

ST. LOUIS ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

# LIVING TWO PANDEMICS

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## COVID-19 & RACISM



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## 8:45am: ZOOM REGISTRATION **Living Two Pandemics: Covid 19 and Racism**

**September 12, 2020**

FREE TO ALL and ZOOM and Facebook Live

### PROGRAM IN BRIEF

**September 30, 2020**  
**Opening Keynote Speaker**

**9:00am** – Call to Order and Welcome

Ms. Sundry Whiteside, SLACO Board President

Fr. Gerald Kleba, SLACO Founder

Dr. Kevin Adams, Superintendent, SLPS

Mr. Jacoby Combs, SLACO Emerging Leader 2019

**9:30am – 9:45am** – Ms. Dara Eskridge, InvestSTL

Mr. Jason Hall, Arch to Park

**9:00am – 9:20am** – Rev. Traci Blackmon, Associate General

Minister of Justice & Local Church Ministries for The United

Church of Christ, Senior Pastor of Christ The King United

Church of Christ in Florissant, MO

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

**Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020**

### THE IMPACT OF RACISM ON OUR NEIGHBORHOODS AND HOW TO MITIGATE IT

Dr. Mark Abbott – Track Manager

9:00am – 10:00am

[Un] Segregation by Design: The Case of the Fairground and Kingsway East Neighborhoods

9:30am -10:30am

A Different Way: Neighborhoods United for Change

9:00am – 10:00am

Evictions in St. Louis: Flattening the Curve

### YOUTH EMPLOYMENT CONNECTING RESOURCES GETTING PAID

Sundry Whiteside, Amanda Davis  
Track Managers

10:05am – 11:05am

STL Youth Jobs  
STL Youth Jobs Businesses  
Emerging Leaders

10:35am – 11:35am

Office of Financial  
Empowerment  
Employment Connection  
SLATE

10:05am – 11:05am

Voter Rights and Voter  
Education  
SLACO MFH Voter Registration  
and Engagement

### KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL BUILDING

Barbara Levin, Timetria Murphy-Watson,  
Track Managers

11:10am – 12:10pm

Alive and Well What is in Our Soil? Understanding the impact of Community Trauma on Resident Engagement

11:40am – 12:40pm

Reaching out when we can't reach out: Engagement in the time of Pandemics



### PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

Craig Schmid – Track Manager

12:15pm – 1:15pm

Youth Voices with Action

Voices from The Streets

12:45pm – 1:45pm

Health – We got you covered!

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

### INNOVATION

Rick Bonasch – Track Manager

1:20pm – 2:20pm

Nothings Impossible  
Travis Sheridan and Michael Calhoun

1:50pm-2:50pm

Dream Builders  
St. Louis Art Works



## October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020

**11:30am - SLACO AWARDS AND COMMUNITY FORUM** – Sundry Whiteside, SLACO Board President

**12:00pm – 12:30pm Saint Louis Story Stitchers Artists Collective** -The WHY of MY City

## CLOSING PANEL

**12:35pm – 1:45pm** – Wilford Pinkney, Jr., Director, Office of Children, Youth & Families

Let's Talk - CURE VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Dr. Fredrick Echols, Director, St. Louis Public Health

Sal Martinez, CEO Employment Connection



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**Presenting Sponsor: InvestSTL**

**September 12, 2020**  
**CONFERENCE OPENING**  
**(9:00 am – 10:15 am)**

**Call to order and Welcome:** Ms. Sundry Whiteside, SLACO Board President

**Invocation:** Fr. Gerald Kleba, retired, St. Cronan Parish, SLACO Founder

**Dr. Kelvin Adams**, Superintendent, St. Louis Public Schools

**Mr. Jacoby Combs**, SLACO Emerging Leader 2019

**Ms. Dara Eskridge LEED AP ND** is the Executive Director of Invest STL

**Jason Hall**, Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder Arch to Park LLC

**Comments:** Kevin B. McKinney, SLACO Executive Director





Dr. Kelvin Adams began his duties as Superintendent of Schools for the Saint Louis Public School District on November 3, 2008. In his role as Superintendent, Dr. Adams oversees a school district serving 22,000 students in grades Pre-K – 12. The Saint Louis Public School District operates 68 schools and employs more than 4,000 people, including 2,000 teachers.

As Superintendent, Dr. Adams is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Saint Louis Public School District and a \$390 million budget. The District is currently governed by a seven-member elected school board.

