

17TH ANNUAL
WOMEN AS THE FACE OF AIDS SUMMIT

ignorance interracial cruelty
social peace fight stupidity
latino black diversity different ethnic
religion equality Racism unity prejudice
racist acceptance society friendship refugee bigotry
race poverty protest white
african hate multiracial freedom xenophobia

THE HIDDEN DRIVER OF **HIV**

MAY 2, 2022





**Iris House continues to be grateful
for the generous support of**

Adrienne Adams, Speaker

and

The entire New York City Council

**for their ongoing leadership and support of our
Annual Women as the Face of AIDS Summit**



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May 2, 2022

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I am so thrilled to welcome you to the Seventeenth Annual Women as the Face of AIDS Summit!

With it being our first time gathering in person post-pandemic, I am even more excited for the event this year. Even within the ultra-diverse demographic of New York City, race and issues of discrimination, stigma and healthcare disparities remain at the forefront. From the earliest days of the epidemic, HIV was positioned as a virus that just afflicted gay, white men. While we know this is not, nor has it ever been the case, we also know that BIPOC communities have been denied the resources required to address the epidemic in our neighborhoods and in our families.

In order to design systems and programming that reach our most vulnerable populations, we must understand how race itself impacts healthcare. Why are women of African descent not given the same level of care as their white counterparts? Why are non-English speaking populations left out when materials are produced in languages they cannot read? Why aren't we paying closer attention to the words of elderly Black men when they speak about challenges with treatment adherence?

Our systems have an endemic racism embedded in their fabric: a destructive and often subconscious way of viewing BIPOC communities that denies them, categorizes them, and doesn't treat them equitably. We must examine HIV through the lens of race, through the lens of poverty and truly understand how the intersectionality of these issues impacts basic care and outreach.

Many of today's sessions may challenge you, and in fact, we hope that they do. It is our intention that by the end of the 17th Annual Women as the Face of AIDS Summit, we're all a bit more aware of how our own biases impact our ability to care for people of different ethnic backgrounds, and how that also applies to gender, sexual orientation and class.

In the midst, we will be celebrating three amazing women: author, speaker and HIV activist, Marvelyn Brown; Well Project Ambassador and Commissioner for IAPAC HIV Lancet, Maria Mejia; and Executive Director of Lady BurgAndy Inc. & Legacy Leadership Consulting Firm, Masonia Traylor. The work of these women to help individuals living with HIV is exemplary, and we are pleased to be honoring them today.

As always, **you** are why we are here. Whether you work on the front lines, are a survivor of HIV/AIDS, whether you write about HIV, are a peer educator, or just someone who wants to know more about community health initiatives, we celebrate you.

Lastly, I would like to take a moment to thank the newly elected Council of the City of New York Speaker, the Honorable Adrienne Adams for her support of this event – NYC Council has been an amazing supporter of ours for a large number of years.

Thank you for being here today and participating in this year's Summit.



Ingrid N. Floyd
Executive Director

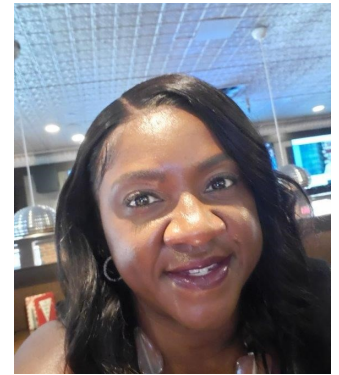


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PHOTOGRAPHY NOTICE

Please be advised that portions of the Summit will be recorded and may be posted on the Iris House website for viewing by others after today's event. The morning plenary sessions will be broadcast live on Facebook. Photos will be taken during this event for use online and in printed materials. By entering and participating, you irrevocably grant permission, acknowledge and consent to the use of your image/likeness, voice and comments for broadcast in any and all media by Iris House and the licensed parties. You also release, discharge and agree to hold harmless the licensed parties and each of them from and against all actions, damages, costs, liabilities and claims to which the licensed parties of any of them may be subject to as a result of or in any way related to

The Annual Women as the Face of AIDS Summit is made possible by the generous support of government, corporate and non-profit sponsors who join with Iris House every year in presenting this event! We deeply appreciate their dedication to our program and our work.

