



Westside
Future Fund

Transform Westside Summit

Convene | Communicate | Collaborate

Westside Future Fund

Friday, June 19, 2020

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"Fulfilling our vision of the beloved community"

by D. Makeda Johnson



(Pictured from from left to right) John Ahmann, Lakeisha Walker, Xavier Warner, and Derrick Jordan gathered for a panel discussion at the @Promise Center on Friday, June 5th, 2020. Themed "Where Do We Go From Here? | A Conversation Across Generations", the conversation was expertly moderated by Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum as Virtual Transform Westside Summit viewers asked questions via social media.

View this virtual event recording on [YouTube](#) or [Facebook](#) | [Learn more about the @Promise Center](#)



DANIEL OGLE

ASSOCIATE MINISTER, PEACHTREE ROAD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Dr. Beverly Tatum

President Emerita-Spelman College



Derrick Jordan

National Church Residences



**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.

2020
Board
of
Directors



Beverly Tatum
Board Chair,
President Emerita,
Spelman College



Peter Muniz
Board Vice-Chair
Vice President and Deputy
General Counsel,
The Home Depot



Reverend Kenneth Alexander
Pastor,
Antioch Baptist Church North



Michael Bond
Atlanta City Council
Post 1 At-Large



Rodney Bullard
Vice President of
Community Affairs and
Executive Director,
The Chick-fil-A
Foundation



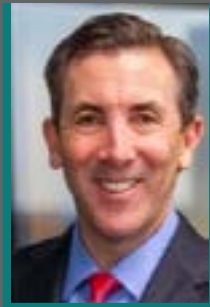
Mark Chancy
Retired Corporate
Executive Vice
President
of Wholesale Banking,
SunTrust, Inc.



Kathleen S. Farrell
Executive Vice President
Commercial Real Estate
Line of Business
Truist, Inc.



John Gamble
Chief Financial
Officer,
Equifax



Jim Grien
President & CEO,
TM Capital



Dan Halpern
Chairman & CEO,
Jackmont Hospitality,
Inc.



Shawntel Hebert
Partner,
Taylor English



Virginia Hepner
Retired,
CEO Woodruff Arts
Center/Wachovia Bank



Tommy Holder
Chairman & CEO,
Holder Construction
Company



Derrick Jordan
Senior Project Leader,
National Church
Residences



Wonya Lucas
President and CEO,
Public Broadcasting
Atlanta



Penny McPhee
President,
The Arthur M. Blank
Family Foundation



Helen Smith Price
President,
The Coca-Cola Foundation
and Vice President of Global
Community Affairs for The
Coca-Cola Company



Valerie Montgomery Rice
President and Dean,
Morehouse School of
Medicine



AJ Robinson
President,
Central Atlanta
Progress



Sylvia Russell
Retired President,
AT&T Georgia



Dave Stockert
Retired CEO,
Post Properties



Beverly Thomas
Vice President of
Communications and
Public Affairs,
Kaiser Permanente



Nicole Yesbik
Principal
PricewaterhouseCoopers

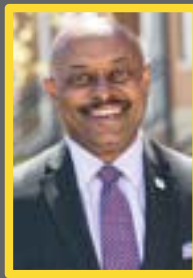
EX-OFFICIO
MEMBERS



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Executive Director,
Atlanta Committee
for Progress



Frank Fernandez
Vice President of
Community
Development,
The Arthur M. Blank
Family Foundation



Eugene Jones, Jr.
President & CEO,
Atlanta Housing



Dr. Eloisa Klementich
President & CEO,
Invest Atlanta



Terri M. Lee
Chief Housing Officer,
City of Atlanta

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 more than 300 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



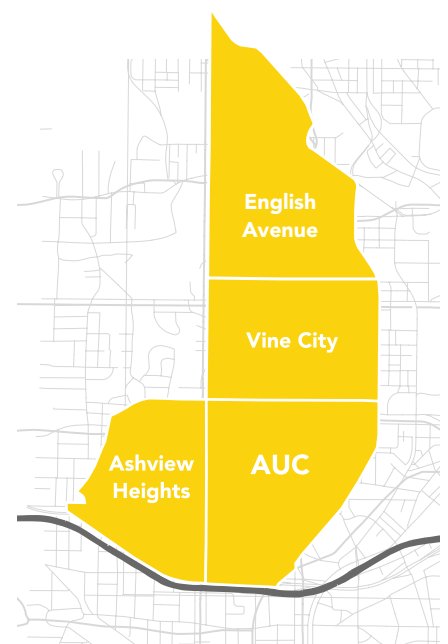
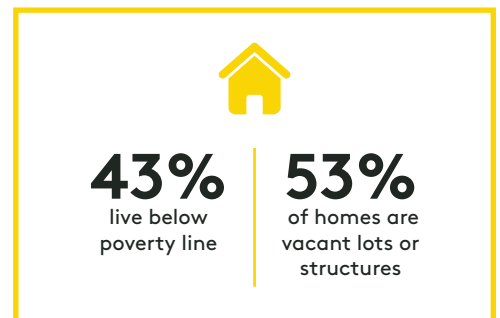
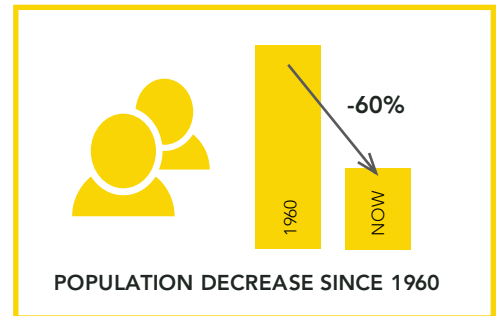
QUALITY, MIXED-INCOME
COMMUNITIES (COMMUNITY
RETENTION)



CRADLE-TO-CAREER
EDUCATION



COMMUNITY HEALTH
AND WELLNESS



* Includes Just Us and Historic Booker T. Washington neighborhoods

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 collaborations, including:

Home on the Westside

Westside Future Fund's signature community retention initiative, designed to help residents access high-quality, affordable housing options. WFF uses a set of community retention guidelines as a consistent way to offer preference to legacy residents and those who have a connection to the Historic Westside, putting them first in line for rental and home purchase opportunities.

