



Westside
Future Fund

Transform Westside Summit

Convene | Communicate | Collaborate





Westside Future Fund
Friday, August 2, 2019



Agenda

7:15 – 7:20am Welcome	John Ahmann <i>President & CEO</i> Westside Future Fund
7:20 – 7:35am Opening Devotion	Dr. Edward P. Wimberly <i>President Emeritus</i> Interdenominational Theological Center
7:35 – 8:00am Introductions & Announcements	John Ahmann <i>President & CEO</i> Westside Future Fund
8:00 – 8:45am Featured Presentation: APD-Urban and Westside Future Fund	O. Jesse Wiles <i>Principal/Chief Executive Officer</i> APD-Urban Rachel Carey <i>Vice President of Project Finance</i> Westside Future Fund Lee Harrop <i>Vice President of Real Estate Development</i> Westside Future Fund Joan Vernon <i>Director of Neighborhood Engagement</i> Westside Future Fund
8:45 – 8:55am Q&A	All
8:55am Closing Remarks	John Ahmann
9:00am Meeting Adjourns	

WiFi: TGS Guest | Password: tgsvisitor384

-  @westsidefuturefund
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 -  westsidefuturefund.org
-



Transform Westside Summits are made possible through the generosity of the Chick-fil-A Foundation and The Gathering Spot

Our Speakers

Dr. Edward P. Wimberly

President Emeritus, Interdenominational Theological Center

Edward P. Wimberly was born in Philadelphia to Edgar Van Wimberly, Sr. and Evelyn Powell Wimberly. Raised in Methodist parsonages in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware, his grammar school education occurred in a historic New Jersey town called Snow Hill, which was purchased by Abolitionists in 1840 to provide safety to freed and escaped slaves. In 1926 Snow Hill was named Lawnside, and became the first independent self-governing African American community in the North. Today, it is one of only two self-governed African American established towns in the United States. Due to his father's pastoral locations, Edward's high school education began in Haddon Heights, New Jersey followed by his graduation from Chester High School in Chester, Pennsylvania. At both high schools he distinguished himself as a football player. He received a four year football scholarship at the University of Arizona where he lettered in football for three years. He graduated from the University of Arizona in 1965 with a Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in History.

Edward was called to Christian ministry at age 16 at a Methodist Youth Fellowship camp. He preached his first sermon at Prince Chapel AME Church in Tucson, while a freshman at the University of Arizona. His subsequent trial sermon for licensure to preach occurred at Mount Carmel United Methodist Church, in Wilmington, Delaware, where his dad was pastor.

He entered Boston University School of Theology (B.U.S.T.) in the fall, 1965. His choice of B.U.S.T. resulted from his admiration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who received a Ph.D. Degree there, and whom Edward heard speak at the University of Arizona in 1963. On his first Sunday at the historic B.U. Marsh Chapel, Edward met Anne Streaty who became his wife in June 1966. Following marriage, they ministered to summer migrant workers on the Western Slope of Colorado for the Colorado Council of Churches. Edward then became pastor at Emmanuel Church in Winchendon, Massachusetts (1966-1968), and St. Andrews United Methodist Church in Worcester, Massachusetts (1968-1974), where he also served as Minister of Urban Affairs for the Worcester Area Council of Churches.

He completed the Bachelor of Sacred Theology degree in 1968, the Master of Sacred Theology degree in 1971 with a major in Sociology of Religion, and the Ph.D. degree in Pastoral Psychology and Counseling from the Boston University Graduate School in 1976.

In 1975, Edward accepted a teaching position in Pastoral Care at Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC). His first published work, *Pastoral Care in the Black Church* (Abingdon 1979) was the first book in pastoral care published by an African American. Since that time he has published seventeen books in pastoral care and counseling, numerous articles, and several Bible Studies for the United Methodist Church. His books have sold more than eighty-five-thousand copies. He has lectured across the U.S. and internationally. He taught at Africa University in Zimbabwe and at the University of Pretoria in South Africa, where he is an external reader in the Faculty of Theology Doctoral Program.

He has been a theological educator and administrator at Oral Roberts School of Theology in Tulsa, Oklahoma (1983-85) and at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois (1985-1991). He returned to ITC in 1991, where he became the Jarena Lee Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling. He assumed the post of Vice President of Academic Affairs/Provost in 2001. He remained in this post for ten years, and then returned to the classroom in January 2011. He has served as the Ninth President of ITC from January 2013 through March 2015.

