

RIGHT BEFORE I GO.

PANELISTS & COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Meet the voices joining each conversation.

SEPTEMBER 9 - 13, 2026 | CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

CHOOSE A DATE

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WEDNESDAY

SEP 9

THURSDAY

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FRIDAY

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SATURDAY

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SUNDAY

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Green website links throughout this guide are clickable.

Panelists and schedules are subject to change.

WEDNESDAY

SEPTEMBER 9

6 PANELISTS

Luther Kissam V**Author & Artist****WEB** lutherkissamv.com ->

Luther Kissam V is a poet, writer, and mental health advocate. His work seeks to unite and connect. He lives with bipolar disorder, which he manages with medication, therapy, lifestyle, and, of course, writing.

Andrew Smith**Founder, Finding Inspiration Foundation****WEB** findinginspirationfoundation.org ->

Founder of Finding Inspiration Foundation, a Charlotte nonprofit using creativity, community engagement, and human connection to create opportunities for inspiration, belonging, and positive change.

Phoebe Turner Azmi**Community Impact and Equity Coordinator, Mind the Gap****WEB** mindthegapconnects.org ->**WEB** phoebeturnerazmi.com ->

Community coordinator with Mind the Gap, bringing mindfulness practices into spaces centered on mental wellness, connection, and community support.

Jonathan Hetterly, MA, MTS, LCMHC**Licensed Therapist; Board Member, Mind the Gap****WEB** jonathanhetterly.com ->

Licensed therapist, speaker, and practice owner who helps young adults, students, and families navigate anxiety, ADHD, and the pressures of growing up in today's world. He also serves on the board of Mind the Gap, connecting people with mental health resources, education, and community support.

Diamond James, LCSW, LISW-CP**Owner, Breaking Down Stigma, PLLC****WEB** breakingdownstigma.org ->

Licensed clinical social worker and founder of Breaking Down Stigma, supporting conversations and education that reduce mental health stigma and strengthen connection, understanding, and access to support.

Rebecca Peacock, LCSW**Director, Mecklenburg County Crisis Response, Santé Group****WEB** thesantegroup.org/mecklenburg-county-nc ->

Director of Mecklenburg County Crisis Response with Santé Group, helping lead community-based behavioral health crisis response and connect individuals and families with immediate support and appropriate care.

THURSDAY

SEPTEMBER 10

4 PANELISTS

Luther Kissam V**Author & Artist****WEB** lutherkissamv.com ->

Luther Kissam V is a poet, writer, and mental health advocate. His work seeks to unite and connect. He lives with bipolar disorder, which he manages with medication, therapy, lifestyle, and, of course, writing.

Andrew Smith**Founder, Finding Inspiration Foundation****WEB** findinginspirationfoundation.org ->

Founder of Finding Inspiration Foundation, a Charlotte nonprofit using creativity, community engagement, and human connection to create opportunities for inspiration, belonging, and positive change.

Karen Klemm**Retired Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools
Counselor****WEB** Bailey Student Services ->

Karen brings years of experience supporting young people and families through challenges, transitions, and emotional well-being.

April Jones**Santé Group Mobile Crisis****WEB** thesantegroup.org/mecklenburg-county-nc ->

Member of Santé Group's Mobile Crisis team, providing community-based behavioral health crisis response and helping connect people experiencing mental health crises with appropriate support and resources.

FRIDAY

SEPTEMBER 11

4 PANELISTS

Toni Evans**Artist****WEB** [Artist profile ->](#)

Artist whose creative practice contributes to conversations about humanity, expression, connection, and the role of art in helping communities process lived experience.

Kate McAllister**Executive Director, Queen City Art****WEB** queencityart.org/people ->

Executive Director of Queen City Art, supporting artists and creative community-building while advancing the role of art as a vehicle for expression, connection, and well-being.

Luther Kissam V**Author & Artist****WEB** lutherkissamv.com ->

Luther Kissam V is a poet, writer, and mental health advocate. His work seeks to unite and connect. He lives with bipolar disorder, which he manages with medication, therapy, lifestyle, and, of course, writing.

Jeremy Floyd**Santé Group Mobile Crisis****WEB** thesantegroup.org/mecklenburg-county-nc ->

Member of Santé Group's Mobile Crisis team, providing community-based behavioral health crisis response and helping connect people experiencing mental health crises with appropriate support and resources.

SATURDAY

SEPTEMBER 12

4 PANELISTS

Toni Evans

Artist

[WEB Artist profile ->](#)

Artist whose creative practice contributes to conversations about humanity, expression, connection, and the role of art in helping communities process lived experience.

Amy Campbell

Director; Founder, Mental Health Reimagined

[WEB mentalhealthreimagined.org/about-us ->](http://mentalhealthreimagined.org/about-us)

Artist, director, storyteller, and founder of Mental Health Reimagined. Her healing-arts work uses story, creativity, and courageous connection to create spaces where pain and purpose can compassionately coexist.

The Cast of Right Before I Go

Cast

[WEB charlottesoffbroadway.com ->](http://charlottesoffbroadway.com)

Members of the cast join the conversation to reflect on the experience of bringing these real letters and stories to the stage and holding space for the humanity behind the words.

Diamond James, LCSW, LISW-CP

Owner, Breaking Down Stigma, PLLC

[WEB breakingdownstigma.org ->](http://breakingdownstigma.org)

Licensed clinical social worker and founder of Breaking Down Stigma, supporting conversations and education that reduce mental health stigma and strengthen connection, understanding, and access to support.

SUNDAY**SEPTEMBER 13**

3 PANELISTS

Glenn Proctor**Veteran, Journalist & Author****WEB** reddjobb.com/about ->

Veteran, journalist, author, and nationally recognized storyteller whose career has centered on leadership, resilience, and the power of personal stories to create understanding and connection.

Rahman Williams**Veteran & Cast Member****WEB** rahmanwilliams.com/about ->

Veteran, artist, and member of the Right Before I Go cast, bringing both lived experience and creative perspective to the conversation around service, mental health, connection, and hope.

Emily Lupsor, MSW, LCSW**Suicide Prevention Program Manager, Salisbury VA Health Care System****WEB** [VA Salisbury Suicide Prevention](#) ->

Suicide Prevention Program Manager for the Salisbury VA Health Care System, supporting suicide prevention, intervention, education, and connection to care for Veterans and their communities.