



Westside  
Future Fund

# Transform Westside Summit

Convene | Communicate | Collaborate

Westside Future Fund  
Friday, December 17, 2021

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# Agenda

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**7:45AM – 8:00AM**  
**Welcome + Updates**

**John Ahmann**  
*President & CEO, Westside Future Fund*

**Benjamin Earley**  
*Westside Correspondent, Redclay-Hill*

**Ebony Ford**  
*English Avenue Resident*

**8:00AM – 8:10AM**  
**Opening Devotion**

**Yolanda Owens**  
*Founder, iwi fresh*

**8:10AM – 8:55AM**  
"Fireside Chat with District 3  
Councilmember-Elect Byron  
Amos and District 4  
Councilmember-Elect Jason  
Dozier" Moderated by Benjamin  
Earley and Ebony Ford

**District 3 Councilmember-Elect Byron Amos**  
*Atlanta City Council*

**District 4 Councilmember-Elect Jason Dozier**  
*Atlanta City Council*

**8:55AM**  
**Raffle Drawings +  
Closing Remarks**

**John Ahmann**  
*President & CEO, Westside Future Fund*

**Benjamin Earley**  
*Westside Correspondent, Redclay-Hill*

**Ebony Ford**  
*English Avenue Resident*

**9:00AM**  
**Summit Adjourns**



# Our Featured Participants

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## Yolanda Owens

*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 farmer," 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 theTruth with raw veggies from the farm!

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## Councilmember-Elect Byron Amos

*District 3 Atlanta City Council*

Byron D. Amos is an entrepreneur, community organizer, and public education advocate with more than 25 years of experience in building stronger communities. Byron currently serves as the CEO of Capacity Builders, Inc., where he oversees community empowerment and development programs that encourage citizens to engage with their local government. He is also the owner of a private security company, End All Threat Security. The company has provided security services for more than 20 years to a range of clients including Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

Byron also served as the District 2 Representative on the Atlanta Board of Education. In this role, Byron supported initiatives and policies that aimed to improve educational outcomes for students in Atlanta Public Schools, including the return of vocational education. Byron also led efforts to create and adopt the first Atlanta Public School Equity Policy. The policy aims to bridge achievement gaps between white and black students in Atlanta Public Schools and address socioeconomic factors that impact student learning. Byron also serves on the Community Leadership Council of the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University

A native Atlantan and lifelong resident of Vine City, Byron has served as the Chairperson of Neighborhood Planning Unit L and as President of the Vine City Civic Association, Inc. In these positions, he worked to create sustainable change in the community and yielded significant results including an investment of more than \$10 million for new housing in the Vine City community, acquisition of more than \$2 million in public and private grant dollars for community development, and increased public greenspace.

As a result of his commitment to public service and stewardship, Byron has received many honors and awards including being recognized as a WATL 36 Unsung Hero, as well as an Outstanding Atlantan. He is also a graduate of the FBI Citizens Academy and the City of Atlanta Citizen Police Academy.

Byron is a proud graduate of the Atlanta Public School system and attended both Howard

## Our Featured Participants

University and Clark Atlanta University. He is the proud father of three daughters and one son and is married to Aisha Carter. He is a member of Beulah Baptist Church in Vine City, where he is a faithful servant on the trustee board.

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### **Councilmember-Elect Jason Dozier**

*District 4 Atlanta City Council*

Jason Dozier is Director of Program Operations and Evaluation at Hire Heroes USA, a national non-profit dedicated to empowering U.S. military members, veterans, and military spouses to succeed in the civilian workforce. After graduating from Denison University with a degree in History and Education, Jason joined the United States Army where he served as a Reconnaissance Officer in both Iraq and Afghanistan, earning both the Army Commendation Medal and the Bronze Star. A native Atlantan, he returned to Georgia to help transition military veterans in a full-time capacity while concurrently earning a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Georgia.

Jason has also earned a Master of Science in Real Estate degree from Georgia State University, and as a result, is an active member of the Urban Land Institute, the International City/County Management Association, and the Atlanta Regional Commission's Millennial Advisory Panel. Jason has also served on the board for two Atlanta transportation advocacy organizations: the Atlanta Bicycle Coalition, which works to transform Atlanta into a more livable, accessible city by making biking equitable, safe, and appealing; and Advance Atlanta, which is a citizen-driven grassroots advocacy coalition dedicated to building support for transit expansion in Metro Atlanta.

