



Monday, October 30, 2023

- 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. **Delta Summit Registration** | Ballroom pre-function
- 2:00 – 2:15 p.m. **Welcome** | Ballroom
Dr. Corey Wiggins, Federal Co-Chair, Delta Regional Authority
Governor Pritzker, State of Illinois, Delta Regional Authority States' Co-Chair
- 2:15 – 3:15 p.m. **Plenary | Cultivating Growth: Addressing Challenges and Nurturing Opportunities**
Moderator: Deidre Deculus Robert, State Director, Louisiana USDA Rural Development
Dr. Corey Wiggins, Federal Co-Chair, Delta Regional Authority
- 3:15 – 3:30 p.m. **Break**
- 3:30 – 4:45 p.m. **Plenary | Building Bridges to Progress: Empowering Communities Through Infrastructure, Workforce, Entrepreneurship and Creative Placemaking**
Moderator: Shad Burner, Principal, KBS Group
Felecia Lucky, Executive Director, Black Belt Community Foundation
Dr. Cindy Kelley, President, Madisonville Community College, Madisonville, Kentucky
Dwight Norton, Senior Director of Strategic Planning, New Orleans Regional Transportation Authority
Kathy Saloy, Senior Vice President of Community and Economic Development, HOPE Enterprise Corporation
Ernest Strickland, President, Black Business Association of Memphis
- 4:45 – 6:00 p.m. **Opening Reception** | Ballroom pre-function

Tuesday, October 31, 2023

7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. **Delta Summit Registration** | Ballroom pre-function

8:00 – 9:00 a.m. **Networking Breakfast** | Ballroom pre-function

9:00 – 10:00 a.m. **Plenary | Beyond Limits: Unleashing Community Power and Prosperity**
Moderator: Brooxie Carlton, Assistant Commissioner of Community and Rural Development, Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development
Brandi Bradley, Director of Government Relations, Ullico
Marshall Pierite, Chairman, Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana
Michael Stubblefield, Vice Chancellor, Research & Strategic Initiatives, Southern University and A&M College, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Rhea Williams-Bishop, Director of Mississippi and New Orleans Programming, Kellogg Foundation

10:00 – 10:15 a.m. **Break**

10:15 – 11:15 a.m. **Concurrent Sessions**

Navigating Delta Regional Authority's Human Infrastructure Programs: Delta Workforce Program & Delta Leadership Institute	Cheyton Pendley, Workforce Program Analyst, Delta Regional Authority L. Nicole Stringfellow, Leadership Development Program Manager, Delta Regional Authority	St. Jerome
Community Planning: Beyond Today's Potholes and Pitfalls	Thomas Gregory, Executive Director, Mississippi Main Street Association Alexander Lawson, Jr., Chairman, Jackson Redevelopment Authority	St. Claude/Rosalie
Philanthropy: Their Role in Economic Resilience and Revitalization	Sanci Richardson, Consultant, The BRIDGE Consulting Group Abe Hudson, Program Officer, Home Region Program, Walton Family Foundation Sherra Bennett, Equity Officer, Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation Jamie Schmill, VP of Programs, Foundation for Louisiana	Maurepas
Shaping Tomorrow's Workforce: Paving the Path Forward	Vickey Bonney, Community Development Lead Specialist, Missouri Department of Higher Education & Workforce Development	Frontenac

	Tamika Green, Community Development Senior Specialist, Missouri Department of Higher Education & Workforce Development	
Office Hours:	Alison Lorence, Federal Disaster Recovery Officer, Federal Emergency Management Agency Karen Stafford, Deputy Federal Disaster Recovery Officer, Federal Emergency Management Agency	Orleans <i>Pre-Registration Required</i>

11:15 – 11:30 a.m. **Break**

11:30am – 12:30 p.m. **Concurrent Sessions**

Navigating Delta Regional Authority's Delta Doctors Program	Christina Wooden, Health Programs Manager, Delta Regional Authority Barry Walker, Principal, Walker Immigration Law Firm	St. Jerome
Breathing New Life into Neighborhoods through Community Revitalization	Ryan Biles, Director of Development, Thrive Belinda Stewart, Principal, Belinda Stewart Architects	St. Claude/Rosalie
Brownfields: Economic Gems in the Making	Adam Tatar, Brownfield Program Coordinator, New Orleans Regional Planning Commission Michael Kennedy, Brownfields Project Officer & Regional Smart Growth Coordinator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Maurepas
Navigating Delta Regional Authority's Critical Infrastructure Programs & States' Economic Development Assistance Program	Darci Malam, States' Economic Development Assistance Programs Manager, Delta Regional Authority Daniel Musgrave, States' Economic Development Assistance Programs Analyst, Delta Regional Authority	Frontenac
Office Hours:	Russ Garner, Community Facilitator, Communities Unlimited Courtney Paige, Louisiana Infrastructure Technical Assistance Corporation (LITA Corp)	Orleans <i>Pre-Registration Required</i>

