

Banking on Colorado: Bringing Our Money Home

Conference Program

12:00 — REGISTRATION & SIGN IN

AFTERNOON SESSIONS 1:00—5:00

1:00 — WELCOME and OVERVIEW OF WALL STREET BANKING

Barbara Mills-Bria, Master of Ceremonies, President of Be the Change-USA
Nomi Prins, Journalist, former Managing Director on Wall Street, and Author

1:30 — DIGGING DEEPER INTO PUBLIC BANKING

Moderator: **Michael O'Neill**, Chief Compliance Officer, Colorado National Bank
Ellen Brown, Founder of Public Banking Institute, and Author
Gwendolyn Hallsmith, Executive Director, Public Banking Institute, and Author
Mike Krauss, Chairman, Pennsylvania Public Bank Project

2:30 — BREAK

2:40 — THE CHALLENGE: THE NEED FOR LOCAL FUNDING

Moderator: **Dennis Gallagher**, Auditor for the City of Denver
Student Loans: **Roshan Bliss**, Student and Youth Organizer
Renewable Energy: **Amanda Bybee**, Director, Strategic Planning & Initiatives, Namaste Solar
Family Farms: **August Miller**, Owner, Foodshed Products
Community Banking: **Michael O'Neill**, Chief Compliance Officer, Colorado National Bank

3:40 — BREAK

3:50 — THE RESPONSE: PUBLIC BANKING

Moderator: **Dennis Gallagher**, Auditor for the City of Denver
Karl Beitel, Director of the Public Banking Project, San Francisco, and Author
Ellen Brown, Founder of Public Banking Institute, and Author
Gwendolyn Hallsmith, Executive Director, Public Banking Institute
Mike Krauss, Chairman, Pennsylvania Public Bank Project
Earl Staelin, Board Member, Be the Change

DINNER 5:00—6:30

5:00 — ON-SITE DINNER (\$15) or ON YOUR OWN (Nearby Local Restaurants)

6:15 — POLITICAL ENTERTAINMENT

Sonia Skakich-Scrima as Mother Jones

EVENING PROGRAM 6:30—8:30

6:30 — KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Nomi Prins: Financial Autonomy: From Greece to North Dakota to Colorado

7:10 — CALL TO ACTION KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Ellen Brown: Banking on Colorado: Why the State Needs Its Own Bank

7:50 — CLOSING REMARKS: A CALL TO ACTION

SPONSORS: Be The Change-USA: <http://www.btc-usa.org/> Banking On Colorado: <http://www.bankingoncolorado.org/>
The Foundation: <http://denverfoundation.org> Public Banking Institute: <http://www.publicbankinginstitute.org/>
Rocky Mountain Employee Ownership Center: <http://rmeoc.org/> Community Forum at First Universalist Church of Denver

Our Invited Speakers

Karl Beitel is the Director of the Public Bank Project, which supports municipal governments in finding viable alternatives for funding local community-centered economic development, affordable housing, and large-scale infrastructure investment. He is also currently a Visiting Fellow at the Roosevelt Institute in New York, developing both city- and region-specific studies on options for creating publically controlled financial institutions; and conducting research on the relation between ongoing transformations in national and global financial markets and the shifting policy framework of urban development.

Roshan Bliss received his BA in Philosophy & Religious Studies from Purdue University. He then studied for a master's in Conflict Resolution & Intercultural Communication, until he was forced to drop out of school in 2012, to avoid drowning in student debt, and out of a desire to be more engaged in social movements he cares about. He has since become a community and youth organizer, involved in several areas of political activism locally, nationally, and internationally – building with the national and international student movement. He is passionate about creating real power for young people through democratizing their schools and their communities

Ellen Brown is an attorney, and Founder, President Emerita and Senior Advisor of the Public Banking Institute, and author of twelve books, including the best-selling *Web of Debt: The Shocking Truth About Our Money System And How We Can Break Free*. In *The Public Bank Solution: From Austerity to Prosperity*, her latest book, she explores successful public banking models historically and globally. She has also written nearly 300 articles on this subject, which are posted on her blog at EllenBrown.com.

