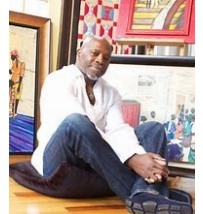
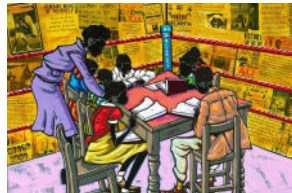
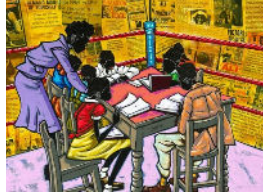
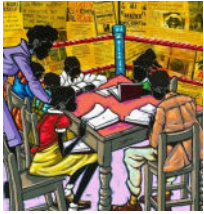


# Historic Westside News

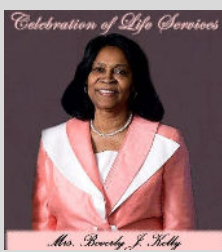


August/ September 2018

*"Linking Neighbors and Celebrating Diversity"*

Issue Ten

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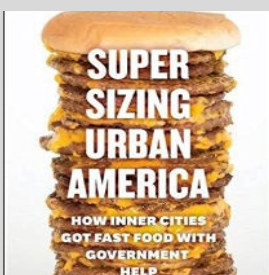
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## A National Night Out Project 365

PARTNERSHIP COMMITS TO TRANSFORMING  
BRAWLEY/ALEXANDER BUSINESS DISTRICT IN ENGLISH AVENUE



By Mammie Moore

A National Night Out Project 365 Campaign consisting of private and public Partners was launched on Tuesday, August 7, 2018 in a National Night Out event of food, music and education at 491 James P. Brawley Dr. NW 30318 Atlanta. The Project 365 Partners will spend 365 days sponsoring events and activities which will assist in implementation of redevelopment plans outlined in the Westside Land Use Framework Plan for the James P. Brawley Dr. NW and Cameron Alexander Blvd. NW Business District of English Avenue. The business corridor of James P. Brawley Dr. NW and Cameron M. Alexander Blvd is part of one of the four (4) neighborhoods targeted for redevelopment by the Westside Land Use Framework Plan, adopted by Atlanta City Council in December, 2017.

The National Night Out Project 365 was introduced in 1994 as a targeting component of the National Night Out program that helps communities identify a project area and then work to resolve specific problems of the area over the next 365 days.

The Brawley/Alexander Project 365 Campaign will end on Tuesday, August 6, 2019. Current committed Partner activities/events highlights include Resident/business owners neighborhood watch program, Westside Market and the opening of Cameron Alexander Boulevard police family and residents housing

complex. Additionally the Commission of a Youth Mural at 740 Cameron Alexander Boulevard.

An Rally for Prevention and Recovery is planned for September 29th, 12-7pm. Other identified activities planned include African Drumming and Dance, Diabetes Prevention: Exercise Programs and Legal Clinics.

The Project 365 Partners, brought together by The Beloved Community, Inc. include: Atlanta Police Dept. Zone 1 and COPS unit; U.S. Attorney General's Office-Northern GA District; Street Smart Youth Project, Atlanta Police Foundation, Atlanta Dept. of City Planning, Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers' Foundation, Good Samaritan Health Center, Historic Westside Gardens and Proposition Tacos. New organizations/individuals considering partnership as a result of the August 7 event include: Walking Through the Vine, Jamie and Kari McCloud, fitness trainers, and Purpose's Loving Hands Community Project.

Each Partner has committed to carry out two (2) or three (3) activities/events in the Brawley/Alexander business district during the 365 day period.. In keeping with its mission the Westside Future Fund is a Partner collaborating in this transformational change through providing administrative and technical support. Tim Keane, Commissioner, City Dept of Planning is coordinating a City Planning team that is bringing together all needed City Departments and MARTA, to address the Community Framework Plan, physical health and safety needs of the business district (streets, curbs, bus stop covers, arts and culture, etc.).

The Beloved Community, Inc. a nonprofit committed to building healthy, sustainable communities, will serve as the Partnership Coordinator, providing support, encouragement, assistance and community education/engagement to complete all activities.

National Night Out Project 365 partnership is open to all interested individuals and organizations who want to commit to carrying out street events or events inside Historic St. Marks. The Beloved Community, Inc. will continue to seek Partners until March 1, 2019.

**To become a partner or receive more information contact Mother Mamie Moore, 404-438-7382, [belovedcommunityinc@gmail.com](mailto:belovedcommunityinc@gmail.com)**



## Publisher's Corner

BUILDING THE BELOVED COMMUNITY

### "THE FIGHTING SPIRIT" ATLANTA ARTIST LEROY CAMPBELL



By Makeda Johnson

Early one Monday morning, Rev. Dr. Deborah Grant the pastor of Vine City Cosmopolitan AME Church sent me a text message containing a thought provoking image. As, I embraced the imagery I recalled that it reminded me of productive struggle and resiliency. So moved I sort to identify the artist. Who was the creator of this amazing art filled with ancestral energy that was soul so deep. Recalling the spirit of resiliency woven in fabric of the stories of Historic African American communities nationally, and right here right now on the Historic Westside.

