

**POLICYTHINK:  
WOMEN OF COLOR  
POLICY SUMMIT  
PROGRAM MATERIALS**



The Civic Engagement and Leadership Institute for Everyone

*authentically multicultural • diversity • engagement • inclusion • leadership programs*



The Civic Engagement and Leadership Institute for Everyone

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## SPECIAL THANKS

Reception Sponsor: T-Mobile

Venue Team: Beekeeper Group

Consultant: Delphine Hall

Our summit partners, facilitators, and distinguished speakers



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## MESSAGE FROM FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT

The PolicyThink: Women of Color Policy Summit is the inaugural event for CELIE (the Civic Engagement and Leadership Institute for Everyone). In fact, this is the first time a summit of this nature has ever been convened at the national level.



In light of the November 2016 elections, this summit is both timely and relevant. The role of women of color in shaping policy discussions at the national level is more relevant today than it has ever been. As we continue to gain a larger share of the collective American majority, and grow in our power and influence as professionals and leaders, this is our time to own the space that we occupy – and to stake claim to defining our collective destiny. No matter your ethnicity, party affiliation, faith or economic status, there are challenges and aspirations that we share. This summit recognizes our interdependence and serves as a forum for us to come together to address and solve our shared concerns, leverage our collective power, and seize the opportunities that allow us -- our families, communities, and all of those in the US -- fair and just opportunities to realize our full potential.

There are several policy issues that will be addressed in the breakout sessions and in the final recommendations that will be compiled and shared with the president-elect, Congress, media and other stakeholders. Please know that this is a convening summit. Our intentions are to ensure timely post-election engagement and to build a collaborative platform and alliance that we will expand upon in the months and years ahead. We have a bold and audacious vision for thought leaders, influencers, activists, advocates and others who value, embrace and support efforts to expand and capture opportunities and resources needed to advance an agenda most relevant to women of color in the US.

Many special thanks to those who join us as elected leaders, presidential appointees, partners, participants, facilitators, advocates, activists, consultants, friends and sponsors. This summit and progress are not possible without you.

Anita R. Estell  
Founder & President  
CELIE



# CELIE

The Civic Engagement and Leadership Institute for Everyone

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The Civic Engagement and Leadership Institute for Everyone



## OVERVIEW

**Mission.** CELIE is a national organization committed to expanding access and opportunity for all Americans, and others, particularly underserved and multicultural populations in the areas of civic engagement and public and private diversity and inclusion efforts.

**Vision.** To offer world-class engagement and training programs, tools and resources that advance opportunities for all by unleashing the potential and talents of participants and partners in ways that transform lives, organizations, communities and nations.

**Opportunity.** Numerous reports highlight and confirm dramatic developments associated with changing demographics. The combined composition of the US and global consumer and political markets reflect a world that is growing in its heterogeneity and ethnic, age and gender diversity. These population shifts are occurring rapidly, with an indelible effect on public policy, consumer patterns, voter composition, constituent services, talent recruitment, retention and promotion, and business and marketing strategies for years to come.



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## THREE PRIORITY FOCUS AREAS

### **Civic Engagement**

**PolicyThink®** and the **Freedom Factory®** are CELIE's signature civic engagement programs, providing best-in-class resources, tools, training and other resources to local, state and community leaders, national associations, institutions of higher education, non-profits, advocates, activists, community organizations, grantees, strategic allies/partners and others. PolicyThink allows us to provide customized convenings, including conferences, summits, focus groups and community engagement activities. Through the Freedom Factory® we offer an advocacy academy and related programs that provide civic-engagement training for persons and organizations seeking more profound engagement at the national level with Congress, the federal agencies and the White House.

**Theory of Change.** Providing American people with information and tools enlisted by Washington influencers is an intervention that can accelerate change and help sustain a robust American democracy and legislative process. We believe that if more Americans constructively engage with Congress and the White House, the work of Congress and the White House will benefit more Americans.



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## Diversity & Inclusion

**GWIZ**<sup>®</sup> (Global Workforce Inclusion Zone) supports public-private, multi-sectorial research, information dissemination, training, special initiatives, and other efforts that address diversity and inclusion challenges and opportunities relevant to the US and global markets.



Theory of Change. Disruptively innovative approaches are needed to accelerate advancement in the areas of diversity and inclusion (D & I). An authentically multicultural organization, enlisting the assistance of master-level advisors, collaborators and contributors, is necessary to accelerate achievement and advance private and public sector priorities related to diversity and inclusion (D & I). These individuals provide critical perspective, knowledge, access to diverse talent and relationships – all of which are supported by a history of working with underserved and diverse communities, and a deep understanding of the best in current and next practices related to D & I.