Amanda Bybee is Co-Owner and Director of Strategic Planning and Initiatives at Namaste Solar. Amanda has worked in the solar industry since 2003, first promoting renewable energy policy in Austin, TX while at Public Citizen, then at Meridian Energy Systems, before finding her home at Namasté Solar. Amanda joined Namasté Solar in January 2006 and has held numerous roles, from business administration to human resources to sales & design.

Dennis Gallagher is City Auditor for Denver and having a ball trying to make his hometown better off than he found it. He served 4 years in the Colorado House and 20 years in the Colorado Senate. He served 16 years on the State Legislative Audit Committee. He served 8 years on Denver City Council and now in his 12th and final year as Auditor, 3 terms. His office has received national awards for the excellent performance auditing demonstrated in Denver.

Gwen Hallsmith is the founder and Executive Director of Global Community Initiatives, a non-profit organization founded in 2002 that has offices in South Africa. In this capacity, she provides executive services to the Public Banking Institute. She is the author of *The Key to Sustainable Cities: Meeting Human Needs, Transforming Community System, Taking Action for Sustainability: the EarthCAT Guide to Community Development*, and *LASER: Local Action for Sustainable Economic Renewal*. She has written two books with Bernard Lietaer, *Creating Wealth: Growing Local Economies with Local Currencies*, and *Community Currency*, which has been translated into 15 languages and is used around the world.

Mike Krauss is a founding director of the Public Banking Institute and chair of the Pennsylvania Project. He is a former officer of Pennsylvania county and state government and former Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Republican State Committee. He is a thirty year veteran of the international distribution and logistics industry: VP Leasing and VP International Sales for the Strick Companies, CEO of Remex, SA de CV (Mexico City) and AVP Intermodal and Automotive for a Class 1 North American railroad. He publishes a regular newspaper column and is writing a social study of post World War II suburban America.

August Miller, co-founder and director of FoodShed Productions, a social enterprise focused on public education in food production and environmental stewardship, is looking for urban land to cultivate local food and people! While many opportunities for public assistance exist, the pairing with conventional banks leaves this social enterprise adrift. With a B.A. in Environmental Design from CU and an M.A. in Service, Leadership, and Management from S.I.T. Graduate Institute, August is not only inspired to serve, his decisions are founded upon making a cultural impact.

Michael O'Neill is the Chief Compliance Officer with Colorado National Bank, a community bank in Denver, which is Colorado owned and operated. He is a Banking Operations & Compliance Executive with over 20 years of experience with specialization in regulatory compliance for the community banking and credit union industries. He provides a 360-degree view of the industry with a background as a banker, Federal Reserve Examiner, and consultant to banks and credit unions; with focus on the remediation of troubled compliance programs after enforcement actions are issued by federal and state regulators. He received his undergraduate degree in Finance from the University of Wyoming and his MBA from the University of Denver. He is also a United States Navy Veteran.

Nomi Prins is a renowned journalist, author, and speaker, and a Distinguished Senior Fellow at the non-partisan public policy institute, Demos. Her latest book, *All the Presidents' Bankers*, is about the relationships of presidents and bankers and the impact on policy. Her other books are *Black Tuesday, It Takes a Pillage, Other People's Money*, and *Jacked*. She is a frequent commentator on TV and radio for the BBC, CNN, CNBC, MSNBC, CSPAN, Democracy Now, Fox, NPR and PBS. Her writing has appeared in The New York Times, Fortune Magazine, Mother Jones, The Daily Beast, Truthdig, The Guardian, and The Nation.

Sonia Skakich-Scrima: Educational assessment, curriculum and materials design, teaching (preschool through college), medical research coordination, advocacy for a viable (climate) future, founding member of What the Frack?! Arapahoe.

Earl Staelin is a trial lawyer in Denver, Colorado, handling a range of civil and some criminal cases. He has co-sponsored of several successive versions of an Initiative in Colorado to amend the Colorado Constitution to establish a state-owned bank. He has attended conferences of the Public Banking Institute and the American Monetary Institute. Earl has presented on monetary reform to a number of organizations as well as on radio and TV. He is on the board of directors of Be the Change-USA, and is co-facilitator of the Community Forum at First Universalist Church of Denver.