In my excitement I discovered that the artist was Leroy Campbell an Atlanta based artist and owner of Leroy Campbell Art Gallery and Studio, located in College Park, Georgia. It appeared that everyone knew him, my daughter had meet him . Wow I really need to get out more often. We all do ! Let us all support this gifted artist and visit his gallery and website [www.leroycampbelart.com](http://www.leroycampbelart.com) to learn more

about him, take an art class. His work will be a source of renewal for those engaged in the productive struggle required to build an inclusive Beloved Community.

Leroy Campbell dedicated the art shared on the cover of this edition to Muhammad Ali and named it the "Fighting Spirit series" On his website he stated the following about **THE FIGHTING SPIRIT**:

"He embodied the long line of fighting spirits we have as a people. Our spirit defines us. Ideology, family, political affiliations, or race does not have a right to disrupt or bring disharmony to it. The threatening of your God-given spirit must be removed. The spirit itself fights for that right. Our fighting spirit is ancestral. It is in our DNA. We are unafraid, determined to be our authentic self, unapologetically black and committed to the salvation of ourselves. It is in our natural spirit to be willing and ready to contribute to the greater good of humanity. Our souls are interconnected, and we feel each other's pain whether we ignore it or not. This is why we have to fight this battle together. When we combine our spiritual powers, only then will God's force help us. Until then, the fight continues..." [www.leroycampbelart.com](http://www.leroycampbelart.com)

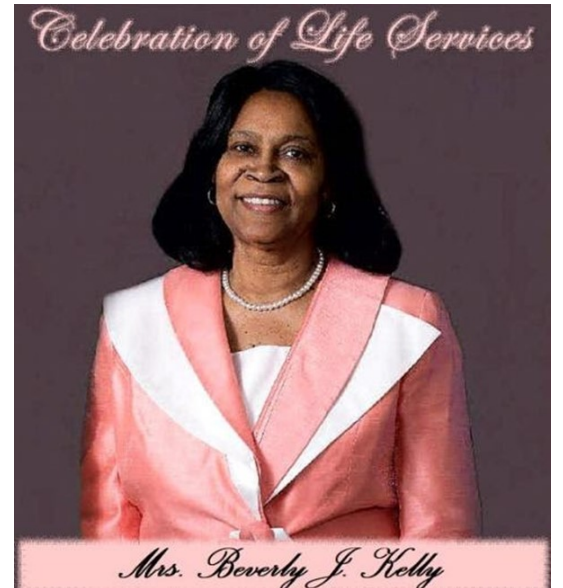
Visit and support

#### **Leroy Campbell Art Gallery and Studio**

3527 Roosevelt Hwy, College Park, GA 30349  
Phone: (404) 490-0779



Makeda Johnson is a resident of Vine City and founding member of HWN publishing Team.



On July 5 , 2018 Neighborhood Union Health Center (NUHC) Nursing Supervisor Mrs. Beverly J Kelly completed her earthly journey. We celebrate her life and legacy of service as a valued and loved member of our community.

Mrs. Kelly was an dedicated Public Health professional and advocate for the reduction of health disparities. Ms. Kelly served the residents of Fulton County for more than 36 years. She innovatively lead the Fulton County Board of Health Infant Vitality Initiative Program where she encouraged collaborative relationships between Healthcare Professionals and the communities they serve. Mrs. Kelly often hosted baby showers for expectant mothers to encourage them as they learned the importance of prenatal care and parenting skills, attended community meetings to ensure that the community was well informed about the resources available for the reduction of health disparities. Most recently, Mrs. Kelly served as the nurse supervisor of both the NUHC and the Center for Health & Rehabilitation.

Mrs. Kelly championed the establishment of NUHC, Community Health Advisory Board. It was under her leadership that NUHC Community Advisory Board and Historic Westside residents worked in collaboration to secure funding from The City of Atlanta Westside Neighborhood Tax Allocation District Fund for the renovation of NUHC, Atlanta's first Public Health Center to service African American .

In 2005 NUHC make history again as the Atlanta's first integrated public health center. Providing an holistic approach to wellness with the support of a 3 million investment from the Westside Community TAD Fund. Where, in addition to the Department of Health and Wellness services, the center provided mental health, substance abuse counseling, workforce development and primary care services.

We will miss her and carry on her vision of integrated healthcare for the prevention of health disparities through innovation and prevention. Mrs. Kelly understood the power of prayer and that it changes things. She provided kindness, motivation and direction to this writer, whom she inspired and will ever recall her elegant leadership style, gentle firmness that moved mountains. Rest in Peace for your journey was well done you served humanity well.