Boosting Washington Cluster Schools

Our partnership with Atlanta Public Schools is helping improve student outcomes with a unique model of support for the Washington cluster. Starting in 2017 with Hollis Innovation Academy in Vine City, Westside Future Fund has delivered fundraising and governance support and wraparound services to improve school performance and enable students to thrive.

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).

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.

Transform Westside Summit

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

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.

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



Westside
Future Fund

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



@westsidefuturefund



@WFFAtlanta

A Dedicated Team



John Ahmann
President and CEO



Jaren Abedania
VP of Real Estate



Suzanne Allman
Controller



Rachel Carey
VP of Project
Financing



Justin Carr
Director of
Strategy and Impact



Brenda Dalton
Chief Operating
Officer



Sonia Dawson
Special Assistant to
the President & CEO



Lee Harrop
VP of Real Estate
Development



Amy Hoilman
Manager of
Accounting



Raquel Hudson
Director of Westside
Volunteer Corps



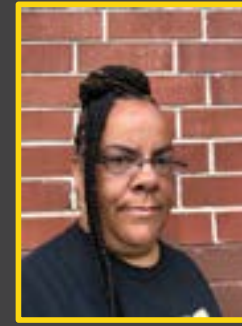
Deidre Strickland
Development
Manager



Joan Vernon
Director of Neighborhood
Engagement



Christal Walker
Staff Accountant



Robyn Washington
Development
Coordinator



Elizabeth Wilkes
Program
Coordinator



Cristel Williams
Chief
Development
Officer



Agenda

7:15AM – 7:30AM

Welcome

Summit Program Review

John Ahmann

President & CEO

Westside Future Fund

COVID-19 Updates

Craig Lucie

Storyteller

Lucie Content

7:30AM – 7:45AM

Opening Devotion

Brother Marcus Watkins

Head Pastor

Simpson Street Church of Christ

7:45AM – 8:25AM

PANEL DISCUSSION:

Choosing Chaos or Community

Dr. David A. Thomas

President

Morehouse College

Hosted at the

Martin Luther King Jr.

International Chapel at

Morehouse College

Reverend Winston Taylor

Founder

The Beloved Community, Inc.

Makeda Johnson

Vine City Resident and Founder

Sister's Action Team

8:25AM – 8:55AM

Q&A

All viewers can submit questions via social media channels.

Questions will be welcomed for the duration of the program.

8:55AM

Closing Remarks

John Ahmann

President & CEO

Westside Future Fund

9:00AM

Summit Adjourns



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Our Featured Participants

John Ahmann

President & CEO, Westside Future Fund

For more than 25 years, John Ahmann has been driven by the determination to improve the way communities and institutions function in Atlanta. From his early days working in Washington, D.C. to his positions with private, governmental, and organizational entities in the Atlanta area — including his eight years as an elected school board official in Decatur — he has focused his energy on solving the big problems whose resolutions can ultimately change Atlanta's trajectory. He has worked primarily behind the scenes, bringing together diverse stakeholders and managing initiatives through to fruition, and has had a hand in some of the region's most important public policy initiatives and cross-sector collaborations. Along the way, John has built a vast network of individuals who are impacting Atlanta and its future.

John is a native son. He was born at Grady Hospital in Atlanta in 1965, was one of Paideia School's first graduates in 1983, and earned his BA in Political Science from Emory University in 1987. After having moved to Washington, D.C. and worked for Representative Pat Williams of Montana and then Congressman Ben Jones of Georgia, he entered Yale School of Public Private Management in 1991 and graduated with seven letters of recognition in 1993.

Within months after returning to Atlanta, John was hired by the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games as the Program Coordinator of Government Relations. He was soon promoted to Manager of Federal and State Government Relations where he worked with officials from four federal government offices, including the White House. Following the 1996 Olympic Games, John worked at Edington & Wade, a public affairs firm, and then Georgia's Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism (GDITT, now the Department of Economic Development), where he led and managed strategic planning teams. From there he moved into GDITT's newly created position of Deputy Commissioner for Strategic Planning and Research.

In 2000, John was hired by the Metro Atlanta Chamber to serve as its Senior Vice President of Community Development. There he oversaw the Chamber's initiatives regarding transportation, education, arts and culture, the environment, and legislative affairs. In 2003, John bought the majority interest in a local public affairs firm, and in 2006 he established Ahmann, Inc. While in private practice in 2004, John began his engagement as the outsourced Executive Director of the Atlanta Committee for Progress (ACP), a group of top CEOs and university presidents that advises and supports the mayor on priorities critical to Atlanta's economic vitality. While with ACP, he was heavily involved in launching the Atlanta Beltline, the acquisition of the Martin Luther King Jr. Personal Collection, the 2015 Renew Atlanta Bond Program, and ACP's Westside Redevelopment Task Force that lead to the launch of the Westside Future Fund. John is currently the President & CEO of the Westside Future Fund.

