

Bend The Arc 2026

# Sponsorship Packet

Presented by

**The Equity Imperative**



Partnering for Impact & Innovation



June 29- July 1, 2026  
Bridgeport Art Center  
Chicago, Illinois

# 2026

## Bend The Arc 2026

At a time when instructional leaders are navigating increasing pressure and constraint, the Bend the Arc Summit offers protected space to reflect, learn, and strengthen justice-centered practice

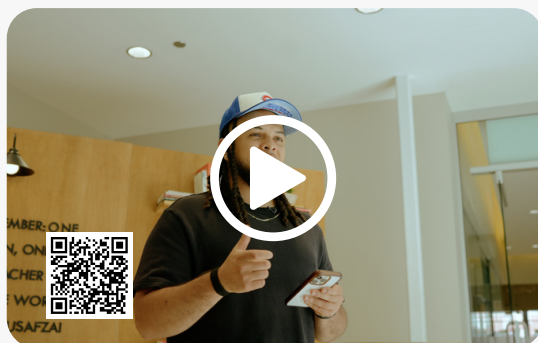
Our vision is a future where every school becomes a sanctuary site for equity: a place where the work of reflection, action, and transformation toward a better and more just world is protected and resourced.

To this end, our team at **The Equity Imperative** has designed a three-day summit for educational leaders, entitled “**Bend the Arc**,” drawing from the inspiration of Dr. King, who emphasized how the moral arc of the universe only bends toward justice when individuals develop the skill and courage to do the bending.

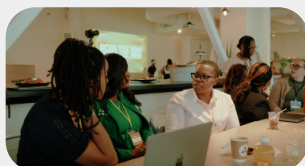
This year, the learning at our Summit will be anchored by **Zaretta Hammond**, a nationally recognized leader in culturally responsive education, whose work continues to shape how educators can help restore and build the cognitive sovereignty of our students, and **Amanda Lewis**, a leading scholar on understanding how race and racism are created and perpetuated, even in schools with educators who have good intentions. Their presence reflects the Summit’s commitment to learning that is both deeply practical and grounded in justice. For more details, visit our **Summit Website**.

# ABOUT THE EVENT

### Anthony Ortiz



### Jasmine Thurmond



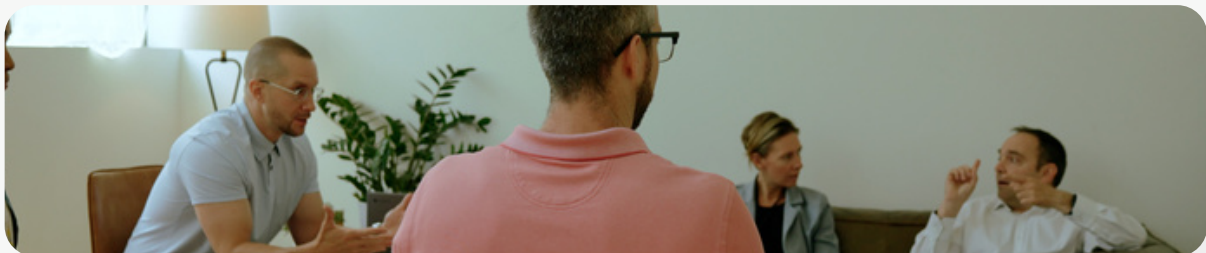
# SUMMIT IMPACT

In 2020, the Equity Imperative had several partnership school districts request that we convene teams in a conference format to increase **collaboration and unity**. We began planning an educational leadership summit designed to support and equip practitioners attempting to build school systems that produce **equitable outcomes**, with a **projected launch in 2030**. Then we arrived at 2025, and witnessed the concerted, coordinated, and **systematic attack** against anything that valued diversity, amplified inclusion, and cultivated equity. Waiting for 2030 was **no longer an option**. We accelerated our planning process, made the necessary organizational investments, and **launched the Bend the Arc Summit at the end of June in 2025**. Outlined below are a few of the **highlights of impact** from our inaugural Summit.

