OPENING KEYNOTE
MARCH 4, 2026 | 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

RECYCLED MINDS COMEDY

ROOM: JUNIPER/LAUREL

This 1.5-hour interactive training is designed to launch the AmeriCorps training day by building genuine connection, trust, and collaborative momentum from the start. Led by Sean Hancock, the session blends engaging storytelling, hands-on improv exercises, guided reflection, and mindfulness practices to help participants connect with one another in meaningful and memorable ways.

KEY TAKE AWAYS

Using the principles of improvisation as a practical tool, participants will actively explore communication, adaptability, presence, and teamwork—without it feeling like a lecture or traditional training. The experience is fast-moving, inclusive, and intentionally designed so learning happens through doing. Expect laughter, full participation, and moments of real human connection as individuals practice listening well, supporting one another, and engaging with confidence.

This session sets the tone for the day by creating a shared experience that strengthens relationships, increases engagement, and helps participants show up more fully—for each other and for the work ahead.

Sean Hancock is a speaker and facilitator with Recycled Minds, an award-winning comedy and training company founded in 2002 and recognized locally with Audience Choice Awards and “Best Date Night in the Treasure Valley.” For over 20 years, Sean and Recycled Minds have worked with nonprofits, schools, and organizations using the principles of improv to strengthen connection, communication, and teamwork. His sessions are welcoming, hands-on, and grounded in real interaction, blending storytelling, simple exercises, and reflection to help people engage naturally with one another. The focus is on presence, collaboration, and learning through shared experience. Expect a fun, thoughtful start to the day that helps people feel more connected, energized, and ready to work together.

WORKSHOP BLOCK
MARCH 4, 2026 | 2:45 PM - 4:15 PM

I AM...STILL STANDING: A JOURNEY OF RESILIENCE

Facilitator: Nathan Gilbert

ROOM: LIBERTY

Step into a workshop designed to celebrate strength, growth, and self-discovery. Through interactive reflection, discussion, and the creation of your own "I Am From" poem, you'll explore your personal journey, uncover inner resilience, and find inspiration in your story. This session invites you to rise above challenges, embrace your identity, and leave empowered to continue standing strong, because your story matters, and your voice deserves to be heard.

Nathan Gilbert is an Idaho native with 12 years of experience in the non-profit sector. Starting as a youth volunteer, he now excels as the Volunteer Services Manager at Idaho Youth Ranch, focusing on Volunteer Management for the past 5 years. Nathan thrives on connecting community needs with passionate individuals, emphasizing the impact of the "one." A lifelong learner and jack of all trades, he enjoys organizing, crafting, and exploring new cuisines with his wife and two daughters!

OPEN FOR DISCUSSION: RESILIENCE

Facilitators: Johanna Bringhurst and Camille Daw

ROOM: DELAMAR

In times of uncertainty and challenge, resilience helps us find strength, meaning, and hope. In this community conversation, AmeriCorps members will explore humanities texts such as historic photos, poems, and short stories that reveal the power of resilience. Together, we'll reflect on what resilience means and how it shapes our ability to serve and envision a better future even when the path ahead feels uncertain. Through open dialogue and different perspectives, participants will discover how resilience connects us, sustains our purpose, and reminds us of the enduring power of community.

Johanna Bringhurst is the associate director for the Idaho Humanities Council. Johanna believes in the value of an informed citizenry that can debate and discuss the most important issues of our time. She hopes to get Idahoans talking to each other again to help solve our problems with respect and empathy. Johanna graduated from Utah State University with a BS in Political Science and has worked in education, humanitarian aid, and for the Idaho State Historical Society.

Camille Daw joined the Idaho Humanities Council in October 2024. Previously, she served as the Program and Outreach Manager for Friends of Minidoka. Since 2019 she has studied Minidoka and worked alongside the National Park Service to preserve the legacies of Japanese American incarceration during World War II. She also has prior experience working at the Old Idaho Penitentiary and Idaho State Museum. Camille holds a BA in History and a MA in Public History from Boise State University. She resides in Boise with her rescue, a labrador pitbull named Boba.

PLENARY SESSION
MARCH 5, 2026 | 9:15 AM - 10:15 AM

RESILIENCY: THE LEADERSHIP MUSCLE WE MUST FLEX

FACILITATOR: KIMBER RUSSELL

ROOM: JUNIPER/LAUREL

This plenary explores resiliency as a developable leadership muscle essential for AmeriCorps members at every level. Drawing on experience as a VISTA alum, HR leader, and change management consultant, the session reframes growth-related discomfort as a normal and necessary part of personal, organizational, and community transformation.

Participants will leave with:

- **A clear understanding of resiliency as a skill that can be intentionally strengthened over time.**
- **Practical daily practices to build resilience through reflection, reframing, and connection with others.**
- **Language and mindset shifts to lean into, rather than resist, the discomfort of growth and change.**
- **Insight into their responsibility to model and cultivate resilience, whether they lead teams or contribute as individual members**

Kimber Russell, is a global human resources executive, Organization Change Management consultant, proud AmeriCorps VISTA alumna, and community leader with a strong record of service and talent development in the Treasure Valley. She combines strategic HR leadership with experience in workforce development, consulting, and nonprofit governance to make a lasting impact on others. She feels that the intersection of people, business, technology, and philanthropy is where the time and talents of all humans make the most impact.

CLOSING KEYNOTE SESSION
FEBRUARY 20, 2025 | 11:45 AM - 12:45 PM

SERVICE LEADERSHIP: FINDING PURPOSE

FACILITATOR: KAY EMERSON

ROOM: JUNIPER/LAUREL

As members prepare to close out their service year, this session offers space to reflect on their journey, reconnect with their "why," and recognize the impact they've made. Through guided activities, participants will explore how their AmeriCorps experience has shaped their leadership, clarify their personal purpose, and identify how to carry their service-forward mindset into future education, career, and community roles.

SheRen Consulting
Established in 2023

Kay Emerson, MS, is the founder of SheRen Consulting and a national trainer with America's Service Commissions (ASC). With over 15 years in publicadministration, she supports state service commissions, nonprofits, and AmeriCorps programs in strengthening leadership, compliance, and communityimpact. A former commission leader, Kay managed multi-million-dollar portfolios and launched public health service initiatives. She brings a warm, purpose-centered approach that empowers AmeriCorps members to lead with clarity, confidence, and long-term civic commitment.