

Westside Future Fund

Transform Westside Summit Convene | Communicate | Collaborate

Westside Future Fund Friday, April 19, 2024

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TRANSFORM WESTSIDE SUMMIT CONVENE | COMMUNICATE | COLLABORATE PRESENTED BY THE WESTSIDE FUTURE FUND FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 2024

WIFI: TGS GUEST | PASSWORD: TGSVISITOR384

Agenda		
7:45A-7:50A	Welcome	John Ahmann
		President & CEO
		Westside Future Fund
		Eb any Ford
		Ebony Ford Director of Community Building and
		Director of Community Building and
		Engagement
		Quest Community Development Corporation
7:50A-8:05A	Opening Devotion	James Tomlin
		English Avenue Resident
		Owner and CEO, Jimmy Jam's
8:00A-8:10A	Self Introductions	Ebony Ford
		Director of Community Building
		and Engagement
		Quest Community Development
		Corporation
8:10A-8:40A	"Atlanta BeltLine, Inc.	Rob Brawner
	and Atlanta BeltLine	Executive Director
	Partnership's Impact	Atlanta BeltLine Partnership
	and Plans for the	
	Westside" moderated	Dennis Richards
	by John Ahmann	Vice President, Housing Policy & Development
		Atlanta, BeltLine, Inc.
		Kevin Burke
		Director of Design
		Atlanta BeltLine, Inc.
		Adanta Berteine, inc.
8:40A-8:55A	Q & A	All
8:55A-9:00A	Closing Remarks	John Ahmann
	closing heritants	President & CEO
		Westside Future Fund
		Ebony Ford
		Director of Community Building and
		Engagement
		Quest Community Development Corporation

Our Featured Participants

James Tomlin

English Avenue Resident and Owner and CEO of Jimmy Jam's

James C. Tomlin, originally from Pittsburgh, PA, now calls Atlanta, GA home, residing in the English Avenue Community. His familial ties trace back to 1846 in Butler, GA, Taylor County, west of Atlanta. Mr. Tomlin is a devoted husband and proud father whose daughter recently graduated from Howard University with a Master's in Architecture and holds the Senior Developer Associate position at Rosewood.

Presently, he serves as an employee at the DeKalb County Mental Health Magistrates Court-Accountability Courts. Alongside his professional endeavors, Mr. Tomlin is the Owner and CEO of Jimmy Jam's, a plant-based restaurant nestled in the heart of the English Avenue community. His career includes significant contributions to quantitative and qualitative behavioral science research studies involving incarcerated men and injection drug users, conducted through Emory University/CDC, as well as positions within various state agencies and nonprofit organizations. For over three decades, Mr. Tomlin has dedicated his life to serving the mental health, alcohol and drug, homeless, and incarcerated communities. He actively participates as a member of numerous boards in Fulton and DeKalb, GA.

Notably, Mr. Tomlin received recognition from 2000 to 2006 for his exceptional contributions to substance abuse and HIV/AIDS prevention, acknowledged by the Mayor's Office in Erie, PA, the Erie County Executive's Office, and the Northeast Region for Substance Abuse & HIV/AIDS in Atlanta, GA. Mr. Tomlin's pioneering efforts led to the establishment of Erie, PA's first HIV/AIDS-Drugs & Alcohol initiative, known as SHOUT Outreach, and the Fatherhood program, "Long Distance Dads," later adopted by the State of PA within its penial system. Furthermore, he developed the "I AM, A Father (IAAF)" program with a vision to share the heart of the father with the world.

Rob Brawner

Executive Director, Atlanta BeltLine Partnership

Rob Brawner has served as the Executive Director for the Atlanta BeltLine Partnership since 2016. He played an integral role in the Atlanta BeltLine's start-up phase when he joined the organization in 2006, and he is the longest-tenured BeltLine employee.

The Atlanta BeltLine is one of the country's most ambitious urban redevelopment programs and is connecting diverse communities with new transit, trails, parks, public art, and affordable housing. The Atlanta BeltLine Partnership works alongside Atlanta BeltLine, Inc. to advance the project, improve Atlantans' quality of life, and spur equitable economic development.

Under Rob's leadership, the Atlanta BeltLine Partnership has secured critical funding, including more than \$200 million in philanthropic contributions. Through extensive collaborations with public, private, non-profit, and community organizations, the Partnership delivers people-focused programs to cultivate broad-based support for the project and catalyze positive health and economic outcomes for residents in adjacent BeltLine neighborhoods.

Rob is a passionate advocate for permanently affordable housing and serves as Vice Chair of the Atlanta Land Trust – an organization he helped form in 2009. As a member of Mayor Dickens' Greenspace Advisory Council, he is working with the current administration to improve Atlanta's park system.

Our Featured Participants

Before joining the Atlanta BeltLine Partnership, Rob built his operations and management expertise at McMaster-Carr, which included roles as Director of Sales and Marketing and Director of Physical Distribution.

Rob graduated with honors from Princeton University with a degree in Economics and two NCAA National Championships in lacrosse. He received his MBA from the Goizueta Business School at Emory University and is a 2018 graduate of Leadership Atlanta.

Kevin Burke

Director of Design, Atlanta BeltLine, Inc.

Mr. Burke is the Director of Design for Atlanta BeltLine Inc. and has forty-one years of experience on a plethora of institutional, roadway, college/university, residential, multi-use trail, and park projects. He coordinates design for all public open spaces and serves as the chair of the ABI Design Review Committee. He implemented the requirement that all ABI park projects initiated since 2018 be SITES certified and was the organizer of ABI's Organic Land Care Symposium, which informed the public about more sustainable ways of maintaining our public spaces. Mr. Burke has a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture degree from Utah State University and, in 2019, became a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Dennis Richards

Vice President of Housing Policy & Development, Atlanta BeltLine, Inc.

