

Detroit Nonprofit Day: Using Collaboration for Systems Change

Workshop Description and Facilitator Information

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Those of us who work for or alongside nonprofits in Southeast Michigan to create thriving communities know that tackling disparities related to health, education, poverty, etc. means advancing racial and social equity. That is the common North Star we all share. And advancing equity means transforming the systems, i.e., norms, practices, and mindsets that perpetuate inequity.

That's a task beyond the scope and capacity of any single individual, organization, or sector. So, how can we do it together?

In this workshop, you will learn how Michigan Community Resources and Co.act Detroit are partnering to drive systems change by inviting the nonprofit community to “think, invest, and collaborate differently” through the Dovetail initiative and how you can get involved. Through an interactive activity, you will be introduced to a new tool designed to guide you in the practice of centering equity as an individual and as part of a group, collaboration, or organization.

About the Facilitators

Kyla Carlsen- Director of Programs, CoAct Detroit



In her role as Director of Programs, Kyla Carlsen provides proactive leadership and vision for developing new and innovative programs for nonprofit and social enterprise organizations. With each program, she focuses on emphasizing strategic partnerships, measurable outcomes, and highlighting local and national best practices in a safe, inclusive space.

Kyla is Lean Six Sigma Green Belt certified and has experience leading and managing teams, program strategy and development, and project management. Her expertise includes facilitating design thinking sessions to develop innovative approaches to solve problems, fundraising and working with stakeholders to scale impact. She previously served as Operations and Financial Manager for the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation, overseeing operations for small business programs with a combined annual budget of \$8 million and addressing barriers to access and capital readiness for Detroit entrepreneurs.



Janai Gilmore- DIRECTOR OF SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION, Michigan Community Resources (MCR)

Janai Gilmore rejoined Michigan Community Resources as a Program Manager in 2018 and was promoted to director in November 2020. Janai's responsibilities range from managing collaborative projects—including the New Economy Initiative's Neighborhood Business Initiative and the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation Nonprofit Referral System—to

providing one-on-one technical assistance to community-based organizations.

Janai's diverse experiences working in community development have included working as an intern, Program Associate, and Program Manager with MCR. Prior to joining MCR, she was exposed to community development as a community organizer with the AmeriCorps Urban Safety Project, and as an intern with the Duisburg Development Agency in Duisburg, Germany. She has a Master of Science in Inequalities and Social Science from the London School of Economics and a Bachelor of Arts in Public Affairs from Wayne State University.