## Entire School District Revamps School Code of Conduct

**Mount Greylock Regional School District** in Massachusetts had their superintendent, assistant superintendent, and four building principals together at the Summit. They left both **inspired, and equipped** to launch a district-wide re-vamp of their school code of conduct to shift their discipline practices **from exclusionary to restorative**. Since the Summit, they have had multiple district-wide professional learning opportunities to bring the learning from the Summit into their school year. After half a year of implementation, the superintendent says,

*“Our office referrals, detentions, and suspensions are **each currently down 40-50%** from the same time last year. Our community is shifting how we talk about behavior and conflict – “learning,” “positive,” “relationships,” and “community” are words used in the context of conflict. These shifts are both measurable and inspiring in ways that build momentum. We have a long way to go, but the hard work that we’re doing with The Equity Imperative is showing **strong and early results for us.**”*

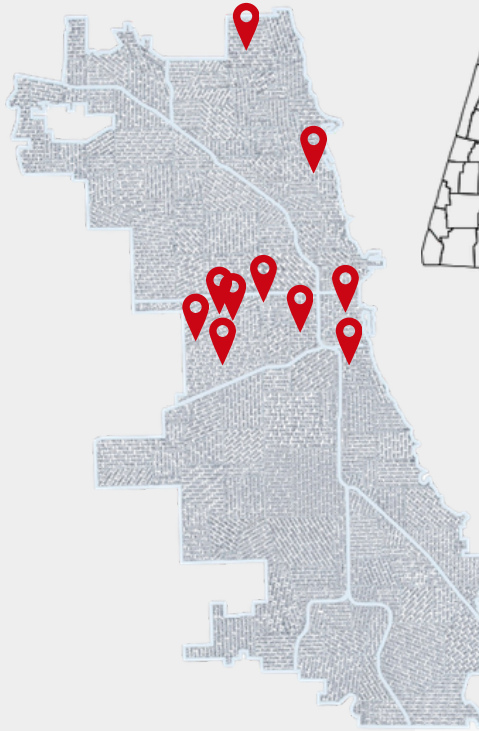


## SUMMIT REACH

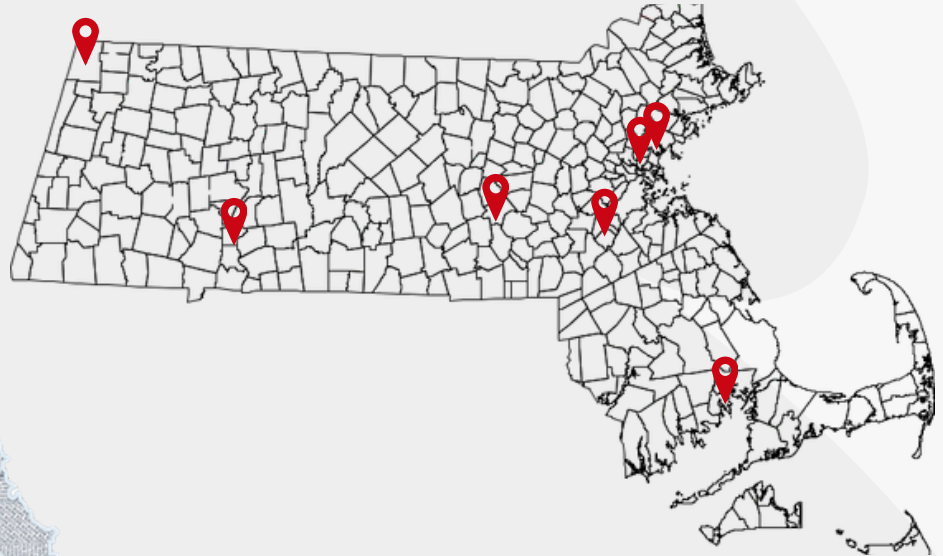
The scope and scale of our audience across schools, districts, and regions.



### Chicago



### Massachusetts



## STUDENT IMPACT

How our work strengthens instructional practice and improves student learning experiences.

Up to **17,764** students impacted from changes that leaders make as a result of the experience of the Summit.

**100% of attendees** have remained engaged either in quarterly check-ins and/or through our online asynchronous course material.

## BEYOND SUMMIT

Ongoing engagement, resources, and implementation support that extend impact year-round.



# INVITATION

Sponsorship of the Bend the Arc Summit is an invitation to position your organization as a leader in educational equity. Sponsors not only help remove the financial barrier for interested participants, but can also enjoy the benefit of being an active, purposeful leader of the learning itself during the Summit. Potential partners like you play a critical role in expanding access and sustaining the ecosystem of equity-centered leadership.

The following sponsorship levels reflect different ways partners can help expand access to the Summit while supporting a protected space for equity-centered learning.

