

TRAILBLAZING INSTITUTE

Creating and Sustaining
Inner Transformation,
Partnerships, and
Social Justice



ARE YOU READY?

Many of us yearn for a more just world, one in which people of all genders, faiths, races and cultures live harmoniously and express their uniqueness together. But how do we make strides towards this vision?

Join us at the Trailblazing Conference, where you will learn practices that sustain inner transformation, partnerships and social justice and practice translating the vision for peace and justice into a reality.

The Trailblazing Conference
Thursday October 12 -
Sunday October 15, 2023
Held at the [Forrest Hills Resort](#),
in beautiful Dahlonega, Georgia.

The resort is set in the North Georgia mountains, just 1.5 hours from the Atlanta airport and surrounded by rivers, waterfalls and forests. Nature, lovely accommodations and delicious meals will provide a nurturing setting for our work and play together. There will be a shuttle transport option for travel from the airport to the retreat center and back.

TRANSFORMATIONAL PRACTICES

The conference introduces three practices that empower us in a new way of being, leading and collaborating:

- The Be Present Empowerment Model®
- Wisdom Spiritual Practices
- Transformative Money Practices

These practices empower you to:

- Address intersectional issues of race, gender, power, class
- Build strong relationships among people with diverse backgrounds, experiences, viewpoints and values
- Receive support in a community of practice
- Create systems of support and practices to bring into life, family, community, and workplace.

The conference is highly participatory and experiential, fun and interactive. It integrates many learning styles and engages children, youth and adults together in a shared learning process. You will also have an opportunity to share your artistry such as dance, spoken word, art and song.

We hope you will join us!

Before coming, I've been battling with fear and despair about myself, my ability to live my life, and my ability to manifest my dreams. That I can say this right now is amazing. I've been invited by this group to be out loud about it.

~Trailblazing Institute Participant

YOUR CONFERENCE FACILITATORS

We are a cohort of diverse ages, genders, identities, races, classes, faiths, and spiritual backgrounds, and we recently completed an 18-month training, entitled the **Trailblazing Institute**. The Institute is an experiential process designed as 6 sessions of learning and infusion of the Be Present Empowerment Model®, Wisdom spiritual practices, and transformative money practices into our personal and professional lives. Over the 18 months, the group transformed from being individuals from diverse backgrounds to a collaborative community of practice, and ultimately to Conference facilitators.

During the Conference, the facilitators will collaborate to share lessons learned about what it truly takes to expand self-knowledge, learn and embody the practices, collaborate across differences, and engage in transformative action for justice in our everyday lives. This includes infusing the practices in the fields of medicine, DEI, philanthropy, leadership, spirituality, and others. By taking part in this Conference, you will:

- Gain interpersonal and intrapersonal skills to use in your lives, relationships, and within your families.
- Experience an intentional approach to collaboration to bring to your community and partnerships.

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The Conference will begin on Thursday evening, October 12th, and end on Sunday afternoon, October 15th. The agenda will include large group sessions, small group time, a Creativity Night, and time for play and restoration on the gorgeous grounds of Forrest Hills Retreat Center.

Welcome to a community of practice!
We will welcome you into our intimate learning community. Together, we will practice a way of listening, being and communicating that enhances our capacity for understanding, conscious listening, and effective collaboration.

"THE TRAILBLAZING INSTITUTE HAS BEEN WONDERFUL; MY HEART IS OPEN..."

~TRAILBLAZING INSTITUTE PARTICIPANT



TRAILBLAZING 18-MONTH INSTITUTE PARTICIPANTS

TRAILBLAZING PRACTICES

The Be Present Empowerment Model® provides a safe environment where people can explore how their personal histories and the social contexts of issues such as race, gender and religion influence and affect our attitudes and behaviors toward each other.

