

Westside Future Fund

Transform Westside Summit Convene | Communicate | Collaborate

Westside Future Fund Friday, November 18, 2022

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TRANSFORM WESTSIDE SUMMIT CONVENE | COMMUNICATE | COLLABORATE PRESENTED BY THE WESTSIDE FUTURE FUND FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18 2022

WIFI: TGS GUEST | PASSWORD: TGSVISITOR384

Agenda 7:15A-7:20A	Welcome	John Ahmann President & CEO Westside Future Fund
		Benjamin Earley Westside Correspondent Redclay-Hill
		Ebony Ford Director of Community Building and Engagement Quest CDC
7:20A-7:30A	Opening Devotion	Rochelle Barnett Historic Westside Gardens
7:30A-7:45A	Self Introductions	John Ahmann President & CEO Westside Future Fund
7:45A-7:50A	Westside Future Fund Overview	Ebony Ford Director of Community Building and Engagement Quest CDC
7:50A-8:40A	'Highlighting the Historic Westside Gardens' moderated by Benjamin Earley	
		Historic Westside Gardens Noah White Historic Westside Gardens
8:40A-8:55A	Q & A	All
8:55A-9:00A	Closing Remarks	John Ahmann President & CEO Westside Future Fund
		Benjamin Earley Westside Correspondent Redclay-Hill
		Ebony Ford Director of Community Building an Engagement Quest CDC

Our Featured Participants

Rochelle Barnett

Historic Westside Gardens

Rochelle Barnett has been a member of Historic Westside Gardens since 2017. She first joined the gardeners on Joseph E. Boone to better connect with the Community. She has been backyard gardening for over 30 years and enjoys exchanging tricks of the trade with her fellow gardeners. She loves working with the home gardeners in the community, especially the Seniors. She graduated from Spelman College and Georgia Tech, earning a Dual Degree in Math and Electrical Engineering. Her professional background of 35 years was in new market development in the high-tech industry. She retired in 2014 after working for 17 years with Cisco Systems.

Rochelle has been happily married for 42 years to her college sweetheart, Gregory Barnett. They have two beautiful adult daughters who reside in Atlanta and Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Rosario Hernandez

Executive Director, Historic Westside Gardens

Rosario Hernandez grew up in Washington Heights, New York City and also lived several years in Puerto Rico. Her father was Puerto Rican, and her mother is from the Dominican Republic. She grew up eating fresh fruits and vegetables from the bodega, or the corner fruit stand. In Puerto Rico there was always an abundance of tropical fruits everywhere.

She moved to Atlanta in 2002 to work for Atlanta Public Schools. When she was teaching about life cycles her students wanted to build a garden; little did she know that she would love gardening. When she moved to the Westside of Atlanta in 2008, she soon realized that there weren't any places to buy fresh vegetables, so she started growing her own in her back yard.

When she retired from Atlanta Public Schools in 2013, she took the grower's course with Truly Living Well. She was looking for a way to help in her community when she came across 100 Vine Street 30314, a gardening hub was being built and she wanted to be part of this project. That's how she met Gil Frank and after several conversations he invited her to be part of Historic Westside Gardens.

Gil introduced her to asset-based community development; this awakened a new perspective on how she could interact with families. The Westside has a great history of gardening and sharing their harvest. With every family they meet, they seek out that history, and the gifts and talents each person can share within these neighborhoods.

Historic Westside Gardens has five main programs: home food gardens, community gardens, institutional growing spaces, a children's garden, and the Westside Growers Market. Through these programs they serve hundreds of families.

Rosario realizes that this work is more than just dropping a few seeds in the ground. HWG has allowed her to work in her own community, building relationships with residents as they build gardening spaces. Gardening is the catalyst that brings people together; eating organic homegrown food will impact their overall health, it also saves money, trips to the grocery store, is mentally stimulating, creates a sense of accomplishment and develops friendships with other growers and neighbors. You will also get a good workout with the tilling, weeding, and watering.

As the Executive Director of Historic Westside Gardens, Rosario will continue to listen to the residents. HWG will use the power of home gardening to promote healthy eating, food security,

Our Featured Participants

education and economic opportunities and be advocates for social, environmental and racial justice.

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 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.

