

# 2019 PROGRAM

Greenville, South Carolina • Embassy Suites • Huguenot Loft at the Peace Center



**RURAL  
WOMEN'S  
SUMMIT | 2019**

#RuralWomenLead

# WELCOME TO THE SUMMIT



Since 2007, the Rural Assembly has convened a national network of leaders and advocates who represent the rich diversity of the rural experience. Together, we've created opportunities to work with funders, policy makers, and national public-interest groups, and we've brought attention to rural America's challenges and strengths in ways that will encourage better policies and results.

The Rural Women's Summit emphasizes the role rural women play in creating a more equitable and inclusive nation. We know rural women are often the primary organizers, leaders, creators, and implementers of more just and inclusive efforts in their communities. Yet they are also more likely to experience the trauma of inequities across all measures of health, economic security, connection, power, and safety.

In this time together, we'll talk about how we support women as organizers and leaders; we'll articulate how women's leadership is different and the kinds of values and strategies women bring to community building; we'll consider examples and models of that empower; and we'll identify ways to build power for the values of inclusion, justice, and equity.

## STATEMENT OF INCLUSION:

### YOU ARE WELCOME AT THIS TABLE

We welcome each and every one of you. Bring your full selves and your voices to this table. At the Rural Assembly, we celebrate and value our differences. Across region and culture, identity and race, faith and heritage, we welcome you. Regardless of how you arrived in this country or how many generations of your family have sat on your front porch, we welcome you and celebrate you to this table.

Throughout this summit, we invite you to join us in making room for another chair beside you, to get to know your neighbors, be they near or far. We invite you to be courageous with us, to listen hard, to take care of yourself, and to enjoy the chance to hear other vastly different experiences, opinions, and perspectives. Over the last decade of gatherings, we've chosen to dive into the deep end of this work; we've carried with us toolkits filled with assets and abundance instead of fear and scarcity, and each time we've arrived in a place of love and daring and needing to add a whole lot more leaves to our table. We expect

the same will be true by Wednesday. We invite you to stock your toolkit, nourish your heart, and to demand as much from yourself as you do of others.

*"All these things done with love, tell the story of our rural communities."*

*(Rural Youth Assembly 2010)*

The Rural Assembly Team



### RESOURCE TEAM

Looking after each other is part of our practice at the Rural Assembly. Many of us are carrying heavy challenges as we move through these two days. Some of us are managing healthcare issues, juggling children and elders, dealing with loss, workplace harassment, and family violence, be it current or historic. You are not alone. Should you find yourself struggling as you hear content that may be triggering and difficult, we have a Resource Team available to listen, provide support, and if appropriate, connect you to additional resources. You will find members of the team in each session, in the hallways between sessions and during meals, please feel free to stop one of them if they can be of use.



## WHAT DO WE WANT TO ACHIEVE?

- 1 Reveal the diversity of women's roles, leadership, and presence in rural America.
- 2 Amplify the voices of rural women with one another and with national platforms.
- 3 Address isolation women feel by connecting them to one another.
- 4 Catalyze partnerships and future work for & with participants.
- 5 Create a space that allows us to listen and speak to one another honestly, vulnerably, and across difference.



## TELL YOUR STORY, BE A FIRESTARTER

We will close the Rural Women's Summit with our Firestarters—women who are the creators and keepers of community. These women are modeling for the nation how we mend and strengthen the social and civic fabric of our country.

Six women will tell their stories to inspire and encourage us to find the energy to proclaim the powerful role rural women play in creating and stewarding compassionate and inclusive communities.