John has also been an elected public servant. He won his race for the City Schools of Decatur Board of Education in 2003, was re-elected in 2007 without opposition, and served until 2011. John was the first Paideia School alumni invited to join the Paideia School's Board of Trustees where he served for four years.

John's unwavering commitment to Atlanta and deep knowledge of specific areas such as education, economic development, infrastructure and local fiscal policy make him a unique presence in Atlanta's change landscape. He is honored to serve the board of Westside Future Fund as its President & CEO.

Our Featured Participants

Craig Lucie

Storyteller, Lucie Content

Craig Lucie started Lucie Content to shine a **light** on the positive things happening in our world and to share compelling stories that resonate with your audience. He has two decades of news experience with multiple EMMY nominations and has won an EMMY for Best News Anchor. He has also received several AP Awards for his reporting and contributed reports to newscasts that have won the prestigious Edward R. Murrow awards. The Georgia Association of Broadcasters also recognized him as the best on-air personality in the state, and the Atlanta Business Chronicle named him as one of the 40 Under 40 recipients. Craig has appeared on ABC's World News Tonight, CNN, MSNBC, FOX News and HLN. He was recently one of a few journalists invited to have dinner with President Donald Trump in the State Dining Room of The White House while covering a State of the Union Address.

Craig is chairman of the board for the Top Dogg K-9 Foundation which trains service dogs and gives them to our veterans free of charge. For the past few years, Craig has also donated his time at benefits for the Aga Kahn Foundation, March of Dimes, Trees Atlanta, The American Diabetes Association, The Covington Police Fuzz Run, 21st Century Leaders, The Atlanta Broadcast Advertising Club, The Atlanta Press Club to name a few.

Craig has mentored hundreds of college students during his time while anchoring and reporting at WSB, WESH-TV in Orlando, KTBC-TV in Austin, Texas and KZTV in Corpus Christi, Texas. Craig helped them land their first jobs in journalism and loves sharing his knowledge with students to help them craft their stories to keep an audience intrigued.

Craig has reported LIVE during numerous breaking national stories. He was on the ground in Boston shortly after the marathon bombings bringing LIVE reports to Georgia viewers. He also reported LIVE from the floor of The Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia and from the Capitol for The Presidential Inauguration.

Craig graduated from Southern Methodist University majoring in Broadcast Journalism and minoring in Spanish. He also studied abroad in Madrid, Spain. Craig sits on the Atlanta SMU Alumni Board and the SMU Steering Committee which recently helped the school make history by raising more than \$1 billion dollars for their Second Century Campaign. Craig is a member of The ONE Group Class, which consists of young professionals helping raise awareness for the JDRF Georgia Chapter.

He is married to his college sweetheart and enjoys spending time with his wife, two kids and dog by exploring Georgia.



Our Featured Participants

Reverend Marcus T. Watkins

Senior Minister, Simpson Street Church of Christ

Marcus T. Watkins is a native of Rogersville, AL. He has been married to Gloria (Baker) Watkins for 29 years and together they have been blessed with 2 beautiful daughters: Portia (26) who is married (Cornelius) and a registered nurse working at Huntsville hospital, and Tiara who is 19 years old and enrolled at Calhoun Community College, Decatur, Alabama. They are also the proud grandparents of Phoenix Skye Yarborough.

Marcus was born again in April of 1980, while Dr. W.F. Washington was conducting a gospel meeting in Rogersville. He began preaching at the age of 13 after being influenced by some of the greatest preachers in the brotherhood. He has benefited from the mentorship of great preachers such as: the late Reginald Dulin, Freeman Malone Jr., Charlie McClendon and his longest tenured mentor Leroy Butler Jr.

Marcus attended Lauderdale County High School and immediately joined the United States Air Force, where he honorably served his country for 10 years.

Marcus has had extensive secular and religious training. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management and has attended: the Community College of the Air Force, Valdosta State University, Georgia Military College, Paul Quinn College, International Bible College, and Oakland City University. Marcus is currently pursuing a degree in funeral services and mortuary services.

In 2018, after 7 years of faithful service to the Northside Church of Christ in Hartford, CT, God blessed Bro. Watkins, calling him to lead the Simpson Street Church of Christ in Atlanta, GA. Bro. Watkins lives his life by the motto: "To Whom much is given, much is Required."

Reverend Winston Taylor

Founder, Beloved Community, Inc.

Reverend Winston Taylor is an Atlanta native who was born in Carver Homes and raised in the Old Fourth Ward community.

Rev. Taylor has served Atlanta's Westside community as an entrepreneur, community advocate and via his role as pastor of Gospel Fellowship Church. In 2016, Rev. Taylor founded New City U.S., an incubator for entrepreneurs in Atlanta, GA, Charleston, SC and Birmingham, AL. Prior to that he founded the Beloved Community, Inc in 2005.

In 1984, Taylor was one of the first investors focused on the development of affordable housing in the Old Fourth Ward to serve single mothers in the Atlanta Public School Grady High School Cluster. A decade later, Taylor became active in the English Avenue neighborhood where he purchased the Old St. Mark's Church, a partially intact historic church on James P. Brawley Drive that is often used as a community space.

Reverend Taylor is a graduate of the Syracuse University of Architecture.

Our Featured Participants

Dr. David A. Thomas

President, Morehouse College

Dr. David A. Thomas took office as the 12th president of Morehouse College on Jan. 1, 2018, ushering in a new era of progressive leadership for Morehouse, the nation's largest and most prestigious liberal arts college for men.

