



EMPOWER GENNOW NETWORK

2022

Annual Report

Eight years ago I dreamed about this new idea for networking and growth. I was a young professional, career driven and motivated. Seeking professional and personal development and growth opportunities to enhance my skills. I was always on a journey to strive to find the information necessary to help me excel. Always eager to adapt from my humble "working class" beginnings.

I was born into the generation of young professionals, raised by TV and technology. Access to these tools, lead to unlimited access to information. The choice of how we use this information separates us by either achieving our goals or taking no action. We can transform our dream goals into real achievements. Or, without action, our dreams can remain only as our dreams. Hard work transforms access to information and big dreams into great career and personal achievements. As a child of an athlete and coach, my father instilled the importance of practice and training. These developmental values built the genetic makeup of the woman I have become today. Consistent practice and skills development also propel my career advancement.

It was leaders, like Hamilton County Commissioner Alicia Reece, who taught me the importance of networking. To increase my network to increase my net worth. With the power of networking, I opened doors early in my career. My network helped me launch Generation NOW Cincinnati Network six years ago. Our LinkedIn Networking Happy Hour events were the start of this amazing organization. These monthly events grew from a crowd of 50 to 300 young professionals. We highlight businesses across the country, locally and regionally. We land sponsorships for with Cincy's top Fortune 500 companies, such as P&G. We award young professionals for their career achievements.

Join our organization in our next strategic transition. From hosting events to offering training opportunities and education for young professionals. Our organization now provides access to resources through membership. We continue to plan and grow with the launch of longer cohort programs and courses.

Renika



RENIKA J. SMILEY

Founder & CEO

2022 by the numbers

Record Fundraise

Raised **\$210,000** in 2022, **\$70,000 more** than our 2021 fundraising total. We are also now funded by the Greater Cincinnati Foundation.

Board Strong

Added seven members to Generation Now's Board of Directors.



Renika **Smiley**



Jon **Mardis**



John **Webster**



Terri **Bunting**



Alandes **Powell**



Amanda **Kranis**



Dawn **Singleton**

SEIP Graduate

Finished the Ohio Community Development Corporation's Social Enterprise Incubation Program (SEIP), an 11-month training program for OCDCA members.

Expanding Partnerships

Became a United Way of Greater Cincinnati systems change partner, joining a cohort of 80+ Cincinnati nonprofits.

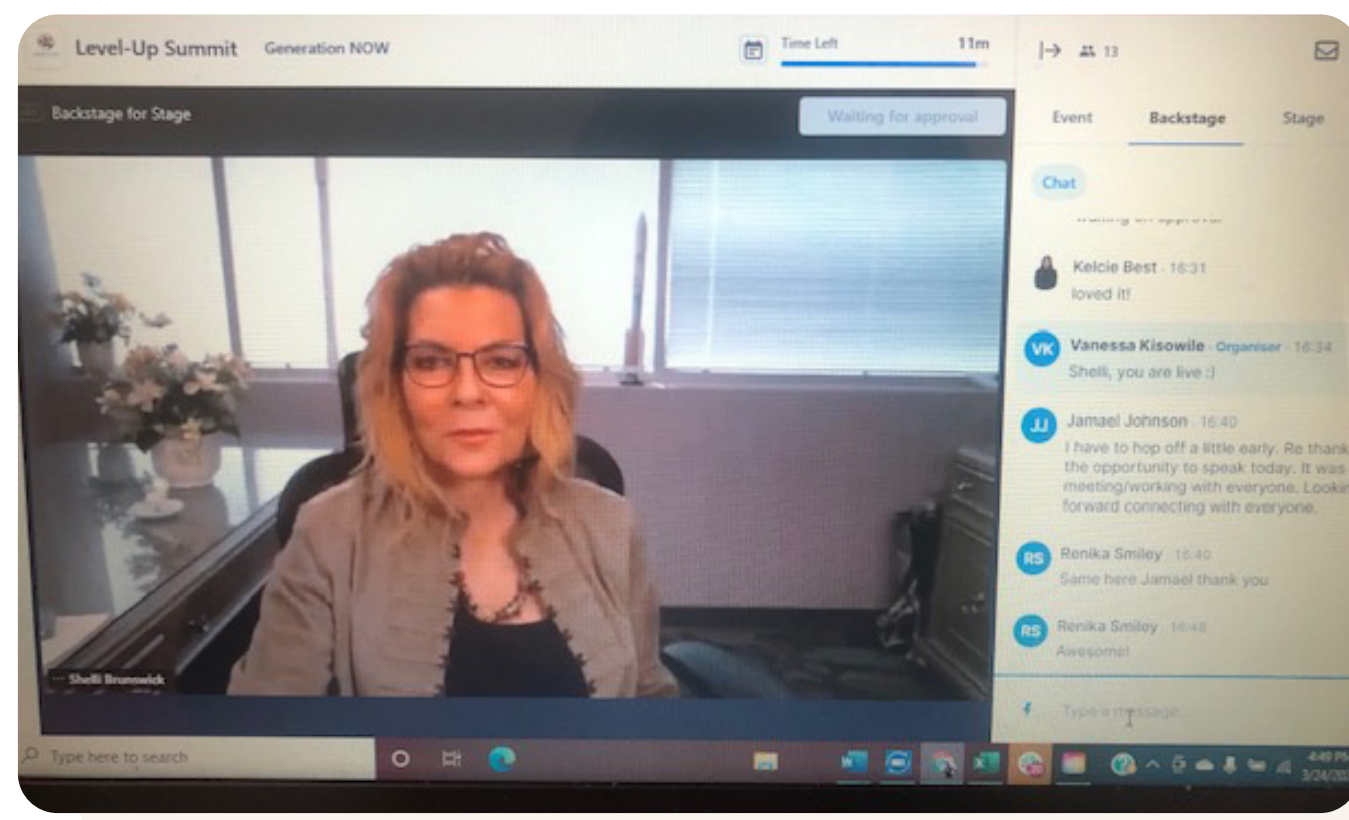


OCDCA Pitch Winner

Won an **\$8,000 pitch competition** at the OCDCA's 38th Annual Conference.

Leveling Up

Welcomed **Shelli Brunswick**, COO of Space Foundation, as the keynote speaker for LevelUp Summit, our professional advancement event.



Young Professional Spotlight

Our YP Block Party on the Banks welcomed Cincinnati Mayor **Aftab Pureval** and **6,000** Cincinnati young professionals.



Award-Winning

Fifteen young professionals took home our Generation NOW Award.