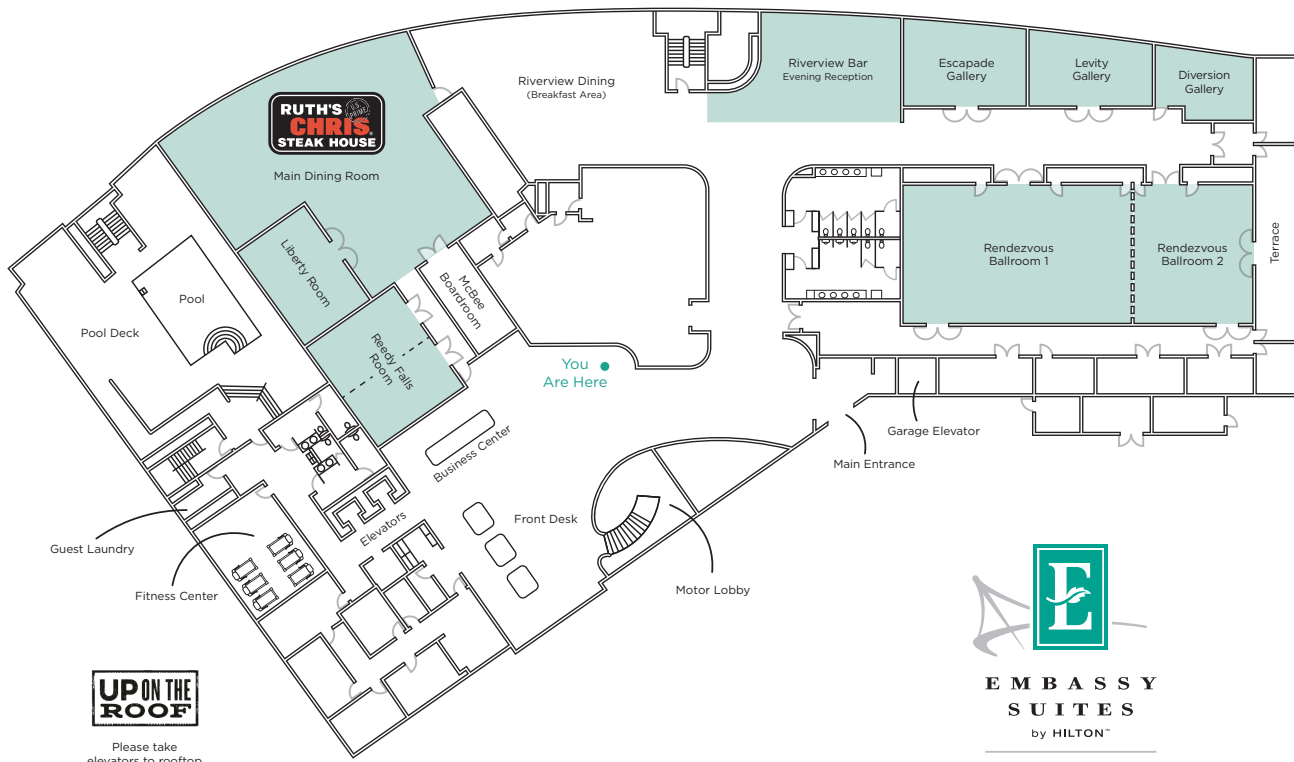


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# FIRESTARTER

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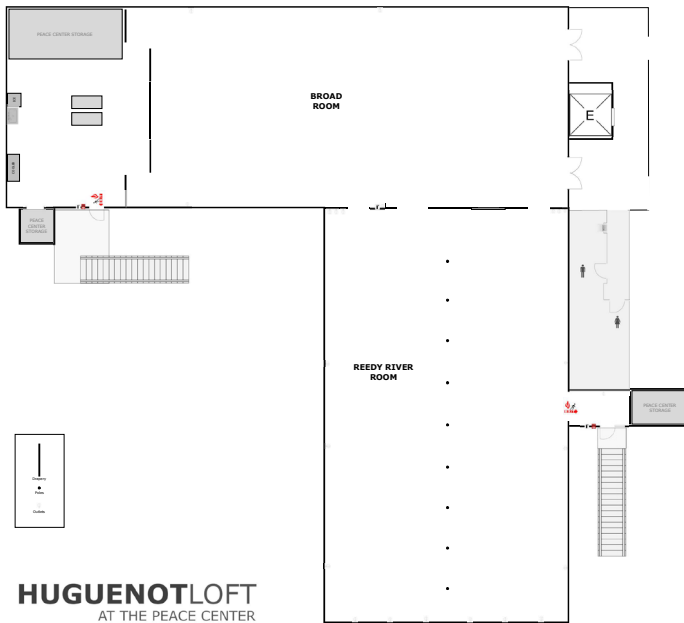
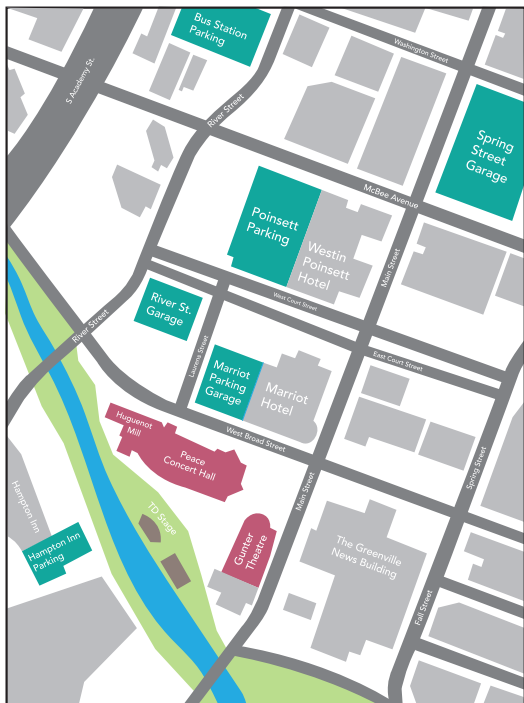
creators and keepers of community



greenville downtown  
riverplace



Recommended parking for Peace Center events



**HUGUENOTLOFT**  
AT THE PEACE CENTER



*Kyshona Armstrong*

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

### Guest Arrivals

*Embassy Suites and Hampton Inn*

### Reception and Registration

*6:30 PM-9:00 PM | The Huguenot Loft at the Peace Center*

Don't miss our opening reception in the historic Huguenot Loft in Downtown Greenville. Join us for heavy appetizers, a cash bar, and good fellowship, plus live music from South Carolina native, Kyshona Armstrong.



### Kid-friendly Spaces

We welcome children to this Summit, and we are pleased to provide a variety of kids-activities and spaces within our plenary meeting spaces. If you would like to join an informal group of women who are bringing children to this event, please email Jessika Tantisook at [jessikatantisook@gmail.com](mailto:jessikatantisook@gmail.com).



## MONDAY, OCTOBER 28

### Breakfast

*Morning | Embassy Suites and Hampton Inn*

Fuel up with a complimentary breakfast at summit hotels. Other breakfast options are within walking distance, as well.

### Welcome to the Rural Women's Summit

8:30 AM-9:00 AM / *The Huguenot Loft at the Peace Center*

Meet the Rural Assembly team bright and early in the Huguenot Loft. We'll offer a brief orientation to summit space and help you know what to expect while we're together.

