



NOVEMBER 19-20

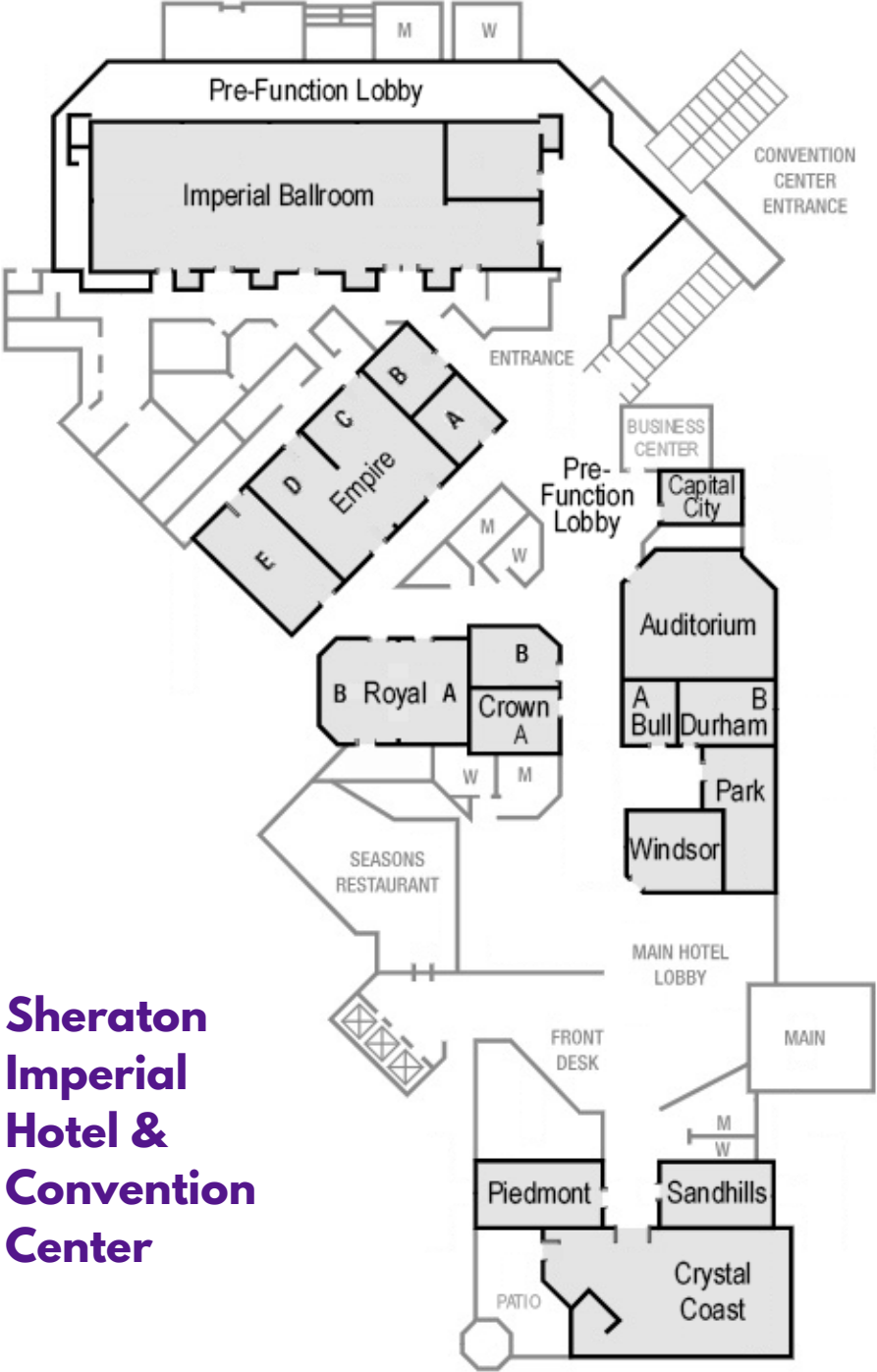
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EVENT SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY 11/19

