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THE CONVERSATION**

**#what
WOMEN
BRING**
YWCA
GREATER
CHARLESTON

#WHATWOMENBRING

honoring women in  business  community  culture



October 27, 2021

Thank you for joining us to celebrate and honor women making a difference across South Carolina! Each year we are blown away by the caliber of nominations that come from you, our community. Our honorees are to be commended not only for their professional contributions but for the advancements they are making toward creating a more equitable, just, and diverse community. I have no doubt you will be inspired and motivated by their candor, passion, and authenticity.

We owe our gratitude to many. First, we thank our sponsors for their continued support of this event and our work as we fight for peace, justice, and equity despite the challenges of COVID. Second, #WWB Chair Danielle Hardee again gave of her dedication, time, and expertise to lead this event, and each member of our #WWB committee donated their time, energy, and ideas to ensure another successful celebration. Last but certainly not least, we want to extend our sincere gratitude to #WWB host Octavia Mitchell, WCBD News 2 anchor, for the many ways she supports this annual event.

On behalf of the YWCA.GC board of directors and staff, I thank each of you for attending today and serving as a constant support to our mission to eliminate racism and empower women.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'LaVanda Brown'.

LaVanda Brown, M.Ed
Executive Director



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agenda

TO GIVE, TEXT
WWB2021
TO 44321



- 10:50** Sign in; pre-event show
- 11:00** Welcome
LAVANDA BROWN [YWCA.GC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & EMCEE]
- 11:15** Introduction of panel #1
OCTAVIA MITCHELL [WCB NEWS 2 ANCHOR & HOST]
- 11:20** Panel discussion
DANIELLE HARDEE [#WWB CHAIR & EMCEE]
- 12:00** Introduction of panel #2
OCTAVIA MITCHELL [WCB NEWS 2 ANCHOR & HOST]
- 12:05** Panel discussion
LAVANDA BROWN [YWCA.GC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & EMCEE]
- 12:35** Remarks
KENDRA SNIPE [YWCA.GC BOARD CHAIR]
- 12:40** Live audience Q&A
OCTAVIA MITCHELL [WCB NEWS 2 ANCHOR & HOST]
- 12:55** Final remarks & adjournment
LAVANDA BROWN [YWCA.GC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & EMCEE]

emcees & host

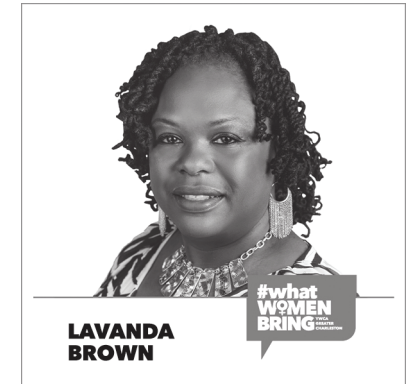
HOST



OCTAVIA MITCHELL
NEWS ANCHOR
NBC WCB NEWS 2

Returning #WWB host Octavia Mitchell anchors the popular local NBC programs News 2 Today and News 2 Midday. Her Cool School segments highlight positive programs at schools each week. An Emmy award-winning journalist, she has been a member of the Count on 2 team since 2002, and was recently inducted into The Citadel's Zucker Family Wall of Fame as well as receiving the Community Tribute honor from the MOJA Arts Festival.

EMCEE



LAVANDA BROWN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
YWCA GREATER CHARLESTON

A formidable ally of women, LaVanda works hard each day to empower women and eliminate racism: YWCA.GC's dual mission. While honoring the nonprofit's powerful historic legacy with programs like its annual MLK Celebration, she has also transformed it with a series of highly effective programs including its Racial Equity Institute workshops, WE 360°, Y Girls Code, SheStrong, Own the Room, #WhatWomenBring, and others.

emcees & host

EMCEE



DANIELLE HARDEE
2021 CHAIR
WHAT WOMEN BRING

A Charleston native, Danielle joined the YWCA.GC board of directors in 2010, where she served as its vice chair from 2017 to 2019 in addition to serving on MLK Celebration event committees. She has volunteered her personal power, passion, and expertise in corporate training to #WWB since its inception. She also serves on the board of directors for Lowcountry Youth Services and is a member of the Association for Talent Development.