Thomas is the first Morehouse president in 50 years who did not graduate from the College. The Morehouse Board of Trustees selected Thomas to lead Morehouse for many reasons, including his visionary leadership as an Ivy League business school administrator and his proven track record as a fundraiser. Thomas led a capital campaign that raised more than \$130 million in five years for Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business. The president is planning a similar capital campaign for Morehouse.

With more than 30 years of experience in the business of higher education, Thomas is nationally respected as an expert in organizational change and workplace diversity issues. He holds a doctorate in Organizational Behavior Studies and a Master of Philosophy degree in Organizational Behavior, both from Yale University. He also has a master's degree in Organizational Psychology from Columbia University, and a Bachelor of Administrative Sciences degree from Yale College.

Thomas is the former H. Naylor Fitzhugh Professor of Business Administration at Harvard Business School, and the former Dean of Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business.

In less than two years at Morehouse College, Thomas has already begun to build a legacy of historic proportions. In an effort to affirm Morehouse's commitment to educating and developing men, Thomas proposed a new policy that would allow applicants who live and identify as men regardless of the sex assigned to them at birth to be considered for enrollment and matriculation at Morehouse. The Gender Identity Admissions and Matriculation Policy was approved by the Board of Trustees in April 2019 and was widely praised for its efforts to engage Morehouse as a leader in one of the new frontiers of social justice—gender identity.

A month later under Thomas' watch, history was made at Morehouse's 135th commencement ceremony when honorary degree recipient and CEO of Vista Equity Partners Robert F. Smith generously offered to pay off the student loans of the Class of 2019. The surprise donation was announced during Smith's commencement speech less than 24 hours after the President shared his concerns about student debt during a dinner with the philanthropist. It was the first gift of its kind in higher education.

Thomas is continuing his efforts to raise funds to support student scholarships, campus renovations, faculty research, infrastructure improvements, and other needs. His priorities also include expanding academic and leadership opportunities for students, increasing the graduation rate, and growing the enrollment to 2,500 scholars. His success as a leader is bolstering enrollment and donations to the college. During the President's first year in office, enrollment applications increased by more than 40 percent. Philanthropic donations exceeded previous year's results in fiscal year 2019. Some of those gifts included more than \$7 million raised by the Office of Institutional Advancement to establish new endowed scholarships, build an outdoor study area and park for students, and support programming

Our Featured Participants

Continued... Dr. David A. Thomas, President, Morehouse College

at Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel.

Thomas experienced similar success as a leader at Georgetown. As Dean of Georgetown McDonough, Thomas led 250 employees and more than 2,000 students through a period of growth, which included a redesign of the MBA curriculum, the launch of the school's first online degree program, and a \$130-million capital campaign. He also increased the diversity of faculty and staff, launched new research initiatives, and boosted the school's research funding.

Prior to Georgetown, Thomas served for two decades as a professor and administrator at Harvard University. He returned in 2017 as the H. Naylor Fitzhugh Professor of Business Administration at Harvard Business School. He is also a former assistant professor of management at The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

In addition to his work as an educator and administrator, Thomas has served as a consultant on issues relating to organizational change, diversity, and inclusion for 100 of the Fortune 500 companies, as well as major governmental and nonprofit organizations. He has written numerous case studies and academic articles on the subjects, and is the co-author of two related books, "Breaking Through: The Making of Minority Executives in Corporate America," and "Leading for Equity: The Pursuit of Excellence in Montgomery County Public Schools." His third book will soon be released.

Thomas is an active member of several boards, including the Board of Directors of DTE Energy, the American Red Cross, and The Posse Foundation. He has received a number of accolades and is the recipient of the Washington Business Journal's 2014 "Minority Business Leader of the Year" award and the National Executive Forum's "Breaking Through: 2020, Beacon Award," among other honors.



Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel at Morehouse College was dedicated in 1978 under the presidency of Dr. Hugh Morris Gloster and serves as the site of today's Transform Westside Summit.

Our Featured Participants

D. Makeda Johnson

Vine City Resident and Founder, Sister's Action Team

D. Makeda Johnson is a legacy resident of the Historic Vine City and English Avenue Communities where she has lived and worked for nearly three decades. She is a mother, artist, and ordained minister, whose firm belief in the establishment of the authentic holistic Beloved Community, where revitalization efforts address the needs of not only brick and mortar and includes intentional actions that are inclusively designed to enhance and empower human capital (God's People). Her passion has translated into a ministry of community service.

Makeda is known for successful implementation of programs that empower youth, women, children, entrepreneurs and community development initiatives. She is the Director and Founder of Sisters Action Team, Inc. (SAT) Women Empowerment Network: a community-based organization that advocates for the needs of women, children and families in housing, health, education and economic development. SAT focuses on spiritual connectivity, physical wellness and emotional balance. In this endeavor she has held various leadership roles and provided innovative visionary leadership.

Makeda has worked tirelessly to provide tools and resources that empower and inspire hope, vision and personal transformation for the reduction of social economic disparities found within undeserved Urban communities. In-

spired by her personal motto, "We must not only build edifice we must simultaneously assist in the empowerment of our residents to ensure that they too are a part of community revitalization efforts" MJ. Her visionary leadership skills and commitment to service is reflected in the numerous neighborhood organizations and community advisory boards that she has been elected to serve on throughout her residency. Her leadership includes but is not limited to: a two-term president of Centennial Place Elementary School PTA, served a total of ten terms as the Chair (8) and Vice chair (2) of Neighborhood Planning Unit - L, Vice Chair of Vine City Civic Association, MLK/Ashby Merchant Association Vice Chair, Chair Westside Neighborhood Tax Allocation District, Co-founder/Publisher of Historic Westside News, and Chair of Neighborhood Union Health Center Community Advisory Board.

