



Westside  
Future Fund

Power of Storytelling  
on the Westside"

# Transform Westside Summit

Convene | Communicate | Collaborate

Westside Future Fund  
Friday, April 2, 2021

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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.



@westsidefuturefund



@WFFAtlanta



@westsidefuturefund



westsidefuturefund.org

# 2021 Board of Directors



**Beverly Tatum**  
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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**  
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Community Affairs and  
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CEO Woodruff Arts  
Center/Wachovia Bank



**Tommy Holder**  
Chairman & CEO,  
Holder Construction  
Company



**Kevin Holt**  
CFO & COO,  
H&H Hospitality



**Derrick Jordan**  
Senior Project Leader,  
National Church  
Residences



**Wonya Lucas**  
President and CEO,  
Public Broadcasting  
Atlanta



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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

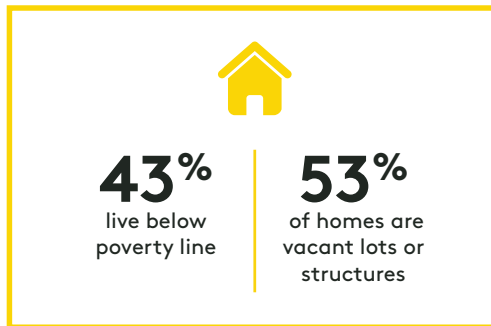
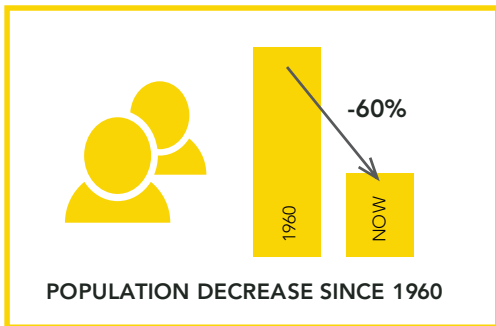


# Westside Future Fund

## 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](#)



# 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



**Charles Forde**  
Director of Project  
Financing



**Lee Harrop**  
VP of Real Estate  
Development



**Raquel Hudson**  
Director of Westside  
Volunteer Corps



**Shandra Jordan**  
Senior Administrative  
Assistant



**Marni Pittman**  
Controller



**Deidre Strickland**  
Development  
Manager



**Jaaren Strickland**  
Accounting  
Manager



**Joan Vernon**  
Director of  
Neighborhood  
Engagement



**Christal Walker**  
Staff Accountant



**Robyn Washington**  
Development  
Coordinator



**Cristel Williams**  
Chief  
Development  
Officer

# AGENDA

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7:45AM – 8:00AM  
Welcome

John Ahmann  
*President & CEO*  
Westside Future Fund

Ebony Ford  
*Westside Resident*  
English Avenue

Benjamin Earley  
*Westside Correspondent*  
Redclay-Hill

8:00AM – 8:15AM  
Opening Devotion

Bishop John H. Lewis, III  
*Chair*  
Vine City Civic Association

8:15AM – 8:55AM  
The History and Future  
of Sunset Avenue

Dr. Bernice A. King  
CEO  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Center  
for Nonviolent Social Change

Maria Saporta  
*Founder & Editor*  
SaportaReport

Judy Forte  
Superintendent  
Martin Luther King, Jr., National  
Historical Park

Dr. Karcheik Sims-Alvarado  
CEO  
*Preserve Black Atlanta*

8:55AM  
Remarks and  
End of Show Close

John Ahmann  
*President & CEO*  
Westside Future Fund

Taylor Nixon  
*Lyricist*  
Peters Street Station

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 out-sourced 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 Re- new 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

## **Benjamin Earley**

*Senior Consultant, Redclay-Hill*

Benjamin Earley is a web developer, creative writer, and musician born and raised in Atlanta, GA, where he continues to call the Westside home. He holds two certificates from Berklee College of Music for Music Business and General Music Studies. In addition to pursuing his passion for songwriting and music production, Benjamin also builds websites and web-based solutions for clients as an independent contractor with Redclay-Hill.

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## **Ebony Ford**

*Westside Resident, English Avenue*

Ebony Ford is a Westside Atlanta community advocate with affiliation of several civic and philanthropic organizations. She is passionate about legacy resident retention in this climate of rapid gentrification in the city of Atlanta, particularly in the neighborhoods of English Avenue and Vine City, and she spends her free time mentoring residents who want to become homeowners through her organization English Avenue Tea. She is an Atlanta Public Schools elected official as she serves as secretary for her neighborhood school's GO Team. Professionally, Ebony works in IT for the State of Georgia.

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## **Bishop John Lewis, III**

*Chair, Vine City Civic Association*

Bishop John Lewis III is a native Atlantan, born on the city's Historic Westside. In addition to serving as chair of the Vine City Civic Association, he is also the patriarch of the Holy African Orthodox Catholic Church, chaplain of The Universal Negro Improvement Association and chairman of the board of The National Defense for Justice Coalition.