9:00 AM	Registration & Nonprofit Marketplace open	Imperial Ballroom
10:00-12:15	Deep Dive: The Leadership Blueprint: Build Your Personal Strategic Plan for What's Next	Empire AB
	Deep Dive: Fundraising Fitness: How to Stay Strong in Challenging Times	Crystal Coast
	Deep Dive: WTF Is Going On in Washington, DC & How Does It Affect Legal Compliance?	Empire DE
12:15-12:45	Networking Lunch	Imperial Ballroom
12:45-2:00	Opening Plenary: From Challenge to Collective Strength	Imperial Ballroom
2:15-3:30	Concurrent Sessions	
3:30-4:00	Refreshment & Networking Break	Imperial Ballroom
4:00-5:15	Concurrent Sessions	
5:15-7:00	Welcome & Networking Reception	Imperial Ballroom

THURSDAY 11/20

8:00 AM	Registration & Nonprofit Marketplace open	Imperial Ballroom
8:45-9:15	Breakfast & Benefits <i>(sign up required - see pg 15)</i>	Crystal Coast
9:30-10:45	Concurrent Sessions	
10:45-11:15	Refreshment & Networking Break	Imperial Ballroom
11:15-12:30	Concurrent Sessions	
12:30-2:00	Networking Lunch	Imperial Ballroom
	Keynote: Leading During Uncertain Times	Imperial Ballroom
2:15-3:30	Concurrent Sessions	
3:30-3:45	Refreshment & Networking Break	Imperial Ballroom
3:45-4:50	From Course to Cause: A Reunion of Purpose	Royal AB
3:45-4:10	Lightning Sessions Round 1	
4:25-4:50	Lightning Sessions Round 2	
5:00-5:30	Closing Plenary	Imperial Ballroom
5:30-7:00	Happy Hour (offsite)	Triangle Community Foundation

WHAT TO KNOW

We're so glad you're here! Here are helpful tips for navigating the event.

WIFI

Log in: 25NCNPC

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PRESENTERS

Learn about and connect with conference presenters online >>



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PLAY & RECHARGE

Relax and reenergize with play in Crown AB. Powered by Marbles Kids Museum.

PLUG IN

Power up, check email, take a quick call in Bull Durham AB.

MOTHER'S ROOM

The Park Boardroom is a private lactation space. Request and return the room key at the Solutions Desk.

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Visit the NC Center for Nonprofits' Membership Hub to learn about upcoming programs and membership opportunities including the new NC Center Slack Community (see pg 40), association health plan in partnership with Marsh McLennan, and multiple employer retirement plan in partnership with Mutual of America.



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BUILDING A SMARTER ENERGY FUTURE®

DEEP DIVE SESSIONS 10:00-12:15

The Leadership Blueprint: Build Your Personal Strategic Plan for What's Next | [Empire AB](#)

PRESENTER: Patton McDowell, Nonprofit Consultant, Coach, Author and Speaker, PMA Nonprofit Leadership

In today's evolving nonprofit landscape, passion isn't enough – intentional, adaptive leadership is essential. In this session, hands-on exercises and practical tools will help you develop a Personal Strategic Plan to chart your leadership growth over the next 1, 3, and 5 years. You will assess your leadership strengths, draft a personal case for support, and build your “Personal Board of Directors.” You'll also explore how to align your professional goals with your organization's mission and community needs while reframing the donor engagement cycle as a powerful tool for personal development and internal influence. Grounded in Patton's decades of experience coaching nonprofit leaders – and based on his book, *Your Path to Nonprofit Leadership* – this session will equip you to lead with clarity, confidence, and long-term vision.

Fundraising Fitness: How to Stay Strong in Challenging Times | [Crystal Coast](#)

PRESENTER: Witnie Martinez, Founder & CEO, Absolute Impact Consulting

When funding gets tight, strategy – not panic – keeps organizations alive. This session will equip small and mid-sized nonprofits with the tools, habits, and frameworks to build financial resilience. Learn how to strengthen your fundraising muscles with simple daily and monthly development rhythms; identify and focus on high-return activities that grow donor loyalty and revenue; and create a 90-day financial action plan using resources you already have. You'll walk away with clear next steps, practical templates, and renewed confidence to lead your organization through uncertain times – stronger, smarter, and ready to thrive.

WTF Is Going On in Washington, DC, and How Does It Affect Nonprofit Legal Compliance? | [Empire DE](#)

PRESENTERS: Ed Chaney, Partner, Schell Bray PLLC; David Heinen, Vice President for Public Policy & Advocacy, North Carolina Center for Nonprofits

Sponsored by Schell Bray PLLC and Langdon & Company, LLP

This two-part session delivers a general overview of legal compliance developments for 501(c)(3) nonprofits in 2025, and an in-depth discussion of facts and myths about new legal barriers to DEI (diversity, equity and inclusion) and racial justice work in nonprofits.



