



COMMUNITY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION CONFERENCE

2024



Welcome to the 2024 Community Violence Intervention Conference!

We are excited to have you join us in our shared mission to uplift community-led strategies to reduce violence.

Over the next two days, our dynamic program will provide a platform for meaningful conversations, knowledge sharing, and collaborative action. We invite you to bring your unique experiences, insights, and ideas to this space as we work to shape the future of the field of community violence intervention.

As we come together, we must recognize the resilience and strength within our communities. This conference is an opportunity to harness our collective power, forge new connections, and develop strategies that will make a tangible difference in the lives of those affected by violence. Your presence here is a testament to your commitment to building safer, more vibrant communities. Together, we can challenge the status quo, advocate for change, and create a brighter future for generations to come.

Thank you for your dedication, passion, and belief in the power of community-led solutions. Let us use this conference as a catalyst for transformative action and a celebration of the incredible work being done both nationally and internationally to save lives.

In gratitude and solidarity,

The team at GIFFORDS Center for Violence Intervention

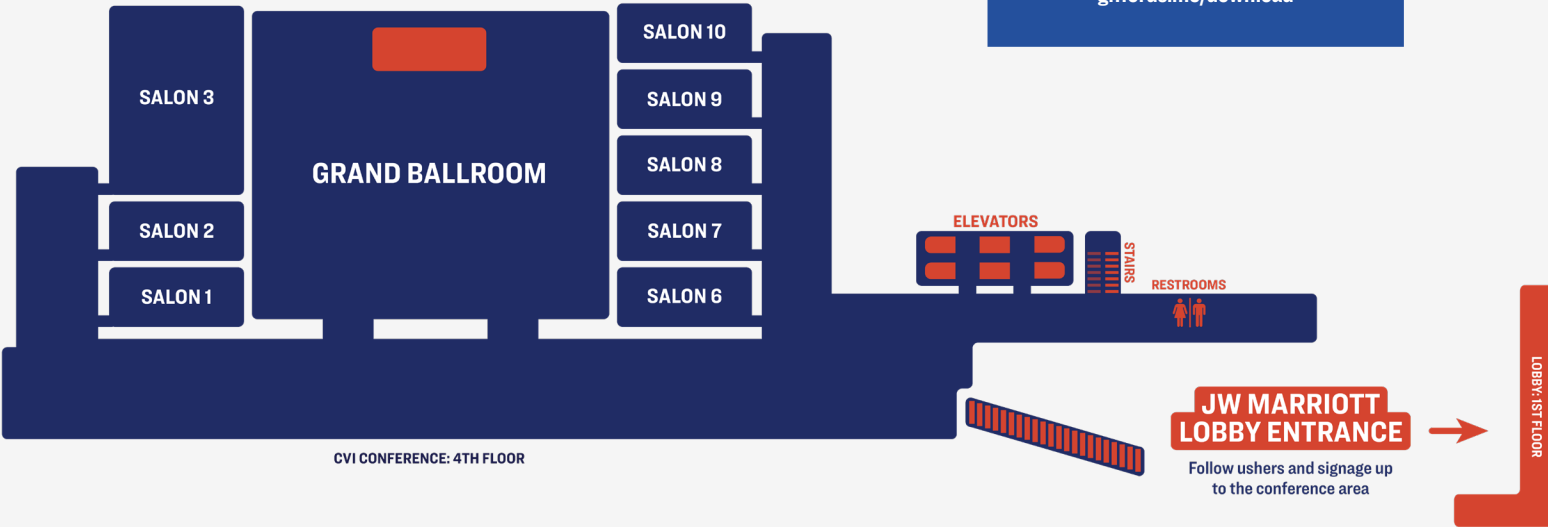
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CODE OF CONDUCT

The 2024 Community Violence Intervention (CVI) Conference is dedicated to providing a safe, inclusive, and productive environment for all attendees, fostering collaboration and a sense of community among those committed to reducing violence and promoting peace. We strive to create a welcoming atmosphere for everyone, regardless of gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, immigration status, religion, disability, physical appearance, and career level, among other attributes. All individuals participating in the conference, in any capacity, are expected to adhere to this Code of Conduct. This Code of Conduct applies to all aspects of the conference experience, including events organized by third parties in conjunction with the CVI Conference, regardless of location or setting.

Expected Behavior

1. Treat all individuals with respect and empathy, recognizing the vulnerability and courage required to engage in discussions about violence.
2. Practice active listening when others share personal stories and experiences to cultivate a safe space for open dialogue that embraces humility, openness to learning, and adherence to the values reflected in the conference code of conduct.
3. Foster a spirit of collaboration and mutual support among attendees from diverse backgrounds, disciplines, and perspectives.
4. Engage in respectful and constructive discussions, focusing on issues and ideas rather than individuals, and be mindful of the impact of your words and actions on others.
5. Adhere to the rules and policies of the conference venue, hotels, and any other associated locations.

Unacceptable Behavior

1. Any form of harassment, intimidation, or discrimination, whether verbal, physical, or written, is prohibited. This includes sexual harassment, which refers to unwelcome sexual advances, comments about physical appearance, repeated requests for a date, and other forms of verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature.
2. Unacceptable behavior also includes, but is not limited to: stalking, following, making threats or engaging in threatening behavior, and the use of physical violence and disruptive behavior that interferes with conference proceedings or hinders others' ability to feel comfortable participating fully in the space.

