



Westside
Future Fund

Transform Westside Summit

Convene | Communicate | Collaborate

Westside Future Fund

Friday, October 16, 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
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



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*

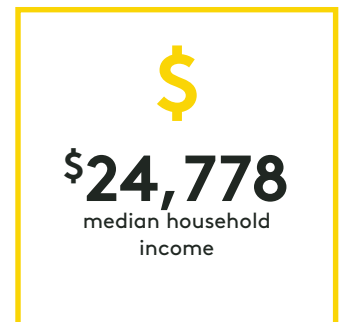
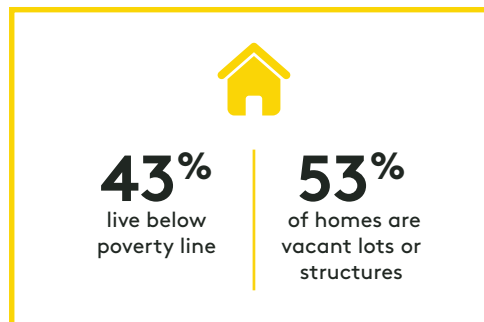
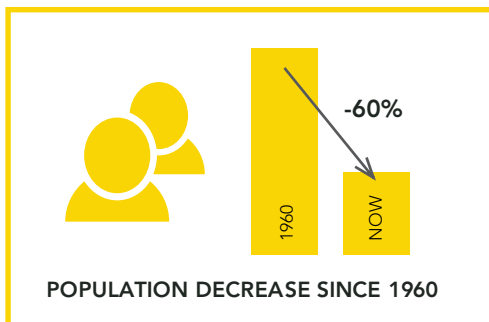


Westside Future Fund

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



Raquel Hudson
Director of Westside
Volunteer Corps



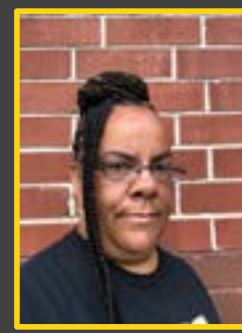
Deidre Strickland
Development
Manager



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

7:30AM – 7:45AM

Opening Devotion

Ebony Ford
Westside Resident
English Avenue

7:45AM – 8:30AM

LIVE PANEL:
Shining a Light on
Contributions to the
Westside

Zavier Warner
Westside Youth Program Participant
At-Promise Center

Erica Bolden
Head of Diversity, Inclusion &
Corporate Social Responsibility
Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC

Ashley Gravlee
Manager, Corporate Social Responsibility
Novelis

Nyra Jordan
Social Impact Investment Director
American Family Insurance

8:30AM – 8:45AM

Q&A

All viewers can submit questions via
social media channels for the
duration of the program.

8:45AM – 8:55AM

UPDATES featuring

Rodney Bullard
VP, Corporate Social Responsibility
Chick-fil-A, Inc.
Executive Director
Chick-fil-A Foundation

Yvonne Whitaker
Administrator
NCR Foundation

David Stiffler
President, Equifax Foundation
Equifax

Kirby A. Thompson
Senior Vice President
Truist

8:55AM

Closing Remarks

John Ahmann
President & CEO
Westside Future Fund

9:00AM

Summit Adjourns

 @westsidefuturefund

 @WFFAtlanta

 @westsidefuturefund

 westsidefuturefund.org

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.

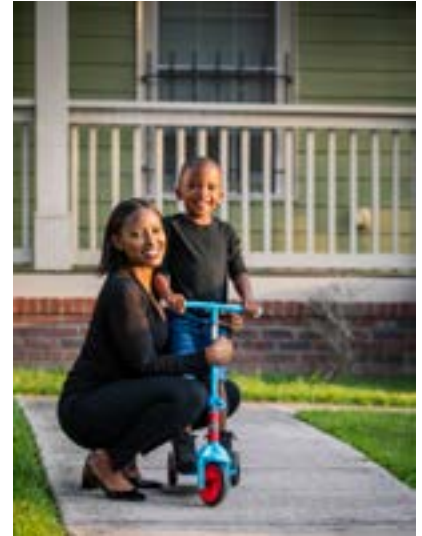
John's unwavering commitment to Atlanta and deep knowledge of specific areas such as education, economic development, infrastructure and local fiscal policy make him a unique presence in Atlanta's change landscape. He is honored to serve the board of Westside Future Fund as its President & CEO.

