



Westside  
Future Fund

# Transform Westside Summit

Convene | Communicate | Collaborate

Westside Future Fund  
Friday, September 20, 2019



# Agenda

7:15 – 7:20AM  
Welcome

John Ahmann  
*President & CEO*  
Westside Future Fund

7:20 – 7:35AM  
Opening Devotion

See Insert

7:35 – 8:00AM  
Self Introductions

John Ahmann  
*President & CEO*  
Westside Future Fund

8:00 – 8:15AM  
Announcements

John Ahmann  
*President & CEO*  
Westside Future Fund

8:15 – 8:45AM  
Panel  
Presentation:  
How Wrap-around  
Services Help  
Tackle Mobility  
& Anti-Displacement

Sherry Bellille  
*Co-Founder*  
Parent Avengers

Rachel Carey  
*VP of Project Financing*  
Westside Future Fund

Sha’Nelle High  
*Program Manager, Supportive Services*  
Quest Communities

Ayanna Jones-Lightsy  
*Co-Director, Safe and Stable  
Homes Project*  
Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation

James C. Tomlin  
*Housing Manager*  
CHRIS 180

8:45 – 8:55AM  
Q&A

All

8:55 – 9:00AM  
Closing Remarks

John Ahmann  
*President & CEO*  
Westside Future Fund

9:00AM  
Meeting Adjourns

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WIFI: TGS Guest | Password: tgsvisitor384

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@WFFAtlanta



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westsidefuturefund.org

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# Our Speakers

## Sherry Bellille

*Co-Founder, Parent Avengers*

Sherry Bellille is co-founder of the homegrown startup parent group, Parent Avengers, a community-based program founded in Vine City for the Washington Cluster Schools that breaks the cycle of poverty by connecting parents to resources. Parent Avengers believe in triaging the whole parent so they can be successful to sustain themselves in the Westside community. They help parents overcome barriers such as lack of stable housing (affordable housing, homelessness, uninhabitable housing); food insecurity; employment barriers including unemployment and under-employment; lack of education; lack of quality healthcare and lack of childcare.

Parent Avengers believe in making the Powerless Parent Powerful so they can become game changers for their Westside communities. As a parent's situation improves, they are encouraged to reach back and help solve issues in their community. Parent Avengers currently works with parents at Hollis Innovation Academy and Booker T Washington High School. We Say Avenge!!

Ms. Bellille is a survivor of Hurricane Hugo, an experience that affected her deeply. It instilled her a deep passion for helping her community, along with respect, compassion and love for differences in people. Her experience from Hurricane Hugo also taught her that these qualities along

with hard work and breaking bread with neighbors can help rebuild, reinvent and unite a community.

Ms. Bellille is a culturally involved parent with a strong commitment to community service. In 2019, she was recognized with the Mercedes-Benz Greatness Lives Here Volunteer Award. Her numerous community leadership roles include: organizer for the Atlanta Caribbean Folk Festival, Inc, also known as Peach Carnival, one of the biggest Festival in Atlanta; Caribbean American Arts Cultural Liaison; Hurricane Irma/Maria Atlanta Disaster Relief and Preparedness Food Distribution/Evacuee Support; Caribbean Captains of the Industry hand mask designer; Hollis Innovation Academy GO Teams 2017-2018, Vice-Chair 2019-2020; Hollis Food Pantry Volunteer; National Mentoring Cares Mentoring Movement-Parent University Graduate; PTA President/Secretary Bethune Elementary; Community Mediator People Relations; and Co-Chair of the Westside Education Collaborative Family and Community Engagement.

A 25-year resident of Vine City, Ms. Bellille is a mother of four children, one daughter (London) and three sons (Tokyo, Jordan, Thailand). She is an island girl and global sister from the U.S. Virgin Islands, St. Thomas (Where No Passport is Needed!). Over the past decade, she has worked as a waitress at the Waffle House store 1726.

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## Sha’Nelle High

*Program Manager, Supportive Services, Quest Communities*

Sha’Nelle High is a licensed social worker serving as program manager for supportive services at Quest Communities.