## Support Team and Volunteers

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#### Copy Editor Terica Black Bashir

#### Assistant Editor Abria Hazel

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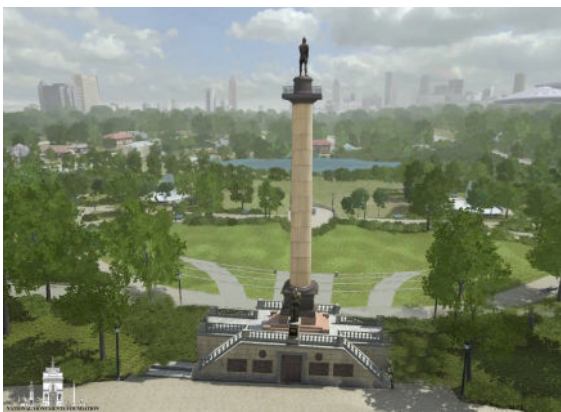


## Dr. CT Vivian Library of Black Literature

Will be Housed in The Rodney Cook Sr. Park in Historic Vine City



*Dr. Vivian is a Former Vine City Resident and Civil Rights Icon donated his extensive library of Black literature to the National Monument Foundation. The library will be housed in The Rodney Cook Sr. Park in Historic Vine City in the 101-foot Peace Column.*



Excerpts from C T Vivian's interview  
edited by Ann Louisa Brewton

**NMF: We know you believe strongly in supporting education and expanding nationwide awareness of African American art & culture through books. We're really excited to hear about your plans for a library located in Rodney Cook Sr. Park. Can you tell us a little bit about why you wanted to be a part of this project?**

**CTV:** Here's the thing. My wife is just as important to the movement as I was. But nobody knows that. You understand that? Every guy in the movement that was about anything, their wives made them and the situation, just as much as they did. In fact, my wife is smarter than I am, but now that wouldn't be difficult for you to understand [laughs]. But nobody knows that, and they think of me as this or that or the other. But I know: I go home, my wife is just as bright as I am. She wrote a book on Coretta [King], for example. We all love books, at my house. Now as a result of that, we had bought some land over by the university, not on campus, but nearby. There's a lot of black literature at the university. Now I laid out the idea [for the library], but when the wife got through with it, it was much more than I had thought about. The idea is simple: there's no one place in the United States where all the books written by black people exist.

**NMF: You'd think there would be something like that already!**

**CTV:** You would think so, but very few cities in the country cared that much about what black people thought outside of Harlem. Everything was in Harlem, because it was backed by the city. New York City loves culture, period. Doesn't matter if you're black, white, yellow, pink, or polka dotted. The only thing that's relevant is "Are you good?" Let me give you an example. The best poet that we've had, or at least the most popular, Langston Hughes, used to teach high school in Chicago. He couldn't find a job, so he taught in high school. Now, that wasn't true of just him, but a number of other intellectuals. You had to figure out all kinds of workarounds.

**NMF: So your objective for a library filled with African American works is to make this knowledge more publicly available?**

**CTV:** That's precisely right. You see, in my day, we didn't have libraries. For instance, in my hometown, McComb, Illinois, I was the only one allowed in the stacks, because somebody liked me. We had to wait on being liked. So I used to sit up there in the windows—they had these big beautiful windows. You know a multimillionaire, Carnegie, I think, went across the country building libraries. So, we had a beautiful library in our little town, right, and with these incredible big windows. And when I would go back there, because they'd let me back there, I would always sit up in the window. And one day, when I was putting away the book I had, I looked up and saw *The Story of American Negro Poetry*. Poetry. A book? Filled with poetry by black people? I took it down because I could check it out, and nobody, nobody had checked it out even, right? I mean, black people were the most likely to check it out.

**NMF: But they couldn't check it out, because they weren't allowed in the stacks.**

**CTV:** That's the point! They didn't even know it existed. So I take it home. You know how much impression that made on me? Here's a story that'll help explain. We used to slick our hair back, right? The whole thing was to imitate white folks, because if you didn't, you weren't going to be accepted.

**NMF: And you needed to be "liked" to get**

**to do things, like read in the library.**

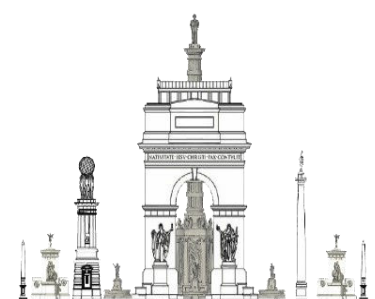
**CTV:** Precisely right! Every piece of life was, [like that] right? But I didn't realize how much of an impact it [the poetry] had until a year and a half later. I realized I was not using Murray's, which was the big name in the kind of hair stuff back then. I wasn't using Murray's, nor did I have to! That's the important thing. You get my point? I didn't have to imitate anybody anymore, because of reading that poetry, *The Story of American Negro Poetry* by James Wilton Johnson. And when I started collecting, that's one of the first books I got. Put it right on the edge of the bookcase, the one right behind me, so I could just pull it out. That's what it did for the human spirit, just to have one book that gave me a look at about 50 poets.