Special guest appearance:

**Jaki Shelton Green**, *North Carolina Poet Laureate* (@greenjaki)

### Opening Session: A Conversation with Rural Women Journalists

9:00 AM-10:30 AM / *The Huguenot Loft at the Peace Center*

We often look to dedicated journalists to help us make sense of how women are faring in rural America. From food news to cultural news, from

investigative reporting to front-line missives, these five women journalists offer us a candid analysis of the trends, challenges, and realities rural women are facing and addressing every day.

Panelists:

**Lyndsey Gilpin**, *Founder of Southerly* (@lyndseygilpin)

**Mary Annette Pember**, *Independent Journalist, contributor to Indian Country Today, The Daily Yonder, The Atlantic, and the Guardian* (@mapember)

**April Simpson**, *Reporter, Stateline/Pew Trusts* (@aprilleticia)

**Ruxandra Guidi**, *Contributing editor for High Country News and journalism professor at the University of Arizona* (@HomelandsProd)

Moderated by:

**Leah Douglas**, *Reporter with Food and Environment Reporting Network* (@leahjdouglas)



## Workshops

11:00 AM- 12:30/1:00 PM

### **Creating Our Human Museums\***

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM / Broad St Room

*\*Pre-registration for this session is required*

We are all human museums carrying/holding/ translating secrets/identities/family/community/ traditions/artifacts/stories/symbols/joys/ sorrows/fears/regrets/hopes/dreams/memories/ amnesia/weapons/generational trauma/genetic de-ja-vu. As you think of yourself as your own curator or personal anthropologist... what is in your human museum?

