

Transform Westside Summit Convene | Communicate | Collaborate

Westside Future Fund Friday, August 5, 2022

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Transform Westside Summit

Convene | Communicate | Collaborate

Presented by the Westside Future Fund Friday, August 5, 2022

WIFI: TGS Guest | Password: tgsvisitor384

Agenda

7:15AM - 7:20AM Welcome John Ahmann

> President & CEO Westside Future Fund

Benjamin Earley

Westside Correspondent

Redclay-Hill

Ebony Ford

English Avenue Resident

7:20AM - 7:30AM Opening Devotion Dana Render

Director of Human Resources, Trees Atlanta

7:30AM - 7:45AM Self-Introductions John Ahmann

> President & CEO Westside Future Fund

7:45AM - 7:50AM Westside Future Fund

Overview

Ebony Ford

English Avenue Resident

7:50AM - 8:45AM 'Highlighting Trees

Atlanta and Its Impact on the Westside' moderated by Benjamin Earley

Angel Abreu

Youth Tree Team Alumna, Trees Atlanta

Cate Hughes

NeighborWoods Manager, Trees

Atlanta

Willette Jackson

Workforce Development & Engagement Supervisor, Trees

Atlanta

Greg Levine

Co-Executive Director and Chief Program Officer, Trees Atlanta

Connie Veates

Co-Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, Trees Atlanta

8:45AM - 8:55AM Q & A

ΑII

8:55AM Closing Remarks John Ahmann President & CEO Westside Future Fund

Benjamin Earley

Westside Correspondent

Redclay-Hill

Ebony Ford

English Avenue Resident

9:00AM Meeting Adjourns

Our Featured Participants

Dana Render

Director of Human Resources, Trees Atlanta

Dana Render is Trees Atlanta's Director of Human Resources, and she has been with the organization since 2016. Dana currently manages employee relations, compliance, recruitment, and training in addition to overseeing Workforce Development and Community Engagement. Prior to joining Trees Atlanta, she served 11 years in various nonprofit roles working with university students, youth in foster and adoptive care, and youth education resource development. Dana holds a Master of Education in Student Life and Development from the University of Miami.

Angel Abreu

Youth Tree Team Alumna, Trees Atlanta

Angel Abreu started working with Trees Atlanta as a student Youth Tree Team member in 2020. The next summer, she became a Leader in Training for the program where was a peer leader for green space maintenance work. She credits the Youth Tree Team with instilling her with a passion for the environment and valuable skills from tree care, to team building, and other professional training that will carry her throughout her budding career. She is currently completing her second year as a Business Management student at Georgia State University and will return to Trees Atlanta as the Volunteer Services Intern for Fall 2022.

Cate Hughes

NeighborWoods Manager, Trees Atlanta

Cate Hughes manages the NeighborWoods Program at Trees Atlanta. She and her team work closely with community leaders, neighbors, and volunteers to plant trees across metro Atlanta. Before joining the Trees Atlanta staff in 2017, Cate taught at International Preschools in Atlanta, where she emphasized nature-based learning in her classroom.

Willette Jackson

Workforce Development & Engagement Supervisor, Trees Atlanta

Willette Jackson is the Workforce Development and Engagement Supervisor and has been with Trees Atlanta since 2016. Willette focuses on three key areas: community engagement, workforce development for adults, and workforce development program for youth (Youth Tree Team). The Youth Tree Team is a summer employment opportunity that gives high school students exposure to green-collar jobs such as urban forestry, landscape design, horticulture, and arboriculture. Willette holds a Bachelor of Environmental Design from Auburn University.

Our Featured Participants

Greg Levine

Co-Executive Director and Chief Program Officer, Trees Atlanta

Greg Levine joined Trees Atlanta in 1995 and since then has been hands on leading all facets of programming, as well as organizing partners, communities, and volunteers that support the mission of Trees Atlanta. As the Chief Program Officer, Greg oversees neighborhood and city plantings, forest restoration, advocacy, and the urban forestry teams that currently work in 14 municipalities in metro Atlanta. Under his leadership, Trees Atlanta forged a strong partnership with the Atlanta BeltLine that resulted in the establishment and development of the Atlanta BeltLine Arboretum. Trees Atlanta has planted over 150,000 trees and adds up to 7,000 new trees each year, including the creation of the Flowering Forest, a 1.5-mile tree tribute to John Lewis, a project that will likely become another canopy landmark in the City of Atlanta in the years to come. Greg has a Bachelor's Degree in Landscape Architecture from the University of Georgia and is an ISA Certified Arborist.