Our Featured Participants

Ebony M. Ford

Westside Resident, English Avenue

Ebony purchased a home in English Avenue after moving from her home state of Michigan more than 10 years ago. She was drawn to the potential of the Westside and wanted to be apart of what was sure to be its uprising in the very near future. She is a divorced mother to a 4 year old son, and an IT Analyst for the State of Georgia. Ebony has started an organization, English Avenue Tea, to bring awareness and an image of normalcy to the rest of Atlanta about the residents that live in historic Westside neighborhoods. The Westside is on the rise and Ebony is proud to go along for the ride.



Erica J. Bolden

*Head of Diversity, Inclusion & Corporate Social Responsibility,
Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC*

As the Head of Diversity, Inclusion & Corporate Social Responsibility for Mercedes-Benz USA (MBUSA), Erica J. Bolden oversees internal and external relationships and designs strategies to attract, develop and advance the most talented individuals in support of Daimler's commitment to foster a diverse workforce and inclusive environment. This includes ensuring that employment, dealer development, training, marketing and media, purchasing and philanthropic outreach activities are implemented in ways that direct and uphold the strategic direction of the company's national diversity and community engagement initiatives.

Prior to joining MBUSA, Erica was the Director of Diversity for Perkins Coie LLP where she focused on critical intervention strategies affecting more than 1K lawyers in 19 offices across the U.S. and Asia. She is also a 10-year veteran of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC), where she last served as the National Diversity Programs Senior Manager in the National Office of Diversity. In that role, Erica planned and managed signature earlier minority success programs and special projects to strengthen retention and advancement strategies and execute the firm's national people strategy targeting 55K+ U.S. partners and staff. Erica has also been responsible for driving profitable revenue growth and leading business/relationship development efforts, while sharing winning practices across the firm network.

Erica has over 15 years of HR strategy consulting and change management experience in data analysis; business issue identification; corporate social responsibility and employee engagement; as well as training design related to leadership development, teambuilding and cultural transformation/diversity nuances.

Most recently, Career Mastered Magazine presented Erica with the 2020 Diversity Leadership in Action Award and Savoy Magazine recognized her in its list of 2019 Most Influential Women in Corporate America. She is a graduate of Miami University in Oxford, Ohio where she earned a B.A. in Speech Communications and a B.A. in Spanish.



Mercedes-Benz

Our Featured Participants

Ashley Gravlee

Manager, Corporate Social Responsibility, Novelis

Novelis

Ashley Gravlee is manager, corporate social responsibility for Novelis, the global leader in aluminum rolled products and the world's largest recycler of used aluminum cans. In this role, Ms. Gravlee leads the development and execution of the company's global charitable investment strategy and volunteer program.

Ms. Gravlee earned her Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and Mass Communication at The University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. Ms. Gravlee is a member of the Corporate Volunteer Council of Atlanta and serves as vice chair of The Conference Board's Global Philanthropy Council. Ms. Gravlee is on the board of directors for CannedWater4Kids and the Walton Robotics Foundation. Personally active in the Atlanta community, Ms. Gravlee serves as a program advisor for The Atlanta Women's Foundation's Inspire Atlanta leadership development program, and on the volunteerism advisory committee for the Westside Future Fund. In 2019, she was named as part of the Atlanta Business Chronicle's 40 Under Forty class.

Nyra Jordan

Social Impact Investment Director, American Family Institute



Nyra Jordan has been with American Family Insurance for over 20 years serving in various leadership roles throughout the organization. Nyra is a Social Impact Investment Director at the American Family Institute for Corporate and Social Impact where she is advancing the creation of economic opportunities for historically overlooked communities including those impacted by incarceration through venture capital investment and capacity building partnerships with innovative academic, community, and government organizations. Nyra holds an undergraduate degree in Mass Communication, an MA in Criminal Justice Administration, and an MS in Social Innovation and Sustainability Leadership.