*Jaki Shelton Green, North Carolina Poet Laureate (@greenjaki)*

### **VoteRunLead, #RunAsYouAre™ 90 Day Challenge**

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM / Reedy Room

The #RunAsYouAre™ 90 Day Challenge will help you make a real plan to get to know your political community, find the best office to run for, and bolster your campaign to win. We believe you already have the experience, talent and networks to achieve your political ambition. #RunAsYouAre™ will accelerate the

growth of your political networks and know-how with practical and actionable steps. The workshop will help you make a real plan to get to know your political community, find the best office to run for, and bolster your campaign to win. With the unprecedented surge in women interested in running for office, our essential and individualized approach equips participants to campaign and win.

**Prairie Rose Seminole**, *trainer, American Indian Alaska Native Program Director, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* (@msprairierose)

**Nevada Littlewolf**, *trainer, Political Director, Women Winning* (@nrlittlewolf)

### **Rural Matters Podcast Recording: Women Leading Interfaith Movements in Rural America**

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM / Ramsaur Studio

Witness a live podcast recording & conversation about how women faith leaders are agents of social change in rural communities.

Michelle Rathman of Rural Matters will talk with three women leaders from different faith backgrounds, who are on the front lines of

addressing systemic challenges in rural places and leading efforts to heal historic traumas, to bridge divisions and create new hope.

Facilitated by:

**Michelle Rathman** (@RuralMattersPod, @MRBImpact)

Respondents:

**Rev. Dr. Robin Dease**, *United Methodist Church, Hartsville, South Carolina Conference*

**Rev. Jen Bailey**, *Faith Matters/People's Supper* (@revjenbailey)

**Okolo Rashid**, *International Museum of Muslim Cultures* (@muslimmuseum)





### Lunch

12:30 PM-2:00 PM / *The Huguenot Loft at the Peace Center*

Enjoy a long lunch with us in the Huguenot Loft.

**Optional:** Grab your lunch and join us in the Ramsaur Studio at 1:00 pm for a 30-minute film showing of “Love Anyway” with our friends from Preemptive Love.

### Breakout Sessions

**2:00 PM - 4:00 PM**

We’ll offer two rounds of breakout sessions on topics that emerged through our pre-conference engagement survey. These sessions

are meant to spark dialogue, provide concrete examples and models of how women build and exercise their power in communities, and offer actionable takeaways for participants.

### PART 1: 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

*Located in the conference rooms at the Embassy Suites*

#### **Making Noise: Womxn’s Protest Songs as Rural Resistance**

*Rendezvous Ballroom 2*

Rural womxn’s music, storytelling, and creative play are more than mere entertainments. They are the historical building blocks of domestic and political change, as well as drivers of economic growth in 21st century rural America. This interactive workshop (co-led by Cardinal Cross Arts Co.’s Amy Brooks and Hilarie Spangler in collaboration with Ashley Hanson of PlaceBase Productions) will explore community noise as a foundation for musical storytelling, truth telling, and civic discourse about our shared—and unique—experiences as rural people.

*Amy Brooks, Cardinal Cross Arts Collective  
(@cardinalcrossartsco)*



*Hilarie Rose Spangler, Cardinal Cross Arts Collective, Beth Morrison Projects (@cardinalcrossartsco)*  
*Ashley Hanson, PlaceBase Productions, Department of Public Transformation (@publictransformation, @placebaseproductions)*

### **Empowering Rural Women's Leadership Part I** *Rendezvous Ballroom 1*

Join us for a highly interactive workshop. The first hour will be 7-minute rapid fire presentations by incredible rural female leaders sharing their stories, their success, life balance tips, obstacles they've overcome and their visions for a brighter future. The second hour will be roundtable intensives facilitated by the presenters.