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The Honorable Adrienne Adams, Speaker

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(as of April 20, 2022)

The 17th Annual Women as the Face of AIDS Virtual Summit Program

Monday, May 2, 2022

11:00 AM—6:00 PM

11:00 AM Opening Remarks

Ingrid Floyd, Executive Director, Iris House

Morning Plenary Session

11:15 AM **When and Where We Enter: Toward a Feminist, Anti-Racist HIV Agenda,**

Celeste Watkins-Hayes, PhD

12:30 PM Break

Afternoon Plenary Session

12:45 PM **Risk to Reasons: Reframing HIV Prevention and Care for Black Women**

ViiV Healthcare Panelists – Amelia Korangy presents Olivia Ford, Michelle Lopez, and Beverly Ross

2:00 PM - 2:15 PM **Recognizing our Honorees - Women in the Fight Against HIV**

Marvelyn Brown, Maria Mejia, Masonia Traylor

Lunch

2:15 – 2:50 PM Lower Level Fellowship Hall

3:00 PM Breakout Session I

The Invisible Black Womxn—Centering Black Women, Femmes and Girls in conversations about HIV Care and Treatment

Sister Love, Inc.

Behavioral Health Service Needs and Utilization of HIV Positive Women in NY

Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health

Then, Now, and What's Next NY (For Black Women Living and Aging with HIV)

National HIV Aging, Advocacy Network

Developing a Comprehensive Health Program for Women of Transgender Experience at Elevated Risk for HIV

Amida Care

The ME Circle: An Enterprising Venture and MarketPlace for Creating Opportunities for Women Living with HIV

Ribbon Consulting Group

For a full description of today's sessions, please visit

<http://www.irishouse.org/the-17th-annual-women-as-the-face-of-aids-summit.html>

4:00 PM Breakout Session II

Racial and Ethical Considerations around Breast/Chestfeeding for Women and Other Parents Living with HIV

The Well Project

Prevention of Domestic Violence Among Vulnerable Communities—Prioritizing Healthy Relationships and Planning for Safety

A Woman's Place

Implementing Equity in the Frame: NYC RWPA Utilizes Science Framework to Improve Equity

NYC Health Department

Harm Reduction: A Necessary Tool Equity in the Engagement of Black & Brown PWUD

Exponents

Connecting the Dots: Literacy, Life Expectancy, GDP, and HIV

Connie Johnson

Fighting Racism and Stigma—The Voice of Advocacy

Iris House, Inc.

5:00PM EST Exhibit Hall

An exhibit hall will be held featuring sponsors that will present on their organization and its services.

Full program and registration are available at www.irishouse.org.

The 17th Annual Women as the Face of AIDS Summit is sponsored in part by educational grants from The New York City Council, Adrienne Adams, Speaker; Gilead Sciences, ViiV, OraSure, and community support from Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS; AIDS Healthcare Foundation, Mt. Sinai Institute for Advanced Medicine; Ryan Health, Select Health, Amida Care, AIDS Center for Queens County (ACQC); Exponents, The Well Project, HEAT and others.

PLENARY SPEAKERS

Dr. Celeste Watkins-Hayes is a University Diversity and Social Transformation Professor, the Jean Fairfax Collegiate Professor of Public Policy, and Professor of Sociology at the University of Michigan – Ann Arbor. She is also the Founding Director of the Center for Racial Justice at U of M's Ford School of Public Policy and currently serves as the Ford School's Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Watkins-Hayes is an internationally-recognized scholar and expert on health inequities, HIV/AIDS; social policy; societal safety nets; and race, class, and gender. Her latest book, *Remaking a Life: How Women Living with HIV/AIDS Confront Inequality* (University of California Press, 2019), has won seven awards, including the American Sociological Association Distinguished Book Award, the discipline's highest book honor. Watkins-Hayes holds a Ph.D. and M.A. in Sociology from Harvard University and a B.A. from Spelman College.

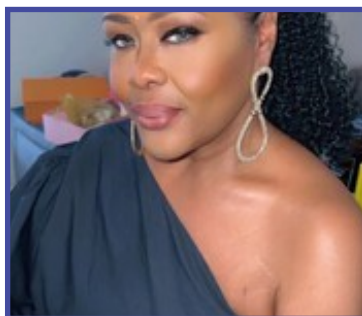


ViiV Healthcare's newest initiative, *Risk to Reasons*: we invite you to join us for an interactive conversation about the problem with "risk." Tune in to discuss how to better serve Black women's HIV prevention and care needs and learn about opportunities for funding and action supported by ViiV Healthcare. ViiV has committed \$5 million in community grants to reframe and refocus HIV prevention and care for Black women. Through the *Risk to Reasons* initiative, ViiV Healthcare will continue to develop new messages, new messengers and new methods to increase awareness and action around HIV prevention for Black women. Guided by advocates across the country, the initiative is creating content, funding community action and connecting advocates to change the impact of HIV in Black communities and get more Black women connected to prevention and care.