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR FEATURED PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SUMMIT



ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOTER ONE STOP



**FIND AN EARLY
VOTING SITE**

[LEARN MORE >](#)



SAMPLE BALLOTS

[LEARN MORE >](#)



**GEORGIA MY VOTER
PAGE**

[LEARN MORE >](#)



**REQUEST AN
ABSENTEE BALLOT**

[LEARN MORE >](#)



**FIND ABSENTEE
BALLOT DROP
BOXES**

[LEARN MORE >](#)



**VOTER
REGISTRATION**

[LEARN MORE >](#)



**FIND MY ELECTION
DAY POLLING SITE**

[LEARN MORE >](#)



**VOTE EARLY
HERE**



State Farm Arena

FULTON VOTERS...MAKE THE FAST BREAK.
Skip the line, vote early.



**VOTE EARLY
HERE**



High Museum of Art

EXPERIENCE THE ART OF VOTING.
Skip the line, vote early.



GENERAL ELECTION

EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS AND SCHEDULE

Election Day: Tuesday, November 3, 2020

We've made it safe and easy for you to vote!

- Out of consideration of fellow voters and poll workers, please wear a mask or face covering when voting in person.
- Practice social distancing by staying at least 6 feet apart.
- Lines will exist at peak times... we encourage voters to vote by mail.

EARLY VOTING DATES & TIMES

MONDAY TO FRIDAY:
October 12 - 16, October 19 - 23
8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

SATURDAY VOTING:
October 17 and 24
8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

MONDAY TO FRIDAY:
October 26 - 30
7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

SUNDAY VOTING:
October 18 and 25
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Adams Park Library

2231 Campbellton Road SW
Atlanta GA 30311

Alpharetta Library

10 Park Plaza, Alpharetta GA 30009

Buckhead Library

269 Buckhead Avenue NE
Atlanta GA 30305

Chastain Park Recreation Center

140 W Wieuca Road NW
Atlanta, GA 30305

C.T. Martin Natatorium and Recreation Center

3201 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive
SW Atlanta GA 30311

Dorothy Benson Senior Center

6500 Vernon Wood Drive
Sandy Springs GA 30328

East Point Library

2757 Main Street
East Point GA 30344

East Roswell Library

2301 Holcomb Bridge Road
Roswell GA 30076

Etris-Darnell Community Center

5285 Lakeside Drive
Union City GA 30291

Georgia International Convention Center

2000 Convention Center Concourse
College Park GA 30337

Gladys S. Dennard Library at South Fulton

4055 Flat Shoals Road
Union City GA 30291

High Museum of Art

1280 Peachtree Street NE
Atlanta GA 30309

Johns Creek Environmental Campus

8100 Holcomb Bridge Road
Alpharetta GA 30022

Metropolitan Library

1332 Metropolitan Parkway
Atlanta GA 30310

Milton Library

855 Mayfield Road
Milton GA 30009

New Beginnings Senior Center

66 Brooks View Drive
Fairburn GA 30213

Northside Library

3295 Northside Parkway
Atlanta GA 30327

Northeast Spruill Oaks Library

9560 Spruill Road
Johns Creek GA 30022

North Fulton Service Center

7741 Roswell Road
Sandy Springs GA 30350

Northwest Branch at Scotts Crossing Library

2489 Perry Boulevard NW
Atlanta GA 30318

Park Place at Newtown School

3125 Old Alabama Road
Johns Creek GA 30022

Ponce de Leon Library

980 Ponce De Leon Ave. NE
Atlanta GA 30306

Robert E. Fulton Ocee Library

5090 Abbotts Bridge Road
Johns Creek GA 30005

Roswell Library

115 Norcross Street
Roswell GA 30075

Sandy Springs Library

395 Mount Vernon Highway NE,
Sandy Springs GA 30328

South Fulton Service Center

5600 Stonewall Tell Road
South Fulton GA 30349

Southwest Arts Center

915 New Hope Road SW
South Fulton GA 30331

State Farm Arena

1 State Farm Drive
Atlanta GA 30303

Welcome All Recreation Center

4255 Will Lee Road
South Fulton GA 30349

Wolf Creek Library

3100 Enon Road SW
Atlanta GA 30331

www.fultonelections.com

@FultonInfo

SKIP THE LINE, VOTE EARLY!