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## **Dr. Bernice A. King**

*CEO, Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change*

Dr. Bernice A. King is a global thought leader, strategist, orator, peace advocate, and CEO of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change (The King Center,) which was founded by her mother, Coretta Scott King. In this position, Dr. King continues to advance her parents' legacy of Kingian Nonviolence, which she re-branded Nonviolence365™.

Through her work at the King Center, she educates youth and adults around the world about the nonviolent principles and strategies modeled by her parents. Under her leadership, the Center has implemented numerous initiatives that have reached over five hundred thousand people, such as the annual Camp N.O.W. Leadership Academy, Students with King, Nonviolence365 Education & Trainings and The Beloved Community Talks, a courageous conversations platform about the difficult racial and social justice issues impacting our world. A nonviolence365 certification for trainers has also been developed under her leadership.

She graduated from Superman College with a BA in Psychology with a concentration in Pre-Law and from Emory University with a Master of Divinity and Doctor of Law. She also received an honorary Doctor

# Our Featured Participants

of Divinity from Wesley College. From 1990 -1992 she served as a law clerk for Judge Glenda Hatchett, who was the Chief Judge of The Fulton County Juvenile Detention Court. She also served for seven years as an Assistant Pastor of Greater Rising Star Baptist Church in Atlanta where she organized and developed over 3 new ministries. In 2007 she established the Be A King Scholarship in honor of her mother at Spelman College. Dr. King spearheaded the "Let Freedom Ring" event commemorating the 50th Anniversary of The March on Washington and her father's "I Have a Dream speech." The global event included then President Obama, former President Clinton and Carter, members of Congress, as well as many other international leaders, dignitaries, and entertainers.

In March 2018, Dr. King was fortunate to have a private audience with his holiness Pope Francis. As an alumna of Leadership Atlanta (class of 2020,) she has utilized her influence to encourage Atlanta Business leaders to become more active in issues of racial equity and social justice. One outcome was the passage of Georgia's Hate Crime legislation. In the fall of 2020,

The Congressional Black Caucus Foundation honored her with their highest award, The Phoenix Award, which recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to society. A noted author, she has to her credit, "Hard Questions, Heart Answers," a compelling and inspiring book.

She is currently a member of the State Bar of Georgia, a certified Mediator with the State of Georgia, a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, the International Women's Forum (IWF), the National Council of Negro Women and a Board member for the National Black Bank Foundation.

Dr. King is an innovative and transformational leader dedicated to taking her parents' legacy and teachings, The King Center, and the work of creating a more just, humane, equitable and peaceful world with Nonviolence365 into a new era.

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## **Maria Saporta**

*Founder & Editor, SaportaReport*

Maria is founder and editor of the SaportaReport, is a longtime Atlanta business, civic and urban affairs journalist with a deep knowledge of our city, our region and state. Maria currently is working with a stellar board and team on a recently-launched nonprofit journalism website – Atlanta Civic Circle – which will provide civic literacy on key local issues with the hope of encouraging greater civic engagement.

From September 2008 to March 2020, Maria wrote a weekly column and news stories for the Atlanta Business Chronicle. Prior to that, she spent 27 years with the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, becoming its business columnist in 1991.

Maria also is a past president of the Atlanta Press Club, continues to serve on its Executive Committee, the Hall of Fame Committee and chairs its "Loudermilk-Young Debate Series" Committee. She also serves on the board's executive committee of the Alliance Francaise d'Atlanta, a French cultural organization and school that was founded by her mother in 1963.

In January 2019, Maria was inducted into Georgia Trend's Hall of Fame. She also was inducted into the Georgia State University Business Hall of Fame in 2012. She also received the Atlanta Business League 2013 CEO Award for Vision of Excellence. Maria was inducted in the 2002 YWCA Academy of Women Achievers.

# Our Featured Participants

SaportaReport also received the 2017 award for Outstanding Public Outreach and Journalism from the Georgia Chapter of the American Planning Association. Most recently, Maria was given the inaugural "Atlanta Hero" award by the Rotary Club of Atlanta on July 9, 2018.

Maria received her Masters' degree in urban studies from Georgia State and her Bachelors' degree in journalism from Boston University. Maria was born in Atlanta to European parents and has two adult children, who both work in the movie and television industry in Georgia.

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## **Judy Forte**

*Superintendent, Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historical Park*

From Civil War to Civil Rights, Ms. Judy Forte has more than 30 years with the National Park Service (NPS) beginning as a Park Ranger at Appomattox Courthouse National Historic Site (Civil War) to her current position as Superintendent of Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historical Park (Civil Rights) in Atlanta, Ga.

As NPS first African American Female Regional Chief Ranger, and Senior Law Enforcement Official for the Department of the Interior, Ms. Forte directed the law enforcement and emergency services programs for the southeast region for ten years.

