



Speaker Bios

New York City Workforce Funders Collaborative

Linda Dworak serves as the Director of the Baltimore Workforce Funders Collaborative, a group of public and private funders committed to advancing equity, job quality and systems change efforts that lead to family-sustaining wages, strengthened communities and a vibrant local economy. The Collaborative is hosted by the Maryland Philanthropy Network and is a partner of the National Fund for Workforce Solutions. Linda began her career working with out-of-school youth in Tijuana, Mexico and has remained devoted to the work of enhancing economic opportunities for low-wage workers through direct supports and systems changes. She formerly served as the Executive Director of the NYC-based Garment Industry Development Corporation - one of the first nationally recognized sector-based workforce partnerships; Senior Consultant to the Aspen Institute's Workforce Strategies Initiative; and workforce/corporate social responsibility consultant to a number of national and international organizations. Linda currently sits on the Board of two workforce development organizations and participates in a wide range of committees and workgroups in Baltimore. Linda holds a master's degree from the Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs and a post-graduate certificate in Non-Profit Management from the Columbia University School of Business. She is most proud of being mom to her tenacious teen daughter.

Matthew Klein is the Chief Program and Impact Officer at Robin Hood. He oversees the grantmaking, public policy and management assistance work of the philanthropy, which raises and distributes all of its funding each year with a focus on reducing poverty and increasing economic mobility in New York City. In 2021, Robin Hood invested \$170 million in New York City organizations. Prior to joining Robin Hood in 2022, Matt served as the Executive Director of the New York City Mayor's Office for Economic Opportunity (NYC Opportunity). Under his leadership, NYC Opportunity launched new anti-poverty programs and digital products; broadened the City's use of rigorous evaluations, design methods, and data capabilities; established and helped achieve citywide poverty reduction goals; and, added equity metrics to the City's performance accountability system, among other accomplishments. Before serving in city government, Matt was the Executive Director and first staff person of Blue Ridge Foundation New York. The foundation operated as a full-service incubator, providing seed funding, space in its offices, and hands-on operational support to start-ups focused on expanding upward mobility, and now operates as Blue Ridge Labs, part of Robin Hood. While at Blue Ridge, Matt helped build 30 new social ventures that collectively grew to serve several hundred thousand clients each year with a combined budget of over \$250 million. Early in his career Matt co-founded and helped run a youth development agency and worked briefly as a lawyer. He has also taught courses as an adjunct professor at NYU Stern School of Business on venture philanthropy and issues of scale and performance management in the nonprofit sector. Matt is a graduate of the Boston Public Schools, Yale College and Yale Law School and lives in Fort Greene, Brooklyn with his wife and twin daughters.

Sharon Sewell-Fairman joined the Workforce Professionals Training Institute in 2010 and was appointed Executive Director in October 2012. She brings over 20 years of workforce development experience at the local, state, and national level through roles with the Consortium for Worker Education, New York Association of Training & Employment Professionals, New York City Employment & Training Coalition, National Association of Workforce Boards in Washington, D.C., and Wadley-Donovan Growth Tech, LLC. Ms. Sewell-Fairman holds a BA in English from State University at Albany, an MBA in International Business from the University of Maryland

University College, a Certificate in International Business Studies from the University of Antwerp in Belgium, and a Certificate of Business Excellence, Senior Leaders Program for Non-profit Professionals from Columbia University. She serves currently on the Board of Directors for Day One New York.

Scott Thomas is the Co-founder of [Arbor Brothers](#), an engaged philanthropy organization which provides multi-year grants and high-dosage capacity-building support to a portfolio of the New York area's most promising "second stage" education and workforce development nonprofits. Before founding Arbor Brothers, he worked in energy sector investment groups at Lehman Brothers and Neuberger Berman. Scott began his career teaching middle school mathematics through the Teach for America program in the Washington Heights neighborhood of New York City. He holds an MBA from NYU, an engineering degree from the University of Michigan and proudly serves on the board of GirlTrek, an Arbor Brothers grantee, and Summer Search, a national youth development organization. He has had the opportunity to guest lecture at Harvard, Columbia & NYU and is a member of the Leap Ambassadors Community.

Tayyab Walker is the Director of Enterprise Data Solutions at the Mayor's Office for Economic Opportunity (NYC Opportunity). In his role, he oversees a strategic technology and policy framework that supports complex cross-agency data sharing arrangements designed to promote integrated service delivery, expand public benefits access, increase system interoperability, and enable social service research and analytics. Prior to this, he managed several large-scale data and digital service projects for the City's social services, child welfare and health departments. Mr. Walker received his Bachelor's degree from Harvard University and his Master of Public Administration from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University.

Laurel Dumont (Moderator) is the Senior Director, Grantmaking, for the Solon E. Summerfield Foundation. She has a multi-disciplinary background in education, law, nonprofit leadership, and social entrepreneurship with a longstanding focus on social and racial justice. After teaching elementary school in Newark, NJ, and practicing law at Essex-Newark Legal Services and the NJ Institute for Social Justice, she spent the next decade connecting people and resources to help communities thrive. Specifically, Laurel started the Center for Collaborative Change, a nonprofit that engaged residents in policy and philanthropic decisions that impact their lives. She co-founded Newark Reentry Legal Services (ReLeSe), which removes legal barriers to employment after incarceration. Before joining Intentional Philanthropy and the Summerfield Foundation, Laurel supported new leaders across the country through coaching, leadership development, strategy consulting, and start-up funding by creating a Venture Fund & Fellowship at Leadership for Educational Equity. Laurel holds a BA from Wesleyan University and a JD/MSW from the University of Michigan.