



Westside
Future Fund

Transform Westside Summit

Convene | Communicate | Collaborate

Westside Future Fund
Friday, September 17, 2020

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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
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President
of Wholesale Banking,
SunTrust, Inc.



Kathleen S. Farrell
Executive Vice President
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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



Shan Cooper
Executive Director,
Atlanta Committee
for Progress



Eugene Jones, Jr.
President & CEO,
Atlanta Housing



Dr. Eloisa Klementich
President & CEO,
Invest Atlanta



Terri M. Lee
Chief Housing Officer,
City of Atlanta

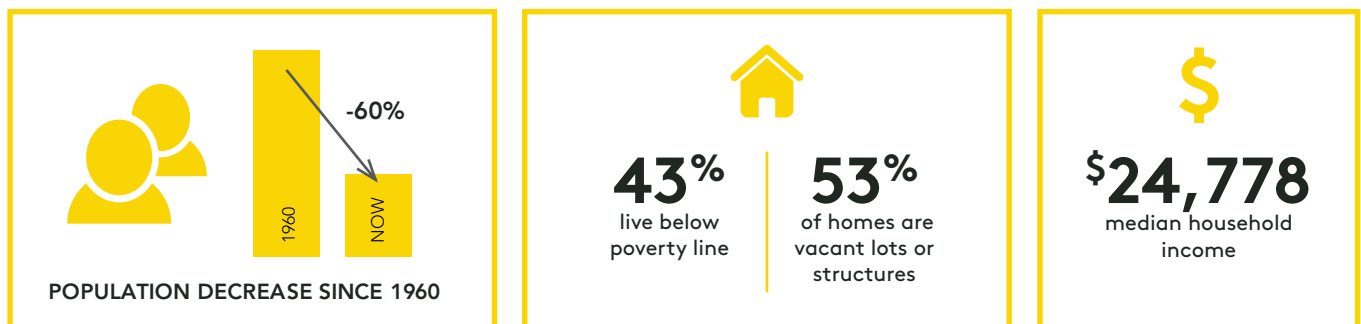


Westside Future Fund

CREATING A NEW WESTSIDE FUTURE

Westside Future Fund (WFF) 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



Role of the Westside Future Fund

With an emphasis on community retention and a 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.

Impact Areas

Westside Future Fund's holistic, partner-driven model is proving successful. Through our roles as participator, amplifier, convener, strategist and accelerator, WFF is delivering results in our four impact strategies.



**SAFETY
& SECURITY**



**COMMUNITY HEALTH
& WELLNESS**



**MIXED-INCOME
COMMUNITIES**



**CRADLE-TO-CAREER
EDUCATION**

* Includes Just Us and Historic Booker T. Washington



HOME ON THE WESTSIDE

Investing in a New Westside Future

- Westside Future Fund is deeply committed to community retention
- We created Home on the Westside as a signature initiative in partnership with Mayor Bottoms to drive equitable and inclusive redevelopment in the Historic westside neighborhoods
- WFF's community retention guidelines prioritize individuals and families with ties to WFF's historic neighborhoods to be first in line for housing opportunities and do not discriminate based on income

Using these guidelines, Home on the Westside prioritizes Westside legacy residents by providing high quality, permanently affordable housing opportunities

- Providing renters housing they can afford as area rents continue to rise
 - Renters should not have to pay more than 30% of their gross income on rent
- Enabling homeownership with financial coaching and counseling
- Constructing and renovating new single-family homes, available for purchase and for lease-to-purchase, supported by down payment assistance
- Covering increases in property taxes for qualified legacy homeowners

If you are interested in housing opportunities through Home on the Westside, start by completing an interest form.