Dennis Richards came to ABI from National Church Residences, the nation's largest not-for-profit provider of affordable senior housing, where he served as the Senior Director of Housing Development. In this role, he led all housing development efforts for the Atlanta MSA. Prior to leading the Atlanta market, Mr. Richards served as the Director of Finance for Housing Development, where he was responsible for all finance and cost accounting activities for housing development projects across the organization's national footprint. A native of Columbus, Ohio, Mr. Richards holds a B.S. in Financial Management from The Ohio State University and an M.B.A from Franklin University. Mr. Richards is a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

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.

Our Featured Participants

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.

Ebony Ford

Director of Community Building and Engagement, Quest CDC

Ebony Ford serves as the Director of Community Building and Engagement at Quest CDC on the Westside of Atlanta, where she has also lived for 13 years. She is an English Avenue neighborhood resident and 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 to bridge the gap between the entities that 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 pertinent issues.





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.

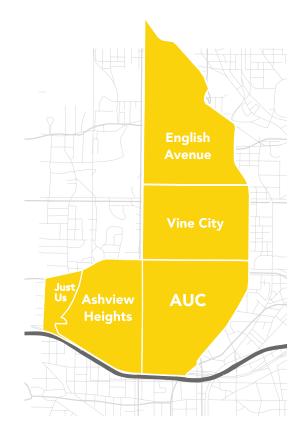
OUR MISSION

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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Michael Bond

Atlanta City Council Post 1 At-Large







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Sylvia Russell Board Co Vice-

T. Dallas Smith

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General Counsel, The Home Depot

Retired President, AT&T Georgia

Chair

Founder & CEO C. Dallas Smith & Company







































Virginia Hepner CEO Woodruff Arts Center/Wachovia Bank Retired,

John Gamble

Chief Financial Officer, Equifax

Holder Construction Company

Senior Vice President, Gallagher

Executive Vice President Commercial Real Estate Line of Business Truist, Inc.

Executive Coach & Senior Advisor

1

Vicki Escarra Boston Consulting Group

Kathy Farrell

Greer





Retired Vice President of

(1) (1)



Terri Lee President & CEO, Atlanta Housing

English Senior Advisor to Mayor Dickens, City of Atlanta

Courtney

Klementich Dr. Eloisa President & CEO, Invest Atlanta



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Atlanta Police Department Special Enforcement Section Woolfolk, IV Major R.M.

1



Kathy Waller Executive Director, Atlanta Committee for Progress









Mick Cochran

Partner

VP Commercial & External Justin Clay

Affairs NCR

Managing Attorney, Employment Hebert Clark

Vanderlande

Shawntel

Rodney Bullard

The Same House

and President, Novelis North **Setired Senior Vice President** Tom Boney

America at Novelis

CEO





Lea Kuschel PricewaterhouseCoopers Partner,

Bill Nordmark Helen Smith Price

President, & CEO Enlace Health

Retired President, The Coca-Cola Foundation and Vice President of Global Community Affairs for The Coca-Cola Company

Kevin Holt CFO & COO, H&H Hospitality

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Susan Johnson Chief Marketing Officer Prudential Financial





Ex-officio Members

Beverly Thomas

Communications and Public Affairs, Kaiser Permanente

Tatum

Dr. Beverly President Emerita Spelman College



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Wheeler Communications Manager

Washington Volunteer Coordinator

Robyn

Candace



Rochelle Reeder Chief Development Officer

Marni Pittman Director of Finance + Risk Management





Newman Senior Accountant Keyana





Chelsie Moore it Manager



Matayoshi Accounting Manager Joanne





John Ahmann President + ÇEO

Talented

Team

Diverse,

We're a

Louis Anderson Real Estate Development Manager





Lee Harrop VP of Real Estate Development

Charles Forde Director of Project Financing























Director of Programs



Find out if you're eligible for FREE, unlimited AT&T Internet

with the Affordable Connectivity Program* w/Access from AT&T 768K to 100M plans only.

*Terms, conditions & restr's apply.

Speeds up to **100Mbps**†

No Annual Contract, No Deposit,
No installation fees, No equipment fees

Over 99% proven reliability Based on network availability.

💮 Inclu

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.

Visit att.com/access to learn more



Access from AT&T is available only in the AT&T 21-state wireline footprint. Geographic service restriction and terms apply. Not all speeds available in all areas.

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 (SS) 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 Internet 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 provider. If the program constrainers, Only one benefit is not transferable to other consumers. Only eligible consumers on you 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 service provider or the household participates in a qualifying federal assistance program (Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Supplemental Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the voure benefit and reduced price units previse on rowice provider or s**

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.





WESTSIDE WISE

TCDC.ORG/WISE









On the James P. Brawley Corridor followed by a free lunch celebration at St. Mark Church for event particpants

SATURDAY, APRIL 13TH 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

(followed by lunch)

Join us to participate in hands-on activities for all ages including a community art project. Come to learn about fitness, finances, home buyer education, parenting resources and so much more!



Fitness techniques, Biometrics, and more!



Voter Registration and education!



Financial wellness and program information!



Mobile trade school onsite demos!





Music and Lunch!



Scholarship information!



Prizes and Giveaways!

Free parking at Antioch Baptist²Church North (shuttle provided)

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