During his time with the District, Dr. Adams has focused his attention on improving student achievement. Among the accomplishments realized by the District during Dr. Adams' leadership are the following:

- Regained provisional and full accreditation from the Missouri State Board of Education
- Expanded the number of available pre-kindergarten seats from 1,100 to 2,100
- Increased the high school graduation rate from 54 percent to 79 percent
- Increased the number of students taking Advanced Placement courses by more than 300
- Increased the District's attendance rate from 88.6 percent to 93.9 percent
- Reduced the dropout rate from 13.9 percent to 8.2 percent
- Erased a \$36.5 million deficit and established a \$90 million surplus
- Opened a nationally recognized school for refugees and other new Americans
- Opened the nationally recognized Innovative Concept Academy for adjudicated youth
- Created a portfolio of schools to provide meaningful choices for students and parents

Prior to accepting the Superintendent position with the Saint Louis Public School District, Dr. Adams was Chief of Staff for the Recovery School District (RSD) in New Orleans, LA. In New Orleans, he worked directly for the Superintendent to develop and implement the District's educational and operational vision and strategies for improving student achievement.

Dr. Adams also has served as Associate Dean/Interim Dean and Charter School Liaison for the College of Education for Southern University of New Orleans, a Senior High and Middle School Principal, an Executive Director of Middle Schools in New Orleans and as a Classroom Teacher.

Dr. Adams received his Ph.D. in Educational Leadership in Administration from the University of New Orleans in 2005. He earned a M.A. in Elementary Education from Xavier University in 1991 and a B.A. in Elementary Education and Special Education from Northeast Louisiana University in 1978. Dr. Adams currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the following organizations:

- Boys Scouts of America, Greater St. Louis Area Council
- Concordance Academy
- Junior Achievement
- Operation Food Search
- Saint Louis Zoo Association





Dara Eskridge, LEED AP ND is the Executive Director of Invest STL, a regional initiative to prioritize and support equitable community development in St. Louis. Leading Invest STL, Eskridge directs grant making to support neighborhood-based, resident-driven community change. Working with the local philanthropic network, government, banks and universities, Invest STL seeks to build a broad coalition of community partners to re-establish the community development ecosystem in St. Louis, centered on policy creation that advances racial equity, civic participation and economic mobility.

Prior to Invest STL, Dara served as Director of Operations for Urban Strategies, a national nonprofit that works with residents, grassroots organizations, local governments and developers to re-build distressed urban core communities into vibrant residential neighborhoods. In addition to overseeing USI's St. Louis portfolio and team, she led neighborhood development and community engagement for the \$30M federal Near North Side Choice Neighborhood initiative in St. Louis. Dara formerly served as Senior Planner for the St. Louis County Executive's Office of Strategy + Innovation where she helped direct regional strategic initiatives, community strategy development and performance measurement for government operations. Previous roles also include serving as a community planner, policy specialist and urban designer with St. Louis County Planning, City of St. Louis Homeless Services and the Bridgeport Housing Authority in Connecticut.

Dara earned her graduate degree in Urban Planning from Columbia University in New York and her Bachelor of Architecture from Tuskegee University in Alabama. She is a LEED Accredited Professional for Neighborhood Development.



For more information on how to register to vote, upcoming elections, deadline dates, etc., choose one of the links below:

St. Louis City: <https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/board-election-commissioners/>  
St. Louis County: <https://www.stlouisco.com/yourgovernment/ElectionBoard>  
State of Missouri: <https://www.sos.mo.gov/elections>



**Jason Hall** is an entrepreneur who is currently creating a new civic-minded investment organization focused on economic growth in the urban core of St. Louis. Prior to launching his latest venture, Jason was Vice-President of Entrepreneurship & Innovation with the St. Louis Regional Chamber, a member of Missouri Governor Jay Nixon's cabinet leading economic development, and the founder of the new Missouri Technology Corporation, a public-private partnership that leads Missouri's first comprehensive statewide entrepreneurship investment programs.

Jason is a committed collaborator with a strong track record of results. The entrepreneurship programs that Jason put in place in Missouri in 2010 have directly helped Missouri entrepreneurs raise nearly \$600 million in private capital. In 2017, the U.S. Department of Treasury conducted an independent analysis of the Missouri Technology Corporation programs and identified them as being among the most successful in the U.S. to use public capital to attract private venture capital and create jobs. The programs have also been widely recognized as critical to St. Louis' and Missouri's recognition as fast growing technology start-up hubs. Jason was also a key architect of other innovative public-private partnerships, including the Small Business Relief Fund that quickly opened lines of capital for Ferguson-area small businesses in 2014 and securing a permanent home for St. Louis' T-Rex Innovation Community, one of the region's largest and most diverse co-working spaces.

