

FORWARD[®] CONFERENCE 2024

Session Descriptions

MONDAY, APRIL 29

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

- 1. What's Your Story? Change & the Power of Narrative**
Develop your own story in this workshop. Brainstorm and draft a short narrative that explores an important professional choice, theme, conflict, or even failure.
- 2. The Art of Negotiation: Finding Your Everyday Superpower**
Negotiation can be anyone's everyday superpower. Learn to get more of what you truly need in everyday scenarios, as well as the bigger life make-or-break deals.
- 3. Elevating the Workplace: Community & Belonging**
Learn from the collective wisdom of fellow peers who are leading and/or sustaining their company's employee resource groups (ERGs).
- 4. Pre-Conference Networking: Fun and Games.**
Find your new bestie with thought provoking storytelling prompts.

TUESDAY, APRIL 30

GENERAL SESSION:

Breaking Boundaries: Industry Innovators & Disruptors

What does disruption mean? When we think of disruption we often think of well-known disruptors like Gloria Steinem or Steve Jobs, but what about the people who are disrupting on a smaller, equally impactful scale. Meet some of today's industry disruptors and learn what it truly means to be an innovator.

Wisdom from Rising Leaders

The CEO of Hyatt, Mark Hoplamazian will be in conversation with Rising Leaders from our industry. In this session Mark will ask deep questions about their fears, hopes and dreams. Laugh and learn from this thought-provoking session on what it means to be a rising leader.

Headline Speaker: Shola Richards, Founder & CEO, Go Together Global and Best-Selling Author

Meet the self-professed 'kindness extremist' on a mission to make kindness the new normal. Shola Richards will delight and enlighten you with his powerful keynote.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS:

- 1. Solution Sessions: Roundtable Conversations:**
What stories do you tell yourself about your work, your life, and your decisions? Engage with peers in a fun, lively, discussion about your greatest challenges in the workplace and how to bring your authentic self to work. We'll learn strategies to overcome them and share in the collective empathy to see them differently. Because let's face it - how we see challenges is often dependent on the story we believe.

2. **The 7 Habits of Transformational Leaders**

This breakout will delve into seven essential habits that enable transformational leaders to inspire, empower, and motivate their teams. Attendees will gain insight into key behaviors of transformational leaders fostering a mindset of continuous learning and adaptation.

3. **The Unhustle Mindset**

Do you feel like you're a hamster on a wheel? Have you lost your purpose? This breakout is for you. Bring back the creative spark in this lively workshop about how to align your values with your life and in the process change it in ways you never dreamed.

4. **Women on Boards**

Navigating the board selection process can be a daunting and often mysterious one. In this session, we will demystify the process, to better understand the trends and traits clients are looking for most. And key in on the kind of networking you need to be doing. You'll leave with actionable advice on the next steps. Recommended for Vice President level and above.

GENERAL SESSION:

ForWard Together: A Conversation with Kevin Jacobs, Chief Financial Officer & President, Global Development and Chair of the AHILA Board

Recently, voted one of the best places to work by Fortune magazine, CEO Kevin Jacob talks about company culture and the secrets to Hilton's success.

The Global Picture: Snapshots from Abroad

Learn from global leaders in our industry about what's ahead for the future of travel. They'll discuss what trends they are seeing abroad and what that reveals about the current state of American travel.

Keynote Laughter: Fireside chat with Stand-up Comedian, Actress and Writer Zainab Johnson and Kevin Carey, Interim President & CEO, AHILA

Zainab Johnson is best known as a semi-finalist on NBC's Last Comic Standing and a series regular on Amazon's Upload. Variety voted her one of the top ten comics to watch in 2019. Her comedy special, *Hijabs Off*, aired on Amazon Originals last fall.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1

GENERAL SESSION:

Generational Changes in the Workforce

From the pioneering Baby Boomers to the tech-savvy Gen Z, this panel explores what drives each generation at work and how their unique approaches are transforming the workplace.

The Power of Advocacy: Political + Personal

Explore the meaning of advocacy – from the political to the personal. It all begins with you. Advocate for yourself and you will be equipped to advocate in any situation. AHILA's Ashley McNeil shows you the way, with a panel discussion with leading lobbyists and changemakers, as well as a fun advocacy game.

Reality Check: The Future of DEI

This panel brings together visionary leaders and change-makers to discuss the evolving landscape of diversity, equity, and inclusion within the industry, outside the industry and in our society at large.

Fireside Chat with Liz Plank, CEO, Liz Plank Productions, and Anna Blue, President, AHILA Foundation

Get ready for a lively discussion about gender equity with Liz Plank, co-host of the podcast, *Man Enough* and author of *For the Love of Men: A Vision for Mindful Masculinity*, and Anna Blue, President of the AHILA Foundation.