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honorees & panelists

BUSINESS



JANET BATES
CLIENT SOLUTIONS MANAGER
JE DUNN CONSTRUCTION

A construction industry veteran who currently heads business development for JE Dunn Construction, Janet aims to change the face of construction so that young girls can see themselves in any role in the industry. She is the past president and a founding member of the Palmetto Chapter of the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC), and has served as both NAWIC South Atlantic Regional Membership chair and National Chapter Development co-chair. Her work garnered her national recognition as

NAWIC's 2019 Future Leader of the Year. She also sits on the board of the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce and its regional policy council, and is a member of Leadership Charleston Class of 2021, the Urban Land Institute, and Commercial Real Estate Women of Charleston. A graduate of the Tuck School of Business Bridge Program at Dartmouth, Janet holds an MBA from the University of North Carolina Kenan Flagler Business School and a bachelor's degree from George Washington University.

KEY ISSUES

- 1 Representation and diversity in the construction industry
- 2 Equitable and affordable access to childcare

honorees & panelists

COMMUNITY



MARGUERITE ARCHIE-HUDSON, PHD
FORMER MEMBER
CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATURE

As a former president of Talladega College, Dr. Archie-Hudson was the first African American woman to head a four-year institution in the state of Alabama. She went on to serve as a member of the California State Legislature, where she created the California Science Center, nationally recognized as a premier science education center and selected by NASA as the permanent home of the retired space shuttle Endeavor—beating out the Kennedy Space Center, Johnson Space Center, Smithsonian, and others. During

her tenure, she had 45 bills signed into law, including a mandatory label on five-gallon industrial buckets; prior to that law, an average of 250 to 300 children drowned in them each year. She has also served as The Links, Inc.'s Southern area legislative issues chair, where she was responsible for legislative policy leadership for 79 chapters across seven states. She now serves as associate professor of public policy at the College of Charleston. She holds degrees from Talladega College, the University of California, and Harvard.

KEY ISSUES

- 1 In the legislative arena: the "Bucket List" legislation
- 2 STEM education for women and girls (science, tech, engineering, math)



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honorees & panelists

COMMUNITY



ERICKA L. PLATER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OUR LADY OF MERCY OUTREACH

A passionate, service-driven nonprofit leader, speaker, and growth coach with skills in public education, public health, healthcare, philanthropy, and community development, Ericka actively advocates for equitable opportunities for women, children, and communities of color. A Washington, DC native, she leads Our Lady of Mercy Community Outreach, where she focuses on addressing the root causes of poverty, creating systemic change, and helping create and sustain equitable and inclusive communities. During her tenure,

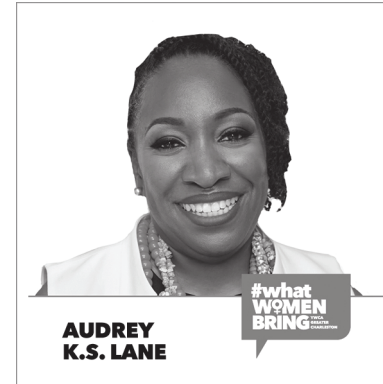
it has diversified its board and created its first diversity, equity, and inclusion statement. She has also served as senior director of diversity and inclusion for the Council on Foundations, hosted a mayoral forum on Johns Island to lend rural residents a voice in their community, led workshops for women in girls in collaboration with the DC Rape Crisis Center, and served on multiple boards. She earned her MBA and master's degree from the University of Maryland and her bachelor's degree from Howard University.

KEY ISSUES

- 1 Gentrification: the displacement of people of color & erasure of culture
- 2 Ensuring businesses of color can find & sustain funding & skills development

honorees & panelists

EDUCATION



AUDREY K.S. LANE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
E3: EDUCATE, EMPOWER, ELEVATE

A proud native of the Eau Claire community of Columbia, SC with a passion for community empowerment, Audrey works to influence the landscape of Charleston's public education system. She co-founded and leads E3: Educate, Empower, and Elevate to create high-quality educational options for Black and Brown students. There, the desires and needs of parents and families are central. Prior to launching E3 and Lane Equity Enterprises, she served as chief of access and equity for the South Carolina Public Charter School

District, executive director of the Royal Foundation, and the deputy for human capital development for the Charleston County School District. She holds an MBA in marketing management from DePaul University and a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Florida A&M University. Audrey is also a 2010 graduate of the Broad Residency for Urban Education.