The model fosters understanding of how these behaviors manifest in relationships, communities and institutions and create the systems in which we live. LEARN MORE

The model's three dynamic, interrelated realms are:

- Knowing ourselves outside the distress of oppression
- Listening to others in a conscious and present state
- Building effective relationships and sustaining true alliances

Wisdom Spiritual Practices flow from the Christian Wisdom tradition, and they are inclusive of all spiritual backgrounds and



TRAILBLAZING 18-MONTH INSTITUTE PARTICIPANTS

beliefs. Used for centuries, contemplative practices such as meditation and sacred reading support an inner shift of consciousness and an opening of the heart. This opening inspires us to embody love in the world, on the personal, communal, and systemic levels. Practices include:

- Centering Prayer (a form of meditation)
- Lectio Divina (sacred reading)
- Sacred Chant

Transformative Money Practices create root-level transformation at the personal, communal and systemic levels through:

- Financial transparency: open conversations about money, within ourselves and with others in our families, communities, and organizations
- Authentic dialogue: exploring race, gender, power and class and how they affect our experiences of giving, asking and receiving
- Learning to align our vision, values, and actions with money



WISDOM & MONEY BOARD AND STAFF

ABOUT THE TRAILBLAZING CO-CREATORS

Be Present, Inc.® is rooted in the vision and leadership of Black women and girls, beginning with Lillie P. Allen, who partnered with diverse people to create a movement for sustainable change that serves everyone in our communities.

We are a diverse network of people willing to risk being different with one another, our families, communities, workplaces and organizations.

We are committed to a process that builds community well-being on the strength of self- knowledge rather than on the distress of oppression.

Because we believe that enduring progressive change begins with and is sustained by persistent personal growth, we bring to people a model for personal and organizational effectiveness that replaces silence with information, assumptions with a diversity of insights, and powerlessness with a sense of personal responsibility.

Be Present's work advances a more just world by supporting people to become more effective leaders in creating thriving families, schools, organizations, workplaces, and communities by:

- Teaching the Be Present Empowerment Model®
- Providing training and ongoing systems of support
- Building a diverse network of locally organized and nationally connected social change leaders
- Collaborating with other social justice organizations



Lillie Allen, Founder, Be Present, Inc.® & Be Present Empowerment Model®

At Wisdom & Money, we believe that exploring our relationship with money is a powerful spiritual practice that can lead to inner and outer transformation.

Together in circles, retreats, workshops and writings, we explore the following questions with people of wealth:

- How do you align your relationship to money with your spiritual values?
- How can money foster justice and flow in alignment with spirit and love?

To engage these questions, we share contemplative spiritual practices from the Christian Wisdom tradition. Wisdom practices such as meditation, silence, and sacred reading are inclusive of all spiritual backgrounds, and they support an inner shift of consciousness. This shift opens the heart, inspiring us to create communities and systems that embody love in the world.

Given the world's injustice— especially around money—we teach and draw from practices that support the development of equitable and sustainable partnerships. We use the Be Present Empowerment Model® to help participants see themselves as an integral part of what is and what must be changed. In this way, we open the doorway to personal and social transformation.



Rose Feerick, Co-Director
Wisdom & Money

REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS AND COSTS

SPACE IS LIMITED TO 100 PARTICIPANTS. WE ENCOURAGE EARLY REGISTRATION TO SECURE YOUR SPOT.

1. CAREFULLY READ THROUGH THE SLIDING FEE SCALE GUIDELINES (PAGE 6).
2. COMPLETE THE [REGISTRATION PROCESS](#) AT THE BOTTOM OF THE WEBSITE PAGE AND THEN SCROLL DOWN AND **CLICK THE MAKE A PAYMENT BUTTON TO COMPLETE YOUR REGISTRATION.** (YOU CAN ALSO COMPLETE THE ONLINE REGISTRATION PROCESS AND THEN MAIL A CHECK TO BE PRESENT, INC., 925 MAIN STREET, SUITE 300-112, STONE MOUNTAIN, GA 30083.)
3. **NOTE: EACH CHILD/YOUTH AGE 4 AND OVER MUST HAVE A SEPARATE REGISTRATION COMPLETED BY A PARENT.**
4. COMPLETE THE [CHILD REGISTRATION FORM](#) FOR CHILDREN YOU ARE BRINGING THAT ARE AGE 3 AND YOUNGER.

