



The University of Houston
Friends of

WOMEN'S, GENDER & SEXUALITY

Studies
invite you to



The
**27th ANNUAL
TABLE TALK**

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

[View More](#)



Cover Image:
Blue Jay 3
Oil on canvas
2020

Watermelon Freedom
Acrylic and ink on canvas
2021

CONVERSE. SHARE. LEARN.

Table Talk is a fascinating combination of conversations, led by dynamic women of various cultures, professions and experience at each table.

Table Talk benefits the Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies Program at the University of Houston. The WGSS Program combines theoretical and empirical studies, to give students the tools to analyze the gender dynamics of the past and present and to build a fair future.

Buy Tables/Tickets: giving.uh.edu/tabletalk



CO-CHAIRS

Elizabeth Chiao, MD

Staci LaToison, CEO, Dream Big Ventures & Host, Her Money Moves

HILTON AMERICAS, 1600 LAMAR, HOUSTON 77010

Ballroom of the Americas

11 am Reception | 12 pm–1:30 pm Conversations over Lunch

Self-parking in the garage by the Hilton Americas entrance on Dallas,
and valet parking also available.

Business Attire.

looking into yourself

Acrylic, ink and oil on raw canvas

2013



New Queen

Oil, Acrylic and Ink on Wood

2020

CHANGE AGENT

H-E-B

THOUGHT LEADER

Melanie Gray

ARCHIVISTS

MD Anderson Cancer Center

Annette Bracey & Geordie Hrdlicka/

Verde Wealth

Chinhui Juhn

Staci LaToison/Dream Big Ventures/Her Money Moves

Amanda McMillian

Memorial Hermann

PNC Bank

MaryScott Hagle & Yava Scott/

Pat Gardner Young

Carey Shuart

Texas Capital Bank

UT Health



View from my Window
Oil and acrylic on canvas
2021

SCHOLARS

Carmen Abrego, Danielle Bartz & MaryRoss Taylor

Kafah Bachari/Camillo Properties

Simin Banister

Elizabeth Cheney & Rebecca Rush

Elizabeth Chiao & GinRu Lee

Ruth Dreessen

Eliza Horn, Elisabeth Netherton, MD & Tanya Pal

Houston Public Media

Mandy Kao

Sherry Merfish

Swati Narayan & Shreela Sharma, PhD

Kathryn Peek, PhD

Beverly Robinson

UH Library



BOARD MEMBERS

Carmen Peña Abrego, *President*

Cara Baez

Danielle Bartz, *Vice President*

Annie Benifield, Ph.D.

Elizabeth Chiao, M.D., M.P.H.

Ruth Dreessen

Cristina Garcia Gamboa

Cathryn Martinez

Swati Narayan

Elisabeth Netherton, M.D.

Julia Ossemi-Seied

Guillermo de los Reyes, Ph.D.

Joy Sewing

Shreela Sharma, Ph.D., R.D., L.D.,

Treasurer

Carey Shuart

Leandra Zarnow, Ph.D.

Wish She Wasn't a Statue
Acrylic and ink on raw canvas
2014



ADVISORY COUNCIL

Dina Alsowayel, Ph.D.

Annette Bracey

Lemar Brown

Patricia Cabrera

Decie Autin Coleman

Caroline Fant

MaryScott Hagle

Eliza Horn

Geordie Hrdlicka

Mandy Kao

Nina Andrews Karohl

Shannon Langrand

GinRu Lee

Susana Monteverde

Tanya Pal

Sue Payne, *Chair*

Kathryn Peek, Ph.D.

Beverly Robinson

Rebecca Rush

Yava Scott

Angela Shippy, M.D.

Carey Shuart

MaryRoss Taylor

Patricia Gardner Young



HOST COMMITTEE

Rhonda Arnold, Michelle Avalos, Kafah Bachari, Annette Bracey, Shannon Buggs, Libby Cheney, Cheryl Creuzot, June Deadrick, Ruth Dreessen, Melissa Edwards, Caroline Fant, Samina Farid, Jessica Farrar, Andrea Georgsson, Eleanor Gilbane, Shelley Gottschalk, Melanie Gray, MaryScott Hagle, Chinhui Juhn, Mandy Kao, Sippi Khurana, MD, Brenda Mainwaring, Sultana Mangalji, Fatima Mawji, Amanda McMillian, Sherry Merfish, Terry Morales, Leisa Holland Nelson, Sharon Michael Owens, Sue Payne, Leila Perrin, Priscilla Picasso, Beverly Robinson, Sally Russ, Yava Scott, Angela Shippy, MD, Carey C. Shuart, Sannam Warrender



