



LEVITT NETWORK PANEL

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**BRIDGING DIVERSITY: THE ART OF  
CROSS-CULTURAL COLLABORATION  
IN CULTURAL PROGRAMMING**



## LEVITT NETWORK PANEL

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**Maddy Olsen**, Levitt AMP Soldotna, AK

**Angela Peña**, Levitt Pavilion Arlington, TX

**Dana Sonnenberg**, Levitt AMP Stevens Point, WI

**Letatia Teykl**, Levitt Pavilion Arlington, TX

*Moderated by Kimberly James, Levitt Foundation*

# HARMONY IN DIVERSITY

The Power of Cultural Programming

**Maddy Olsen**

Executive Director

Vision Soldotna

Levitt AMP Soldotna, Alaska





IDENTIFY  
OPPORTUNITIES  
FOR  
PARTNERSHIP



# STARTING THE CONVERSATION



Have a person from the community be your connector & help facilitate conversations.

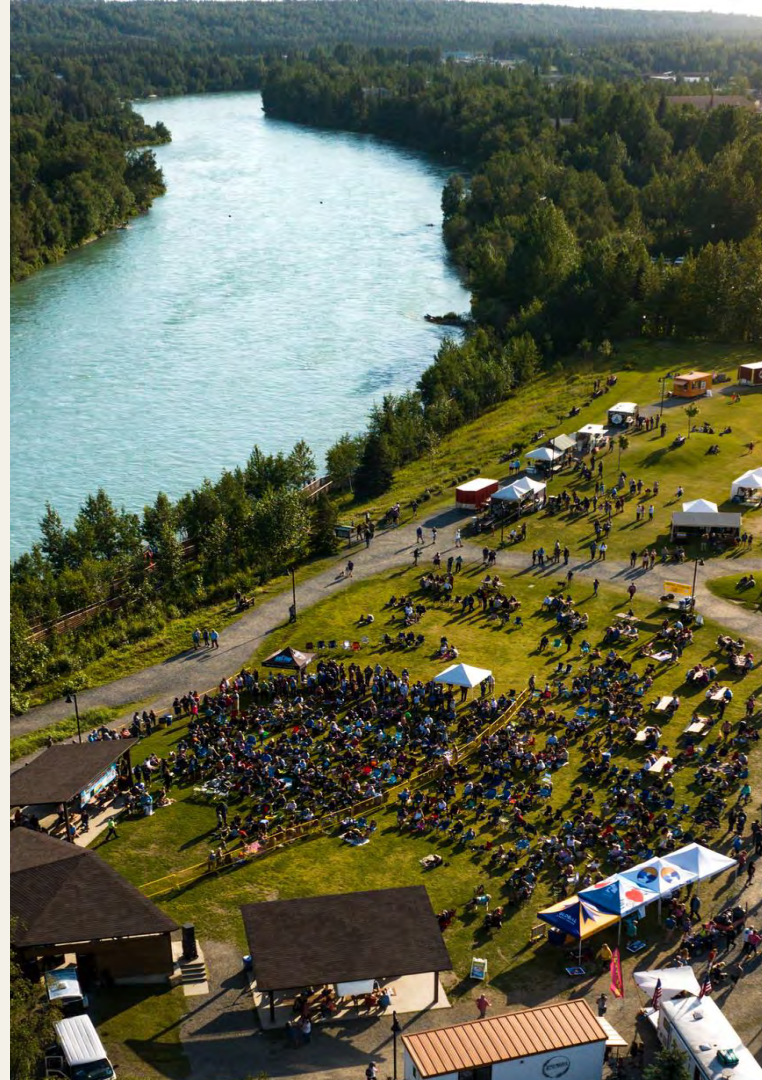
Look for community super-connectors.



Keep an open mind.

Lead the conversation with:

- Respect
- Curiosity
- Authenticity
- Openess



# BUILDING A PARTNERSHIP



# SUCCESSSES

- Activating our lawn with meaningful & intentional activities
- Encouraging cross-cultural interactions
- Sponsorship/membership
- Collaboration between organizations

# GROWING PAINS

- Persistence as well as patience needed to move forward at their pace
- Work with change, not against it
- Wanting to encourage more participation and engagement from cultural community



# LOOKING FORWARD





THANK YOU FOR  
LISTENING!



LEVITT AMP SOLDOTNA  
MUSIC SERIES

✉ [maddy@soldotnachamber.com](mailto:maddy@soldotnachamber.com)

☎ (907) 262 9814

🌐 [www.visitsoldotna.com](http://www.visitsoldotna.com)

# Levitt AMP Stevens Point

Creating Connection &  
Authentic Representation



# Starting at the Beginning

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Listening to local our community and following their lead on representation





AnnTeas LLC

August 24, 2023 · 🌐

We sold out of just about everything! That sums up our year! Thank you Levitt AMP CREATE [Portage County](#) for giving us such an awesome summer.











# Cultural Collaborations

- Use universal connections points like food and art
  - Person to person relationships
  - Across as many levels as possible
  - Listen to learn
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- Actions and intentions might not be the same cultural norms
  - No means no, but listen for "no, but"
  - Be a safe person, create safe spaces
  - Allyship is not always welcome

# Dana Sonnenberg

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Community Engagement Manager  
Create Portage County  
Levitt AMP Stevens Point

[Danas@createportagecounty.org](mailto:Danas@createportagecounty.org)







Letatia Teykl - Executive Director

Angela Peña - Communication & Program Development Director

# Cultural Festivals

Co-Produced

American Muslim Cultural Celebration

Asian Heritage Celebration

Hispanic Heritage Celebration

Juneteenth Celebration

# Special Events

## DreamFest

(Mayor's Initiative/Convention & Visitors Bureau)

Dance the Night Away

(Dance Theater Arlington )

Gun Safety/Car Show

(Deyvi Correas Jr. Foundation )

MoMo Food Festival

(Nepalese Food Festival)

Pride

(Help Center of Arlington)

Suicide Prevention Walk

(American Foundation for Suicide Prevention)

# Operations

- Special Event Coordination
- Facility Management
- Permitting
- Safety & Security Facilitation
- Production





# Commitees

- Mayor's Initiative
- Community Members



# Communication

“Effective communication starts with listening.” - Robert Gately

- Listen and learn to set goals
- Choose a communication channel
- Establish a calendar





# Communication

- Coaching
- Transparency





# Challenges

- Accountability
- Communication Breakdowns
- Role Confusion
- Conflict Resolution
- Authenticity







thank you

Letatia Teykl - [letatia@levittarlington.org](mailto:letatia@levittarlington.org)

Angela Peña - [angela@levittarlington.org](mailto:angela@levittarlington.org)





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levitt  
2024