Edward has received many awards among which are the University of Arizona Athletic Department Distinguished Alumnus Award (2014); the Boston University School of Theology Distinguished Alumnus Award (2012); the Distinguished Achievement in Research and Writing Award in the field of pastoral care and counseling from the American Association of Pastoral Counselors; and honored by the Scientific Study of Religion as leader in the field of pastoral care. He is a licensed Family and Marriage Counselor in the State of Georgia.

O. Jesse Wiles

Principal/Chief Executive Officer

APD-U Principal Jesse Wiles has spent over thirty years as a leading consultant for urban and neighborhood redevelopment in disinvested communities throughout the Southeast.

During planning and implementation phases, Jesse leads stakeholder engagement throughout the process, recommends best practices and creates strategic and sustainable implementation strategies for projects. He also is responsible for coordination between government agencies, nonprofits, for-profit developers and large property owners in order to ensure that processes are aligned among all entities in the creation of plans and during the implementation phase of the plans.

Jesse has a wide range of experience in community planning, real estate development, property acquisition and disposition, and housing financing. Jesse was one of the leading developers of historic property in Savannah's nationally acclaimed Victorian and Historic Districts, and later was retained by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) to manage the Resolution Trust Corporation's (RTC) Affordable Housing Disposition Program (AHDP) for a nine state region. Jesse's work, and his extensive experience in historic property preservation, urban planning, affordable housing development, and neighborhood revitalization has helped many clients secure historic tax credits and private sector financing based on sound, strategic planning.

Jesse has a Bachelor of Science in Urban Affairs from the University of Cincinnati and a Master of Community Planning and a Master of Public Administration also from the University of Cincinnati.

Our Speakers

Rachel Carey

Vice President of Project Finance, Westside Future Fund

Rachel has eleven years of experience in structuring and executing complex affordable housing transactions utilizing multiple financing sources. After completing a master's degree in real estate development and finance at Cornell University in 2008, she joined the New Jersey-based private equity firm Urban American as an acquisitions and asset manager of rent-regulated workforce housing. In 2010, Rachel joined Forsyth Street Advisors, a preeminent New York consulting firm specializing in public finance and affordable housing. There she advised private and not-for-profit owners and developers on the acquisition, rehabilitation and new construction of affordable and mixed-income housing using a range of public and private financing tools including: tax-exempt bonds, tax credits, capital subsidies, and project-based Section 8. In her eight-year tenure at Forsyth Street, culminating as a Senior Vice President, she was responsible for arranging over \$850 million of debt and equity, and was deeply involved in all phases of the development process, from project scoping and predevelopment through construction closing and permanent conversion. Rachel also provided advisory services, feasibility consulting, and portfolio analysis to private clients, government agencies, and municipal housing authorities. In 2017 Rachel moved to Atlanta, where she served as Vice President of Real Estate Investments for the Atlanta Housing Authority, overseeing all financing aspects of the agency's real estate transactions. Her responsibilities included recapitalization of the Authority's existing mixed-income developments; and structuring of public-private partnerships on the Atlanta BeltLine. In May 2018 Rachel joined the Westside Future Fund as Vice President of Project Finance, focusing on the equitable redevelopment of the Westside neighborhoods through mixed-income housing. Rachel holds undergraduate degrees in architecture and history of architecture, as well as a master's degree, from Cornell.

Lee J. Harrop, MBA, LEED AP, PE

Vice President of Real Estate Development, Westside Future Fund

Lee J. Harrop is the Vice President of Real Estate Development. He initiates and coordinates resources and deliverables for WFF's real estate activities ranging from property acquisition, light and substantial rehabilitation, to ground-up development for single-family, multi-family and mixed-use projects.

Prior to joining the WFF team, Mr. Harrop served as the original Program Director for Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. (ABI) for 10 years. During this time he was named the 2013 Engineer of the Year by the Georgia Society

of Professional Engineers for his work in transitioning the Atlanta BeltLine from planning into design and construction. He was also honored as one of Georgia Trend Magazine's 50 Most Notable Georgians of 2015.

Mr. Harrop studied at Georgia Institute of Technology and the University of New Orleans. He holds a BS in Civil and Environmental Engineering as well as an MBA from Georgia State University.