Connie Veates

Co-Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, Trees Atlanta

Connie Veates is Trees Atlanta's Co-Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer. She served on the Trees Atlanta board for 10 years; 5 of which she was President. Connie is responsible for development, finance, marketing, special events, and oversight of education programming. Prior to coming to Trees Atlanta, she was a long-tenured executive with BellSouth and AT&T. Connie holds a Master of Business Administration degree from Georgia State University and was named to Atlanta Business Chronicle's Who's Who in Sustainability.

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 and contribution to racial equity.

He has worked primarily behind the scenes, bringing together diverse stakeholders and managing initiatives 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

Our Featured Participants

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.

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.

Ebony Ford

Westside Resident, English Avenue

Ebony Ford is a Westside Atlanta community advocate affiliated with several civic and philanthropic organizations. She is passionate about legacy resident retention in this climate of rapid gentrification in 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.









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



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.

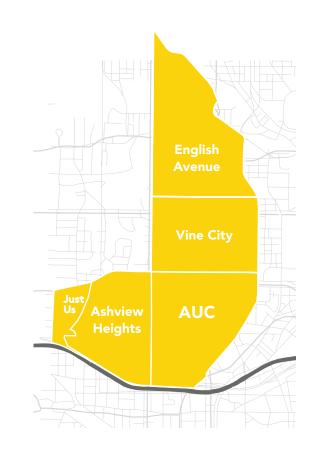
OUR MISSION

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.



& SECURITY



& WELLNESS



COMMUNITIES



MIXED-INCOME CRADLE-TO-CAREER **FDUCATION**

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

Contact WFF with any questions.

Call: 470.377.1696

Email: home@westsidefuturefund.org



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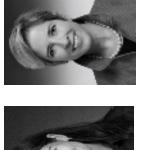
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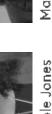
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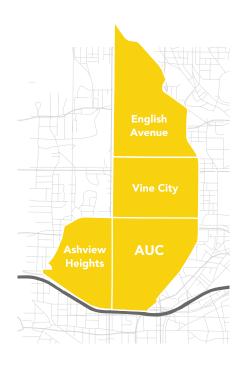
Christal Walker Staff Accountant



Westside Future Fund

COMMUNITY TOURS





Join us for a tour of the Historic Westside!

Tours take place on the 2nd Saturday of each month from 10am –11:30am.
Registration is required.

PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATION BY VISITING westsidefuturefund.org/wffcampaigncabinet

STAY CONNECTED WITH AFFORDABLE INTERNET



Internet for \$10 a month



Now more than ever, access to home Internet is important to stay connected to friends and family, work from home and attend school online.

If at least one person in your household is a SNAP participant or receives SSI benefits (California only), you may qualify for Internet service up to 10Mbps[†] for \$10 a month or less.

- Free installation and in-home Wi-Fi
- No annual contract
- No deposit

In response to the public health crisis, Access from AT&T is temporarily:

- Expanding eligibility to households participating in the National School Lunch and Head Start programs or that meet income requirements.*
- Waiving home Internet data overage fees until April 30, 2022. (Does not apply to DSL.)

Other eligibility requirements apply.

Visit att.com/access or call 1-855-220-5211 for complete information and to apply.

01/2022

*Available only in the AT&T wireline footprint. Offer temporary. If at least one person in your household is a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") participant you may qualify for up to 10Mbps home Internet service at our discounted \$10/mo. rate. For a limited time, households participating in the National School Lunch or Head Start program or meet the household income based on 135% or less than federal powerty guidelines, may also qualify. In California only, households receiving Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") benefits may also qualify. Add'l eligible speed tiers: (3Mbps/15Mbps/168Kbps) available for \$5/mo. depending on your service address. Data allowance: service includes either 150GB or 1TB of monthly Internet data allowance per month depending on your speed tier. If you exceed your monthly data plan allowance, you will be automatically charged \$10 for each 50GB of data usage in excess of your data plan, even if less than 50 gigabytes is used. For more information, go to att.com/internet-usage. Add'l Fees & Taxes: AT&T one-time transactional fees, and monthly cost recovery surcharges which are not government-req'd may apply, as well as taxes. See att.com/fees for details.



AT&T Offers Eligible Customers Low-Cost Broadband Through New Program

AT&T and Cricket Wireless have opened enrollment for the new federal Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) which is helping expand benefits for millions of Americans.

What's new?

The ACP replaces the temporary Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB). ACP will provide eligible households with a benefit of up to \$30 a month to help reduce the cost of broadband service. Households on qualifying Tribal lands will be eligible for \$75 a month.

Why is this important?

