



TEDx
Worthington **Women**
BRIDGE BUILDERS

APRIL 9, 2026
PEGGY R. MCCONNELL ARTS CENTER
WORTHINGTON, OHIO

WELCOME

In a time of rapid change, we believe in the power of women to connect ideas, communities, and futures. Our theme, **Bridge Builders**, celebrates the women who don't just walk across divides - they create the paths for others to follow.

FEATURED
BRIDGE BUILDER
ALLIE VANATA GILL



Allie Vanata Gill is a jewelry entrepreneur and the creative visionary behind ALV Jewels. Founded in 2015, Allie blends craftsmanship and storytelling to bring fun designs to life as wearable art. She is passionate about empowering others to use their creativity and bringing her community together, always inspiring others to turn their dreams into reality.

You can shop ALV in person at their booth or the Columbus showroom!

ALV JEWELS



SCHEDULE

OPENING REMARKS **10:00 AM**

AMELIA MEI

MEGAN PANDO

MICHELLE WARNKY BUURMA

LACEY PICAZO

KATIE VIRTUE

NATALIE SISTON

COMMUNITY BREAK

DR. CALLIE MCADAMS

LUNCH **12:15PM**

MAUREEN O'BRIEN

CLAIRE EDWARDS

CAITLIN MENOSKY

COMMUNITY BREAK

REHGAN BLEILE

PAMELA CONN

ISANA SEBASTIAN

AMY NELSON

CLOSING REMARKS **3:15 PM**

AFTER THE EVENT, WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US AT PIN'S IN BRIDGEPARK

AMELIA MEI

EMCEE & SPEAKER

is a wellness entrepreneur, content creator, and the founder of CHI Heated Mat Pilates and creator of Always, a platform centered around breathwork, meditation, and self-love. With a rapidly growing social media presence, she shares movement, mindfulness, and personal growth with a highly engaged community. Amelia is a Forbes Under 30 honoree and a member of the Ulta Beauty Collective, recognized for her impact in the wellness and lifestyle space. She is also an Amazon-published author, having released her 365 Daily Self-Love Journal, which was named a Top 50 Best Seller in the Self-Care category in 2024. In 2025, Amelia opened Columbus' first dedicated heated mat Pilates studio, CHI, creating a space designed to bring movement, connection, and community together.





MEGAN PANDO

— SPEAKER

Megan Pando is the founder of Makers Social, a creative experiential craft-bar that blends hands-on making with socializing. Ever since she studied fine arts & entrepreneurship at the University of Cincinnati, she's been building businesses by thinking with her hands, embracing messy creativity, and failing forward. After her 2 brick-n-mortar businesses survived the pandemic, she landed a deal on Shark Tank in 2025 to begin scaling Makers Social. Megan now empowers others to stop asking for permission and start boldly building the business they've been dreaming about.



MICHELLE WARNKY BUURMA

— SPEAKER

is a 12 time Ninja Warrior competitor who has hit 4 season buzzers and won All-Stars with Team Matt. She is a motivational speaker and co-owner of Movement Lab Ohio, a ninja gym in Worthington. Michelle spent five years after college teaching English in Kazakhstan before stepping into the world of Ninja and Gym owning. Michelle has been blessed with a husband who is a vegetable farmer, and a child who was born 3 months premature, weighing under 2lbs. Michelle loves God and people, and aims to live her life serving both with love.



LACEY PICAZO

— SPEAKER

is the Founder and CEO of ZoCo, a healthcare product studio focused on driving real-world adoption in complex care environments. She helps organizations move beyond feature-driven thinking to design technology solutions grounded in human behavior, workflow realities, and the change required to make products stick.

KATIE VIRTUE

SPEAKER

is a recovering perfectionist and burnout coach who draws on her journey from Division 1 ice hockey player to corporate climber to world runner to help leaders escape the 100% trap and make sustainable impact. Through her Sustainable Performance Playbook and Energy Eval, she equips audiences with practical tools to reclaim focus, spark creativity, and lead effectively in demanding environments. Known for her energetic delivery (and the occasional rollerblade entrance), Katie helps leaders beat burnout, elevate performance, and build a purpose-driven identity that lasts.