Mr. Harrop serves on the Board of Directors for Park Pride and Advisory Board of Lifecycle Building Center.

Joan Vernon

Director of Neighborhood Engagement, Westside Future Fund

Joan Vernon has lived in the English Avenue community for ten years. As a long-time resident and advocate for inclusive community development, Joan has worked to prioritize the community goals and local developments. In 2016 Joan joined the board of the English Avenue Neighborhood Association (EANA) as the 1st Vice President and was elected as the organization's President shortly after. During her term, she worked with the community to complete the 2016 Land Use Framework Plan; as well as, the 2018 English Avenue rezoning, permitted uses and development controls to be included in the legislation. Over the years Joan has organized various meetings with city departments, community partners and large developers to explore both the negative and positive effects of proposed developments. Joan Vernon represented the English Avenue community for the 2019 Super Bowl host committee, The Herndon Square development, The Echo Development Community Benefits Agreement and is currently a member of the City of Atlanta Department of Planning's Congregate Steering Committee. In her years of service, Joan Vernon is most proud of the equitable opportunities created for westside community members to participate in community growth and for the host of relationships working to unite the westside neighborhoods. May 2019 Joan Vernon joined the Westside Future Fund team to continue to work on behalf of westside communities for a compassionate and inclusive approach to community redevelopment.



Westside
Future Fund

VISION

A community Dr. King would be proud to call home.

MISSION

To advance a compassionate approach to neighborhood revitalization that creates a diverse, mixed-income community, improves the quality of life for current and future residents and elevates the Historic Westside's unique history and culture.

VALUES

Do with the Community, not to the Community
We know that residents are the real experts on the challenges in their community. Therefore, we learn from residents and involve them in all we do.

Be Compassionate
We meet residents where they are in a spirit of empathy and respect.

Have Integrity in Everything
We stand behind all we say and do. We are open, honest, and courageous.

Be Creative
We bring high energy and fresh ideas to tackling the long-standing challenges on the Westside. We're dedicated to trying different approaches to get different results.

Deliver Results
We're committed to driving transformation in the long term, with a focus on measurable outcomes today.



Westside Future Fund

OUR VISION: A COMMUNITY DR. KING WOULD BE PROUD TO CALL HOME.

Westside Future Fund is a nonprofit formed by Atlanta’s public, private and philanthropic partners who believe in the future of Atlanta’s Westside and are committed to helping Historic Westside neighborhoods revitalize and develop into a community Dr. King would be proud to call home.

English Avenue • Vine City • Ashview Heights* • Atlanta University Center

Community Retention

- We’re laser-focused on affordable housing.
- We risk losing residents as market forces take over as the area’s fortunes improve.
- We want current residents to remain in their beloved neighborhoods for years to come, even as market forces raise housing and rental prices as well as taxes.
- We’re raising funds as quickly as possible to buy real estate that will remain deeply affordable.
- So far, we have 337 units under control that will serve low-income residents, such as the working poor and seniors living on a fixed income, of which we are very proud.
- Much more is needed, we need everyone’s help.

Role of the Westside Future Fund

With its grounding in community retention and its compassionate approach to revitalization, Westside Future Fund is focused on creating a diverse mixed-income community, improving quality of life, and elevating and celebrating the Historic Westside’s unique history and culture. We are driving a collective effort focused on our four impact strategies with many different impact partners.