Affordability is one of the key roadblocks to narrowing the digital divide. The ACP will help make broadband services more affordable for American households who may qualify.

What's changing?



200%

Households will have new ways to qualify for ACP such as receiving WIC benefits or having an **income at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines**. Eligibility requirements can be found at <u>acpbenefit.org</u>.



For households enrolled in ACP, the monthly subsidy has changed to **\$30/mo.** There is no change to the Tribal benefit. See information below regarding the transition period for households enrolled in EBB as of December 30, 2021.

New customers can confirm eligibility today.

Customers can apply to the federal government's National Verifier at ACPBenefit.org to determine if they are eligible for ACP. Eligibility is determined by the federal government, not by AT&T.

Once approved, find out details on which AT&T services are available by going to <u>att.com/acp</u> or to <u>cricketwireless.com/ACP</u> for information on Cricket Wireless plans.

How can EBB customers take advantage of ACP?

For EBB customers, benefits will remain the same through March 1.

- To receive the ACP benefit after March 1, customers may contact the <u>Universal Services</u> <u>Administrative Co.</u> (USAC) to reverify eligibility.
- For customers who qualified for EBB under a COVID program or substantial loss of income criteria, the National Verifier will need to reverify your eligibility under different criteria **prior to March 1**.
- See details on which AT&T services are available at att.com/acp or cricketwireless.com/ACP.





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 etier 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 wilbe 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















Bringing Goodwill to the Southside:

New Store and Career Center on Metropolitan Parkway

Located at 2160 Metropolitan Parkway, our new store and career center will bring jobs and skills training to the local community. This project is generated 30-40 construction jobs for local residents and created 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.



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** and sign up to recieve 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





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





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"It's never too late to become what you might have been."

One-on-one partnerships with a trained volunteer life coach. Take control of your own journey and long-term growth!

- Weekly 30-45 minute virtual conversations with your trained volunteer coach
- 1 year commitment to your partnership
- Free coaching for one year (\$5,000 value)

Support as YOU create your path to get where you want to be in life!



https://forms.ale/YYuLTLiiYMrDTLwZ9

Click or Scan the QR Code or Learn More <u>Here</u> Follow us on social media

PIC welcomes applicants with incomes less than \$50,000 and holding no more than a bachelor's degree.



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www.picusa.org



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Individual Learning Program

BEYOND KINGS BRINGS LIVE 1:1 CODING CLASSES FOR KIDS



WHY CODING FOR KIDS?

The real promise of coding is not that kids will become computer engineers. Coding is a fun tool for kids to exercise their desire to build, curiosity to question, imagination to explore - the traits that will serve any child well in nearly any career and in life.



CODINGIS JUST THE **BEGINNING:**

A Journey to transform from **Coder to Creator**

Key Benefits of Individual Learning Program





Terms & Conditions Apply

COURSES AVAILABLE



Curriculum Includes

48 Classes App Developer Certificate

Curriculum Includes

Game Masters

Create Games For The World To Play

League

Your child will be able to independently conceptualize, code, and create games.

Your Child 1. Cutting edge game development p
Learns 2. To build an independent game

Unlocks on becoming a Yellow Hat

Advanced Coding with

Curriculum Includes

Extended UI/UX, Rich GUI Code a Satellite Program



Entrepreneurship Challenge Unlocks on becoming a Purple Hat

The Entrepreneurship Challenge, an incubator for select students, provides mentorship to students to take their ideas to the world

Unlocks on becoming a Purple Hat Your Child 1. What it ta



Achievement in 48 & 144 Classes Course







A Journey of Firsts

coding into a world of creation. Get ready to create games, apps, and launch ideas.

My 1st Computer Program

Your child's coding journey launches with an interactive introduction to the basics of code.



My 1st Game

Your child's journey evolves from coder to creator as they design and build their first basic game!



Game Developer Certificate

My 1st Infinite Game

An epic leap forward as your child creates an original Infinite Game and unlocks an exclusive invitation to compete in the global Game Masters League.







My 1st App Prototype

A major milestone on your child's coding journey as they're invited to enter their original app into The App challenge.

The App challenge





The App challenge for a chance to win a trip to Silicon Valley nteract with some of the best technological minds in the world



My 1st Space Tech Simulation

Your child's imagination will blast off into outer space as they explore and recreate space environments with code. The Space Scout Program,



Creating the Beloved Community



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

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

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

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

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

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

Josiah Royce (1913)

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

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

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

Community cannot for long feed on itself.

It can only flourish with the coming of others from beyond, their unknown and undiscovered brothers and sisters.

Howard Thurman 1971

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

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

Martin Luther King, Jr., 1966



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

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











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