



THE POWER OF **YES PREP** LUNCHEON

CELEBRATING **EXCELLENCE**

**WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 21,
2026**

**WORTHAM
THEATER
CENTER**



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Carla Knobloch

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Key Construction • Andrea & Richard Link • Peter & Fan Morris
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As of October 20, 2026

Program

Performance

YES Prep Southwest Secondary Ballet Folklorico

Welcome

Johanne & Joe Gatto, Event Chairs

Lunch

Maple Harvest Chicken Salad

Panko-crusted chicken with grilled corn and cucumber pico, roasted baby carrots, sweet peppers, dried fruit, roasted beets, goat cheese, waffle chips, and cherry maple vinaigrette over mixed greens

Alternating Chocolate and Tres Leches Cakes

Performance

YES Prep North Central Elementary Sparkletts

Emcee

Daniela Coronado

YES Prep Northside Secondary Senior

Chris Barbic Legacy Award

Karen Arnold

YES Prep Alumni Legacy Award

Edriena Gee-Cooper '14, CPA, JD Candidate

Keynote Introduction

Linda Garza

Director of College Counseling, YES Prep Northline Secondary

Keynote Presentation

Dillon Adam Hernandez '26

YES Prep Northline Secondary Alumnus
Current Student at Johns Hopkins University

Brisa Lumbreras

YES Prep Northline Secondary Alumnus Parent

Closing Remarks

Mark DiBella

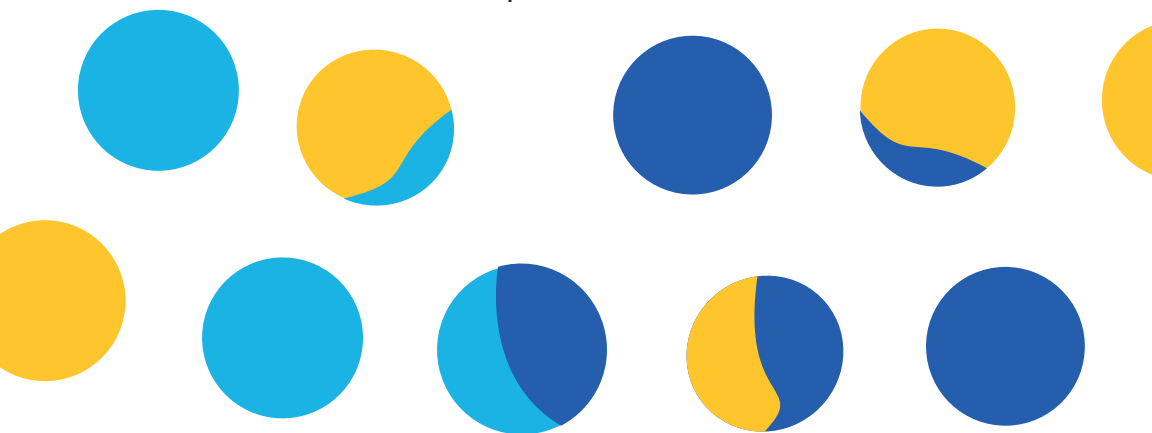
CEO, YES Prep Public Schools

Event Chairs



Johanne & Joe Gatto

Johanne and Joe Gatto are proud Houstonians who believe deeply in the potential of the city's young people and the transformative power of education. Their commitment to YES Prep reflects a shared conviction that every student deserves access to opportunities that prepare them to thrive. Joe, Treasurer of the YES Prep Board of Directors and former President and CEO of Callon Petroleum, brings a passion for leadership and service. Johanne, who serves on the Board of Trustees of The Awty International School, is an active advocate for education in Houston. Together, they are honored to support YES Prep's mission and the students who will shape Houston's future.



Chris Barbic Legacy Award



Karen Arnold

Karen Arnold is an active community volunteer and dedicated advocate for education and opportunity in Houston. In addition to her work on the YES Prep Advisory Council, Karen has served on the boards of the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation and Musiqa. She also serves on the National Jewish Health Council of National Trustees and was recognized as a 2025 KIPP Texas Honoree for her steadfast support of students.

Karen's heart for service is something she shared with her late husband, Richard Arnold. Together, they believed deeply in creating experiences and expanding opportunities for underserved communities, particularly by investing in the next generation of leaders. Karen became involved with YES Prep in 2020 and is proud to support its commitment to providing high-quality educational experiences while pursuing thoughtful, strategic growth. Karen earned a B.S. in Business Administration from Duquesne University. Her varied career began as a computer programmer and preschool teacher before she earned her CPA. Karen went on to spend more than 25 years as an accountant.

YES Prep Alumni Legacy Award



Edriena Gee-Cooper '14, CPA, JD Candidate

Edriena Gee-Cooper '14 is a proud alumna of YES Prep Gulfton Secondary. An Experienced Manager in State and Local Tax at Eide Bailly Advisory LLP, Edriena is a dedicated leader, mentor, and advocate for her community. She serves with organizations including the YES Prep Alumni Association, National Association of Black Accountants, and the Terry Foundation Alumni Advisory Board. A summa cum laude graduate of the University of Houston and a Texas CPA since 2018, she is currently pursuing her J.D. at South Texas College of Law. Through her blog, Tax Tips With a CPA, she informs, educates, and enhances her community by providing tax education to individuals, entrepreneurs, and much more.

Established in 2023, the YES Prep Alumni Legacy Award recognizes alumni who have made a meaningful and lasting difference in their communities while continuing to expand opportunities for Houston students. This award celebrates individuals who embody the spirit of YES Prep through leadership, service, innovation, and professional excellence.

Keynote Speakers



Dillon Adam Hernandez '26
YES Prep Northline Secondary Alumnus
Current Student at Johns Hopkins University

Dillon Hernandez is a first-generation college student and valedictorian of YES Prep Northline Secondary's Class of 2026. During high school, he dedicated himself to bringing accessible opportunities in STEM and healthcare to his community through founding the Robotics Club and serving as Vice-President of MED-Life and President of the National Honor Society. This passion continues through his studies at Johns Hopkins University, double majoring in Molecular & Cellular Biology and Medicine, Science, & the Humanities as a Gates, Hispanic Scholarship Fund, IMPACT, and Rowlinson Scholar, pursuing virology research and a career in medicine.



Keynote Speakers



Brisa Lumbreras

YES Prep Northline Secondary Alumnus Parent

Brisa Lumbreras has been a dedicated YES Prep parent and Family Association member for the past seven years. As the proud mother of Dillon, she has experienced firsthand the power of family engagement, meaningful relationships, and community support in helping students thrive. Inspired by YES Prep's continued academic growth, Brisa has focused on supporting students, teachers, and staff while encouraging families to work together toward shared success. Brisa and her family remain committed supporters of YES Prep and its pursuit of excellence.



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**Thanks to the generosity of Trace Capital,
all gifts made today will be matched 100%,
up to \$30,000!**

Your gift supports The Power of YES, a four-year, \$80 million comprehensive campaign to expand access to high-quality education by adding 5,000 new school seats. By 2029, this initiative will complete our feeder school pattern, fund the construction of six new schools and the rebuilding of three of our oldest campuses, and provide vital program investments to support student success.





Education WE DESERVE

Mission

YES Prep Public Schools empowers all Houston students to succeed in college and to pursue lives of opportunity.

Vision

Every child in Houston will have equitable access to a public school that delivers a college-ready education.

To learn more about YES Prep, please visit yesprep.org.

