



### **Shelterforce 50th Anniversary Welcome Reception**

**April 28, 2025 | DoubleTree Hotel Newark Airport**

#### **6:30 PM - 8:30 PM**

- **6:30 - 7:00 PM** | Guest Arrival & Registration
- **7:00 - 7:20 PM** | Welcome Remarks, Board Chair, Dr. Tiffany Manuel, *TheCaseMade*
- **7:20 - 8:15 PM** | Networking Reception

Live Music Experience by Violinist, Ricky Turner

- **8:15 - 8:30 PM** | Closing Remarks & Next Day Preview, Schlonn Hawkins, CEO & Publisher, *Shelterforce*

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### **Shelterforce 50th Anniversary Celebration**

**April 29, 2025 | NJIT Campus Center, 150 Bleecker St., Newark**

#### **Morning: Setting the Stage**

**8:00 - 9:00 AM** | Registration & Breakfast

#### **9:00 - 9:30 AM | Opening Ceremony**

- Remarks from Staci Berger, Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey
- Founding Members Recognition
- Special Guest Introduction

#### **9:30 - 10:30 AM | Keynote: Dr. Akilah Watkins**

- Q&A
- Photo opportunity

#### **10:45 - 12:00 PM | Panel: 50 Years of Impact—Featuring *Shelterforce*'s Founders**

- Patrick Morrissy, Founder, HANDS, Inc.
- Phyllis Salowe-Kaye, Executive Director, Communities First Initiative
- John Atlas, Executive Director, Passaic County Legal Aid Society (1981–2003)
- Robert “Woody” Widrow, Founder and Former Executive Director, Raise Texas

Moderated by Schlonn Hawkins, CEO & Publisher, *Shelterforce*

#### **Midday: Connection & Reflection**

#### **12:00 - 1:15 PM | Lunch**

- Explore key historical moments in our gallery
- Get to know your colleagues

## **Afternoon: Shaping the Future**

### **1:30 - 2:45 PM | Breakout Sessions** (*Choose One*)

**1. Housing & Climate Change:** Strategies for resilience

Ryan Brenner, Research Analyst, NYU Furman Center; Shamoia Washington, Director of State Policy and Advocacy, United Way Worldwide; Rick Rybeck, Director, Just Economics, LLC.; Lara Heard, Associate Editor, *Shelterforce*

**2. Building Unity in Housing Justice:** Strengthening collaboration

John Goldstein, Environmental and Housing Justice Advocate; Corianne Payton Scally, Principal Associate & Equitable Community Development Lead, Community Science; Miriam Axel-Lute, CEO/Editor-in-Chief, *Shelterforce*

**3. Tech for Good:** Navigating AI & digital solutions

Lara Kornhauser, CEO & Co-founder, Stratify; Mavis Gragg, CEO & Founder, Heirshares; Yolanda McGill, Regulatory Attorney and *Shelterforce* Board Member

### **2:45 - 3:00: Break**

### **3:05 - 4:20 PM | Interactive Sessions** (*Choose One*)

**1. Intergenerational Leadership:** Ensuring strong succession

Jennifer Made, Co-Founder, Newark Community Action Network; Whitney Sarkodie, Marketing and Communications Associate, National Housing Conference

**2. Funders & Grantees:** Evolving philanthropy together

Reed Jordan, Director of Community Scholarships, NYC Kids Rise; Chloe Gurin-Sands, Program Officer, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation; Josie Faass, Executive Director, Progress and Poverty Institute

**3. Media & Advocacy:** Telling stories that create impact

Jesse Rabinowitz, Campaign and Communications Director, National Homelessness Law Center; Dr. Caitlin Krenn, Managing Director of Mental Health Services, The Door—A Center for Alternatives

## **Closing: The Road Ahead**

### **4:30 - 5:35 PM | Afternoon Keynote: Diane Yentel**

#### **Panel: The Future of Housing Justice**

- Mindy Fullilove, Social Psychiatrist; Chair of Community Health at University of Orange
- NJ State Senator Britnee N. Timberlake, 34<sup>th</sup> District, Executive Director Essex Community Land Trust
- George McCarthy, President and CEO, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy
- Diane Yentel, President and CEO, National Council of Nonprofits

Moderated by Miriam Axel-Lute, CEO/Editor-in-Chief, *Shelterforce*

### **5:40 - 7:00 PM | Closing Reception**

- Champagne toast to the future
- Networking, entertainment & celebration