REGISTER NOW



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



Rachel Carey
VP of Project
Financing



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



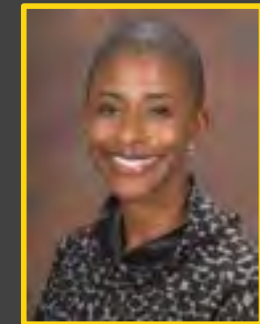
Christal Walker
Staff Accountant



Robyn Washington
Development
Coordinator



Elizabeth Wilkes
Program
Coordinator



Cristel Williams
Chief Development
Officer



Agenda

7:15AM – 7:30AM
Welcome

John Ahmann
President & CEO
Westside Future Fund

SPECIAL FILM PREVIEW

Exclusive Viewing of
JOHN LEWIS: GOOD TROUBLE

7:30AM – 7:45AM
Opening Devotion

Loren Ferguson
Market Manager
Good Samaritan Health Center

7:45AM – 8:30AM
LIVE PANEL:
Innovation During the Pandemic

Michael J. Cochran
Partner
Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton

Amelia Nickerson
Chief Executive Officer
First Step Staffing

Mark Malhotra
Director of Innovation and Scale
CARE USA

8:30AM – 8:45AM
Q&A

All viewers can submit questions via social media channels.

Questions will be welcomed for the duration of the program.

8:45AM – 8:55AM
UPDATES featuring

Jeremy Lewis
Executive Director
Urban Recipe

Jay Bailey
President & CEO
Russell Center for Innovation
and Entrepreneurship

Westside Future Fund's
Home on the Westside

8:55AM
Closing Remarks

John Ahmann
President & CEO
Westside Future Fund

9:00AM
Summit Adjourns

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

Loren Ferguson

Market Manager, Good Samaritan Health Center

Loren Ferguson was born in London, England to the union of Hylton and Norma Thomas (her parents) and has 4 brothers (Livingston, Alrick, Keith and Kevin).

She serves as the Market Manager for the Good Samaritan Health Center, is part of the Outreach Team and also leads the Prayer Ministry. Her tenure with Good Sam commenced almost 4 years ago as a volunteer in the Friday Homeless Clinic. Her first career was in law where she served as a paralegal for over 30 years.

Loren has also been serving in ministry for over the past 4 decades. Her tenure within the Church of God of Prophecy organization includes but is not limited to serving the Children, Youth and Women's Ministry Departments in London, New York, The Bahamas and Atlanta Georgia. She presently serves as the Director of the Women's Ministry Department at the Covington, Drive Church of God of Prophecy, 3333 Covington Drive, Decatur, Georgia for over 6 years. Her pastor is Bishop Lloyd G. Phipps. Her passion is to encourage. She believes it is important for women to find their purpose in life. The Power of Prayer can transform your life when you Pray the Heart and Will of God.

She is certified paralegal and received her Post Bachelorette Certificate from Adelphi University in New York. She is presently pursuing a Decree in Wholistic Counseling.

Loren has been widowed for over 9 years (after Brian Ferguson, the love of her life suddenly past away in Nassau, The Bahamas where he was born). Their union was blessed with 2 sons (Bradley who serves in the United States Marines, Hawaii and Leonardo, a 2020 graduate of Talladega College, Alabama and has just commenced his career as an educator at a Christian School in Asheville, NC). Loren's Journey has been one of faith and deep trust in God! She Loves the Lord.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT
THE MARKET @](#)
Good Samaritan
HEALTH CENTER 



Mark Malhotra

Director of Innovation and Scale, CARE USA

Mark Malhotra has been with CARE since 2015 and currently leads the Portfolio Team for CARE USA's Innovation Team. His work at CARE has included the development of business models for new market-based solutions, US domestic work and fundraising. He was the founding CEO of Chomoka, a Tanzania based digital marketplace for women's savings groups that carved a fair path from being unbanked to formal financial inclusion. Before entering the development sector, Mark worked in marketing for telecommunication companies such as Virgin Mobile and Amp'd Mobile in Canada. Mark has a master's in Urban Economic Development from the University College London.