Led by:  
**Teresa Kittridge, 100 Rural Women (@100ruralwomen)**  
**Madeline Moore, Rethinking Rural (@rethinkingrural)**

Speakers:  
**Molly Johnston, Dance Barn Collective (@dancebarncollective)**

*Nevada Littlewolf, Women Winning (@nrlittlewolf)*  
**Morgan McManus, Clemson University, 4-H**  
**Jessica Tantisook, North Coast Food Web (@northcoastfoodweb)**

### **Muslim in Appalachia with 100 Days in Appalachia and America Indivisible** *Diversion Gallery*

Producers from 100 Days in Appalachia discuss the evolution of the documentary project "Muslim in Appalachia" and how it has evolved for participants since the 2016 election. This session will include conversations about communion, outreach, bridge building and coping mechanisms for Muslim women living in the South.

Speakers:  
**Saba Ashfaq, American Indivisible**  
**Ashton Marra, 100 Days in Appalachia**  
**Emily Pelland, 100 Days in Appalachia (@EmilyPelland)**  
**Khadijah Rashid, Muslimah Movies**



## **South Carolina Women Organize: A Collaboratory Session**

### *Escapade Gallery*

Session participants will hear 10-minute presentations from two rural SC women leaders, who will share a snapshot of new work they are currently doing to build healthy and vibrant communities in rural South Carolina. The session will take the form of a “collaboratory” with the goal of building a network of awareness, support, and resourcing among grassroots leaders. After each presentation, the floor is open for questions, clarifications, thoughtful critiques, and finally, commitments. The goal is to share the highs and lows of the work and invite support from session participants that will accelerate the success of this work.

Led by:

***Kristen Richardson-Frick, The Duke Endowment (@DukeEndowment)***

Speakers:

***Michelle Nimmons, Bamberg School District 2***

***Kathy Schwarting, Palmetto Care Connections***

## Mending the Land: Revitalizing Rural Places Through Women's Leadership in Conservation

### Levity Gallery

In a field historically dominated by men, women are pioneering efforts across our rural landscapes to mend the land in new and creative ways that address not only environmental concerns, but social and economic challenges as well. In this session, we will discuss the importance of place protection for holistic rural development, the ways in which women's leadership in conservation and working lands looks different, and the successes and challenges women are facing as they work to heal our rural people and places. This session will include a panel of conservation professionals and leaders working to redefine what resource and land management look like in rural America.

Facilitated by:

**Mary Sketch**, *Center for Rural Strategies*  
(@Mary\_Sketch)

Speakers:

**Jennie Stephens**, *Center for Heirs Property Preservation* (@HeirsProperty)



### COMMITMENTS BOARD

Participants may leave a note about a project or idea they're trying to bring to life, and other participants are invited to make commitments or extend support in small and big ways.

**Malloree Weinheimer**, *Chickadee Forestry*  
(@chickadee\_forestry)

**Lori Dickes**, *Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management, Clemson University*

**Susann Mikkelsen**, *Rocky Mountain Farmers Union*

### PART II: 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

#### Coming Home

##### Escapade Gallery

Two women reflect on their experiences and community building in rural America. Robby Carrier Bethel of New Iberia, Louisiana, and Lottie Lewis of Allendale, South Carolina, share stories of love and commitment to



their home communities--places they left as they developed careers, places they returned to when family called them back. On coming home, they found communities and neighborhoods changed, without traditional leadership and folks disconnected from one another. What they did in response has been a tremendous lift and shift. It's personal. Come hear their stories in a conversation facilitated by Susan DuPlessis of the South Carolina Arts Commission.