Makeda is the recipient of numerous awards, among them Georgia State Department of Human Resources Live Healthy Georgia BARR award, BET/CDC award for the outstanding community-based organization, Atlanta City Council Proclamation, Georgia State Proclamation, Fulton County Department of Health and Wellness Exemplary Leadership Awards, and Midtown Atlanta Rotary Club. She holds an AA in Social Psychology/Urban Studies, BS in Organizational Leadership, and MA in Human Services.



Sister's Action Team's mission is to empower women to become proactive change agents for themselves, families, and their communities. The organization's services include personal development coaching, economic literacy and health wellness seminars and programs that support holistic wellness.

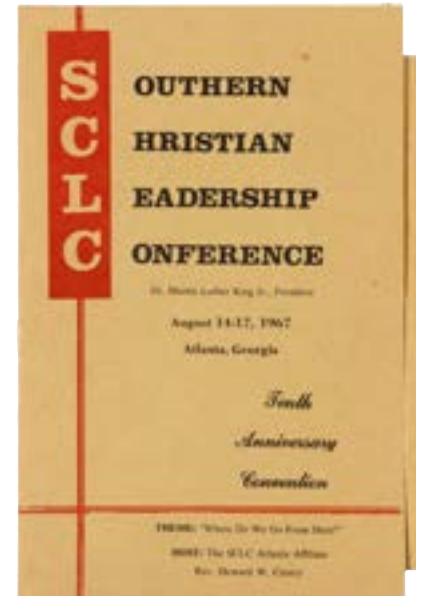
In response to the COVID-19 crisis, Sister's Action Team has sprung into action to serve Westside seniors by distributing resources including useful health information, face masks, hand sanitizer, and thermometers. The Sister's Action Team staff is also assisting seniors by phone to address specific needs.

Westside Seniors - if you are suffering from loneliness due to social distancing: **Call 888-524-7143** to speak to a Sister's Action Team team member.

"LET US REALIZE THAT THE ARC OF THE MORAL UNIVERSE IS LONG, BUT IT BENDS TOWARD JUSTICE."

The following is an excerpt from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Where Do We Go From Here?" address, delivered at the annual SCLC convention in 1967.

...And if you will let me be a preacher just a little bit. One day, one night, a juror came to Jesus and he wanted to know what he could do to be saved. Jesus didn't get bogged down on the kind of isolated approach of what you shouldn't do. Jesus didn't say, "Now Nicodemus, you must stop lying." He didn't say, "Nicodemus, now you must not commit adultery." He didn't say, "Now Nicodemus, you must stop cheating if you are doing that." He didn't say, "Nicodemus, you must stop drinking liquor if you are doing that excessively." He said something altogether different, because Jesus realized something basic: that if a man will lie, he will steal. And if a man will steal, he will kill. So instead of just getting bogged down on one thing, Jesus looked at him and said, "Nicodemus, you must be born again."



In other words, "Your whole structure must be changed." A nation that will keep people in slavery for 244 years will "thingify" them and make them things. And therefore, they will exploit them and poor people generally economically. And a nation that will exploit economically will have to have foreign investments and everything else, and it will have to use its military might to protect them. All of these problems are tied together.

What I'm saying today is that we must go from this convention and say, "America, you must be born again!"

And so, I conclude by saying today that we have a task, and let us go out with a divine dissatisfaction.

Let us be dissatisfied until America will no longer have a high blood pressure of creeds and an anemia of deeds.

Let us be dissatisfied until the tragic walls that separate the outer city of wealth and comfort from the inner city of poverty and despair shall be crushed by the battering rams of the forces of justice.

Let us be dissatisfied until those who live on the outskirts of hope are brought into the metropolis of daily security.

Let us be dissatisfied until slums are cast into the junk heaps of history, and every family will live in a decent, sanitary home.

Let us be dissatisfied until the dark yesterdays of segregated schools will be transformed into bright tomorrows of quality integrated education.

Let us be dissatisfied until integration is not seen as a problem but as an opportunity to partici-

pate in the beauty of diversity.

Let us be dissatisfied until men and women, however black they may be, will be judged on the basis of the content of their character, not on the basis of the color of their skin. Let us be dissatisfied.

Let us be dissatisfied until every state capitol will be housed by a governor who will do justly, who will love mercy, and who will walk humbly with his God.

Let us be dissatisfied until from every city hall, justice will roll down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream.



[Listen](#) to Dr. King's 1967 speech in its entirety [on YouTube here](#).


Let us be dissatisfied until that day when the lion and the lamb shall lie down together, and every man will sit under his own vine and fig tree, and none shall be afraid.

Let us be dissatisfied, and men will recognize that out of one blood God made all men to dwell upon the face of the earth.

Let us be dissatisfied until that day when nobody will shout, "White Power!" when nobody will shout, "Black Power!" but everybody will talk about God's power and human power.

And I must confess, my friends, that the road ahead will not always be smooth. There will still be rocky places of frustration and meandering points of bewilderment. There will be inevitable setbacks here and there. And there will be those moments when the buoyancy of hope will be transformed into the fatigue of despair. Our dreams will sometimes be shattered and our ethereal hopes blasted. We may again, with tear-drenched eyes, have to stand before the bier of some courageous civil rights worker whose life will be snuffed out by the dastardly acts of bloodthirsty mobs. But difficult and painful as it is, we must walk on in the days ahead with an audacious faith in the future.

