

## Our Mission

To engage & connect Haitian-American Millennials, understand and harness our collective economic & political power, preserve Haitian culture in Haitian- American Millennials, and cultivate a strong community bounded by a shared strategy to advance All Things Haitian.

## Our Core Values

- Commitment to Community
- Collaboration
- Trust
- Inclusiveness

## What We Do

- **Engage** Haitian American young adults through Bi-monthly networking socials and crucial community conversations.
- **Educate** Haitian American young adults on issues impacting the Haitian community in South Florida and in Haiti.
- **Empower** Haitian American young adults to put their collective power to economic and political use.

## Haitian-American Millennials Summit 2019 KIYES OU YE: COMMUNITY, CULTURE, & CONNECTIONS



Saturday, April 27, 2019  
8:00am – 4:00pm

Miami Dade College- North Campus  
11380 NW 27th Avenue  
Miami, FL 33167

## A Message From Our President & Founder

I am delighted to welcome you to the Haitian-American Millennials Summit 2019 entitled *“Kiyès ou Ye: Culture, Community & Connection”*. The agenda topics for the Haitian-American Millennials Summit reflect issues affecting the general millennial demographic including wealth generation, civic engagement, and discussions revolving around the contributions that Haitians provide to American society.



Avanse Ansanm’s mission is to engage & connect Haitian-American Millennials, understand, harness collective economic and political power; preserve Haitian culture in Haitian-American Millennials; and cultivate a strong community bounded by a shared strategy to advance **“All Things Haitian”**. Through the hard work of our board and volunteers, Avanse Ansanm offers informative workshops and networking opportunities to the South Florida’s Haitian-American Millennials.

On behalf Avanse Ansanm’s Board of Directors and the Summit Host Committee, thank you for your support and participation. Our goal is to build a movement to engage South Florida Haitian- American Millennials in creating a shared agenda for the advancement of the Haitian community & increasing Haitian-American Millennials volunteerism, commitment, connectivity, and investment in the Haitian Community in South Florida & in Haiti.

Thank you for supporting Avanse Ansanm’s mission. We hope you enjoy the summit.

Sincerely,  
*Santra Denis*  
Santra Denis

## Summit Chair



On behalf of the Summit Planning Committee it is our pleasure to welcome you all to the 2019 Haitian-American Professionals Summit!

Many Haitian-Americans are proud of their heritage and have been shaped and influenced by both cultures. Avanse Ansanm believes it’s imperative to discuss our own identity and the complexities of navigating both cultures as a community, through facilitated discussion. The Haitian-American Millennials Summit has partnered with community leaders and influencers, organizations, small businesses and local sponsors to create this forum for the sharing of information, open dialogue, and a chance to network with other professionals. As such, the program appeals to both the Haitian-American and Haitian community.

Strengthening the infrastructure of the Haitian-American community is vital not only for this generation, but for the advancement and sustainability of generations to come. Unity is our strength, so let’s put our minds and hearts together to create a vision for the future.

Take the opportunity to network today. The value of networking at a convening like this is incalculable. There will literally be hundreds of years of experience gathered in the same place with the sole purpose of sharing their own experiences, knowledge and resources to better serve people in our community. Please take advantage of all the opportunities this prestigious event offers.

Thank you for sharing and we hope you enjoy this experience with us!

Sincerely,  
*Bertholette Pardieu*  
Bertholette Pardieu

## Summit Agenda

8:00am

**Registration**

9:00am

**Level Up Networking Breakfast**

An opportunity for Millennials, Generation X, and Generation Z to share ideas, connect and expand their network all over breakfast. Whether you are just starting out your profession or advanced in the profession this is for YOU.