CONVERSATIONALISTS

Zahra Ali

Ashley Allen, PhD

Nancy Almodovar

Hemu Basu

Lynn Birdwell

Raquel Boujourne

Natara Branch

Casey Brand

Kryshon Bratton

Amanda Brock

Elizabeth Brock

Aris Kian Brown

Jennifer Chang

Angel Cornelius

Table Talk 2024 Artist

Executive Director

Founder & CEO

Owner & Cake Artist

Co-Founder & Exec Prod

CEO & Co-Founder

CEO

CEO & Designer

President

Founder & CEO

Vice President , Energy

Solutions and Business Services

Poet Laureate

Sr. Director, Digital

Experimentation & Innovation

CEO & Founder

Houston Community Land Trust

Nan & Co Properties

Hemu's Sweet Sensation

Bird House Productions

Indi Construction Partners, LLC

Houston Exponential

Cassandra Brand Interiors

PiperWhitney Permeable Landscaping

ARIS Water Solutions

CenterPoint Energy

City of Houston

Houston Chronicle

Maison 276



CONVERSATIONALISTS (CONT'D)

Danielle Davis

Vice President, SW Head of
Diverse Businesses

JP Morgan Chase & Co.

Victoria Elizondo
Karen Fang, PhD

Chef & Owner
Professor of English/
Film & Author

Cochinita & Co.
University of Houston

Juliana Garaizar
Yvonne Guidry
Brandi Harleaux

Founding Partner
Founder
CEO

Energy Tech Nexus
Spoiled Latina
South Post Oak Recycling

Lisa Harris
Britt Hawthorne
Valerie Holland

Musician/Independent Artist
Education Consultant & Author
VP Community Engagement

Studio Enertia
Raising AntiRacist Children
Houston Dash & Dynamo

Qiana James
Abbie Kamin
Damla Karsan, MD

CEO
City Council Member, District C
OB/GYN & Patient Advocate

Friendly Faces Senior Care
City of Houston
Comprehensive Women's Healthcare

Valerie Koehler
Mili Kyropoulou, LEED

Owner
Asst Professor, Sustainable
Architecture

Blue Willow Books
University of Houston

Kathryn Lott

President & Park Director

Discovery Green Conservancy



CONVERSATIONALISTS (CONT'D)

Alexis Loving

Ayanna Mccloud

Luisa Montoya, PhD

Christina Morales

Atlantis Narcisse

Sineria Ordonez

Ada Ortega

Alexandra Pruner

Luz Elena Rivers

Krystal Robb

Ann Robison, PhD

Diane Santa-Maria, PhD

Kathleen Schmeler, MD

Joy Sewing

President & CEO

Executive Director

CEO

State Representative,
District 145

Founder & CEO

National Hispanic Business
Development Manager

Director, Public Affairs,
Communications & Sustainability

Board Chair

Founder & CEO

Owner

CEO (Retired)

Dean

Executive Director,
Global Oncology

News Columnist

Search Homeless Services

Bayou City Waterkeeper

Diversity Matters

Texas Legislature

Save Our Sisters United

Comerica

Coca-Cola

Malta, Inc

Amera Solutions

Brass Tacks

The Montrose Center

UT School of Nursing

MD Anderson Cancer Center

Houston Chronicle



CONVERSATIONALISTS (CONT'D)

Julie Sudduth

Sarah Syed

Brenda Sykes

Welela Tereffe, MD

Erika Thompson

Elena White

Kelly Young

Regional President

Senior Community Organizer

CEO

Chief Medical Executive &

Professor, Breast Radiation Oncology

Community Liaison, African

American History Research Center

Executive Director

President/CEO

PNC Bank

Woori Juntos

Bay Area Turning Point

MD Anderson Cancer Center

Houston Public Library

Connective

Coalition for the Homeless



PROGRAM STAFF

Dr. Elizabeth Gregory—Director

Dr. Dina Alsowayel—Associate Director

Dr. Guillermo De Los Reyes—Associate Director LGBT Studies

Dr. Rachel Afi Quinn—Associate Professor

Dr. Zelma Oyarvide Tuthill—Assistant Professor

Dr. Shraddha Chatterjee—Visiting Scholar

Sara Rehman, M.A.—Program Director

Leanne Prendergast, M.Sc., Graduate Assistant

SPECIAL THANKS TO



Zahra Ali
Comerica Bank
Laura Hill
Caroline Fant
Sue Payne



Friends of Women's,
Gender & Sexuality Studies
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

WOMEN'S, GENDER & SEXUALITY STUDIES

University of Houston
Agnes Arnold Hall
3553 Cullen Boulevard, Room 624
Houston, TX 77204-3005

P 713.743.5369

F 713.743.0931

www.uh.edu/class/ws/
giving.uh.edu/tabletalk