Let this affirmation be our ringing cry. It will give us the courage to face the uncertainties of the future. It will give our tired feet new strength as we continue our forward stride toward the city of freedom. When our days become dreary with low-hovering clouds of despair, and when our nights become darker than a thousand midnights, let us remember that there is a creative force in this universe working to pull down the gigantic mountains of evil, a power that is able to make a way out of no way and transform dark yesterdays into bright tomorrows.

Let us realize that the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice. Let us realize that William Cullen Bryant is right: "Truth, crushed to earth, will rise again." Let us go out realizing that the Bible is right: "Be not deceived. God is not mocked. Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." This is our hope for the future, and with this faith we will be able to sing in some not too distant tomorrow, with a cosmic past tense, "We have overcome! We have overcome! Deep in my heart, I did believe we would overcome." 


MLK, ROSA PARKS, & CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY IN CONTEXT

The following is an excerpt from A More Beautiful and Terrible History: The Uses and Misuses of Civil Rights History by Jeanne Theoharis

Perhaps the most depoliticizing aspect of the national fable is the way it removes the organizing from the struggle. It makes it seem like the movement happens naturally, taking the power and the difficulty, the messiness and the magnificence out of it. In James Baldwin's words that began this book, the civil rights movement was longer, larger, more various, more beautiful and more terrible than it has been remembered. And in omitting the work and the collectivity of it, these national fables take the movement away from the people who built it and make it much more difficult to imagine how to construct webs of struggle today...

[Rosa] Parks is cast as the candle that can destroy the darkness. A massive, yearlong community boycott follows naturally and inevitably. The action of one right individual becomes the key, not the collective effort that turned her act into a movement nor the vast groundwork that had been laid in the decade preceding her stand nor the accumulation of anger, sorrow, and indignation that pushed people past fear to act. In newer versions of the fable, the community's rejection of fifteen-year-old Claudette Colvin is noted, and Parks becomes the "right one," as if one respectable individual is all it takes to carry a movement. King and Parks are put on pedestals, furthering a Horatio Alger mythology that, without preparation, an American can make great change with a single act, and making it difficult for people today to imagine being like either of them. The hard and repeated choices people made to push forward and the collective action required are glossed over.

The how of it—the fact that the Montgomery movement began much earlier, took much longer, was fraught with tension and conflict, and was unbearably difficult and only possible because a few, then some, then many more people joined together—is secondary to the much neater story of the accidental respectable heroine and the movement she helped birth. Today, the injustice seems so clear, the activists so righteous, that their victory seems inevitable – which of course is implicitly contrasted with contemporary struggles, which seem longer, harder, less clear, and less righteous. But, in fact, the movement's righteousness was made through the conviction, imagination, sacrifice, and decades of struggle and tenacity of the Montgomerians who built it. There was nothing natural and preordained about it. People chose, amidst searing conditions, amidst threats to their person and their livelihood, to make it happen.

Looking at a fuller history of the Montgomery bus boycott reveals the work, sacrifice, perseverance, coalition-building, disappointment, disruptiveness, and collective action it took to imagine, build, and sustain it. It wasn't just a matter of shining a light on injustice; it required shining a light over and over and over, often in people's eyes, until the force of that collective pressure became undeniable. Parks and King didn't make the movement; the Black community of Montgomery, including Parks and King, did. There weren't direct roads forward or clear things to do, but as movement historian Vincent Harding reminds us, community activists "learn[ed] to play on locked pianos." 



"IF WE LOCK UP MARTIN LUTHER KING, AND MAKE HIM UNAVAILABLE FOR WHERE WE ARE NOW SO WE CAN KEEP OURSELVES COMFORTABLY DISTANT FROM THE REALITIES HE WAS TRYING TO GRAPPLE WITH, WE WASTE KING. ALL OF US ARE BEING CALLED BEYOND THOSE COMFORTABLE PLACES. . . WE CAN LEARN TO PLAY ON LOCKED PIANOS AND TO DREAM OF WORLDS THAT DO NOT YET EXIST." —VINCENT HARDING

Dr. Vincent Harding was a friend and colleague of Dr. King. With deep spiritual roots the Black church, Dr. Harding has chronicled the civil rights movement as a participant, historian, and trusted advisor to many.

JUNETEENTH IS A REMINDER THAT FREEDOM WASN'T JUST HANDED OVER

By Brianna Holt | June 17, 2020 | First published in the New York Times

For me, celebrating Juneteenth was like planning a birthday party or hosting a family reunion. My father organized the first Juneteenth gathering in Grand Prairie, Texas, in 1987 and continued his efforts throughout my childhood, implanting me in the process. Weeks before the holiday, my family and our friends would draft itineraries and search for soul food caterers, trying to create an environment different from the previous year's, to keep people excited about attending, on a tight budget. Some years there were multiple music performances and expensive activities. Other years there were contests with no monetary prize, but every year, no matter how much funding was provided, two themes remained true: community and Texas pride.

On June 19, 1865, two and a half years after President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, Union soldiers arrived in Texas to report that the Confederacy had surrendered two months earlier and that enslaved people were now free. Texas was the last state to receive the news. In celebration of the long overdue ending of slavery, black Texans come together every year to remember our ancestors and the harsh treatment they endured for centuries. In a red state where white-supremacy groups still congregate and Confederate flags fly from the back of trucks, it's an indication that we are just as Texan as anyone else and our culture has influence in a place that once delayed our emancipation. Juneteenth is a reminder that our freedom was fought for and not just handed over to us. It's the blueprint for the hundreds of movements that followed to further guarantee that freedom was achieved.

