



JUNIOR LEAGUE KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JUNIOR LEAGUE OF KANSAS CITY ANNOUNCES 2026 C3KC EVENT

Julia Irene Dennie-Kauffman to Receive Branton/Hall Community Collaborator Honor and Shaylyn Romney Garrett to Keynote

Kansas City, Missouri (January 13, 2026) – The Junior League of Kansas City, Missouri (JLKC) is proud to announce **Julia Irene Dennie-Kauffman** as the 2026 recipient of the Branton/Hall Community Collaborator Award and **Shaylyn Romney Garrett**, co-author of *The Upswing*. The Branton/Hall award and keynote will both be presented at the 9th Annual C3KC Conference on **Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at Union Station Kansas City.**

C3KC is a collaborative conference that brings together the civic, corporate, and nonprofit communities to spark change for a better Kansas City. Now in its ninth year, C3KC has quickly become a cornerstone of change, presenting relevant and cutting-edge topics focused on social innovation. Panel discussions led by local and national thought leaders provide attendees with opportunities to engage, exchange ideas, and network.

About the Keynote Speaker

Shaylyn Romney Garrett, co-author of *The Upswing*, is this year's keynote speaker. An internationally recognized author, lecturer, and social entrepreneur, her work has been featured by *The New York Times*, *TIME*, NPR, BBC, and PBS. She co-founded Think Unlimited, a nonprofit driving social innovation in the Middle East, and developed an Arabic-language curriculum on creativity and critical thinking in partnership with Queen Rania of Jordan.

About the Branton/Hall Honoree

Although Julia Irene Dennie-Kauffman was born and educated in Toronto, Canada; she is known for her leadership and philanthropic efforts in the Kansas City community. Julia is Chairman, President, and CEO of the Muriel McBrien Kauffman Family Foundation, which has played a pivotal role in supporting performing arts organizations. With her visionary approach, Julia spearheaded construction of the iconic Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. Beyond the Center, she has served on the boards of the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, Kansas City Symphony Foundation, Kansas City Ballet, Lyric Opera of Kansas City, Kansas City Royals Baseball Club, Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, and the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance. In addition, Julia continues to be a driving force behind the Muriel I. Kauffman Women's Heart Center, demonstrating her support to advancing women's heart health.

About the Branton/Hall Award

The Branton/Hall Award was named in memory and honor of two JLKCMO members – Mary Shaw “Shawsie” Branton and Adele Hall. These two women dedicated their lives to making Kansas City a better, more inclusive, well-cared-for community. Longtime pillars of our community, Shawsie and Adele were model volunteers who worked tirelessly as catalysts for change, sensing needs in our community and then working diligently to bring the right individuals together to solve some of our city's most pressing issues. As Kansas



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City's only recipients of the Association of Junior Leagues International's highest honor, the Mary Harriman Community Leadership Award, Shawsie and Adele believed that every person in our community, regardless of circumstance, deserves a chance to succeed. This distinguished award honors Shawsie Branton and Adele Hall's commitment to and passion for advocating, influencing, and convening leaders for positive change. It recognizes like-minded individuals who continue their legacy of creating positive social impact in Kansas City.

About the Junior League of Kansas City, Missouri

Founded in 1914, JLKC is a women's training organization that cultivates leaders who collectively address the critical needs in our community through volunteer action and collaboration with other Kansas City nonprofit agencies. Serving for over 100 years, JLKC has designed, developed, and launched several initiatives and programs that have had significant impact on some of Kansas City's most well-known institutions.

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