Impact Areas



SAFETY AND SECURITY



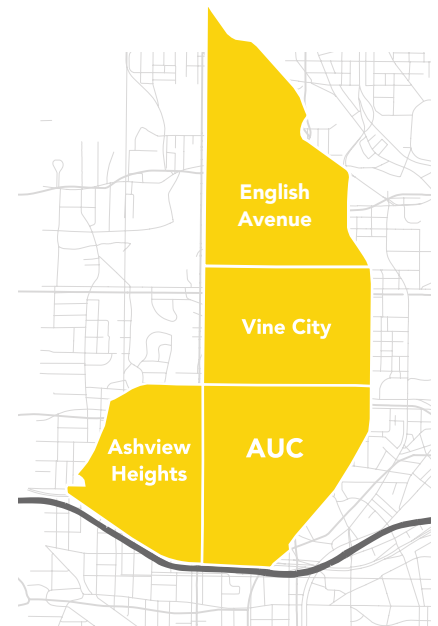
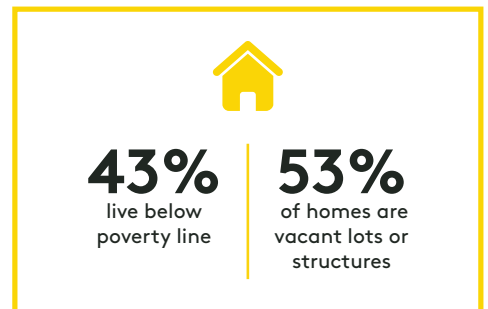
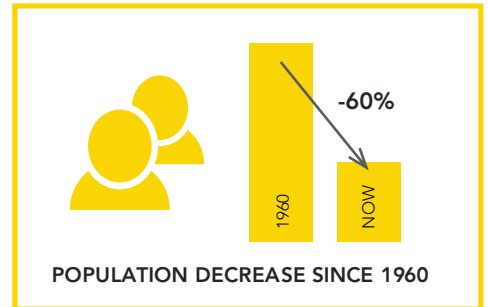
QUALITY, MIXED-INCOME COMMUNITIES (COMMUNITY RETENTION)



CRADLE-TO-CAREER EDUCATION



COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS



* Just Us and Booker T. Washington

Our Impact

In addition to amplifying and accelerating the work of our impact partners, we also advance our mission through the development and implementation of several plans, programs and initiatives, including:

Anti-Displacement Tax Fund

An initiative that will pay qualifying homeowners' property tax increases in the English Avenue, Vine City, Ashview Heights and Atlanta University Center communities. The program is designed to help ensure that current homeowners are not displaced due to rising property taxes.

Land-Use Framework Plan

A design and implementation strategy — created in partnership with the City's Department of Planning & Community Development — to revitalize the Westside, building on the good work and extensive community feedback put into previous plans by city officials, partners and community residents.

Transform Westside Summit

Twice-monthly "town hall" meetings created to foster connection, collaboration and communication amongst community members around revitalization efforts.

Westside Neighborhoods Beautification Project

Pilot job training and placement program designed to help Westside residents carve out career paths while cleaning up and beautifying our four target neighborhoods.

Westside Volunteer Corps

Established to create opportunities for individuals from throughout Atlanta to join forces with Westside residents in the revitalization of the historic Westside. Through a variety of volunteer projects, the Corps works to strengthen community nonprofits and expand their impact with a consistent injection of human capital (i.e. volunteers).

Westside Community Data Dashboard

Dedicated to identifying and understanding the needs and opportunities that exist in WFF's four target neighborhoods. Site offers a baseline of community conditions and trends over the past 15 years against which WFF will track future progress.

How to Get Involved



LEARN

Check out our website to learn more.

westsidefuturefund.org



ENGAGE

Attend a Transform Westside Summit or join our Westside Volunteer Corps.

westsidefuturefund.org/volunteer-corps



GIVE

Already convinced? Great! Donate to our efforts.

westsidefuturefund.org/donate



P.O. Box 92273, Atlanta, GA 30314
(404) 793-2670
WestsideFutureFund.org



[@westsidefuturefund](https://www.facebook.com/westsidefuturefund)



[@WFFAtlanta](https://twitter.com/WFFAtlanta)

Progress from the Collective Effort

RODNEY COOK, SR. PARK IN VINE CITY



Construction of Cook Park's three terraced pools at Thurmond St. and Walnut St. intersection continues. Cook Park is designed to collect stormwater from the 150 acres around the park's 16-acre site. A majority of the water to be collected in the neighborhood will come to the project's pond at this location. The terraced pools will provide aeration to the water and allow for sediment in the collected water to drop and be collected improving the quality of the collected stormwater in the pond.



The assembly of steel bridge spans onto concrete columns at Cook Park is complete. The 650' long bridge is comprised of thirteen separate steel spans that were fabricated off-site and shipped to the site to be installed. The next steps are to pour concrete on to the bridge deck, install lighting, and mount over 1300' feet of stainless steel handrail.

Cook Park is designed to seamlessly integrate functional engineering features within a programmed park space while providing park amenities to visitors of all ages and abilities with ways to gather, connect and enjoy nature including: a playground, splash pad, aeration fountain, and great lawn, along with a market plaza, multi-purpose courts, and an amphitheater stage.

