



Hosted by

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

**Ahmad Toure:** Ahmad Toure is an experienced park ranger with a passion for engaging diverse audiences. He has a strong commitment to community and the environment. Ahmad is also a collateral duty Wildland Firefighter and First Responder with the George Washington Memorial Parkway. When Ahmad is not working in the park you can still catch him outside rock climbing or simply enjoying the breeze.



**Daiquan Medley:** Daiquan came to Gearin' Up Bicycles when he needed an outlet for his energies as part of his struggles to overcome behavioral challenges. A high schooler at the time, Daiquan has a mechanical-focused mind and was a leading member of his school's Robotics team, thus volunteering at GUB was just a natural fit for him. After working for GUB through the District's Summer Youth Employment Program in 2014, Daiquan officially became part of the Gearin' Up Bicycles staff in early 2015 as a youth mechanic. Ever since joining our staff, Daiquan has been a leader in teaching other DC youth about bike mechanics, especially during our Youth Night program. Fun Fact: While he likes to tout the BMX "one gear" cycle life, Daiquan is also an avid cyclocross and mountain bike rider.



**Erick Cedeño:** Born and raised in Panama, Central America, Erick Cedeño is an adventure cyclist and social media influencer who uses the bicycle to inspire and encourage people to adopt healthier and more sustainable lifestyles. Erick's trips include cycling from Vancouver, Canada to Tijuana, Mexico in 39 days; Miami to Key West in 2 days; the 410 mile perimeter of Puerto Rico in 6 days; and the 2,007-mile freedom trail of the Underground Railroad in 31 days. Erick also owns and runs, Bicycle Nomad Cafe, a coffee shop based in Phoenix, AZ that celebrates adventure cycling and cycling culture in general. Erick is regularly asked to speak at events for the Adventure Cycling Association, New York Bike Expo, Philadelphia Bike Expo, Gigantic Bicycle Festival, and more. He has been interviewed on his adventure cycling on CNN, Fox News, Bicycling Magazine, and other news outlets.



**Karter Gilbertsen:** Karter is a fifteen-year-old transgender male. He grew up and currently lives in Arlington Virginia. Karter recently found his voice and would like to help others find theirs.



**Lynn Salvo:** Lynn Salvo, at age 49, began to decide what to do when she grew up. She had raised two children and had taught science and math by then and had a Bachelor's in Biology and a Masters in Environmental Systems Management. In 1999, she started a PhD in Mathematical Education Leadership, a business, and she started running. She ran her first marathon in 2002 and qualified for the Boston Marathon. She did several triathlons between 2004 and 2009 and that is where she got acquainted with cycling. In 2015, she completed her first cross-country cycling adventure (minus 150 miles) on the Southern Tier. She loved that adventure so much that she wanted to do it again, every fantastic inch this time. Knowing she was on the older side for doing this, she applied to Guinness World Records and learned that she could set a record for the oldest female to cross the US by bicycle. That she did, following the Race Across America route, completing her journey on October 23, 2016, at the age of 67 years.



**MasPaz:** MasPaz was born in Bogota, Colombia, adopted from La Casa De La Madre Y El Niño orphanage, to an American family, and raised in Washington, DC. In his home, his mother hung Colombian tapestries and shared her stories of being in the Peace Corps in Quibdo, Colombia. Her memories gave him a closer understanding to his Colombian roots and ancestors. His Latin American heritage plays a huge role in his art today. MasPaz is a graduate of George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia. His studio work, installations and gallery projects have been exhibited throughout the world most notably The Smithsonian Institution, Corcoran Gallery of Art and The New Museum. MasPaz lives and works in Arlington, Va, but spends a majority of his time traveling, teaching and painting murals across the world.



**Samara Cathirell:** A sophomore at HB-Woodlawn Secondary School in Arlington, VA, Samara discovered her love for biking after she went to Phoenix Bikes' Earn-a-Bike club at her elementary school. After being a part of the youth mechanic program for several years, she was a founding member of Phoenix Bikes' junior racing team. She now races for both Team Phoenix and Squadra Coppi and hopes to eventually go to Nationals. This is Samara's third Youth Bike Summit.



**Scott Catanzaro:** Scott's passion for cycling began with the Little 500 at Indiana University, made famous by the film Breaking Away. In preparation for the race, he began training on a road bike and racing collegiate races in the Midwest, culminating with a medal at the collegiate track national championships in 2009. Upon graduating, and thus losing eligibility to continue competing in the Little 500, he continued to pursue racing. He has since raced for numerous elite teams, both at the national and regional levels. He currently resides in Washington DC and serves as the president of DT Racing, a local amateur team with an innovative approach to racing. While he still enjoys jumping in the local races now and then, his passion has shifted to inspiring others to live happy, healthy, and productive lives, both on and off the bike.



**Usman Zafar:** Usman came to the U.S. with his family from India when he was 13. His dad taught him to ride a bike in his home country, but he never owned one and was limited to riding about 30 feet on the gravel outside of his house, the only place where his dad felt it was safe. It goes without saying that moving to Arlington, VA was quite a change, based on bike infrastructure alone. Soon after he arrived in Arlington, Usman's friends from school told him about Phoenix Bikes and it soon became a second home. He quickly earned his first bike, which would later be upgraded to meet his "need for speed" and to continually push himself as a cyclist and founding member of Team Phoenix junior racing team. His positive attitude, bike handling skills, and athleticism put him on the radar of a local road racing team, DT Racing. He was recruited and now races on the DT squad and was one of the first juniors to do so on the team. He is a sophomore at Wakefield High School in Arlington and recently started his first job as a bike builder at a local Trek Bicycles store.