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As a thought partner for nonprofits across the state and the nation, our team provides legal counsel that can chart the right course for tax-exempt organizations, small and large. We would be delighted to help your team, too.



SHELLBRAY

Attorneys and Counselors at Law

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NETWORKING LUNCH 12:15-12:45

OPENING PLENARY 12:45-2:00

From Challenge to Collective Strength | Imperial Ballroom

PRESENTERS: Mark Constantine, Senior Vice President of Community Investment, Dogwood Health Trust; Sarah Mann Willcox, Executive Director, NC Network of Grantmakers; Pilar Rocha-Goldberg, President & CEO, El Centro Hispano; Johnny Wilson, President & CEO, Fayetteville Urban Ministry

Respected nonprofit and philanthropic leaders will explore how we can meet this moment together. Through candid conversation and collective visioning, panelists will discuss the challenges shaping our sector and the shared actions needed to strengthen the nonprofit ecosystem for the road ahead. Participants will also be invited to share perspectives and ideas to help shape our collective path forward.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS 2:15-3:30

Internal Controls That Work: Practical Strategies for Every Nonprofit | Auditorium

PRESENTERS: Elizabeth Hamilton, Signing Director, CLA; Jordan Miller, Principal, CLA

In a time of economic uncertainty, staff turnover, and increasing donor scrutiny, strong internal controls are more essential than ever. Get practical, scalable strategies to protect your organization - regardless of size or budget. We'll explore real-world examples of internal control breakdowns and successes, learn how to implement effective controls even in small teams, and understand the board's critical role in financial oversight. We'll also address the intersection of technology, fraud prevention, and governance with a focus on how to build a culture of accountability and transparency.

Lead Through the Storm: Real-World Leadership & Funding Strategies for a New Nonprofit Era | Empire DE

PRESENTERS: Latoya Robinson, Co-Founder & Nonprofit Thrive Architect, Nonprofit Thrive Alliance; Melvin Scales, Co-Founder & Leadership Strategist, Nonprofit Thrive Alliance

In an era of uncertainty, cultural tension, and nonprofit burnout, leaders face relentless internal and external storms. This session introduces the stress-tested LUR Framework (Lead, Uplift, Revitalize) that is grounded in lived experience for resilient leadership and mission-aligned funding. Discover how to strengthen board alignment and team focus around a shared vision, foster partnerships that uplift your mission, communicate your impact with unshakeable messaging confidence, and reposition your funding strategy to thrive amid change. These tools and tactics are built for today's climate and have been proven in the field, from calming internal chaos to turning around funding shortfalls. You'll walk away with actionable leadership and funding tools for the "new nonprofit era" to implement in your organization tomorrow.

AI-Powered Philanthropy: The Future of Fundraising Is Here | Crystal Coast

PRESENTER: Lisa Mead, CFRE, LMead Consulting

Artificial Intelligence is no longer a distant concept – it's a practical, game-changing tool that can elevate every aspect of nonprofit fundraising. Whether you're working with a lean team or leading a large advancement department, learn how to integrate AI responsibly and effectively without losing the human connection that drives philanthropy. We'll cover real-world examples of how AI tools like ChatGPT, predictive analytics, and automation platforms can support compelling donor communications, personalize stewardship, identify major gift prospects, and optimize grant proposals. We'll discuss ethical considerations, data privacy concerns, and practical do's and don'ts for AI adoption in nonprofit settings. You'll leave with actionable insights, a list of AI tools tailored for fundraisers, and a clearer understanding of how to start (or scale) your AI journey.



Messaging & Branding Strategies for Effective Fundraising | Empire C

PRESENTERS: Todd Hiestand, Co-Founder & Chief Advancement Officer, Liminal Creative; Kemah Washington, Partner & Chief Experience Officer, Liminal Creative

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your organization when you're not in the room. Explore how clear, consistent messaging can strengthen connections with donors, community members, partners, and staff alike. Learn how to align your visual identity and voice across campaigns, websites, programs, and appeals – and why that matters more than ever in today's crowded and distracted world. You'll leave with a greater understanding of how strong branding supports not only fundraising, but also overall engagement, credibility, and long-term mission success.