Consequences

1. Attendees asked to stop any unacceptable behavior should do so promptly and respectfully.
2. Organizers may issue warnings or request the immediate removal of participants without refund.
3. Organizers reserve the right to inform an individual's supervisor regarding the details of the incident.
4. Organizers reserve the right to deny access to future events based on the severity of misconduct.

Reporting Unacceptable Behavior

1. If you experience or witness any unacceptable behavior, please report to the Help Desk and speak to a Giffords staff member, contact Giffords Help through the Whova app, or email your concern to cvi-conference@giffords.org as soon as possible. Reports will be treated with discretion and confidentiality to the extent possible while ensuring a thorough investigation by conference organizers.
2. Organizers will take appropriate steps to address the situation and support those affected.
3. Retaliation against individuals who report unacceptable behavior in good faith will not be tolerated.

DAY 1 SCHEDULE

Monday — June 24

7:30 am	Registration opens	
9:00 am	Welcome Speakers <i>Paul Carrillo (GIFFORDS Center for Violence Intervention)</i> <i>Ambassador Candace Bond (US Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago)</i> <i>Melvyn Hayward (The City of Los Angeles Mayor’s Office of Gang Reduction and Youth Development)</i>	Grand Ballroom
10:00 am	PLENARY SESSION 1 Meet the Author: “In These Streets: Reporting from the Frontlines of Inner City Gun Violence” <i>Josiah Bates (Author), Kristopher McLucas (GIFFORDS Center for Violence Intervention)</i>	Grand Ballroom
10:40 am	Session 1 Breakouts (see page 5) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Intersection of Victim/Survivor Services and CVI• CVI Ecosystem: What’s Next for the Field?• Building a CVI Infrastructure in Chicago: The Last Eight Years and the Next Big Scaling Leap Forward• Calculating the Cost of Gun Violence and Advocating for Community Resources• Fostering Collaborative Partnerships in the Public Safety Ecosystem• Supporting the Emotional Health of our Frontline CVI Workers• Navigating Popular Demand for “Tough on Crime”: What El Salvador’s Dramatic Reductions in Homicide Mean for CVI Efforts across the Hemisphere	Salon 1 Salon 2 Salon 3 Salon 6 Salon 7 Salon 8 Salon 9
12:00 pm	NETWORKING LUNCH	Grand Ballroom
1:10 pm	Session 2 Breakouts (see page 6) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Innovating and Professionalizing CVI: The Urban Peace Academy Blueprint• Women at the Forefront of Community Violence Solutions• The Role of Intermediaries in Building Organizational Capacity for CVI Programs• I Want the Help to Look Like Me: The Development and Implementation of a Culturally Responsive Peer Healing Model• Nurturing Transformation: A Workshop on Collective Healing and Post-Traumatic Growth• Community Violence and Firearm Injury Prevention Communication through a Public Health Lens• Transforming Communities in Jamaica: Mainstreaming a Community-Led, Multi-sectoral Approach	Salon 1 Salon 2 Salon 3 Salon 6 Salon 7 Salon 8 Salon 9
2:30 pm	KEYNOTE ADDRESS CVI at a Crossroads: Forging a New Gold Standard in Community Violence Intervention Research <i>Dr. Andrew Papachristos (CORNERS-Northwestern University)</i>	Grand Ballroom
3:00 pm	PLENARY SESSION 2 AB 28: How a California Coalition Secured Sustainable CVI Funding <i>Laura Abbasi (Everytown), Kenneth Andrews Jr. (Movement4Life), Gabriel Garcia (Youth ALIVE!), Mike McLively (GIFFORDS Center for Violence Intervention)</i>	Grand Ballroom
4:00 pm	Closing Speaker <i>Senior Advisor Eddie Bocanegra (Office of Justice Programs, DOJ)</i>	Grand Ballroom

DAY 2 SCHEDULE

Tuesday — June 25

9:00 am	Opening Speakers <i>Paul Carrillo (GIFFORDS Center for Violence Intervention)</i> <i>Emma Brown (GIFFORDS)</i>	Grand Ballroom
9:15 am	PLENARY SESSION 3 Bipartisan Efforts for Safer Communities: A Session with Senator Murphy <i>Nina Revoyr (Ballmer Group), US Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT)</i>	Grand Ballroom
10:00 am	Ally Spotlight <i>Mannone Butler (NBA Social Justice Coalition)</i>	Grand Ballroom
10:40 am	Session 3 Breakouts (see page 7) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Previewing the Department of Justice’s Investments in CVI• Innovations in Street Outreach• Serving “Healing” to South Central Los Angeles: CVI Partnerships & Collaborations• Collaborative Pathways: Unveiling the Intersectionality of Dual-System Involved Youth and Enhanced Community Violence Reduction Strategies• Stopping Crisis from Becoming Crime: A Public Safety Solution• Enhancing Community Safety: Exploring the Intersection of Intimate Partner and Community Violence• Breaking Chains, Building Dreams: Innovative Approaches to Combat Youth Exploitation by Organized Crime	Salon 1 Salon 2 Salon 3 Salon 6 Salon 7 Salon 8 Salon 9
12:00 pm	WORKING LUNCH / PLENARY SESSION 4 Strategies for Peace: Community Violence Intervention in Los Angeles and Chicago <i>Vaughn Bryant (Metropolitan Peace Initiatives), Kimberly Gutierrez (Community Justice), Fernando Rejón (Urban Peace Institute)</i>	Grand Ballroom
1:10 pm	Session 4 Breakouts (see page 8) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Building Partnerships to Heal Victims of Community Violence• Healing the Healers• How Counties Can Create a Flourishing Office of Violence Prevention• Addressing Trauma and Promoting Wellness among CVI Workers in Chicago: Prioritizing Frontline Insights to Establish a Wellness Initiative• How City Leads Champion the CVI Ecosystem in Comprehensive Public Safety Plan Development• Meeting Youth Where They Are: Bringing Violence Prevention and Intervention Resources to Schools in Oakland• Adapting CVI Programming to a Changing Context (Examples from El Salvador, Haiti, and Honduras)	Salon 1 Salon 2 Salon 3 Salon 6 Salon 7 Salon 8 Salon 9
2:30 pm	PLENARY SESSION 5 Rising Voices: Shaping the Future of CVI Strategies <i>LaQuay Boone (Chicago CRED), Jordan Costa (GIFFORDS Center for Violence Intervention), Paris Davis (Youth ALIVE!), Armando Torreblanca (Project Hope)</i>	Grand Ballroom
3:30 pm	Lifesaving Service Award Announcement	Grand Ballroom
4:00 pm	Closing Speaker <i>Gabby Giffords (Founder, GIFFORDS)</i>	Grand Ballroom