“

**I'VE CELEBRATED THIS
HOLIDAY ALL MY LIFE.
IT'S DIFFERENT THIS
YEAR.**

And in 2020, during a national outcry for justice, awareness of Juneteenth seems at an all-time high: An increasing number of companies, including Vox Media, Twitter and Square, will now observe June 19 as a permanent company holiday. The day also feels more timely and relevant than ever, a reminder that freedom is still long overdue.

The morning of Juneteenth always began with a parade. Dance teams, high school bands and church groups would showcase their talents while small businesses and local recreation centers drove floats to show their support for the black community. If I wasn't marching along with friends, I'd catch a ride on the back of my grandfather's pickup truck and sit next to my dad. Prince would blast from the speakers while dancing pedestrians followed behind the car. Several people would yell "Thank you" to my father, and I could see that he was proud of his work, and even more proud of the kinship present in his own neighborhood.

The 30-minute route would lead us to the park, where bounce houses, horseback riding, basketball courts and a swimming pool waited for the children. The adults and elders would congregate around the stage or browse through the vendors, debating what makes someone a true Christian and spreading neighborhood gossip. At 2 p.m., lunch was served, led by a grace, carried by guest speakers and concluded with tons of hugs and kisses from people who somehow were related to you. By the evening, parents would trickle off while the older kids would hunt fireflies or listen to the elders tell stories of how much the neighborhood had changed

JUNETEENTH IS A REMINDER THAT FREEDOM WASN'T JUST HANDED OVER | CONTINUED

since they were children. And by night, families headed home or to the lake to pop fireworks. The entire celebration lasted only six hours but had the vitality to keep you feeling warm and loved throughout the summer. It acted as a reminder that there was a community of people who were rooting for you, supported you and wanted to see you succeed. Every time you left a Juneteenth celebration, you took with you new stories, new connections and a new sense of what it meant to be black, but specifically what it meant to be black in Texas.




A 1908 photograph of two women in Texas sitting in a buggy decorated with flowers for the annual Juneteenth Celebration parked in front of Antioch Baptist Church located in Houston's Fourth Ward.

Credit...MSS0281-PH037, Houston Public Library, African American Library at the Gregory School.

As I watch predominantly white brands post their Black Lives Matter statements and sift through my emails from editors who finally are interested in my opinion, I remember everything I was told and overheard during Juneteenth celebrations. "Never shop where you won't get hired" and "Don't let anyone tell you that you can't do something" ring deep in my ears as I navigate embedding myself into this movement. I am reminded of history lessons and uncomfortable conversations regarding systemic racism that I heard not in a class-

room but instead from speakers on Juneteenth.

Attending a Juneteenth celebration was freeing: I had the freedom to wear my hair however I wanted without judgment, to dress however I wanted without comments and to express myself without microaggressions. All of these freedoms granted to me as a child have molded me into the proud black woman I am now. It's the one day each year that I've been able to exist, unapologetically and unproblematically, in a space surrounded by people who have my growth in their best interest.

In response to the recent killings of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and George Floyd, protests and advocacy online and on the ground have spread worldwide. From a nationwide plea for justice to the cancellation of "Cops," and now the observance of a holiday celebrating emancipation, our asks are finally being answered. And the importance of Juneteenth is finally receiving widespread recognition. It's also likely that this movement will lose its momentum as businesses begin to reopen and "normal life" makes its return. Whatever might come, I know where I'll be on Friday: celebrating the continued fight that the brave and relentless people before me expect for my generation to carry on. 

Ms. Holt is a culture writer and editor for the New York Times.

Read more online here >> <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/17/opinion/juneteenth-holiday.html>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FREE COVID-19 TESTING



MERCEDES-BENZ STADIUM LOT

112 Postell St. Atlanta, GA 30314

THUR - SAT 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM



MOBILE TESTING AT SIMPSON CHURCH OF CHRIST

800 Joseph E. Boone Blvd NW

JUNE 13, 20, 27 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

No Appointment Needed

No ID Required

Confidential

Get more testing information at:

[https://www.fultoncountyga.gov/
covid-19/covid-testing-sites](https://www.fultoncountyga.gov/covid-19/covid-testing-sites)

Additional Covid-19 Testing at:

The Family Health
Center at West End

Schedule Appt. (404) 752-1400 | MON - FRI 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

CVS at Good Samaritan
Health Center

ADULTS only - RAPID TEST | Schedule Appt. (404) 523-6571
MON - THUR 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM | FRI - SAT 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

On behalf of the Westside Collective Effort,
Westside Future Fund is maintaining an information
and resources webpage with relevant
resources to benefit the neighborhoods we serve.
<https://www.westsidefuturefund.org/covid-19-info/>

Call the Westside COVID-19 Helpline at:

404-430-8180

If you or someone you know tests positive for COVID-19, give us a call for any of the following:

- Help with getting food
- Assistance with seeking employment, counseling or housing
- Understanding your COVID-19 test results
- Tips to protect you and your family
- Ways to prevent the spread
- Monitoring your symptoms
- When to seek medical attention
- Help with getting medications
- Assistance with connecting to other helpful resources.

**Do you need a doctor or have other health related questions?
Text Westside to 51555 to connect
to a provider by phone for free.**

WE'RE HERE TO HELP

Call 404- 430- 8180

Westside Connect Help Line



One number to get the help
you need: Food, Housing,
Counseling, Employment,
Education, Health Care,
COVID-19 Testing

Feeling lonely, lost, stressed,
anxious or down?

Need help managing your
health condition?

Call 404- 430- 8180 today!

