



WOMEN CHANGING THE CITY



Dr. Reetika Kumar
*Vice President Strategic
Clinical Solutions and
Market Medical
Executive,*
Independence Blue
Cross



Devi Ramkissoon
Executive Director,
The Sustainable
Business Network
of Greater
Philadelphia



Cornelia Samara
*Regional Vice President &
General Manager,*
Four Seasons Hotel
Philadelphia
at Comcast Center



Dawn Summerville
*Deputy Commerce
Director,* City of
Philadelphia



Moderator
Jamie Cooperstein
CEO
J. Cooperstein
Hospitality Consulting, LLC

#WomenChangingTheCity

Sponsored by:



Partnering Organizations:

Asian American Chamber of Commerce | CREW Greater Philadelphia
Professional Women in Construction | The Walnut Club

#WomenChangingTheCity



Tuesday, May 17, 2022
Rivers Casino Philadelphia
1001 N Delaware Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19125



Dr. Reetika Kumar

*Vice President Strategic
Clinical Solutions and
Market Medical Executive
Independence Blue Cross*

Reetika.Kumar@ibx.com
www.ibx.com
@IBX
[LinkedIn](#)

Dr. Kumar joined Independence Health Group in July of 2017 as Medical Director and VP of Clinical Services for AHA and CSI. Her expertise and commitment to improving the health of our members is focused on proven practices, evidenced-based medicine, and cost-effective health care delivery. She has held a variety of roles including the delivery of direct patient care, medical education, and care management services.

Dr. Kumar collaborates with our customers in identifying opportunities for enhancement of the healthcare experience of their employees, through tailored programs and a targeted customized approach.

Dr. Kumar assists in development of a sales and marketing strategy, and communicates Independences' (medical management, clinical care transformation, healthcare value optimization, value based contracting and pharmacy services) health and value optimization programs and capabilities to our external stakeholders in support of achieving equitable whole person health.

Prior to joining Independence Health Group, Dr. Kumar served as the Chief Clinical Officer and VP of Medical Management at Health Partner Plans.

Dr. Kumar received her MD in Internal Medicine from the prestigious Maulana Azad Medical College in India and completed her residency in Internal Medicine at the Sinai Hospital of Baltimore/Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland. She is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians.

She serves on the Boards of Power, Kaitlyn Murphy Foundation and Chimes International and as an advisor on the Grant advisory Committee for Fred Footsteps. She is a member of CHIEF Network. Reetika is married to her wonderful husband of over 10 years and a mom of two amazing kids. She stays active during the pandemic with the Peloton Female Physicians group.

Devi Ramkissoon comes to SBN with 15+ years of experience in international development, specializing in working with sustainable businesses for economic growth and poverty reduction. An immigrant and social entrepreneur herself, Devi has worked tirelessly to advance the work of small businesses from underrepresented communities across Latin America, Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, and the Middle East. For nearly the past decade at USAID, she led multimillion dollar food security, environment, and private sector development projects around the world, managed the Agency's premier knowledge-sharing platform for market development, and advanced the US Government's sustainable development goals at multiple international market development fora. She has won numerous awards from the US Government and the private sector for her leadership navigating global humanitarian crises.

Devi holds a Master of Science in Foreign Service from Georgetown University and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and English Literature from Swarthmore College.



Devi Ramkissoon

*Executive Director
The Sustainable Business Network
of Greater Philadelphia*

215-922-7400
devi@sbnphiladelphia.org
www.sbnphiladelphia.org
@sbngreaterphiladelphia



Cornelia Samara

Regional Vice President & General Manager

**Four Seasons Hotel
Philadelphia at Comcast Center**

215-419-5001
cornelia.samara@fourseasons.com
@Cornelia_samara
fourseasons.com/philadelphia

Cornelia Samara as General Manager for Four Seasons Hotel Philadelphia at Comcast Center, Philadelphia's first-and-only Forbes Travel Guide Five-Star Hotel. Samara joined the team from Four Seasons Hotel at The Surf Club in Florida.

A true global citizen, Samara was born in Jerusalem as a German national with Palestinian roots and grew up immersed in the hospitality industry. Her family owned a travel agency and led tours of the Holy Land in Jerusalem and from an early age she remembers travelling to the airport to greet arriving guests and going to dinners with tour groups.