**NMF: Absolutely. Books, poetry, literature—all that can teach someone so much about culture that they simply didn't know existed. In your opinion, what has been the biggest barrier in your mission to make access to these works more widely available?**

**CTV:** Remember I told you my wife and I are collectors. Everywhere we went we'd go to the local bookstores, whether we were up in the mountains or in LA, as we usually call ahead when we're there, because you don't want to drive clear cross LA looking for a book. So, you call. And in this instance, they said they had excellent books by black people. One in particular. Well, the one he told me about on the phone I had, but it was a rare book, a first edition. And so, I said to myself, "Man I'm going over here and see what else they have, if they have that." The owner said he had a lot of other black books. I found out that's the only one he can show me. Just one by a black author. I said to him, "Is that all you have?" And he said "Yeah". And then I said, "Well I have about 3,000," because at the time, that's all I had. He said, "Oh no no no no. There aren't that many black people that can write."

**NMF: This was 10 years ago? That's it? That's hard to believe, and a shame. You'd think people would be more aware.**

**CTV:** You make me so happy. In fact, I was in Charlotte, NC at North Carolina State, and one of the black women poets was there too. I finished my part, and I ran over to hear her and the place was jammed. And just to think 40 years ago not a student in that university could have heard a black poet. It shows though how far we've come. But practically all of it came as a result of the Movement. See what I mean? And that [change] has to be seen.



NATIONAL MONUMENTS FOUNDATION



# Legacy Keeper: Dorothy Bolden

By Nylah Jones

Vine City resident Dorothy Lee Bolden spoke up for the rights of the common person. She founded the National Domestic Workers Union in 1968 and was an adviser to Presidents Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter.

Dorothy Lee Bolden was born on October 13, 1923 in Atlanta, Georgia. Bolden was born to Georgia Mae Patterson Bolden and Raymond Bolden. Ms. Bolden's parents were a chauffeur and a housekeeper. Early education was difficult for Bolden due to poor eyesight. After a fall that damaged her optic nerve at the age of three, she didn't regain her vision until the age of nine. She started working at the age of nine as a domestic worker and would continue in this work for forty-nine years.

Bolden went to E. P. Johnson Elementary School and then David T. Howard High School. However, she only attended ninth grade and then had to stop because she needed to financially support herself. As a young woman, she traveled to Chicago to go to a school to become a dress designers, but her poor eyesight hindered her education.

During World War II, Bolden also worked at Sears and the National Linen Service, where she recognized the early efforts for unionization and labor rights. Already active in the civil rights movement with her neighbor the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., Ms. Bolden stopped him one day when she was waiting on a bus. Someone, she told him, should be concerned about the plight of domestic workers, toiling 12 hours a day and making about \$35 a week..

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., encouraged her in her organizing efforts. In 1964, when the Atlanta School Board decided to move the eighth grade out of her community to a condemned school building, she organized a boycott and protest, demanding equal and quality education. As a result of these efforts, the board built a modern school in her neighborhood.

Bolden became an activist well before the re-emergence of the civil rights movement in the 1960s. In the late 1940s, Bolden refused a request from her boss, a white woman, to stay late and wash the dishes. Her boss alerted local police, who responded by taking her to a county jail for a psychiatric evaluation.

In an oral history interview from 1995, Bolden recalled the seriousness of the incident. "They told me I was crazy because I had talked back to a white woman, and called in some psychiatrists to prove it," said Bolden. "A white woman's word was gospel, and two psychiatrists actually thought I was crazy... This was the way you got locked up... This was



the system." With the help of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Bolden was able to build relationships with families all over Atlanta. Women were able to open up to Bolden about their experiences as domestic workers.

Life for domestic workers was very challenging. During the 1960s, domestic workers endured 13 hour workdays and received as little as \$3.50. However, in 1968, Bolden started discussions with other unions about beginning to organize a national union for domestic workers.

The union helped improve the wages and working conditions of domestic workers in Atlanta and served as an example for other domestic workers all across the country. Bolden eventually gathered 13,000 women from ten different cities, benefiting from job referrals and organizations.

The union helped to increase wages and working conditions for domestic workers. Also members were taught how to work out problems with their employers. Bolden became an icon in Atlanta due to all the help that she gave to domestic workers. Under her leadership, the National Domestic Worker's Union fundamentally influenced the treatment of domestic workers. Bolden was central to actions that increased Atlanta wages by 33% over two years and won workers' compensation and Social Security rights for all domestic workers.