As a resident of Atlanta's historic Mechanicsville community, Jason has played an active role throughout Neighborhood Planning Unit V; this includes serving as the Co-Chair of the Intrenchment Creek Community Stewardship Council, serving as Communications Chair for the NPU, serving on the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation NPU-V Advisory Board, serving as Vice President for the Mechanicsville Civic Association, and at one point serving on the Steering Committee for the Turner Field Community Benefits Coalition. Jason also served on the board of the BeltLine Tax Allocation District Advisory Committee, working to ensure citizen oversight of the planning, design, and implementation of the Atlanta BeltLine. Jason's advocacy has resulted in multiple editorials published in Saporta Report, and he has been quoted in several key Atlanta publications including the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, CBS Channel 46, NPR station 90.1 WABE, Creative Loafing, and several others. In addition to his professional work with military veterans, Jason is a 2015 alumnus of LEAD Atlanta, a 2016 Political Partner with the Truman National Security Project, a 2016 New Leaders Council Fellow, and a 2016 Atlanta Business Chronicle 40 Under 40 honoree.

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### **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

## Our Featured Participants

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 and contribution to racial equity.

He has worked primarily behind the scenes, bringing together diverse stakeholders, and managing initiatives through to fruition. He 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 impacting Atlanta and its future.

A native son of Atlanta, John is currently the President & CEO of the Westside Future Fund (WFF). WFF was launched by the Atlanta Committee for Progress (ACP) in December 2014, with the strong leadership support of former Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed. The nonprofit organization’s mission is 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. Through its flagship program, *Home on the Westside*, WFF helps neighbors live in the place they love through access to high-quality housing and educational support, strengthening the city we call home.

John has been recognized for his work by receiving the following awards: 2020 and 2021 *Atlanta Magazine’s* Atlanta’s 500 Most Powerful Leaders; 2020 and 2021 *Atlanta Business Chronicle’s* 100 Most Influential Atlantans; 2019 Michael R. Hollis Innovation Academy Partnership Award; 2019 Christian City’s Community Champion Nonprofit Honoree Award; Atlanta Business League’s Visions of Excellence Award in 2019; Antioch Urban Ministries Anchor Award in 2018; and 2018 *Atlanta Business Chronicle’s* Best Overall Deal in Atlanta Real Estate Awards.

John has two adult daughters and lives in Atlanta’s historic neighborhood of Vine City.

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### **Benjamin Earley**

*Senior Consultant, Redclay-Hill*

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

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## Our Featured Participants

### **Ebony Ford**

*Westside Resident, English Avenue*

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

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Westside  
Future Fund

## VISION

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

## MISSION

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

## VALUES

### **Do with the Community, not to the Community**

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

### **Be Compassionate**

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

### **Have Integrity in Everything**

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

### **Be Creative**

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

### **Deliver Results**

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



@westsidefuturefund



@WFFAtlanta



@westsidefuturefund



westsidefuturefund.org







# Westside Future Fund







# Meet the Westside Future Fund.

## WHY THE WESTSIDE?

The Westside is an important part of Atlanta's past, present and future. These historic neighborhoods played a defining role in the American civil rights movement and is the place some of its most iconic leaders called home, like Ambassador Andrew Young, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Dorothy Bolden, founder of the National Domestic Worker's Union of America. The Westside also bears the scars of policies that led to depopulation and left those who stayed without economic opportunity. Today, the Westside Future Fund is working to change that and make it a model of racial equity and economic justice. The result will be a better Atlanta where everyone on the Westside has access to the resources they need to thrive.