Led by:  
**Susan Duplessis**, South Carolina Arts  
 Commission (@scartscomm)

Speakers:  
**Robby Carrier Bethel**, West End Council of  
 Neighborhood Associations  
**Lottie Lewis**, Town of Allendale

## **Empowering Rural Women's Leadership Part II**

### *Rendezvous Ballroom 1*

We began with 7-minute rapid fire presentations by incredible rural female leaders. Now join us for roundtable intensives. We'll learn about how we can better support each other as rural women, what structures, strategies, approaches, networks or models can be valuable to build stronger relationships and a more inclusive future and what gaps may exist that we as a network can fill. We will close the session with summaries from each table, identifying and lifting up models for folks to take home with them and how to build a network from the workshop and summit overall.

Facilitated by:  
**Madeline Moore**, *Rethinking Rural*  
 (@Rethinking Rural)  
**Teresa Kittridge**, *100 Rural Women*  
 (@100ruralwomen)



## ART + LIVING CULTURE + ART JUSTICE = DOUBLE EDGE THEATRE

(an art / community / cultural collective)

*Rendezvous Ballroom 2*

Double Edge Theatre, an artist-run organization, was founded in Boston in 1982 by Stacy Klein as a feminist ensemble and laboratory of actors' creative process. In 1994, Double Edge moved to a 105-acre dairy farm in rural Ashfield, MA, to create a sustainable artistic home. Join this session to learn more about how this feminist-led organization is leading a counter-cultural movement, creating "Living Culture," by fostering imaginative, shared experiences for artists and their rural neighbors.

Led by:

**Cariel Klein**, *Double Edge Theatre*  
(@DoubleEdgeThtr)

**Jennifer Johnson**, *Double Edge Theatre*  
(@DoubleEdgeThtr)

## Economic and Social Justice in America Through the Lens of Rural Black Women

*Diversion Gallery*

In this workshop, members of the Southern Rural Black Women's Initiative executive team will look back and reflect upon key approaches

to asset and leadership development (listed below) that have and continue to be most generative and engage participants in a discussion about how to apply lessons learned to create a more equitable and inclusive nation and more informed civic dialogue.

Presenters:

**Carol Blackmon**, *Southern Rural Black Women's Initiative*

**Sarah Bobrow-Williams**, *Southern Rural Black Women's Initiative*

**Oleta Fitzgerald**, *Children's Defense Fund and Southern Rural Black Women's Initiative*



## Rural Women Rise: The New Political Frontier Reception

6:00 PM-8:30 PM / Embassy Suites

Make your way to the Embassy Suites for an evening reception & cash bar hosted by our friends at VoteRunLead.

Hosted By:

**VoteRunLead**



Special guests:

*Piper Perabo, Actor and Activist*

*Erin Vilardi, VRL, Founder*

*Monica Ramirez, J4MW, Founder*



## TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29

### Breakfast

*Morning / Embassy Suites and Hampton Inn*

Fuel up with a complimentary breakfast at summit hotels. Other breakfast options are within walking distance, as well.

### Welcome Back

*9:00 AM - 9:15 AM / The Huguenot Loft at the Peace Center*

### Fireside Chat on the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous People

*9:15 AM-10:30 AM / The Huguenot Loft at the Peace Center*

Professor Kristen Carpenter and Edyael Casaperalta will discuss pertinent issues facing Native women today, and how the human rights framework of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples can help address them. Their conversation will address the many ways in which indigenous women are powerful, inspiring, and leading the way to affirm the human rights of indigenous peoples in the United States, which in turn, affirms the rights of all.

Speakers include:

*Dr. Kristen Carpenter, American Indian Law Program at the University of Colorado Law School*

*Edyael Casaperalta, American Indian Law Program at the University of Colorado Law School*

## Workshops

11:00 AM- 12:30 PM

### **Showing Up for Racial Justice in Rural Communities—Living the Legacy of Anne Braden, Film Screening and Discussion**

*Ramsaur Studio*

Anne Braden, a white southerner, was one of the “unknown” figures in the Civil Rights Movement. Attacked for her attempt in the 1950s to desegregate a Louisville neighborhood, Braden turned herself “inside out” and embraced a lifetime of racial justice organizing matched by few whites in American history. Braden’s central message was that white people must join the struggle against racism, for their own liberation as well as that of our collective society.