Beyond the Buzzword: Making Data Work for Your Nonprofit Mission | Empire AB

PRESENTERS: Anna Casey, Associate Director of Research & Insights, Cape Fear Collective; Abba Elsergany, Senior Data Scientist, Cape Fear Collective

Sponsored by IBM

Your nonprofit sits on a goldmine of information. It's in your program results, publicly available community statistics, and the stories of the people you serve. But how do you turn that potential into power? For many, the push to be "data-driven" feels overwhelming, requiring expensive tools and specialized skills. We'll provide a clear, accessible framework for using data to strengthen programs, fundraising, and advocacy. Learn how to ask the right questions, find free and reliable local data (including key SDoH sources), and weave data into compelling narratives that resonate with funders and policymakers. We'll also explore how shared public data – the same data partners and funders use – can build common ground for strategic partnerships and unified advocacy.

REFRESHMENT & NETWORKING BREAK 3:30-4:00

Break sponsored by DMJPS PLLC

CONCURRENT SESSIONS 4:00-5:15

Future Proof Your Strategy: The Power of Scenario Thinking | Empire DE

PRESENTER: Staci Barfield, Senior Advisor, Armstrong McGuire

Sponsored by AJ Fletcher Foundation

In a world where uncertainty is the only constant, how can organizations make confident, strategic decisions? Harness the power of scenario thinking – a mindset and method for navigating ambiguity with clarity and purpose. Using

small-group exercises and a case study of Pathways Forward, a nonprofit facing volatile funding and surging demand, we'll discuss and explore tools to: reframe uncertainty as a strategic asset; apply scenario planning frameworks to your own context; align your team around shared priorities and next steps; and engage your own team in scenario thinking.

Resilient Fundraising in Uncertain Times: How to Thrive in 2026 | Crystal Coast

PRESENTERS: **George Burnette**, Vice President, Charitable & Philanthropic Strategist, First Citizens Bank; **Justin Marcinkiewicz**, Senior Institutional Portfolio Strategist, First Citizens Bank; **Valeska Redmond**, Vice President, Charitable & Philanthropic Strategist, First Citizens Bank

We've all heard it: consumers continue tightening their belts. Learn how to optimize your fundraising and communications to inspire donors to commit – and give more – despite inflation, tariffs, and market uncertainty. We'll review the current state of the economy, charitable giving trends, and most importantly, strategies that will help you retain your donors and raise more funds to stay ahead of the game.

From Friction to Flow: Fix What's Holding Your Leadership Team Back | Empire AB

PRESENTER: **Kim Andrews**, Leadership Coach, Consultant & Facilitator, Kim Andrews Coaching



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Founded in 2004, our diverse team of advisors works exclusively with nonprofit and foundation leaders to align strategy, optimize operations, build capacity, and lead nationwide searches that bring supremely talented individuals to high-impact organizations.

We believe in unlocking the potential of nonprofit leaders and the communities they serve.

Let's unlock your potential together.



Something's off, but no one's saying it. In a year marked by rising service demands, political tension, and leadership fatigue, even the most experienced leadership teams can get out of sync and effects ripple outward: stalled initiatives, staff confusion, organizational drag, eroding trust. This session is for CEOs and senior leaders who sense the tension but haven't had the space, tools, or language to address it. We'll explore why high-functioning teams still get stuck along with frameworks, language tools, and actionable reflection to help you spot misalignment before it spreads, navigate hard moments with care, and strengthen the team your mission depends on. Because when your leadership team is in flow, your whole organization moves forward – faster, clearer, and with more confidence.

Byte-Sized Maturity: Assessing and Advancing Your Nonprofit's Tech Readiness | Auditorium

PRESENTERS: Jennifer Ray, Director of Technology Engagements, Apparo; Todd Reavis, Lead Technologist, Apparo

Sponsored by Lenovo

Do you truly understand your nonprofit's current technology landscape – or are you making just-in-time decisions with limited insight? Without a structured view of your tools, policies, and practices, it can be difficult to manage your technology effectively or operate efficiently. This session introduces practical questionnaires to help nonprofit leaders assess their tech readiness, identify gaps, and access tools and resources to plan smarter, not harder.



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Microaffirmations: Small Actions, Big Impact | Empire C

PRESENTER: Sertrice Shipley, Founder & CEO, Plan to Action

Everyone in an organization has the power to make someone want to stay...or leave. Many diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) workshops focus on actions to avoid, but they often forget to highlight the behaviors we want to promote. Learn about the positive impact you can have through small actions known as microaffirmations. You'll walk away with a deeper understanding of how small actions can lead to big changes, and a practical toolkit for fostering more inclusive, supportive, and positive environments wherever you go.