## OUR 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.**

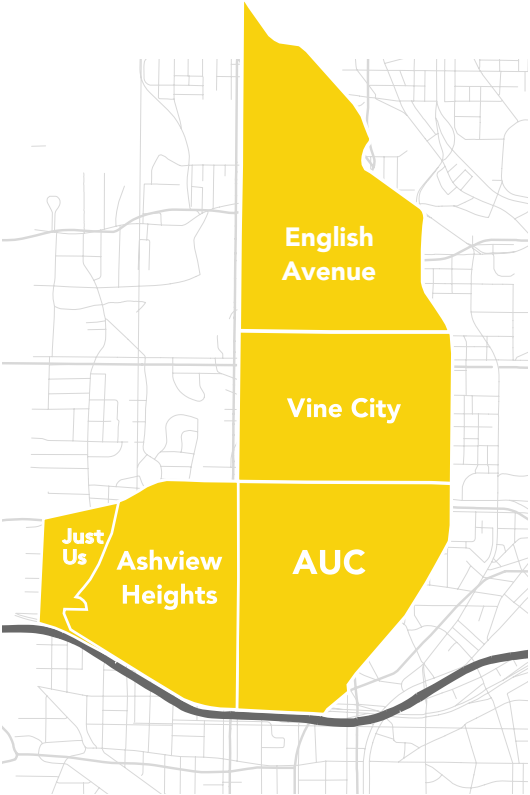




THE HEART OF THE WESTSIDE

We focus on five neighborhoods in Atlanta’s Historic Westside: Vine City, English Avenue, Ashview Heights, Atlanta University Center and Just Us. Long underserved and underfunded due to systemic racism, the Westside suffered from the lack of essential services, food deserts, neglected infrastructure and blight. Today, more than half of its residents live below the poverty line, and 40% of all housing is vacant. Only 79% of the population can read above the third-grade level. That is why our mission is to open access to resources and potential through the cornerstones of homeownership and education.

*Definition of Legacy Resident:* Anyone residing on the Westside prior to 2017 as well as those with meaningful ties to the Westside including former colleges and universities, church congregants and others.



WHAT DOES THE WESTSIDE FUTURE FUND DO?

The Westside Future Fund is a nonprofit organization with a mission to improve the lives of current and future Westside residents. Through our flagship program, Home on the Westside, we help our neighbors live in the place they love through access to high-quality housing and educational support, strengthening the city we call home.



SAFETY  
& SECURITY



HEALTH  
& WELLNESS



MIXED-INCOME  
COMMUNITIES



CRADLE-TO-CAREER  
EDUCATION

MORE WAYS TO BE AT HOME ON THE WESTSIDE

We ensure the availability of affordable, quality housing in ways that are financially attainable for long-time residents of the Westside or those connected to the neighborhood. That includes support to rent, buy or retain a home with a unique focus on community retention.

ACCESS TO CRADLE-TO-CAREER EDUCATION

Education is a cornerstone of better futures and prosperity. Investment in these foundational opportunities starts with quality early childhood education and our partnership with Atlanta Public Schools in support of the elementary, middle and secondary schools that make up the Booker T. Washington Cluster. It continues through adult skill training and support of Westside entrepreneurs. Westside residents deserve the resources that support families and lead to quality employment opportunities.

CHAMPIONING A SAFE & HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOOD

Collaborating with other organizations working on the Westside, we advocate for an environment where residents can thrive. That means teaming up to improve access to healthcare and overall wellbeing with greenspace, walkability, and safety. It’s contributing to residents’ sense of security by mitigating social factors that impact crime rates.

We also stand shoulder-to-shoulder with those who care about the Westside — residents, community groups, police officers, schools, business owners, developers, donors, and investors – and lend our voice to the calls for change today and a better future tomorrow.

We can stop the unchecked gentrification that displaces legacy residents of the Westside and tears the social fabric of Atlanta. Instead, we want to ensure they benefit from the rising tide of economic opportunity, rather than being swept away by it. Together, we can realize the vision of the courageous American civil rights leaders who called the Westside home: a thriving mixed-income community that models what it means to be a world-class city embracing racial and economic justice.







## CONTRIBUTE TO RACIAL EQUITY IN ATLANTA

The long-term effects of underserved neighborhoods and generational poverty have limited opportunity on the Westside, and the enormity of the problem may seem overwhelming. Together we can break down barriers and build something better. We can connect legacy residents to resources that make homeownership possible. And, in turn, that homeownership can fuel transformational and generational change for them and their families.

**Home is more than a house, so when you contribute to *Home on the Westside*, you're also investing in the community.**

That means strengthening educational opportunity from cradle to career and advocating for the safety, security, and wellness of all our residents. It's a holistic approach to neighborhood revitalization.

Westside Future Fund's Home on the Westside program is uniquely built to realize this model. We represent a convergence of experience, expertise and influence from the worlds of business, education, government, and philanthropy, as well as the knowledge, connections and creativity needed to address the complex issues facing the Westside. **We also have the ability to leverage every \$1 donated to Home on the Westside with \$2 from the WFF Impact Fund, multiplying the impact of every contribution.**

**Revitalizing the Westside is not just something we can do; it is something we must do. Atlanta cannot forget those who built it. Get involved. Invest in real change. Make a better Atlanta at Home on the Westside.**





# THE WESTSIDE: Your home now... and for years to come



Introducing **Home on the Westside**, an initiative from Westside Future Fund to help drive inclusive community retention for Atlanta's Historic Westside neighborhoods.

