



D.C. Open Government Coalition Summit 2023

March 15, 2023

Reception and meet and greet

Welcome and opening remarks (6:30 p.m. start)

- Thomas Susman, Founding and Immediate Past President, DCOGC
- Kirsten Mitchell, current DCOGC president

Reflection: Open Government Opportunities Past Future

- Former Mayor Anthony Williams

The State of Open Government in D.C.

- Norma Hutcheson, Chairwoman, Board of Ethics and Accountability
- Niquelle Allen, director, Office of Open Government

Why Transparency Matters in your Life

- Trash: Charlotte Dreizen, formerly of Zero Waste D.C.
- Schools: Ruth Wattenberg, former president of the D.C. Board of Education
- Neighborhoods: Kent Boese, Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions

Building a Coalition for Open Government Reform

- Damon King, Policy Director, ACLU of DC
- Kathy Chiron, League of Women Voters of the District of Columbia
- Alex Baca, Policy Director, Greater Greater Washington

Thank you to our co-sponsors: Society of Professional Journalists Washington, D.C. Pro Chapter and The Washington Post



About DCOGC: The D.C. Open Government Coalition seeks to enhance the public's access to government information and ensure the transparency of government operations of the District of Columbia. We believe that transparency promotes civic engagement and is critical to responsive and accountable government. We strive to improve the processes by which the public gains access to government records and proceedings, and to educate the public and government officials about the principles and benefits of open government in a democratic society. *For more information and to support transparency and open government in D.C., visit www.dco.gc.org.*

About our speakers:

Anthony Williams, former mayor of D.C. from 1999 to 2007. Mr. Williams is widely credited with leading a comeback of the District of Columbia during his two terms. He currently is CEO of the Federal City Council, an organization that focuses the creative and administrative talents of Washington's business and professional leaders on major problems and opportunities facing the District, and serves on various boards.

Norma Hutcheson, chairwoman, Board of Ethics and Government Accountability. Ms. Hutcheson retired from the position of Deputy Managing Counsel for the Capital Metro Law Office of the U.S. Postal Service Law Department in 2016 after 36 years of service in the federal government. She has served on numerous community boards and on the National Bar Association Board of Directors as Regional Director for Region XII.

Niquelle Allen, director, Office of Open Government. Ms. Allen was named to the position in 2018 and has been a steadfast advocate for transparency in government and is a respected and dynamic public speaker and presenter. She has solidified the Office of Open Government's position as a strong resource for information and guidance on open government issues.

Charlotte Dreizen, director of Sustainability and Environment at the Plastics Industry Association. Ms. Dreizen joined the association in fall of 2022 to lead work related to plastics in the environment, including Operation Clean Sweep. Previously, she managed recycling programs for the American Institute of Architect's net zero carbon commitment, the D.C. government and the Sustainable Packaging Coalition.

Ruth Wattenberg, former president of the D.C. Board of Education. Ms. Wattenberg is a school activist, education reformer, education policy wonk, and 30-year resident of D.C. She was elected as the Ward 3 member of the D.C. State Board of Education in November 2014 and re-elected in November 2018, and subsequently became president.

Kent Boese, executive director of the D.C. Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANCs), which provides support and guidance to the city's ANCs. Mr. Boese served 12 years as an ANC Commissioner serving on ANC1A and also brings 15 years of professional management experience within the legal community and 27 years of library experience.

Damon King, policy director of the American Civil Liberties Union of the District of Columbia. Previously, Mr. King served as the director of policy advocacy at the Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia and as Senior Policy Attorney at Children's Law Center, roles in which he addressed challenges confronting District residents with low incomes on a variety of issues, such as housing, public benefits, consumer law, family law, and domestic violence.

Kathy Chiron, president of the League of Women Voters D.C. Ms. Chiron joined the LWV-DC in 2016 when she repatriated after 16 years in Hong Kong where she served as president of the League of Women Voters HK, the only overseas chapter of the League. She also served as chair of the American Women's Association, an organization of 1,000 women from 45 countries.

Alex Baca, D.C. policy director at Greater Greater Washington, a volunteer-driven nonprofit that works to bring people together to discuss, organize and advocate for inclusive, diverse, and walkable urban communities in the Washington region. Previously, Ms. Baca was engagement director of the Coalition for Smarter Growth and the general manager of Cuyahoga (Ohio) County's bike-sharing system.



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