## Women and Girls

**XXTRA Special and Free**<sup>®</sup> (Women who Take Responsibility and Action are “XXTRA” Special and Free) supports programs, internships, scholarships and other activities that advance the engagement of women of color in democracy and private sector industries. Our programs empower participants, partners and sponsors to address real life, career, educational and policy matters relevant to women and girls of color with passion, accountability, accuracy and cultural authenticity.

**Theory of Change:** Women of color represent 8 out of 10 women in the world and soon will comprise a collective majority in the United States. Moving forward, new, innovative programs are required to ensure they are equipped with the tools and resources that expand access and opportunities for them and address issues and realities they face in their communities and careers.



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## ***PolicyThink: Women of Color Policy Summit***



**Date:** November 15, 2016  
**Time:** 8:00 am – 6:00 pm  
**Location:** The Beekeeper Group  
1101 14th Street, NW Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20005

*“Coming together to solve our shared challenges”*

**PolicyThink: Women of Color Policy Summit** is the premier national policy development and civic engagement summit for women of color. Women of color are a formidable force in the 2016 election cycle and beyond. This inaugural summit harnesses the collective power of one of the most influential voting segments in the US by convening women of color organizers, influencers, leaders, nonprofit and other organizations to address and develop policy recommendations and an agenda to be shared with presidential campaigns and the US Congress. Attendees will have an opportunity to interact with national leaders, participate in facilitated workshops and contribute to a set of final policy recommendations that will be shared with media and those seeking election to the White House and Congress.

*CELIE is a national organization committed to expanding access and opportunity for all Americans, particularly underserved and multicultural populations in the areas of civic engagement and public and private diversity and inclusion efforts. [www.celie.org](http://www.celie.org)*

**Special thanks to the Beekeeper Group, the facility hosts.**



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## ***PolicyThink: Women of Color Policy Summit***



### **SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES**

#### ***Workshop***

During the workshop, facilitators and attendees will:

- Create policy recommendations [workshop group]
- Report out recommendations to larger group [group lead]
- Vote on which recommendations go forward [all attendees]

#### ***CELIE***

- Develop briefing document based on approved recommendations
- Package and submit recommendations to the Presidential Elect and Congress.

### **GOAL**

- Harnesses the collective power of one of the most influential voting segments in the US by convening women of color organizers, influencers, leaders, nonprofit and other organizations to address and develop policy recommendations and an agenda to be shared with the President-elect and the US Congress.

### **OBJECTIVE**

- Provide a forum where attendees will have an opportunity to interact with national leaders, participate in a facilitated discussion and contribute to a set of final policy recommendations that will be shared with the media, President-elect and US Congress.



The Civic Engagement and Leadership Institute for Everyone

## ***PolicyThink: Women of Color Policy Summit***

### **PROGRAM**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Presenter(s) and Invited Speaker(s)</b>
<b>8:00 am to 8:45 am</b>	Breakfast	
<b>8:45 to 9:00 am</b>	Opening and Introductions	<p><b>Anita R. Estell</b>            Founder &amp; President of CELIE, and            CEO of the Estell Group, LLC</p> <p><b>Shana Glickfield</b>            Partner            The Beekeeper Group</p>
<b>9:00 am to 9:35 am</b>	Remarks	<p><b>The Honorable Grace Meng (D-NY)</b>            US House of Representatives</p> <p><b>The Honorable Bonnie Watson-Coleman (D-NJ)</b>            US House of Representatives</p> <p><b>Ellen Nissenbaum</b>            Senior Vice President            Center on Budget Policy &amp; Priorities</p>
<b>9:35 am to 9:45 am</b>	Breakout Instructions	<p><b>Leticia Tomas Bustillos</b>  <b>Lydia Watts</b>            Facilitator Coordinators            CELIE</p>
<b>9:45 am to 10:00 am</b>	Break	
<b>10:00 am to 12:00 pm</b>	Facilitated Working Sessions	
	Civil Rights / Immigration	<p><b>Irasema Garza</b>            Consultant            CELIE's Leaders' Council</p> <p><b>Terry O'Neill</b>            President            National Organization of Women</p>
	Child Welfare	<p><b>Heidi McIntosh</b>            Deputy Director of Programs            National Association of Social Workers (NASW)</p> <p><b>Roxana Torrico Meruvia</b>            Senior Practice Associate            NASW</p>
	Criminal Justice	<p><b>Elsie Scott</b>            Founding Director            Ronald W. Walters Leadership and            Public Policy Center</p>



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Diversity & Inclusion

**Suzanne Burks**

President  
The Burks Companies

Economic Security & Employment

**Stephanie Myers**

Co-Founder  
Black Women for Positive Change

Education

**Kimberly Jones**

Vice President of Government Affairs  
Council On Educational Opportunity

Health

**Jamille Fields**

Policy Analyst  
Planned Parenthood Federation of America

**Priscilla Chatman**

President & CEO  
Chatman, LLC

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**12:00 pm to 1:30 pm** Lunch

