

AGENDA

Day 2
Monday, July 28th

8:00 AM

Breakfast & Registration

Registration Desk / Caribbean Room

9:00 AM

Captain's Welcome & COMPASS Briefing

Caribbean Room

Hosted by:
COMPASS Cross Center Leadership

Start your conference experience with inspiration and insight. COMPASS leadership will reflect on the initiative's journey, highlight key impact milestones, and share a vision for what's ahead. This energizing session will set the tone for the conversations and connections to come.

10:15 AM

Transition Time

10:30 AM

Break Out Sessions

Break Out Rooms

Hosted by:
Kia Colbert, Emory University
Christopher Mathews, Emory University
Marcus Hawley, Wake Forrest University
Clifford Castleberry, AIDS United

Emory: Building Financial Resilience in Uncertain Times
Wake Forrest: Amplifying Faith-Based Voices and Partnerships for Justice, Healing, and the Elevation of Community Impact
AIDS United: Building Intersectional Movement Networks

12:00 PM

Lunch

Caribbean Room

1:00 PM

State of the Seas: Public Policy & HIV Initiatives

Caribbean Room

Hosted by:
Dafina Ward, Southern AIDS Coalition

Hear directly from a leading governmental agency about the current landscape of HIV initiatives. This session will offer valuable insights into national priorities, available resources, and how the administration's strategic direction aligns with community efforts on the ground.

Panelists: Representative Torrey Harris (Tennessee State House); Representative Daryl Campbell (Florida House of Representatives); Senator Rashaun Kemp (Georgia State Senate); and Senators Rodrick Hickman and Tamarra Washington (Mississippi State Senate).

2:15 PM

Ship's Log: Daily Reflections & Course Preview

Caribbean Room

Hosted by:
Stacy Smallwood, Wake Forrest University

Close out Day 1 with a fast, interactive recap of today's key takeaways across sessions. We'll connect the dots back to the conference goals, surface emerging themes and questions, and walk through what to expect tomorrow—so you're focused, aligned, and ready to dive in. Come prepared to share one insight or action you're taking forward.

2:30 PM

Ice Cream Sundae Break

Caribbean Room

3:30 PM

Networking Event

Lobby

Hosted by:
Masonia Traylor, Houston Coordinating Center
Clifford Castleberry, AIDS United

A dynamic nonprofit networking event designed to foster meaningful connections through three focused rounds: Regional Connection, Programmatic Focus, and Organizational Role.

Breakout Session Descriptions

Building Financial Resilience in Uncertain Times

Yacht Room

Hosted by:
Kia Colbert, Emory University
Christopher Mathews, Emory University

This interactive session will equip nonprofit leaders with tools to navigate financial uncertainty and build long-term sustainability. Participants will explore innovative approaches to funding, including diversified revenue streams and community-centered models. The session will also guide attendees in identifying potential financial risks and assessing organizational vulnerabilities. Through hands-on exercises and peer exchange, you'll gain practical strategies to adapt and respond to funding shifts. Walk away with a stronger financial strategy to support your mission in an evolving landscape.

Amplifying Faith-Based Voices and Partnerships for Justice, Healing, and the Elevation of Community Impact

Sailboat Room

Hosted by:
Marcus Hawley, Wake Forrest University

This session explores the role of faith-rooted justice in advancing community impact, healing, and equity. Participants will examine how faith and HIV intersect, and how spiritual frameworks can be used to reduce stigma and promote compassion. The workshop will highlight diverse approaches to building partnerships across faith communities and justice-centered movements. Attendees will engage in discussions and exercises to define faith-rooted justice and recognize its expression across various community contexts. Participants will also begin developing strategies to integrate storytelling and faith-based principles into their own community-driven initiatives.

Building Intersectional Movement Networks

Catamaran Room

Hosted by:
Clifford Castleberry, AIDS United

This session explores the power of coalition-based work to advance shared goals across movements and identities. Participants will define what makes an effective coalition and examine the benefits and challenges of working collaboratively. Through the lens of today's socio-political climate, the workshop will highlight how intersectional coalitions can drive meaningful change and build collective resilience. Attendees will engage in interactive exercises to strengthen skills in coalition-building and navigating real-world obstacles. The session offers practical tools and strategies for creating inclusive, justice-centered networks that amplify impact.