SLIDING FEE SCALE

We are committed to having participants that represent a broad spectrum of our diverse communities. All participants contribute to and benefit from the experience. It is important that money does not create a barrier to anyone attending the Trailblazing Conference. If you want to attend, we want you there!

The sliding fee scale offers guidelines to determine your registration fee. You are not required to use these guidelines, but they are offered to support consciousness around paying what you can. We are available to help you determine your registration fee. If desired, please reach out to set up a call or Zoom meeting here: info@bepresent.org.

You are already engaging in one of our practices (Transformational Money Practice) now as you determine your registration fee! We encourage you to notice what arises as you reflect upon your fee.

As part of our practice of Financial Transparency, we share the Conference costs for your consideration:

The actual cost per person to attend the conference is \$1,435. For registration payments less than this amount, the Trailblazing Collaborative covers the difference between the registration and the actual cost. The Collaborative also contributes significant in-kind time and resources. We ask that you pay at the highest rate possible for you. This helps make it possible for participants to attend from all levels of income or financial resources.

Registration fee includes training, overnight accommodations, and meals. If you are requesting a single room, there is an additional cost of \$200 per person, per night. All fees are non-refundable

What Trailblazing Institute participants are saying about the Transformational Money practices.....

"I am able to examine the way that money was introduced to me through the things I observed as a child with my relatives and how they would respond in trying to get the things they needed and wanted. Really revealing, I had never had that knowing."

"I have always been in distress about money so being able to talk about it fully was healing."

SLIDING FEE SCALE GUIDELINES

ADULT – Individual (per person)

Annual Income	Total Registration Fee
Under \$55,000	\$750-\$900
\$56,000 – \$69,999	\$1,000 - \$1,300
\$70,000 – \$89,999	\$1,400 to \$1,900
\$90,000 – \$149,999	\$2,000 to \$2,600
\$150,000 or more	\$2,700+

Sliding Scale Guidelines for Youth (Age 4 – 12) + Full-time Students
\$500

Child (age 3 and under) – Be our guest

Note: Children and youth must attend with a registered adult.

ADULT – Organization (per person)

Organizations registering 3 or more people pay \$1800 per person

Organization's Annual Operating Budget	Total Registration Fee
Under \$99,000	\$1,800
\$100,000 – \$499,999	\$2,600
\$500,000 – \$1,999,999	\$3,800
\$2 million – \$4,999,999	\$5,200

AND IN THE WORDS OF SOME OF THE INSTITUTE PARTICIPANTS...



"Words cannot express the deepness I have felt watching the movement of us in the spirit and in community..."

"(I am) so encouraged to see and hear other people's experiences and sit with them as I sat with my own. I had so much more hope towards the learning and growing that is possible related to understanding money."

"I felt comfortable in the group - I normally wouldn't talk; that felt nice."

"In knowing myself outside the distress of oppression, I am currently working on holding myself in my knowing of myself as a powerful, self willed, loving woman."

"It has felt like an act of courage to use the model but a transformational experience that has resulted in powerful shifts in relationships."

"Practicing feels easier in a group setting; the energy helps carry me."



CONTRIBUTE TO OUR VISION

IF YOU ARE INSPIRED TO CONTRIBUTE TO OUR WORK BEYOND YOUR REGISTRATION FEE, WE INVITE YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FLOW OF GIFT. [CLICK HERE](#) TO MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TO THE WORK OF BE PRESENT.

PLEASE ALSO CONSIDER MAKING A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TO SUPPORT THE TRAILBLAZING SCHOLARSHIP FUND TO ENSURE THE CONFERENCE IS ACCESSIBLE TO ALL. TO MAKE A DONATION, REVIEW THE PAYMENT OPTIONS BELOW:

I want to [pay my donation online here](#)

(indicate that you have a special purpose (TRAILBLAZING) for your donation)
OR

Please make checks payable to:

Be Present, Inc. and mail to
Be Present, Inc.

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