



**WOMEN'S
COUNCIL**

A GREATER ROCHESTER CHAMBER PROGRAM

WHEN WOMEN LEAD

MEET OUR **PANELISTS**



Talethea Best

Chief People & Culture Officer, YMCA of Greater Rochester

Talethea M. Best is the YMCA Greater Rochester Association's Chief People & Culture Officer. In this exciting new role, Talethea is tasked with leading strategy in the areas of leadership development, succession management, advancing equity and belonging, and employee engagement in a way that helps people do their very best every day. Prior to joining the YMCA, Best was the Founder and CEO of Best Innovations Consulting, LLC, a boutique HR consultancy focused on talent strategy, equity practices and strengths-based teams. Having been the Global Head of Talent Development at Aon Corporation and Head of Learning Strategy for the consulting side of Hewitt Associates, Best has accumulated over 30 years of business planning, pipeline development and performance consulting experience with Scott Paper, Shell Oil and Moog Inc organizations. Her people philosophy is simple: inclusive leaders build inclusive organizations; and inclusive organizations enable thriving communities.

Best is a graduate from Drexel University with honors and a BS degree in Marketing & Communications; and has a Master's in Learning & Organizational Change from Northwestern University.



Jenna Tatar

Operational Excellence Manager, Riedman

Jenna Tatar is the Operational Excellence Manager at Riedman and a systems-minded leader focused on helping organizations work smarter, not just harder. She partners across teams to design and refine processes that improve performance while creating clarity and alignment at every level of the business.

Her career path - spanning diverse industries and both nonprofit and for-profit sectors - has shaped her ability to quickly assess complex environments and implement practical, scalable solutions. Jenna is known for translating big-picture strategy into practical execution that resonates with both leadership and frontline teams.

She is especially passionate about developing leaders and building cultures grounded in growth mindset, clear communication, and shared purpose. Jenna believes that when people are supported by the right systems, they are empowered to think more creatively, lead more effectively, and drive meaningful, lasting impact.



**WOMEN'S
COUNCIL**

A GREATER ROCHESTER CHAMBER PROGRAM

WHEN WOMEN LEAD

MEET OUR **PANELISTS**



Latia Vaughan

CEO & Founder, Illuminate LIVE

Latia Vaughan is a globally recognized Futurist, Human Evolution Expert, and transformational leader shaping the future of leadership, innovation, and human potential. Known as "The Dream Pusher," she is among the 1% of African American women futurists in North America, working at the intersection of culture, technology, and collective flourishing.

Latia is best known for her signature framework, "Build the Jungle, Not the Garden," first introduced in Forbes — a call to replace rigid, outdated systems with living, adaptive ones built for how people actually grow and connect.

With 20+ years in evolutionary leadership development, she has spoken everywhere from the United Nations to Fortune 500 boardrooms, including Meta, Google, GEICO, and Instagram. She is CEO of The Illuminate Group, LLC and Founder of Illuminate LIVE™, a global women's summit and ecosystem advancing leadership and economic mobility worldwide.

An award-winning entrepreneur, bestselling author, and keynote speaker, Latia's work has been featured in 200+ media outlets including Forbes, NPR, ABC, NBC, and Essence Festival of Culture. She serves on the Board of the Home of the 19th Amendment Collective, advancing women's economic empowerment in honor of Susan B. Anthony's legacy.

MODERATED BY



Ginny Ryan

Senior Vice President, Director of Community Engagement

Ginny Ryan was born in Gates, graduated from Cardinal Mooney High School and later graduated from Buffalo State College. She got her first TV job in Elmira, and two years later returned home to 13WHAM where she worked as a news reporter and anchor for 35 years. In 2018, she was inducted into the New York State Broadcasting Hall of Fame. In 2022, Ginny joined Canandaigua National Bank as Director of Community Engagement overseeing the bank's communications, events, and philanthropy. She and her husband Jeff have two grown children.