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## Future of Children Summit

June 8, 2023 | 10:00AM CT

[Register here](#)

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[Dr. Bob Sanborn](#) – President & CEO, CHILDREN AT RISK

Dr. Sanborn is a noted leader, advocate, and activist for education and children and the President and CEO of CHILDREN AT RISK. He earned his undergraduate degree at Florida State University and his doctorate at Columbia University in New York City. Before entering the non-profit sector, he had a distinguished career in higher education at institutions such as Rice University and Hampshire College. Under his leadership, CHILDREN AT RISK has expanded its influence considerably. Notable achievements include opening up centers in Dallas and Fort Worth; launching the Public Policy & Law Center, the CHILDREN AT RISK Institute, the Center for Parenting and Family Well-Being and the Center to End Trafficking and Exploitation of Children. Sanborn is the Executive Editor of two peer reviewed, open-access academic journals, the Journal of Applied Research on Children and the Journal of Family Strengths. He is also the host of the popular radio program and podcast Growing Up in America on the Pacifica Radio Network.



[Nicola Springer, AIA, LEED AP](#) – Executive Vice President,  
Director of PK-12 Projects, Kirksey Architecture

Nicola Springer, AIA, LEED AP, is an Executive Vice President and the Director of pK-12 Projects at Kirksey Architecture. With over 21 years of educational design experience, Nicola believes that architecture should be a learning tool that inspires creativity, engages users, and promotes a healthy and happy life. Her projects have received many accolades including LEED Platinum for the Burnett Bayland Gym in Houston, as well multiple AIA Houston Design Awards and the prestigious TASA/TASB Caudill Award for Texas School Architecture. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Architecture from Princeton University and a Master of Architecture from Rice University. Nicola has spoken professionally on the influences and advances of 21st century learning and sustainable design in schools at Regional and National A4LE Conferences as well as Gulf Coast Green, The Green School National Conference, the TxA Annual Convention.



[Alex Whittington](#) – Futurist, Tata Consultancy Services

Alexandra Whittington is a futurist and visionary strategist who has dedicated her career to exploring the intersections of emerging technologies, social change, and global trends. With over a decade of experience in the field of foresight, she has become known for her ability to anticipate and forecast the implications of cutting-edge developments. Whittington's interest in futurism began early in her academic career when she pursued a degree in anthropology. She went on to earn a master's in strategic foresight from The University of Houston (UH), where she developed her expertise in scenario planning, trend analysis, and horizon scanning. She also served as a UH foresight faculty member from 2010-2022. Throughout her career, Whittington has worked with a diverse range of clients across industries, including Fortune 500 companies, government agencies, and non-profit organizations. Her insights and foresight have helped shape long-term strategies and innovation roadmaps for organizations. In addition to her consulting work, Whittington is a sought-after speaker and thought leader. She has delivered keynotes and presentations at conferences and events around the world, including TEDx. Forbes recognized her as one of the world's top women futurists. Alex is committed to promoting a more equitable and sustainable future. She believes that technology can be a powerful force for positive change, but only if it is developed and deployed with a strong sense of social responsibility. Through her work, she aims to inspire and empower individuals and organizations to take an active role in shaping the future they want to see.



[Sharon Watkins Jones](#) – Chief Equity Officer, CHILDREN AT RISK

Sharon Watkins Jones is the Chief Equity Officer at Children at Risk. Her career has included positions of leadership in public affairs and higher education administration. She is a former Director of Political Strategies at ACLU of Texas and Director of Career and Technical Education at Lone Star College System. She is also the owner of WatkinsJones political consulting. Sharon was born and raised in Waco, Texas and received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from The University of Texas at Austin. Sharon volunteers extensively. She is an advocate for GirlTrek, a black women's wellness organization. She is a life member of NAACP, a member of The Links, Inc., Texas Spring Cypress Chapter and has been a member of Delta Sigma Theta Public Service Sorority, Inc for 35 years.



[Tracie Jae](#) – Lead Rebel, The Quiet Rebel

In business and in life, Tracie Jae is The Quiet Rebel. Her work in the world is creating incremental and organic shifts to the status quo. In her work, she centers humans, celebrates differences and honors lived experiences. The expertise of her proprietary approach is based on evidence-based practices in clinical and cognitive psychology, communications research, and focusing on what makes us fully human, at both our best and worst. Tracie holds a BA in Business Management and MA in Strategic Communication and Leadership. She is a lifelong Houstonian and proud mother of three adult daughters.



[Addie Lentzner](#) – Executive Fellow and Student Activist, Our Turn

Addie (she/her) is a youth advocate, activist, and first year college student at Middlebury College in Vermont, USA. She is the founder of the Vermont Student Anti-Racism Network, a group of students working to build anti-racist schools through designing curriculum, leading lessons with students, donating books to schools, and working on policy advocacy. She is an Executive Fellow with Our Turn, an education nonprofit whose mission is to uplift student voices in the fight for education justice. Aside from education and anti-racism, Addie has worked on policy advocacy around homelessness and housing and succeeded in reinstating policy that kept individuals experiencing homelessness housed for multiple years. She is dedicated to uplifting youth voices in meaningful ways to make the change we urgently need.



[Arshia Papari](#) – Programs Fellow, Our Turn

Arshia Papari is a University of Texas at Austin student, majoring in Government. With a passion for politics and policy, Arshia began his political journey as a Student Leader and Cadre Member with Our Turn in the summer of 2022, where motivated by his own educational experiences, he led testimony action at the Texas State Board of Education to bring about censor and fallacy free social studies curriculum. Arshia continued his efforts to ensure truthful and complete social studies education for Texas students as an Our Turn Organizing Fellow, throughout the 88th Texas legislative session, creating a legislative effort to address these issues. Arshia continues his work in educational politics, and policy, as well as youth development currently, as an Our Turn Programs Fellow. Arshia is also continuing his broader work on policy and political actions with several legislative and political groups. Arshia understands the power and position of youth in establishing the future and is committed to using his abilities to impact social and political development, with a hope of making international impact for positive political progression.



[Audrey Rowland](#) – Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Green Space Learning

Audrey Rowland has over 20 years of experience as an early childhood professional. Drawing from her expertise as a teacher and administrator, Audrey provides professional development and creates educational resources for early educators, administrators, parents, and policymakers. She founded Green Space Learning in 2015, providing early childhood professional development for educators and creating play-based indoor and outdoor learning environments for early childhood programs. An engaging speaker and trainer, Audrey translates information into practical applications. Audrey holds an MS degree from the University of North Texas in Child Development and Family Studies and an MBA from Texas Woman's University. She is a Master Trainer with the Texas Early Childhood Professional Development System (#1743).



[Linda Corchado](#) – Director, Children's Immigration Network, CHILDREN AT RISK

Linda Corchado is the Director of the Children's Immigration Network for Children at Risk. She has worked in many capacities in immigration advocacy and has attributed much of her success to having a person-centered approach while working across the aisle with law enforcement and government officials. As an attorney from El Paso, Texas, she has been at the forefront of key legal battles on the border ranging from the separation of families under Zero Tolerance to advocating for the end of expulsions of unaccompanied minors and reforming our immigration court system. She has served on multiple coalitions, working groups and task forces on immigration policy and reform. In her new role at Children at Risk, Linda is looking forward to making a statewide impact, build broader coalitions and engage more partners to advocate for all immigrant families across Texas. She is the former Director of Legal Services at Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center. Her work has been featured in The New Yorker, The Los Angeles Times and El Paso Matters. Ms. Corchado received her B.A. in Political Science and Latin American Studies at Swarthmore College and received her law degree from Cardozo Law School in New York City. She currently lives in El Paso, Texas.



[Cynthia Osborne, PhD](#) – Founder and Executive Director, Prenatal-to-3 Policy Impact Center, Vanderbilt University

Cynthia Osborne, PhD is a Professor of Early Childhood Education and Policy in the Department of Leadership, Policy, and Organizations at the Peabody College of Education and Human Development at Vanderbilt University. She is also the founder and executive director of the national Prenatal-to-3 Policy Impact Center, an academic research center that translates the science of the developing child into state level policies with the strongest evidence base of effectiveness. She was an appointed member of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's Committee On Building An Agenda To Reduce The Number Of Children In Poverty By Half In 10 Years and is currently serving on another NASEM committee, Exploring the Opportunity Gap for Young Children Birth to Age 8. Osborne holds a Ph.D. in demography and public affairs from Princeton University, a Master in Public Policy degree from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, and a Master of Arts in education from Claremont Graduate University.

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