



Westside
Future Fund

Transform Westside Summit

Convene | Communicate | Collaborate

Westside Future Fund
Friday, December 18, 2020

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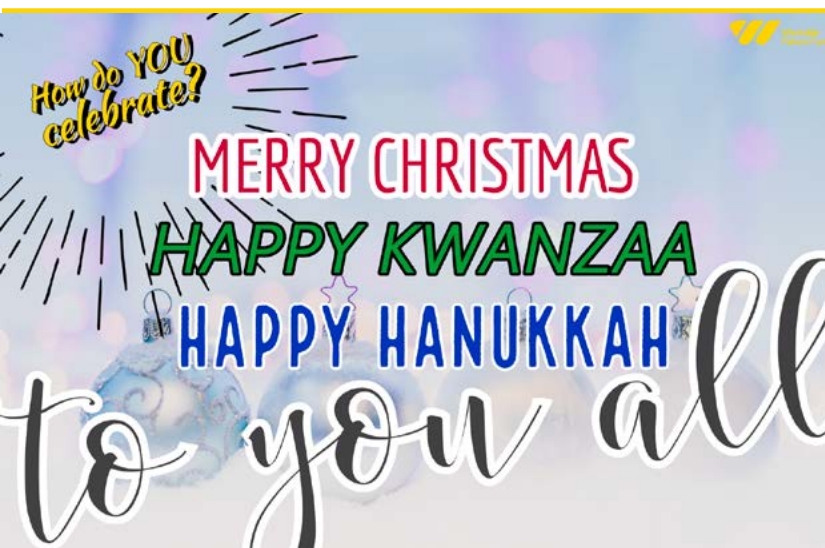
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**SUPPORT
WESTSIDE
BUSINESSES**



Westside
Future Fund

VISION

A community Dr. King would be proud to call home.

MISSION

To advance a compassionate approach to neighborhood revitalization that creates a diverse, mixed-income community, improves the quality of life for current and future residents and elevates the Historic Westside's unique history and culture.

VALUES

Do with the Community, not to the Community

We know that residents are the real experts on the challenges in their community. Therefore, we learn from residents and involve them in all we do.

Be Compassionate

We meet residents where they are in a spirit of empathy and respect.

Have Integrity in Everything

We stand behind all we say and do. We are open, honest, and courageous.

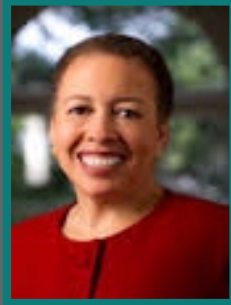
Be Creative

We bring high energy and fresh ideas to tackling the long-standing challenges on the Westside. We're dedicated to trying different approaches to get different results.

Deliver Results

We're committed to driving transformation in the long term, with a focus on measurable outcomes today.

2020 Board of Directors



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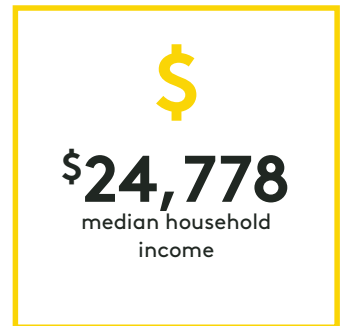
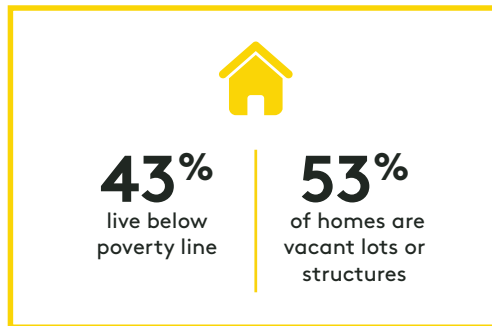
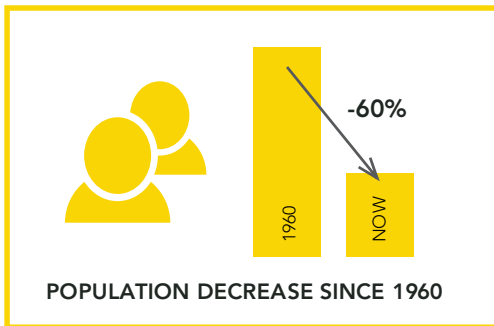


Westside Future Fund

CREATING A NEW WESTSIDE FUTURE

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

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



Role of the Westside Future Fund

With an emphasis on community retention and a compassionate approach to revitalization, Westside Future Fund is focused on creating a diverse mixed-income community, improving quality of life, and elevating and celebrating the Historic Westside's unique history and culture.

