

A group of four Black professionals, two men and two women, are posed together in formal attire. They are smiling and laughing, creating a warm and professional atmosphere. The background is dark, making the subjects stand out.

BLACK STARS

SUMMIT + AWARDS

NOVEMBER 2-3 | NYC

#MakeYourMark

BLACKSTARS

SUMMIT | NYC | 02 NOV 2023

52 Broadway, New York, NY

SESSION 1 | 10am-10:45am

Breaking Through: Strategies, Best Practices, and Insights for Ascending the Leadership Ladder

MODERATOR



Duane Hughes
Chair of the Advisory Council
& Managing Director, UBS



Edwige Robinson
SVP of Tech & Engineering,
T-Mobile



Aaron Aboagy
Managing Partner, Detroit
McKinsey & Co.



Dr. Evaristus Mainsah
VP, People Experience &
Tech, Amazon Ads



Cecilia Nelson-Hurt
Chief Diversity Officer,
Heidrick & Struggles

SESSION 2 | 10:45am-11:30am

Maneuvering the Triad: How to Leverage Executive Sponsorship, Mentorship, and Networking for Career Advancement

MODERATOR



Dennis Williams
SVP, Corporate Social Responsibility,
Warner Bros.



Keia Cole
Chief Digital Officer,
BSE Global



Skip Edmonds
Industry Consultant,
Insurance and Financial
Services Sector/Board Member



Niki Quarmyne
Executive Director, Fintech
Business Development,
Morgan Stanley

SESSION 3 | 11:45am-12:30pm

Advancing Black Talent Through Executive Sponsorship: Challenges, Best Practices, and Opportunities

MODERATOR



Peter C. Harvey
Former New Jersey
Attorney General



Elena Richards
Chief Diversity Officer,
KPMG



Omosede Ogiamien
Partner, Deloitte

SESSION 4 | 1pm-1:30pm

Unveiling the Path and Mastering the Art of Leadership: A Conversation with Sekou Kaalund

MODERATOR



Sekou Kaalund
EVP, Head of Branch and Small Business Banking, **US Bank**



Michele Ghee
CEO, **Expectant Group**

SESSION 5 | 1:30pm-2:15pm

The Future of DEI: Unveiling Blind Spots, Overcoming Fatigue, and Advancing Progress Post-Affirmative Action Ruling

MODERATOR



Ron Taylor
EVP & Head of DEI, **Natixis Investment Managers**



Carl Holland
2nd Vice President, Client Management Employee Benefits, **The Standard**



Franklin Reed
Executive Director, Global Inclusion, Diversity & Equity, **TEKsystems**



Tuokpe Ajuyah
Head of ESG & Impact Investment, **Crewcial Partners**



Nikki Tanner
Associate Consultant, **Crewcial Partners**

SESSION 6 | 2:15pm-3:00pm

Embracing and Preparing for the Future: Strategies to Navigate the Evolving Job Market and Find Your Path

MODERATOR



Haile Owusu
Senior Vice President, AI and Automation, **Warner Bros.**



Tony Effik
Managing Director, **Google**



Kawanza Humphrey
Chief Human Resources Officer, **Vystar Credit Union**



Ekow Sanni-Thomas
Kanarys

SESSION 7 | 3:00pm-3:15pm

Beyond Borders: How Business Leaders can be Catalysts for Socioeconomic Transformation in the Black Diaspora

MODERATOR



Deniece Laurent-Mantey
Executive Director, President's Advisory Council on African Diaspora Engagement



Sandra Appiah
CEO, **PanaGenius**

BLACKSTARS

AWARDS GALA

Celebrating Excellence, Leadership & Innovation

Friday, Nov 3, 2023

Capitale
130 Bowery, New York, NY

PROGRAM

6PM

Cocktail Reception & Red Carpet

7:30PM

Seated Dinner

8PM

Awards Ceremony

10PM

End of Program

INTRODUCING THE 2023

 **30 BLACK
STARS**



2023 Honorees



Elena Richards

Principal and Chief Diversity,
Equity & Inclusion Officer
KPMG



Aaron Aboagye

Managing Partner, Detroit
McKinsey & Co.