*The battle is and always has been a battle for the hearts and minds of white people in this country. The fight against racism is our issue. It's not something that we're called on to help people of color with. We need to become involved with it as if our lives depended on it because really, in truth, they do.*  
- Anne Braden

Many of us live in rural areas that are predominately white, others in communities where ethnic/racial groups rarely coalesce or work across racial lines. In this session we will screen and discuss the documentary Anne Braden: Southern Patriot, and invite participants to share ideas, current efforts, and organizing strategies to carry on Anne Braden’s legacy by raising up racial justice issues and building a multiracial movement with freedom, equity and equality at its core in our small towns and rural areas.

Led by:

*Mimi Pickering, Appalshop film director (@mimipick)*

*Kelly Sue Waller, Showing Up for Racial Justice (@ShowUp4RJ)*

*Evelyn Lynn, Showing Up for Racial Justice (@ShowUp4RJ)*



## Ending Mass Incarceration Where It Begins: In Our Own Backyards

*Broad Street Room*

The highest incarceration rates are no longer in the nation's big cities, but rather in the thousands of often overlooked smaller cities, towns, and rural areas that comprise nearly half the U.S. population. What's more, women are the fastest growing incarcerated population, and small communities are driving this growth. This session will explore the drivers of the county jail boom in communities across the country, the harms of relying on incarceration for economic survival, and what is being done to resist mass incarceration in

rural America, focusing on women-led, multi-racial organizing efforts in rural Tennessee and North Carolina. The conversation, moderated by Jasmine Heiss, Campaign Director of the Vera Institute of Justice's In Our Backyards initiative, will also engage participants in drafting a new vision for rural justice.

Presenters/panelists:

**Jasmine Heiss**, *In Our Backyards*

*Vera Institute of Justice (@jasminitamh)*

**Dawn Blagrove**, *Carolina Justice Policy Center*

*(@dawnblagrove)*

**Elizabeth Simpson**, *Carolina Justice Policy Center*

**Carol White**, *NAACP of Wilson County*

**Dawn Harrington**, *Free Hearts*

*(@dawnrharrington)*

**Jeannie Alexander**, *No Exceptions Prison*

*Collective*

**Reverend Alaina Cobb**, *Mercy Junction Justice and Peace Center*

## Southern Rural Organizing: Building Power to Shore up the Backbone of our Communities

*Reedy Room*

The rural South is ground zero for a slew of threats that marginalize women and the communities we are a part of and care deeply



for - from hospital closures, abortion bans, public school privatization and defunding, voter suppression, lack of transportation, internet, emergency services and other basic infrastructure, to gun sanctuaries and anti-immigrant campaigns. We have been testing grounds for divisive messages that paint an inaccurate picture of who is rural, Southern, and American and attempt to silence voices and experiences that contest those lies by our very existence. The rural South is diverse, multiracial, queer, immigrant, and so much more than the conservative monolith portrayed in the media and represented in our dominant politics. When we show up



as the powerful, organized communities that we can be, we transform not only ourselves and our communities, but what is possible in our country. This hopeful, interactive session will delve into local community organizing that is advancing an inclusive, intersectional, justice centered rural South (that is applicable wherever you call home).

Session organizers:

**Amy Dudley**, *Creating Democracy*

**Carol Blackmon**, *Southern Rural Black Women's Initiative*

**Taysha DeV Vaughan**, *Appalachian Community Fund*

**Margo Miller**, *Appalachian Community Fund Hometown Action*

### Lunch & Firestarter Talks

12:30 PM- 2:00 PM / *The Huguenot Loft at the Peace Center*



**You don't want to miss this final session.**

We end where we started-elevating the creators and keepers of community. Our

Firestarters are modeling for the nation how we mend and strengthen the social and civic



fabric of our country. Each woman will offer a story- to inspire us, challenge us, make us laugh and make us want to act.