Prior to her current role at Quest, Sha’Nelle launched her career working in the trenches as a social worker specializing in child welfare and addiction services. She moved to Atlanta, GA in 2015 to continue her passion to restore urban communities as the lead case manager at Quest and was promoted to her current role of program manager. In addition, Sha’Nelle provides in-home therapy and counseling to at-risk youth and families.

Sha’Nelle received her bachelor’s degree in sociology and human development at Howard University. She then earned her master’s degree of social work at Rutgers University, the State University of New Jersey.

# Our Speakers

## Rachel Carey

*Vice President of Project Finance, Westside Future Fund*

Rachel has over ten years of experience in structuring and executing complex affordable housing transactions utilizing multiple financing sources and subsidies. Prior to moving to Atlanta in 2017, she spent eight years in New York City working with Forsyth Street Advisors, a consulting firm specializing in public finance and affordable housing. There she advised private and not-for-profit owners and developers on the acquisition, rehabilitation and new construction of affordable and mixed-income housing using a range of public and private financing tools. Rachel joined the Atlanta Housing Authority in 2017 as Vice President of Real Estate Investments prior to joining the Westside Future Fund in 2018 as Vice President of Project Finance.

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## Ayanna Jones-Lightsy

*Co-Director, Safe and Stable Homes Project, Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation (AVLF)*

Ayanna Jones-Lightsy is the co-director of the Safe and Stable Homes Project with AVLF. She specifically focuses on their place based initiative know as Standing With Our Neighbors (SWON) which places lawyers and community advocates directly in the schools of the neighborhoods they serve. She obtained her B.A. in history from Clark Atlanta University and worked in the field of education for the next four years. She attended Emory Law School, and upon graduating she worked for Georgia Legal Services Program for seven years. As a legal services attorney, Ayanna worked closely with the low income population of North Georgia to address issues such as unemployment, public benefits, subsidized housing, domestic violence, and elder care. In the beginning of the 2016 school year, Ayanna was based in the Carver Cluster neighborhoods, recruiting lawyers from the top legal firms in Atlanta and providing pro bono legal

services for families of Thomasville Heights Elementary, Slater Elementary, Price Middle School and Carver STEAM. More specifically, she has assisted families with their landlord and tenant issues, including wrongful evictions, and obtaining repairs and remedies for poor housing conditions. Ayanna is currently a board member of the Atlanta Bar Association's Public Interest Law Section and a fellow for Shriver Center 2019 Racial Justice Institute. In 2018 Atlanta Public Schools awarded Ayanna the Unsung Hero of the Year.

She is the mother of two children, and when not at work she is most often found dungeon crawling and fighting monsters in Dungeons and Dragons and self professed Black nerd.

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## James C. Tomlin

*Housing Manager, CHRIS 180*

James C. Tomlin has more than 25 years of experience in social services and works at CHRIS 180 as a Housing Manager, where he has worked since 2017. James serves the families and individuals at the At-Promise Center. James has worked at organizations including: HOPE Atlanta, Dekalb County Community Service Board, Mental Health & Drug Accountability Courts and Emory University Public Health. James is currently member of numerous boards and the Parent Teacher Student Associations in Fulton and DeKalb Counties. Throughout the

years, Mr. Tomlin has been recognized in for his outstanding contribution in the areas of substance abuse and HIV/AIDS prevention by the City of Erie, Pennsylvania's Mayors Office, Erie County Executive's Office and the Northeast Region for Substance Abuse & HIV/AIDS here in Atlanta. Mr. Tomlin also founded Erie, Pennsylvania's first fatherhood program, Long Distance Dads that has been adopted by the state's governor. Recently Mr. Tomlin has developed a program entitled I AM, A Father (IAAF) with the vision, "That the world may know the heart of the father."



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.



# Westside Future Fund

OUR VISION: A COMMUNITY DR. KING WOULD BE PROUD TO CALL HOME.

Westside Future Fund is a nonprofit formed by Atlanta's public, private and philanthropic partners who believe in the future of Atlanta's Westside and are committed to helping Historic Westside neighborhoods revitalize and develop into a community Dr. King would be proud to call home.