Our Featured Participants

Michael J. Cochran

Partner, Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton

Mick Cochran's practice is primarily focused on private equity and venture capital with a concentration on mergers and acquisitions, corporate finance, and distressed transactions. He represents buyers, sellers, and financiers in their investing activities and financing needs. Mick's private equity and hedge fund practice focuses on fund formation, growth equity, management buyouts, recapitalizations, and spinouts.

Mick also acts as a strategic advisor to clients with respect to a variety of financial, business, and legal issues. His experience crosses a number of industries including life sciences and biotechnology, consumer products, financial services, health care, industrial services, telecommunications, home furnishings, home textiles, and media. Mick's clients range in size from early-stage companies and private equity firms to large, multi-national corporations.

Mick also has experience in representing financial institutions, including commercial and investment banks, in connection with debt and equity financings. He has particular experience representing non-bank lenders in their lending activities including through the provision of growth capital and mezzanine financings. Mick actively represents troubled companies and their capital providers in complex, distressed financial transactions. He also provides corporate advice to boards of directors and financial advisors in non-judicial workouts.

Mick is actively involved in the community. He serves as Chairman of the Board of First Step Staffing – a (501)(c) (3) staffing company that provides employment for individuals who have recently experienced homelessness and for returning citizens. Mick acts as outside general counsel for the Westside Future Fund – a 501(c) (3) fund formed by Atlanta's public, private, and philanthropic partners who believe in the future of Atlanta's Westside.

Mick is ranked by Chambers USA as a leading Corporate/Mergers & Acquisitions lawyer. He has been recognized each year since 2013 by The Best Lawyers in America® for Mergers & Acquisitions Law, Corporate Law, Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights, and Insolvency and Reorganization Law. In addition, Mick has been recommended by Legal 500 US for Mergers Acquisitions. In addition, the Daily Report recognized him as one of the "Most Effective Dealmakers of the Year" in 2019.

Amelia Nickerson

CEO, First Step Staffing

Amelia Nickerson joined First Step Staffing in January 2018 and was appointed as CEO in May 2020. Amelia has more than a decade of experience as a fundraiser, volunteer, and board member for nonprofits across the Southeast. She previously served as the Vice President of Development and Community Relations at First Step, managing fundraising and community relations for all of First Step's current markets, as well as assisting with recent expansion opportunities. Prior to joining First Step, Amelia worked as an Associate Director at Coxe Curry & Associates, managing capital campaigns, feasibility studies, and general consulting engagements for a range of clients, including the Atlanta Women's Foundation, Fulton County Schools, Georgia World Congress Center/Centennial Olympic Park, Bob-

Our Featured Participants

by Jones Golf Course, and Navicent Health Foundation. Prior to joining Coxe Curry, Amelia served as a fundraising consultant for a documentary project with Georgia Public Broadcasting and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra titled Robert Shaw – Man of Many Voices, a film on the life, legacy, and music of legendary conductor Robert Shaw. Her career also includes positions with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Woodruff Arts Center, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (Washington, DC), and Peace Center for the Performing Arts (Greenville, SC), with a focus on donor research and corporate and foundation fundraising.

Amelia serves on the Worksource Fulton Board and is Chair of Strategic Partnerships Committee, as well as the Metro Atlanta Exchange for Workforce Development's Provider Council. Amelia has also served as president of the board for the Anti-Prejudice Consortium and past chair of the annual Power Over Prejudice (POP) Summit. She was named Fidelity Bank Volunteer of the Year by the Junior League of Atlanta in 2013. She and her daughter are members of the National Charity League. Originally from Savannah, Amelia is a graduate of both St. Vincent's Academy and Furman University. She currently lives in Roswell, GA with her husband, Sean, and three children.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ZONING CHANGES ARE PROPOSED FOR YOUR AREA

ATTN:
**ASHVIEW
HEIGHTS**

**ATLANTA
UNIVERSITY
CENTER**



Join us to learn
about how the westside land use
framework plan is being adopted to
protect your **history** and **culture**.