Jason began his career in the St. Louis office of Bryan Cave LLP, one of the largest global law firms, where he served clients across a range of technology sectors in high stakes matters. He is a former law clerk to the Honorable Gerald Bard Tjoflat of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. The first in his family to earn a college degree and the first openly LGBT person ever appointed to a cabinet-level position in Missouri, Jason is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Bates College and Vanderbilt University Law School, where he served as the Editor-in-Chief of the Vanderbilt Law Review. He currently serves as the Chairman of the Missouri Technology Corporation, and serves on the boards of Tarlton Corporation (the largest woman-led general contractor in St. Louis), Hawthorn Leadership School for Girls, Arts & Education Council, Invest Midwest, Missouri Biotechnology Association, and the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center Leadership Council.

Jason has been recognized as a "40 Under 40" by the St. Louis Business Journal; 100 St. Louisans You Should Know to Succeed in Business by Small Business Monthly; an "Up and Coming Lawyer" by Missouri Lawyers Weekly, and was in the inaugural class of 35 "STL Innovators" selected by Alive Magazine. In 2017, the St. Louis County NAACP selected Jason to receive their Legacy Award.

**Jacoby Aaron Combs** was born and raised in the City of St. Louis and is the youngest of 3 children. Jacoby attended Christ Light of the Nations for his elementary years and advanced on to St. Mary's High School. Jacoby attends mass at St. Elizabeth, Mother of John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church and has never missed Mass. He serves in his home church as a lector and usher and enjoys serving as the president of the St. Elizabeth Mother of John the Baptist Youth Council. He previously served as a Junior Knight of Peter Claver for four years. In November 2019 he was initiated in the distinguished Knights of Peter Claver. During his summer of high school years Jacoby began working at the St. Louis Municipal Opera Theatre and has worked each summer for the past 4 years. His volunteer list consist of volunteering for Block Unit 713 neighborhood Clean-up, St. Cecilia Annual Fish Fry during Lint Season, working with Candidate for US Congress Cori Bush in 2018, assisting Candidate for State Rep-Kimberly Ann Collins in 2020, and SLACO Emerging Leaders in 2019. While in his junior year of high school it was required to shadow someone in the area of which you wish to advance your career in and he chose Alderman Brandon Bosley of the City of St. Louis 3rd Ward. Jacoby recently graduated in the Class of 2020. He chooses to pursue his college degree in his home city at Fontbonne University where his major is Political Science which will set him on course to pursue his dream of being a notable and formidable politician. Jacoby aspires to bring youth representation to our local government.



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The Tower Grove East Neighborhood Association's mission is to achieve an outstanding urban neighborhood characterized by a diverse population, unified in an atmosphere of trust, respect, and friendship



**SEPTEMBER 26, 2020**

## **BREAKOUT SESSION #1 (9:00am - 10:00am)**

### **The Impact of Racism on Our Neighborhoods and How to Mitigate It**

**Description:** Structural racism has had a devastating impact on St. Louis neighborhoods—particularly African American ones. It has produced residential segregation, concentrated poverty and hyper-vacancy as well as skewing housing values. These debilitating outcomes have only been made worse by COVID-19. Come learn what St. Louis neighborhoods are doing to combat this plague on St. Louis.

[Un]Segregation by Design: The Case of the Fairground and Kingsway East Neighborhoods—Restrictive covenants, redlining and local housing policy have made North St. Louis one of the most segregated communities in the country. Hear what Washington University students, faculty and mentors have proposed in two Northside neighborhoods to undo a century of segregation.

**Presenters:** **Catalina Freixas** is an Associate Professor of Architecture, Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Arts, Washington University at St. Louis. Professor Freixas is the co-editor of *Segregation by Design: Conversations and Calls for Action in St. Louis* (2018). She is currently doing research on factors that contribute to neighborhood sustainability and resiliency. **Jasmin Aber** is Director of Creative Exchange Lab (CEL), a nonprofit (501c3) Center for Architecture and Design and an interdisciplinary Design incubator. She is an architect, urban theorist, educator, and design-activist. Trained in England and licensed in Germany as an architect, Aber has practiced in both Europe and the United States for over twenty years. She is a researcher of the international Shrinking Cities research group for over ten years, with published academic papers and book chapters on Cities & innovation. Her research focuses on implementation strategies that take the creative economy, creative City approach to catalyze economic development, mitigate inequity and promote innovation through art, culture and design. **Judith Arnold** is an urban planner with SLACO. She specializes in community engagement. She is responsible for organizing numerous neighborhood associations in North St. Louis. Judith has contributed volumes to *Segregation by Design* and has served as a mentor for Washington University students enrolled in this class. This year Judith will co-edit a volume with Catalina focused on the North Central Area.

**Moderator: Mark Abbott, PhD**, Mark Abbot is a professor emeritus of History and Urban Affairs and was the former director of the Center for Neighborhood Affairs at Harris-Stowe State University. His primary research interests are the history of urban planning and St. Louis history. He is the co-editor of *Segregation by Design: Conversations and Calls for Action in St. Louis* (2018), which was recently published by Springer International. Professor Abbott has been active in SLACO for over 20 years and is a former president of the SLACO board of directors.

