

# MOMENTUM



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<b>JUN 10-13</b>	<b>SAN JUAN</b> KICKOFF AT TCG!
<b>JUN 25-26</b>	<b>OKLAHOMA</b>
<b>JUL 14-15</b>	<b>BAHAMAS</b>
<b>JUL 25-26</b>	<b>SEATTLE</b>
<b>AUG 5-6</b>	<b>MINNEAPOLIS</b>
<b>SEPT 8</b>	<b>VIRTUAL CULMINATION</b>

Momentum is convened by Creative Evolutions in partnership with Theatre Communications Group and university hosts across North America.

# MOMENTUM



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## SUMMARY

### WHAT

**MOMENTUM pushes beyond traditional conferences to function as a living laboratory.**

Five convenings will be held at different universities over two days, building directly on the work that arose out of the previous gatherings. We'll create a cumulative national dialogue while releasing actionable frameworks and prototypes to the public, in the MOMENTUM 2026 Sourcebook.

The 2026 focus is **Expanding Options for Nonprofit Boards and Leadership Structures**, responding to a growing recognition of, and urgent call for this in Arts & Culture, Higher Ed, and local communities. **Creative Evolutions** and the leaders in our ecosystem understand that governance and leadership models can be created to better align with our contemporary realities, values, and community needs. Starting this summer, **MOMENTUM 2026** will activate such discoveries:

### HOW



**MOMENTUM 2026** will generate shareable materials in real time to produce a nationally accessible sourcebook that includes pilot-ready governance and leadership models, recorded plenary conversations, and cross-institutional documentation connecting regional innovation to national strategy.

### WHO

**Creative Evolutions** is a human-centered ecosystem in its fourth year, focusing on supporting implementation through consulting engagements and coaching. [CreativeEvolutions.com](https://CreativeEvolutions.com)

**Theatre Communications Group (TCG)**, the national organization for theatre, leading for a just and thriving theatre ecology. [TCG.org](https://TCG.org)

### WHEN & WHERE

- **June 10–13** – [TCG National Conference \(Puerto Rico\)](#)
- **June 26–27** – [University of Oklahoma](#)
- **July 14-15** – [University of the Bahamas](#)
- **July 24–25** – [Cornish School of the Arts at Seattle University](#)

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- **August 5–6** – [Minneapolis College of Art and Design](#)
- **September 8** – [Final Culminating National Webinar](#)

Each site convenes approximately 100–200 participants in facilitated design labs and plenary dialogues. Materials from each session are recorded, synthesized, and shared forward with the next university, allowing ideas to be tested, refined, and expanded across regions.

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## NATIONAL PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press inquiries: Cindy Marie Jenkins

[Cindy@CreativeEvolutions.com](mailto:Cindy@CreativeEvolutions.com) +1 323-552-3333

### **MOMENTUM 2026: A Rolling Conference for New Solutions**

**MomentumRevolutions.com**

**Summer 2026 Initiative Links Universities, Organizations, Creatives, and Funders in an Expansive Innovation Cycle**

**River Forest, IL, March 24, 2026 – Creative Evolutions**, in partnership with **Theatre Communications Group (TCG)** and four universities across the US and in the Bahamas, announces **MOMENTUM 2026**, a rolling conference designed to generate new actionable options for the nonprofit sector and beyond.

The 2026 focus is **EXPANDING OPTIONS FOR BOARD MODELS**, responding to a growing recognition that many organizations and individuals are seeking governance and leadership models that better align with contemporary realities, values, and community needs.

Unlike traditional conferences, MOMENTUM functions as a living laboratory. Each two-day convening builds directly on the work of the previous gathering, creating a cumulative dialogue and public virtual release of actionable frameworks and prototypes.

*“Innovation that makes impactful change is rarely a top-down activity. It begins in local communities. It activates with local leaders who understand the fabric and texture of their region, the lived experiences, the history in the room, the tensions, the assets, and the relationships that make change possible.*”

*MOMENTUM 2026 recognizes that regional leadership is not a smaller version of national or international strategy; it is the pilot laboratory for it. When we intentionally honor local knowledge as functional expertise and invest in leaders who are already*

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*deeply rooted in the communities they serve, we don't just scale ideas; we scale and uplift wisdom. And that is how real, sustainable, diverse society-wide innovation can happen."*

- Calida Jones, Co-Founder, Creative Evolutions

## 2026 MOMENTUM Schedule

- **June 10–13** – Kickoff session at the TCG National Conference (Puerto Rico) – [tickets](#)
- **June 26–27** – University of Oklahoma
- **July 14–15** – University of the Bahamas
- **July 24–25** – Seattle University
- **August 5–6** – Minneapolis College of Art and Design
- **September 8** – Free Final Culminating Webinar

Each site convenes approximately 100–200 participants for facilitated design labs and plenary dialogues. Materials from each session are recorded, synthesized, and shared forward with the next cohort, allowing ideas to be tested, refined, and expanded across regions.