Session produced by:

**Anna Claussen**, *Voices for Rural Resilience*  
(@voicesforrural)

**Marlene Chavez**, *Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid*  
(@TRLA) (Immigration and equity)

**Wendi Everson**, *Danville Regional Foundation*  
(Building community wealth in Danville's  
African-American neighborhoods)

**Madeline Moore**, *Rethinking Rural*  
(@Rethinking Rural) (The power of rural millennials)

**Kathy Annette**, *Blandin Foundation*  
(@BlandinFound) (Lessons from a trailblazer)

**Michele Anderson**, *Springboard for the Arts*  
(@micheleeamn) (A story of radical feminism)

**Savannah Barrett**, *Art of the Rural*  
(@ArtoftheRural) (Authentic exchange across  
rural and urban America)

### Closing Remarks

2:00 PM / *The Huguenot Loft at the Peace Center*  
Closing remarks by: **Diana Oestrich**, *Preemptive  
Love Coalition* (@oestrichdiana1)

*Support from these funders made the 2019 Rural Women's Summit possible:*



## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

### Reception

6:30 PM - 9:00 PM | The Huguenot Loft at the Peace Center



## MONDAY, OCTOBER 28

### Breakfast

Morning | Embassy Suites and Hampton Inn

### Welcome to the Rural Women's Summit

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM | The Huguenot Loft at the Peace Center

### Opening Session: A Conversation with Rural Women Journalists

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM | The Huguenot Loft at the Peace Center

### Workshops Day One

11:00 AM- 1:00 PM (see page 10)

### Lunch

12:30 PM - 2:00 PM | The Huguenot Loft at the Peace Center

### Breakout Sessions (see page 12)

2:00 PM - 4:00 pm

### VoteRunLead and Justice for Migrant Women Reception/Rural Women Rise: The New Political Frontier

6:00 PM - 8:30 PM | Embassy Suites

## TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29

### **Breakfast**

Morning | Embassy Suites and Hampton Inn

### **Welcome Back**

9:00 AM - 9:15 AM | The Huguenot Loft at the Peace Center

### **Fireside Chat on the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous People**

9:15 AM -10:30 AM | The Huguenot Loft at the Peace Center

### **Break**

10:30 AM -11:00 AM

### **Workshops Day Two** *(see page 19)*

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

### **Lunch & Firestarter Talks**

12:30 PM - 2:00 PM | The Huguenot Loft at the Peace Center

### **Closing Remarks**

2:00 PM | The Huguenot Loft at the Peace Center



We are creating a Rural Connectors Program to connect leaders to each other, help urban-based institutions engage with rural communities effectively, and offer the country a reliable network of rural problem solvers. With intention, the Rural Connectors program will support a group of leaders working at various levels in rural America. The program will cultivate strategic connections across geography, race, class, and programmatic disciplines that strengthen the ability of advocates to make progress at local, regional, and national levels. If you are interested in staying in touch as we develop the program email [anna@voicesforural.org](mailto:anna@voicesforural.org) or [mary@ruralstrategies.org](mailto:mary@ruralstrategies.org). Stay tuned for the nomination and application form coming soon!



# The Rural Youth Assembly!

April 2020 • McAllen, Texas

*Coming Soon:*

## The Rural Youth Assembly!

The Rural Assembly seeks young people, ages 16-24, who are interested in rural and Native issues, invested in strengthening their communities, and passionate about being a leader or demonstrate emerging leadership qualities. We will welcome 50-75 rural and Native young adults from across the country to discuss the issues they see as critical to their lives and their communities. Rural and Native young people offer a critical voice and perspective to our national dialogue. Our goals for the Rural Youth Assembly are to bring a select group of young people together to further explore the unique challenges facing rural and Native youth, identify the creative assets that young people offer, and create a context for how these issues fit into the overall framework of national rural policy.

The Rural Assembly will host the Rural Youth Assembly in April 2020 in McAllen, Texas.  
***Stay tuned for more information on the Assembly and available applications.***



NOTES:



