



The
Annabelle
Project™



Shaping
the Future
of the Events
& Hospitality
Industry





The
Annabelle
Project™

Our Story

The founding of The Annabelle Project is a deeply personal mission and was ignited by a bond between a father and his daughter. Annabelle, the daughter of industry thought leader Warwick Davies, embodies brilliance and boundless energy. Her radiant spirit has not only touched the lives of those around her but has also fueled Warwick's passion to mold a brighter, more opportune future for individuals who share her rich heritage.

In surveying the landscape of the events industry, Warwick discerned a pressing need: to usher in meaningful change that would allow individuals of color to shine, fostering a workforce as diverse as the events it brings to life. The Annabelle Project is Warwick's answer to this call. It's an ambitious endeavor aimed at dismantling barriers, bridging gaps, and creating pathways. By forging meaningful connections and facilitating immersive learning experiences, the project aspires to nurture talent, foster growth, create opportunity and pave the way for a more inclusive future in the events industry.

Our Mission

The Annabelle Project is an innovative mentorship initiative designed to bridge the gap between aspiring professionals of color and seasoned leaders in the events industry. This year-long program pairs college-age students from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), institutions with high Hispanic enrollment as well as other colleges with students of color with experienced mentors who are leaders in the events and hospitality industry. Participants receive invaluable one-on-one guidance, industry insights, and access to powerful professional networks, empowering them to build successful careers in the dynamic world of events. For senior executives in the events industry, this program represents an opportunity to invest in the future by nurturing a diverse pool of talented professionals who bring fresh perspectives and ideas to the table. By tapping into this underrepresented yet highly capable talent base, The Annabelle Project not only helps these students unlock their potential but also contributes to the growth and innovation of the events industry with new and diverse voices.

Our Vision

We believe in the extraordinary power of diversity and the profound impact it will have on the event management industry. At The Annabelle Project, we will champion opportunity in the events and hospitality industry workforce by empowering young professionals from diverse backgrounds with the advice, skills and connections essential for success. Our vision is to make the event industry as diverse as the audiences it serves.

annabelleproject.org



Meet Our Mentors



The mentors at The Annabelle Project aren't just any event professionals – they're the crème de la crème of the industry. They've pulled off some of the most talked-about events, bagged prestigious awards, and built networks that even the most seasoned professionals would envy.



Blanca Delgado

Event Director
RX Global



Robin Hayes Wishom

Director, Corporate
Partnership and Exhibits,
340B Health



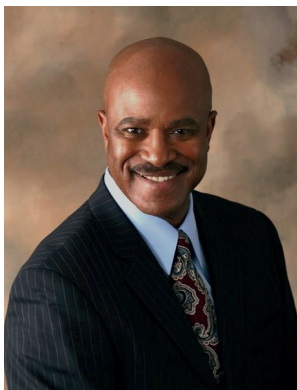
Sam Lippman

Founder and President,
Lippman Connects



Mel Montes

Vice President, Fashion,
Airports, and DEIB
Clarion Events



Michael D. Munn

Community Engagement
Liaison, Meet Boston



B. Murphy

Former Senior National Sales
Manager, Fern Exposition
Services



**Robin R. Preston,
CEM, DES**

Managing Director, Events,
The American Institute of
Architects



Al Rutherford

Founding Partner, Rutherford
& Associates



Rochelle Richardson

Senior Executive Leader of
Strategy, Innovation,
Exhibition Management, Sales,
Marketing, Operations, and
Communications



Monique Ruff-Bell

Chief Program & Strategy
Officer, TED



Shari Sally

Vice President, CES Sales,
Consumer Technology
Association (CTA)



**Samuel R. Thomas,
Jr.**

Senior Vice President and
General Manager, McCormick
Place

NEXT STEPS



1

Apply



2

Get Matched



3

Fire Up



Learn more and apply

annabelleproject.org

warwick@annabelleproject.org



The Annabelle Project, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is dedicated to empowering students from diverse backgrounds by connecting them with experienced mentors in the events industry, fostering workforce readiness and professional growth.