Impact Areas

Westside Future Fund's holistic, partner-driven model is proving successful. Through our roles as participator, amplifier, convener, strategist and accelerator, WFF is delivering results in our four impact strategies.



SAFETY
& SECURITY



COMMUNITY HEALTH
& WELLNESS



MIXED-INCOME
COMMUNITIES



CRADLE-TO-CAREER
EDUCATION

* Includes Just Us and Historic Booker T. Washington



HOME ON THE WESTSIDE

Investing in a New Westside Future

- Westside Future Fund is deeply committed to community retention
- We created Home on the Westside as a signature initiative in partnership with Mayor Bottoms to drive equitable and inclusive redevelopment in the Historic Westside neighborhoods
- WFF's community retention guidelines prioritize individuals and families with ties to WFF's historic neighborhoods to be first in line for housing opportunities and do not discriminate based on income

Using these guidelines, Home on the Westside prioritizes Westside legacy residents by providing high quality, permanently affordable housing opportunities

- Providing renters housing they can afford as area rents continue to rise
 - Renters should not have to pay more than 30% of their gross income on rent
- Enabling homeownership with financial coaching and counseling
- Constructing and renovating new single-family homes, available for purchase and for lease-to-purchase, supported by down payment assistance
- Covering increases in property taxes for qualified legacy homeowners

If you are interested in housing opportunities through Home on the Westside, start by completing an interest form.

REGISTER NOW



Westside
Future Fund

P.O. Box 92273, Atlanta, GA 30314
(404) 793-2670
WestsideFutureFund.org

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@westsidefuturefund



@WFFAtlanta

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A Dedicated Team



John Ahmann
President and CEO



Jaren Abedania
VP of Real Estate



Rachel Carey
VP of Project
Financing



Brenda Dalton
Chief Operating
Officer



Sonia Dawson
Special Assistant to
the President & CEO



Lee Harrop
VP of Real Estate
Development



Raquel Hudson
Director of Operations



Deidre Strickland
Development
Manager



Joan Vernon
Director of Neighborhood
Engagement



Christal Walker
Staff Accountant



Robyn Washington
Development
Coordinator



Cristel Williams
Director of
Development



Agenda

7:15AM – 7:30AM
Welcome

John Ahmann
President & CEO
Westside Future Fund

Ebony Ford
Westside Resident
English Avenue

7:30AM – 7:45AM
Opening Devotion

Nicole Riggins
Parent, Teacher, and Coach
Hollis Innovation Academy
Chair
Hollis GO Team

7:45AM – 8:55AM
Highlighting Westside Businesses

..featuring YOU!
We invite you to give your own – or your favorite – Westside business a shout-out!

featuring
LIVE CAM from our
Westside Correspondent

Benjamin Earley
Westside Correspondent
Redclay-Hill

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

8:55AM
Closing Remarks

John Ahmann
President & CEO
Westside Future Fund

9:00AM
Summit Adjourns



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@WFFAtlanta



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westsidefuturefund.org

Our Featured Participants

John Ahmann

President & CEO, Westside Future Fund

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

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

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

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

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

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

Our Featured Participants

Ebony M. Ford

Westside Resident, English Avenue

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

Nicole Riggins

Parent, Teacher, and Coach, Hollis Innovation Academy; Chair, Hollis GO Team

Nicole Riggins wears many hats including that of a mother, entrepreneur, and author. Although born in Nashville, TN, while her father was in medical school, she was raised in Cincinnati, OH until the family relocated to Anniston, AL.

Following the family tradition of attending HBCU's, Nicole is a graduate of Clark Atlanta University. Becoming a mother at 21 years jump-started her drive to provide her children a foundation that would allow them the freedom to pursue their dreams. As a single mother of 4, and now a grandmother, Nicole is on a mission to create generational wealth opportunities for both her family and her community.