English Avenue • Vine City • Ashview Heights\* • Atlanta University Center

## Community Retention

- We're laser-focused on affordable housing.
- We risk losing residents as market forces take over as the area's fortunes improve.
- We want current residents to remain in their beloved neighborhoods for years to come, even as market forces raise housing and rental prices as well as taxes.
- We're raising funds as quickly as possible to buy real estate that will remain deeply affordable.
- So far, we have more than 300 units under control that will serve low-income residents, such as the working poor and seniors living on a fixed income, of which we are very proud.
- Much more is needed, we need everyone's help.

## Role of the Westside Future Fund

With its grounding in community retention and its compassionate approach to revitalization, Westside Future Fund is focused on creating a diverse mixed-income community, improving quality of life, and elevating and celebrating the Historic Westside's unique history and culture. We are driving a collective effort focused on our four impact strategies with many different impact partners.

## Impact Areas



SAFETY AND SECURITY



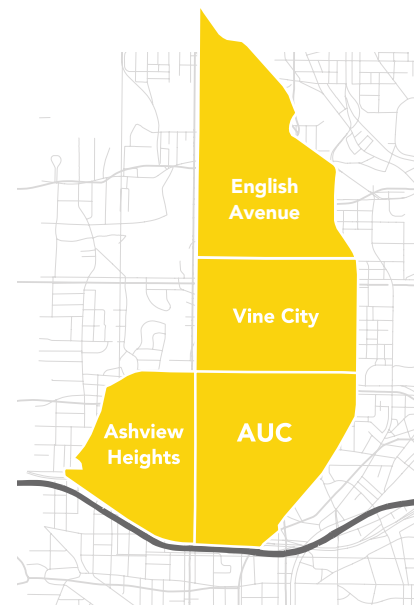
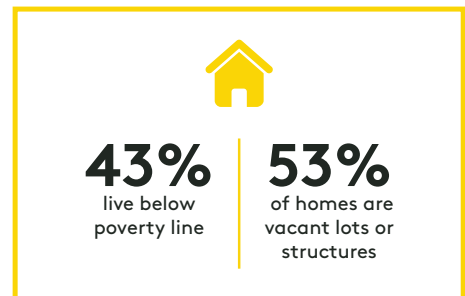
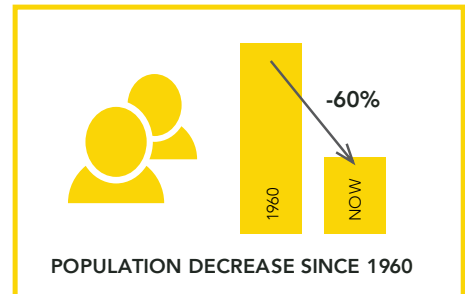
QUALITY, MIXED-INCOME  
COMMUNITIES (COMMUNITY  
RETENTION)



CRADLE-TO-CAREER  
EDUCATION



COMMUNITY HEALTH  
AND WELLNESS



\* Just Us and Booker T. Washington

## Our Impact

In addition to amplifying and accelerating the work of our impact partners, we also advance our mission through the development and implementation of several plans, programs and initiatives, including:

### **Anti-Displacement Tax Fund**

An initiative that will pay qualifying homeowners' property tax increases in the English Avenue, Vine City, Ashview Heights and Atlanta University Center communities. The program is designed to help ensure that current homeowners are not displaced due to rising property taxes.

### **Land-Use Framework Plan**

A design and implementation strategy — created in partnership with the City's Department of Planning & Community Development — to revitalize the Westside, building on the good work and extensive community feedback put into previous plans by city officials, partners and community residents.

### **Transform Westside Summit**

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

### **Westside Neighborhoods Beautification Project**

Pilot job training and placement program designed to help Westside residents carve out career paths while cleaning up and beautifying our four target neighborhoods.

### **Westside Volunteer Corps**

Established to create opportunities for individuals from throughout Atlanta to join forces with Westside residents in the revitalization of the historic Westside. Through a variety of volunteer projects, the Corps works to strengthen community nonprofits and expand their impact with a consistent injection of human capital (i.e. volunteers).