**SPI-4 Ashview Heights/ Atlanta
University Center**

Date: September 22, 2020

Time: 6:30pm – 8:30pm

<http://bit.ly/SPI-4ATL>

**Please Email
info@westsidefuturefund.org
or Call**

(404)793-2670

To receive the link to attend



**Do you know, own, or love a
business on the Westside?**

Support Westside Business Awareness

**To join the Westside Business Directory or
participate in an upcoming community market:**

**email Joan@westsidefuturefund.org with the
subject line ATTN: Westside Business**



presents the fourth edition of the Atlanta Startup Ecosystem Guide

The Guide features influential organizations, spaces, schools, funding, and more. You will also find an extensive list of notable names that contribute greatly to the success of the startup community in Atlanta and get a more extensive look at local innovation centers in the region, including those on the Westside.

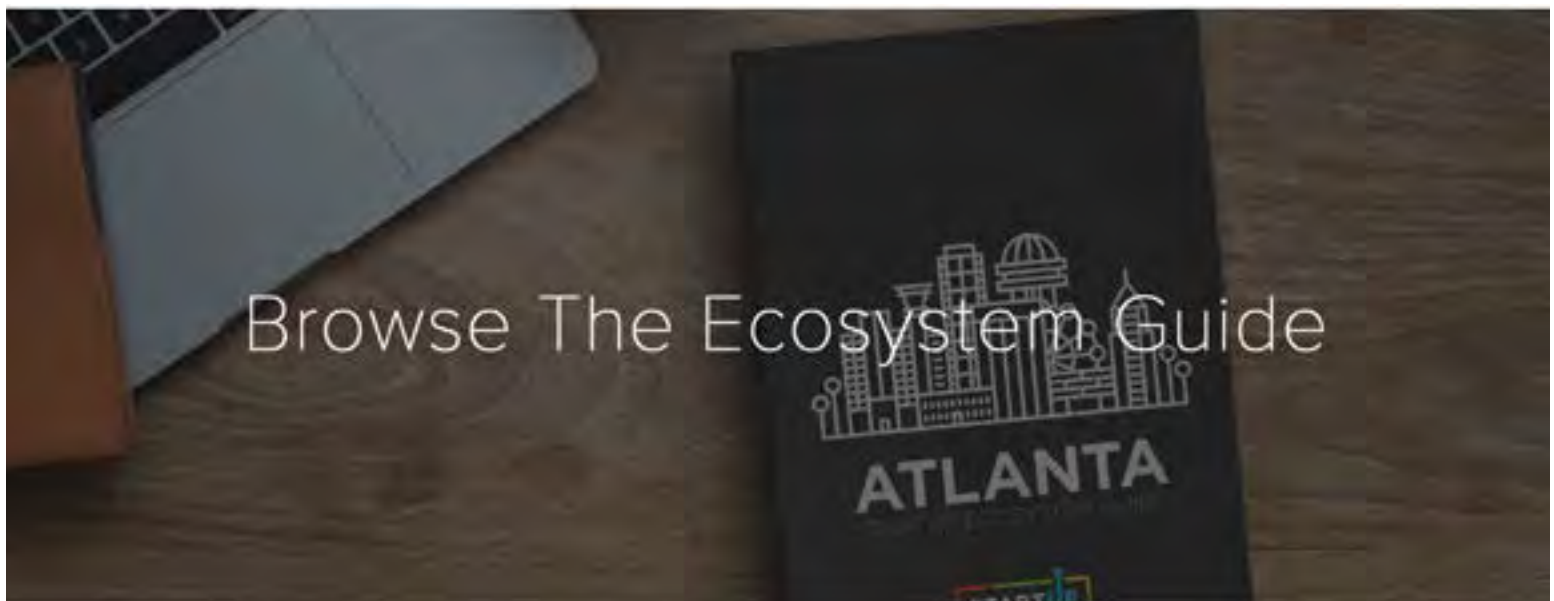
Entrepreneurial and innovation programs at educational institutions such as those in the Atlanta University Center and Atlanta Technical College and South Metro Atlanta's UGA Griffin campus appear in the Guide. The Russell Center for Innovation and Entrepre-

neurship, Hatch: Chick-Fil-A's Innovation and Learning Center, Fayette County's Startup Fayette, and the Bronner Business Institute in Austell are among the many startup and innovation resources listed in the Guide.