9:45am

**Opening Remarks: Santra Denis, President, Avanse Ansanm**

10:00am

**Haitian Diaspora in South Florida: Past, Present & Future**

**Moderator: Ms. Nadege Green**, Staff Reporter, WLRN Public Radio & Television

**Panelist 1: Dr. Chantalle Verna**, Ph.D, Associate Professor of History and International Relations, Florida International University

**Panelist 2: Mr. Rulx Jean-Bart**, Former Director for Konbit Rezistans

**Panelist 3: Dr. Guerda Nicolas**, Professor, Educational and Psychological Studies Department, University of Miami

**Panelist 4: Ms. Gepsie Metellus**, Executive Director, Sant La Haitian Neighborhood Center

In light of the comments made by the President of the United States, and the subsequent fallout, Haitians in the diaspora are in a prime or optimal position to control the narrative. Ultimately, the goal is for attendees to be able to understand the progress that has been made thus far, where we are presently and stir thought provoking questions to ask ourselves in moving forward as a community.

## Summit Agenda

11:15am

**Millennial Money Moves**

**Moderator: Mr. Edwige Clark**, Senior Project Executive, Hammes Company

**Panelist 1: Ms. Yve-Car Momperousse**, CEO & Co-Founder, Kreyol Essence

**Panelist 2: Mr. Jonathas Noel**, Founder & Managing Partner, JurisPRO

**Panelist 3: Mr. Evans Gedeon**, Senior Financial Advisor, EDEN Multifamily

**Panelist 4: Ms. Sandra Florvella**, CEO and Founder of Haitian-Businesses.com and Haitea.

Becoming a Boss doesn't just take place in the boardroom. Becoming a Boss means taking control of your financial life. Whether it is getting out of debt so Sallie Mae no longer controls your check or starting your own company so that you control your own check. Becoming your own Boss is definitely the way to go. Join us and gain tips on becoming an intrapreneur or entrepreneur BOSS, as we have a candid conversation with a couple of people who have done it before.

12:15pm

**Lunch: Kilti Ayisen**

This is not your average conference lunch. Join us for a cultural experience including Manje Ayisien, Jwèt Ayisien, Misik Ayisien, Blag e Pwoveb Ayisien.



## Summit Agenda

### 1:30pm Politics & You: Why It Matters

**Moderator: Ms. Nancy Metayer**, Former Supervisor-Elect, Broward County Soil and Water Conservation District

**Panelist 1: Mayor Mack Bernard**, Palm Beach County

**Panelist 2: Commissioner Christina Romelus**, City of Boynton Beach, District 3

**Panelist 3: Commissioner Mike Gelin**, City of Tamarac, District 2

**Panelist 4: Commissioner McKenzie Fleurimond**, City of North Miami Beach, Group 5

Politics in Haiti and the diaspora is a favorite topic of discussion for passionate Haitians. This panel will focus on politics in the diaspora as this is an area that Haitians significantly lack representation. We are closely impacted by bills and policies passed by the government, yet most of us are not intimately involved in this process. We as a community need to come together and educate ourselves on how we can best utilize our voices to make an impact.

### 2:45pm Music Break

### 3:00pm This Is Us

**Moderator: Dr. Shirley Plantin**, Chief Executive Consultant, U Turn Youth Consulting

**Speaker: Mr. Gilbert Chrispin**, Senior HR Compliance Specialist, Broward County Public Schools

**Speaker: Dr. Charlene Desir**, Professor, Nova Southeastern University

**Speaker: Ms. Sandy Dorsainvil**, Principal Consultant, Maximillian Consultants Inc.

**Speaker: Ms. Angie Bell**, Founder of PouBèlAyiti and SEproject

This session aims to address cultural norms and community values. The goal is for attendees to adopt a cleaner, positive, but honest opinion of our community, where all community members and aspects of our community is embraced. We will discuss religion, language, classism/elitism, and the arts.

### 4:00pm Closing Remarks

## Speaker Biographies

### Dr. Guerda Nicolas

**Panel: Haitian Diaspora in South Florida: Past, Present & Future**



**Dr. Guerda Nicolas**, Professor in the Educational and Psychological Studies department at University of Miami, School of Education and Human Development; Secretary General of the Caribbean Alliance of National Psychological Association; and Co-Founder of Ayiti Community Trust. Dr. Nicolas obtained her doctoral degree in clinical psychology from Boston University.