By the end of the summer, MOMENTUM will produce a widely accessible sourcebook that includes pilot-ready governance and leadership models, recorded plenary conversations, and cross-institutional documentation connecting regional innovation to national strategy.

*"The Bahamas has one of the richest, deepest, and most expansive cultures. To invest in the sustainability and future of cultural growth, organizations need the structures, support, and capacity to carry it forward. MOMENTUM supports organizations in being innovative in their structuring."*

-Dr. Robert J. Blaine III, President, University of the Bahamas

Registration is now open at **MomentumRevolutions.com**. Professionals, faculty, students, funders, and civic leaders are invited to attend one or more locations across the summer. Each convening stands on its own while also contributing to a larger national exchange, allowing participants to engage locally while helping shape a broader body of actionable leadership models. Early registration is encouraged, as space at each university site is intentionally limited to support meaningful design work. An **Early Bird Discount** is available for registrations before **April 30, 2026** (use code: EARLYMOMENTUM).

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Sponsorships range from \$5,000 to \$50,000 per site, with opportunities for both local underwriting and national participation. All sponsors will be recognized across the full MOMENTUM cycle and within post-summer publications, report-outs, and piloting activities.

For more information, visit [MomentumRevolutions.com](https://MomentumRevolutions.com) or contact:

**Calida N. Jones & Douglas Clayton**, Co-Founders/Managing Collaborators  
[Calida@CreativeEvolutions.com](mailto:Calida@CreativeEvolutions.com) - [Douglas@CreativeEvolutions.com](mailto:Douglas@CreativeEvolutions.com)

Press inquiries: **Cindy Marie Jenkins**, Collaborator  
[Cindy@CreativeEvolutions.com](mailto:Cindy@CreativeEvolutions.com)  
+1 323-552-3333

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**June 10-13 Theatre Communications Group National Conference**  
Press inquiries: **LaTeshia Ellerson**, Co-Executive Director  
[Lellerson@tcg.org](mailto:Lellerson@tcg.org)

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**June 26–27 University of Oklahoma Helmerich School of Drama**  
Press inquiries: **Seth Gordon**, Professor of Performance  
[sethg@ou.edu](mailto:sethg@ou.edu)

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**July 14-15 University of the Bahamas**  
Press inquiries: **Tameka Lundy**, Vice President of Communications  
[Tameka.lundy@ub.edu.bs](mailto:Tameka.lundy@ub.edu.bs)

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**July 24–25 Seattle University, Performing Arts & Arts Leadership**  
Press inquiries: **James Miles**, Assistant Professor  
[jmiles@seattleu.edu](mailto:jmiles@seattleu.edu)

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**August 5–6 Minneapolis College of Art and Design**  
Press inquiries: **Kami Norland**, Director, Scholar, Faculty  
[knorland@mcad.edu](mailto:knorland@mcad.edu)

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*Momentum is convened by Creative Evolutions in partnership with Theatre Communications Group and university hosts across North America.*

Learn more about Creative Evolutions at: [www.creativeevolutions.com](http://www.creativeevolutions.com)

Learn more about Theatre Communications Group at: [www.tcg.org](http://www.tcg.org)

For general questions, you can reach the team at: [momentum@creativeevolutions.com](mailto:momentum@creativeevolutions.com)

Follow MOMENTUM 2026

<https://www.creativeevolutions.com>

[Instagram & Threads](#)

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## WHO'S ACTIVATING MOMENTUM

*If this is you, or someone you know, join us at MOMENTUM. -->>*



CALIDA JONES & DOUGLAS CLAYTON, CREATIVE EVOLUTIONS CO-FOUNDERS

*"This board takes more work than it is worth."*

*"There must be a better way to do this."*

*"Serving on this board doesn't seem like a good use of my time."*

*"This board is stressing me out."*

*"Can we trust the board of that organization to have things under control?"*

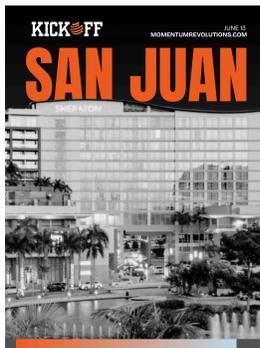
*"The board won't do the things we need them to do."*

*"We are trying to diversify the board, but really struggling..."*

### CREATIVE EVOLUTIONS

**Calida N. Jones & Douglas Clayton**, Co-Founders/Managing Collaborators  
[Calida@CreativeEvolutions.com](mailto:Calida@CreativeEvolutions.com) - [Douglas@CreativeEvolutions.com](mailto:Douglas@CreativeEvolutions.com)