Ms. Forte also served as the first African American female, Acting Associate Regional Director of park Operation where she was responsible for regional park operation and visitor services for 64 National Park System units located throughout nine southern states, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

As the first African American Female Superintendent of Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historical Park. She is responsible for directing the Historical Park operational activities, including interpretation, education, law enforcement, facility maintenance and resource stewardship. In addition, she leads a number of initiatives in the Sweet Auburn Historic District including, community private/public partnerships, neighborhood watch and mentoring Atlanta area students.

At NPS, Ms. Forte has received numerous awards. In 2006, she was recognized by the National Park Service and the U.S. Department of the Interior and received the Meritorious Achievement Commendation for her leadership and dedicated service following the terrorist Attacks of September 11, 2001 and in 2005 she received the Department of Interior Cooperative Conservation Award for her accomplishments during Gulf Coast recovery efforts following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. In 2008, she received a Special Congressional Recognition for outstanding and invaluable service to the community by Congressman John Lewis.

Ms. Forte earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Health and Physical Education emphasis in Resource Management from Tuskegee University; is a 2007 graduate of the Federal Executive Institute; and a 2010 Fellows graduate of Harvard University Kennedy School of Government and graduate of the Office of Personnel Management Senior Executive Service program

She is listed in the registry of Outstanding Young Women of America and a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

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# Our Featured Participants

## Dr. Karcheik Sims-Alvarado

CEO, *Preserve Black Atlanta*

Dr. Karcheik Sims-Alvarado has studied the history and culture of African Americans throughout the Black Atlantic World for nearly 20 years.

As the CEO of *Preserve Black Atlanta*, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) dedicated to identifying, recording, and preserving African American history and culture, Dr. Sims-Alvarado has developed a model for utilizing historical and cultural assets as a catalyst for economic and community development.

She is a former W.E.B. Du Bois Institute Fellow at Harvard University. She served as the Founding Director of the John Lewis Fellowship Program with the National Center for Civil and Human Rights. And she was the civil rights historian and exhibition consultant of "A Right to Freedom: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr" with the Nobel Prize Museum in Stockholm, Sweden

Dr. Sims-Alvarado is the author of *Atlanta and the Civil Rights Movement, 1944-1968* and the curator of the world's longest outdoor photography exhibition documenting the Long Civil Rights Movement.

Presently, she is the Historical Advisor and interviewer for *TIME* magazine's blockbuster virtual reality exhibit, *The March*, in partnership with actress Viola Davis and Intellectual Properties Management, Inc, licensor of Dr. Martin King, Jr. estate. Dr. Sims-Alvarado serves as the Oral Historian Project Management Consultant for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Historical Park with the National Parks Foundation as well as Assistant Professor of Africana Studies at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia.

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## Taylor Nixon

Lyricist, *Peter Street Station*

Taylor Nixon navigated YouTube's hip-hop landscape with a series of captivating freestyles over classic beats illuminating her gift for creating witty rhyme schemes, intricate flows, and thought-provoking lyrics. After achieving a top 100 spot in the "No Sucka MC'S 6" Contest, hosted by 5x Billboard-charting producer, KATO ON THE TRACK, Taylor relocated from her hometown of Columbus, Ohio to Atlanta, Georgia in commitment to pursue her artistry.

Since being in Atlanta, she became an opening act for Domani Harris' "Time Will Tell." In February of 2020, she was crowned 4<sup>th</sup> season winner of the prestigious "Tight 32 Emcee & Producer Contest" hosted by Patchwerk Recording Studios. Remaining steadfast despite the pandemic, she self-released her debut mixtape "Member Me" on July 11, 2020, including her debut single "ISIAAH." The mixtape is available via her website: [taylornixonmusic.com](http://taylornixonmusic.com).

Refreshing, is often a word used to describe her sound. Throughout the 7-track composition, Taylor displays a satisfying versatility as the tape begins with a relentless lyrical display of flow and charisma, over a soulful production of guitars and drums, while ending with an introspective, melodic flow, joined by a soothing saxophone accompaniment and mystically layered harmonies tucked in the background of her vocals.



# COVID-19 VACCINE INFO

Currently, Georgia eligibility is open for everyone 16 years of age and older for the COVID vaccine.

## Vaccination Sites

GA Department of Health of Public Health  
Fulton County  
Mercedes Benz Stadium  
9 Mangum Street  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
COVID Vaccine Line: (404) 613-8150

Morehouse Healthcare  
455 Lee Street  
Suite 200  
Atlanta, GA 30310  
COVID Vaccine Line: (404) 752-1000

Good Samaritan Health Center  
1015 Donald Lee Hollowell  
Parkway  
Atlanta, GA 30318  
COVID Vaccine Line: (404) 523-6571

Family Health Centers of Georgia at  
West End  
868 York Avenue SW  
Atlanta, GA 30310  
COVID Vaccine Line: (800) 935-6721

Appointments are required at all sites.