SESSION 1 BREAKOUTS - MONDAY

Monday — 10:40 am

The Intersection of Victim/Survivor Services and CVI

Salon 1

Antiquated and discriminatory policies have created significant challenges for integrating victim services with community violence intervention. This session details the harms caused, explores advocacy opportunities for interventionists, and examines real-world case studies from Los Angeles, Newark, and Maryland. Panelists will share best practices for enhancing support for survivors, discuss proposed federal rule changes, and provide actionable insights and strategies for strengthening victim services within CVI initiatives.

Presenters: Ben “Taco” Owens, Elizabeth Ruebman, Heather Warnken

CVI Ecosystem: What’s Next for the Field?

Salon 2

Discover the history and transformative potential of community violence intervention. This presentation will delve into the field’s roots from a public health lens, tracing its evolution and showcasing groundbreaking innovations to reach high-risk populations. Attendees will review the core components of effective CVI models, learn persuasive advocacy techniques to rally support for their efforts, and discuss cutting-edge strategies for consideration.

Presenter: Norman Livingston Kerr

Building a CVI Infrastructure in Chicago: The Last Eight Years and the Next Big Scaling Leap Forward

Salon 3

This session explores Chicago’s journey in building a collaborative, professional, and coordinated CVI infrastructure over the past eight years with more than 1,000 staff. Panelists will discuss how the city overcame past obstacles, employed new tools and methods, and engaged a diverse group of stakeholders. With the next ambitious phase underway, aiming to reach 75% of the population, the panel will share insights into the nation’s most aggressive CVI and healing project.

Presenters: Vaughn Bryant, Teny Gross, Susan Lee

Calculating the Cost of Gun Violence and Advocating for Community Resources

Salon 6

This presentation aims to equip government officials, practitioners, and allies with insights into the economic costs of gun violence, enabling them to advocate for greater investments in community violence intervention. Researchers from NICJR will explain their model and methodology for calculating these costs, while representatives from Live Free USA will demonstrate how these analyses have successfully secured increased funding for CVI strategies.

Presenters: Rosie Bryant, Shantay Jackson, Jesslyn Mitchell-Laguna

Fostering Collaborative Partnerships in the Public Safety Ecosystem

Salon 7

In this session, representatives from the fields of law enforcement and community violence intervention will engage in a candid discussion about their distinct roles in their shared mission to protect lives. Panelists will share insights into fostering a professional understanding between these occupations and explore strategies for securing buy-in from diverse stakeholders to ensure that CVI can become a permanent fixture in the public safety ecosystem.

Presenters: Roseanna Ander, Chief Charlie Beck, Dr. Chico Tillmon

Supporting the Emotional Health of our Frontline CVI Workers

Salon 8

Protecting the emotional well-being of frontline workers is critical, yet it’s often neglected in practice. In this workshop, presenters will share their comprehensive model that integrates trauma education, behavioral health support, and career advancement pathways. Through an exploration of strategies for debriefing incidents, providing regular check-ins, offering tailored training, and supporting professional credentialing, participants will gain a toolkit for prioritizing and addressing the emotional health needs of their own teams.

Presenters: Erin Moyer, Corey Winfield

Navigating Popular Demand for “Tough on Crime”: What El Salvador’s Dramatic Reductions in Homicide Mean for CVI Efforts across the Hemisphere

Salon 9

As the “Bukele effect” in El Salvador fuels demand for punitive violence reduction strategies across Latin America, some cities are charting a different course. This session explores how the growing popularity of mano dura approaches threatens the expansion of evidence-informed and human rights–centered violence prevention efforts. Attendees will hear regional perspectives from those who have navigated political challenges and popular demands yet remain committed to advocating for effective, humane solutions.

Presenters: Jeremy Biddle, Lucia Dammert, Juan Camilo Cock Misas

SESSION 2 BREAKOUTS - MONDAY

Monday — 1:10 pm

Innovating and Professionalizing CVI: The Urban Peace Academy Blueprint

Salon 1

The Urban Peace Institute’s Urban Peace Academy is revolutionizing community violence intervention through practitioner-led training. This session explores how the Academy’s comprehensive approach, grounded in street realities and expert knowledge, enhances practitioner capabilities and elevates CVI to a recognized professional domain. Participants will learn how this training showcases the potential of violence intervention work to transform communities with informed, effective strategies.