Our Featured Participants

Ebony Ford

Director of Community Building and Engagement, Quest CDC

Ebony Ford is serving as the Director of Community Building and Engagement at Quest CDC on the Westside of the city of Atlanta, where she has also lived for 13 years. She is a resident of the English Avenue neighborhood and is a proud parent of APS' Hollis Innovation Academy, where her son, Jeremiah, attends school.

Ebony, a transplant to Atlanta from Saginaw, Michigan, has found her place, dedicating her life to doing her part to make the city of Atlanta its best self! She is affiliated with several organizations in the area, including the Westside Future Fund, YWCA, Atlanta Public Schools, and Westside Table, to name a few.

Recently, Ebony was chosen to build out and host a podcast entitled *Westside Wise*, sponsored by AT&T. She is responsible for tapping into her vast network of the city's finest in order to bridge the gap between the entities who are doing so much good work on the Westside of Atlanta, and the residents who are the recipients of these initiatives. The *Westside Wise* podcast also aims to keep residents in her part of the city informed on issues that are pertinent to them.





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.





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.

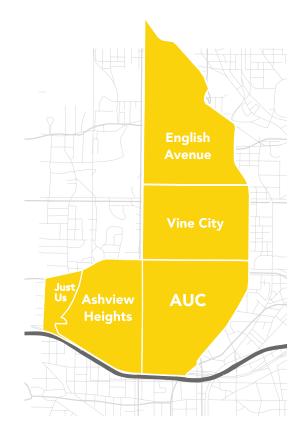
OUR MISSION

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.



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.

BHAR ALE

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

Westside Future Fund

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Dr. Beverly Tatum Board Chair, President Emerita, Spelman College

Board Vice-Chair Vice President and Deputy General Counsel, The Home Depot

Pastor, Antioch Baptist Church North

Alexander



John Gamble Chief Financial Officer, Equifax







Jim Grien President & CEO, TM Capital











Virginia Hepner Retired, CEO Woodruff Arts Center/Wachovia Bank





Chairman & CEO, Holder Construction Company



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Retired CEO, Post Properties

T. Dallas Smith President & CEO T. Dallas Smith & Compan)

Sylvia Russell Retired President, AT&T Georgia

AJ Robinson President, Central Atlanta Progress



Beverly Thomas Vice President of Communications and Public Affairs, Kaiser Permanente



Senior Vice President and President, Novelis North America at Novelis Tom Boney

Michael Bond Atlanta City Council Post 1 At-Large

Vice President and Treasurer The Coca-Cola Company Stacy Apter



Vice President of Community Affairs and Executive Director, The Chick-fil-A Foundation **Rodney Bullard**



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Retired Corporate Executive Vice President of Wholesale Banking, SunTrust, Inc. Mark Chancy











Margaret Connelly Kathleen S. Farrell Acting Managing Director of Founder's Executive Vice President Initiatives Commercial Real Exercte The Arthur M. Bilank Family Foundation Line of Business Truist, Inc.



Penny McPhee Retired President, The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation

Bill Nordmark President, & CEO Aver, Inc.



Kevin Holt CFO & COO, H&H Hospitality

R

PricewaterhouseCoopers



(8)



Ex-officio Members





English Senior Advisor to Mayor Dickens, City of Atlanta





Courtney





Eugene

Jones, Jr. President & CEO, Atlanta Housing

Klementich President & CEO, Invest Atlanta

Waller

Kathy

Dr. Eloisa

Executive Director, Atlanta Committee for Progress

Ralph Woolfolk Captain, Atlanta Police Department



Rachel Carey Chief Real Estate Officer





Tameka Askew Manager of Home on the westside

Louis Anderson Real Estate Development Manager

Anderson Accounting Manager Natasha





Raquel Hudson Director of Programs



Director of Project Financing **Charles Forde**





Ashley Collier Major Gifts Officer



Sonia Dawson Chief of Staff

























Christal Walker Staff Accountant













westsidefuturefund.org

Kelsey Wright Program Coordinator

Washington Volunteer Coordinator Robyn

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Talented Team

We're a Diverse,



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

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Includes—in-home Wi-Fi access

Power multiple devices at onceeveryone can enjoy their own screen Number of devices depends on screen size/resolution.

How to enroll:

Step 1

Determine eligibility with the federal government's National Verifier at **affordableconnectivity.gov** or call the National Verifier at **877.384.2575.** AT&T does not determine ACP eligibility.