WELCOME & NETWORKING RECEPTION 5:15-7:00

Join us in the Imperial Ballroom for a short program to celebrate the work of nonprofit leaders, share success stories, and affirm the value of the sector as we kick off the Center's 35th anniversary.

Then mingle with colleagues, scavenger hunt with exhibitors, get down with DJ She's A+, and enjoy appetizers and beverages – with your first adult beverage *courtesy of UPIC Solutions*.

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Support your staff team and strengthen retention with **health insurance and retirement plan** options through the NC Center's Association Health Plan (AHP) and Multiple Employer Plan (MEP)

Breakfast & Benefits



Thursday, Nov 20
8:45-9:15 AM



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Seating is limited



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BREAKFAST & BENEFITS 8:45-9:15

Seating is limited to those who have signed up | Crystal Coast

PRESENTERS: Mark Lamberth, Senior Consultant, Marsh McLennan; Diego Ramon, Vice President, North Carolina Regional Office, Mutual of America

Sponsored by Marsh McLennan with signature support by Mutual of America and ancillary support by The Hartford and OneAmerica

Start your morning with breakfast and updates on key employee benefits that can support your team and boost workforce retention. This session will highlight the NC Center's Association Health Plan (AHP) managed by Marsh McLennan – including health insurance and ancillary options – and retirement plan solutions through Mutual of America's Multiple Employer Plan. Sign up at bit.ly/47pHCbv or check with Center staff at the registration table for available seats.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS 9:30-10:45

Financial Planning in Times of Uncertainty | Empire DE

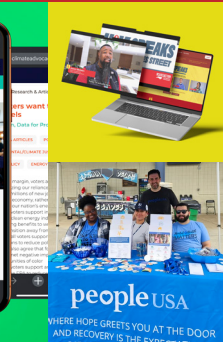
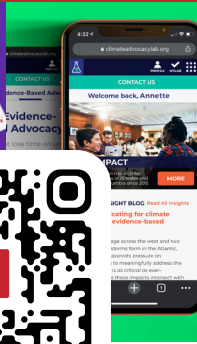
PRESENTERS: Kate Piatt-Eckert, Senior Associate, Nonprofit & Grantmaker Advisory, BDO

While nonprofits cannot predict the future, they can anticipate how they would adjust to major and minor shifts in their original strategic plans and budgets so they're equipped to make difficult, complex decisions as financial or human capital crises arise. Building potential scenarios and back up plans gives leaders, their staff, boards, and funders the confidence they need to press on and continue to deliver on programs. This session will address guiding principles for successful scenario planning processes, identifying critical questions and decision points for your organization, undertaking a risk landscape analysis, and tools to facilitate the scenario planning process.

Navigating Board Governance Across the Nonprofit Lifecycle | Empire C

PRESENTERS: Alyson Culin, Founder & Principal Advisor, Blue Hill Strategies; Ginny Waller, Dream Maker & Principal Advisor, Waller Consulting

Discover how to identify and address board governance needs at each stage of the nonprofit lifecycle using Susan Kenny Stevens' lifecycle stages – Idea, Start-up, Growth, Maturity, Decline, Turnaround, Terminal. Get practical strategies to



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align nonprofit governance and management practices with your organization's development phase, and actionable insights to enhance board performance and organizational effectiveness, regardless of your nonprofit's size or mission.

From Scarcity to Abundance: Building Vibrant Rural Communities with Asset-Based Development | **Empire AB**

PRESENTER: Hamid Kamara, Faith in Rural Communities Program Manager, NC Rural Center

Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) is a strengths-focused approach to building healthy, resilient communities. Rather than beginning with deficits or external dependencies, ABCD invites leaders to see the abundance that already exists in their communities – people, relationships, cultural assets, physical spaces, and informal networks – and mobilize them for sustainable change. Explore how ABCD has been successfully used in rural North Carolina to transform congregations, partnerships, and local economies, including case studies from the NC Rural Center's Faith in Rural Communities program, exercises in asset mapping, and group discussion around overcoming scarcity mindsets. You'll leave with tangible tools to activate local assets, expand civic capacity, and promote equity and inclusion in underserved regions.

