

2023

NEXT LEVEL

ELEVATING DIVERSE ENTREPRENEURS



GREATER
WASHINGTON
PARTNERSHIP



Truist Foundation

In collaboration with: **1863**[™]



Jamyla Bennu

Jamyla Bennu is a native of New York State and has lived in Baltimore since 2005. A graduate of Spelman College, she is the founder of Oyin Handmade, an artisanal brand of natural personal care products that has been in the online DTC space since 2003. The company's flagship line remains self-manufactured, a rarity within the beauty industry, allowing nimble decisions and autonomy. After 5+ years in mass retail, Oyin's current growth opportunities include a refocus on DTC, natural grocery, and an expansion into contract manufacturing with an eye toward B2B and institutional supply. Initial partnerships exist with Eaton Workshop in Washington DC, and University of Maryland Medical System hospitals across Maryland.



oyinhandmade.com



Oyin Handmade



Oyin Handmade



@OyinHandmade



@OyinHandmade

Angela Chester-Johnson

Angela Chester Johnson is the owner and CEO of Plum Good LLC, a minority and women-owned certified business enterprise, based in Washington, D.C. Plum Good produces and sells international spices, herbs, teas, sauces, and gourmet snacks. Angela has enjoyed a successful career in international affairs, as a chief of diplomatic protocol, a business development consultant, technical writer, policy analyst and advocate. She has facilitated multiple trade and business development teams throughout South Asia and Africa. These have helped to generate business, build corporate capacity and strategic partnerships for clients, governments, and organizations. Ms. Chester-Johnson has particular bent towards assisting small and women owned businesses to elevate. Her work has generated economic development in emerging economies; led to greater export revenues for her client base; produced positive social outcomes for recipient communities; and documented benefits for all stakeholders involved.



@tasteplumgood



Taste Plum Good

tasteplumgood.com



@tasteplumgood

Khadija Dawn Carryl

Khadija Dawn Carryl serves as founder & CEO of Henna Sooq, a company dedicated to providing people with high quality henna products, tools and education to strengthen and color their hair naturally. Khadija empowers both women and men to make healthy life choices by giving people the tools through the health and wellness of henna and natural ingredients. Founded in her hometown of Montreal, Canada, Henna Sooq is a natural hair and beauty brand that specializes in henna and Ayurvedic hair color and care including products, services and events.



hennasooq.com



Henna Sooq



Henna Sooq



@HennaSooq



@HennaSooq



Jennifer Dunn

Jennifer Dunn, M.A. possesses over twenty-plus years of combined educational technology expertise in eLearning, diversity and inclusion, training and development, and college and career readiness. As the co-founder and CEO of Bunifu Learning for Life, she oversees XR, Articulate, and Adobe Captivate experienced instructional designers and employees, processes, and policies to successfully bridge training and development outcomes with instructional practices. It is her life mission to ensure that learning is engaging and most importantly culturally relevant and inclusive. She was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, and is a wife and a proud parent of a nine-year-old son.



bunifuelearning.com



Bunifu - Learning for Life



Bunifu LLC



@BunifuLearningForLife

Matt Evans



Matt Evans is the founder of Code Super Powers, which uses AI to create personalized courses for children that make it easier and more affordable to learn coding from live instructors. He is a full-stack programmer with over 20 years of experience in the technology industry.

As a former software engineer for technology giant IBM, Matt provided technical expertise to Fortune 500 companies. Matt is from New York City and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Systems and Science, from Morgan State University. He achieved academic excellence and graduated with magna cum laude honors.



codesuperpowers.com



Code Super Powers



@CodeSuperPowers1



Code Super Powers

Kamel Greene

Meet Kamel Greene, a native of East Palo Alto, California, and a former Division I football player at Brigham Young University. Kamel holds both a bachelor's degree in Political Science and a master's in Public Administration from BYU, where he also competed as a defensive back for the Cougars. With extensive expertise in policy, strategy, operations management, sales, marketing, corporate communications, project management, and governmental affairs, Kamel is presently the founder and CEO of Poly Platform. This innovative smart-city platform digitalizes outdated brick-and-mortar infrastructure of city government into a cost-efficient, all-in-one digital city. Kamel aspires to leverage his skills to drive growth and transformation in the world.



@PlatformPoly



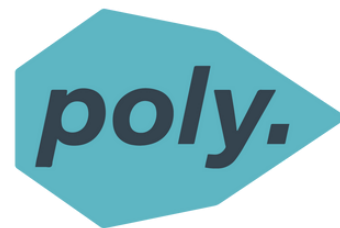
Poly Platform



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getpolyplatform.com

Patricia Griffith

Founder and Principal Experience Curator of Experiences On Demand (“EOD”) Patricia “Trisha” Griffith, has curated impactful and memorable events across the country from small intimate gatherings to large-scale summits with over 1,000 attendees. Known for always following her passion and her entrepreneurial spirit, Trisha has spent the last 20 years fine tuning her niche of creating community and memorable experiences through events. The foundation of her success in the event planning industry is the result of developing strong working relationships with her clients, vendors, and event contributors. Trisha holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology and Public Policy from Syracuse University, Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Nevada and Event Management Certificate from George Washington University School of Business. She currently resides in Washington, D.C. with her husband Kwame, her son, Noah, and her two dogs, Valentina and Teddy.