Bolden was also responsible for registering thousands of African Americans to vote. Her work improved the living conditions of many residents throughout Atlanta. Bolden's efforts gained the attention of the Nixon Administration and she was appointed to an advisory committee on social services and welfare.

"I don't want to be out here pushing for you and you not registered to vote," she said.

"We aren't Aunt Jemima women, and I sure to God don't want people to think we are. We are politically strong and independent."

Ms. Bolden brought that strength to bear to defeat the first referendum to fund MARTA in 1968, because black people weren't included in the planning.

"We defeated it because they had nothing for us," she said in 2001 AJC article. "When you keep including us out, we don't need it."

Three years later, after the planning involved black people, she used her influence to support the MARTA referendum, and it passed.

Her activities include:

Founder and President of National Domestic Workers Union of America (1968)

Vice President of Vine City NDP Housing (1967)

Vice President of Black Women's Coalition of Atlanta (1973)

Member of Fulton County Democratic Party

Member of the Executive Board of State Democratic Party and Board of Governor

Member of the Board of Directors of WIGO Radio Station

Member of the Governor of Georgia Commission on the Statuses of Women

Member of the Advisory team for the Legal Aid Council

Member of OIC. Board of Directors

Member of Board of Directors of Legal Aid and the Executive Board of Atlanta, Ga.

Member of Vine City Baptist Church

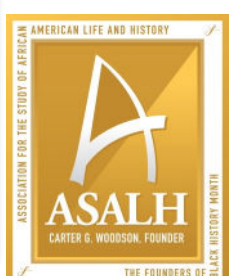
Former member of the NAACP, Atlanta Chapter

Former member of Economic Opportunity Atlanta, Incl. (CSA)

Dorothy Bolden died in Atlanta on July 14, 2005., Ms Bolden statue will be placed in Rodney Cook Sr. Park in Historic Vine City.

*Nylah Jones is a resident of Vine City and a Junior at Shiloh Highschool.*

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# Democracy – the Right Balance of Capitalism & Socialism

By Reginald D. Maisonneuve

Capitalism does not equal democracy.

Unhinged, it can undermine it. Nor is capitalism fascism. Socialism does not equal democracy.

Unhinged, it can undermine it. Nor is socialism communism.

Capitalism and socialism are economic systems. Democracy is a political system. It's an important distinction. Fascism and communism have both proven to be failed and evil systems ... the kind that bring out the worst in society and humanity. That's not to say that capitalism and socialism can't also bring out the worst in us and among us. There are many examples of that in our society today and historically. Too much of anything leads to bad results.

Patriotism is not a choice of economic systems, it is a commitment to those principles and actions that have made America great and are necessary to keep it so: a land of justice and opportunity for all.

We all want a great America, but we better be very clear on what a "great America" means. It certainly begins with democracy. Our economic system determines how well that democracy functions.

A thriving democracy and a great America depend on the proper balance of capitalism and socialism – the economic yin and yang of democracy. Capitalism works to promote innovation, production efficiencies, and wealth. Socialism works to ensure the needs of a population and those within it are met and that we all have the opportunity, foundation and personal responsibility to reach our potential. We need to respect the dignity of the individual, enable them, while holding them accountable for being responsible citizens.

There are many examples in history of ideologies and bad actors using democracy to undermine democracy. We have to be watchful of policies that do so, among them:

Citizens United – effectively turning "one man, one vote" into "one dollar, one vote." Should the loudest voices carry more weight than the softest? The dismantling of the EPA, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and Depts. of Education and Energy – these

provide the means to keep economic excesses in check, protect the interests of the individual and society as a whole and promote responsible industry. Gutting them is not the answer.

Tax plans and regulations that massively shift wealth to the few – massive economic inequality is a clear sign of a democracy in trouble. A fair distribution of economic power is essential to a strong democracy.

Gerrymandering – suppressing the vote of those who need to be heard is an affront to democracy.

The siege of the Affordable Care Act – the health of a population is a determinant of a productive society. What more fundamental need is there to ensure a productive society and a vibrant democracy than a healthy people? Let's find the right means to provide it, not eliminate it.

These all undermine the ability of a people to get ahead and to have an effective voice, to ensure that democracy is working in our collective interest. They unbalance democracy. A democracy also requires the predominance of men and women of character, integrity and ability, in government, in business, in academia and in every community, who are committed to civil society, democratic values and the dignity of the individual. We are rich with them.

**Make sure your and their voices are heard. Vote.**

### Georgia Voter Identification Requirements

**Georgia law requires:**  
When you vote in person, you need a photo ID.

Bring one of these six forms of identification to Vote!