- Equity Systems Architect
- Justice-Centered Partner
- Belonging Builder
- Access & Opportunity Catalyst



## Bend the Arc 2026 Promo



For more information, or to schedule a time to connect with one of our team member, fill out the Google Form below.

Google Form



## Sponsorship 1

# EQUITY SYSTEMS ARCHITECT (\$36,000)

**Equity Systems Architects provide:**

- Scholarship registration for twenty (20) instructional leaders, educators, and equity practitioners

**Equity Systems Architects are invited to:**

- A Pre-Summit Grounding Circle with The Equity Imperative team and other sponsors to align on values, norms, and shared intentions
- Opening reception dinner to network with the keynote speakers and registered participants
- Have representation at all three days of the Summit.
- Host Learning Tables during meals (facilitated and theme-based)
- Select listening and reflection moments embedded in the program as observers and co-learners

**Equity Systems Architects receive:**

1. Collective Welcome Acknowledgment at the opening reception
2. Collective Acknowledgements at the opening keynote for each day of learning at the Summit
3. Positioning of their organization's logo on ALL Bend the Arc promotional material
4. During Summit opportunity to meet the participants whose attendance was sponsored.
5. A post-Summit reflection report highlighting participation made possible through their support
6. A Post-Summit opportunity to join and even co-lead quarterly check-ins with all summit participants through SY 26-27, focused on learning and impact

[Google Form](#)

## Sponsorship 2

# JUSTICE-CENTERED PARTNER (\$18,000)

**Justice-Centered Partners provide:**

- Scholarship registration for ten (10) instructional leaders, educators, and equity practitioners

**Justice-Centered Partners are invited to:**

- A Pre-Summit Grounding Circle with The Equity Imperative team and other sponsors to align on values, norms, and shared intentions
- Opening reception dinner to network with the keynote speakers and registered participants
- Have representation at all three days of the Summit.
- Hosted Learning Tables during meals (facilitated and theme-based)
- Select listening and reflection moments embedded in the program as observers and co-learners

**Justice-Centered Partners receive:**

1. Collective Welcome Acknowledgment at the opening reception
2. Collective Acknowledgements at the opening keynote for each day of learning at the Summit
3. Positioning of their organization's logo on SELECT Bend the Arc promotional materials.
4. A post-Summit reflection report highlighting participation made possible through their support

[Google Form](#)

For more information, or to schedule a time to connect with one of our team members...



## Sponsorship 3

# BELONGING BUILDER (\$9,000)

**Belonging Builders provide:**

- Scholarship registration for five (5) instructional leaders, educators, and equity practitioners

**Belonging Builders are invited to:**

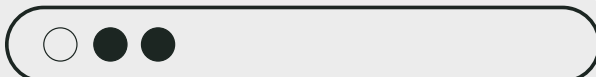
- A Pre-Summit Grounding Circle with The Equity Imperative team and other sponsors to align on values, norms, and shared intentions
- Opening reception dinner to network with the keynote speakers and registered participants
- Have representation at all three days of the Summit.

**Belonging Builders receive:**

1. Collective Welcome Acknowledgment at the opening reception
2. Collective Acknowledgements at the opening keynote for each day of learning at the Summit
3. A post-Summit reflection report highlighting participation made possible through their support

[Google Form](#)

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## Sponsorship 4

# ACCESS & OPPORTUNITY CATALYST (\$5,400)

**Access & Opportunity Catalysts provide:**

- Scholarship registration for **three (3) instructional leaders**, educators, and equity practitioners

**Access & Opportunity Catalysts are invited to:**

- A Pre-Summit Grounding Circle with The Equity Imperative team and other sponsors to align on values, norms, and shared intentions
- Opening reception dinner to network with the keynote speakers and registered participants

**Access & Opportunity Catalysts receive:**

1. Collective Acknowledgements at the opening keynote for each day of learning at the Summit
2. A post-Summit reflection report highlighting participation made possible through their support



For more information, or to schedule a time to connect with one of our team members...

[Google Form](#)



Bend The Arc 2026

# CONTACT INFORMATION

Website

[www.equityimperative.org](http://www.equityimperative.org)

Summit Website

[www.bendthearcsummit.com](http://www.bendthearcsummit.com)

Email

[info@equityimperative.org](mailto:info@equityimperative.org)



[Google Form](#)