Presenters: Andre Christian, Jasmine Desenclos, Melvyn Hayward III

Women at the Forefront of Community Violence Solutions

Salon 2

Despite their crucial contributions, women in community violence intervention often face gendered challenges and a lack recognition for their work. This session seeks to uplift and celebrate the role of women in CVI by highlighting their unique approaches, leadership styles, and impact. Through case studies, personal stories, and statistical evidence, attendees will gain a deeper understanding of the obstacles women face and their remarkable achievements in fostering resilience and building safer communities.

Presenters: Claudia Bracho, Necole Muhammad, Tina Padilla

The Role of Intermediaries in Building Organizational Capacity for CVI Programs

Salon 3

This workshop will be a moderated panel discussion with intermediary organizations working to build the organizational, administrative, and programmatic capacity of small and mid-sized community-based organizations implementing CVIPI initiatives. Panelists will discuss the rollout of their capacity-building programs and share valuable lessons from building federally funded CVIPI organizations.

Presenters: Edith Lule, LeVar Michael, Richard Paul Morales

I Want the Help to Look Like Me: The Development and Implementation of a Culturally Responsive Peer Healing Model

Salon 6

In Baltimore, a virtual peer healing model is transforming the lives of Black male survivors of violent injury. Unlike traditional facilitator-led peer support, this model empowers participants to guide their own healing process. Referencing focus group data and digital storytelling from an 18-week program, panelists will discuss how to use peer healing circles to foster autonomy and healing, as well as the model’s potential to revolutionize support systems for survivors of violent injury.

Presenters: Che' Bullock, Dr. Joseph B. Richardson, Lydia Watts

Nurturing Transformation: A Workshop on Collective Healing and Post-Traumatic Growth

Salon 7

This workshop, led by experienced practitioners in gang intervention, re-entry services, and restorative practices, aims to equip participants with tools for effective self-care and collaborative models within the justice system. Attendees will also explore a phenomenological approach to working with gang-involved and system-impacted individuals. The session will focus on cultivating collective healing and encouraging post-traumatic growth, emphasizing the transformative power of communities in overcoming adversity and trauma.

Presenters: Steven Kim, Madeline Rodriguez, Raymond Sanchez

Community Violence and Firearm Injury Prevention Communication through a Public Health Lens

Salon 8

Explore how effective communication can prevent firearm injury, death, and community violence. Led by the CDC’s Division of Violence Prevention, this workshop will present findings from formative research and share new communications products. In this session, attendees can expect to gain practical tools related to identifying key audiences, utilizing tested messages, and adapting communications materials for maximum impact.

Presenters: Alberto Santana, Cassidy Whitson

Transforming Communities in Jamaica: Mainstreaming a Community-Led, Multi-sectoral Approach

Salon 9

Learn more about how a community-led, all-of-society approach is transforming violence-affected areas in Jamaica. This presentation will showcase Project STAR’s data-driven strategy, which integrates the Cardiff Violence Prevention Model to combine police crime data with hospital data on violence-related injuries. Participants will learn how this intersection of injury and violence prevention and health policy can address gun violence in cities across Latin America, achieving sustainable and inclusive transformations.

Presenters: Saffrey Brown, Dr. Stephen Hargarten, Gabriela Leva

SESSION 3 BREAKOUTS - TUESDAY

Tuesday — 10:40 am

Previewing the Department of Justice’s Investments in CVI

Salon 1
In the past two years, the federal government has dedicated historic levels of funding to community violence intervention. This session explores the comprehensive scope of the Department of Justice’s funding portfolio spanning youth violence intervention, victim support, trauma-responsive initiatives, model evaluation, and more. Hear from representatives across various Office of Justice Programs offices as they share best practices and lessons learned as it relates to funding a complete public safety ecosystem.
Presenters: Eddie Bocanegra, Sharron Fletcher, Betsi Griffith

Innovations in Street Outreach

Salon 2
Since 2016, Chicago CRED’s Street Outreach program has recruited more than 1,000 high-risk participants. This training, led by CRED’s outreach team, will highlight effective approaches to key topics such as canvassing, recruitment, intake, maintenance, mediation, and developing non-aggression agreements. Attendees will learn how to use data analytics and community mapping to identify needs, mediate conflicts, and sustain peace in high-risk areas.
Presenters: Cedric Hawkins, Terrance Henderson

Serving “Healing” to South Central Los Angeles: CVI Partnerships & Collaborations

Salon 3
This presentation emphasizes solidarity and collaboration for lasting change in South Central Los Angeles, spotlighting two nonprofits dedicated to gang intervention and community healing. Panelists will discuss the history, mission, services, and partnerships of these organizations as they work together to establish safe spaces, cultivate alliances, and educate on the root causes of violence with the shared goal of empowering communities through unified efforts.
Presenters: Jerald “Pee” Cavitt, Carlos De Santiago, Kevin “Twin” Orange, Andre Vickers

Collaborative Pathways: Unveiling the Intersectionality of Dual-System Involved Youth and Enhanced Community Violence Reduction Strategies