Nonprofit Policy Briefing | **Royal AB**

PRESENTER: David Heinen, Vice President for Public Policy & Advocacy, North Carolina Center for Nonprofits

Sponsored by Roboro

In a year full of major policy changes affecting nonprofits' missions, funding, and operations, learn more about recent federal executive actions and court decisions, key provisions of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, updates on the state budget and legislation, and a preview of policy developments.

How Do You Know You're Making a Difference? Action Research Methods + Data Tools to Improve Nonprofit Impact | **Auditorium**

PRESENTERS: Matt Elliott, Co-Founder & COO, The Data Bull; Dr. Meghan Manfra, Founder, Action in Professional Learning and Professor, NC State University; Marshall Worth, Co-Founder & CEO, The Data Bull

Nonprofits often collect data but struggle to turn it into real insight. This session introduces a powerful collaboration between Action in Professional Learning (APL) and The Data Bull, combining human-centered action research methods with cutting-edge analytics. Using APL's Assess–Plan–Learn framework, learn how to cycle from data collection to continuous improvement – moving from

checking boxes to making change. You'll see how nonprofits of all sizes can use AI-driven dashboards and automation tools alongside reflective team practices to evaluate impact, engage staff, and refine programs. You'll explore strategies to assess your efforts, make meaning of data, and plan next steps collaboratively. Whether your organization runs community programs, advocacy efforts, or donor initiatives, this session will help you answer the question: How do we know we're making a difference – and what can we do better?

REFRESHMENT & NETWORKING BREAK 10:45-11:15

Break sponsored by Capitol B



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Remembering the Past and Dreaming
of a Better Future for Wake County Kids

CONCURRENT SESSIONS 11:15-12:30

Creating a Workplace Where People Want to Be: How One Nonprofit Transformed Their Workplace Culture and How You Can Too! | [Empire DE](#)

PRESENTER: Elisha Childers, Executive Director, Children's Council of Watauga County

Hear a real story of how one nonprofit intentionally moved from a toxic workplace environment to create a healthy workplace environment where people want to work. Through open discussion and practical examples, we'll explore what makes a workplace truly healthy, and how you can bring those changes back to your organization. You'll leave with tools and a clear action plan to start creating a workplace where people want to be and stay.

Still Standing: A Burnout Reset for Executive Directors | [Royal AB](#)

PRESENTER: Autumn Weil, Nonprofit Coach & Consultant, HarvestRenewal Coaching

This session offers executive directors a rare moment to pause, reflect, and reconnect with your own well-being beneath the weight of mission-driven leadership. Through a self-assessment burnout continuum, real-world reflections, and gentle journaling prompts, you will begin to name hidden fatigue, explore the emotional toll of over functioning, and examine leadership myths that drive exhaustion. Rather than prescribing surface-level self-care, you'll have space to notice what's actually happening – emotionally, mentally, and physically.

The Science of Being Seen: How Brand Consistency Drives Donor Behavior | [Empire AB](#)

PRESENTER: Katie Daugherty, Strategy Lead, Capitol B

How much of your organization's communication focuses on immediate asks versus building long-term relationships? Behavioral economics and recent marketing research show that only 5% of potential donors are ready to give at any moment, while 95% need consistent brand exposure to build trust over time. We'll explore how nonprofits can allocate resources between immediate "performance" campaigns and ongoing "brand-building" efforts that create mental availability when donors are ready to give. We'll discuss how to maintain consistent messaging across all touchpoints, from social media to grant applications, while adapting modern tools to amplify your reach without losing authenticity. We'll address common challenges like board pressure for immediate ROI, limited marketing budgets, and maintaining brand consistency across staff turnover. This session will help you think beyond transactional relation-

ships toward building lasting community connections, consistent engagement, and sustainable growth.

Mission-Driven Tech: AI, Security, and Budget-Smart Tech Solutions for Nonprofits | Auditorium

PRESENTER: Paul Bender, Chief Technology Officer, Connect Cause

Even the most impactful missions can quietly be eroded by unclear AI policies, outdated systems, and cybersecurity vulnerabilities. As artificial intelligence becomes more accessible, it brings powerful opportunities for nonprofits to improve efficiency and outreach, but also introduces new risks. Learn how to leverage AI responsibly and ethically in fundraising, outreach, and operations; implement low-cost cybersecurity practices that protect donor data and organizational reputation; build AI policies that align with mission, compliance, and equity standards; choose scalable, affordable tech tools without overwhelming staff; and evaluate and strengthen your current tech infrastructure. No IT background is required.

