

## **MEET THE PANELISTS**

### **TUESDAY, SEP. 1**

#### **Keynote Panel with Texas Executives**



**Amber Bradbury, Google**

Amber Bradbury is a workplace strategist with 15 years experience at Google in human resource programs (culture, diversity, staffing), workplace services, corporate leasing, construction and facilities management. Currently serves on the board of trustees for The Long Center for Performing Arts and is Co-chair of the Business Arts Council.



**Jan Ryan, School of Design and Creative Technologies, University of Texas at Austin**

Serial entrepreneur and software executive, Jan Ryan has been focused on building expansion stage companies for 28 years, resulting in four successful acquisitions and one IPO. When her last company was acquired in 2012, her passion for advancing female entrepreneurs led her to create Women@Austin in 2013, helping to advance and change the Austin ecosystem for women-led business. In 2017 Jan joined the University of Texas to serve as Exec. Dir. of Entrepreneurship and Innovation and build a program for Creatives and entrepreneurial leadership for women across campus. Jan's long-standing mantra remains the same: "Find new ways each day to make your customers' lives better."

Today, besides her charter at the University of Texas, Jan serves as Advisor and Board member for some of Austin's most innovative young companies, is a Capital Factory Partner and a mentor at Tech Stars international accelerator. Last year Jan was listed in Texas Monthly's Power Issue of most influential Texans, won the "Breaking Barriers" award at the Texas Women's Summit, has been featured on the cover of Austin Woman magazine, received the "Woman of Distinction" award in 2016 by Texas Girls Scouts, and is an active contributor in the media for entrepreneurship and women in business.

## WOMEN IN TECH & INNOVATION FORUM | Sep. 1 – 4, 2020

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### **Leslie Ward, AT&T**

Leslie Ward is the President of AT&T Texas, where she leads all legislative, regulatory, governmental, and external affairs activities in the State of Texas. She holds a B.A. in Political Science having attended Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas, and St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas. Ms. Ward and her husband, Don, have three children. They reside in Austin, where Ms. Ward is actively engaged in both her local and statewide

communities.



### **Nathali Parker, Governor's Commission for Women (Moderator)**

Nathali Parker of Round Rock is co-owner and CEO of KLP Construction Supply, a heavy civil regular dealer and distributor of construction materials with five stocking locations around Texas. Parker and her sister, Karen Parker Rogers, started KLP in 2012 and focused on the heavy highway and infrastructure industry. Previously, she was a business development executive for VallaManitexan electric Italian pick and carry

crane company.

Today, she serves as the Associate Co-Vice Chair for the Austin Chapter of Association of General Contractors – Heavy Civil and Utilities Division, Future Young Leaders Committee Member for the Austin, and DFW AGC Chapters and AGC Workforce Development task force member. Parker has been appointed to the board of the Texas Asphalt Pavement Association, and serves as Chairman for the Associate Division. She also serves on the Education and New Technologies committee of the Texas Asphalt Pavement Association and is an association member of the Austin Contractors and Engineers Association. As a proud letterman Bobcat, Parker graduated from Texas State University with a Bachelor of Science degree and an All-Conference Javelin thrower as a member of the Track and Field Team by competing in the heptathlon and open javelin. She is also a proud citizen of the Chickasaw Nation: her Native American heritage and bloodline.

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## **WEDNESDAY, SEP. 2**

### **Professional Mentorship & Attracting Talent**



#### **Alex Masters-Goessling, Electronic Arts (EA)**

Alex Masters-Goessling leads teams that help people inspire the world to play by helping our players at the world's greatest games company, EA. Specifically, she leads teams responsible for self-help player content; advisor process, quality, coaching, and training; internal communications; and employee experience for EA's customer experience team, EA Help. She believes great experiences at work fuel great experiences for customers. Her lifelong leadership goal is to lead and inspire people to do career defining work.



#### **Margaret Dean, Supervising Producer, Rooster Teeth, Head of Studio, Crunchyroll and President of Women in Animation**

Emmy-Award winner Margaret Dean is a Supervising Producer at Rooster Teeth, and the Head of Studio for Crunchyroll, the world's most popular anime brand. In this role, Dean is responsible for the development and production of original content. Dean is also the President of Women in Animation. Prior to Crunchyroll, Dean was the General Manager of Stoopid Buddy Stoodios, the largest stop motion studio in Southern California, where she supervised production of Emmy award-winning "Robot Chicken" (Adult Swim) and "Buddy Thunderstruck" (Netflix) as well as expanded Stoopid Buddy's range of work to include 2D and 3D CGI.

Known for building studios and animation pipelines, Dean has been responsible for the design or re-design of several studios large and small, including Columbia-TriStar TV, Warner Bros. Animation, Mattel's Playground Production, Omaton (Steve Oedekerk), Technicolor Animation and Wildbrain Entertainment.



#### **Starr Corbin, Governor's Commission for Women (Moderator)**

Starr Corbin of Georgetown, Texas is a Commissioner on the Governor's Commission for Women, which is a division of the Office of the Governor. The Commission for Women serves as a resource and champion for women throughout the State of Texas. Corbin is the founder and Managing Partner of Corbin Solutions Group, a technology operations and vendor management advisory firm. She began her career in the U.S. Army Signal Corps and is a former technology executive at iHeartMedia. An ardent advocate of servant leadership and bringing more diversity

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into tech, Starr also writes about the tech industry and how to expand the field for women. She is an alumna of Texas Christian University and The University of Texas at Austin.