Nicole wears many hats in this mission:

- One of the owners of Special Athletes of Metropolitan Atlanta - a company that provides athletic opportunities to those with cognitive disabilities.
- Owner of Reality Check Empowerment Zone - which provides small business services from start to finish for women.
- Go Team Chairperson - Hollis Innovation Academy for the 2020-2021 Academic Year
- Director of Operations - Keeping Veterans Fit

Nicole is passionate about finding ways to help with the resources that she has at her disposal.



Benjamin Earley

Senior Consultant, Redclay-Hill

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

How do you celebrate the holidays?

Members of our community celebrate with traditions from around the world.

Christmas

In the Christian faith, Christmas is the historical celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Whether celebrated for this religious reason or solely as a cultural celebration, Christmas traditions vary around the world. While Americans celebrate with Christmas trees, visits from Santa Claus, and dreams of snowy landscapes, Christmas falls during Australia's summer, where it is popular to go camping or to the beach over the holiday. Some Australians decorate a "Christmas Bush," a native Australian tree with small green leaves and flowers that turn red during the summer.

Hanukkah

Hanukkah, or Chanukah, is an eight-day Jewish celebration that commemorates the re-dedication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem following the Maccabean Revolt. Those who took part in the re-dedication witnessed what they believed to be a miracle. Even though there was only enough untainted oil to keep the menorah's candles burning for a single day, the flames continued to burn for eight nights.

Also known as the Festival of Lights, Hanukkah begins on the 25th of Kislev on the Hebrew calendar. Celebrations revolve around lighting the menorah. On each of the holiday's eight nights, another candle is added to the menorah after sundown. The ninth candle, called the shamash ("helper"), is used to light the others. Typically, blessings are recited and traditional Hanukkah foods such as potato pancakes (latkes) and jam-filled donuts (sufganiyot) are fried in oil. Other Hanukkah customs include playing with dreidels and exchanging gifts.

Kwanzaa

Kwanzaa was created by Dr. Maulana Karenga in 1966 after the Watts riots in Los Angeles. He founded US, a cultural organization, and started to research African "first fruit" (harvest) celebrations. From there, he combined aspects of several different harvest celebrations to form the basis of Kwanzaa.

The name Kwanzaa comes from the phrase "matunda ya kwanza" which means "first fruits" in Swahili. Each family celebrates Kwanzaa in its own way, but celebrations often include songs and dances, African drums, storytelling, poetry reading, and a large traditional meal. On each of the seven nights, families gather and a child lights one of the candles on the Kinara, then one of the seven principles, values of African culture, is discussed. An African feast, called a Karamu, is held on December 31.



Stock Photo // Getty Images

Diwali, India

Hindus celebrate Diwali, a major five-day festival of lights that's observed in fall (the date is different every year). The ancient holiday, found in Sanskrit texts, celebrates good over evil and light over darkness. As such, the holiday is filled with all manner of light, from candles to firecrackers. Other



traditions involve honoring the Hindu deity Lakshmi, who represents wealth, and creating rangoli, elaborate colorful patterns made with paint, flowers, chalk, rice, sand and more. Gift giving is another huge part of the holiday (particularly anything gold), as are endless feasts. Sweets are also key, like gulab jamun (fried balls soaked in rose-water syrup) and barfi (solid squares made of condensed milk and sugar and flavored with everything from pistachios to cardamom).

How do you celebrate the holidays?

Christmas Boats, Greece

Christmas trees are popular in Greece, but you'll also find boats wrapped in strings of lights, whether in the water or in the main square. There are two explanations for the boat-decorating phenomenon: The first is that the country's ancient maritime tradition means boats have always been an integral part of the culture, so they were decorated long before a modernized version of Christmas (including trees) came along. The second is that St. Nicholas is considered the patron saint of sailors, which is probably why boats are decorated on December 6th.