WESTSIDE VOLUNTEER CORPS @ HISTORIC WESTSIDE GARDENS

On Saturday, July 20th, more than 30 volunteers from Westside Future Fund supported Hope Street Garden. This garden is part of the Historic Westside Gardens, a nonprofit that provides affordable access to free produce for residents in the westside. The program provides home gardens, education, and an affordable market with the goal of a well-fed and prosperous community.

Volunteers from across metro-Atlanta came together to assemble picnic tables, build benches, mulch pathways, and clear weeds from planting beds. This effort directly supports one of Westside Future Funds strategic impact areas – Health and Wellness. Hope Street Garden is now ready for the next planting season and will be able to continue to provide nutritious produce to the community.



SAVE THE DATE

Next Westside Volunteer Corps | Day of Service
Saturday, August 24th – Community Clean-Up

For more information and additional volunteer opportunities, visit volunteer.westsidefuturefund.org

Progress from the Collective Effort

THE 1300: A BELOVED INSPIRED COMMUNITY CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY - THE LATEST FROM CITY OF REFUGE

The 1300: A Beloved Inspired Community is City of Refuge's next step in bringing light, hope and transformation to Atlanta's westside. Located at 1300 Mayson Turner Boulevard, this 47-unit apartment community consists of 24 2-bedroom and 23 3-bedroom units - 60% of which are designated "permanent supportive housing." The 1300's location immediately across the street from the City of Refuge main campus will allow the mission of providing wrap-around supportive services to all the residents to continue.

The first building - 18 units - is scheduled for completion and move-in by late November 2019. The second building - 29 units - will open in mid-January 2020.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "Our goal is to create a beloved community and this will require change in our souls as well as a quantitative change in our lives." City of Refuge hopes to advance Dr. King's vision with The 1300.

(Photos provided by Darrell Rice at City of Refuge.)





DID YOU KNOW?

MEALS ON WHEELS DOES HOME REPAIRS!

From small jobs to big projects, MOWA can help you live more comfortably and safely in your home.

We have a program specifically for homeowners who reside within the Westside Tax Allocation District (English Avenue, Vine City and portions of Castleberry Hill).

Contact us at vcox@mowatl.org or 404-351-3889 to see if you are eligible.



LIFE ON PURPOSE:

3-WEEK INTENSE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

AUGUST 5 – 23, 2019

ONSITE WORKSHOP

RUSH MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP HALL

150 JAMES P. BRAWLEY DRIVE SW

ATLANTA, GA 30314

AUG.10, 9AM-1PM

\$75 FEE

**FEE WAIVED FOR THOSE
WHO LIVE, WORK, WORSHIP
IN THE WESTSIDE

LIFE ON PURPOSE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

IS AN INTENSE 3-WEEK PROGRAM FOR LEADERS OF FAMILIES, ORGANIZATIONS, AND/OR COMMUNITIES. THIS PROGRAM IS AN INTERACTIVE EXPERIENCE TO EXPLORE THE OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES OF LIVING OUT ONE'S LIFE PURPOSE.

THROUGH A SERIES OF INTERACTIVE EXERCISES, STORYTELLING, AND PROVEN TOOLS FOR PERSONAL DISCOVERY, LEADERS MOVE FROM THE VALLEY FLOOR TO THE MOUNTAINTOP VANTAGE POINT OF ONE'S LIFE. LEADERS GAIN GREATER CLARITY TO ACHIEVE MORE PRODUCTIVE RESULTS IN LIFE.

THIS PROGRAM IS A MODIFIED VERSION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE LIFE PLANNING PROCESS, A NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED SUITE OF TOOLS DEVELOPED BY TOM PATERSON (WWW.PATERSONCENTER.COM) THAT EMPHASIZES TRANSFORMATIVE LEARNING. THIS PROGRAM IS DIRECTED BY DR. ZARAT Y. BOYD, ADVANCED CERTIFIED FACILITATOR, AND THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMAN TO BE TRAINED AS A FACILITATOR IN 2006. DR. BOYD RECEIVED SPECIAL PERMISSION FROM THE PATERSON CENTER TO OFFER THIS PROGRAM. THE PROGRAM IS A KEY COMPONENT OF AN INITIATIVE TO EMPOWER LEADERS IN UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES.



