



Signature Speaking Topics

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Custom presentations are also available.

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Keynotes

The Thanking Business: Lessons from 100 Days of Gratitude

Gratitude isn't just a feel-good concept—it's the heart of nonprofit fundraising. When economic challenges, shifting priorities, and mounting demands weigh us down, gratitude keeps us grounded. Drawing from a 100-day experiment in thanking someone every day, this keynote explores how authentic appreciation can deepen donor relationships, energize your work, and transform the way your organization connects with its community.

Shades of Grey: Ethical Fundraising in Changing Times

Black. White. Right. Wrong. It's easy to tell the difference, right? As your nonprofit career progresses, the "grey" areas become more frequent and complex. How do you navigate accountability, public trust, and transparency in today's evolving landscape? Through real-world examples and practical frameworks, we'll equip you with tools to make confident, ethical decisions in challenging situations.

Fiercely Authentic: Staying True to Your Personal Brand

In today's hyperconnected world, every move you make—online and off—is under the microscope. Your personal brand isn't just a buzzword; it's the foundation of how others perceive your leadership. This keynote dives into the elements of a powerful personal brand, showing you how to own your narrative, use social media and traditional channels effectively, and embrace authenticity. Because when you're truly yourself, you don't just lead—you inspire.

The House of Philanthropy: Creating a Framework for Cross-Cultural Giving

Philanthropy isn't one-size-fits-all. It's a dynamic reflection of the rich tapestry of cultures and traditions that shape how people give. To thrive in today's increasingly diverse landscape, fundraisers need to understand what drives different communities—and adapt their strategies accordingly. This session unpacks the language, motivations, and relationships that define cross-cultural giving and offers actionable techniques to build fundraising programs that resonate deeply and inclusively.

The Art of Letting Go: Lessons from Leadership Transitions

Change is hard, but it doesn't have to be messy. Leadership transitions are inevitable, and with intergenerational shifts sweeping through the nonprofit sector, the stakes have never been higher. Drawing from real-world successes and struggles, this session explores how to honor what came before while paving the way for future growth. Learn how to set the stage for a new chapter that builds on the past without being bound by it.

Workshops

Board Development and Leadership

How to Survive Your Board

Most board members sign up to make a difference, but every now and then, you'll run into the "problem children"—"The Know-It-All," "The Social Butterfly," "The Eternal Pessimist," and more. Letting these behaviors slide might feel easier, but it can derail your board's effectiveness. In this interactive workshop, we'll break down these troublesome archetypes, uncover their motivations, and explore what a healthy board culture could look like for your organization. You'll walk away with tools to inspire champions of change and practical strategies to address challenges—even when you're not the one in charge.

The Accidental Fundraiser: Tips and Tricks for Board Members Who Never Wanted to Fundraise in the First Place

You joined a nonprofit board because you're passionate about the mission—not because you wanted to fundraise. But now, here you are, being asked to step up. Take a deep breath—it's not as scary as it sounds. This session breaks down the mystery of fundraising, helping you find your best role in the process, craft impactful messages about your organization's work, and even find joy in the "ask." By the end, fundraising will feel less like a chore and more like a way to truly make a difference.

Communication

Storytelling: Communicating Your Mission with Infectious Passion

No one ever gave to an organization because of a PowerPoint slide. So why do people contribute to a cause? Because their passion for making a difference has been ignited! You can help ignite a donor's passion for your cause through the fundamentals of storytelling. Whether you're telling the story through a grant proposal, a video message, a radio announcement, or one-on-one, you can use storytelling structure to help your donor see their role in making your mission a success.

Small Shops

Fundraising for People with No Time to Fundraise

Working in a small shop can feel like running on a hamster wheel—nonstop demands, limited resources, and little time to think beyond today. But even the smallest organizations can create fundraising programs that grow resources and make a case for expanding your team. This session is packed with practical tips to help you do more with less, prioritize what really matters, and show why investing in development is a smart move for your mission.

Planning, Assessment, and Practical Strategies

The Velvet Rope: Creating Effective Special Events

Tired of the same old chicken dinners and half-empty ballrooms? So are your donors. Let's shake things up. This session teaches you how to create an event experience that feels exclusive, exciting, and aligned with your mission. Whether it's a swanky gala or a laid-back picnic, you'll learn how to identify what your audience really wants and deliver an experience that leaves them saying, "Wow, I can't wait for next year!"

Management, Leadership, and Trends

Fostering a Growth Mindset in Difficult Times

Collaboration, resilience, and commitment—these are the hallmarks of a team with a growth mindset, and they’re exactly what every nonprofit needs to thrive. But when times are tough, how do you keep your team motivated and forward-thinking? This session dives into Dr. Carol Dweck’s pioneering research on mindset and translates it into actionable steps for building a growth-oriented culture. Using real-world examples, we’ll explore how embracing a growth mindset can help your team not just survive but thrive through any challenge.

Handling Change When Humans Are Involved

Change is rarely straightforward, especially when people are part of the equation. Whether it’s a major restructuring, a new initiative, or shifting donor priorities, guiding your team through uncertainty takes skill and intention. This workshop tackles the human side of change, exploring its stages, common personality archetypes, and strategies for keeping your team motivated and on track. Walk away with practical tools to help your organization adapt, innovate, and succeed in an ever-changing world.

Understanding Philanthropy Across Generations

Here’s the truth: Millennials aren’t lazy, Gen Z isn’t entitled, Gen X isn’t invisible, and Boomers aren’t out of touch. Each generation in the philanthropic world brings its own strengths—and challenges. If you’re still marketing like you did 20 years ago, it’s time to rethink your strategy. In this session, we’ll break down what makes each generation tick, what motivates them to give, and how you can use this knowledge to create fundraising programs that engage everyone—from seasoned Boomers to often-overlooked Gen Xers to activist Gen Zers.