- 1 A Georgia driver's license, even if expired
- 2 A valid state or federal government issued photo ID, including one issued by the Department of Driver Services or your county registrar's office
- 3 Valid U.S. passport
- 4 Valid employee photo ID from any branch, department, agency, or entity of the U.S. Government, Georgia, or any county, municipality, board, authority, or other entity of this state
- 5 Valid U.S. military photo ID
- 6 Valid tribal photo ID

If you do not have one of these acceptable forms of ID, a Georgia Voter Identification Card is available **FREE** of charge in your county registrar's office or at any Department of Driver Services Office.

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## Say Her Name: Nia Wilson



**By Malika Saramaat Imhotep**

On Sunday July 22nd 2018, Nia Wilson and her sister Lahtifa Wilson were joyfully returning from a family gathering when they were brutally attacked by a middle-aged white man as they waited for a train at the MacArthur BART Station in Oakland, California. Without any provocation, the assailant, John Lee Cowell, blindsided the two young black women by taking a knife to their necks, strategically aimed at their jugular veins. Nia Wilson, 18, did not survive the attack. Her sister Lahtifa, who was wounded during the attack appeared on the news the next day. With tearful eyes and a bandaged neck, Lahtifa recounted her last moments with her sister, comforting her with the assurance that "...we will get through this. I got you".

Watching all of this as a young black woman getting acclimated to the contours of urban life in the Bay Area, it shook me too my core.

There was no way to look at the images of Nia Wilson and not see her as one of my own. The tragedy of her killing was a stark reminder of the precarity that befalls the lives of black women in our cities, the racial toxicity that is increasingly sweeping across our nation revealing it's ugliness and unjustly cutting short too many black lives. The evening after the attack it was said that a group of white nationalist, gathered under the moniker "The Proud Boys," would be convening in downtown Oakland. The vigil for Nia Wilson was held that same night and it turned into a march, a public street take over in Nia's honor, that would effectively drive out the "The Proud Boys" hate.

In typical fashion news outlets have been reluctant to call this attack an racially motivated "hate crime"



as if they are waiting for a white nationalist organization to claim the atrocity in order to assuage the feeling that every non-descript white male is a would-be terrorist. This hesitance illuminates a national need for a reality check, the fact of the matter is that all acts of violence perpetrated by white folks against black folks are racially motivated, racially enacted, and racially supported. Proof of this can be found in the way Cowell was calmly arrested on Monday while riding on a different BART train. His privilege, his white maleness, warranted the public transit police to treat

him, a murder, with more civility than show towards even the most benign turnstyle-hoppers. (One can't help but grimace at this display of civility in the wake of Oscar Grant's murder by a BART officer in 2009)

Nia Wilson was full of so much light and so many dreams; she was a rapper, a dancer, a make-up artist, an aspiring attorney, a daughter, a sister, a friend. Her sister's inability to protect her from the sudden onslaught of white supremacist violence shows no weakness or failure on her part, but highlights the fallacy of "safety" for marginalized people in a world run by white fear. I don't have to know that Cowell set out that morning to kill a black woman, to understand that what he saw in Nia and Lahtifa was systemic vulnerability.

Awareness of this vulnerability leads to high rates of anxiety, depression, PTSD and plethora of stress related illnesses in the bodies of black women. These ailments are weathering away at our immune systems, impeding our bodies' abilities heal. We are dying.

In honor of Nia and Lahtifa, let us recommit to the work of self-defense, of vigilance. In these times it is imperative we protect ourselves and each other to the best of our ability. In order to defend each other we must see each other, we must not let fear govern our capacity to be in community. If you see a black woman or a black child being attacked in any way, shape, form or fashion, *intervene. Don't let them carry the weight of their own defense by themselves.*

*Malika Saramaat Imhotep*

*Is a resident of Vine City currently pursuing a doctoral degree in Black Studies at the University of Berkeley California. and founding member of Historic Westside News.*

*Photos Bing Images. .com*

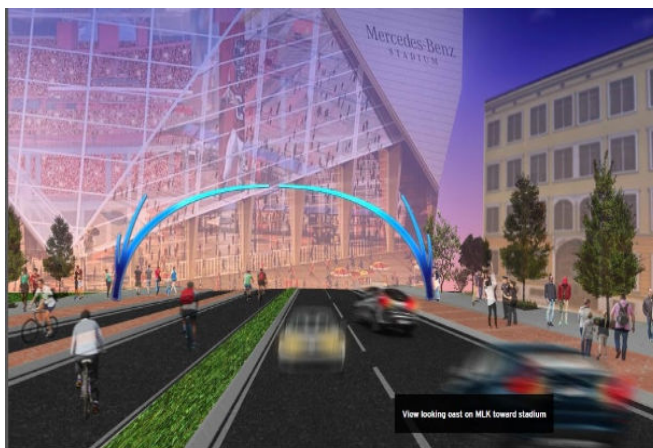
## OCA Announces Two New Art Installations for

**MLK Corridor at Mercedes-Benz Stadium**

**By Colette Haywood**

In partnership with the City of Atlanta's Department of Public Works with funding from Renew Atlanta, City of Atlanta Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA) is pleased to announce that artists Basil Watson and Joseph "Joe" O'Connell will create two art installations for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Corridor Getaway on the Northside Drive side of the Mercedes-Benz Stadium.

