

NAVIGATING THE UNKNOWN

The 8th Annual JEFFERSON FORUM

Jefferson
Regional
Foundation

Evaluation Summary

For the first time in three years, the Jefferson Regional Foundation hosted its annual Forum in person at the Crowne Plaza South on Thursday, May 5. The 8th Annual Jefferson Forum centered around the theme of Navigating the Unknown and how we have adapted to shifting demands, creating new ways of operating in our professional and personal lives. We challenged attendees to consider where possibilities and opportunities exist, embracing these changes that frame our daily lives with unity and ingenuity.

QUICK FACTS

Attendee Composition –

- 178 people in attendance
- 104 organizations represented

100% of attendees agreed the Forum was **productive** to attend (85% strongly agreed)

100% of attendees are **likely to attend future Forums**

45% of attendees (n=178) submitted **evaluation forms**

4.6 on a 5 point scale was the average rating for **workshops**

4.5 on a 5 point scale was the average rating for **activities**

OVERALL EVALUTATIONS

What Attendees Liked Most –

1. Networking and being in person
2. Dr. Jay Apt keynote
3. Fun, interactive, and engaging activities

What Attendees Liked Least –

1. Being limited to 1 workshop
2. More guidance needed with café convos
3. The cold room temperature

What Attendees Want in the Future –

1. More workshops & activities
2. Longer program
3. Structured networking



KEYNOTE SPEAKER FEEDBACK

Dr. Jay Apt, former astronaut with four shuttle missions, shared his experiences in navigating unknown territory and finding the capacity within to thrive in an era of change.

100% of respondents were “Very Satisfied” or “Satisfied” with the Keynote Speaker, Dr. Jay Apt.

“The keynote speaker, Dr. Jay Apt, was so incredible. His life experiences and sharing the importance of teamwork really resonated with the theme.”



“This was a great theme and a good way to get people together for the first time since the pandemic.”

continued on next page

FIVE WORKSHOPS - EDUCATE

Attendees had the opportunity to participate in one of five highly rated workshops with 18 panelists.

Navigating Civic Engagement and Why It Matters - **Maryn Formley**, VEEEM Pittsburgh; **Tracy Soska**, LSW, Pitt School of Social Work and Allegheny County Library Association; **Randi Vega**, Age-Friendly Greater Pittsburgh; **Laura Wiens**, Pittsburghers for Public Transit

Navigating DEI in the Workplace - **Godfrey Bethea**, Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank; **Michael Jones**, Allegheny Intermediate Unit; **Dr. Angelica Perez-Johnston**, Community College of Allegheny County

Navigating Government Funding - **Amber Farr**, Allegheny County Department of Human Services (DHS) Program Offices; **Kathy McCauley**, Allegheny County Department of Human Services; **Johnna Pro**, Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development; **Carol Shrieve**, Carnegie of Homestead

Navigating Communications - **Aaron Billger**, Highmark Health; **Caitlin Green**, ServiceLink; **Khara Timsina**, Bhutanese Community Association of Pittsburgh; **Megs Yunn**, Beverly's Birthdays

Navigating the Future of Work - **Carey Harris**, Literacy Pittsburgh; **Charlene Newkirk**, Community College of Allegheny County; **Laura Zinski**, Mon Valley Initiative

"The government funding workshop provided education on grant funding that will be useful in my career."

"I very much enjoyed the civic engagement workshop."

"The DEI workshop was extremely informative and engaging."



"The afternoon session with Attack Theatre was the perfect after lunch activity."

"I really enjoyed engaging music with Center of Life during the Forum."

SIX ACTIVITIES - EXPLORE

Attendees navigated the unknown in the afternoon with activities centered around exploration. Groups participated in movement exercises, virtual reality, body percussion, geocaching, 3D printing and improvisation.

Exploring Rhythmic Mindfulness Through Body Percussion with **Center of Life**

Moving Through Change with **Attack Theatre**

Exploring Virtual Reality: Collaborative Painting with **CMU's Big Mixed Reality Team**

Navigating Geocaching with **Venture Outdoors**

Improvising Through the Unknown with **Arcade Theater**

Navigating Digital Fabrication with **Carnegie Science Center's Mobile FabLab**

"Everything was so well done and well-paced. The activities were the perfect touch."

ONE-ON-ONE COACHING

Registrants had the opportunity to engage in one-on-one coaching sessions throughout the day with five coaches discussing a variety of essential nonprofit topics including communication strategies, using data, evaluations, technology and small organizations.

- Tim Hinds, Trailblaze Creative - Improving Nonprofit Communication Strategies and Branding
- Liz Monk, Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center (WPRDC) - Using Public Data in Your Program and Grants
- Susan Chase, Open Minds LLC - Evaluation and Outcomes - Making it Clear!
- Cindy Leonard, Cindy Leonard Consulting - Technology Strategies for Your Organization
- Lucille Dabney, Program to Aid Citizen Enterprise (PACE) - Small Organizations, Big Impact



"The coaching sessions added a personalized touch to the day."

JEFFERSON CAFÉ CONVERSATIONS



At the end of the day, attendees participated in open conversation time with Table Topics selected and hosted by Forum participants.

"I loved the organic conversations and connections made during the Jefferson Café."

ACTIVATE

18 attendees signed up to participate in the Diversity, Equity & Racial Justice Action Team

16 organizations signed up to learn more about our voter engagement efforts and become Voter Engagement Champions with the Jefferson Votes campaign

7 attendees signed up to participate in the Civic & Policy Action Team

For more information, contact Community Engagement Manager **Danny Vereb** and daniel.vereb@jeffersonrf.org or 412-990-7115.