## For more information on vaccination sites

[myvaccinegeorgia.com](https://myvaccinegeorgia.com)

[vaccinefinder.org](https://vaccinefinder.org)

[dph.georgia.gov/covid-vaccine](https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-vaccine)

[fultoncountyga.gov/covidvaccine](https://fultoncountyga.gov/covidvaccine)

# Schedule your COVID-19 vaccination.



CVS Health® has collaborated with local community partners to help get you one step closer to being back with those you care about most.

**FREE** COVID-19 vaccinations are now available at no cost either with insurance or through a federal program for the uninsured.

## Why get a COVID-19 vaccination from CVS®?



### 94% to 95% effective

After two required doses, the Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines have a 94% and 95% efficacy rate of protection against COVID-19.



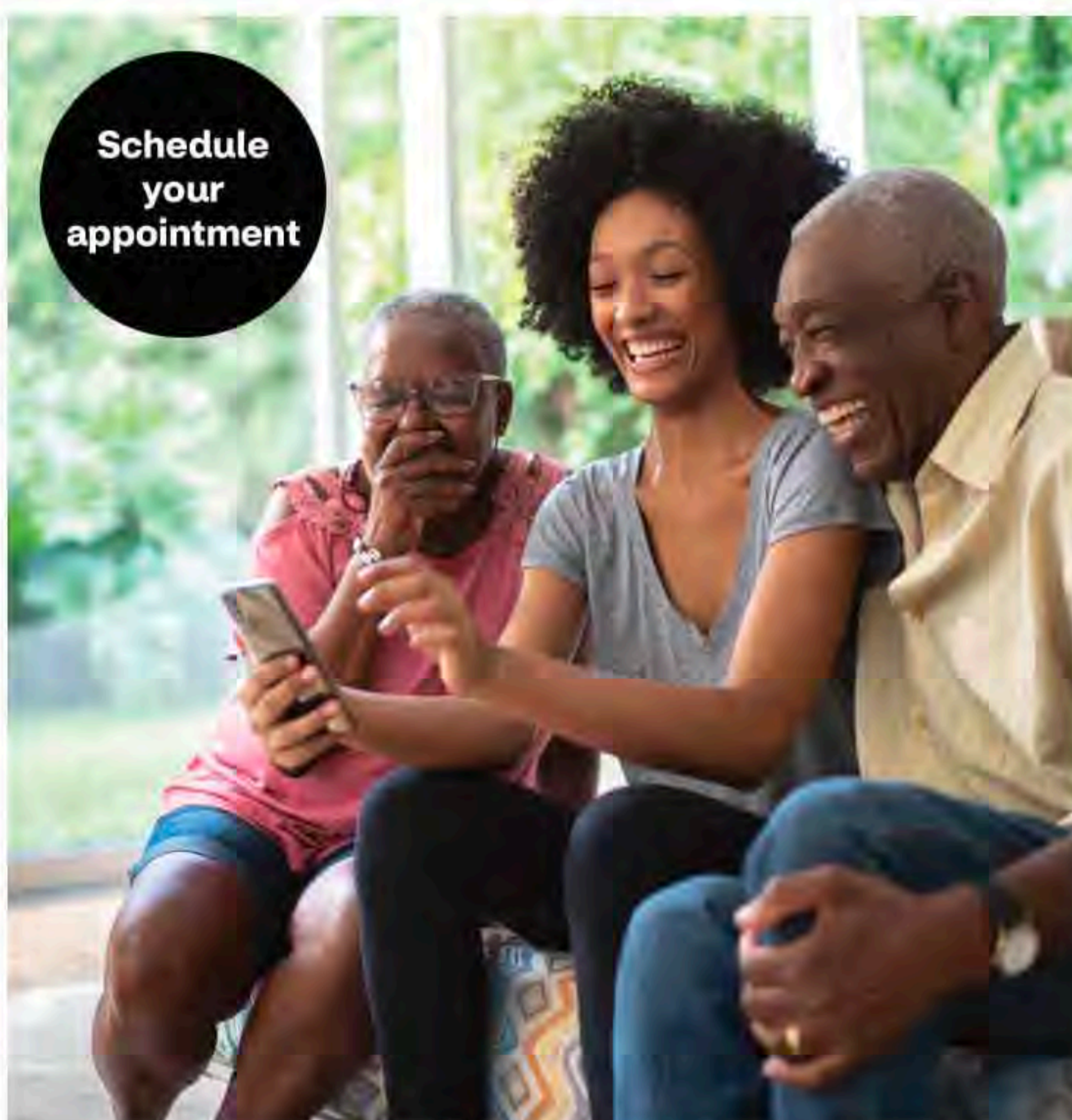
### We're here for you

We understand you may have concerns about the COVID-19 vaccine. We'll have medical experts on hand to answer your questions.



### We're experts

With millions of COVID-19 vaccine doses administered to date, we have the expertise and experience you need to get vaccinated safely.



## Vaccinations available by appointment only, at local community partner sites near you:

YMCA Leadership & Learning Ctr  
569 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr NW  
Atlanta, GA 30314

## To see if you're eligible and to schedule an appointment:

**Call (855)-287-6789**

**Hours:** 10-4 p.m.

**Clinic Dates:** March 26-May 7

# 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**



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## ♥CVS Health<sup>®</sup> + 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 30318.