**Need a
Doctor?**

**Text: Westside
to 51555**

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Changing Directions.
Changing Lives.

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CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) AWARENESS

BACKGROUND

What is COVID-19?



- COVID-19 is an illness caused by the transmission of a new coronavirus that can spread from person to person or through contact with a contaminated object or surface.
- People of any age can be infected and get COVID-19.
- Older adults and people who have medical conditions like heart disease (for example hypertension, high blood pressure), lung disease (for example asthma, COPD) or diabetes are at higher risk for developing serious complications or death.

WHAT YOU MAY EXPERIENCE

Symptoms

Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after being exposed to the coronavirus that causes COVID-19.

Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever or chills, cough, sudden loss of taste or smell, fatigue, muscle or body aches, sore throat, headache, nausea, congestion, and shortness of breath.



You can have COVID-19, feel fine, and still spread the disease!

HOW TO STAY HEALTHY

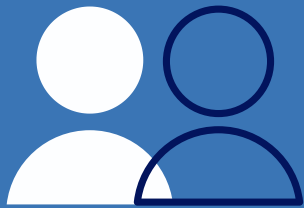
Proper Handwashing

- Wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds!
 - If you do not have soap and water, use 60% alcohol-based hand sanitizer.



Social Distancing

- Stay in your home when possible!
 - Avoid hanging out with friends and family members that do not live in your same household.
- Keep a distance of at least 6 feet from individuals when outside of your home.



Cloth Face Covering

- Use a cloth face covering over MOUTH and NOSE!
- Keeps you from potentially infecting others.
- Keeps others from potentially infecting you.



Helps prevent the spread of COVID-19 when EVERYONE wears a face covering!

LEARN MORE AT [CDC.GOV](https://www.cdc.gov)



VIEWPOINT: Fulfilling our vision of the beloved community

By D. Makeda Johnson | May 5, 2017 | First published in the Atlanta Business Chronicle

Gentrification of urban American cities is a complex phenomenon with social, political and economic implications.

It represents a double-edged sword with both opportunities and challenges. The infusion of higher-income individuals into urban centers generates increased renewal investments in formerly neglected and abandoned blighted communities. It provides needed revenue to local municipalities to meet the expense of much-needed infrastructure and service delivery improvements. Unfortunately, gentrification and displacement are manifesting as symptoms nationally as the urban center across our nation thrives to attract upper-middle-income families while displacing current residents with increasing housing costs that exclude the working poor and altering the cultural and historical fabric of urban America cities.

Gentrification can be managed and provide an opportunity for Atlanta, Georgia, to honor its most noted son and drum major for social justice: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Atlanta can once again shine as an urban American city "Too Busy to Hate." We can redefine the G word. We are in a moment of opportunity for the creation of the "Beloved Community," a community of racial and economic diversity.

But it will not just happen, it must be intentionally developed. It is simple, but requires authentic partnership between community, political and private stakeholders committed to the possibility of the "Beloved Community." It will require a resident retention plan that prevents forced displacement, inclusionary affordable housing policy that supports mixed income and racial diversity by acknowledging the area median income, and a tax abatement program to protect vulnerable home and business owners.

The Historic Westside Community is poised with the opportunity to manifest not forced displacement, but demonstrate how to align urban transformation with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision of "The Beloved Community." A community where justice and equality is the order of the day; an authentic mixed community where all can live, change and grow without the destruction of the Historic Westside Community's cultural integrity.

To accomplish the building of the Beloved Community, trust must be established requiring a shift

from traditional transactional approaches to community redevelopment. We had declared that our approach will be transformative and centered on the development of human capital. This innovative transformative approach to community development is no easy task. It requires that both residents, stakeholders and service providers rethink and reset traditional mindsets associated with poverty that fails to see and value the many assets within communities and design programs that empower residents with the skills and resources to be a part of the solution with equality and equity.

This writer loves living and working within the Historic Westside Community. Having chosen to call it home for nearly three decades, I proudly celebrate the beauty of community. We are a very resilient community that has, in spite of many challenges, continued to make contributions to society, especially as it relates to striving for social justice and an equitable society.

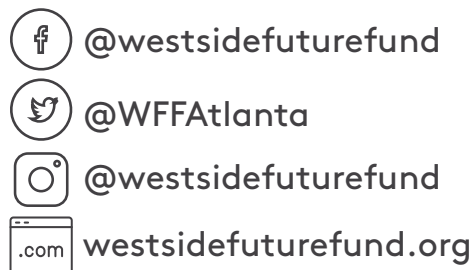
Unfortunately, too often those who seek to serve often overlook the value of relational capacity that exists within community, wealth of knowledge and ability to be a vital asset to achieving transformative sustainable communities.

Envision what could happen as residents and dedicated stakeholders shift their mindsets and reinvent how to renew communities without displacement, where there is the pollination of skills and the capacity to stay in communication even when they are difficult, seeking to establish trust and new ways of engagement that produce the greater good for humanity while creating economically healthy, thriving businesses, well-kept homes, quality affordable housing that is reflective of the earning of the communities' workforce, accessible and affordable healthcare, high-performing educational institutions. In this moment of opportunity, we can be the change that the world is looking for and create the environment that produces productive citizens with economic and social mobility by design. As residents and stakeholders, we will either fulfill or betray the vision of the beloved community based on our actions or inaction. There is a critical need for advocacy on behalf of the often-marginalized long-term residents in gentrifying communities; we have the opportunity to shift that. Where do you stand? I shall continue to strive to be a drum major for justice, equality and inclusion for the establishment of the "Beloved Community."

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



How to Connect with Us



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

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