As a community non-profit focused on connecting, curating and promoting the region's startup ecosystem, Startup Atlanta recognizes the current challenges for business due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic. Our hope is that this year's guide will prove useful to the entrepreneurs, innovators and investors pivoting during these unprecedented times.

Download/View the Guide Here:

<http://www.startupatlanta.com/2020-ecosystem-guide>





♥ CVS Health + Good Sam

Good Samaritan Health Center and CVSHealth are offering free rapid COVID-19 testing with results in 20 minutes by appointment only.

Call **404-523-6571** to schedule.

Good Sam is located at 1015 Donald Lee Hollowell Pkwy, Atlanta, GA.

Visit <https://goodsamatlanta.org/COVID-19> for more info.

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/>

City of Atlanta launches program to provide rental assistance during pandemic

REPORTED BY WSBTV.COM NEWS STAFF

ATLANTA — Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms announced Thursday that the city has allocated \$22 million from the Coronavirus Relief Fund to help keep renters in their homes.

Administered by the United Way of Greater Atlanta, the program will provide rental, utility or security deposit assistance to more than 6,700 City of Atlanta residents.

Renters who have experienced a loss of income because of the pandemic will be able to get help paying past due rent, utilities or security deposits for a maximum of \$3,000 per household.

"Access to safe, affordable and livable housing is one of our Administration's top priorities," said Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms. "Beyond the pressing challenges of COVID-19, we aim to ensure that every resident who wants to live in Atlanta is able to do so with dignity. Thank you to United Way of Greater Atlanta for being a partner in providing housing stability to residents as we navigate this now normal."

As many as 16,000 households in the City of Atlanta make under \$50,000 and are employed in jobs that are at high risk for layoffs from COVID-19, according to officials from United Way.

Renters can apply by visiting www.unitedway.org, texting C19-ERA to 898-211 or calling 211.



United Way of
Greater Atlanta



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.**



THE ARTHUR M. BLANK
FAMILY FOUNDATION



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**

CHRIS180

Changing Directions.
Changing Lives.

CHRIS180.ORG



Shape the future for your family.

Every 10 years, the census counts everyone living in the United States. It is important to count every person living in your home to make sure your community and others across the nation are accurately funded and represented for the next decade.

Count everyone, from grandpa to the new baby.

No matter who lives in your home, be sure to count them all in the 2020 Census. This includes grandparents, young children, foster children, and nonrelatives who are living with you. Information collected in the census will inform the allocation of more than \$675 billion in federal funding each year. That includes money for things like:

- > First responders
- > School meals
- > Medicare and Medicaid
- > Adoption assistance
- > Food assistance programs
- > Libraries and community centers

Your response is safe.

Your personal information is kept confidential by law. Your responses can be used only for statistical purposes. They cannot be used for law enforcement purposes or to determine your personal eligibility for government benefits.

Your family can help you respond.

The online census form is available in English and 12 additional languages. If you do not speak one of those languages, someone else in your home can complete the form for everyone in your home. If the adults in your home do not speak one of these languages, someone can translate for you. This includes a child in your home or a friend.

For more information, visit:

2020CENSUS.GOV

D-OP-GP-EN-420

**Shape
your future
START HERE >**

**United States[®]
Census
2020**

BE COUNTED!