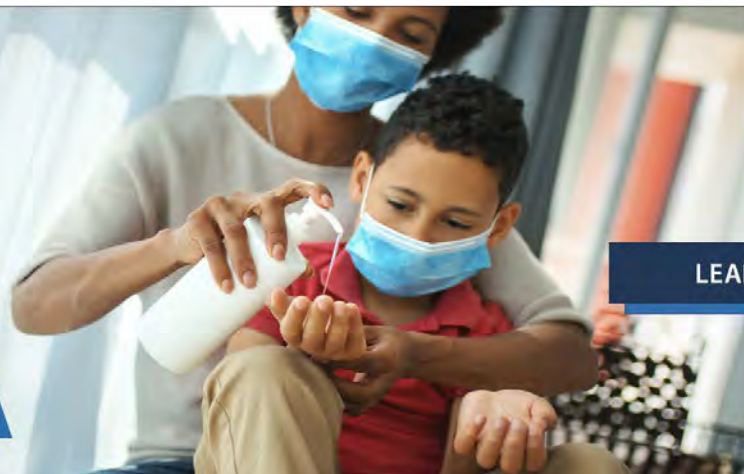
Visit <https://goodsamatlanta.org/COVID-19> for more info.

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 **NCRN**  
NATIONAL COVID-19 RESILIENCY NETWORK

Subscribe for Updates to the  
NATIONAL COVID-19  
RESILIENCY NETWORK

[www.msm.edu/ncrn](http://www.msm.edu/ncrn)



LEARN MORE



## STOPPING THE TSUNAMI: Launch of Metro Atlanta Rental Relief Programs

Wednesday, April 7, 2021 | 9:30 - 11:15 a.m. | [Register Now](#)  
Watch the Housing Forum Live on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), and [Twitter](#).

We're pleased to announce the lineup for our next Atlanta Regional Housing Forum. Presenters include:

### MODERATOR & FOUNDER

- [Bill Bolling, Food Well Alliance](#)

### GEORGIA DCA EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE (ERA)

- [Commissioner Christopher Nunn, Georgia DCA](#)
- [David Whisnant, Georgia DCA](#)

### LOCAL JURISDICTION ROLLOUT OF RENTAL ASSISTANCES

- [Donna Burnham, United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta](#)
- [Matt Elder, HomeFirst Gwinnett Initiative](#)
- [Anna Roach, Fulton County Government](#)

PROGRAM GAPS & PERSPECTIVES FROM PRACTITIONERS IN THE FIELD

- Chief Judge Cassandra Kirk, Fulton Magistrate Court
- Darian Dunn, Atlantica Properties
- Stephen Lee, Center for Pan Asian Community Services
- Audrea Rease, 3 Star, Star-C

**STOPPING THE TSUNAMI**  
**Launch of Metro Atlanta Rental Relief Programs**

**GEORGIA DCA EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE (ERA)**

 BILL BOLLING Housing Forum Moderator	 COMMISSIONER CHRISTOPHER NUNN Georgia Department of Community Affairs	 DAVID WHISNANT Georgia Department of Community Affairs
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**LOCAL JURISDICTION ROLLOUT OF RENTAL ASSISTANCE**

 DONNA BURNHAM United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta	 MATT ELDER HomeFirst Gwinnett Initiative	 ANNA ROACH Fulton County Government
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**PROGRAM GAPS & PERSPECTIVES FROM PRACTITIONERS IN THE FIELD**

 CASSANDRA KIRK Chief Magistrate Judge Fulton Magistrate Court	 DARIAN DUNN Atlantica Properties	 STEPHEN LEE Center for Pan Asian Community Services	 AUDREA REASE 3Star Star-C
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Wednesday, April 7, 2021  
 9:30 am - 11:15 am

Free registration at  
[AtlantaRegionalHousingForum.org](https://AtlantaRegionalHousingForum.org)  
 Tune in, watch live, and share questions on Facebook, YouTube or Twitter.

 **Atlanta Regional Housing Forum**

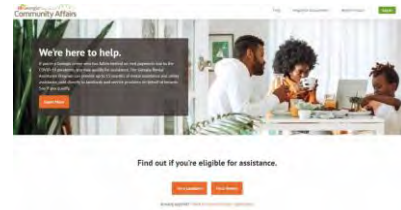
In February, the U.S. Department of Treasury began implementing The Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) program, \$25 billion to assist households that are unable to pay rent and utilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The funds are provided directly to States.

Georgia’s allocation is \$710 million - \$552 million directly to the state to disperse in all counties and \$158 million to twelve jurisdictions with a population greater than 200,000.

Those **seeking funds must meet Federally mandated eligibility requirements.** An “eligible household” is defined as a renter household in which at least one or more individuals meets the following criteria:

- Qualifies for unemployment or has experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs, or experienced a financial hardship due to COVID 19;
- Demonstrates a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability; and
- Has a household income at or below 80 percent of the area median.

