community Service Award from the Cooperative Housing Federation of Toronto, the Outstanding Community Service Award from Dance Caribe. She is also the recipient of the Social Housing Service Corporation Kathleen Blinkhorn Award for Excellence in Volunteerism.



SPECIAL THANKS

100ABCWomen Co-Founders:

Dr. Jean Augustine, Dr. Denise O'Neil Green & Dauna Jones-Simmonds

Project Architect: Dauna Jones-Simmonds

Project Leads: Dauna Jones-Simmonds & Shelley-Anne Vidal

Fundraisers: Marijke Oosterhoff, Kelly Hutchison Nolan & Andeen Pitt

Public Relations: Fennella Bruce, FKB Media

Event Planners & Scripters: Joan Pierre & Nicole Waldron

Event Promotion: Patricia Assabe, Fennella Bruce, Dauren Simmonds Wright &

Nicole Waldron

Tech Coordinator: Ola Oyeneye

Tech Team: Malcolm Edwards, Kit Truong & Encore Global

Event Hosts: Sarah Onyango and Lolly Bennett

Moderators: Mariat Jibril, Sarah Onyango & Nicole Waldron

Keynote Speaker: Claudette McGowan Keynote Closing Speaker: Pasime Sule

Panelists: Kishawna Peck, Dr. Debbie Motilewa, Dr. Ife Adebara, Stacey Ann

Berry, Queen Kukoyi, Nico Taylor & Dr. Oluwakemi Ola

Photographer: Russell Wardell

Venue: Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre

Planning Committee:

Lola Adeniyi (TD), Hon. Dr. Jean Augustine, Stacey Ann Berry, Sombo Saviye, Kares Clarke-Glasgow, Malcolm Edwards, Daniella Glasgow, Dr. Avis Glaze, Rochelle Grayson, Dr. Annette Henry (UBC), Dr. Anna Jarvis, Queen Kukoyi, Dr. Denise O'Neil Green, Sarah Onyango, Joan Pierre, Jeff Pinder, Katie Plazier, Dauren Simmonds Wright, Jennifer Singh, Christina Sunwoo (TD Bank), Nico Taylor, Kit Truong, Shelley-Anne Vidal, Dr. Samir Traoré (SFU) and Nicole Waldron



SPECIAL THANKS

Sponsors:



TD READY COMMITMENT











Engineering Faculty of Applied Science

Collaborators:

















Black Women's Business Bureau (BWBB)

Media:

- **Business in Vancouver**
- Global News
- Hershey He The Epoch Times Chinese edition
- Lauren Collins The BC Provincial Reporter
- The Georgia Straight

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