### **Victoria Musa, HR Matters Global**

"I am passionate about helping leaders maximize their efforts and the efforts of the people on their teams. Leaders that have worked with me would describe me as a trusted business partner. They say, "Victoria is an HR person who thinks like a business leader. She doesn't deliver just feel good processes...her processes have a positive impact on the bottom line."

I have worked for three fortune 50 companies in my 30-year career, but my greatest successes have been in my personal life. I am a wife, sister, mother, and daughter who is blessed to have a life full of people that love me. Many of the transformational skills that have driven my professional success I learned traversing the challenges I encountered in my personal life. Challenges like 170-pound weight loss, single mom-hood, lay-offs, and deaths of loved ones help me bring unique approaches to embracing change that results in driving business success."

## **Specialty Focus: Perspective Taking in VR**



### **Amy Lou Abernethy, AMP Creative**

Amy Lou Abernethy began her career as an educator but was soon drawn into the world of visual storytelling and video production. In addition to co-founding and nurturing the agency AMP Creative, she followed her heart back to the art and science of adult learning a few years ago, getting her masters in learning in digital environments. Standing at the crossroads of learning innovation and cinematic storytelling, Amy Lou collaborates with companies to develop transformative learning experiences and AMP Creative produces those experiences. AMP's VR-based empathy experiences are used by some of the world's largest global companies to raise awareness of bias in the workplace. Amy Lou is passionate about the power of innovative mediums, like augmented reality and virtual reality, yet still believes that solutions start with the beating heart of a human story.

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## **THURSDAY, SEP. 3**

### **Funding for Businesses**



**Adriana Cruz, Economic Development & Tourism, Office of Governor Greg Abbott**

In October 2019, Adriana Cruz was appointed to lead the Governor's Economic Development and Tourism Office. The Office markets Texas as one of the world's premier business and travel destinations. As Executive Director, Cruz provides leadership to Business and Community Development, Texas Tourism, Texas Workforce Investment Council, Texas Music Office, and the Texas Film Commission. Cruz has more than 20 years of leadership experience in economic development, marketing, and international business. Prior to her appointment to lead the Texas Economic Development and Tourism Office, Cruz was President of the Greater San Marcos Partnership, the regional economic development organization established to encourage and nurture economic growth in San Marcos, and Hays and Caldwell Counties. Previously, Cruz was the Vice President of Global Corporate Recruitment for the Austin Chamber of Commerce. In April 2020, Cruz was appointed by Governor Greg Abbott to the Strike Force to Open Texas, a team of nationally recognized private and public leaders to advise the Governor on safely and strategically reopening the state of Texas.

Cruz holds a B.B.A. in Marketing from the University of Texas at Austin, has been married for 34 years to her husband Rik, and has three grown children living in the Austin area



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### **Joshua Baer, Capital Factory (Moderator)**

Joshua Baer helps people quit their jobs and become entrepreneurs. He's the founder of Capital Factory, a coworking community and mentorship-based accelerator designed to help startups find their first investors, customers and employees. Josh founded his first startup in 1996 in his college dormitory at Carnegie Mellon University and now teaches a class at the University of Texas for student entrepreneurs. He was recently recognized as a Henry Crown Fellow and Braddock Scholar at the Aspen Institute, a member of the National Committee on US-China Relations Young Leaders Forum, and an Eisenhower Fellow. Josh lives in Austin with his wife Amy and three children. The best way to reach him is on Twitter @joshuabaer



### **Preston L. James II, DivInc**

Preston is Co-Founder/CEO of DivInc, which is the first early stage tech startup accelerator in Texas exclusively for people of color and women tech entrepreneurs. Founded in 2016, DivInc's vision is to DivInc has launched 36 companies within its first 18 months in operation. Preston served a two-year appointment as the EIR at the Herb Kelleher Center for Entrepreneurship at University of Texas.

"For me, I've always been a big believer that technology innovation is critical to solving many problems we face on a day to day basis, however, people are essential to creating real solutions that deliver a positive impact on society. That's why I'm naturally drawn to the spirit of the entrepreneur, because it's about helping people make our communities, our countries, and the world a better place!"

## **Specialty Focus Session: Invest in Yourself**

*Presented by the Texas Film Commission, Governor's Commission for Women & AT&T.*

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### **Monique Renée Meyer, Monique Renée Design Studio LLC**

Monique Meyer is an Adobe Certified graphic designer and educator who holds a Master's degree in graphic design + digital media from the Academy of Art University in San Francisco. She has provided creative leadership and consulting for higher education, nonprofit, and corporate organizations and has directed marketing campaigns for recruitment, fundraising, and engagement in addition to managing numerous large-scale events. Currently operating her own design studio which specializes in strategic marketing graphic design for nonprofits, she was recently a judge for a Netflix + Adobe global design challenge. She is the new host of Ladies, Wine & Design MidCities and is a design mentor for the Dallas Entrepreneurship Center and Designed.org.