She completed her predoctoral training at Columbia University Medical Center and her postdoctoral training the New York State Psychiatric Institute/Columbia University, Department of Child Psychiatry.

As a multicultural (Haitian American) and multilingual psychologist (Spanish, French, and Haitian Creole), her research is reflective of her background and interests. Her current research focus on the integration of race and culture and well-being for ethnically diverse and immigrant communities. Some of the projects that she is currently working on includes: promoting academic excellence among ethnically diverse youth, identify development of Black youths, and empowering ethnically diverse parents to be effective parents. In addition, she conducts research on social support networks of Caribbean populations with a specific focus on Haitians. She has published several articles and book chapters and delivered numerous invited presentations at the national and international conferences in the areas of women issues, depression and intervention among Haitians, social support networks of ethnic minorities, and spirituality. She is the recipient of the 2018 Humanitarian Award of the American Psychological Association. She is the Co-Editor of the Book Series, Pan-African Psychologies with Palgrave Publisher.

## Speaker Biographies

### Mr. Rulx Jean-Bart

Panel: Haitian Diaspora in South Florida: Past, Present & Future



**Rulx Jean-Bart** spent many years of his life as an activist and organizer. During his second year of College he organized and became the first president of the Haitian Students Organization at York College. Mr. Jean-Bart formed other student organizations such as Third World Coalition, which brought together

several marginalized groups.

In 1976, Rulx came to Miami to organize the Haitian refugees. He was instrumental in forming a grassroots refugee organization known as Konbit Libète. He also helped organized various coalitions in support of the Haitian refugee struggle. He was one of the founders of Konbit Simidò, a radio program designed to support the Haitian Refugees.

Mr. Jean-Bart spent most of his adult life as an administrator. He served as Project Coordinator for Haitian Refugee Concerns, Director of the Haitian Refugee Center, and Executive Director of H.A.C.A.D Social Services and Medical Centers. At Miami Dade College he served as the Associate Director of Project H.E.L.P, the Chair of Outreach at the college's North Campus, and Director of Advisement and eventually Registrar at the college's Wolfson Campus.

## Speaker Biographies

### Dr. Chantalle Verna

Panel: Haitian Diaspora in South Florida: Past, Present & Future



**Chantalle F. Verna, Ph.D.** is a heart-centered connector. As a scholar, entrepreneur and citizen of the world, she is committed to spreading the word about the people, ideas, and resources that she has come to know. She carries out this life mission as an associate professor of history and international relations at Florida International

University, as the founder and owner of a strategic partnership corporation called Namaste Networks, and by moving about this earth as consciously as she can. She is the author of *Haiti and the Uses of America: Post-U.S. Occupation Promises* (Rutgers University Press, 2017) and co-editor of *The Haiti Reader: History, Culture, and Politics* (Duke University Press, forthcoming). You can learn more by visiting [nam2nam.com](http://nam2nam.com).

## Speaker Biographies

### Ms. Gepsie Metellus

Panel: Haitian Diaspora in South Florida: Past, Present & Future



**Gepsie Morisset-Metellus** is co-founder and Executive Director of the Haitian Neighborhood Center Sant La, an award-winning neighborhood resource center that serves as a lifeline for the Haitian immigrant population of South Florida. Her community involvement spans over two decades.

She currently serves on the Miami-Dade Public Schools Superintendent's Business Advisory Council and the Miami-Dade School Bond Oversight Committee. She is an active member of the Miami Chapter of the International Women's Forum and the Greater Miami Chapter of the Links Inc. Gepsie has also authored several articles, white papers and publications about the Haitian experience such as *The Haitian Presence in the United States*; *Haitians: Their History and Culture*; *The Long Journey of South Florida's Haitian Community* and *The Magic of Little Haiti*. Her many awards from local, state and national organizations include recognition of her exemplary leadership, community service, and her advocacy on important community issues.