Press inquiries: **Cindy Marie Jenkins**, Collaborator  
[Momentum@CreativeEvolutions.com](mailto:Momentum@CreativeEvolutions.com)



**June 10-13, 2026**  
**Theatre Communications Group**  
Press inquiries: **LaTeshia Ellerson**,  
Co-Executive Director  
[Lellerson@tcg.org](mailto:Lellerson@tcg.org)



**CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

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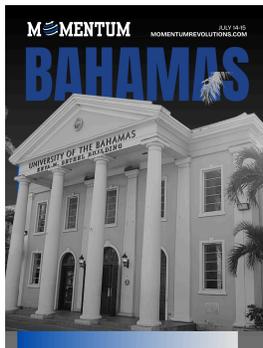
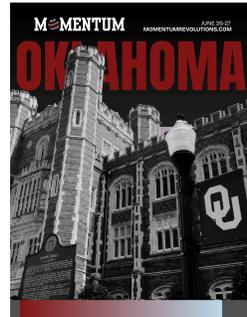


**SETH GORDON**

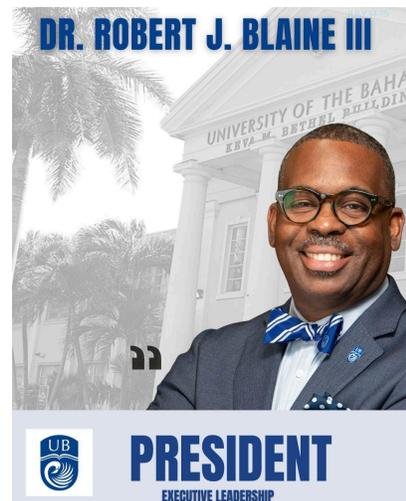


**PROFESSOR OF PERFORMANCE**

June 26–27, 2026  
University of Oklahoma Helmerich School of Drama  
Press inquiries: **Seth Gordon**,  
Professor of Performance  
[sethg@ou.edu](mailto:sethg@ou.edu)



July 14-15, 2026  
University of the Bahamas  
Press inquiries: **Tameka Lundy**,  
Executive Communications Strategist  
[Tameka.lundy@ub.edu.bs](mailto:Tameka.lundy@ub.edu.bs)



**DR. ROBERT J. BLAINE III**



**PRESIDENT**  
EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

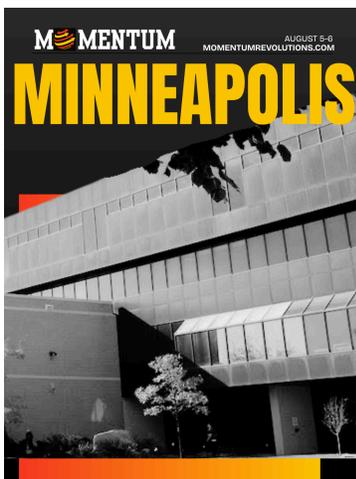
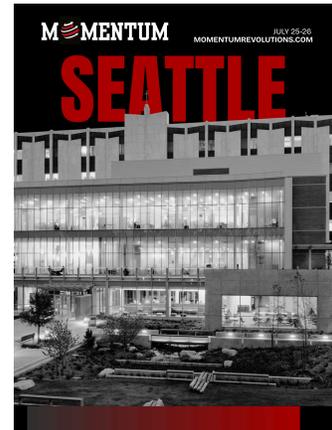
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**July 24–25, 2026**  
**Cornish at Seattle University,**  
**Performing Arts & Arts Leadership**  
Press inquiries: **James Miles,**  
Assistant Professor  
[jmiles@seattleu.edu](mailto:jmiles@seattleu.edu)



**August 5–6**  
**Minneapolis College of Art and Design (MCAD)**  
Press inquiries: **Kami Norland,**  
Director, Scholar, Faculty  
[knorland@mcad.edu](mailto:knorland@mcad.edu)



# MOMENTUM



## FAQs

A full FAQ document [is available here](#) and will be updated regularly.

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## WHO SHOULD ATTEND MOMENTUM?

*If this is you, or someone you know, join us at MOMENTUM. -->>*



CALIDA JONES & DOUGLAS CLAYTON, CREATIVE EVOLUTIONS CO-FOUNDERS

*"This board takes more work than it is worth."*

*"There must be a better way to do this."*

*"Serving on this board doesn't seem like a good use of my time."*

*"This board is stressing me out."*

*"Can we trust the board of that organization to have things under control?"*

*"The board won't do the things we need them to do."*

*"We are trying to diversify the board, but really struggling..."*

**MOMENTUM 2026 is for people who want more options to exist** than currently exist, and who are the kind of people **who love coming up with new ways to do things**. Builders, innovators, explorers, refiners, analysts, trailblazers, nurturers, and designers.

