

On November 18, participants can self-select the session they would like to attend. Each session is designed to meet fundraisers wherever they are in their respective careers.

WORKSHOP TITLE:

"YOUR EVENT ISN'T DEAD... IT'S JUST BORING"

Chris Stibbs and Trisha Brauer's presentation topic at National Philanthropy Day in November has also been accepted for the 2026 AFP ICON in San Diego, April 26-28, 2026.

WORKSHOP SPEAKERS:

CHRIS STIBBS & TRISHA BRAUER

WORKSHOP TIME: **1:00 TO 2:00 P.M.**

WORKSHOP ROOM ASSIGNMENT: **BROOKSIDE**

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION:

In this high-energy, interactive workshop, we'll help you resuscitate your events and turn them into experiences people talk about, share, and look forward to. Whether you're planning a 50-person fundraiser or welcoming 1,500 guests, you'll walk away with practical tools to shake things up and reimagine your event from the inside out.

SPEAKER BIOS:



CHRIS STIBBS

Chris Stibbs is a self-proclaimed (but confirmed by others) loud human investing his passion in Kansas City's philanthropic community. Stibbs serves as the Director of Development for Growing Futures, an early education center/Head Start program in Johnson County. In this role, he oversees strategic fundraising initiatives, builds + maintains relationships with donors, leads community engagement efforts, and manages events to support the organization's critical mission.

Beyond his professional role, Stibbs demonstrates his commitment to community service through his position on the Board of Directors for reStart, Kansas City's leading homeless services agency, and as President of The Loop, a millennial networking group.

Stibbs has been recognized in Ingram's 20 in their Twenties issue, the Class of Rising Stars through the Independent, and 20 to Know in Nonprofit by the Kansas City Business Journal. He is also a graduate of the Centurions Leadership Program through the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce.



TRISHA BRAUER

Going once, twice, sold! Taking Bids Fundraising (TBF) is based in Kansas City and is leading the industry with record-smashing methods to raise money for nonprofits. TBF believes in making our community a better place one auction at a time.

Education is important to owner and head auctioneer, Trisha Brauer. She holds a Bachelors degree and an MBA. She completed her auction training at World Wide College of Auctioneering. She is

a previous Board member for the National Auction Association (NAA) and the states associations for Kansas and Iowa.

Trisha also holds the designation of Benefit Auctioneer Specialist (BAS). This designation is awarded and recognized by the NAA and represents specific education and training in conducting benefit auctions. This designation has been awarded to only 3% of the nation's auctioneers. She has also completed her Certified Auctioneer Institute (CAI) designation. This is a 3 year program and is the highest designation recognized by the NAA. In addition to helping nonprofits have record breaking events, she is a professional trainer for the NAA and teaches auctioneers across the country the art of benefit auctions. She loves her community and recently completed a term on Roeland Park City Council.

For any charity auctions, public speaking, or leadership training, Trisha can be reached at 913-481-8280 or at Trisha@TakingBidsFundraising.com.

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WORKSHOP TITLE:

"FOUNDATION FUNDING: NAVIGATING IN A SHIFTING LANDSCAPE"

WORKSHOP SPEAKER:

MARISSA TODD

WORKSHOP TIME: 1:00 TO 2:00 P.M.

WORKSHOP ROOM ASSIGNMENT: **BRUSH CREEK**

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION:

Foundations can be an important part of a non-profit development plan, but like all funding sources, overreliance can put strain on a non-profit budget. This session will discuss strategies to include foundations in your fundraising success.

SPEAKER BIOS:

MARISSA TODD



Marissa Todd has over 20 years of non-profit fundraising experience that has run the gamut from gift planning to development operations. She is the Senior Director, Foundation Relations for the University of Missouri-Columbia. As a proud Mizzou alumna, Marissa is excited to work with faculty across campus to secure funding for their research and projects. Prior to Mizzou, Marissa held roles at the Midwest Innocence Project (Deputy Director) and the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art (Director, Development Operations). Marissa

has been involved with several professional associations over the years, including Apra (both the international board and the local chapter) and AFP. She currently serves as the Treasurer for the AFPKC Board and the President of the Kansas City Chapter of the Mizzou Alumni Association. In her spare time, Marissa enjoys reading all kinds of books, cooking, and exploring downtown KC.

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WORKSHOP TITLE:

"WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE: A PANEL DISCUSSING FUNDRAISING CAREER PATHWAYS"

WORKSHOP SPEAKERS:

CATHERINE HOOPER & PANEL

WORKSHOP TIME: 1:00 TO 2:00 P.M.

WORKSHOP ROOM ASSIGNMENT: THE PASEO

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION:

Identifying the career directions open to development professionals can be murky and challenging. Four seasoned nonprofit professionals, each of whom spent time in development roles and each of whom has forged their own way in the nonprofit field, share where they are and how they got there. The goal of the session is to help other fundraising professionals think creatively about where their current roles could take them, the skills needed to support those journeys, and the pros and cons of different career ladders.

SPEAKER BIO:



CATHERINE HOOPER

Catherine Hooper, GPC, is a nonprofit consultant, program strategist, and grant professional. She has 15+ years of nonprofit experience including social services, healthcare, homelessness response, and workforce development. She is an experienced project manager who excels at helping agencies expand financial capacity, enhance operations, and ensure data-driven results. Catherine has written or been part of grant teams obtaining more than \$100 million during her career. She has a master's degree in technical communication.



THERESA REYES-CUMMINGS

Theresa Reyes-Cummings, GPC, MPA is the Deputy Director of the Community Mental Health Fund in Jackson County,

Missouri. Her career spans over 35 years of leadership experience in the fields of non-profit and public administration, mental health and criminal justice administration, community development and government relations. She is also a seasoned grants professional, holding her national grant professional certification (GPC) since 2007. Theresa holds a M.A. in Public Administration from the University of Kansas and a Master's Certification in Health Care Administration from Mid America Nazarene University.



MALLORY GOBET

Mallory Gobet is a Senior Grants and Projects Strategist at Encore Institute for Social Impact, consulting with a

variety of nonprofit agencies since 2021. With 10 years of prior experience in the nonprofit sector, Mallory brings expertise in education, health care, human services, and youth development. Mallory earned a BS in Journalism from Northwest Missouri State University

(2011) and holds the credentials of Grant Professional Certified (GPC, 2021) and Registered Scrum Master (RSM, 2023).



ANDREA LOMBARD

Andrea Lombard, GPC, RSM, RPO, is employed at the Encore Institute for Social Impact as Senior Grants and

Projects Strategist. With more than 15 years of experience, she brings expertise in grant writing, fundraising strategy, and Agile project management to help organizations design effective programs, secure funding, and build capacity. Andrea holds a B.A. in Communications from Michigan State University and has supported initiatives across various sectors, including healthcare, education, youth development, and equity-focused areas.



ROBYN RATCLIFF

Robyn Ratcliff serves as Executive Director of Wildwood Outdoor Education Center, leading transformative outdoor experiences

for Kansas City-area youth across 160 acres in Miami County, Kansas. With three decades in youth development, she designs innovative programs, leads teams, and secures funding for mission-driven organizations. Robyn holds a Master's degree from Truman State University and served as a national trainer and regional board chair for the American Camp Association.