Watson, a resident of Lawrenceville, GA, will create an 18 ft. tall monument, which will be comprised of a 12ft. tall bronze sculpture of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. that will stand on a six-foot-high granite base. The monument, entitled "With Peace and Love in Hand He Walks For-



ward," will be placed in the median of the corridor and will pay tribute to Dr. King's continuous walk toward peace and equity for all people. O'Connell, and his studio Creative Machine, will create Bends Towards Freedom, an 85 ft. high and 25 ft. wide installation inspired by Dr. King's quote, "The arc of a moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice." Once complete, the two-piece, multicolored installation will form a gateway-style arc, with the walkway resting between the two halves, and will greet hundreds of thousands of

visitors from Mercedes-Benz Stadium's Northside Drive entrance.

The winning proposals were selected from national calls for artists released in January, and three finalists were selected for each call. A selection committee of volunteer panelists, which included representatives from MARTA and Clark Atlanta University, to name a few, was formed in accordance with the city ordinance outlined in the City of Atlanta's Public Art Master Plan. Funding for this project comes from Renew Atlanta while the Department of Public Works will help manage the project as part of their Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive Innovation Corridor Improvement Project.

Bends Toward Freedom has a projected completion date of January 2019. With Peace and Love in Hand He Walks Forward is scheduled to be completed by Summer 2019

Colette Haywood is a resident of Vine City.



## GILS DIGS— Is the urban agriculture movement disconnected to gentrifying neighborhoods ?

As leading an organization whose core is urban agriculture to build a rooted, powerful and resilient Westside I also dig ....in papers, hence 'Gil's digs'



Therefore, this is my personal findings digging into many research papers or books .In this first dig, I would like to highlight one point to set the plot for a series of digs to be

found here and at

[www.historicwestsidegardens.org](http://www.historicwestsidegardens.org). It has to do with terms that we use and which frame inappropriately the conversation about the role of urban agriculture, especially in low-wealth neighborhoods (where else do we find enough land and willingness to develop urban farms in cities?)

**Is the urban agriculture movement disconnected to gentrifying neighborhoods ?** Therefore, this is my personal findings digging into many research papers or books.

The first terms are "food desert". The USDA defines what's considered a food desert and which areas will be helped by this initiative: To qualify as a "low-access community, Government lingo for food desert" at least 500 people and/or at least 33 percent of the census tract's population must reside more than one mile from a supermarket or large grocery store (for rural census tracts, the distance is more than 10 miles). By focusing on distance, even when including income, "food desert" let the listener or the reader associates the situation with a natural geographical phenomenon. Where there are now food deserts, these were thriving communities, there were grocery stores. (see pictures below).

In fact, these are food desertED areas, meaning: economic and political decisions created deserted, disinvested communities. By using the terminology of 'food desert' we perpetuate oppression.

I see several reasons to ask you to stop using the words 'food desert'.

First and foremost the people who live in these neighborhoods do not see themselves living in a desert. It is offending and diminishing.

Second, these food desertED areas do have food. There are convenient stores. There is a difference between no food and lack of healthful food. Food insecurity is not only

about hunger it is also about lack of choice and quality.

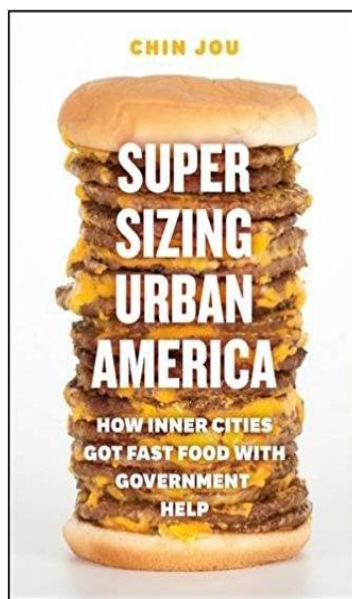
Third, especially when discussing urban areas it associates desert and poverty (who else would live in a deserted area). But as Amartya Sen, Nobel prize laureate of Economy stated 'poverty is a deprivation of opportunity'. Disinvestment and food desertification are a deprivation of opportunity caused by economic, capitalistic, urban dynamics and political choices.