Photo by Dimitri Messinis



Sourced from [The Catalyst](#)

Simbang Gabi, Philippines

The Philippines are home to Asia's largest Christian community, and it's here that you'll find the nine-day Simbang Gabi, a series of pre-dawn Catholic Masses that culminate on Christmas Eve. Waking up before sunrise may not sound like fun, but this is offset with a festive atmosphere en route to services, with lively bands and colorful lanterns lighting the way. Street vendors also rise early to sell the popular puto bumbong, a purple sticky rice cake, and bibingka, a coconut milk-based rice cake.

Las Posadas, Mexico

Believed to have originated in Mexico via Spanish missionaries, Las Posadas (meaning inns), are nightly processions for the nine days proceeding Christmas Eve. The posadas recreate the tradition of Jesus and Mary seeking shelter and typically involve lots of singing and children dressed as angels. Eventually, each posada ends the night at someone's pre-selected home, where, after initially being turned away, they're welcomed with the likes of tamales and Christmas punch. The posada party isn't over until the ceremonial whacking of the candy-filled piñata, often a seven-pointed star representing the seven deadly sins that need to be smashed.



Photo courtesy of Carlos Contreras de Oteyza

How do you celebrate the holidays?

Dōngzhì Festival, China

The Dōngzhì Festival is China's take on winter solstice, although the festival is also observed in Korea, Vietnam and more. In modern times, the Chinese New Year has overshadowed winter solstice, since the more popular spring festival occurs just six weeks later. As such, the winter solstice is no longer a public holiday in China, but many families still continue the practice, which entails paying homage to ancestors and eating tangyuan (sticky rice balls in sweet soup)



Sourced from [Reddit](#)

Toji, Japan

Japan's winter solstice is known as Toji, a low-key tradition that involves lighting bonfires on Mt. Fuji and soaking in citrus-scented baths. But arguably, the best way to welcome the winter solstice is by visiting an onsen (a natural hot spring) that's filled with yuzu for the occasion. Fun fact: Yuzu is a type of sour citrus fruit that looks like a lemon, but tastes more like a lime.



Image Copyright unjoji.com

over from one year to the next.

At midnight, many visit shrines or temples for Hatsumōde. Shinto shrines prepare amazake to pass out to crowds and most Buddhist temples have large cast bells that are struck once for each of the 108 earthly desires believed to cause human suffering.

Ōmisoka

Ōmisoka, New Year's Eve, is considered the second-most important day in Japanese tradition as it is the final day of the old year and the eve of New Year's Day, the most important day of the year. Families gather on Ōmisoka for one last time in the old year to have a bowl of toshi-koshi-soba or toshikoshi-udon, a tradition based on eating the long noodles to cross

Want to share about your family's winter holiday traditions with fellow Summit attendees?

Request to join the Transform Westside Summit Facebook Group! >>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/wffcommunity>



ANNOUNCEMENTS

♥CVS Health[®] + Good Sam

Good Samaritan Health Center and CVSHealth are offering free rapid COVID-19 testing with results in 20 minutes.

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
Call **404-523-6571** to schedule.

Good Sam is located at
1015 Donald Lee Hollowell
Pkwy, Atlanta, GA 30318.



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



Do you know, own, or love a business on the Westside?

Support Westside Business Awareness

To join the Westside Business Directory or participate in an upcoming community market:

email Joan@westsidefuturefund.org with the subject line **ATTN: Westside Business**



CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS EXTERIOR OWNER-OCCUPIED REHAB PROGRAM

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

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

ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO APPLY

Contact the Choice Neighborhoods Exterior Owner-Occupied Rehab Program Manager
Meals On Wheels Atlanta at info@mowatl.org or 404-351-3889



KEEPING STUDENTS CONNECTED

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apply now for hotspots and
free internet service.

Apply by January 11, 2021



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



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



LEGACY HOMEOWNERS | RENTAL HOUSING | HOMEOWNERSHIP | FINANCING SUPPORT



LEARN MORE AT THE FOLLOWING LINK >>

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



WATCH EPISODE 6

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

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

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

Join us as we create a way forward, together.



Episode 6

ROSALIND G. BREWER & SUSAN L. TAYLOR

Season Two
Launching in 2021

WATCH NOW

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

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



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?

