

WEBINAR: Design Thinking for Community Change
Thursday, December 6, 2018 | 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM EDT

PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES

About the Webinar

Design Thinking has emerged as a powerful approach to centering communities in designing solutions and programs focused on preventing childhood adversities and eliminating health inequities. This webinar will provide an introduction to the Design Thinking framework and discuss how this tool can be used to strengthen health equity and community change initiatives that seek to ensure that all children and families thrive in healthy communities. Featured speakers will share innovative examples of how they are utilizing Design Thinking across a range of areas, including education equity, public health, and community engagement.

Candace Brooks

Senior Design Researcher, Agency

As Senior Design Researcher at Agency, Candace Brooks works with communities, partners, and clients engaged at systems level work in utilizing design to reduce structural inequalities in this country. Candace contributes over 10 years of experience as a product design researcher and strategist, including 10 years of experience as an adjunct professor teaching courses in product design at MassArt. She has trained and coached teachers, district leaders, university staff and college-level students in the use of design research methods as an effective tool for innovative problem solving. She has facilitated school-based teams, developed curriculum for professional development and online courses, acted as a technical assistant and has presented to teachers and school administrators on the benefits of using the design process and design thinking in school-change efforts. She was part of a small team of curriculum developers that created an award-winning online art course for Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art. Her training at the Institute of Design at the Illinois Institute of Technology has helped her to hone a human-centered approach to problem solving. *Learn more about Agency at: <http://agency.org>*



Patricia Bowie

Senior Fellow, UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities

Project Lead, Population Change Learning Community

Patricia Bowie has been working with organizations, community-based initiatives, and community groups to develop new ways to improve their work while sustaining their viability and commitment to their missions. Her commitment to continuous study of contemporary research allows her to provide a unique opportunity for organizational learning and guidance on using proven theories to improve organizational practice, improve systems, and work towards population level outcomes.



Currently, Ms. Bowie currently serves as project lead for a national cross-site learning community supported by The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. This community of learners dedicated to early childhood outcomes includes the Magnolia Community Initiative in Los Angeles, one of Ms. Bowie's long-term endeavors. Other members of the learning community come from areas all across the US and Canada, including New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Wisconsin, Texas, Florida, South Dakota, Oklahoma, and British Columbia.

Ms. Bowie is also a Senior Fellow with the UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities and as part of this partnership provides consults on early childhood systems building to the cities and communities participating in TECCS – Transforming Early Childhood Community Systems. Most recently this has included direct support to the Cities of Pasadena and Santa Monica in CA, the Greater Hartford Region in CT, Miami, New York City and Washington DC. *Learn more about UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities at: <https://ph.ucla.edu/research/centers/center-healthier-children-families-and-communities>*

Shelley Danner

Co-Founder and Project Director, Challenge Detroit

A Michigan native, Shelley is Program Director of Challenge Detroit. She has a multi-disciplinary background with 15 years of experience that combines business and consulting with a passion for impact and innovation that pivoted her career into the social sector. By helping launch, design and run an innovative fellowship program into its now seventh year, and through fostering an ecosystem of cross-sector partnerships, she has co-designed and led over 55 community projects in partnership with nonprofits across Detroit neighborhoods and has supported the growth of over 200 community-minded leaders in the city. Shelley is also adjunct faculty in the Integrated Design MFA program at the College for Creative Studies in Detroit and sits on the advisory board for the University of Detroit Mercy Master of Community Development Program. Shelley lives in Detroit and is passionate about leadership and education, design thinking, social impact, sustainable cities, the arts, and travel. *Learn more about Challenge Detroit at: <http://challengedetroit.org/>*



Ronda Alexander (Moderator)

Director of Operations, Vital Village Network at Boston Medical Center

Ronda Alexander is a native Detroiter dedicated to working with communities to reach their desired goals by aligning and leveraging their resources. Ronda joins us from the United Way for Southeastern Michigan where she served as the Director of Corporate and Community Alignment on the organization's College and Career Pathways team. In her role at United Way Ronda worked to help external corporate partners find meaningful ways to engage with both students and educators; as well as worked across teams within the organization to align and leverage resources. Prior to joining United Way Ronda worked on the premier education initiative of Ford Motor Company Fund – Ford Next Generation (Ford NGL) for nine years. While at Ford Fund Ronda served a variety of roles including Professional Development/Technical Assistance Specialist and Program Manager for STEM initiatives. In all of her roles with Ford Fund Ronda worked with and supported multiple communities across the country as they worked to transform their communities through education. *Learn more about Vital Village at: <https://vitalvillage.org>*