We're taking steps to deliver safe, quality housing on the Westside with:

- Affordable 1-, 2-, and 3-bedroom rentals
- Newly constructed and renovated homes for purchase and lease-to-purchase
- Down payment assistance
- Anti-Displacement Tax Fund for legacy homeowners
- Financial coaching and counseling in partnership with On the Rise Financial Center

## Are you interested in Home on the Westside?

Go online and complete a simple form to let us know which of our housing opportunities interest you:

[westsidefuturefund.org/homeonthewestside](https://westsidefuturefund.org/homeonthewestside)

Contact WFF with any questions.

Call: 470.377.1696

Email: [home@westsidefuturefund.org](mailto:home@westsidefuturefund.org)



Westside  
Future Fund

Legacy westside residents,  
Ebony and her son, Jeremiah



# 2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

14



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*Deputy Chief of Staff  
City of Atlanta*



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*President & CEO,  
Atlanta Housing*



**Dr. Eloisa  
Klementich**  
*President & CEO,  
Invest Atlanta*

# A<sup>15</sup> Dedicated Team



**John Ahmann**  
President and CEO



**Rachel Carey**  
Chief Real Estate  
Officer



**Sonia Dawson**  
Chief of Staff



**Charles Forde**  
Director of Project  
Financing



**Lee Harrop**  
VP of Single-Family  
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**Raquel Hudson**  
Director of  
Programs



**Nicole Jones**  
Office Administrator



**Marni Pittman**  
Director of Finance &  
Risk Management



**Deidre Strickland**  
Development  
Manager



**Jaaren Strickland**  
Accounting  
Manager



**Joan Vernon**  
Director of  
Neighborhood  
Engagement



**Christal Walker**  
Staff Accountant



**Robyn Washington**  
Development  
Coordinator



**Cristel Williams**  
Chief  
Development  
Officer



# COVID-19 VACCINE SITES



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

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

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

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

**For more information on vaccination sites**

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

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

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

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



**Good Samaritan Health Center and CVSHealth are offering free rapid  
COVID-19 testing or vaccination**

**BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**

**Call 404-523-6571, ext. 4928 to schedule.**

**Good Sam is located at**

**1015 Donald Lee Hollowell Pkwy, NW  
Atlanta, GA 30318**

**Visit [goodsamatlanta.org/COVID-19](https://goodsamatlanta.org/COVID-19) for more info.**



**Subscribe for Updates to the  
NATIONAL COVID-19  
RESILIENCY NETWORK**

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



**LEARN MORE**





CARIBBEAN AMERICAN  
CULTURAL ARTS FOUNDATION

## SENIOR DENTAL CARE PROGRAM



### Free Senior Dental Care Services for Fulton County Residents !



#### DOCTOR

### DANIELLE GREENE

OWNER FABULOUS SMILES ATLANTA

Danielle Greene, DDS, will help you achieve the most beautiful and healthy smile possible. At her practice Fabulous Smiles of Atlanta, located in Fulton County. You can take advantage of various dental issues.

DEEP CLEANING

DENTURES

EXTRACTIONS

**CALL TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT  
CALL 1-800-213-1059**

*Fabulous Smiles of Atlanta*

**1188 Ralph David Abernathy Blvd,  
Atlanta, GA 30310**



**FULTON  
COUNTY**



This is a federally funded program, which is based upon a first-come, first-serve basis. Spaces are limited. No walk-ins are accepted. You must call to make an appointment. Must be 65 years or older.





Only one number to get the help you need: food, housing, counseling, employment, education, healthcare, COVID-19 testing. Feeling lonely, lost, stressed, anxious or down? Need help managing your health condition?

Call **404-430-8180** today!

**Westside  
Connect  
Help Line**

**NEED A  
DOCTOR?**

**TEXT:  
WESTSIDE  
TO 51555**



## **JOB FLASH REPORT**

IF INTERESTED IN EMPLOYMENT, PLEASE CALL **404-853-1780**  
OR VISIT [INTEGRITYCDC.ORG](https://www.integritycdc.org). WHEN YOU FILL OUT YOUR  
APPLICATION, MAKE SURE TO CLICK "DIRECT EMPLOYMENT."