NATALIE SISTON

SPEAKER

is a globally recognized mindset coach, keynote speaker, and bestselling author who helps women transform the thoughts shaping their leadership, work, and lives. Drawing on two decades spanning Fortune 100 leadership, entrepreneurship, and mental fitness, she bridges insight and action through her concept of Thought Blooms, inviting women to redefine leadership beyond titles, set boundaries that honor real life, and claim their creative voice with confidence. Shaped by her career and the daily leadership lessons of her two teenage daughters, Natalie reminds audiences that the most meaningful bridges we build in the world begin within ourselves.



DR. CALLIE MCADAMS

SPEAKER

is a breast surgical oncologist practicing within the Mount Carmel Health System. She completed her fellowship training in breast surgery at the University of Chicago and the Endeavor Health System. Dr. McAdams enjoys caring for women at every stage of life and is committed to providing compassionate, individualized care. She values education and enjoys empowering her patients and community to better understand their health.





MAUREEN O'BRIEN

— SPEAKER

A distinguished arts leader with a deep passion for community engagement, Maureen O'Brien joined the Columbus Symphony as CEO in July 2025, where she oversees all operations and spearheads an ambitious campaign to build a new home for the orchestra. Her career spans roles at New World Symphony, where she led a \$150 million campaign, the founding team of the Musical Instrument Museum in Phoenix, and positions at Midori & Friends and Orchestra of St. Luke's in New York City. A passionate musician herself, Maureen holds a double major in Music and French, is a Certified Fund Raising Executive, and was recognized by the Phoenix Business Journal as a member of the 2015 "40 Under 40" class.



CLAIRE EDWARDS

— SPEAKER

is a Morning Routine Coach + Writer + Speaker who helps 9-5ers unlock work/life balance with a powerful morning routine.

She has helped 900+ people through her coaching, workshops, and workbooks, and built a community of 3,800+ people across different platforms. She has hosted her signature Morning Routine Workshop at companies like Sherwin Williams, JM Smucker, Marzetti, and more.



REHGÁN BLEILE

— SPEAKER

A seasoned AI leader, Co-Founder and CEO of AlignAI, Rehgán helps highly regulated enterprises bring structure and clarity to how AI initiatives are evaluated, refined, and approved, enabling teams to innovate without sacrificing controls or compliance. With over a decade of experience and 50+ conference keynotes, she is a recognized voice shaping the conversation around enterprise AI governance, operating models, and organizational readiness. She is also the Founder of Women in Analytics and the DataConnect Conference, where she has spent a decade elevating diverse voices across data, analytics, and AI.

PAMELA CONN

— SPEAKER

A certified functional nutritionist, personal trainer, and 20-year wellness veteran, Pamela serves as Director of Volunteer & Corporate Engagement at Healthy New Albany, where she builds corporate partnerships and volunteer opportunities across Movement, Nature, Nourish, and Knowledge. She is also the founder of Columbus Fit Life, a corporate wellness expert, and a part-time professor at Otterbein University. A native of Ecuador, proud mother of two, and lifelong advocate for justice and equity, Pamela serves on the Board of Directors for Proyecto Mariposas and as a mentor for the Empowering Latinas Leadership Academy, known for creating welcoming experiences that connect people to meaningful service and measurable impact.



ISANA SEBASTIAN

— SPEAKER

is an entrepreneur and Columbus native whose work focuses on women's empowerment through creativity and collaboration. She is passionate about creating spaces where women can connect, create, and lead together.



AMY STERNER NELSON

— SPEAKER

is a battle-tested entrepreneur, strategist, and attorney who helps people navigate their highest-stakes moments, from career pivots to unexpected crises to big launches. A former corporate litigator, she founded The Riveter in 2017 while pregnant with her third daughter, raised \$30 million in venture capital, scaled to 150 employees across 10 locations, and rebuilt the company into a digital career and media platform for Millennial and Gen X women when the pandemic hit. A renowned storyteller, former Forbes columnist, and community of 500,000+, she architects strategies and crafts narratives for clients at their own inflection points and, following her own high-profile legal battle, has become a fierce advocate for justice issues across the country.