Step 2

Once approved, call **855.220.5211** to sign up for service with your National Verifier application ID.

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finternet speed daims represent maximum network service capabilities and based on wired connection to gateway. Actual customer speeds may vary based on number of factors and are not guaranteed. For more info, go to <u>wwwatt.com/speed/01</u>. *Access from AT&T is a low cost program for home internet service to eligible limited income households who participate in the Affordable Connectivity Program, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for California residents. Eligible households who qualify and enroll in the Affordable Connectivity Program and Access from AT&T can receive internet at no charge with AT&T liternet Plans (76&K-100M) and w/AT&T Fiber (100M only). A Wi-Fi gateway/modem and installation also included at no charge AT&T reserves the right to remove the monthly discount at any time. If your monthly service charge is \$0 after the discount, you must use your service every 30 days, or the discount will be removed. **AT&T Internet**: Subj. To Internet Terms of Service at att.com/internet-terms. **The Affordable Connectivity Program** is a federal government benefit may only be applied to one service, pregardless of service are yio days, or the discount will be removed. **AT&T Teserves the right to remove the monthly discount at any time. If your monthly service charge is \$0 after the discount, you must use your service every 30 days, or the discount will be removed. Ligibility**: To establish eligibility you must unet price of eligible service provider. If the program contrast service the removed. **Ligibility** information into the National Verifier at www.ACPbenefit.org, then Call 1:e55-220-5211 with your application ID and enroll in the ACP with AT&T for your eligible internet service to complete your ennollment. You must show, with documentation as needed, that your household income is at or below 200% of Federal Poverty Guidelines for a household of the key of the household participates in a qualifying federal assistance program (Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrit

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 *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.

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** 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



Heating Assistance Application Cycle • November 1 - March 31

Cooling Assistance Application Cycle

• April 1 - June 30

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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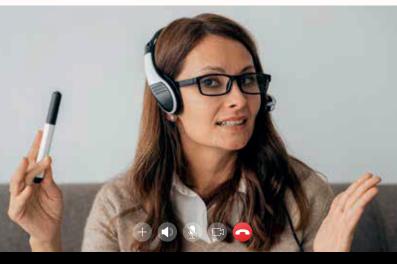
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SCHOOL

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ONLINE CLASSROOM

Individual Learning Program

BEYOND KINGS BRINGS LIVE 1:1 CODING CLASSES FOR KIDS

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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.



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CODING IS JUST THE **BEGINNING:**

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

Key Benefits of Individual Learning Program **60**mi s of per

zineers & entre Full flexibility to Chance to win a choose class timing monthly subscription mode trip to Silicon Valley Terms & Conditions Appl

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Mentorship by top

COURSES AVAILABLE 8 Classes 48 Classes 144 Classes Advanced Coding with Introduction to Coding App Developer Certificate Code a Satellite* Curriculum Includes Curriculum Includes Curriculum Includes

Events/UI/UX. Conditionals Extended UI/UX, Rich GUI app, Space Tech simula Game Design, BYJU'S FutureSchool Complex Loop, Logic Structures, Turtle Coding Code a Satellite Program



Sequence, Fundamentals Coding Blocks, Loops

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Unlocks on becoming a Yellow Hat

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

The 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 Learns



FINISH

Achievement in 48 & 144 Classes Course

Key Benefits of 144 Classes Course Package ADVANCED CODING WITH CODE A SATELLITE*

START (nced Gam đo Development and UI/UX Design ent and App Developer E Ŷ The App Data Modelling Artificial Intellig 躑 The Entrepreneurship ର Challenge Live Code a Satellite Curriculum ۰ ش



FINISH

A Journey of Firsts 250,000 learners

coding into a world of creation. Get ready to create games, apps, an<mark>d launch id</mark>eas.

My 1st Computer Program

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

Space Scout

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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.

Game Masters League



ureSchool Space Scout Program expands you ns as they learn about space and create code nodel various celestial phenomena

J Unlocks on becoming an Orange Hat

Your Child 🗤 Learns



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

Unlocks on becoming a Red Hat

Your Child 1. How to create a p Learns^{2. How to design user-friendly app}

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.



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,

Space Scout Program



WESTSIDE WISE

OUESTCDC.ORG/WISE

AT&T

connected by



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:











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



For bulletin ideas and comments, contact Sonia Dawson at sonia@westsidefuturefund.org