



**Discover the ImpACT of First Stage *and the Power of Connection!*  
Meet our Host and Keynote Speaker:**



**Hosted by- Sheri Williams Pannell**

Sheri Williams Pannell has been part of the First Stage family since 1993 where she has held numerous roles and titles! In addition to being a professional actor, director, and lead educator, Sheri was commissioned by First Stage to write and direct, WELCOME TO BRONZEVILLE.

Sheri shares her passion, knowledge, talent, and spirit with number of Milwaukee's theater and arts entities including The Florentine Opera, Milwaukee Chamber Theater, Milwaukee Rep, Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Milwaukee Arts Museum and Skylight Music Theatre.

Beyond Milwaukee, Sheri has worked at Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Utah's Old Lyric Theatre, University Opera and University Theater at UW Madison and the Children's Theater of Madison. She is also a founding member and artistic director at Bronzeville Arts Ensemble. Sheri is a director/teaching artist at Black Arts MKE, co-director of the drama ministry at Calvary Baptist Church, and served on the planning committee of the Milwaukee Black Theater Festival.

Sheri is an Artistic Associate at First Stage and has recently been appointed as part of the faculty at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Peck School of the Arts as an Assistant Professor in the Theatre Department and Area Head for the Musical Theatre Program.

**Keynote Speaker - Jill Wiench**

***"During this time we are facing right now the power of connection is even more important than it was in the past."***

Jill has been a Certified Child Life Specialist (CCLS) for over 22 years. Her career started at Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital in Hollywood, FL eventually bringing her to Children's Hospital of Wisconsin where she has been for the past 19 years. During her time at Children's Wisconsin, she has covered various units such as hematology, oncology, bone marrow unit, surgical services, and special needs youth. As a CCLS, Jill works with children and their families confront and cope with a wide variety of potentially stressful and/or traumatic events due to a healthcare related diagnosis. These experiences related to healthcare can lead to feelings of fear, confusion, loss of control and isolation that can inhibit their development and have negative effects on their physical and emotional health and well-being.



In addition, Jill is a member of the following at Children's Wisconsin: Critical Incident Stress Management Team, Bereavement Committee, Professional Practice Council, Internship Co-Coordinator, and the Hospital & Community Special Events Committee.