Bold Moves for Nonprofits to Succeed Amidst Volatility | Crystal Coast

PRESENTERS: Elizabeth Benefield, Co-Founder & Partner, Radiate Works; Melissa Carrier, Co-Founder & Partner, Radiate Works; Allan Burrows, CEO, CapDev

Nonprofits are navigating serious challenges — a reality underscored by data from CapDev’s 2024 survey of NC nonprofits and funders. This session takes a candid look at both the issues organizations expected and the new realities that have emerged. Drawing on data and insights from CapDev’s Compass Report, we’ll examine current conditions in governance, staffing, collaboration, and philanthropy. Through real-world examples and guided discussion, we’ll explore bold strategies for stability and growth in uncertain times. Using social innovation practices, human-centered design, and system-level problem-solving tools, you’ll learn from one another and identify ways to leverage collective knowledge and resources to strengthen your organizations.



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NETWORKING LUNCH & KEYNOTE 12:30-2:00

Leading During Uncertain Times

KEYNOTE

KEYNOTE PRESENTER

Michael S. Regan, Polis Distinguished Fellow, Duke University Sanford School of Public Policy and former Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)



Michael Regan has built his career around finding common ground, encouraging open dialogue, and showing how environmental protection and economic growth can go hand in hand. He'll bring those same principles to his keynote as he reflects on his leadership journey and lessons learned from guiding through times of change and uncertainty. He'll share his insights on resilience, adaptability, and purpose-driven leadership so nonprofit leaders can take away a renewed perspective to lead with clarity and confidence amid shifting policies, changing community needs, and everyday organizational challenges.



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CONCURRENT SESSIONS 2:15-3:30

Can-If Thinking: Rapid Strategic Planning in a Time of Constraint | **Empire DE**

PRESENTERS: Niles Barnes, Deputy Director, East Coast Greenway Alliance; Dennis Markatos-Soriano, Executive Director, East Coast Greenway Alliance; Dave Monaco, Partner, moss+ross; Jeanne Murray, Partner, moss+ross

In a time of accelerating disruption – from shifting federal funding to increased community needs – traditional long-range strategic planning may no longer serve nonprofits effectively. This session introduces a new way of thinking about strategy – one that maintains bold ambition within pressing constraints to unlock breakthrough possibilities. Within the four stages of responding to constraint – Victim, Neutralizing, Responsive Transformer, and Proactive Transformer – you'll learn how to identify key organizational constraints and reframe them as sources of creative leverage; practice “Can-If” thinking to develop fresh, actionable solutions; and explore how boards and leadership teams can support adaptive planning. You'll also hear from nonprofit leaders from East Coast Greenway Alliance who have pivoted their strategy in response to external shifts.

The Revenue Shift: The Business Case for Social Enterprise | **Crystal Coast**

PRESENTERS: Maggie Burch, Director of Programs, Designed for Joy; Grace Morris, Executive Director, Designed for Joy; Kristen Sydow, Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer, Designed for Joy

As traditional nonprofit funding sources decline and competition for grants increases, organizations must seek innovative ways to ensure long-term sustainability. Launching a social enterprise wing can help nonprofits build resilience and generate unrestricted revenue. We'll explore how earned income streams not only diversify financial support but also expand the organization's capacity to serve. Whether you're considering a social enterprise or already operating one, this session offers applicable strategies to strengthen your mission and bottom line.

The Art of Influence | **Empire C**

PRESENTER: Ashley Schwader, Founder, Owner & CEO, Two Suns Consulting

In a society that is seemingly divided, how do we positively come together and shed light on different perspectives as leaders? We'll cover the art and methods of power, influence, and leadership. By connecting and interacting with peers, you'll learn different models of influence, how to advocate positively, and how this translates into leadership and connection with others.

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Better Together: How Nonprofit Collaboration and a Public Benefits Tool Strengthened Community Connections and Civic Engagement | Auditorium

PRESENTERS: Griselda Alonso, Mujerxs Organizando Oportunidades Notables; Ricky Leung, Strategic Initiatives Lead, Code the Dream; Maria Mayorga, Civic Engagement Coordinator, Blueprint NC; Louise Pocock, Senior Public Benefits Analyst, Code the Dream

Through a powerful collaboration, Code the Dream and Blueprint NC are supporting community-based organizations in using the MyFriendBen-NC (MFB-NC) tool that connects community members to critical public programs. This session will share the story of how this cross-sector partnership came together and how organizations have integrated the tool into their outreach not just to provide services, but to build trust, engage residents in policy education, and connect them to broader advocacy efforts to protect the social safety net. Non-profits can look to this model to forge similar collaborations – combining service delivery, civic engagement, and community power-building – to strengthen their work and mission.

