

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Dázon Dixon Diallo, DHL, MPH

Dázon Dixon Diallo is a recognized visionary and advocate in the struggle for human rights through sexual and reproductive health, rights and justice, and the fight against HIV, STIs and Gender-based Violence. Dázon is Founder and President of SisterLove, Inc, established in 1989, the first women's HIV, Sexual and Reproductive Justice organization in the southeastern United States. She is a proud member of In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda Partnership, where she advocates for sexual and reproductive health, rights and justice in public health and prevention policies and programs. Dázon has built a deep reach with a diverse community of listeners for 27 years, as producer and host of a weekly radio program

focused on Black women. She is a member of the Women-At-Risk Subcommittee and the Scientific Advisory Group of the HIV Prevention Trials Network, UNFPA Global Advisory Council, the Women's Research Initiative and a founding member of SisterSong Reproductive Justice Collective. She is the creator and convener of the Prevention Options for Women at Risk-POWaR-Partnership and WomenNOW! PowerShift for SRHRJ for Girls & Women of African Descent worldwide. Dr. Diallo is a co-chair for the Act Now: End AIDS National Coalition. Dr. Diallo holds a Master's Degree in Public Health from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and a Bachelor's Degree from Spelman College. In 2012, Dr. Diallo had the distinct honor to receive an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from her alma mater, Spelman College. In the HIV/STI and sexual/reproductive justice arenas she has been accredited for developing and implementing "Healthy Love". In 1999, Dázon opened SisterLove in South Africa. Dázon continues to learn and to lead in the fight for sexual, reproductive, gender, racial, and economic justice with authenticity, transparency and integrity.

Gloria Searson, ACSW

Gloria Searson has over 25 years of professional experience working in the field of HIV and hepatitis C. She was employed by a leading organization in treatment education, NATAP for 10 years. Gloria went on to work with all types of populations including women, men who have sex with men (MSM), transgender persons, and seniors. Throughout her career, she worked as a treatment educator and director of treatment education, as an advocacy relations manager, supervised an HIV clinic serving over 800 patients, and as director of community health. Gloria Searson formed COPE, the Coalition on Positive Health Empowerment, in 2010 after working as a supervisor at North General Hospital. Gloria is considered an expert in the field and has experience in public health, for-profit business, and nonprofit organizations giving her multiple perspectives in the field of HIV and HCV.



Phil Wilson

*Founder and managing director of Artists and Activists for Health Equity
Producer of Dance for Life Festival for Health Equity
Founder of Black AIDS Institute*



Phill Wilson is an African American HIV/AIDS activist who founded the Black AIDS Institute in 1999 to promote awareness and prevent the spread of AIDS in Black communities by engaging and mobilizing Black institutions and individuals. Wilson served as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Black AIDS Institute for over 20 years. Wilson attended Illinois Wesleyan University, where he earned his

B.F.A. in theater and a B.A. in Spanish literature. In 1982, he moved to Los Angeles with his partner, Chris Brownlie. They joined the National Association of Black and White Men Together – a gay multicultural, anti-racism organization committed to fostering supportive environments wherein racial and cultural barriers could be overcome and the goal of human equality realized. However, the developing AIDS crisis would spur Wilson's increased activism: He and Chris were both diagnosed with the disease in the early 1980s. (Chris died of HIV – related illnesses in 1989.) In 1990, Wilson became a special assistant to Mayor Tom Bradley, working as the AIDS Coordinator for Los Angeles. From 1990 to 1995, he served as the co-chair of the Los Angeles HIV Health Commission. In 1995, he was appointed by President William Jefferson Clinton as a member of the Department of Health and Human Services' HRSA AIDS Advisory Commission. In 2010, President Obama appointed Wilson to his President's Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS. Wilson has said that, when he dies, he hopes people will remember him for not giving up. His biggest fear is that the Black community will give up fighting AIDS before the pandemic is over. Wilson has served as a trustee for amfAR: The Foundation for AIDS Research.