Everything
Voters Need in
One App!

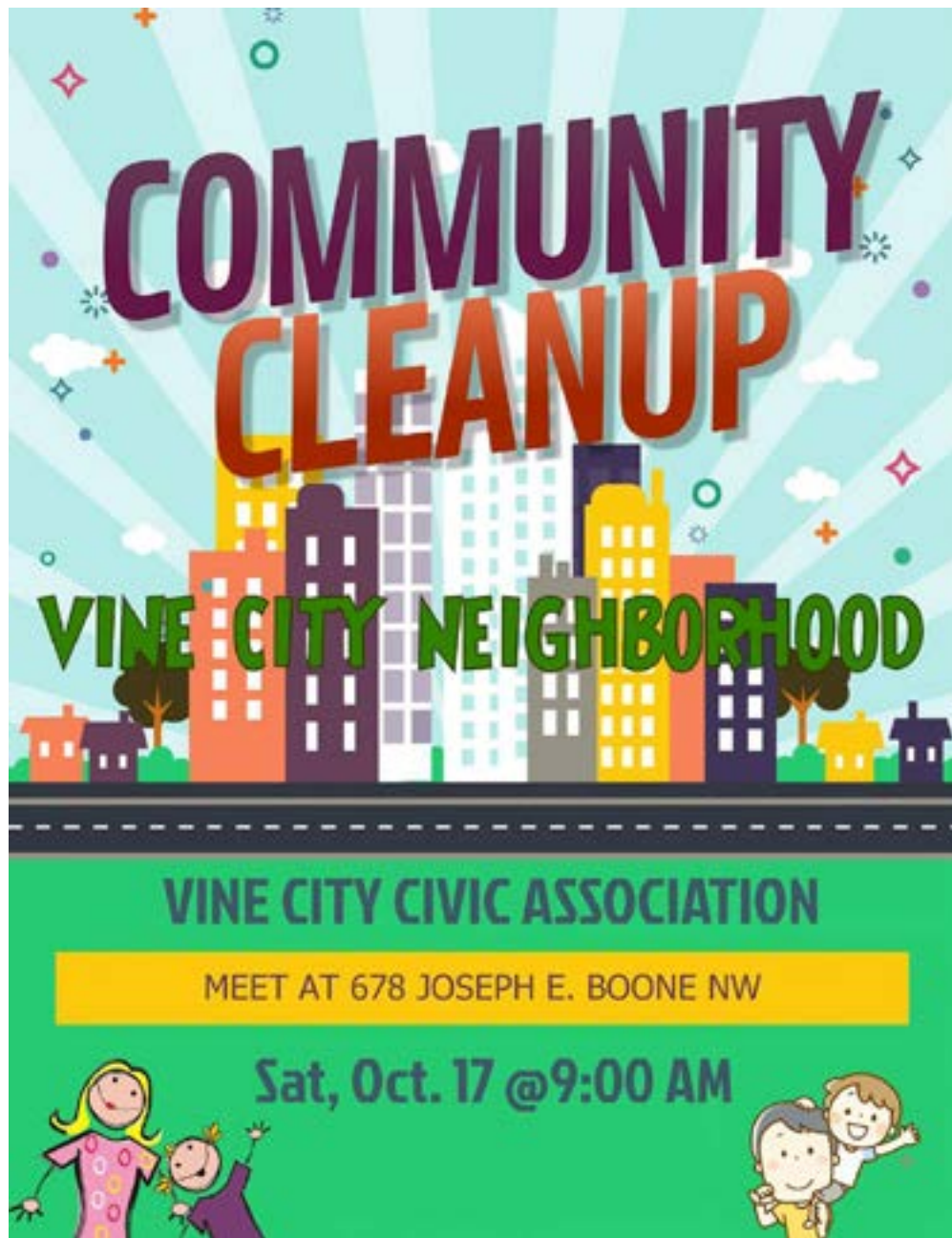
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TODAY**

COMING SOON TO
 Google Play
COMING SOON

Download on the
 App Store
AVAILABLE NOW

www.fultonelections.com





*Join the Vine City Civic Association and others for
a community clean-up effort!*

*Volunteers are needed as well as supplies such as gloves,
trashbags, snacks, water, etc. Please meet Saturday,
October 17 at 9AM at 678 Boone to receive instructions.
PLEASE WEAR A MASK FOR THE SAFETY OF OTHERS!*

VINE CITY DRIVE-THRU >> SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17!