In terms of formal roles, participants can and should include executive leaders, board members, staff at all career stages, funders, civic leaders, artists, entrepreneurs, university faculty and students, and systems thinkers.

**The common thread is openness, curiosity, and a willingness to build and imagine rather than defend or reject.** It is important to be aware that MOMENTUM is a participatory, workshop experience. It is not primarily an educational experience, so all participants should bring some lived experience and knowledge of leadership, ownership, governance, oversight, or management structures that currently exist in their own contexts.

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If you've been saying, 'I'm looking at this and couldn't we do it some other way?' then MOMENTUM is for you!

## **IS THIS ONLY FOR UNITED STATES ARTS ORGANIZATIONS?**

No! The United States arts sector is a visible entry point because governance questions are often acute there, and that sector has given rise to the MOMENTUM ideas and structure. If you work in or care about how purpose-driven organizations are structured, this is for you, and your perspective will add to the future of our society through these dialogues.

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## MOMENTUM 2026 FOCUS

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### EXPANDING CHOICES FOR BOARD MODELS AND LEADERSHIP STRUCTURES

*From MOMENTUM FAQs*

The 2026 focus is **Expanding Choices for Board Models and Leadership Structures** — specifically, expanding options for governance, ownership, oversight, and leadership within nonprofit, non-governmental organizations, and mission-driven contexts.

We are not cataloguing failures.  
We are not defending the status quo.  
We are not refining best practices.

We are expanding possibilities.

The field does not need one new ‘silver bullet’ model. It needs many more viable choices. The goal of Momentum is to significantly expand the menu of structures organizations can consider — including models that work in highly specific or emerging conditions or as stepping stones to other future ideas, models, or structures.

"A board will only be strong in what you recruit the members to do. If you recruit mainly for fundraising, *you can't expect them to be able to do everything else.*"

**DIANE RAGSDALE, EDUCATOR & THOUGHT LEADER**



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## CORE APPROACHES AND PRINCIPLES

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### ***Theory of Change:***

We believe that if we gather a diverse mix of innovators and builders who know that current solutions aren't perfect, and set aside current systems (no complaining and no defending), then we can identify and design a multiplicity of new solutions and approaches, and specify what they would need to be effective and for what kinds of people. By creating a set of new options for people, detailing them so they are more than just 'ideas', and building invested networks who want to see them attempted, we can activate people and organizations to try things that will ultimately work better for them than the status quo.

### ***Principles:***

1. We Are Expanding Possibility
2. We Are Not Inventing New Legal Codes
3. We Do Not Need to Finish Anything
4. No Idea Is Shut Down
5. Ideas Live Beyond the Room



"That can't work because..."  
really means  
"That could work if...!"

**DOUGLAS CLAYTON,**  
CO-FOUNDER & MANAGING COLLABORATOR, CREATIVE EVOLUTIONS

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## SPEAKERS & PANELISTS

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- **Full List TBA**

Speakers and Panelists will be announced throughout spring 2026, and their information will be posted on the [MomentumRevolutions.com](https://MomentumRevolutions.com) website.

- **What if I want to be a speaker?**

Momentum includes both national dialogue speakers and regionally grounded speakers at each site. If you are interested in contributing in that capacity, please [email us!](#)

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## LOCAL COMMUNITY INVESTMENT & ENGAGEMENT

Momentum is intentionally designed to contribute to the local ecosystem rather than simply arrive and depart.

Each convening is developed in partnership with the host university and local collaborators, which means local vendors, venues, facilitators, artists, and service providers will be part of how the experience is shaped. Wherever possible, Momentum prioritizes working with locally rooted businesses and cultural organizations, including those owned and operated by members of the global majority.

Just as importantly, the ideas developed at each site will carry the imprint of that place. Local participants will shape the conversation, and regional realities will influence which governance possibilities feel most alive or urgent.

Momentum is not meant to extract insight from a location. It is meant to circulate attention, resources, and relationships into it while also learning from it, and uplifting it nationally.



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## MEDIA

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- [Press Photos and Images](#)
- **News Releases**
- [Subscribe for MOMENTUM 2026](#) announcements
- [Subscribe to YouTube](#)

### CREATIVE EVOLUTIONS

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[Calida@CreativeEvolutions.com](mailto:Calida@CreativeEvolutions.com) - [Douglas@CreativeEvolutions.com](mailto:Douglas@CreativeEvolutions.com)

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Learn more about Theatre Communications Group at: [www.tcg.org](http://www.tcg.org)

For general questions, you can reach the team at: [momentum@creativeevolutions.com](mailto:momentum@creativeevolutions.com)

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