Amelia Korangy, panel moderator, is a Senior Manager for ViiV Healthcare in the D.C. Metro area, leading the Positive Action community giving programs in the U.S. to close the gaps in care for those disproportionately impacted by HIV.



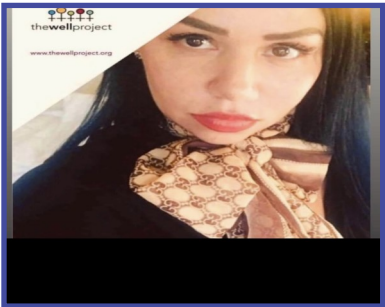
Olivia Ford, 17th Annual Women as the Face of AIDS Summit Panelist
Michelle Lopez, 17th Annual Women as the Face of AIDS Summit Panelist
Beverly Ross, 17th Annual Women as the Face of AIDS Summit Panelist



HONOREES



Marvelyn Brown is an American author and AIDS activist, and the founder of Marvelous Connections, an HIV/AIDS organization established in 2006. She wrote the autobiography *The Naked Truth: Young, Beautiful and (HIV) Positive*, which tells her story as a young heterosexual woman living with HIV. She has delivered public speeches and made public appearances in the U.S., Bermuda, Canada, Jamaica, Mexico, the Virgin Islands, South Africa, Tanzania, and Rwanda.

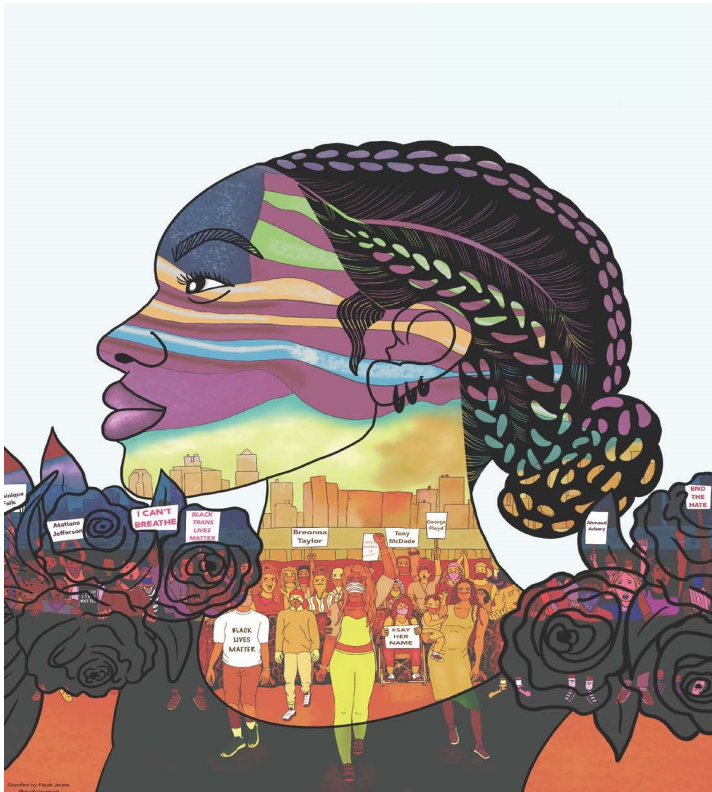


Maria Mejia is an activist for education, treatment, testing, prevention, LGBTQ and human rights. Maria has been included in documentaries to help raise HIV awareness, and an HIV educator for Jackson Memorial Hospital. She is also an HIV consultant and member of several digital advisory boards, and currently sits on the Board of Directors for CANN in Washington, DC.

Maria is co-author of the book “From a Warrior’s Passion and Pain” and currently the co-chair of the Women and Minorities Outreach for the Dab the AIDS Bear Project. She is The Global Ambassador and CAB member for the Women’s organization, The Well Project.