### **Westside Community Data Dashboard**

Dedicated to identifying and understanding the needs and opportunities that exist in WFF's four target neighborhoods. Site offers a baseline of community conditions and trends over the past 15 years against which WFF will track future progress.

## How to Get Involved



### **LEARN**

Check out our website to learn more.

[westsidefuturefund.org](http://westsidefuturefund.org)



### **ENGAGE**

Attend a Transform Westside Summit or join our Westside Volunteer Corps.

[westsidefuturefund.org/volunteer-corps](http://westsidefuturefund.org/volunteer-corps)



### **GIVE**

Already convinced? Great! Donate to our efforts.

[westsidefuturefund.org/donate](http://westsidefuturefund.org/donate)



P.O. Box 92273, Atlanta, GA 30314  
(404) 793-2670  
[WestsideFutureFund.org](http://WestsideFutureFund.org)



@westsidefuturefund

@WFFAtlanta



# Progress from the Collective Effort

## RODNEY COOK, SR. PARK IN VINE CITY



Near the Cook Park intersection of Joseph E. Boone Blvd. and Elm St., retaining walls surrounding the playground, splash pad, and restroom are being installed to provide a comfortable place for users to sit and enjoy the park under shade.

Construction of the Cook Park boardwalk next to the already installed elevated steel bridge is underway. The concrete boardwalk with lighting will allow users to be closer to the project's stormwater pond and will provide a linear venue for learning about native aquatic plants.

Cook Park is designed to seamlessly integrate functional engineering features within a programmed park space while providing park amenities to visitors of all ages and abilities with ways to gather, connect and enjoy nature including: a playground, splash pad, aeration fountain, and great lawn, along with a market plaza, multi-purpose courts, and an amphitheater stage.



## WESTSIDE VOLUNTEER CORPS AT TRULY LIVING WELL – JOIN SEPTEMBER 28TH



Westside Volunteer Corps has recently collaborated with Historic Westside Gardens, Brown Middle School, and M. Agnes Jones Elementary supporting Westside communities.

Highlights include that 400 volunteers from American Family Insurance packaged 4000 snack packs for students at M. Agnes Jones Elementary, and 125 volunteers from Cox Enterprises packaged 2000 toiletry kits for the students at Brown Middle School.

If you're interested in joining at the Collegetown Farm another time, visit [volunteer.westsidefuturefund.org/calendar](http://volunteer.westsidefuturefund.org/calendar) to view more opportunities every Tuesday and Thursday, and at Lindsay Street Park every second Saturday!

### SAVE THE DATE:

Next Westside Volunteer Corps | Day of Service

Saturday, September 28th at Truly Living Well Center for Natural Urban Agriculture at Collegetown Farm

Volunteers are needed to prepare for fall planting and the expansion of the fruit orchard

For more information and additional volunteer opportunities, visit: [volunteer.westsidefuturefund.org](http://volunteer.westsidefuturefund.org)





# Progress from the Collective Effort



## AVLF LAUNCHES MOBILE ADVOCACY PROGRAM, STANDING WITH SURVIVORS

The Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation (AVLF) launched Standing With Survivors this summer, a mobile advocacy initiative bringing resources and education directly to the community. Cynthia Padilla-Pearson is the Legal Education & Outreach Coordinator for AVLF's Safe and Stable Families Project, and she provided an overview of the initiative:

"There are two parts to mobile advocacy. The first is outreach and education. What this looks like is on-site training for law enforcement and some of our community partners that helps them know how to identify and respond to intimate partner abuse, as well as legal remedies for survivors.

"The second part is direct services. The circumstances of intimate partner abuse often make it extremely difficult for survivors to quickly and safely make their way to the courthouse. Now that we're mobile, we're also able to provide direct services to survivors who otherwise couldn't come into SFO. They get access to social services, social workers, and referrals to other services that help them regain their safety and stability."

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Webinar: Surprising Truths About Intimate Partner Abuse – Domestic Violence Awareness Month (October)**

Free Webinar

October 1 @ 12:00 pm - 12:45 pm

**Eviction Defense Training  
Volunteer Training**

October 10 @ 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

AVLF Main Office

To learn more, visit [avlf.org/events](http://avlf.org/events)



## KATHRYN JOHNSTON MEMORIAL PARK

Kathryn Johnston Memorial Park is finally, officially complete as of Friday, September 6th! Construction fences were taken down on September 10th and the playground is the last component to be installed.

Over 12 years ago, Atlanta police officers acting on a no-knock warrant (later determined to be based on false information) fatally gunned down Mrs. Johnston, a 92-year-old grandmother; this park is dedicated in her honor.

This "Park with Purpose" is imagined and created with many community partners including The Conservation Fund, Park Pride, and the City of Atlanta. Its design centers on green infrastructure, which will facilitate up to 3.5 million gallons of stormwater management each year. The community will also enjoy a new playground, fitness stations, and seating terrace.

*(Photos provided by Park Pride.)*



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**HUMBL  
HUSTLR**

# ENTREPRENEUR WORKSHOP & COMMUNITY CLEAN UP

Young Men Will Have A Life Changing Experience Led By Atlanta Businessmen.

**SATURDAY  
SEPTEMBER 28TH 2019**

**ENTREPRENEUR  
WORKSHOP**

**HUMBL  
HUSTLR**

**COMMUNITY  
CLEAN UP**

**9:00AM - 1:00PM**

Young men from **Booker T. Washington High School** will experience a life-changing event led by Atlanta businessmen from different career backgrounds.



This event will cultivate the next generation of black male leaders and entrepreneurs by providing brotherhood, community service, leadership and transformational skills.



**Location: Russell Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship**

**Cost: FREE**

**WWW.HUMBLHUSTLR.COM**    **@THEHUMBLHUSTLR**



# **RUN VOLUNTEER SERVE**

**THE RACE 13.1 + 5K**

**Saturday, October 5th**

**Premier Road Race Event on Atlanta's Historic Westside**

## **THE RACE 2019** **ELEVATE** **IMPACT** **ATLANTA, GA**



**Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>**

**The Race Expo**

**Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>**

**The Race Half Marathon & 5K**

**Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Community Impact Service Day**

**[www.theraceuc.com](http://www.theraceuc.com)**

**THE RACE**



# JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR GEORGIA RESIDENTS!



Construction Ready is a four-week, nationally accredited, hands-on construction training and certification program. Construction Ready connects students to some of Atlanta's top construction companies, which may lead to employment in the booming commercial construction industry. Training is FREE to qualified applicants who reside in the following metro Atlanta locations:

**Cherokee County • Clayton County • Cobb County • DeKalb County • Douglas County  
Fayette County • Fulton County • Henry County • Gwinnett County • Rockdale County**



## Eligibility Requirements

- State ID
- Social Security Card
- Proof of Residency
- Resume
- Pass Drug Screening and Criminal Background Check (Background Friendly)
- Must be 18 years of age
- Must be physically fit and able to lift 50 pounds

## APPLICANTS MUST ATTEND AN INFO SESSION

Apply online at [www.ConstructionReady.us](http://www.ConstructionReady.us)

## Transportation Requirements

Some jobs may be accessible by public transportation for graduates temporarily, but students should understand that gaining transportation is a priority in order to sustain employment.

## Upon Successful Completion, Graduates may earn up to eight (8) industry recognized credentials:

- National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) "Core" Credential
- OSHA 10 Hour Card
- First Aid/ CPR / BB/ AED Certification
- Powder Actuated Tool Certification
- Laser Certification
- Forklift Safety Awareness
- A.T.S.S.A. Utility Flagger Certification
- Competent Person Training in Fall Protection

## QUESTIONS?

Please contact Veda White, Student Success Manager, at 404-692-1542 or [veda.white@cefga.org](mailto:veda.white@cefga.org).



**Need more information? Please visit our website: [www.CEFGA.org](http://www.CEFGA.org)**

CEFGA | Construction Ready | P.O. Box 92121, Atlanta, GA 30314 | 404-333-2487  
An Equal Opportunity Program. Construction Ready does not guarantee job placement.



## THE BOOKER T. WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

-- Legacy Foundation --

### 1st Annual Bulldog Unity 5K/1Mile Race & Walk

#### BULLDOG UNITY



BOOKER T. WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

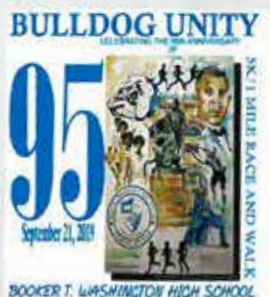
## BENEFITS

- Provide Scholarships
- Educational Field Trips
- Uniforms
- College Visits
- SAT/ACT Test Prep

Your participation helps preserve the Booker T. Washington Legacy.

## THE RACE AND WALK

- USA Certified Track & Field Course
- Open to EVERYONE
- All Registrations are Final
- This is Rain or Shine Event



BOOKER T. WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

FOR MORE INFORMATION

(678) 743-1241 | WWW.BTWLEGACYFOUNDATION.ORG

## BULLDOG UNITY

CELEBRATING THE 95th ANNIVERSARY OF

95  
September 21, 2019



5K/1 MILE RACE AND WALK

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

Powered By:



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION  
PROMOTING ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THE COMMUNITY

USATF Certified Course  
Chip Timing - Race T-Shirt  
Finisher Medal

REGISTER  
WWW.BTWLEGACYFOUNDATION.ORG



## SAVE THE DATE

OUR NEXT TEN YEARS...

HISTORIC WESTSIDE GARDEN CELEBRATES  
GROWING COMMUNITIES

IT TAKES GARDENS TO GROW A COMMUNITY!

OCTOBER 19, 2019, FROM 5:00 PM TO 8:00 PM

HAGAR PALACE  
19 JOSEPH E. LOWERY BLVD NW 30314





When you shop @AmazonSmile, Amazon will make a donation to Westside Future Fund!

GO TO

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/47-3015082>

OR

smile.amazon.com and SEARCH "Westside Future Fund"

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.

*Thanks for your support and happy shopping!*



Westside  
Future Fund

### FREE SHUTTLE RIDES for TRANSFORM WESTSIDE SUMMIT ATTENDEES

Westside Future Fund is offering free transportation to and from the Transform Westside Summits via the Cute Shuttle.

The Cute Shuttle will make scheduled stops at these locations on every 1st and 3rd Friday of the month:

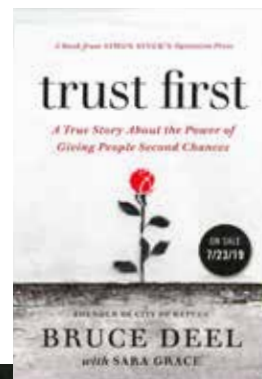
**At-Promise Center**  
740 Cameron Madison Alexander Blvd, NW

**Hollis Innovation Academy**  
225 James Brawley Drive, NW

Passenger pickups at these locations will occur every ten minutes between **6:50 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.**

Passenger drop-offs from the Gathering Spot will occur every ten minutes between **9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.**

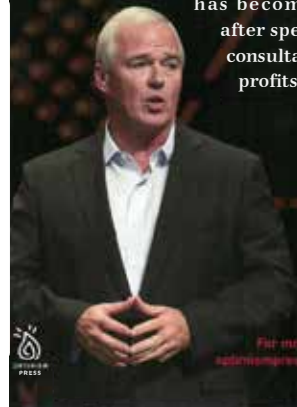
No registration is required to ride the shuttle. Simply show up at one of the two pickup locations for a ride. To contact Cute Shuttle, call: 470-231-9941



Over the past 20 years, Bruce Deel has helped over 20,000 people in the most dangerous zip code of Atlanta escape the cycle of homelessness, joblessness, and drug abuse. In these powerful true stories about the men and women who fell through the cracks in our social services system, he shows the power of radical trust to change lives.

Bruce Deel founded City of Refuge in 1997. He is the Senior Pastor of The Mission Church and a graduate of Lee University in Cleveland, TN. As a result of his experience and success, Bruce has become a highly sought after speaker and serves as a consultant to numerous non-profits around the country.

Bruce will donate a portion of his proceeds from **TRUST FIRST** to the charitable organization City of Refuge.



For more information, please contact:  
adam@cityofrefuge.com

### CONNECT WITH YOUR ATLANTA CITY COUNCILMEMBER



**District 3 – Antonio Brown**  
Point of Contact:  
Thad Flowers  
tflowers  
@AtlantaGa.Gov

Phone #:  
(404) 330-6046



**District 4 – Cleta Winslow**  
Point of Contact:  
cwinslow  
@atlantaga.gov

Phone #:  
(404) 330-6047



# Creating the Beloved Community



The end is reconciliation; the end is redemption; the end is the creation of the Beloved Community. It is this type of spirit and this type of love that can transform opponents into friends. It is this type of understanding goodwill that will transform the deep gloom of the old age into the exuberant gladness of the new age. It is this love which will bring about miracles in the hearts of men.

Martin Luther King, Jr. from "Facing the Challenge of a New Age," 1956

The coining of the term, "beloved community" is credited to Josiah Royce (1855–1916), a Harvard professor, theologian, and philosopher, who taught at Harvard from the 1880s to 1910s.

Josiah Royce deemed the beloved community the "principle of all principles" and spoke of the beloved community as an ideal, separate from ordinary life, a spiritual community where all those "fully dedicated to the cause of loyalty, truth, and reality itself" were joined. Speaking from a distinctly Christian perspective, he stated that religious communities at their core should embody "the mystery of loving membership in a community." This participation was enacted through deep loyalty to a personal cause that one serves with "all [one's] might and soul and strength."

Royce wrote, "Find your own cause, your interesting, fascinating, personally engrossing cause; serve it with all [one's] might and soul and strength; but so choose your cause and so serve it, that thereby you show forth your loyalty to loyalty, so that because of your choice and service to your cause, there is a maximum of increase of loyalty among your fellow [human beings]."

Since you cannot find the universal and beloved community, create it.

Josiah Royce (1913)

One of Royce's students in the 1890s was W.E.B. Du Bois, who arrived in Atlanta in 1897 to establish a sociology program at Atlanta University and develop the university's curriculum. It is possible W.E.B. Du Bois and others could have discussed the idea of the "beloved community" and its embodiment in the Atlanta University Center and Vine City neighborhoods as early as Du Bois' arrival in Atlanta. Since the late 1860s, white and black educators, black students, and working class white and black residents had been living in the historic Westside.

Dr. King's mentor, Howard Thurman, was also a student of Royce and colleague of W.E.B. Du Bois. He used the term "beloved community" as an inspirational lens "to perceive [in the world] a harmony that transcends all diversities and in which diversity finds its richness and significance." He broadened the concept from Royce's specifically Christian orientation and emphasized the importance of truly integrated communities beyond legal integration and emphasized the importance of a radically nonexclusionary community.

During Thurman's lifetime, the historic Westside served as a nerve center of civil rights activism even as the effects of legal segregation remained in the community.

Community cannot for long feed on itself. It can only flourish with the coming of others from beyond, their unknown and undiscovered brothers and sisters.

Howard Thurman 1971

Dr. King takes the thinking of Royce and Thurman forward with his belief that we can "actualize the Beloved Community." Walter Fluker writes that the "beloved community" is Dr. King's "single, organizing principle of [his] life and thought."

Our goal is to create a beloved community, and this will require a qualitative change in our souls as well as a quantitative change in our lives.

Martin Luther King, Jr., 1966



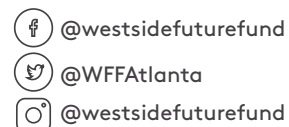
Transform Westside Summits are made possible  
through the generosity of the Chick-fil-A Foundation  
and The Gathering Spot

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



P.O. Box 92273, Atlanta, GA 30314  
(404) 793-2670  
[westsidefuturefund.org](http://westsidefuturefund.org)



*For bulletin ideas and comments, contact Elizabeth Wilkes at [elizabeth@westsidefuturefund.org](mailto:elizabeth@westsidefuturefund.org).*