The Department of Community Affairs (DCA), the **state's agency** dedicated to housing programs, will administer its funds through its online portal <https://georgiarentalassistance.ga.gov>.



Jurisdictions receiving direct allocations represent a mixed bag of deployment approaches and timelines. DeKalb County has already launched and expended its funds. Fulton County launched on March 1. The City of Atlanta, Gwinnett County, Cherokee County, and others anticipate launching their programs in April.

While the Federal regulations allow the funds to be used for rent, rent arrears, utilities, and utility arrears, each jurisdiction can set its amount of support.

How much support can be provided to each household? How far back can the funds be applied? What happens when funds are expended in jurisdictions receiving direct allocations?

As with any Federal program of this magnitude, there are always gaps in coverage identified during the process. How will these programs engage landlords, local nonprofits, and the courts to address operational efficiencies and identified gaps?

An additional \$25 billion is earmarked for rental assistance in the proposed recovery plan currently working its way through Congress. Will these combined funds create much-needed housing stability as the nation recovers from the crisis? And what role will the private sector and philanthropy continue to play in recovery efforts?

Join us on April 7 as we discuss these significant developments with officials from Georgia DCA, landlords, local nonprofit organizations, and more.

Presenters and additional details to be announced soon!

[REGISTER NOW](#)

# Salesforce PATHFINDER

Training the next generation of Trailblazers.

## WHAT IS PATHFINDER?

Salesforce's Pathfinder Training Program is a workforce development initiative designed to train individuals with the technical and business skills to pursue a career in the Salesforce ecosystem. Pathfinder is a free, virtual, and part-time program over the course of 20 weeks.



### Interested in becoming a Pathfinder and learning sought-after Salesforce skills?

- ✓ Are you eligible to work in the US or UK?
- ✓ Are you new to Salesforce technology (no previous work experience in Salesforce nor certifications)?
- ✓ Are you looking to jumpstart a career using Salesforce products?
- ✓ Do you like solving problems and thinking outside the box?
- ✓ Can you dedicate 8-10 hours per week to learn new technical and business skills?
- ✓ Will you be looking for employment at the end of the 6-month program?

If you answered **“yes!”** to the above – apply to Pathfinder today!

We strongly encourage military veterans and spouses along with individuals with nontraditional backgrounds to apply

### What are the benefits?

Pathfinder participants not only receive free training for Salesforce certifications, but also become part of our community, with mentorship, instructional coaching, and individualized support as they pursue careers in the Salesforce ecosystem.



### Are there any prerequisites to apply?

Individuals with experience in technology coursework (database administration, software development, etc) are especially encouraged. *If students are interested in pursuing Salesforce Developer certifications, proficiency in object-oriented languages is required.*



Deloitte.



"As a non-traditional student, the Pathfinder Program opened up a world of possibilities. Before joining the program, I was a stay at home dad and full-time student. Now, I am certified and working in the ecosystem full-time.

Without question, joining the Pathfinder Program is the best career move I've ever made."

**-GEORGE**

Pathfinder graduate

**New Job** - Associate Application Developer, Deloitte **Previous**

**Occupation:** Stay-at-home dad, freelance graphic designer

**Salesforce Certifications:** Administrator





“My experience in the Pathfinder program was life-changing.

Less than a month after completing Pathfinder, I landed my dream role as a Project Manager delivering Salesforce solutions to valued clients daily!”

**-NIA**

Pathfinder graduate

**New Job** - Salesforce Project Manager, Appirio

**Previous Occupation:** Business Operations Manager

**Salesforce Certifications:** Administrator, Community Cloud Consultant



# CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS EXTERIOR OWNER-OCCUPIED REHAB PROGRAM

Atlanta Housing, Invest Atlanta and the City of Atlanta have launched a deferred forgivable loan program that provides up to \$70,000 in federal funds to eligible Ashview Heights and Atlanta University Center homeowners for exterior health and safety repairs on their home. Funds will be provided in the form of a forgivable loan at a 0% interest rate with payments deferred and forgiven until the earlier of loan maturity, sale, transfer of ownership, or failure to maintain the property as the primary residence during the loan term.

**The maximum loan amount per home is \$70,000, inclusive of all construction related costs and closing costs. Loan term will be determined by loan amount, not to exceed 10 years.**

## **ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES**

- Homeowner must reside within the Choice Neighborhoods of Ashview Heights or Atlanta University Center.
- Must be a primary homeowner and existing resident as of September 30, 2015.
- Homeowners with 1st Mortgage Liens are permitted. Second mortgages from Habitat for Humanity on a Habitat home, and Invest Atlanta will be treated as one mortgage for purposes of this program. Homes with other liens (tax liens, recorded Fi Fas, etc. are ineligible. Homes with water liens must have a payment arrangement to be eligible).