## Speaker Biographies

### Ms. Yve-Car Momperousse

Panel: Millennial Money Moves



**Yve-Car Momperousse** is CEO and co-founder of Kreyol Essence (KE), an agribusiness that creates 100% natural and ethical beauty products from Haiti. The millennial started the international company four years ago and has created jobs for over 300 farmers and women.

Leveraging unique ingredients such as Haitian Black Castor Oil, Haitian Moringa and Vetiver, Kreyol Essence is known for its plant-based products formulated for those with dry hair, dry skin and curly hair. Kreyol Essence launched its black castor oil nationwide at Whole Foods Market and over 100 natural stores in Canada. The social business connects its sales to economic development and improving the environment in Haiti.

Yve-Car was recently selected by the beauty giant, Sephora, as the Next Generation Beauty Industry Leader and was named one of 2018's Top Conscious Business Leader by Conscious Company Media. Beauty and Money and Refinery29 has called Kreyol Essence one of the top Most Exciting & Cool Indie Beauty Brands. The social entrepreneur holds a bachelor's degree in Urban Studies from Rutgers University, started her master's at the University of Pennsylvania and completed her degree at Cornell University in International Development with a focus on Rural Agriculture.

## Speaker Biographies

### Mr. Jonathas Noel

Panel: Millennial Money Moves



Noel Jonathas, Jr. is a business lawyer, entrepreneur, management consultant, lecturer and media host. He is the Founder and Managing Partner of JurisPRO, a Haiti-based boutique business law firm, with a management consulting affiliated firm: InSI Group (Insights and

Strategies for Innovation). Noel is also the President and CEO of Konbit Kapital, S.A. (a private equity firm seeking to make impact investments in Haiti) and. Over the last twelve (12) years, Noel has provided his expertise to multiple government agencies in Haiti and to international organizations, businesses and NGOs in the fields of financial inclusion, business development, corporate finance and strategic management.

Noel hosts an entrepreneurship and innovation program aired on multiple radios, TV and social medias. He is also deeply involved in community service and serves on the Boards of multiple non-profit organizations and foundations.

## Speaker Biographies

### Mr. Evans Gedeon

Panel: Millennial Money Moves



For nearly a decade, **Evans Gedeon** has developed a broad knowledge in multifamily, residential and commercial real estate investments. His experience includes acquisitions, development and commercial/residential real estate lending. Evans has worked with some of the most highly regarded real estate owners/developers and lender.

During his career, he has successfully financed and managed several commercial real estate projects totaling over \$300 million dollars with various complexities and capital structures. Previously, Evans worked at Trez Forman Capital as a Senior Associate. His responsibilities included originating debt & equity, financial analysis, due diligence and loan administration. Prior to Trez Forman Capital, he worked at Altman Development Corporation as a Senior Financial Analyst. Evans worked directly with the executives and owners of the company. He provided financial analysis, market research, coordination of design professionals and project management for ground-up multifamily developments.

## Speaker Biographies

### Ms. Sandra Florvella

#### Panel: Millennial Money Moves



**Sandra Florvella** is the CEO and Founder of Haitian-Businesses.com and Haitea. Both companies are dedicated to the growth of the Haitian community abroad and locally. A native of Cap-Haitien Haiti, Sandra Florvella- Pierre moved to the United States at 15 years of age. Sandra continued on to pursue her dreams by completing her education and studying Business Administration at Lynn University. Her passion led her to work with local government in South Florida as an executive Administrator for the last 13 years. Throughout the years as she progresses in this field, she obtained her Master's degree in Public Administration and Emergency Management.