HONOR THEIR LEGACIES

FILL OUT THE CENSUS



VOTER ONE STOP



**FIND AN EARLY
VOTING SITE**

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SAMPLE BALLOTS

[LEARN MORE >](#)



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**FIND MY ELECTION
DAY POLLING SITE**

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JOHN LEWIS: GOOD TROUBLE

V I R T U A L C I N E M A

View this riveting documentary by
purchasing access [via this link >>](https://watch.eventive.org/johnlewisplay/5f22fa74dc6001007d416bb6/5ec4280bf7a59e003e81f28a)

<https://watch.eventive.org/johnlewisplay/5f22fa74dc6001007d416bb6/5ec4280bf7a59e003e81f28a>

PROCEEDS WILL BOTH

- ✓ **benefit** Westside Future Fund **AND**
- ✓ grant access to a **special Q&A** with producers
Dawn Porter and Erika Alexander



RUN TIME: 1 HR 36 MIN
RATED PG



DIRECTOR | Dawn Porter
PRODUCERS | Laura Michalchyshyn,
Dawn Porter, Erika Alexander and Ben Arnon



PRODUCER BIOS

EXCLUSIVE PRODUCER INTERVIEWS

INCLUDED WITH VIEW ACCESS

E R I K A A L E X A N D E R

Erika Alexander is beloved for the iconic acting roles of Maxine Shaw (*Living Single*), Detective Latoya (*Get Out*), Perenna (*Black Lightning*), and Linda Diggs (*Wutang: An American Saga*). Erika wears many hats, including actress, trailblazing activist, entrepreneur, creator, producer, and director -- an all-around boss. As Co-Founder of Color Farm Media and Board Member of VoteRunLead and One Fair Wage, Erika is on a mission to bring greater equity, inclusion, and diverse representation to both media, technology, and electoral politics.

Erika's company, Color Farm Media, develops and produces scripted and non-scripted content for film, television, streaming, and podcast platforms. Color Farm's latest film release is *John Lewis: Good Trouble*, a documentary about the legendary Congressman and civil rights icon, distributed by Magnolia Pictures, Participant, and CNN Films. Color Farm is also currently producing two podcasts with Spotify and has several scripted film and television projects in development. The company previously set up an untitled horror/thriller film, written by Erika, at Lionsgate Entertainment. Additionally, Erika is co-writer of the *Buffy* spin-off, *Giles*, a graphic novel collaboration with Joss Whedon and Dark Horse. Erika also collaborated on Dark Horse's award-winning, ground-breaking sci-fi series, *Concrete Park*. She is currently co-directing a documentary film about reparations and racial equity with filmmaker Whitney Dow.

D A W N P O R T E R

Dawn Porter is an award-winning documentary filmmaker whose work has appeared on HBO, PBS, Discovery, and Netflix among others. She is currently directing and executive producing an Apple TV multi-part documentary series with Oprah Winfrey and Prince Harry, which focuses on both mental illness and mental well-being.

Other current projects include the documentary *Vernon Jordan: Make It Plain* which explores Vernon Jordan's rise from the segregated South to become one of the most influential African American thought leaders in America; *John Lewis: Good Trouble* for CNN Films, which explores late Congressman John Lewis' pivotal role in the Civil Rights movement and decades of political and social activism on important issues including voting rights, immigration laws, and much more; and an untitled documentary project about Photojournalist Pete Souza, who served as Chief Official White House photographer for President Barack Obama and previously as an Official White House photographer for President Ronald Reagan.

Dawn also directed and produced the acclaimed four-hour Netflix original series *Bobby Kennedy for President*, which was released in 2018 and premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival.

A two-time Sundance festival Director, her film *Trapped* which explored laws regulating abortion clinics in the South won the special jury social-impact prize at the 2016 Sundance Film Festival, in addition to a Peabody and numerous other awards.

Dawn has been commissioned to create films for the Center for Investigative Reporting, Time and Essence Magazines, The New York Times Op Docs, and Amazon. Her work has received generous support from the MacArthur Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the Mellon Foundation, Tribeca Film Institute, Sundance Film Institute, Chicken & Egg Pictures and other esteemed organizations. She is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the Television Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the Directors Guild of America.

VIEWPOINT: Fulfilling our vision of the beloved community

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

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."

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Westside
Future Fund

P.O. Box 92273, Atlanta, GA 30314

(404) 793-2670

westsidefuturefund.org

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