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO APPLY**

Contact the Choice Neighborhoods Exterior Owner-Occupied Rehab Program Manager  
*Meals On Wheels Atlanta at [info@mowatl.org](mailto:info@mowatl.org) or 404-351-3889*





# KEEPING STUDENTS CONNECTED

Eligible schools and nonprofits,  
apply now for hotspots and  
free internet service.

Apply by January 11, 2021



**LEARN MORE >>** [go.att.com/ConnectedLearning](https://go.att.com/ConnectedLearning)

**APPLY HERE >>** <https://att.connectednation.org/s3/connectedlearning>



**Home on the Westside is our  
Community Retention initiative.**

LEGACY HOMEOWNERS | RENTAL HOUSING | HOMEOWNERSHIP | FINANCING SUPPORT



LEARN MORE AT THE FOLLOWING LINK >>

<https://www.westsidefuturefund.org/homeonthewestside/>



WATCH EPISODE 6

# Building the Beloved Community - Two Trailblazing Women Discuss What It Will Take

**The Beloved Benefit Conversation Series is a new virtual experience created to help us meet the extraordinary challenges of today.**

*Season 1 features six, 30-minute episodes of national leaders in a candid conversation on race, economic mobility, and the building of Dr. King's beloved community. Through this series, we hope to spark more than awareness: We want to ignite real-world impact and inspire deeper community connection.*

**Join us as we create a way forward, together.**



Episode 6

ROSALIND G. BREWER & SUSAN L. TAYLOR

Season Two  
Launching in 2021

WATCH NOW

## **IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...**

[WESTSIDE FUTURE FUND'S 2019 ANNUAL REPORT IS NOW ONLINE](#)





**Bringing Goodwill to the Southside:**

## **New Store & Career Center Coming to Metropolitan Parkway**

Located at 2160 Metropolitan Parkway, our new store and career center will bring jobs and skills training to the local community. To start, this project is generating 30-40 new construction jobs for local residents. When we open, we will create an additional 50 jobs in the store, as well as in the career center.

Our focus will continue to be on not just helping our neighbors to find work, but helping them move into successful careers. All of our career centers provide free access to job search resources like computers, résumé writing tools, job listings, employment seminars, software training and more.

### **Great finds at great prices.**

Our new store is bringing great deals to your community. From clothing to accessories, housewares, and shoes; shopping at Goodwill will save you money and help your neighbors find jobs.



### **Job training for the future.**

Goodwill offers a number of skills training programs to prepare residents for careers in fields like technology, healthcare, construction, logistics and more.



**Donate. Shop. Support Job Seekers. *That's #Goodwilling.***



### **Be the first to know.**

Visit [goodwillng.org/metro](https://goodwillng.org/metro) and sign up to receive updates on job opportunities, hiring events, construction updates and more at our new location.



# Job Flash Report

If interested, please call the front desk at **404-853-1780** or visit **[integritycdc.org](http://integritycdc.org)**, go to "Programs," and click "Community Job Connection." When you fill out your application, make sure to click "direct employment."

- Drivers
  - \$12 - \$15 hourly (depends on experience)
  - Experience required / DOT-CDL
- Painters
  - \$13 hourly
  - No experience/experienced positions available
- Admin/Clerical
  - \$12 - \$17 hourly (depends on experience)
  - No experience/experienced positions available
- Security Guards
  - \$10 - \$13 hourly (depends on experience)
  - No experience/experienced positions available
- Food Service
  - \$10 - \$15 hourly (depends on experience)
  - No experience/experienced positions available
- Cooks
  - \$10 - \$14 hourly (depends on experience)
  - No experience/experienced positions available
- Movers/Helpers
  - \$10 - \$12 hourly
  - No experience/experienced positions available

The Community Job Connection is an initiative of Integrity Transformations Community Development Corporation to link members of the community to job resources.

Social Distancing protocols will be in place to keep us safe.  
Masks and Hand Sanitizer will be provided.

# COMMUNITY ART DAY

Wednesday, April 7, 2021  
12pm-4pm

Kathryn Johnston Memorial Park



870 Proctor St NW  
Atlanta, GA 30314



We invite you to  
come paint with  
our Artist  
SydPeace as we  
complete the  
Kathryn Johnston  
Memorial Mural!  
Bring your family  
and friends!

Drinks and Snacks included!

For more information, contact artist, SydPeace 404-445-1457

## ***The American Rescue Plan***

The COVID-19 pandemic and the corresponding economic crisis have undermined the health and economic wellbeing of American workers. Millions of Americans, many of whom are people of color, immigrants, and low-wage workers, continue to put their lives on the line every day to keep the country functioning through the pandemic. And more than 9.5 million workers have lost their jobs in the wake of COVID-19, with 4 million out of work for half a year or longer. Without additional government assistance, the economic and public health crises could drag on and our national vaccination program will be hobbled at a critical moment.