Manage the Unmanageable: HR Nightmares & How to Overcome Them | Empire AB

PRESENTER: Linda Hunter, HR Advisor, Catapult

In the fast-paced world of human resources, any professional responsible for HR/People are often called on to handle complex and challenging situations that can seem like real-life nightmares. From managing toxic employees and resolving conflicts to navigating legal pitfalls and handling crises, the stakes are high. Dive into some of the most common (and most difficult) HR challenges that can disrupt the workplace and learn valuable strategies for managing high-stress situations, turning HR disasters into opportunities for growth, and safeguarding your organization against common pitfalls.

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REFRESHMENT & NETWORKING BREAK 3:30-3:45

Break sponsored by CapDev

LIGHTNING SESSIONS

These short sessions – modeled after TED Talks – deliver a focused and fast-paced exploration of a powerful concept, innovative strategy, or real-world solution to ignite ideas, spark inspiration, and equip nonprofit leaders with practical tools you can put to use right away.

Round One 3:45-4:10

Round Two 4:25-4:50

*Find topics and
room locations
online*



From Course to Cause: A Reunion of Purpose 3:45-4:50

A special reunion and networking gathering for CMS Coaching participants and Nonprofit Management Institute graduates.

CLOSING PLENARY 5:00-5:30

Join us as we wrap up two days of learning and connection with reflection, gratitude, and inspiration for the road ahead. Together, we'll celebrate the resilience of our state's nonprofit community and carry forward the collective energy and ideas that will shape what comes next.

HAPPY HOUR 5:30-7:00

Please join us for a casual happy hour co-hosted by United Way Greater Triangle and Triangle Community Foundation, a 10-minute drive away at 800 Park Offices Drive #204, Durham, NC.



Sign up & join us!

THANKS FOR ATTENDING!

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THANKS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To the North Carolina nonprofits and foundations who invest in themselves and our sector as members of the Center. See our current Members (ncnonprofits.org/members/member-directory) and recognize our Founding Members (see pg 32).

To the foundations, businesses, and individuals who generously support the Center's capacity building programs and services for our state's nonprofit organizations. See our Sustainers and Donors: ncnonprofits.org/about/sustainers-donors.

To the Conference Host Committee and Session Review Committee for their time, ideas, and creativity around session topics and program planning. See our committee members: conference.ncnonprofits.org/conference-program-committee.

To the presenters and speakers for their time and expertise, and to speakers-in-waiting David Chatham, Holly Sherburne, Michelle Suffridge, and Joyce Harper for being graciously willing to serve.

To The Team Together for lending their facilitation expertise and able assistance in helping us plan engagement experiences.

To Arts Council of Fayetteville for helping us find and organize entertainment for our closing plenary.

To the exhibitors and advertisers whose support helps keep conference registration affordable.

To the volunteers who donated their time and smiles to support a welcoming and smooth-running experience for event participants.

To Art of Living Retreat Center, Sheraton Imperial Hotel, Visit Asheville, and Whitewater who generously donated items for event raffle prizes.

To the Sheraton Imperial Hotel & Convention Center for their support in hosting a safe and successful event.

To photographer Teri Saylor with Open Water Communications for capturing the sense of connection and enthusiasm throughout the event, terisaylor.com.

To the Center's staff and board members for their diligent work, commitment, resourcefulness, and good humor.

We're honored to celebrate 35 years of educating, connecting, and advocating for North Carolina nonprofits.

We appreciate and recognize the organizations and people who took that first leap with us more than three decades ago and became Founding Members and leaders of the Center.

Thank you for believing in our mission and that together we can build strong nonprofits and a stronger sector!



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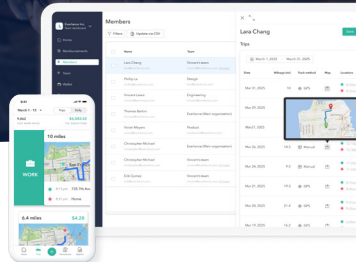
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A MEP provides savings to nonprofits and their employees by pooling assets for lower investment fees. MEPs also allow for simplified plan administration.

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