

Seth Neblett — Keynote Speaker

Author | Cultural Historian | Leadership & Organizational Culture Strategist

Mothership Insights: Women, Power, and the Hidden Architecture of Cultural Movements

What if the stories we celebrate in music history are not wrong—just incomplete? Seth Neblett revisits the iconic Parliament-Funkadelic movement through a new lens—centering the women whose creative, emotional, and logistical labor shaped one of the most influential eras in American music. Drawing from his book *Mothership Connected* and personal insight through his mother’s experience, he explores how mythology is constructed, how visibility doesn't equal power, and how foundational contributors are written out of legacy.

Blending personal insight and cultural analysis, this talk examines invisible systems that sustain artistic movements—from backstage labor to emotional leadership. More than music history, this keynote explores authorship, recognition, and cultural power dynamics.

Ideal for: Music conferences • Arts institutions • Cultural festivals • Universities • Creative industries

Invisible Labor, Visible Risk: What Leaders Overlook at Their Own Expense

In this executive-level keynote, Seth explores how visibility, authority, and invisible labor shape organizational success or failure. Drawing from decades leading teams in hospitality and managing musical artists, he reveals how recognition systems determine sustainability.

Executive Value Delivered:

- Reframes leadership beyond hierarchy and title
- Explains how visibility can distort authority
- Identifies hidden drivers of organizational performance
- Addresses burnout tied to unrecognized labor
- Provides language for sustainable recognition systems

Selected Media & Critical Praise

“Mothership Connected is an absolute triumph. A pathbreaking, alternative history of funk and rock... An absolute revelation.”

— Daphne A. Brooks, Yale University

“Shines a spotlight on the often-overlooked women of Parliament-Funkadelic — foundational to the band’s success yet historically overshadowed.”

— The Washington Post

“A brash and thorough accounting of a crucial element of the funk firmament.”

— Kirkus Reviews

“This insider’s account shines a light on that female funk that has always been part of the P-Funk experience.”

— Rickey Vincent, Author of Funk

“There’s so much more to the story... illustrating the strength required to bounce back.”

— George Tillman Jr., Director

“An unbelievable archive full of strength, humor, tea, shade and yes, funk.”

— Ms. Magazine

“The women’s contributions took the Mothership to new heights... they deserve recognition as quintessential to its legacy.”

— Antigravity Magazine

“Thrilling, riveting, illuminating... a profound appreciation for electrifying art and steadfast labor.”

— University of Texas Press