# **ATTENTION**

**WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR  
OWN AD SPACE?**

Westside Future Fund is now offering you a chance to  
promote your business in our Summit bulletins!  
If interested, please email [sonia@westsidefuturefund.org](mailto:sonia@westsidefuturefund.org)  
for more details!





# AT&T

## Connectivity for the Common Good.

Making broadband more affordable for communities impacted by COVID-19



As part of our commitment to bridging the digital divide, AT&T is participating in the FCC's Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) Program to help eligible households with connectivity costs during the pandemic.



**The monthly cost of broadband – after applying the EBB – can temporarily fall to as low as \$0 a month.<sup>1</sup>**

In these difficult economic times, the EBB will help qualifying households reduce wireless service costs for activities like job searches, telehealth, remote work, and distance learning. EBB enrollment is now open, and the benefit can be applied to select plans for both new and existing AT&T and Cricket Wireless customers.

**Households interested in using the benefit with AT&T should: Determine EBB Program eligibility by applying [here](#).**



## CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS EXTERIOR OWNER-OCCUPIED REHAB PROGRAM

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

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

### ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

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

### FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO APPLY

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





## Center for Employment Opportunities

938 Peachtree Street  
Atlanta Ga, 30309  
404-689-6579  
[www.ceoworks.org](http://www.ceoworks.org)  
Mon-Friday 9am-5pm

*We provide immediate, effective, and comprehensive employment services exclusively to individuals who have recently returned home from incarceration.*



**Bringing Goodwill to the Southside:**

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

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

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

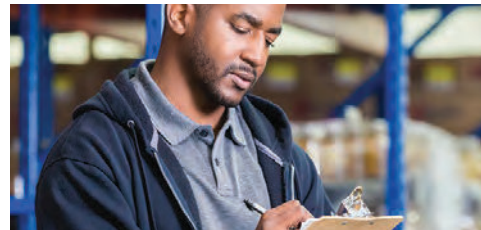
### **Great finds at great prices.**

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



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

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



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



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

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



# Attention families in need of heating or cooling assistance

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (**LIHEAP**) is a federally funded program that assists low-income households heat or cool their homes.

Apply for assistance at your local Community Action Agency. Take the following documents:

1. Proof of Income for all household members for the past 30 days
2. Proof of Social Security number for each person in the household
3. Most recent Gas and Electric Bill for the household
4. Proof of citizenship or legal immigrant status



**Heating Assistance  
Application Cycle**

• **November 1 - March 31**



**Cooling Assistance  
Application Cycle**

• **April 1 - June 30**

For additional information, email [LIHEAP-CSBG-LIHWAP@dhs.ga.gov](mailto:LIHEAP-CSBG-LIHWAP@dhs.ga.gov)  
Local Georgia Community Action Agencies can be found online at  
<http://www.georgiacaa.org>.







EMORY  
UNIVERSITY

Urban Health Initiative

# WALK WITH A DOC: 2021 VIRTUAL WALKS!

Walk with a Doc is a no-cost program for anyone who wants to learn more about leading a healthier life!

Participants will be able to listen to a health professional speak about nutrition, physical fitness, mental health, and more, all while getting up and moving!

**JOIN US EVERY SATURDAY AT 9AM  
AT THE FOLLOWING ZOOM LINK:  
[HTTPS://EMORY.ZOOM.US/J/97331526227](https://emory.zoom.us/j/97331526227)**



**OUR PARTNERS:**



# Antioch Urban Ministries, Inc.

## Christmas Toy DRIVE-THRU *Celebration & Giveaway* SAT, DEC 18, 10AM-1PM



**Drop-off** unwrapped toys for boys and girls at Antioch Baptist North's Fellowship Hall at 540 Cameron M. Alexander Blvd, Atlanta, GA 30318.



Register to **Volunteer** for the Toy Giveaway at [www.antiochurban.org](http://www.antiochurban.org) where you can also make a financial contribution.

[www.antiochurban.org](http://www.antiochurban.org)







WISHING YOU

*Happy  
Holidays*

FROM WESTSIDE FUTURE FUND

# 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



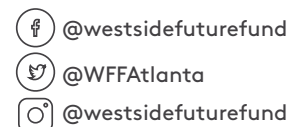
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