



M. SIMONE
BOYD

"I DREAM OF A DAY WHEN MY NEIGHBORHOOD WILL BE FREE OF VIOLENCE, HAVE THRIVING SCHOOLS AND CONNECTED NEIGHBORS."

M. Simone Boyd is a novelist, neighborhood organizer, and speaker. Her advocacy helped secure \$3 million dollars of infrastructure investments for her neighborhood. And at least once a month, people—some incarcerated—share that her novel, *The Day Sonny Died*, made them hopeful.



TALKS INCLUDE:

HOW ARTISTS CAN HELP HEAL COMMUNITIES

This talk is best suited for those seeking to leverage the power of creative strategies in neighborhoods. It is geared toward artists, art councils, philanthropic organizations and municipal governments. **In this interactive talk, we will:**

- learn creative tools for artists to build empathy, raise support and connect community.
- identify barriers philanthropic and government entities must eliminate.
- share strategies for navigating politics and protecting capacity.

Hear how residents responded to neighborhood violence, unseated a problematic politician and built productive relationships with government officials.

HOW TO HACK YOUR CITY BUDGET

Are you having trouble getting your elected official to act? If so, this talk is for you. It is geared toward neighbors, organizers and advocates seeking to solve neighborhood problems with local investments. **In this interactive talk, we will learn:**

- how to build neighborhood consensus.
- systems you must learn to navigate.
- the love language of politicians.

Hear how residents responded to traffic fatalities and moved the State to act within two weeks.

ARE WE THERE YET? EVALUATING & MEASURING PROJECT IMPACT

Let's say we are all on a road trip to improve our communities through arts and cultural strategies. How will we know when we have arrived? **In this interactive talk, we will learn:**

- the difference between outputs and outcome.
- to make meaningful correlations.
- three types of evaluation.

Hear how Simone helped raise \$35,000 from developers, investors, nonprofits and private foundations to support local artists to perform during a street festival and measured impact.

SETTING THE COLLABORATIVE TABLE

Collaborations can get tricky when parties with varying interests, perceived power and differing backgrounds get involved. **In this interactive talk, we will learn ways to:**

- move collaborators toward shared goals and common interests.
- identify collaborator assets.
- set the defining question.
- imagine successes

Hear how residents, local police and a bike advocacy group partnered to respond to neighborhood violence and how it led to a \$3 million infrastructure investment.

CLIENT TESTIMONIALS:

Simone is an inspiring, top-notch, and highly professional speaker. She was a pleasure to work with in preparing for the event, and gave a crystal-clear and extraordinarily powerful talk about the complex, creative, and multi-sector work she is doing in Nashville. We can't wait to host her again.

DANYA SHERMAN
ArtPlace America



Simone's ability to connect to each individual in the room through her storytelling was extraordinary. Her passion is infectious and her message was inspiring - she helped our agency fulfill its mission in a beautiful way. We consider ourselves very blessed to have Simone in the Interfaith family - she is truly a gift.

JENNIE LATIMER
Interfaith Dental Clinic



The Day Sonny Died is a powerful reminder of why our society needs to do a better job of addressing trans-generational trauma that haunts Black families in urban communities. Set in the North Nashville neighborhood that I grew up in, the account of Sonny's life was all too familiar.

I found myself rooting for Sonny to take advantage of what seemed to be multiple opportunities to follow a different path, only to realize that Sonny's death started when he fell victim to the failing systemic institutions that negatively impact Black and Brown people all across America. I hope that young people read this as a wake up call to control their own destinies.

LONNELL MATTHEWS
Juvenile Court Clerk



TO INVITE SIMONE TO SPEAK
AT YOUR EVENT, PLEASE VISIT
[MSIMONEBOYD.COM/SPEAKING/](https://msimoneboyd.com/speaking/)

FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE EMAIL:
SIMONE@MSIMONEBOYD.COM