Salon 6
Understanding the intersection of juvenile justice and child welfare is essential for reducing violence. This session examines the pathways of youth involved in both systems and highlights how cross-sector collaboration can minimize harms caused by these systems. Presenters will share findings from a recent convening that united community members, researchers, practitioners, and funders to identify challenges, propose solutions, and develop a comprehensive research agenda to address this issue.
Presenters: Bertha Arviso, Erin Espinosa, Georgina Mendoza McDowell

Stopping Crisis from Becoming Crime: A Public Safety Solution

Salon 7
With rising violence and insufficient resources for crime prevention, addressing the prevention gap is urgent. This session introduces Scaling Safety, a first-of-its-kind initiative co-led by Alliance for Safety and Justice and the Community-Based Public Safety Collective that aims to enhance the capacity of cities facing chronic violence to build robust, community-centered safety infrastructure through effective programs, integration into existing public safety frameworks, and comprehensive technical support.
Presenters: Shakyra Diaz, Aqeela Sherrills, Richard Washington

Enhancing Community Safety: Exploring the Intersection of Intimate Partner and Community Violence

Salon 8
Intimate partner violence and community violence are often treated as separate issues, despite their shared risk factors and disproportionate impact on marginalized communities. This session explores the intersections between IPV and community violence, highlighting the challenges in understanding their prevalence and the need for a broader conversation within CVI. Attendees will learn about strategies to identify and address these intersections, enhancing safety for those at the highest risk of harm.
Presenters: Sasha Cotton, Michael-Sean Spence

Breaking Chains, Building Dreams: Innovative Approaches to Combat Youth Exploitation by Organized Crime

Salon 9
Youth involvement in crime and violence in Latin America and the Caribbean is a critical issue that demands nuanced interventions. This session will discuss the importance of violence prevention for vulnerable populations and share strategies for piloting evidence-informed community violence intervention programs. Panelists will draw on recent publications, field experience, and data from the region, with specific references to secondary and tertiary prevention initiatives in Honduras, to reflect on lessons learned.
Presenters: Alina Bitran, Robyn Braverman, Mercedes Castañeda Gómez Mont

SESSION 4 BREAKOUTS - TUESDAY

Tuesday — 1:10 pm

Building Partnerships to Heal Victims of Community Violence

Salon 1
In Connecticut, a new partnership is redefining care for victims of community violence beyond medical intervention. From bedside to wraparound support, St. Francis Hospital, COMPASS Youth Collaborative, and the UConn Department of Family Medicine are working together to meet the holistic needs of violently injured individuals. This session will explore how the partnership engages victims, deploys crisis response teams, and creates safe healing environments that work to promote complete physical and emotional recovery.
Presenters: Carolyn Alessi, Dr. Jacqueline N. Guajardo, Jacquelyn Santiago

Healing the Healers

Salon 2
Validating the weight of violence intervention work is crucial in maintaining quality service and longevity in the field. In this workshop, participants will learn how to manage their own trauma, while working in an often triggering system, beyond traditional recommendations for self care. The second portion of this session will feature an arts-based healing activity, providing an outlet for release and a tangible reminder to remain grounded.
Presenter: Alia Berry

How Counties Can Create a Flourishing Office of Violence Prevention

Salon 3
County governments play a significant role in strategy implementation yet are inconsistently engaged in coordination efforts. This session will explore county governments’ roles in violence intervention and prevention, focusing on emerging trends and best practices. Hear insights from the latest GIFFORDS report on county-level support for CVI featuring representation from the Los Angeles County Office of Violence Prevention, who will share more about the OVP’s work, successes, challenges, and other key takeaways.
Presenters: Brittany Nieto, Andrea Welsing

Addressing Trauma and Promoting Wellness among CVI Workers in Chicago: Prioritizing Frontline Insights to Establish a Wellness Initiative

Salon 6
As CVI workers continue to face high levels of violence and trauma exposure, organizations must remain committed to workforce wellness. In this session, panelists will share perspectives from INVC’s Behavioral Health Team, frontline staff, and leadership, as well as researchers from CORNERS, as they work to co-develop a comprehensive understanding of the experiences and needs of INVC staff and an intervention to address trauma and promote healing at the organization.
Presenters: Kelly Carroll, Lamont Taylor, Rebecca Weiland

How City Leads Champion the CVI Ecosystem in Comprehensive Public Safety Plan Development

Salon 7
City leads are key champions who have the ability to bridge the gaps between community-based organizations, government institutions, and advocates by identifying collaborative solutions to uplift in a healthy CVI ecosystem. This workshop, led by Cities United, a network of mayors and their teams committed to reducing homicides of young Black men and boys by 50%, will explore the need for transparent partnership in violence reduction.
Presenters: Devine Camara, Johnnie Graham-Wicks, Synethia White

Meeting Youth Where They Are: Bringing Violence Prevention and Intervention Resources to Schools in Oakland

Salon 8
This presentation explores Oakland’s School Violence Intervention and Prevention Program, which places specialized teams in high schools to address students affected by violence. Staff funded by the City of Oakland and employed by community organizations deliver programming that includes case management, support groups, conflict mediation, and staff education. Participants will hear about strategies for effective implementation and engage in a facilitated discussion, seeking to reimagine school safety with minimal law enforcement involvement.
Presenters: Gillian Caplan, Misha Karigaca, Brooklyn Williams

Adapting CVI Programming to a Changing Context (Examples from El Salvador, Haiti, and Honduras)

Salon 9
During program implementation, there is always a risk of unexpected changes. This session discusses pivoting mid-course to address evolving violence landscapes, legal frameworks, and methodological advancements. Through examples from Haiti, El Salvador, and Honduras, panelists highlight a common theme: a community-centered approach that is guided by listening to community needs and reorienting programs accordingly. Participants can expect to learn valuable lessons in adapting CVI initiatives to effectively respond to shifting circumstances.
Presenters: John Jordan, Louis Henri Mars, Lissette Miranda, Gustavo Antonio Urbina Romero

MAINSTAGE SPEAKERS

Learn more about the speakers in the Whova app.