"Hospitality runs in my blood," says Samara, reflecting not only on her family history in the industry but also building a sense of community in and outside the hotel. "A hotel is so much more than just a place to stay. It is an opportunity to create beautiful experiences and Four Seasons has done that for generations of Philadelphians. I'm proud to be part of a team that is tightly woven into the fabric of this community."

A passionate art lover, the vast collections found at the Barnes Foundation and Philadelphia Museum of Art drew her to the City of Brotherly Love. Samara used to enjoy oil painting and pottery, but with time now tight, she enjoys experiencing art by going to museums and galleries often. "Love for the arts is ingrained in me and I'm thrilled to have the masters at my fingertips. I love having the opportunity to explore the multiple galleries throughout Philadelphia."

A graduate of Hawaii Pacific University, the past ten years of her career as general manager have been focused on flagship properties. In 2018 she joined Four Seasons Hotel at The Surf Club as General Manager. In Philadelphia, oversees hundreds of Hotel team members and is happy to be working with the award-winning team.

"It is my honour to connect with each member of the Four Seasons Philadelphia family and build comradery among the team." Samara is not a micro-manager; instead, she prefers to surround herself with "like-minded people" she can trust, and rely on their talent to carry out their roles. Though she was taken with the Hotel's design, what impressed her the most is the warmth and authenticity of the team. "Those are always key for me," she explains. "There are certain things a general manager can train, but true hospitality is not one of them. Here, it's genuine, not practiced, and it comes from the heart."

Samara has lived in or visited countries all over the world. One trip saw her circling the globe in a month with several stops in Southeast Asia, and she once spent a full year living in Singapore.

Her faithful travel companion is her chihuahua: "I got her from a shelter called Badass Brooklyn Animal Rescue," she recalls with a laugh. "They'd rescued her from a kill shelter in Georgia and called her 'Rosalynn Carter'. I just call her 'Rosie.'" Samara and Rosie are ready to walk the Ben Franklin Parkway and discover all that Philadelphia has to offer.

Dawn Summerville is the Deputy Commerce Director for the City of Philadelphia, with over 20+ years of economic development experience. Responsible for Business Development both domestic and international, she has led the department through one of the most turbulent times in the nation as we faced the COVID19 pandemic. What can only be described as "walking through a world of unknowns" she along with her colleagues provided support to the city's business community with resources and collaborations that distributed over \$33.5M in COVID relief to more than 2,000+ businesses. "As we work to emerge from the pandemic the world certainly looks different from an economic lens and the impact the pandemic has had on BIPOC communities cannot be ignored". Dawn is focusing her energy on collaborating on strategic priorities to support recovery by repositioning the city for new opportunities to grow the city's business base. Philadelphia remains a great city for new and existing businesses to grow. Over the past year (2021) Dawn's team worked on over 65 projects that resulted in 4,600+ full time jobs for the city through attraction and retention efforts.

Prior to joining local government, Dawn worked in various capacities in media entertainment, marketing, and the apparel industry. In all roles, she concentrated on business development, cross collaborative placement and client impact. Dawn serves on the city's Planning Commission, Reading Terminal Market Board and is a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated.



Dawn Summerville

*Deputy Commerce Director
City of Philadelphia*

215-683-2036
Dawn.Summerville@phila.gov
phila.gov
@PhiladelphiaGov
@PHLCommerce





Jamie Cooperstein

CEO
J. Cooperstein Hospitality
Consulting, LLC

610-529-3439
jamie@jcoopconsulting.com
www.jcoopconsulting.com
[LinkedIn](#)
www.instagram.com/jcoopconsulting

Jamie Cooperstein teaches companies, job seekers and students to enhance the customer experience which is a natural extension of a decade spent as a “Five Diamond” concierge. As a speaker and trainer, she infuses both storytelling and interactive exercises into her programs to make sure that attendees leave feeling both motivated and with the necessary tools for reinforcement. As a consultant, she can help bridge gaps between managers and those “working in the trenches” for the benefit of your customers.

Prior to opening J. Cooperstein Hospitality Consulting, LLC, a certified Women Business Enterprise (WBE), Jamie was the Director of Concierge Services for a boutique property management firm. There she played an integral role in implementing lifestyle services at their portfolio of luxury high-rises. Jamie was also a Concierge at the AAA Five-Diamond award winning Rittenhouse Hotel and Condominiums in Philadelphia.