As a business woman, Sandra felt compelled to remain attached to the Haitian culture even in her career. In 2013, after noticing a lack of connectivity between Haitian owned businesses/ Professionals and the Haitian community, Sandra created a platform to promote Haitian Owned Businesses in March 2014. Today Haitian-Businesses.com is extensively popular as a bridge to connect, to promote and to support Haitian Businesses. Fulfilling the need of the community, with Haitian Businesses she has held highly effective networking events in New York, Miami and most recently in Atlanta for entrepreneurs and professionals of the Haitian community. With over 66,000 subscribers, this movement has attracted the attention of not just the Haitian community but is has also obtained the support of icons who are well known friends of Haiti such as Donna Karan and Rohan Marley son of the great Bob Marley.

Sandra is currently working alongside business owners and chamber of commerces of the Haitian community around the world as a link to keep them connected on one network. Her platform with Haitian Businesses has become a ground for inspiration, education and collaboration.

## Speaker Biographies

### Mayor Mack Bernard

#### Panel: Politics & You: Why It Matters



**Mayor Mack Bernard** was elected in November 2016 to the Palm Beach County Commission, District 7. Mr. Bernard ran on a platform of creating more good paying jobs and job training opportunities; improving public safety and law enforcement relations; increasing small business, women and minority participation in county contracts; keeping taxes low; and advocating for more affordable and sustainable housing. In 2008 Mr. Bernard served as a Delray Beach City Commissioner and Deputy Vice-Mayor. In this role Mr. Bernard worked hard with the community to increase affordable housing options, improve public safety, and create jobs. In 2009 Mr. Bernard was elected to the Florida House of Representatives where he served on numerous committees and passed bills that created jobs, protected women and children, and supported public education. In the Legislature, Mr. Bernard served as the President of the Palm Beach County Caucus of Black Elected Officials and was recognized for his work advocating for Florida's small businesses. Currently, Mr. Bernard is the Chairman for the Toussaint L'Ouverture High School for Arts & Social Justice and Board Member for the Color of Hope Foundation.

Mack has lived in Palm Beach County for 30 years. He worked hard while attending college, graduating with honors from Florida State University; earning a Bachelors in Political Science and Criminal Justice, and also graduating with honors from the University of Florida's Levin College of Law. Mack and his wife Shawn are raising their three daughters. As a real estate and tax attorney, Mack Bernard works to help others achieve the American Dream.

## Speaker Biographies

### Commissioner Christina Romelus

Panel: Politics & You: Why It Matters



**Commissioner Christina Romelus** was elected to the Boynton Beach city commission March 15, 2016. She took the oath of office during her last tri-semester of pregnancy with her second child. In her first year of service, Commissioner Romelus was appointed by the Board of County Commissioners to the Palm Beach County Tourist Development Council to serve the residents of Palm Beach County. Commissioner Romelus has

been an Adjunct Instructor at Palm Beach State College since 2014 teaching Anatomy and Physiology. Alongside her husband, Darren, Vice Commissioner Romelus established Sky Administrations, LLC in 2012, a visual marketing and consulting firm based in Boynton Beach, Florida. Commissioner Romelus attended South Tech Academy in Boynton Beach, where she obtained her LPN certification. She is a proud alumna of the University of Miami (Go Canes!). She also holds a Master's degree in Biomedical Sciences from Barry University. Vice Mayor Romelus is an honorary member of Alpha Kappa Psi Professional Business Fraternity. An active humanitarian, Commissioner Romelus has done missionary work in Haiti for earthquake and hurricane relief efforts and in the Dominican Republic in the bateyes (sugar mill settlements).

Originally, from Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Vice Mayor Romelus has lived in Boynton Beach for 10 years. While in office she is committed to improving the quality of life for all, increasing public safety and beautifying the Downtown. She and her husband have two sons, Christian and David Lee.