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Doctor?**

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WEEKDAY VOTING:	SATURDAY VOTING:	
Monday, DEC 14 to Friday, DEC 18	Saturday, DEC 19 and DEC 26	
Monday, DEC 21 to Weds, DEC 23	8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.	
8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.	SUNDAY VOTING:	
Monday, DEC 28 to Weds, DEC 30	Sunday, DEC 20 and DEC 27	
7 a.m. – 7 p.m.	12 p.m. - 6 p.m.	
		*Poll Closed: December 24 and 25 in observance of Christmas Holidays. December 31 and January 1 in observance of New Year's Holidays.

MEGA OUTREACH EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS

Easy access from the Westside >>

Monday, December 14 to Saturday, December 19
State Farm Arena
1 State Farm Drive, Atlanta, GA

Tuesday, December 22 to Wednesday, December 30
Mercedes Benz Stadium
1 AMB Drive NW, Atlanta, GA

*No voting will take place at the State Farm Arena / Mercedes Benz Stadium sites on Sunday, December 20, or Monday, December 21.

ALL EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS:

Adams Park Library 2231 Campbellton Rd. SW Atlanta, GA 30311	Gladys S. Dennard Library @ South Fulton 4055 Flat Shoals Road Union City, GA 30291	Park Place at Newtown 3125 Old Alabama Road Johns Creek, GA 30022
Alpharetta Branch Library 10 Park Plaza Alpharetta, GA 30009	High Museum of Arts 1280 Peachtree Street NE Atlanta, GA 30309	Palmetto Library 9111 Cascade Palmetto Hwy Palmetto, GA 30268
Buckhead Library 269 Buckhead Avenue, NE Atlanta, GA 30305	Johns Creek Environmental Campus 8100 Holcomb Bridge Road Alpharetta, GA 30022	Ponce De Leon Library 980 Ponce De Leon Ave NE Atlanta, GA 30306
Chastain Recreation Center 140 W. Wieuca Road SW Atlanta, GA 30305	Metropolitan Library 1332 Metropolitan Parkway Atlanta, GA 30310	Robert E. Fulton Ocee Library 5090 Abbotts Bridge Road Johns Creek, GA 30005
C.T. Martin Natatorium and Recreation Center 3201 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. SW Atlanta, GA 30311	Milton Library 855 Mayfield Road Milton, GA 30009	Roswell Library 115 Norcross Street Roswell, GA 30075
Dorothy C. Benson Senior Multipurpose Complex 6500 Vernon Woods Dr NE Sandy Springs, GA 30328	New Beginnings Senior Center 66 Brooks Drive Fairburn, GA 30213	South Fulton Service Center 5600 Stonewall Tell Road College Park, GA 30349
East Point Library 2757 Main Street East Point, GA 30344	Northside Library 3295 Northside Pkwy Atlanta, GA 30327	Evelyn G Lowery Library @ Cascade 3665 Cascade Road Atlanta, GA 30331
East Roswell Branch Library 2301 Holcomb Bridge Road Roswell, GA 30076	Northeast Spruill Oaks Library 9560 Spruill Road Johns Creek, GA 30022	Sandy Springs Library 395 Mount Vernon Hwy, NE Sandy Springs, GA 30328
Etris Community Recreation 5285 Lakeside Dr. Union City, GA 30291	North Fulton Service Center (Room 232) 7741 Roswell Road Sandy Springs, GA 30350	Southwest Arts Center 915 New Hope Road, SW Atlanta, GA 30331
Gateway Center Arena at College Park 2330 Convention Center Concourse College Park, GA 30337	Northwest Branch at Scotts Crossing Library 2489 Perry Boulevard, NW Atlanta, GA 30318	Wolf Creek Library 3100 Enon Road, SW Atlanta, GA 30331

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.

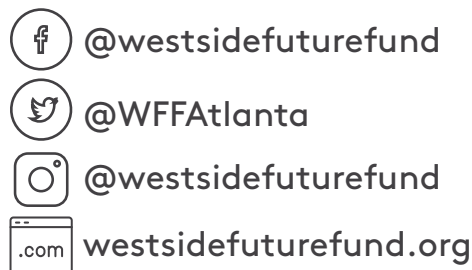
Unfortunately, too often those who seek to serve often overlook the value of relational capacity that exists within community, wealth of knowledge and ability to be a vital asset to achieving transformative sustainable communities.

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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