**Confirmed Speakers**

**The Honorable Joyce Beatty (D-OH)**

US House of Representatives

**The Honorable Mignon Clyburn**

Commissioner  
Federal Communications  
Commission

**Kim Keenan**

CEO  
Multicultural Media, Telecom & Internet  
Council

**Glynda Carr**

Co-Founder  
Higher Heights for America

**Invited Speakers**

**The Honorable Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R- FL)**

US House of Representatives

**The Honorable Linda Sanchez (D- CA)**

US House of Representatives

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**1:30 pm to 3:30 pm** Complete Policy Recommendations

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**3:30 pm to 3:45 pm** Break

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**3:45 pm to 5:00 pm** Report Recommendations

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**5:00 pm to 6:30 pm** Networking Reception

**Sponsored by T-Mobile**



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## DISTINGUISHED GUESTS



**U.S. Congresswoman Joyce Beatty** is serving her second term representing the 3rd Congressional District of Ohio. As a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives, Congresswoman Beatty serves on the powerful Committee on Financial Services and is member of two subcommittees: Housing and Insurance as well as Oversight and Investigations. The Committee on Financial Services oversees all components of the nation's housing and financial services sectors including banking, insurance, real estate, public and assisted housing, and securities.



**U.S. Congresswoman Grace Meng** is serving her second term in the United States House of Representatives. Grace represents the Sixth Congressional District of New York encompassing the New York City borough of Queens, including west, central and northeast Queens. Grace is the first Asian-American Member of Congress from New York State, and the only Congressmember of Asian descent in the entire Northeast. She is also the first female Member of Congress from Queens since former Vice Presidential nominee Geraldine Ferraro. Grace is a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and its Subcommittees on the Middle East and North Africa, and Asia and the Pacific.



(Invited) **Congresswoman Illena Ros-Lehtinen** represents Florida's 27th Congressional District, a diverse area which includes Coral Gables, Cutler Bay, Hialeah, Key Biscayne, Little Havana, Miami, Pinecrest, South Miami, and Westchester. Ros-Lehtinen was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1989 – making her the first Hispanic woman to serve in Congress. She is a strong advocate of programs that address the serious problem of domestic violence against women, and was a lead sponsor of the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, which increases resources towards the prosecution of domestic violence, dating violence, and sexual assault.



(Invited) **Congresswoman Linda Sanchez** is recognized by her colleagues and the national media as a leading voice for working families, judiciary, and trade matters. Linda Sánchez has represented California's 38th Congressional district since 2013. From 2003-2013, the Congresswoman represented California's 39th Congressional District, which included many of the communities she currently represents. Congresswoman Sánchez has broken many barriers in Congress, including becoming the first Latina to serve on the House Judiciary Committee. She was also the first Latina in history to serve on the House Ways and Means Committee.



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**Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman** is currently serving her first term in the United States Congress. Watson Coleman shattered racial and gender barriers to become the first African American woman to serve as Majority Leader of the New Jersey General Assembly, and the first African American woman to serve as the Chair of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee. Her election to the House of Representatives makes her the first African American woman to represent New Jersey in Congress. Congresswoman Watson-Coleman serves as the Co-Chair of the Black Women & Girls Caucus.



**The Honorable Mignon L. Clyburn** is the first African American woman appointed to serve on the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). She served as Acting Chairwoman of the Federal Communications Commission, following her appointment by President Barack Obama on May 20, 2013. Currently, she is serving a second term as a Democrat on the Commission, following her re-nomination by the President and confirmation by the United States Senate. Clyburn began her service at the FCC in August, 2009, after spending 11 years as a member of the Public Service Commission (PSC) of South Carolina. She served as its chair from July 2002 through June 2004.

## GUESTS SPEAKERS



**Glynda C. Carr** is Co-Founder of Higher Heights. She is recognized for her innovative leadership style, commitment to expanding the civic participation of communities of color and advancing progressive public policies that build sustainable communities. Carr is the former Executive Director of Education Voters of New York, a leading independent voice for school reform in the state. She joined Education Voters in 2008 where she became New York's youngest African-American woman to run a statewide advocacy organization.



**Kim Keenan** became the President and CEO of the Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council (MMTC) in September 2014, succeeding MMTC's Co-Founder and CEO of 28 years, David Honig. Prior to taking the helm at MMTC, Keenan served as General Counsel and Secretary of the NAACP, the oldest and largest civil rights organization in the world. Keenan has also served as principal of her own law firm and served in the litigation practices of two nationally recognized law firms for nearly two decades.