She is a former President of the Philadelphia Area Concierge Association and has obtained her Master’s degree in Tourism and Hospitality Management from Temple University. When not working with private clients, Jamie serves as an Adjunct Professor at Drexel University in the Department of Food & Hospitality Management. Jamie lives in the Society Hill section of Philadelphia with her husband and strong-willed, princess loving 5-year-old.

Upcoming Events

Happy Hour Breakfast

Thursday, May 19, 2022
8:00 AM to 9:00 AM

American Executive Centers - 1515 Market Street
\$15 for Members, \$30 for Guests

Meet the Developers

Wednesday, June 8, 2022
8:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Audacy - 2400 Market Street, 4th Floor
\$30 for Members & Partners, \$60 for Guests

Lunch with the City’s Leaders Nick Bayer, CEO and Founder Saxbys

Wednesday, May 25, 2022
11:45 AM to 1:30 PM

The Union League of Philadelphia - 140 S Broad Street
\$50 for Members, \$75 for Guests

Lunch with the City’s Leaders Derek S. Green, Councilmember At-Large, City of Philadelphia

Wednesday, June 15, 2022
11:45 AM to 1:30 PM

The Union League of Philadelphia - 140 S Broad Street
\$50 for Members, \$75 for Guests



Grow your network. Grow your knowledge. Grow your business.

Founded in 1978, Center City Business Association is a non-profit, member supported organization celebrating 44 years of service to the Philadelphia business community. Join Center City Business Association today. Visit centercitybusiness.org or call 215.545.7766.



Thank You Sponsors



Republic Bank is one of the largest Philadelphia-based banking institutions and is continuing to expand its footprint throughout Philadelphia, Southern New Jersey and New York City. In 2020, Republic Bank was named America's #1 Bank for Service by Forbes as a result of its retail-based model focused on fanatical customer service and absolute convenience across every channel. The bank offers customers the best of both worlds with an elite in-store experience that is seamlessly integrated with the latest digital and mobile capabilities. With 31 convenient locations, Republic Bank stores are open seven days a week, 361 days a year, with extended lobby and drive-thru hours, providing customers incredible convenience and some of the longest hours in the region. Visit www.myrepublicbank.com.



ITData has been providing executive leadership and impeccable project execution for our clients since 1997. Our senior technology staff has nearly 100 years of combined experience recommending, implementing and managing comprehensive, unified IT solutions for customers such as The Annenberg Foundation, Binswanger, The Philadelphia Foundation and Health Partners. Our industry experience includes Healthcare Network Solutions, Nonprofit Organizations, Education, Retail, and Government Enterprise Networks and more. For information, visit www.itdata.com.



PIDC is Philadelphia's public-private economic development corporation. Our mission is to spur investment, support business growth, and foster developments that create jobs, revitalize neighborhoods, and drive growth to every corner of Philadelphia. We are focused on supporting growing businesses, investing in high-impact community revitalization, and creating workplaces for the future. With flexible financing products, a targeted portfolio of industrial and commercial real estate, and decades of Philadelphia-based knowledge, PIDC provides the resources and expertise to help our clients invest, develop, and grow.



Rivers Casino Philadelphia is a premier gaming and entertainment destination located along the Delaware Riverfront in Philadelphia and is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Rivers features an action-packed gaming floor that includes a variety of slots, table games, hybrid gaming seats and a state-of-the-art BetRivers Sportsbook for watching and wagering. The casino offers an array of dining options perfect to please any palate as well as free parking. Please visit RiversCasinoPhiladelphia.com.



Established in 1998, the School of Sport, Tourism and Hospitality Management (STHM) at Temple University has a distinguished tradition preparing leaders in the sport, tourism and hospitality industries. The school's innovative approach to learning combined with the location in the heart of Philadelphia fosters transformational educational experiences. Thoroughly committed to providing student-centered education and professional development relevant to today's thriving sport, tourism and hospitality industry—STHM integrates applicable, real-world experience into the curriculum and classroom through its global network of industry partners and well-connected alumni network. In addition to the educational program, the school's two cutting-edge research centers support the school's mission of advancing the industry through high-quality research. Visit sthm.temple.edu.

Sustaining support is provided by:



Grow your network. Grow your knowledge. Grow your business.

Founded in 1978, Center City Business Association is a non-profit, member supported organization celebrating 44 years of service to the Philadelphia business community. Join Center City Business Association today. Visit centercitybusiness.org or call 215.545.7766.

