

State of NYC Women Conference 2025

Inspiring women through action and leadership, advancing equity.

8:30 AM	<p>Check-In, Breakfast & Networking</p> <p>Freshly baked breakfast featuring bagels, pastries, fruit, and beverages</p>
9:15 AM	<p>Opening Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharon Sewell-Fairman, President & CEO, Women Creating Change (WCC) • Gale Brewer, New York City Council Member • Sabrina Stratton, Board Chair, Women Creating Change, Senior Vice President and Northeast Regional Director, Amalgamated Bank
9:30 AM	<p>Visionary Keynote</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priscilla Sims Brown, President & CEO, Amalgamated Bank <i>Honoring Priscilla Sims Brown and her work as CEO of Amalgamated Bank</i>
9:45 AM	<p>Health is Justice: Centering Policy and Access in Health & Reproductive Rights</p> <p>As New York positions itself as a leader in protecting reproductive rights, deep disparities in access and outcomes persist. This session explores how systemic inequities in healthcare, maternal health, and reproductive autonomy intersect with race, gender, and income—and why these gaps must be addressed through policy. Through lived experience and legal analysis, the conversation highlights the urgent need to expand abortion access, close racial disparities in maternal care, and ensure that health justice is a central pillar of New York’s policy agenda.</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nicole Arrindell, President, Metropolitan Black Bar Association <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kylie Cheung, Staff Reporter, Abortion, Every Day • Chanel L. Porchia-Albert, Founder, Ancient Song Doula • Farah N. Louis, New York City Council Member
10:20 AM	<p>Safety Is a Right: Rewriting the Systems that Fail Women</p> <p>Despite growing awareness, many women and gender-expansive New Yorkers still face violence and systemic neglect. This conversation explores how NYC and NYS systems must transform to ensure true safety and accountability, highlighting structural failures and current policy efforts to address gender-based violence, harassment, and trafficking.</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laura Edidin, Senior VP for Programs and Partnerships, Women Creating Change (WCC) <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marissa Hoechstetter, Advocate • Melanie Thompson, Chief Advocacy & Outreach Officer, Coalition Against Trafficking Women International • Simone Jhingoor, Co-Executive, Jahajee: Indo-Caribbeans for Gender Justice

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10:50 AM	<p>Break & Networking</p> <p>Fresh fruit, granola bars, trail mix, and beverages.</p>
11:20 AM	<p>The Cost of Survival: Reimagining NYC's Economy for Women</p> <p>New York's economy is failing the women who hold it up. From unaffordable childcare and stagnant wages to housing insecurity and the undervaluing of care work, the systems meant to support working women are cracking under pressure. This panel challenges the status quo, spotlighting bold policy interventions at the city and state level that can reshape what economic dignity really looks like.</p> <p>Testimony:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kellan Calder, New Yorkers United for Childcare <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jennifer Jones Austin, Esq., CEO and Executive Director, FPWA <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sideya Sherman, NYC Chief Equity Officer and MOERJ Commissioner, City of New York • Carlyn Cowen, Chief Policy and Public Affairs Officer, Chinese-American Planning Council (CPC) • Rose Pierre-Louis, Executive Director, NYU McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy and Research
12:00 PM	<p>Re-Powering Participation: Women Shaping Democracy in NYC</p> <p>This dynamic panel explores the power and potential of women in NYC's democracy. Panelists will unpack the barriers to civic participation, highlight bold organizing efforts, and share actionable strategies for expanding women's voice and influence in local politics, public policy, and community decision-making.</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ny Whitaker, Founder and Chief Strategist, PROJECT NYNE LLC <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liuba Grechen Shirley, CEO and Founder, Vote Mama • Grace Rauh, Executive Director, Citizens Union • Sasha Ahuja, Director, Civitas Public Affairs
12:40 PM	<p>Lunch & Networking</p> <p>Assorted artisan sandwiches, salads and hot dishes</p>
1:40 PM	<p>Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carmen De La Rosa, New York City Council Member
1:45 PM	<p>Visionary Keynote</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keechant Sewell, Senior Vice President of Security and Guest Experience, NY Mets; Former New York City Police Commissioner
2:00 PM	<p>Money, Movement, Momentum: The Future of Funding Women's Equity in NYC</p> <p>A candid discussion about how funders, nonprofits, and public institutions can collaborate to ensure long-term investment in women-led change.</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharon Sewell-Fairman, President & CEO, Women Creating Change (WCC) <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camille Abrahams Emeagwali, Senior Vice President, Programs & Strategic Learning, The New York Women's Foundation • Jennifer Ching, Executive Director, North Star Fund • Dr. Jocelynn Rainey, Ed.D., President & CEO, Brooklyn Org • Laura Risimini, Director of Grants, Amplify Her Foundation

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2:40 PM	<p>Break & Networking</p> <p>Fresh fruit, granola bars, trail mix, and beverages.</p>
3:10 PM	<p>Start Where We Learn: Building Pathways for Early Civic Education</p> <p>To build lasting civic power, we must begin early embedding civic education into the fabric of family life, classrooms, and community spaces. This session explores how New York City and State can shift from episodic engagement to sustained investment in youth and intergenerational civic learning.</p> <p>Testimony:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Advocate., Young Invincibles <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lurie Daniel Favors, Esq., Executive Director at the Center for Law and Social Justice. Medgar Evers College <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DeNora Getachew, CEO, DoSomething • Jenna Ryall, Director, Civics for All, New York City Public Schools • Lisa Nishimura, NY Engagement Coordinator, Young Invincibles
3:50 PM	<p>The Future We Build: Policy, Power & the Next Generation of Women's Leadership</p> <p>As we look toward the next political cycle and beyond, how are we not only shaping policies for women but building systems by women that center collective leadership, intersectional equity, and generational impact? This panel brings together visionary leaders across organizing, philanthropy, and government to explore bold ideas for systemic transformation. From guaranteed income to participatory budgeting, new governance models, grassroots policy labs, and the role of technology AI - panelists will discuss how NYC can become a national model for co-governance, inclusive civic infrastructure, and feminist policymaking that lasts.</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denise M. Miranda, Esq., Commissioner, NYS Division of Human Rights <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrea Partenio, Bloomberg Associates • Susan Blaustein, Founder, President, & Board Chair, WomenStrong International • Julie M. Wenah, Chairwoman, Digital Civil Rights Coalition • Camille Joseph Varlack, Chief of Staff, Deputy Mayor for Administration and Special Counsel, City of New York
4:30 PM	<p>Closing Remarks</p>
4:45 PM – 6:00 PM	<p>Networking Reception</p> <p>All attendees are welcome to stay for drinks and bites.</p>

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