Protect Yourself • Protect Your Family • Protect Your Community

DRIVE-THRU 675 JOSEPH E. BOONE BOULEVARD, NW

FREE GROCERIES

FREE FLU SHOTS

FREE COVID-19 TEST



**Saturday
October 17, 2020
10:00AM-2:00PM**

Join Us In Vine City for A Day of Insurance Open Enrollment.
Schedule Your Appointment for COVID-19 Testing
Call: 404-613-8150 or Log on to: www.fultoncounty-boh.org



Michael Julian Bond
Atlanta City Council Post 1 At Large

For More Information Community Resource Line: 888-524-4173

***The Flu Vaccinations are limited and only available to adults.**

**COVID 19 CDC Guidelines Will Be Followed At This Outdoor Event Including
Everyone Wearing Face Masks And Practicing Social Distancing**



Natalie Hall
Fulton County Commission District 4



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.

THE FIX THAT! HOME REPAIR SERIES

The Atlanta BeltLine Partnership, Atlanta Community ToolBank, Atlanta Land Trust, and House Proud are partnering to bring you the Fix That! Home Repair Series, an 8-part series of free online workshops focused on helping you make simple repairs at your home, save money on repairs, and making you safer and more secure in your home. At each workshop in the series we will provide an overview of the topic and you will have a chance to ask questions live with an expert.

The Fix That! Home Repair Series is part of the Partnership's 2020 Home Empower Workshop Series, sponsored by Wells Fargo and Bank of America.



UPCOMING WORKSHOPS:

- October 28: Water Safety & Conservation
 - November 4: Electrical Safety
- November 18: Preventive Home Safety
 - December 2: Basics of HVAC
- December 16: Winterizing Your Home

Visit beltline.org/empower to register.

Eviction Protections During COVID-19

Are you facing eviction from your rental or having trouble with rent or utility payments? Please join Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation, Atlanta BeltLine Partnership, and the City of Atlanta for a free virtual workshop designed to provide information and identify resources available to you during the COVID-19 pandemic. Welcoming remarks will be made by the City of Atlanta's Chief Housing Officer Terri Lee.

Topics to be covered during the workshop include:

- Your rights as a renter in the state of Georgia
 - Understanding the eviction process
 - CDC moratorium on evictions
- Rental assistance programs available in Atlanta

• **Join on Mon, October 19, 2020**

• **6:00 PM – 7:30 PM EDT**

[Register here.](#)

ZONING CHANGES ARE PROPOSED FOR YOUR AREA

**ATTN:
ASHVIEW
HEIGHTS**

**ATLANTA
UNIVERSITY
CENTER**



**>> Did you miss the
SPI-4 kickoff meeting
on Sep. 22?**

>>> No worries!

>>>> Email

<info@westsidefuturefund.org>

**and we will be happy to send you
a link to the meeting recording
and other helpful resources.**



**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**

[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/>](https://www.westsidefuturefund.org/covid-19-info/)

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

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.

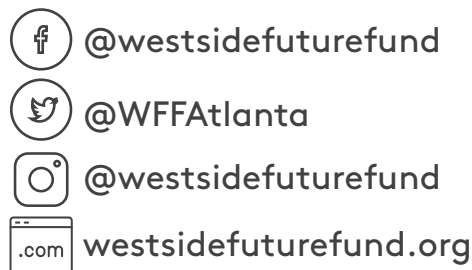
Unfortunately, too often those who seek to serve often overlook the value of relational capacity that exists within community, wealth of knowledge and ability to be a vital asset to achieving transformative sustainable communities.

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."

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.