PERFORMANCE TALK

CAITLIN MENOSKY



A stand-up and sketch comedian based in Columbus, OH. Equally theatrical and sincere, Caitlin has a penchant for dark wordplay and sharing TMI tales of her life growing up in a religious family in rural Appalachia. She has performed with Don't Tell Comedy as well as at The Stand NYC and Second City Chicago. Caitlin has opened for Amber Autry, Natalie Cuomo, Bo Johnson, Jasmine Ellis and multiple games of Keno playing on the TV at her local dive bar. She'll tell anyone who will listen (and plenty who won't) about which regional sodas are worth the gas money to acquire.

VENDOR SPOTLIGHT

Holly McGinnis serves as Managing Member of McGinnis Enterprise, an experience brand company focused on creating thoughtful, welcoming concepts that bring people together. Her portfolio includes ZC Tea, Di Rizzo Mobile Bar, Letterman Sandwich Pop-up, Whick Candle Co, and additional ventures centered on connection, design, and everyday moments of joy. Holly's work blends hospitality, creativity, and community impact, building brands that feel personal while remaining scalable.

During TEDxWomen Worthington, ZC Tea will host a Matcha Happy Hour featuring \$5 matcha for attendees, featuring the tea house's top matcha flavors. Proceeds from the event special Lady Lavender matcha will support ROX, Ruling Our Experiences, advancing programs that help girls build confidence and leadership skills.



Denise Kebede is a wife, mother of four, and ICU nurse of 18 years who has dedicated her life to caring for others in their most critical moments. Through her work in healthcare, she witnessed firsthand the powerful role that nourishment plays in healing, energy, and overall well-being.

Inspired to continue serving others beyond the hospital walls, Denise founded Little Farm Peddler—now entering its third year—a mobile food business focused on bridging the gap in healthy, on-the-go eating. What began as a simple idea has grown into a community-centered brand offering clean, gluten-free and dairy-free options made with real ingredients.

Through Little Farm Peddler, Denise is on a mission to make nourishing food more accessible, proving that convenience and quality can coexist. Whether she's serving açai bowls at local markets or connecting with her community, she is passionate about helping others fuel their lives with intention, balance, and care.

ZC TEA



A message from the team:

TED^x

Worthington Women

TO OUR SPEAKERS, SPONSORS, PARTNERS, AND EVERY SINGLE PERSON IN THE ROOM—THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE.

THIS DAY WAS BUILT WITH SO MUCH INTENTION, AND IT ONLY COMES TO LIFE BECAUSE OF THIS COMMUNITY. THE IDEAS SHARED, THE STORIES TOLD, AND THE CONNECTIONS MADE TODAY ARE WHAT TRULY MAKE THIS EXPERIENCE SPECIAL.

WE HOPE YOU LEAVE FEELING INSPIRED, ENERGIZED, AND REMINDED OF THE IMPACT WE CAN HAVE—ESPECIALLY WHEN WE BUILD TOGETHER.



KRISTY
WEDEL



MACKENZIE
REYNOLDS



JANINE
GRAHAM

THANK YOU

to our sponsors

THE **W** NAIL BAR

THE W NAIL BAR IS A COLUMBUS-FOUNDED NAIL SALON OFFERING HIGH-QUALITY MANICURES, PEDICURES, GEL SERVICES, AND NATURAL NAIL CARE IN A CLEAN, WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT. SINCE OPENING IN 2015, IT HAS GROWN ACROSS THE MIDWEST WHILE STAYING ROOTED IN ITS MISSION THAT SELF-CARE SHOULD FEEL CLEAN, INTENTIONAL, AND COMMUNITY-DRIVEN. WITH 8 LOCATIONS IN COLUMBUS, THE COMPANY FOCUSES ON CREATING WELCOMING SPACES WHERE CLIENTS AND TEAM MEMBERS FEEL VALUED AND CONNECTED.



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