Edwige A. Robinson

SVP of Network Engineering
& Operations
T-Mobile



Dennis D. Williams

SVP, Corporate Social Responsibility
Warner Bros. Discovery



Dr. Rodney Taylor

Chairman, Dept. of Otorhinolaryngology,
Head & Neck Surgery
University of Maryland School of Medicine



Dr. Evaristus Mainsah

VP, People eXperience & Technology
Amazon Ads & IMDb



Aaliyah Shafiq Ely

VP, Sparkling Flavors Category
Coca-Cola North America



Ronald Taylor

EVP and Head of Diversity,
Equity and Inclusion- US
Natixis Investment Managers



LaQuenta Jacobs

Global VP of Inclusion,
Equity and Diversity
Kimberly Clark



Alice Agyeman-Badu

Corporate Vice President,
Recruiting & Retention
New York Life



Kirstie Sims

Director, Center for Racial Equity
Walmart



Tiffany Jackson

Director, Inclusive Solutions
Prudential Financial



Haile Owusu

SVP, Applied Data Science &
Machine Learning
Warner Bros Discovery



Carl J Holland

2nd Vice President, Client Management
Employee Benefits
The Standard



Tony Effik

Managing Director of Display,
Video and Creative
Google



2023 Honorees



Keia Cole
Chief Digital Officer
Brooklyn Sports & Entertainment (BSE)



Renee Mathewson
VP, Corporate Affairs, Reputation
and External Communications
Sage



Deniece Laurent-Martey
Executive Director, President's Advisory
Council on African Diaspora Engagement
US Department of State



Doreen Awuku Agyeman
Director, Consumer Marketing Strategy |
Multicultural & Affordability
Cox Communications



Cecilia Nelson Hurt
Chief Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Officer
Heidrick & Struggles



Nexus Sea
Partner
O'Melveny & Myers



Jamila Abston Mayfield
Partner, Business Consulting Practice
Ernst & Young (EY)



Yves Lawson
VP and Unit Chief Information Officer
American Express



Markus Green
VP & Assistant General Counsel
Pfizer, Inc.



Kwanza A. Humphrey
Chief Human Resources Officer
VyStar Credit Union



May Lugemwa
Global Customer Experience Lead
LinkedIn



Dethra U. Giles
Co-Founder/CEO
ExecuPrep



Lakitsia Gaines
Agency Owner
State Farm



Niki Quarmyne
Executive Director,
Fintech Business Development
Morgan Stanley



Wayne Kimball, Jr.
Principal, Google Cloud's Go-to-Market
Strategy and Mergers & Acquisitions
Google



SPECIAL GUEST OF HONOR

Eric Adams

New York City Mayor

BLACK STARS

SUMMIT + AWARDS

HOSTS



DETHRA GILES | SUMMIT HOST

Dethra Giles is a powerhouse in the realms of leadership, performance optimization, DEI, and personal development. With an unwavering dedication to igniting the potential within individuals and organizations, Dethra has become an iconic figure in the world of DEIB, coaching, and transformation.

Born with an innate passion for unleashing greatness in others, Dethra's journey has taken her worldwide, transforming individuals, teams, and organizations. Her relentless pursuit of excellence led her to acquire a remarkable array of formal education and tangible work experience, earning her the label "University tested and industry-approved." With a diverse academic background, she holds advanced degrees in business administration, organizational development, and conflict management, providing her with a profound understanding of human behavior, organizational structure, and the intricacies of effective leadership.



ANITA ERSKINE | AWARDS GALA HOST

Anita is a highly respected authority on Media and Communications, with over two decades of experience in Corporate Communications, Strategic Communications Management, and Television Content Development and Management. She is the CEO of Erskine Communications.

Anita's work is synonymous with her success-oriented goal to empower communities. As a broadcast host, her work spans both traditional and new media with television and radio being her main channels of introduction onto the media field. Her career in television began in 1997 and since then, she has hosted over 10 television programs which have aired across Africa, in Canada, parts of Europe and Asia.

She has hosted over 200 global events, spanning from high-level dialogues to prestigious award ceremonies and global fundraising events. She is a well sought-after personality in the high-level Pan African and global events circuit. She facilitates events hosted by Economic International Agencies and Multinationals. Her most recent events include Africa Human Capital Heads of State Summit, EurAfrican Forum, World Bank Group Evolution Process Stakeholder Engagement, Africa Prosperity Dialogues and UN ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment.

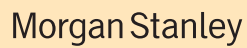


AFUA OSEI | RED CARPET HOST

Afua Osei is a dynamic policy advisor and media entrepreneur with a proven record of driving strategic growth and partnership initiatives across global markets. Her career focuses on cultivating global partnerships, growing digital trade across Africa and leveraging strategic communications for inclusive impact.

As the Co-Founder and CEO of She Leads Africa, Afua strategically grew the digital education and media company into a leading platform for millennial women of African descent reaching over 1 million women across 100+ countries. She organized innovative skill building events and strategic trade missions focused on women's workforce participation and entrepreneurship in 12 countries across Sub-Saharan Africa, Europe, Asia and North America, resulting in 20K+ total attendees and 300M+ social media impressions. She secured valuable commercial partnerships with Google, Visa, Netflix and Oxfam. The company's achievements were recognized by an invitation to ring the Closing Bell at the New York Stock Exchange and features in global media including BBC, CNN, ESSENCE and CNBC Africa.

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