Masonia Traylor, is a mother of 2, HIV/AIDS Activist, Certified Speaker, Founder/ Executive Director of non-profit organization Lady BurgAndy Inc. & Legacy Leadership Consulting Firm servicing women and youth impacted by HIV with expertise in trauma experiences, perinatal transmission, and advocacy. Masonia has had magazine features on the cover of PEOPLE & Positively Aware, in TIME & ESSENCE, and campaigns around the globe. She serves as an ambassador for She’s Positive, Heather Ivy, CDC’s “Stop HIV Together” and Kaiser’s, “Greater Than AIDS”, and is a global blogger for The Well Project, 2nd Vice Chair of and a member of Positive Women’s Network, National Council For Negro Women Executive Health Committee, and Gilead’s Compass Initiative’s SUSTAIN Advocacy Group.



Together, we can change the course of the HIV epidemic... **one woman at a time.**



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HIV/HCV Testing

Sade Ellis

212.243.3434, ext.346 / sellis@exponents.org

Treatment/MATS/Harm Reduction Services

Melissa Rios, LCSW, CASAC

212.243.3434, ext. 322 / mrios@exponents.org

Workforce Development

**Tawana Brown, Ph.D, MSW,
CASAC, CRPA, CARC**

212.243.3434, ext. 342 / tbrown@exponents.org

Recovery Support & Reentry Services

Shayra Vega, CASAC

212.243.3434, ext. 328 / svega@exponents.org

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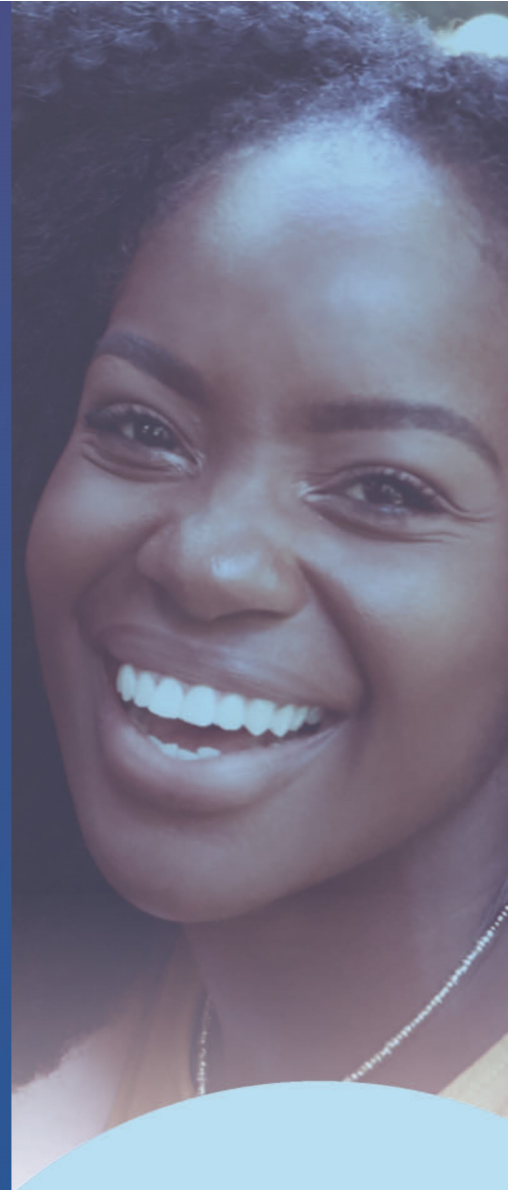


OraSure
congratulates
Iris House
on its **17th annual**
Women as the
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and applauds all of
today's honorees!



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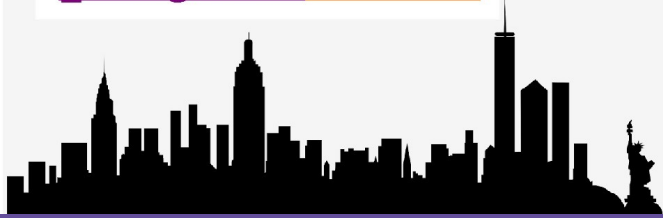
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For more information
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Senior Director of Community Health Initiatives
(646)548-0100 or obarrios@irishouse.org

IRIS HOUSE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

contact **Ofelia Barrios**, Senior Director of Community Health Initiatives at Iris House at (646) 548-0100 or via email at obarrios@irishouse.org

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