

A collaboration of
Upper Valley Music Center, Lebanon Opera House, and AVA Gallery & Art Center
presents

Governance Matters: Reconciling DEI Values, Intentions, and Impact

A workshop with Vernetta Walker, J.D. for Board members
and leadership staff of Upper Valley Arts Organizations

Nonprofit leaders recognize that embracing and addressing issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion is crucial to advancing their missions. While many have articulated their commitments to DEI, moving from good intentions to action often presents a challenge. This interactive workshop led by DEI and governance expert Vernetta Walker is designed to help you get “unstuck” and create meaningful change. We will create space to confront challenges, deepen understanding, and develop strategies for change.

Participants will engage in critical thinking and conversations that explore:

- The role of the board of directors and leaders in setting the tone at the top for DEI
- Internal assumptions and practices that can impede DEI
- Practices that support DEI
- Strategies to create sustainable change

Session Objectives:

- Developing shared language and understanding of core DEI concepts
- Creating an authorizing environment for doing “the work”
- Building confidence to engage in courageous conversations
- Articulating an organization-wide vision for DEI
- Identifying specific priorities and commitments
- Moving from words to action

Presented with support from New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, Hypertherm, and Lindsay Dearborn

Registration Information

Friday, September 23, 2022
9:00 am – 3:00 pm, lunch included
Hypertherm Conference Room
Registration: Pay-what-you can. Suggested
\$45 per person; \$30 per person for a team
of three or more.

Visit uvmusic.org/dei to register.
Registration deadline 9/16; late
registrations accepted as space allows.

Questions? Contact Ben at 603-448-1642 x3
or ben@uvmusic.org for more information

Vernetta Walker, J.D.

Vernetta Walker & Associates Consulting, Inc.

Vernetta Walker is CEO
and Chief Governance
Gladiator of Vernetta
Walker & Associates
Consulting. Prior to
starting her consulting
practice, Vernetta served
as Chief Governance
Officer, Vice President of
Programs, and Senior



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Advisor on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) for BoardSource. With over two decades of experience as a nonprofit leader and consultant, Vernetta is passionate about helping organizations maximize their impact through exceptional leadership, intellectual engagement, and advancing DEI for mission impact. In addition to providing consulting and training, she is a frequent speaker on nonprofit leading practices, sector trends, and DEI.

Vernetta has worked with hundreds of public charities, associations, and foundations across the country and globally. Her clients have included Easterseals, Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, YMCA of the USA, the National Aquarium, Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Gulf Coast Community Foundation, and the Walt Disney Company.

Previous work experience includes serving as associate general counsel and director of consulting for the Maryland Association of Nonprofit Organizations, foundation advocacy counsel for the Alliance for Justice, and director of the Administration of Justice Grants for the Florida Bar Foundation. She also practiced law for several years in Orlando, Florida.

Vernetta is an adjunct lecturer at Columbia University, where she teaches Nonprofit Governance and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Nonprofits and Philanthropy. Vernetta has extensive nonprofit board experience and currently serves on the DC Bar Foundation board and is board chair of March for Our Lives.

Vernetta received a Juris Doctor degree from the Washington University School of Law, St. Louis, Missouri, and Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland.