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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
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.

Engish 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.
A Dedicated Team

John Ahmann  
President and CEO

Jaren Abedania  
VP of Real Estate

Suzanne Allman  
Controller

Rachel Carey  
VP of Project Financing

Justin Carr  
Director of Strategy and Impact

Lee Harrop  
VP of Real Estate Development

Amy Hoilman  
Manager of Accounting

Raquel Hudson  
Director of Westside Volunteer Corps

Deidre Strickland  
Development Manager

Brenda Dalton  
Chief Operating Officer

Sonia Dawson  
Special Assistant to the President & CEO

Joan Vernon  
Director of Neighborhood Engagement

Christal Walker  
Staff Accountant

Robyn Washington  
Development Coordinator

Elizabeth Wilkes  
Program Coordinator

Cristel Williams  
Chief Development Officer

Amy Hoilman  
Manager of Accounting

Joan Vernon  
Director of Neighborhood Engagement

Christal Walker  
Staff Accountant

Robyn Washington  
Development Coordinator

Elizabeth Wilkes  
Program Coordinator

Cristel Williams  
Chief Development Officer
Agenda

7:15AM – 7:30AM
Welcome

7:30AM – 7:45AM
Opening Devotion

7:45AM – 8:25AM
LIVE PANEL:
Preparing for Back to
School on the Westside
Hosted at the
Booker T. Washington
High School
 Featuring updates from
the entire Washington cluster:

8:30AM – 8:45AM
Q&A

8:45AM – 8:55AM
LIVE UPDATES:
Featuring special
messages from

8:55AM
Closing Remarks

9:00AM
Summit Adjourns

John Ahmann
President & CEO
Westside Future Fund

Yolanda Owens
CEO & Founder
iwi fresh

Dr. Angela Coaxum-Young
Principal
Booker T. Washington High School

Dr. Diamond Ford
Principal
Michael R. Hollis Innovation Academy

Tiauna Crooms
Principal
Joseph E. Brown Middle School

Yolanda Weems
Principal
Tuskegee Airmen Global Academy

Dr. Margul Retha Woolfolk
Principal
M. Agnes Jones Elementary School

All viewers can submit questions via
social media channels.

Questions will be welcomed for the
duration of the program.

Westside Future Fund’s
Home on the Westside

Fulton County
Voter Information Update

John Ahmann
President & CEO
Westside Future Fund

@westsidefuturefund
@WFFAtlanta
@westsidefuturefund
westsidefuturefund.org
Our Featured Participants

John Ahmann
President & CEO, Westside Future Fund

For more than 25 years, John Ahmann has been driven by the determination to improve the way communities and institutions function in Atlanta. From his early days working in Washington, D.C. to his positions with private, governmental, and organizational entities in the Atlanta area — including his eight years as an elected school board official in Decatur — he has focused his energy on solving the big problems whose resolutions can ultimately change Atlanta’s trajectory. He has worked primarily behind the scenes, bringing together diverse stakeholders and managing initiatives through to fruition, and has had a hand in some of the region’s most important public policy initiatives and cross-sector collaborations. Along the way, John has built a vast network of individuals who are impacting Atlanta and its future.

John is a native son. He was born at Grady Hospital in Atlanta in 1965, was one of Paideia School’s first graduates in 1983, and earned his BA in Political Science from Emory University in 1987. After having moved to Washington, D.C. and worked for Representative Pat Williams of Montana and then Congressman Ben Jones of Georgia, he entered Yale School of Public Private Management in 1991 and graduated with seven letters of recognition in 1993.

Within months after returning to Atlanta, John was hired by the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games as the Program Coordinator of Government Relations. He was soon promoted to Manager of Federal and State Government Relations where he worked with officials from four federal government offices, including the White House. Following the 1996 Olympic Games, John worked at Edington & Wade, a public affairs firm, and then Georgia’s Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism (GDITT, now the Department of Economic Development), where he led and managed strategic planning teams. From there he moved into GDITT’s newly created position of Deputy Commissioner for Strategic Planning and Research.

In 2000, John was hired by the Metro Atlanta Chamber to serve as its Senior Vice President of Community Development. There he oversaw the Chamber’s initiatives regarding transportation, education, arts and culture, the environment, and legislative affairs. In 2003, John bought the majority interest in a local public affairs firm, and in 2006 he established Ahmann, Inc. While in private practice in 2004, John began his engagement as the outsourced Executive Director of the Atlanta Committee for Progress (ACP), a group of top CEOs and university presidents that advises and supports the mayor on priorities critical to Atlanta’s economic vitality. While with ACP, he was heavily involved in launching the Atlanta Beltline, the acquisition of the Martin Luther King Jr. Personal Collection, the 2015 Renew Atlanta Bond Program, and ACP’s Westside Redevelopment Task Force that lead to the launch of the Westside Future Fund. John is currently the President & CEO of the Westside Future Fund.

John has also been an elected public servant. He won his race for the City Schools of Decatur Board of Education in 2003, was re-elected in 2007 without opposition, and served until 2011. John was the first Paideia School alumni invited to join the Paideia School’s Board of Trustees where he served for four years.

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

Back to Agenda
Yolanda Owens
CEO & Founder, iwi fresh

As a college student, Yolanda Owens, nicknamed Yogi, couldn’t make peace with the idea of using harsh, chemical-laden products on her skin. Inspired by her grandmother who treated family ills with nutrition and self-made herbal remedies, Owens produced her own line of skincare recipes and beauty creams for herself and her friends.

Though she never imagined these recipes would one day launch her into celebrity status as an all-natural "skincare chef," she did believe that fresh fruits, vegetables, herbs, and essential oils were the only ingredients suitable for a healthy, beautiful body.

Today, what was once a hobby has evolved into a mission of feeding your skin the Truth with raw veggies from the farm!

\[iwi = it \text{ is what it is}\]

Our Featured Participants
Our Featured Participants

Dr. Angela Coaxum-Young
Principal, Booker T. Washington High School

Dr. Angela S. Coaxum-Young is a highly sought out educational leader and has spent a lifetime championing the cause of education for underprivileged populations. Her goals are to make accessible high-quality academic programs for at-risk students.

Angela began her educational studies at Bethune-Cookman University, receiving a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology. She continued her studies and earned a Master’s in Education with a concentration in Management of Educational Programs from Nova Southeastern University. Next, she pursued her Specialist credential in Educational Leadership from Georgia College and State University. Angela then went on to attain her Doctorate of Education from Georgia Southern University. During her tenure in the field of education, she has worked at various levels to include, middle school social studies teacher, high school exceptional education instructor, Director of Student Support, (ensuring programs for TAG, ESOL, SWD, and ELL were implemented with fidelity), 9th Grade Academy Coordinator, Assistant Principal and currently serves as the Principal of the Historic Booker T. Washington High School. She also founded Favor Academy of Excellence, Inc. in 2009 as a non-profit committed to ensuring quality extended learning opportunities for students of families with socio-economic disadvantages. Angela continues to work with students of all ages and ability levels.

Angela is also a national conference speaker, committed to educating professionals all over the United States on developing sustainable and beneficial programs to support youth at-risk of dropping out of school. Her previous conference presentations include: The National Youth At-Risk Conference, The National Drop-out Prevention Campaign, The Alabama Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, etc. Angela currently serves as a member of Emory University's C-CHEM Stakeholder Advisory Board. She has an unwavering belief that economic status has no bearing on a student's growth potential and that ALL students should have access to quality education.

Dr. Diamond Ford
Principal, Michael R. Hollis Innovation Academy

Dr. Diamond Ford is going on five years as Principal of Michael R. Hollis Innovation Academy. A native of Atlanta and proud product of the Atlanta Public Schools System, Dr. Ford is a passionate and dedicated educator committed to growing and transforming schools that are designed to close the achievement and opportunity gap. She has served in the field of education for 18 years as a teacher, instructional coach, and principal. Dr. Ford has successfully created an environment for students that nurtures their creativity, supports their social-emotional development, encourages engagement and meaningful connections with their families, and fills academic gaps. Among numerous honors, Dr. Ford was named as one of Atlanta Business League’s 100 Black Women of Influence in 2017, awarded "2016-2017 Stellar Principal of the Year" by Atlanta Public School Leadership and was a finalist for EL Education’s prestigious 2019-2020 Silverberg Leadership Award. Dr. Ford has participated as a panelist/speaker on multiple education platforms, including UNCF Educational Panel, NAACP Educational Panel, Author David Osborne’s Book Preview, EL Education National Conference and Georgia Coalition for Public Education.
Our Featured Participants

Tiauna Crooms
Principal, Joseph E. Brown Middle School

Born in Chicago, Illinois, but raised in Southwest Atlanta, Georgia is a proud product of the Atlanta Public School System and graduate of Frederick Douglass High School. Mrs. Crooms is knowledgeable of the public school systems curriculum dynamics and has embraced leadership through instructional and strategic-based guidance. She is embarking upon her 12th year as an educational leader in the Atlanta Public School System. Mrs. Crooms calling into the field of education began as a Language Arts Teacher in the middle school setting for three years and then pursuant to professional growth, Mrs. Crooms transitioned to high school as an English teacher for seven years. This has given her an essential perspective into the structure of education and its operations. Acknowledging the nature of the middle and high school child was a critical component in addressing the needs of the students. Inspired to foster student achievement, she began her experience as an instructional leader as the first African American Assistant Principal in Paulding County at East Paulding High School. Through experience, she was able to connect the best attributes of middle and high school instruction and supervision which has served as an asset to promote her continuous growth. In the fall of 2009, Mrs. Crooms pursued her goal to return to Atlanta Public School System in a leadership capacity. She joined the Washington High School family who welcomed her as an Assistant Principal. The following year she was promoted and became the Principal of Booker T. Washington High School Senior Academy (August 2010 – 12). Due to a new initiative, Atlanta Public School System transformed Booker T. Washington High School from a comprehensive high school into three small schools (schools within a school). As a result of Mrs. Crooms outstanding governance, expertise and leadership, the Carver Cluster accredited Tiauna by appointing her as the Principal of Carver School of Technology. Missing her Washington Cluster family, an opportunity was given to Tiauna to serve as the principal of the Joseph E. Brown Middle School. God first and then family, following her commitment to provide a stimulating and rigorous learning environment with innovative and responsive teaching across the curriculum to ensure all students are college and career ready in a rapidly global environment… Mrs. Tiauna Crooms, mother, wife, educator.

Yolanda Weems
Principal, Tuskegee Airmen Global (TAG) Academy

Yolanda Weems has served as principal at Tuskegee Airmen Global (TAG) Academy in Southwest Atlanta, located within the Washington Cluster, for the past two years. Previously, she served as TAG Academy’s assistant principal, strengthening support and performance of struggling students through reduced class sizes and increased instructional aide. Under her leadership, TAG Academy teachers had the opportunity to collaboratively plan five days per week during protected common planning time. Ms. Weems has been a tenured early childhood educator in the state of Georgia for 20 years. Her previous positions include instructional coach at APS’ Margaret Fain Elementary, curriculum support teacher at Oak Knoll Elementary, as well as a classroom instructor at Seaborn Lee Elementary, where she won Teacher of the Year twice during her 10-year tenure. She has matriculated at Central Michigan University (educational leadership), State University of West Georgia (master’s in educational administration and supervision), and Albany State University (bachelor’s in early childhood education). A proud APS alumna, Ms. Weems attended Venetian Hills Elementary School, Price Middle School, and Fulton High School.
Our Featured Participants

Dr. Margul Retha Woolfolk
Principal, M. Agnes Jones Elementary School

Dr. Margul Retha Woolfolk is the proud principal of the magnificent M. Agnes Jones Elementary School in the Atlanta Public Schools System. M. AGNES JONES is the FIRST and only GADOE STEM certified school in the Atlanta Public Schools System! AND NOW….the FIRST traditional GADOE STEAM certified school in the Atlanta Public Schools System!

She ensures high academic success for 580 Pre-K thru 5th grade urban students. Her mission is to provide a rigorous and high quality learning environment for students by affording scholars learning opportunities that promote critical thinking and the assurance of becoming college and career ready to successfully compete in a global society. She was awarded the Atlanta Public Schools Stellar Principal Award (May, 2016). Most recently, Dr. Woolfolk was recognized by the Georgia Department of Education for her visionary guidance and exceptional leadership in advancing STEM and STEAM education in Georgia Schools (October, 2018). Additionally, she serves on the board of directors for the Atlanta Girls on the Run.

Some of the initiatives Margul Retha has implemented while serving as the principal of M. Agnes Jones include:

1. Earning a Pre-K through fifth grade GADOE Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Certification as well as one in STE(A-arts)M for students who have traditionally been underserved and under exposed to the content areas and the arts in a practical and relevant way.

2. Earning several GADOE “Beating the Odds” awards for M. Agnes Jones.

3. Challenging Atlanta Public Schools’ nutrition department to have a salad bar to expose students to healthy eating. M. Agnes was the first elementary school to obtain a salad bar and other schools followed this initiative.

4. Encouraging an Alpha Kappa Alpha Nu Lambda Omega asthma prevention program to help students who have chronic asthma to recognize the triggers and find ways to prevent asthma attacks.

5. Mentoring not only students at M. Agnes Jones but mentoring and providing professional development to students attending schools in the Atlanta University Center, including Spelman, Morehouse, and Clark Atlanta as well as Georgia State University.

6. Working tirelessly with West End Community groups to provide support and assistance to students and families, i.e. Choice Neighborhood, Atlanta Housing Authority, United Way, Atlanta Food Bank.

7. Serving as a part-time instructor at Georgia State University where real-world connections are embedded in teaching Literacy in the Content Areas.

Margul Retha is married to Ralph McKinley Woolfolk III. She has three adult sons and two granddaughters. Margul Retha is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Nu Lambda Omega Chapter. She graduated with a B. A. in Economics from Spelman College and earned both a Masters and Specialist of Education degree with honors from Georgia State University. Additionally, she earned a Doctor of Philosophy in Language and Literacy at Georgia State University.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

BACK TO SCHOOL RESOURCES

MEALS FOR APS STUDENTS

• Starting August 24 – the first day of school – APS meals will only be distributed to APS students. All APS families must pre-order meals for each week through the MySchool-Bucks online pre-order system. Those orders must be placed no later than one week before distribution. For example, for the five-day meal bag on Monday, September 7, your order must be placed no later than Monday, August 31. Once in the pre-order system, you can select whether you will pick up the meals at one of the 12 school distribution sites listed above or if your meals should be delivered via one of the middle school bus routes identified. All Washington Cluster schools are participating in a School Lunch and Breakfast program that provides ALL students in those schools with free breakfast and lunch.

COMPUTERS AND WIFI FOR STUDENTS

• Atlanta Public Schools (APS) has partnered with Comcast to launch the Get Our Kids Connected campaign to support thousands of students attending APS who do not have an internet connection and/or appropriate equipment in their home. This creates a significant disadvantage to academic progress for our children.

• Eligible students will receive 12 months of free high-speed internet and/or a free laptop that they can keep forever. If you know an APS student who needs internet service or a laptop, please complete an intake form at https://tinyurl.com/GOKCform. Eligible families will be contacted directly with next steps. To learn more, please email getourkidsconnected@apsk12.org or call 404 802 KIDS (5437).

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

• Atlanta Public Schools has partnered with The Empty Stocking Fund to provide backpacks containing essential school supplies. If you are in need of school supplies to get the school year started, please visit https://www.emptystockingfund.org/aps-backpack-request-2020/
On behalf of the Westside Collective Effort, Westside Future Fund is maintaining an information and resources webpage with relevant resources to benefit the neighborhoods we serve. https://www.westsidefuturefund.org/covid-19-info/

FREE COVID-19 TESTING

No Appointment Needed
No ID Required
Confidential

Get more testing information at:
https://www.fultoncountyga.gov/covid-19/covid-testing-sites

Saturday, Aug. 22, 8am–2pm
Mount Moriah Baptist Church
200 Joseph E. Lowery Boulevard,
Atlanta, GA 30314

No ID Required
Confidential

Additional Covid-19 Testing at:

The Family Health Center at West End
Schedule Appt. (404) 752-1400 | MON - FRI 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

CVS at Good Samaritan Health Center
ADULTS only - RAPID TEST | Schedule Appt. (404) 523-6571
MON - THUR 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM | FRI - SAT 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

For up-to-date testing information in Fulton County, please visit
https://www.fultoncountyga.gov/covid-19/covid-testing-sites
Call the Westside COVID-19 Helpline at:

404-430-8180

If you or someone you know tests positive for COVID-19, give us a call for any of the following:

- Help with getting food
- Assistance with seeking employment, counseling or housing
- Understanding your COVID-19 test results
- Tips to protect you and your family
- Ways to prevent the spread
- Monitoring your symptoms
- When to seek medical attention
- Help with getting medications
- Assistance with connecting to other helpful resources.

Do you need a doctor or have other health related questions? Text Westside to 51555 to connect to a provider by phone for free.
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.ORG

Shape the future for your family.

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

Count everyone, from grandpa to the new baby.

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

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

Your response is safe.

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

Your family can help you respond.

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

For more information, visit: 

2020CENSUS.GOV
The Trust for Public Land and the City of Atlanta look forward to completing and opening Cook Park this fall!

Cook Park has been designed with clear sight lines, security cameras, and lighting to provide a safe and comfortable environment for park users. Most of the project’s wall lights, street lights, and pedestrian lights have been installed and have been lit at night for necessary testing and adjustments.

The project’s sod, shrubs, and trees continue to be installed. Additionally, dozens of boulders brought in from Bellwood Quarry have been placed to define unique areas.

A variety of concrete and hardscape finishes were selected and installed to correspond to the uses of each space. Some of the spaces designs respond to specific themes and the history of the site and neighborhood. For instance, the design for the space at the north-west of Cook Park that includes the playground, splash pad, and restroom building is based on Proctor Creek once cutting across the site a century ago before homes were built there in the 1930s and 1940s.

Cook Park’s wide sidewalks and large plazas continue to be poured. When complete the collection of unique spaces will provide venues to meet, hangout, and take in incredible views of the neighborhood and Atlanta’s skyline. Sidewalk and plazas, like at the corner of Thurmond St. and Walnut St. have been reinforced to hold up to the maintenance vehicles required to take care of the park’s amenities.
City of Atlanta launches program to provide rental assistance during pandemic

REPORTED BY WSBTV.COM NEWS STAFF

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

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

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

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

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

Renters can apply by visiting www.unitedway.org, texting C19-ERA to 898-211 or calling 211.
John Lewis: Good Trouble

Virtual Cinema

View this riveting documentary by purchasing access via this link >>

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

Proceeds will both

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

RUN TIME: 1 HR 36 MIN
RATED PG

Director | Dawn Porter
Producers | Laura Michalchyshyn, Dawn Porter, Erika Alexander and Ben Arnon
ERIKA ALEXANDER

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

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

DAWN PORTER

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

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

Dawn also directed and produced the acclaimed four-hour Netflix original series Bobby Kennedy for President, which was released in 2018 and premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival. A two-time Sundance festival Director, her film Trapped which explored laws regulating abortion clinics in the South won the special jury social-impact prize at the 2016 Sundance Film Festival, in addition to a Peabody and numerous other awards.

Dawn has been commissioned to create films for the Center for Investigative Reporting, Time and Essence Magazines, The New York Times Op Docs, and Amazon. Her work has received generous support from the MacArthur Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the Mellon Foundation, Tribeca Film Institute, Sundance Film Institute, Chicken & Egg Pictures and other esteemed organizations. She is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the Television Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the Directors Guild of America.
VIEWPOINT: Fulfilling our vision of the beloved community
By D. Makeda Johnson | First published in the Atlanta Business Chronicle May 5, 2017

Gentrification of urban American cities is a complex phenomenon with social, political and economic implications.

It represents a double-edged sword with both opportunities and challenges. The infusion of higher-income individuals into urban centers generates increased renewal investments in formerly neglected and abandoned blighted communities. It provides needed revenue to local municipalities to meet the expense of much-needed infrastructure and service delivery improvements. Unfortunately, gentrification and displacement are manifesting as symptoms nationally as the urban center across our nation thrives to attract upper-middle-income families while displacing current residents with increasing housing costs that exclude the working poor and altering the cultural and historical fabric of urban America cities.

Gentrification can be managed and provide an opportunity for Atlanta, Georgia, to honor its most noted son and drum major for social justice: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Atlanta can once again shine as an urban American city “Too Busy to Hate.” We can redefine the G word. We are in a moment of opportunity for the creation of the “Beloved Community,” a community of racial and economic diversity.

But it will not just happen, it must be intentionally developed. It is simple, but requires authentic partnership between community, political and private stakeholders committed to the possibility of the “Beloved Community.” It will require a resident retention plan that prevents forced displacement, inclusionary affordable housing policy that supports mixed income and racial diversity by acknowledging the area median income, and a tax abatement program to protect vulnerable home and business owners.

The Historic Westside Community is poised with the opportunity to manifest not forced displacement, but demonstrate how to align urban transformation with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s vision of “The Beloved Community.” A community where justice and equality is the order of the day; an authentic mixed community where all can live, change and grow without the destruction of the Historic Westside Community’s cultural integrity.

To accomplish the building of the Beloved Community, trust must be established requiring a shift from traditional transactional approaches to community redevelopment. We had declared that our approach will be transformative and centered on the development of human capital. This innovative transformative approach to community development is no easy task. It requires that both residents, stakeholders and service providers rethink and reset traditional mindsets associated with poverty that fails to see and value the many assets within communities and design programs that empower residents with the skills and resources to be a part of the solution with equality and equity.

This writer loves living and working within the Historic Westside Community. Having chosen to call it home for nearly three decades, I proudly celebrate the beauty of community. We are a very resilient community that has, in spite of many challenges, continued to make contributions to society, especially as it relates to striving for social justice and an equitable society.

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

Envision what could happen as residents and dedicated stakeholders shift their mindsets and reinvent how to renew communities without displacement, where there is the pollination of skills and the capacity to stay in communication even when they are difficult, seeking to establish trust and new ways of engagement that produce the greater good for humanity while creating economically healthy, thriving businesses, well-kept homes, quality affordable housing that is reflective of the earning of the communities’ workforce, accessible and affordable healthcare, high-performing educational institutions. In this moment of opportunity, we can be the change that the world is looking for and create the environment that produces productive citizens with economic and social mobility by design. As residents and stakeholders, we will either fulfill or betray the vision of the beloved community based on our actions or inaction. There is a critical need for advocacy on behalf of the often-marginalized long-term residents in gentrifying communities; we have the opportunity to shift that. Where do you stand? I shall continue to strive to be a drum major for justice, equality and inclusion for the establishment of the “Beloved Community.”
THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVALUABLE SUPPORT
IN MAKING THESE SUMMITS POSSIBLE:

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