**Ellen Nissenbaum** is the Senior Vice President for Government Affairs for the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Since 1984, she has directed the Center's work with federal policymakers and with other national organizations on a broad range of policy issues. These include federal budget and tax issues (with a particular focus on refundable tax credits for lowincome working families), Medicaid and health care, nutrition programs and other critical policies.



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## FACILITATORS



**Suzanne E. Burks** is a member of CELIE's Leaders' Council and is president of The Burks Companies, Inc. (TBC), an integrated facilities management company located in Atlanta, GA. Suzanne has more than 35 years of experience as a corporate innovator and executive with a focus on business development, marketing, diversity/inclusion and external relations. Suzanne's professional record has demonstrated her ability to build strategic alliances, build consensus among cross-functional groups, align corporate mission with social responsibility, and help companies achieve growth with strategic philanthropy and culturally relevant programs.



**Priscilla Chatman** is an attorney with 25 years' experience in health policy, government and community relations. She is president and CEO of Chatman, LLC, a government and community relations health consultancy firm. Other distinguished experience and efforts include serving as Vice President for Government at the Lupus Foundation of America, directing the Washington office of the American Urological Association and serving as Counsel and Director of Government Affairs for the nation's second largest senior's organization, the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare.



**Jamille Fields** is a Policy Analyst at Planned Parenthood Federation of America where she works to improve reproductive health care access for low-income people, women, and young people across the country. Prior to Planned Parenthood, Jamille was a Clinical Fellow at the Harvard Law School Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation where she assisted grassroots and community-based organizations in their policy advocacy in addition to overseeing law students and contributing to the Center's research and legal analysis on health care law and policy.



**Irasema Garza** is an attorney with more than 20 years of experience in senior positions within two federal administrations at the U.S. Department of Labor, and in the nonprofit sector. Based in Washington, D.C., she works as a policy advisor to the National Council of La Raza, providing strategic advice, and policy analysis across a range of core civil rights issues.



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**Heidi McIntosh, MSW**, is the Deputy Director of Programs at the National Association of Social Workers. NASW promotes, the Profession of social work and social workers, and advocates for sound social policies that improve the well-being for individuals, families and communities. Heidi previously served as Senior Policy Advisor at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in the Administration for Children, Youth and Families, where she coordinated policy development and strategic planning for an \$8 billion federal budget that serves vulnerable children and families.



**Stephanie E. Myers, Ph.D.** is volunteer Co-Founder and National Co-Chair of Black Women for Positive Change, an advocacy organization working to “Strengthen and Preserve the American Middle/Working Class; and to Change the Culture of Violence in America...and the World.” She is Vice President and Co-Owner of R.J. Myers Publishing and Consulting Company, a minority owned business headquartered in the District of Columbia. Stephanie also served as a Presidential Appointee in the Bush Administration in positions within the U.S. Department of Transportation and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.



**Terry O’Neill**, a feminist attorney, professor and activist for social justice, was elected president of NOW in June 2009. She is also president of the NOW Foundation and chair of the NOW Political Action Committee, and serves as the principal spokesperson for all three entities. Terry oversees NOW’s multi-issue agenda, which includes: advancing reproductive rights and justice, promoting racial justice, stopping violence against women, winning civil and human rights for the LGBTQIA community, ensuring economic justice, ending sex discrimination and achieving constitutional equality for women.



**Elsie L. Scott, Ph.D.** serves as the founding director of the Ronald W. Walters Leadership and Public Policy Center. She previously served as president and chief executive of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF) and as the organization’s vice president for research and programs. Dr. Scott has served as executive director of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) and Deputy Commissioner of Training for the New York City Police Department.



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**Leticia Tomas Bustillos**, serves as the Co-Facilitator Coordinator for the inaugural PolicyThink: Women of Color Policy Summit. Leticia, who holds a Ph.D., is an independent consultant working with higher education focused organizations, including the Institute for Higher Education Policy (Washington DC), the Campaign for College Opportunity (Los Angeles, CA), and the Southern Education Foundation (Atlanta, GA). Previously, she was Associate Director of the Education Policy Project at the National Council of La Raza's (NCLR) Office of Research, Advocacy and Legislation where she focused on Latino students in K-12 and higher education at the federal and state levels.



**Roxana Torrico Meruvia** is a Senior Practice Associate with the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) where she conducts research and develops written products related to child welfare issues. Prior to joining NASW, Torrico Meruvia was the Director of the Housing and Homelessness Department at the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) where she provided direction and technical assistance specific to the development and knowledge regarding the intersection of foster care and homelessness. She has several years of experience working with diverse, low-income youth and families in the non-profit and public systems.

*Special note of thanks to **Lydia L. Watts**  
for her contributions as Co-Coordinator and contributing author to the CELIE Facilitators' Guide.  
Lydia is well-recognized for her work and leadership in the areas of criminal justice and health policy.*



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