KEY ISSUES

- 1 Long-term impacts of COVID on Black families and Black & Brown students
- 2 Health disparities for Black women: maternal survival & infant mortality

honorees & panelists

ENTREPRENEURSHIP



CHAJUANNA (CJ) GATHERS
FOUNDER
THE WE GROUP

Born to a long line of preachers and motivational speakers, CJ felt especially called to the needs of women. Inspired, she founded and began to grow The WE Group, a women's empowerment group, in 2017. Best known for its empowerment assemblies where women come together to engage in healing conversations in an intimate and safe environment, her group assists in activating the emotional and spiritual healing of women and encourages them to be a catalyst for healing in their own worlds, thus infecting positive

change that extends beyond the group. CJ also seeks to support women in their business endeavors, dreams, visions, and goals by providing a platform on which they can promote and expand their presence. She holds a bachelor's degree in religion and philosophy from Benedict College and is currently an intermediate-level educator. She holds the philosophy that our experiences don't only belong to us, but are to help others.

KEY ISSUES

- 1 Racial and gender bias in the workplace
- 2 Broader awareness of mental health

honorees & panelists

HEALTHCARE



DR. KIMBERLY BUTLER WILLIS
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
ROPER ST. FRANCIS HEALTHCARE

As director of community health at Roper St. Francis Healthcare in Charleston, Kimberly Butler Willis, PhD, CHES, CDP works alongside a multidisciplinary team of 50+ healthcare professionals across five departments to provide comprehensive care to the Charleston region's most vulnerable and underserved. She is also a co-founder of equity-centered GOOD-STOCK Consulting, LLC. At each one, she uses her 15-plus years of expertise in effective strategies to foster engaged teams and promote equity for those

served, especially the marginalized and communities of color. Dr. Willis has been recognized as one of the South Carolina Black Pages' Twenty Under Forty. She earned a PhD in health promotion, education, and behavior; a Master of Public Health degree; and a bachelor's degree in exercise science from the University of South Carolina.

KEY ISSUES

- 1 Health disparities: racial, gender-based, and others underserved
- 2 The removal of systemic racism

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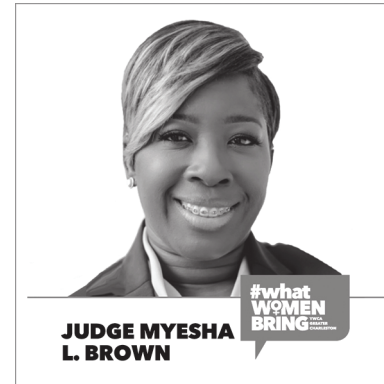
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honorees & panelists

LAW



JUDGE MYESHA LATRICE BROWN
ASSOCIATE MUNICIPAL COURT
CITY OF NORTH CHARLESTON

Elected as a judge in 2019, the Honorable Myesha L. Brown splits her time between the bench and the MLB Law Firm, which she founded 11 years ago. In addition to compassionately exercising her judicial duties, she represents clients in family law matters and serious criminal charges. A previous public defender for the Fourth Judicial Circuit, she is an honors graduate of the second class of the Charleston School of Law, where she also served as

president of the Black Law Students Association. She sits on the board of the Tri-Community Center, serves as vice president of her homeowner's association, and is an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She credits her mentor, a female judge, for inspiring her entry into law; today she herself mentors young women. She also enjoys fostering the arts and developing programs to keep communities safe.

KEY ISSUES

- 1** Advocating for the control of women and girls over their own choices
- 2** Mentoring & inspiring young women, esp. those with issues of self-worth

honorees & panelists

MEDIA



RHONDA MAREE O'BANION
MANAGER OF MEDIA RELATIONS
DOMINION ENERGY

In her leadership role as manager of media relations at Dominion Energy, Rhonda not only leads a team of communications professionals, she also sits on the company's Community Investment Board, Diversity and Inclusion Council, and Social Justice Review Committee, and is a member of its African American Resource Group. The recipient of industry awards for excellence, she has taught communications courses as an adjunct

instructor and served as president of the South Carolina chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators. She is also a Leadership Energy Carolinas graduate and a member of the American Association of Blacks in Energy. Rhonda holds a master's degree in mass communication from the University of South Carolina, and graduated cum laude with a bachelor's degree from the University of South Carolina in Aiken.