PAUL CARRILLO

Vice President, GIFFORDS Center for Violence Intervention

Paul Carrillo is the vice president of GIFFORDS Center for Violence Intervention. He was raised in Southeast Los Angeles in an environment with gangs, drugs, and gun violence. In 2001, he began his career as a volunteer for a hospital-based violence intervention program, and in 2005 he co-founded Southern California Crossroads, a nonprofit that provides violence prevention and intervention services throughout the greater Los Angeles region. He has also consulted on community violence internationally in Guatemala, London, the Dominican Republic, Ireland, Tunisia, St. Kitts and Nevis, and El Salvador.



AMBASSADOR CANDACE BOND

US Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago

Ambassador Candace Bond leads US foreign policy goals in Trinidad and Tobago, which includes promoting best practices focused on good governance and anti-corruption. Prior to her posting in Trinidad and Tobago, Ambassador Bond was a business owner, consultant, and social entrepreneur who specialized in helping public and private sector entities develop innovative, effective, and scalable solutions to address the socioeconomic and environmental needs of local communities. She is the recipient of numerous leadership and service awards, and was recognized as one of Los Angeles's Women Leaders.



MELVYN HAYWARD

Senior Director in the City of Los Angeles Mayor's Office of Gang Reduction and Youth Development

Melvyn Hayward oversees the Gang Reduction & Youth Development (GYRD) department in the Los Angeles Mayor's Office of Community Safety. GRYD partners with local nonprofit agencies providing intervention and prevention services in 23 GRYD zones. Prior to joining the mayor's office, Melvyn was the chief program officer at Chicago CRED. Additionally, Melvyn has served as a CVI practitioner for 26 years and has traveled to 30 cities throughout the US in order to train outreach workers, develop best practices, and provide technical support to several CVI agencies.



DR. ANDREW PAPACHRISTOS

Faculty Director of the Center for Neighborhood Engaged Research & Science (CORNERS)

Dr. Andrew Papachristos is a professor of sociology at Northwestern's Institute for Policy Research and the faculty director of CORNERS: the Center for Neighborhood Engaged Research & Science. He is a Chicago native and one of the world's leading experts at applying network science to the study of crime, violence, policing, and urban neighborhoods. Dr. Papachristos has over 15 years of experience working with community groups, state and local agencies, schools, hospitals, city governments, and the federal government. His methods have been widely cited as models for engaged research and evaluation in the area of community violence.



EDDIE BOCANEGRA

Senior Advisor to the Assistant Attorney General of the Office of Justice Programs

Eddie Bocanegra, a senior advisor in the Office of the Assistant Attorney General, is a leading figure in the field of community violence intervention. He oversees a portfolio focused on preventing and responding to community violence, making him a key member of the Biden administration's efforts in reducing gun violence. Before joining the Department of Justice in 2022, he served as the senior director of READI Chicago at Heartland Alliance. A pioneer in the field, Eddie is nationally recognized for his work as a violence interrupter with Chicago's Ceasefire program.



EMMA BROWN

Executive Director of GIFFORDS

Emma Brown became the executive director of GIFFORDS in January 2024, where she oversees the organization's work to save lives from gun violence. Prior to leading GIFFORDS, Emma served as campaign manager for Senator Mark Kelly's 2022 reelection campaign in Arizona. In 2020, Emma served as the coordinated campaign director for President Biden's campaign in Arizona, leading the largest voter contact program in state history and marking the first time a Democratic presidential campaign carried Arizona since 1996. During that cycle, she also served as Senator Kelly's deputy campaign manager.



MANNONE BUTLER

Head of Programs & Partnerships at the NBA Social Justice Coalition

Mannone Butler is head of Programs & Partnerships for the National Basketball Social Justice Coalition (SJC), the policy advocacy arm of the NBA community formed in 2020 to address racial inequality and advance social justice. She leads the development and implementation of the coalition's policy agenda, partnership and stakeholder engagement strategies, and day-to-day operations. Previously, Mannone spent 11 years leading the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council for the District of Columbia (CJCC), an independent justice agency responsible for crafting solutions to public safety issues in the nation's capital.



GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

Former Congresswoman and Founder of GIFFORDS

A former congresswoman from Arizona, Gabby Giffords was a rising star in the Democratic party before she was shot in the head in January 2011. As the founder of GIFFORDS, an organization dedicated to ending gun violence, Gabby believes in the power of bringing people together to create meaningful change—and she knows just how important CVI is to fighting the epidemic of gun violence. GIFFORDS launched its Center for Violence Intervention in 2022, which champions the lifesaving work of community organizations on the ground, and Gabby is committed to using every tool available to end America's gun violence crisis.

PLENARY SESSION 1

Monday — 10:00 am — Grand Ballroom

Meet the Author: “In These Streets: Reporting from the Frontlines of Inner City Gun Violence”

In his debut book, journalist Josiah Bates exposes the hidden causes fueling the unprecedented surge in gun violence across the US. Josiah will discuss his meetings with victims and producers of violence, activists, and scholars to uncover the systemic failures perpetuating this devastating epidemic and the path forward to drive meaningful change.