12:30 – 1:30 p.m. **Lunch** | Ballroom pre-function

1:45 – 2:45 p.m. **Concurrent Sessions**

This Little Light of Ours: Producing the Mississippi Delta Civil Rights Heritage Tourism Summit	Rolando Herts, Ph.D., Director, The Delta Center for Culture and Learning, Executive Director, Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area Keena Graham, Superintendent, Medgar and Myrlie Evers Home National Monument	St. Jerome
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	Malika Polk-Lee, Executive Director, BB King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center John Spann, Program & Outreach Officer, Mississippi Humanities Council	
Energizing Communities through the Power of Clean Energy	Toniqua Hay, Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations Stakeholder Engagement Lead, Energy Improvement in Rural or Remote Areas, U.S. Department of Energy Lacy McManus, Executive Director of Future Energy, GNO, Inc.	St. Claude/Rosalie
Navigating Delta Regional Authority's Capacity Building Programs: Strategic Planning Program & Local Development District Community Support Pilot Program	Matthew Campbell, Strategic Partnerships, Program Manager	Maurepas
Small Business Synergy: Igniting Entrepreneurial Growth	Michael Ricks, District Director, Louisiana Small Business Association Veranesha Thompson, Executive Director, Capital Access, Funds 17 Bryan Greenwood, State Director, Louisiana Small Business Development Center	Frontenac
Office Hours: State Economic Development Offices Alabama Arkansas	Crystal Talley, Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs Amy Williams, Arkansas Economic Development Commission	Orleans <i>Pre-Registration Required</i>

2:45 – 3:15 p.m.

Networking Break

3:15 – 4:15 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

Navigating Delta Regional Authority's Health Programs: Delta Region Rural Hospital Workforce Training Program & Delta Region Community Health Systems Development Program	Christina Wooden, Health Programs Manager, Delta Regional Authority Alyssa Meller, Chief Operating Officer, National Rural Health Resource Center, Health Resources & Services Administration Suzanne Snyder, Public Health Analyst, Hospital State Division, Health Resources and Services Administration, US Department of Health and Human Services	St. Jerome
Accelerating Community Potential through Transportation	Alex Clegg, Rural Transportation Specialist, Office of the Under Secretary for Transportation Policy, U.S. Department of Transportation Greg Richardson, Columbia Port Commission, RAISE Award Recipient	St. Claude/Rosalie

	Ray Fulmer, Chairman, Osceola Port Authority, THRIVE Communities Recipient	
Applying for DRA Grants: The How, What, and When	Moderator: Staresha Hoskins, Grants Manager, Delta Regional Authority Jasmine Bell, ENNCloud Glen Johnson, Founder, ENNCloud	Maurepas
Disaster Recovery: Beyond the Storm	Alison Lorence, Federal Disaster Recovery Officer, Federal Emergency Management Agency Karen Stafford, Deputy Federal Disaster Recovery Officer, Federal Emergency Management Agency Warren Miller, Senior Advisor, Office of Disaster Recovery & Resilience, Small Business Administration	Frontenac
Office Hours: State Economic Development Offices Louisiana Mississippi	Tim Climer, Manager of Programs & Services, Mississippi Development Authority Stacey Duvic, Senior Director, Community Competitiveness, Louisiana Economic Development Pat Witty, LED Small Business and Community Services, Louisiana Economic Development	Orleans <i>Pre-Registration Required</i>

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

8:00 – 9:00 a.m. **Breakfast** | Ballroom pre-function

9:00 – 10:00 a.m. **Plenary | Economic Development in the Delta Region**
*Moderator: Lee Jones, Executive Director, Rural Partners Network, Office of the Under Secretary, Rural Development, United States Department of Agriculture
Ted James, Small Business Administration, Louisiana
Tamika Jenkins, Executive Director, Hinds County Economic Development Authority
Ileana Ledet, Economic Development Representative, Austin Regional Office, Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce
Clint O’Neal, Executive Director, Arkansas Economic Development Commission*

10:00 – 10:15 a.m. **Break**

10:15 – 11:15 a.m. **Concurrent Sessions**

Innovative Readiness Training: Hosting a Successful Mission	Christina Wooden, Health Programs Manager, Delta Regional Authority Joel Evans, President & CEO, Delta Area Economic Opportunity Corporation Andrew Adamich, Lt. Col, USAF, BSC, United States Air National Guard Innovative Readiness Training Program Manager	Frontenac
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USDA Rural Director panel: Arkansas Illinois Kentucky	Jill Floyd, State Director, Arkansas USDA Rural Development Thomas Carew, State Director, Kentucky USDA Rural Development Betsy Dirksen Londrigan, State Director, Illinois USDA Rural Development	St. Claude/Rosalie
USDA Rural Director panel: Alabama Louisiana Mississippi Tennessee	Nivory Gordon, Jr., State Director, Alabama USDA Rural Development Deidre Deculus Robert, State Director, Louisiana USDA Rural Development Dr. Trina N. George, State Director, Mississippi USDA Rural Development Arlisa Armstrong, State Director, Tennessee USDA Rural Development	Maurepas

11:15 – 11:30 p.m.

Break

11:30am – 12:15 p.m.

Closing Plenary | Impact of Equitable Infrastructure Investments

Mitch Landrieu, Senior Advisor to U.S. President (Invited)

12:15 – 12:30 p.m.

Closing & Adjournment

The agenda is subject to change based on speaker availability and other factors that would contribute to essential adjustments but represents the general nature of topics to be discussed at this event.