KEY ISSUES

- 1 Diversity, equity, and inclusion
- 2 A clean, reliable energy future

honorees & panelists

RISING STAR



ADIA DUNN
COMMUNITY ACTIVIST & STUDENT
HOWARD UNIVERSITY

A fierce advocate for human and women's rights, Adia is a young woman to watch! She has held multiple leadership roles in her school and the community, including serving as student body president at Hanahan High School and on the Hanahan Youth Advisory Council. She earned an associate's degree in business at Trident Technical College and is now pursuing a bachelor's degree in political science at Howard University, where she intends to

also earn her juris doctorate with an interest in human rights. Her goal is to obtain a position of influence where she can effect policy change—but she isn't waiting until she's done to make a difference. She often uses her social media platforms to raise awareness of racial and social justice, gain signatures for petitions, and participate in protests, changing the way her peers see issues of racial equity and women's rights.

KEY ISSUES

- 1 Racial and social justice
- 2 The environment, sustainability, and climate change

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for being a recipient of the
2021 YWCA Greater Charleston What Women Bring Award.



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honorees & panelists

THE ARTS



FER CAGGIANO
ARTIST, FEMINIST, PHILANTHROPIST,
ENTREPRENEUR

An acclaimed painter known for her colorful, textured impasto landscapes, still lifes, and portraits, Brazil native Fer Caggiano is a Piccolo Spoleto artist whose award-winning work has been exhibited and collected around the world. She is also the creator of “Like A Girl: Dare to Dream,” an exhibition of 40 portraits of inspirational women, including previous What Women Bring honorees Kenya Dunn and Dr. Reshma Khan, designed to empower

women and young girls to reach their full potential—while supporting local non-profits. Fer, who studied in New York, has worked as an artist in London, Brazil, and Charleston. Her drive comes from her lifelong desire to protect the world; her mission is to use art as a voice for the greater good. Today her works support her philanthropic efforts in the empowerment of women and girls, as well as reforestation in Brazil.

KEY ISSUES

- 1 The environment and sustainability
- 2 Equality for all genders, races, and minorities

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EXPLORE AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY & CULTURE FIRSTHAND



panel questions

- Q When and how did you get involved with diversity, equity, and inclusion work?
- Q How has COVID affected your work?
- Q What do you wish you knew before you started your business or career, which you can now share with women new to the field?
- Q How has your gender played a role in your career path?
- Q How do you use your platform to empower women of color?
- Q Who have been your role models throughout your life, and how did they influence you?
- Q What do you think about the influence of social media on society and/or teen girls?

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#wwb leaders

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WWB2021
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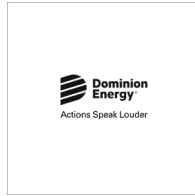
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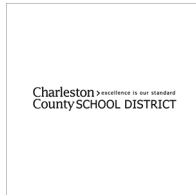
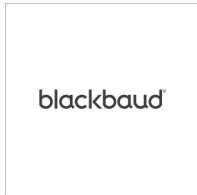
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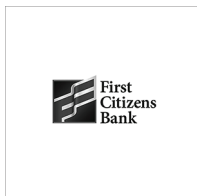
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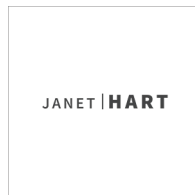
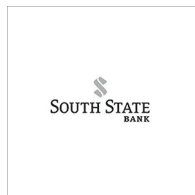
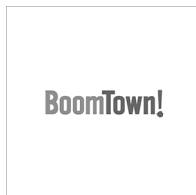
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THE
FUTURE

WHO WE ARE

#WHATWOMENBRING PARTICIPANTS, supporters, and sponsors are individuals committed to using their voices and positions, strength, courage, past experiences, and future opportunities to promote the full engagement of women in our society and to support what women bring to our workplaces, conversations, industries, and communities.

#WHATWOMENBRING AWARDS recognize women who have made significant contributions to their professions and industries and whose work contributes to their communities' viability and welfare. These women have demonstrated exemplary professional expertise. Their work or activities have contributed to community sustainability, and they exhibit a commitment to YWCA's mission to empower women.

#WHATWOMENBRING HONOREES serve as catalysts to advance their professions, contribute powerfully to their organizations, serve as role models and mentors to colleagues and others (especially women), demonstrate a commitment to our community through work and/or volunteerism, are true to their values, and lead authentically.

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