Fourth, I am not using the opposite words 'food swamp' which addresses the vast presence of convenience stores, gas stations etc which offer food products lacking healthful, fresh, fruits and vegetables. Here again, it is a geographic metaphor which carries denigrating connotation. I don't use it because the situation was created by powerful forces as demonstrated in Jou's book:

**Supersizing Urban America- How inner Cities got fast food with government help".**

Policies put in place by the federal government actually made it easier for minorities to open fast-food franchises in their neighborhoods than grocery stores. Today the landscape of urban America reflects this history.

The race riots of the 1960s made curbing urban unrest an especially attractive proposition to the federal government. To rectify the situation, the federal government began pushing the Small Business Administration (SBA) to provide Equal Opportunity Loans (EOL) to minority entrepreneurs. In roughly a decade, Jou writes, the EOL program "disbursed about \$25 million in 1,560 individual loans to entrepreneurs opening franchises." Many of these new businesses were fast-food franchises.



The SBA started providing job training and entrepreneurship programs — many of which also involved fast-food franchises.

Fast-food companies, which had saturated their original markets of roadside stops and suburbs, needed expansion in order to grow profits. Reaching out to potential African-

American franchisees was their roadmap to success. White-owned businesses were frequently seen as unwelcome interlopers in black neighborhoods after the riots: "Recruiting African-American franchisees was seen as a way to mitigate potential conflicts, as well as a means of outsourcing the everyday difficulties and dangers

of operating restaurants in inner-city locations." Brady Keys, former NFL football player turned franchisee, "They [fast-food corporations] know that doing business in my area is hell. There's cutting, shooting, killing. So they say, we really don't want to do this ourselves, so why don't we get this black cat over here and franchise him?"

But why were fast-food franchisees so frequently the recipients of these SBA loans, rather than grocery stores or independent restaurants? One is that profit margins for fast-food can be as high as 6 percent, compared with 1 percent for grocery stores. Grocery stores also often require significantly more square footage to operate — space that can be hard to come by in a densely populated area.

Today the overly easy access to fast food has become a hot-button issue because of the obesity crisis. A larger strategy that includes bringing grocery stores and farmers markets to replace fast-food restaurants has proven more difficult to accomplish. There's too little money to be made from groceries and too much risk for business owners in impoverished areas compared with opening an already proven franchise.

In conclusion, when you hear or talk about the food situation in our communities eradicate the use of "food desert" or better, underline the fact that it is a consequence of policies and choices, that these are our neighborhoods and they are food desertED communities.

"food desert" or better, underline the fact that it is a consequence of policies and choices, that these are our neighborhoods and they are food desertED communities.

Urban agriculture tries to address this situation but urban agriculture strategies are not without risk to unexpectedly contribute to planning processes that will impoverish communities as

being part of the new neo-liberal economy. Stay tuned and meanwhile think of this statement



*Gil Frank is the executive Director of Historic Westside Gardens and founding member of Historic Westside News.*

Photos: Grocery stores circa 50' 60' 70'

*Bing Images. .com*



*To advertise, submit story ideas and graphics, or volunteer, contact us at [historicwestsidenews@gmail.com](mailto:historicwestsidenews@gmail.com)*



# JAZZ MATTERS AT THE WREN'S NEST

**3<sup>RD</sup> Fridays from June - Sep**

**TICKETS** { \$300 Table (seats 10) / \$350 at the Gate  
\$20 Lawn Seating / \$25 at the Gate  
We can only accept credit/debit cards at the gate.

**Gates Open 7pm / Showtime 8pm Rain or Shine**  
The Wren's Nest: 1050 Ralph D. Abernathy Blvd. Atlanta, GA 30310  
404-474-1211 or [www.yesjazzmatters.org](http://www.yesjazzmatters.org)

*Bring chairs, food, beverages. No large tables or grills.*



Arthur Hines Garden Angel



## Historic Westside Gardens Offers Two (2) Garden Angels positions Are you a Fit?

### What a Garden Angel do?

- Establish trust with his gardeners and the community
- Peer to Peer Education. Experience with gardening, a must.
- Creates local capacity by being resourceful and problem solver. See and identify other residents as assets
- Garden Angels are part of the community and have an interest in common with the community to improve life and well-being. Garden Angel advocates for the community
- Understand community desires and get informed to be able to refer people to existing services

Positions are Part-Time with growth opportunity. **Must reside in Vine City or English Avenue.** Information available with Home Food Gardening Community Organizer: 404-277-7340 Application: A brief 1 page letter, relating to the 5 items above. Please type your letter. Fitting candidates will be reached for a conversation. Send application letter to: [Execdir@historicwestsidegardens.org](mailto:Execdir@historicwestsidegardens.org)

## CELEBRATING THE SPIRIT OF VINE CITY

Atlanta's Grooviest Festival

-Sept 1-2<sup>nd</sup> | 11am to



[WWW.TasteofSoulAtlanta.com](http://WWW.TasteofSoulAtlanta.com)

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