➤ Learn more about this session in the Whova app.



KRISTOPHER MCLUCAS

Moderator

Kristopher McLucas serves as the deputy director of community projects at GIFFORDS Center for Violence Intervention.

With over 13 years of experience working with survivors of trauma, Kristopher has held various clinical, administrative, and consultant roles in organizations across the greater South Los Angeles and Long Beach communities. Kristopher currently provides ongoing consultation and training focused on trauma-informed engagement and care for fathers, formerly incarcerated community members, survivors of violence, and other forms of complex trauma. Kristopher previously worked as an adjunct professor at the Smith College School for Social Work.



JOSIAH BATES

Josiah Bates is a New York City-based reporter. After graduating from the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism, he was awarded fellowships at NBC News and ABC News. He joined TIME

magazine, becoming a staff writer covering gun violence, policing, and criminal justice policy. Josiah then moved on to theGrio, a Black-led newsroom where he worked as an enterprise reporter, covering the same topics. His first book, “In These Streets: Reporting from the Front Lines of Inner-City Gun Violence,” was published on May 28, 2024.

PLENARY SESSION 2

Monday — 3:00 pm — Grand Ballroom

AB 28: How a California Coalition Secured Sustainable CVI Funding

Last year, California became the first state in the nation to tax the sale of firearms and ammunition to fund gun violence prevention programs. Members of the CalVIP Coalition will discuss what it took to secure this historic victory, including the importance of grassroots organizing and leveraging professional lobbyists to accomplish the impossible.

➤ Learn more about this session in the Whova app.



MIKE MCLIVELY

Moderator

Mike McLively is a senior staff attorney at GIFFORDS Law Center and the policy director of GIFFORDS Center for Violence Intervention. An expert on gun

policy, Mike has discussed and debated issues related to gun violence on national television, including CNN's The Lead with Jake Tapper, and has appeared on a variety of radio programs on NPR and other networks. Mike has also been quoted extensively in articles covering gun violence in publications such as the New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, CNN, VICE News, and Mother Jones.



LAURA ABBASI

Laura Abbasi is an assistant regional field director with Everytown for Gun Safety, where she manages the California Chapter of Moms Demand Action, the largest and most active chapter in the

country. Laura also supports Moms Demand Action chapters nationwide in suicide prevention and awareness efforts. She holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from Hofstra University and a master's degree in political science from the New School for Social Research. Laura is a passionate community organizer, honoring with action her brother Jeffrey Banish, who died by gun suicide.



KENNETH ANDREWS JR.

Kenneth “Kenny” Andrews Jr. is the field coordinator for Movement 4 Life in Sacramento. M4L seeks to reduce gun violence by using culturally responsive support services and engaging

in communities most impacted by trauma. As a Bay Area native, Kenny believes that the lived experience he has as a high-risk youth and young adult has given him the tools needed to affect real change in his community.



GABRIEL GARCIA

Gabriel Garcia currently serves as the policy and advocacy director for Youth ALIVE!, a community-based organization in Oakland focused on preventing and helping people heal from violence. In building

out Youth ALIVE!'s policy and advocacy work, Gabriel ensures those closest to the pain are driving policy conversations that improve California's ability to treat violence like the public health crisis that it is. In the last year, YA clients have testified in state legislative hearings and led conversations with elected officials to demonstrate how they can use their positions to help those who have been most harmed by violence.

PLENARY SESSION 3

Tuesday — 9:15 am — Grand Ballroom

Bipartisan Efforts for Safer Communities: A Session with Senator Murphy

In this featured interview, US Senator Chris Murphy will discuss the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, the most significant gun safety legislation in nearly three decades. He will provide insights on the bill's key provisions, the negotiation process, and its potential to shape future gun violence prevention strategies, while also addressing the challenges and responsibilities of legislators in advancing gun safety.

➤ Learn more about this session in the Whova app.



NINA REVOYR
Moderator

Nina Revoyr is the executive director of Ballmer Group's Los Angeles team, where she sets and leads strategy and investments to improve economic mobility for children and families in the region and the state. In her two years as Executive Director-Los Angeles, Ballmer Group has emerged as "one of the largest funders of anti-poverty work in the county." It has funded organizations and initiatives in the highest-need areas of the county; and worked on systems change efforts in education, policing, mental health, child welfare, and criminal justice. Nina holds two decades of experience in the fields of child and family services and education, is the author of six novels, and has been a visiting professor at Cornell University and Pomona College, among others.



SEN. CHRIS MURPHY

Senator Christopher S. Murphy, the junior United States Senator for Connecticut, has dedicated his career to public service. Elected in 2012, Senator Murphy has been a leading voice fighting to make our nation's gun laws safer, create jobs, provide affordable healthcare to all Americans, and articulate a forward-looking foreign policy. Senator Murphy was the lead negotiator of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, which broke a 30-year political logjam on gun safety legislation and was signed into law by President Biden in 2022.

WORKING LUNCH / PLENARY SESSION 4

Tuesday — 12:00 pm — Grand Ballroom

Strategies for Peace: Community Violence Intervention in Los Angeles and Chicago

Join experts from major urban initiatives focused on peace and interrupting violence as they discuss key aspects of the work, including training and deploying intervention workers, supporting worker well-being, and developing comprehensive city-wide strategies. This session will highlight successful models and the crucial role of collaboration with both private and public leaders in sustaining efforts to prevent gun violence.