The American Rescue Plan will change the course of the pandemic and deliver immediate relief for American workers. The plan will build a bridge to an equitable economic recovery and immediately [reduce child poverty](#). In fact, a Columbia University study found that passing the plan will lift more than 5 million children out of poverty this year, cutting the poverty rate by 50%. The bill is one of the most progressive pieces of legislation in history, with more than two thirds of its tax cuts and direct payments going to families making less than \$90,000 per year. It will:

**Mount a national vaccination program, contain COVID-19, and safely reopen schools.** American workers should not have to lie awake at night wondering if they'll make it home from work safely the next day, or if they'll bring home the virus to their loved ones and communities. President Biden has a comprehensive plan to address the pandemic that will:

- Invest about \$160 billion to provide the supplies, emergency response, testing, and public health workforce to stop the spread of COVID-19, while distributing vaccines as quickly as possible and addressing racial disparities in COVID-19 outcomes. These emergency measures will help combat the heavy toll this virus is exacting, and will deliver community-based and culturally competent care.
- Provide \$130 billion to help schools serve all students, no matter where they are learning, and help achieve President Biden's goal to safely open the majority of K-8 schools within the first 100 days of his Administration. These investments include set asides at the local and state level to ensure states and districts address the learning loss and social and emotional needs of students disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, including students of color, English learners, and students with disabilities.

**Deliver immediate relief to American families bearing the brunt of this crisis.** The American Rescue Plan devotes about \$1 trillion towards building a bridge to economic recovery for working families. All told, a single parent with one young child making the minimum wage could see her income increase from the equivalent of \$7.25 to around \$11 per hour. The plan will:

- **Give working families a \$1,400 per-person check**, bringing their total relief payment from this and the December down payment to \$2,000. More than 85% of households will receive a check and checks in this bill are bigger than the checks in the CARES Act or in the December bill. And, for the first time, adult dependents are entitled to a check as well. This means a lower or middle-income family of four will see an additional \$5,600 in their pockets.
- **Extend current unemployment insurance benefits and eligibility to September 6 (saving 11 million Americans from losing benefits starting in about a week)**, provide a \$300 per week supplement, and help protect Americans from surprise tax bills on unemployment insurance they received last year.

- **Help Americans stay in their homes** by providing emergency aid to cover back rent. In addition, the bill provides assistance to help struggling homeowners catch up with their mortgage payments and utility costs through the Homeowners Assistance Fund. And, it provides additional funding for families and individuals who are recovering from or at risk of homelessness.
- **Increase the value of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits**. The American Rescue Plan will increase SNAP benefits by 15 percent through September 2021. The bill also funds partnerships with restaurants to feed American families and keep workers in the restaurant industry on the job. And, it provides U.S. territories like Puerto Rico additional nutrition assistance funding, in addition to funding to make sure women, infants and children get the food they need to help address food insecurity.
- **Increase the Child Tax Credit** from \$2,000 per child to \$3,000 per child (\$3,600 for a child under age 6) and make 17-year-olds qualifying children for the year. This means a typical family of four with two young children will receive an additional \$3,200 in assistance to help cover costs associated with raising children. The families of more than 66 million kids will benefit.
- **Increase the Earned Income Tax Credit** for 17 million workers by as much as \$1,000. The top occupations that will benefit are cashiers, food preparers and servers, and home health aides – frontline workers who have helped their communities get through the crisis.
- **Expand child care assistance**, help hard-hit child care providers cover their costs, and increase tax credits to help cover the cost of childcare. This is the single biggest investment in child care since World War II.
- **Give families an additional tax credit to help cut child care costs**. Families will get back as a refundable tax credit as much as half of their spending on child care for children under age 13, so that they can receive a total of up to \$4,000 for one child or \$8,000 for two or more children.
- Provide an additional \$1 billion for states to cover the additional cash assistance that **Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)** recipients needed as a result of the crisis.
- **Lower or eliminate health insurance premiums for millions of lower- and middle-income families enrolled in health insurance marketplaces**. A family of four making \$90,000 could see their monthly premium come down by \$200 per month. This will help well over a million uninsured Americans gain coverage. The plan also subsidizes premiums for continuation health coverage (COBRA).

**Support communities that are struggling in the wake of COVID-19.** Millions of American workers reside in communities that suffered disproportionately in recent months. The Plan provides critical support to these communities. It will:

- Provide emergency grants, lending, and investment to hard-hit small businesses so they can rehire and retain workers and purchase the health and sanitation equipment they need to keep workers safe. This includes a Small Business Opportunity Fund to provide growth capital to main street small businesses in economically disadvantaged areas, including minority-owned businesses.
- Distribute more than \$360 billion in emergency funding for state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to ensure that they are in a position to keep front line public workers on the job and paid, while also effectively distributing the vaccine, scaling testing, reopening schools, and maintaining other vital services. State and local employment has fallen by around 1.4 million jobs since the pandemic began including layoffs of 1 million educators, compared to around 750,000 job losses during the Great Recession.
- Help hard-hit public transit agencies avoid layoffs and service reductions, which disproportionately harm workers who are more likely to be dependent on public transportation.

# VIEWPOINT: Fulfilling our vision of the beloved community

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

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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 strives 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:



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