APPLY BY 8/2 @ WWW.VERTICALCITYINC.COM/LIFEONPURPOSE

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT PROGRAMS@VERTICALCITYINC.COM OR 770-283-1277



ATLANTA
TECHNICAL
COLLEGE

ANNOUNCING ATLANTA TECHNICAL COLLEGE'S "WEDNESDAY WORKS AT THE SUMMIT"

"Wednesday Works" is a weekly information session hosted by Atlanta Technical College's Office of Academic and Student Affairs every Wednesday at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. on campus in the Student Success Center (1560 Metropolitan Parkway, SW Atlanta, GA 30310). This recurring event is for potential students to speak with academic advisors and financial aid representatives to fast track their acceptance into Atlanta Technical College. The application fee is waived for students who apply during these sessions.

Wednesday Works is expanding to the Westside through a special partnership between Atlanta Technical College and the Westside Future Fund called "Wednesday Works at the Summit." The "Transform Westside Summit" is Westside Future Fund's flagship community engagement meeting hosted bi-weekly on the first and third Friday morning of each month at the Gathering Spot. The Summit is now serving as an additional venue for prospective students to connect with Atlanta Technical College representatives and have their application fees waived if they apply on-site. The event includes a free breakfast catered by Chick-fil-A, and attendees who are Westside residents can also enter a raffle to win a free gift card from our sponsor, Home Depot.

Atlanta Technical College is hosting "Wednesday Works at the Summit" on the following dates: June 21, July 19, August 2, and August 16 from 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. For more information on Atlanta Technical College, please contact Enrollment Services at admissions@atlantatech.edu, 404-225-4461, or visit www.atlantatech.edu.





When you shop @AmazonSmile, Amazon will make a donation to Westside Future Fund!

GO TO

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/47-3015082>

OR

smile.amazon.com and SEARCH "Westside Future Fund"

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.

Thanks for your support and happy shopping!



Westside Future Fund

FREE SHUTTLE RIDES for TRANSFORM WESTSIDE SUMMIT ATTENDEES

Westside Future Fund is offering free transportation to and from the Transform Westside Summits via the Cute Shuttle.

The Cute Shuttle will make scheduled stops at these locations on every 1st and 3rd Friday of the month:

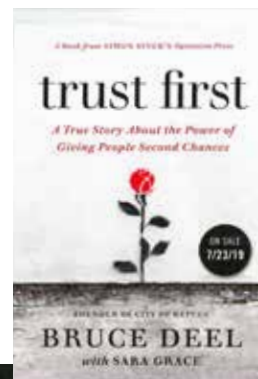
At-Promise Center
740 Cameron Madison Alexander Blvd, NW

Hollis Innovation Academy
225 James Brawley Drive, NW

Passenger pickups at these locations will occur every ten minutes between **6:50 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.**

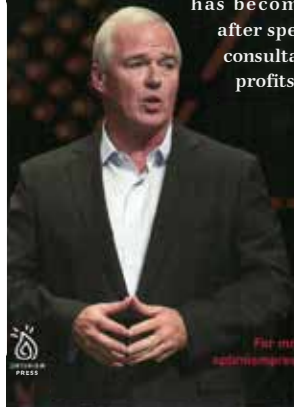
Passenger drop-offs from the Gathering Spot will occur every ten minutes between **9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.**

No registration is required to ride the shuttle. Simply show up at one of the two pickup locations for a ride. To contact Cute Shuttle, call: 470-231-9941



Over the past 20 years, Bruce Deel has helped over 20,000 people in the most dangerous zip code of Atlanta escape the cycle of homelessness, joblessness, and drug abuse. In these powerful true stories about the men and women who fell through the cracks in our social services system, he shows the power of radical trust to change lives.

Bruce Deel founded City of Refuge in 1997. He is the Senior Pastor of The Mission Church and a graduate of Lee University in Cleveland, TN. As a result of his experience and success, Bruce has become a highly sought after speaker and serves as a consultant to numerous non-profits around the country.



Bruce will donate a portion of his proceeds from **TRUST FIRST** to the charitable organization City of Refuge.