➤ Learn more about this session in the Whova app.



KIMBERLY GUTIERREZ
Moderator

Kim Gutierrez is the director of state programs at Community Justice, where she focuses on uplifting the voices of community leaders whose lives are disproportionately impacted by gun violence. A first-generation Chicana from South Central Los Angeles, Kim's work remains at the intersection of community organizing, movement building, policy, and advocacy. Kim's career began as a community organizer in DC coaching parent leaders to be policy experts and stronger advocates for equity in DC's education. Kim now leads campaigns with a team of state advocacy leaders to drive increased investments in public health approaches to gun violence at the national, state, and local level.



VAUGHN BRYANT

Vaughn Bryant is executive director of Metropolitan Peace Initiatives (MPI), a division of Metropolitan Family Services that features a team of professionals working in partnership with community-based and citywide organizations to coordinate, support, and sustain comprehensive services designed to heal communities that have experienced the highest levels of gun violence. Vaughn previously held leadership roles with the Chicago Park District, Chicago Public Schools (where he developed the "Safe Passage" program), the NFL, and Stanford University. A graduate of Leadership Greater Chicago, Vaughn serves on the National Advisory Board of the Haas Center for Public Service at Stanford University and on various committees with the Chicago Community Trust.



FERNANDO REJÓN

Fernando Rejón is the executive director of the Urban Peace Institute, leading its efforts to transform systems and individuals' lives by promoting community peace and ending mass incarceration. In 2008, Rejón created the Urban Peace Academy, training leaders nationwide on violence reduction strategies and gang intervention. He advises law enforcement on innovative policing strategies and co-created the National Street Outreach Partnership. With 18 years of nonprofit experience, Fernando excels in program development, community-based research, and coalition building.

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PLENARY SESSION 5

Rising Voices: Shaping the Future of CVI Strategies

Tuesday — 2:30 pm — Grand Ballroom

Hear from a dynamic panel of emerging leaders as they share their experiences, insights, and bold vision for the future of our field. These young trailblazers will discuss the lessons they've learned on the front lines of CVI work and their strategies for driving innovation and impact in the years to come.

➤ Learn more about this session in the Whova app.



JORDAN COSTA

Moderator

Jordan Costa serves as the senior project manager for the GIFFORDS Center for Violence Intervention where she works to uplift the needs and voices of those most impacted

by violence. Driven by her personal experience of losing a parent to gun violence, Jordan has committed her career to supporting communities through direct trauma services, narrative storytelling, teaching in prisons and universities, research, philanthropy, and policy advocacy. She is currently completing her PhD in Criminology and Criminal Justice at Rutgers University, Newark, and was recently named to the 2024 class of University of Maryland's "30 Under 30."



LAQUAY BOONE

LaQuay Boone is the deputy head of programs for Chicago CRED. LaQuay has worked with children and families in a serving capacity for 10 years, including pregnant and parenting teen parents, early

childhood youth, homeless and runaway youth, families involved with the child welfare system, and men and women in the urban area transitioning from community violence/gang life. In her current role, LaQuay oversees supportive programs and services for community violence participants involved in the Chicago CRED program.



PARIS DAVIS

As the intervention programs director at Youth ALIVE! and an Oakland native, Paris Davis oversees the strategic planning of the organization's intervention programs to ensure their effectiveness. His role

involves managing operations and developing growth strategies, and he works closely with teams to provide necessary resources, training, and support for impactful community prevention and intervention. Additionally, he leads program development and continuously seeks to enhance services based on community needs. Committed to driving positive change, Paris focuses on expanding the organization's reach, forging new partnerships, and implementing innovative strategies to improve outcomes for those they serve.



ARMANDO TORREBLANCA

Armando Torreblanca, an innovative and driven organizational architect, serves as the associate executive director at Project Hope CA, a Pomona-based

nonprofit specializing in reentry services. With more than a decade of experience in community violence intervention, he played a pivotal role in transforming the organization from a volunteer-led group in 2018 into a thriving nonprofit with multiple programs. His dedication to cultivating positive organizational culture, enhancing employee engagement, and championing people-first leadership has been central to his work.

LIFESAVING SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT: AIM4PEACE



Aim4Peace is a community violence intervention organization in Kansas City, Missouri, that employs a public health approach to reduce shootings and homicides with the goal of reversing the violence epidemic. By addressing neighborhood factors that contribute to violence, Aim4Peace has assisted hundreds of individuals at the highest risk of involvement in violence to access social services and support them on their healing journeys.

The Lifesaving Service Award, presented in partnership by the GIFFORDS Law Center and GIFFORDS Center for Violence Intervention, aims to honor outstanding community-based organizations for their valuable contributions in preventing gun violence. Awardees are recognized at the annual Giffords Anniversary Gala and the Community Violence Intervention Conference. GIFFORDS Center for Violence Intervention will provide a donation to the awardee, offering support for their ongoing efforts to transform lives within their community.

Scan to watch
video about
Aim4Peace:



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The logo for the Urban Peace Institute is located in the bottom right corner. It consists of the words "URBAN", "PEACE", and "INSTITUTE" stacked vertically. "URBAN" and "INSTITUTE" are in a dark grey, sans-serif font, while "PEACE" is in a bold, red, sans-serif font. The entire logo is enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

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