## Speaker Biographies

### Commissioner McKenzie Fleurimond

Panel: Politics & You: Why It Matters



**Commissioner McKenzie Fleurimond** sits of the North Miami Beach City Commission. He is the liaison for the Economic Development Board, Recreation Committee, and the Police and Fire Retirement Board. At 27 years old, he was one of the youngest to ever serve North Miami Beach as an appointed council-member from 2010-2011. McKenzie also served as the District

Assistant to former State Representative Ronald A. Brise, District 108 of the Florida Legislature. Commissioner Fleurimond has been an NMB resident for over 20 years and studied Business Administration at Johnson and Wales University. He also served as the District Assistant to former State Representative Ronald A. Brise in District 108 of the Florida Legislature.

Commissioner Fleurimond is the proud owner of McKenzie Insurance Group, Inc. and is licensed by the State of Florida in the areas of life insurance, health insurance and annuities. He is married to his wife Straussiana, who is a nurse. McKenzie is committed to serving the residents of North Miami Beach. Economic development, safety, recreation, wellness, as well as making NMB a competitive employer, are just some of his priorities. McKenzie is a proud product of the Miami Dade County Public School system and attended to Edison Park Elementary School, Edison Middle School and Miami Beach Senior High. He was part of the 500 role models of excellence program and other organizations such as DECA during that time. Most recently McKenzie was voted in as a member of the 100 Black Men of South Florida, Inc.

## Speaker Biographies

### Commissioner Mike Gelin

Panel: Politics & You: Why It Matters



**Commissioner Mike Gelin** sits on the commission for the City of Tamarac. Gelin is President and CEO of the Gelin Benefits Group, an insurance advisory, brokerage and consulting firm. Mike launched the firm in January of 2015 after spending over ten years working at some of the world's largest consulting firms including Aon, Mercer &

Lockton. Prior to starting his company, Gelin served as Vice President for CBIZ Benefits & Insurance Services. He advises medium and large size firms in developing health care strategies and managing healthcare costs. Gelin holds the Life, Health & Variable Annuities license in Florida, Pennsylvania, Georgia, New York and New Jersey. Gelin has been in the Insurance Brokerage industry for over twelve years and enjoys helping employees understand their health and benefit options and wellness solutions.

Gelin is graduate of Morris Brown College with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business Administration. While there, he studied abroad at the University of Ghana in Ghana, West Africa and the American Continental University in London, England. After graduating, Gelin continued his professional development and earned the Certified Employee Benefit Specialist designation. The CEBS designation is a joint program of the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania and the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans.

## Speaker Biographies

### Dr. Charlene Desir

Panel: This is Us!



**Dr. Charlene Désir** is a professor at Nova Southeastern University's - Abraham S. Fischler College of Education. She received her doctorate from the Harvard University. Dr. Désir's academic interest is in the social, psychological and spiritual adjustment of immigrant students in public schools, specifically school's social curriculum, psycho-social trauma occurring in schools, and how psycho-social issues affect cognitive ability and spiritual development. Dr. Désir has

presented various papers on the topic of immigrant students and their adjustment to the U.S. She has also published on the topic of immigrant identity, spirituality, and becoming a reflective researcher.

Dr. Désir founded the Empowerment Network (TEN). Global, a non-profit that supports the personal, spiritual and academic development of women and students in Haiti and US. She was the 2012 president of the Haitian Studies Association and gubernatorial appointee to the Children's Services Council in Broward County, FL by Governor Rick Scott. Dr. Désir has worked as a school psychologist, K-12 school counselor, school administrator in Massachusetts (U.S.) district and charter schools and an academic advisor and professor.

## Speaker Biographies

### Mr. Gilbert Chrispin

Panel: This is Us!



**Gilbert Anthony Chrispin** has spent over 15 years as a human resources specialist, consultant, and organizational development expert. His life's mission is to help people become effective leaders and better humans. In doing so, Gilbert has forged a unique perspective on sustaining organizational structures while also carving the way to the necessary, sometimes incremental changes across departments.