For more information, please contact adam@penguinrandomhouse.com

CONNECT WITH YOUR ATLANTA CITY COUNCILMEMBER



District 3 – Antonio Brown
Point of Contact:
Thad Flowers
tflowers
@AtlantaGa.Gov

Phone #:
(404) 330-6046



District 4 – Cleta Winslow
Point of Contact:
cwinslow
@atlantaga.gov

Phone #:
(404) 330-6047

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT —2019 PROJECT 365



August 6, 2019
6:00 pm –8:00pm
St. Mark’s Live
491 James P. Brawley Dr. NW Atlanta, GA 30318

PROJECT AREA FOR 2019 PROJECT 365
BRAWLEY/ALEXANDER
BUSINESS CORRIDOR

National Night Out—2019 Project 365 Kick Off

Project 365, introduced in 1994 is a component of “National Night Out” that helps communities identify specific problem areas in their community and partnering organizations work together over the next 365 days to resolve these issues.



Highlights

Food, Drinks, Games
2018 Project 365 plans Reports
2019 Project 365 plans unveiled

PARTNERS***



CONTACT: Mother Mamie Moore
404-438-7382
The Beloved Community, Inc
960 Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr.
Atlanta GA, 30314
Phone: 404-438-7382
belovedcommunitiyinc@gmail.com

*** For Partnership opportunity contact Mother Mamie Moore

Creating the Beloved Community



The end is reconciliation; the end is redemption; the end is the creation of the Beloved Community. It is this type of spirit and this type of love that can transform opponents into friends. It is this type of understanding goodwill that will transform the deep gloom of the old age into the exuberant gladness of the new age. It is this love which will bring about miracles in the hearts of men.

Martin Luther King, Jr. from "Facing the Challenge of a New Age," 1956

The coining of the term, "beloved community" is credited to Josiah Royce (1855–1916), a Harvard professor, theologian, and philosopher, who taught at Harvard from the 1880s to 1910s.

Josiah Royce deemed the beloved community the "principle of all principles" and spoke of the beloved community as an ideal, separate from ordinary life, a spiritual community where all those "fully dedicated to the cause of loyalty, truth, and reality itself" were joined. Speaking from a distinctly Christian perspective, he stated that religious communities at their core should embody "the mystery of loving membership in a community." This participation was enacted through deep loyalty to a personal cause that one serves with "all [one's] might and soul and strength."

Royce wrote, "Find your own cause, your interesting, fascinating, personally engrossing cause; serve it with all [one's] might and soul and strength; but so choose your cause and so serve it, that thereby you show forth your loyalty to loyalty, so that because of your choice and service to your cause, there is a maximum of increase of loyalty among your fellow [human beings]."

Since you cannot find the universal and beloved community, create it.

Josiah Royce (1913)

One of Royce's students in the 1890s was W.E.B. Du Bois, who arrived in Atlanta in 1897 to establish a sociology program at Atlanta University and develop the university's curriculum. It is possible W.E.B. Du Bois and others could have discussed the idea of the "beloved community" and its embodiment in the Atlanta University Center and Vine City neighborhoods as early as Du Bois' arrival in Atlanta. Since the late 1860s, white and black educators, black students, and working class white and black residents had been living in the historic Westside.

Dr. King's mentor, Howard Thurman, was also a student of Royce and colleague of W.E.B. Du Bois. He used the term "beloved community" as an inspirational lens "to perceive [in the world] a harmony that transcends all diversities and in which diversity finds its richness and significance." He broadened the concept from Royce's specifically Christian orientation and emphasized the importance of truly integrated communities beyond legal integration and emphasized the importance of a radically nonexclusionary community.

During Thurman's lifetime, the historic Westside served as a nerve center of civil rights activism even as the effects of legal segregation remained in the community.

Community cannot for long feed on itself. It can only flourish with the coming of others from beyond, their unknown and undiscovered brothers and sisters.

Howard Thurman 1971

Dr. King takes the thinking of Royce and Thurman forward with his belief that we can "actualize the Beloved Community." Walter Fluker writes that the "beloved community" is Dr. King's "single, organizing principle of [his] life and thought."

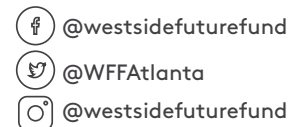
Our goal is to create a beloved community, and this will require a qualitative change in our souls as well as a quantitative change in our lives.

Martin Luther King, Jr., 1966

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVALUABLE SUPPORT
IN MAKING THESE SUMMITS POSSIBLE:



P.O. Box 92273, Atlanta, GA 30314
(404) 793-2670
westsidefuturefund.org



For bulletin ideas and comments, contact Elizabeth Wilkes at elizabeth@westsidefuturefund.org.