AGENDA

Day 3
Tuesday, July 29th

8:00 AM **Breakfast** **Caribbean Room**

9:00 AM **The Full COMPASS: Collective Impact Across the Collaboration** **Caribbean Room**

Hosted by:
Christopher Mathews, Emory University

Kick off the morning by exploring the impact of partnering with multiple Coordinating Centers. This panel will highlight the power of full engagement with COMPASS—and how cross-center collaboration is transforming communities across the South.

Panelist: Linda Stringfellow, Fabric Inc.; Cedric Sturdevant, CH-PIER; Shakita Jones, CAARAC; Elias Diaz, Egale Pass SAFE

10:15 AM **Transition Time**

10:30 AM **Break Out Sessions** **Breakout Rooms**

Hosted by:
Mardrequis Harris, Southern AIDS Coalition
Masonia Traylor, University of Houston

Southern AIDS Coalition: Coalition Building for Policy Resistance
Houston: Trauma-Informed Leadership Practices for Organizational Growth, Stronger Teams, and Community Power

12:00 PM **Lunch** **Caribbean Room**

1:00 PM **Voices from the Deck: Stories That Shift the Tide** **Caribbean Room**

Hosted by:
Candace Meadows, Emory University

Join us for a powerful multimedia experience featuring a series of short films that bring Southern narratives to life. Following the screening, engage in a dynamic talk-back with the artists behind the work as they reflect on their creative process, community connection, and the role of storytelling in movement-building.

Panelist: Crystalyn Winfield, Saint Paul AME; Ian Haddock, The Normal Anomaly; Kevin Anderson; The Truth Project; and Kerri Garrett, NB

2:30 PM **Popcorn Break** **Caribbean Room**

2:45 PM **Final Port of Call: Navigating the Future of Funding** **Caribbean Room**

Hosted by:
Marcus Stanley, University of Houston

Hear from funders and fundraising leaders across sectors on how nonprofits can adapt to a shifting landscape. Explore innovative funding models, strategic partnerships, and sustainable approaches to overcome funding challenges.

Panelist: Darwin Thompson, Gilead Sciences Inc.; Noelle Esquire, Elton John AIDS Foundation; Joelle Morales, Contigo Fund; Jordan Edwards, Normal Anomaly; Torrie Harris, Amplified Public Strategies

3:45 PM **Celebratory Close** **Caribbean Room**

Hosted by:
Christopher Mathews, Emory University

Following the final session, join us for a brief but memorable celebration that honors the unique spirit of our host city. This closing moment weaves in local culture and flavor—leaving participants inspired and grounded in a sense of place.

Breakout Session Descriptions

Coalition Building for Policy Resistance

Yacht Room

Hosted by:
Mardrequis Harris, Southern AIDS Coalition

This workshop focuses on the power of coalition-building as a strategy for resisting harmful policies and advancing community-led advocacy. Participants will explore their unique roles within coalitions and assess approaches that center lived experience and shared leadership. The session will offer practical tools for building and sustaining diverse, community-rooted partnerships. Through interactive activities, attendees will strengthen their ability to mobilize collective action and respond effectively to policy threats. By the end, participants will begin developing action plans to support long-term advocacy and resistance efforts.

Trauma-Informed Leadership Practices for Organizational Growth, Stronger Teams, and Community Power

Catamaran Room

Hosted by:
Masonia Traylor, University of Houston

This session explores how trauma impacts individuals, teams, and organizations working in the HIV space. Participants will examine key principles of trauma-informed leadership and how they can promote healing, resilience, and organizational wellness. The workshop will highlight how leadership rooted in compassion and shared power can strengthen internal culture and community trust. Attendees will engage with practical tools to foster psychological safety, support staff wellbeing, and lead with intention. By centering trauma-informed approaches, organizations can grow stronger, more connected, and more equipped to drive lasting change.