Experiences On Demand



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Experiences On Demand

eodevents.com



Chibueze Ihenacho

Chibueze “Chibs” Ihenacho founded ARMOR Systems in 2014, after graduating from the Georgia Institute of Technology in his hometown of Atlanta, Georgia, he has a B.S. degree in Biomedical Engineering. ARMOR develops hemorrhage control systems designed to increase the survivability of traumatic injury in situations where advanced medical support is not immediately available. The company’s novel wearable platform stops severe arterial bleeds and can respond to trauma in any theater. Since founding ARMOR, Chibueze has served as CEO and spearheaded the organization’s business development, engineering, and product development efforts.



armrsystems.com



ARMOR Systems



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ARMOR Systems



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Pam Konde

Pam Konde was born in Washington, DC and raised in Prince George's County, MD. She has proudly served as the Owner and General Manager of Mac's Tire Service for 16 years. Mac's Tire Service is a 24-hour tire sales and service operation located in Northeast, DC. It has been a part of the fabric of the District of Columbia serving the tire needs of the local community for over 30 years, as well as several agencies within the District government.



Mac's Tire Service



@MacsTireService



@macstireservice

Dr. Anna Casey Peoples

Dr. Anna Casey Peoples is the CEO and founder of Peoples Pharmacy LLC. Peoples Pharmacy LLC was established in May 2016 in partnership with the City of Norfolk, Virginia to establish a community pharmacy in a medically underserved community in the City of Norfolk.

Peoples Pharmacy provides clinical and retail pharmaceutical services and supplies. The company focuses on serving the medically underserved communities.



Peoples Diabetic Clinic & Pharmacy



@peoplespharmacyrx_

Peoples Pharmacy LLC

peoplespharmacyrx.com

Dr. Venessa M. Perry

Dr. Venessa M. Perry is an executive coach, author, and thought leader in the DEI and leadership development spaces. As the CEO and founder of Health Resource Solutions, she assists organizations in creating long-term, transformational change through a racial equity lens. She contributes by working in partnership with managers, directors, and C-suite executives to help them deliver real impact to their customers and clients.



Health Resource Solutions, LLC



Health Resource Solutions



Health Resource Solutions, LLC

healthresourcesolutions.com



Mali Phonpadith

Mali Phonpadith was born in Laos and came to the United States with her family as refugees when she was five years old. Today, Mali is the founder and CEO of the SOAR Community Network, a leadership and organizational development firm supporting executives and staff of private, public and nonprofit organizations. She is a TEDx Speaker, 3-time International Bestselling Author, Certified Talent Optimization Leader and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion consultant, leadership development trainer and facilitator.



SOAR Community Network

soarcommunitynetwork.com



SOAR Community Network, LLC



@SOARwithSCN



Thomas Sanchez

Thomas Sanchez is CEO and co-founder of Social Driver, a digital agency that uses groundbreaking strategies for websites and digital marketing. Thomas has been credited as one of the “most innovative people in Washington, DC” (DCInno) and a top “minority business leader” (Washington Business Journal). Under his leadership, the agency’s collaborative culture and cutting-edge strategies have received wide acclaim, including the National LGBT Chamber of Commerce’s Supplier of the Year award, the Capital Region Minority Supplier Development Council’s Supplier of the Year award, and a Best and Brightest Company award.



socialdriver.com



Social Driver



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@SocialDriver



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Amanda Stephenson

Amanda Stephenson is the owner of The Fresh Food Factory Market (FFF), which provides wellness education to ensure that everyone can make informed decisions as it relates to their diet and overall health, and workforce and entrepreneurial training to increase access to income generating opportunities. The FFF Market has been honored and/or promoted by many, including Secretary Walsh of the US Department of Labor, CNBC, the Washington Post, the Washington Business Journal, and WUSA9 to name a few. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Commercial and Advertising Art from Virginia State University, and holds a Master of Business Administration from Southeastern University.



The Fresh Food Factory Farm and Food Hub



@FreshFoodFac



@thefreshfoodfactory

thefreshfoodfactory.com

Cherrelle Swain

Cherrelle Swain is a dynamic visionary and filmmaker who is making a powerful impact on the world. Descending from St. Paul Minnesota's Rondo community, she brings a deep understanding of the intersection of racial justice, activism, and social impact to her work as the founder of Terra Rossa, a Washington DC-based creative agency and production company.

Cherrelle forges powerful partnerships with leading brands across the business, entertainment, and media industries, driving systemic change and creating authentic connections that resonate with audiences. With Terra Rossa, she is leading the charge in helping businesses and organizations create meaningful, lasting change that benefits communities and empowers individuals.

Her latest project, Ancestral Healing, is a deeply personal exploration of the generational impact of displacement on the descendants of St. Paul's Historic Rondo community.



**terra
rossa**

terrarossa.io



Terra Rossa



@ItsTerraRossa



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