Gilbert graduated from Trinity College in Chicago, Illinois in 2002 with a double major in Business Management and Human Resources. Following his time in Chicago, he returned home and started his management career with Enterprise Rent A Car and later served as an educator with Miami Dade County Public Schools for 3 years; until he was recruited to work in the health and human services sector as a HR specialist in Memphis, Tennessee. During his time in Memphis, Gil co-founded Mi-Me Bath & Body, a beauty and skincare company that has had their products featured in Teen Vogue, The Huffington Post, Nylon and Refinery 29.

Gil currently serves as a Senior HR Compliance Specialist at Broward County Schools where he is one of only three specialists investigating discrimination and sexual harassment complaints for the 6th largest school district in the country. Additionally, Gil is the co-founder and creative director of Chrispin + Crane, a new media company focused on reframing dialogue and changing culture. When he isn't working, spending time with his family, you can find him contemplating how to improve his quality of life, planning his next getaway and trying to find new and interesting ways to champion, love and appreciate his beautiful wife Ebonni.

## Speaker Biographies

### Ms. Angie Bell

Panel: This is Us!



**Angie Bell** is a committed community leader in South Florida. As a young community activists, Ms. Bell has dedicated her time to several organization, working to promote Haitian culture, language and arts. Former co-chair of the Fundraising and Public Relations committee at the Haitian American Professionals Coalition (HAPC) and former Marketing Director of the Haitian American Historical Society, Ms. Bell's professionalism and work ethic have both allowed her to garner the best of reputations.

She is the founder of PouBèlAyiti, an artistic environmental movement aimed to keep the streets of Haiti clean. Created to combat deforestation, promote a clean lifestyle and nurture the environment. In relations to working with schools, Ms. Bell also founded the SEproject, a non-profit organization with the goal of helping young children in Cap-Haitien going to school. She is the co-owner of Atizan International, a Marketing Firm that promotes Haitian and Caribbean culture which range from Event and Festival Production to Project Management. Her love for Haiti also keeps her focused on promoting her heritage as a Co-host of the Television Show Ayiti Parle on Island TV.

Ms. Bell's accomplishments are vast and she continues to wow the world as a published writer, whose second book is in the final stages and will undoubtedly help hundreds discover the beautiful, rich heritage of her native Haiti and better appreciate the creole language, which she believes is a tool to connect Haitians around the world and a tool to use for development within the education system in Haiti.

## Speaker Biographies

**Ms. Sandy Dorsainvil**

**Panel: This is Us!**



**Sandy Dorsainvil** currently serves as the Principal Consultant of Maximillian Consultants Inc.(MCI) Maximillian Consultants overall focus is to preserve the cultural identity of all Americans. Over the years Ms. Dorsainvil has poured her heart and soul into the Little Haiti community. Sandy produces Sounds of Little Haiti, a monthly music festival that celebrates Haitian culture and heritage in Little Haiti.

In 2018, Sandy took Sounds of Little Haiti one step further by starting the Rara Institute of Music, a music program that teaches students to play traditional Haitian rara instruments; forming Ti Rara, the Little Haiti Rara Orchestra. She is the proud co-owner of Noire, an afrocentric boutique gallery lounge slated to open in March 2019 in Miami.

Sandy, currently serves a community engagement specialist and commercial sales contractor for Metro 1 Properties, Miami's leading urban core real estate firm. She also served as the Special Program Administrator for Sant La, Haitian Neighborhood Center. Ms. Dorsainvil was the City of Miami, Community Liaison, in District 5, in the Office of Chairman Keon Hardemon.

Sandy obtained a Bachelor of Arts in History from Howard University. Ms. Dorsainvil is a board member of, Black Professionals Network (BPN), Caribbean-American Cultural Preservation Society and the Northeast Second Avenue Partnerships. She is the current Chairman of The Haitian American Professionals Coalition (HAPC). She sits on Miami Dade County's Art in Public Spaces Trust Professional Advisory Committee and the UNCF South Florida Leadership Council.

## Sponsors & Exhibitors



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