## **BREAKOUT SESSION #2 (10:05am -11:05am)**

### **Youth Employment, Connecting Resources, Getting Paid**

**Description:** Find out about youth jobs in St. Louis and hear from Youth Employers and Youth Employers

**Presenters: Jerica Robinson – Director of Partnerships & Impact** Jerica is responsible for managing the network of partners implementing the STL Youth Jobs' service model. She provides oversight and ensures that all partners are held accountable to STL Youth Jobs' standard of high-quality program implementation. Prior to this position, Jerica served as Lead Job Coach then as Program Coordinator within MERS Goodwill Industries' STL Youth Jobs partnership. Jerica is truly excited about this growth opportunity and ability to serve youth in a different but meaningful and expanded capacity. She is a firm believer that it takes a village to raise our young people. Jerica experienced this firsthand while growing up in her local YMCA where she was later employed as the Camp Director. The YMCA is a place where she matured and gained long lasting relationships which supported her personal and professional growth. The Monsanto Family YMCA will always be her home away from home. Jerica received her bachelor's degree in social work from Southeast Missouri State University and a master's degree in social work from Saint Louis University. She loves her St. Louis

community. Her personal mission is to better our community one day at a time. **Emeara Burns** – performing artist activist and Steward Family Foundation, Program Director at Saint Louis Story Stitchers. Artists Collective. **She’Kinah Taylor** - graduated high school this year, class of 2020. She has been a STL Youth Jobs participant over the past couple of years. Her current site within the program is with Story Stitchers. She has served as a Story Stitchers intern/ a part of the student council since 2018. They can produce their own songs, bring positive awareness about gun violence, and create their own beats. She has been a food runner and prep assistant at “The Chocolate Pig” through the partnership with STL Youth Jobs. In her spare time, she volunteered as a camp counselor at a church. She has supervised children between the ages of 7-12 years old. She worked on different projects. She loves to keep a positive attitude and attack the hard stuff head on.

**Jacoby Combs please see bio above**

**Moderator: Sundy Elizabeth Whiteside**, SLACO Board President, has worked as an Equipment Engineer for MEMC Electronic Materials, Inc., and as a Project and Information Systems Engineer for JJO Control Systems. She has also worked for the Community Action Agencies of both St. Louis City and County as a Site and Technology Coordinator. Her community involvement and professional affiliations include the National Society of Black Engineers, Girl Scout Council of Greater St. Louis Board (Technology Committee), National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She served as a Tax Increment Financing Commissioner for the City of St. Louis (2000-2014). She is a Co-Chair of the St. Louis Vacancy Collaborative and is a petitioner for the Prop NS Initiative.

## **BREAKOUT SESSION #3 (11:10am – 12:10pm)**

### **Knowledge and Skill Building**

**Presenters: Vontrice McDowell**, received her bachelor’s from DePaul University in Sociology and African and Black Diaspora Studies in her hometown of Chicago, IL. Vontrice later received her Master of Social Work from the Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis where she studied Social and Economic Development. Vontrice has extensive experience in community engagement. For eight years she worked for Beyond Housing, a nonprofit, community development organization that focuses its resources within the geography of the Normandy Schools Collaborative. As their Director of Community Engagement, Vontrice worked directly with the community to build resident leaders, understand community priorities, and help to align her organization’s efforts with the community’s needs. She is passionate about honest and open dialogue with clients and stakeholders, to ensure that their voice informs her work. Vontrice currently serves as the Director of Community Based Interventions for Alive and Well Communities where she developed and provides direct oversight of a grassroots community engagement strategy. Her goal is to help communities, organizations, and neighborhoods understand the impact of chronic trauma and toxic stress and to work together for sustainable change. Additionally, Vontrice is adjunct faculty at both Washington University and St. Louis University’s School of Social Work. She resides in St. Louis City with her husband and three children.

**Moderator: Barbara Levin** is a Teaching Professor at the Brown School of Social Work specializing in community development practice, facilitation, collective impact, governance, and organizational development. She is an active community member, serving on local and state/regional nonprofit boards, including the new Ferguson Nonprofit Center. **Timetria Murphy-Watson** is the St. Louis Operations Director leading the equitable development of people centered strategies for St. Louis’ regional portfolio, including the Near North Side Choice Neighborhood Initiative and team, Southeast Ferguson and East St. Louis, Illinois. Ms. Murphy-Watson brings community development experience as the former Director of Community Development Programs for the Grace Hill Settlement House and Co-Founder/Executive Director of LinkSTL Inc.

## BREAKOUT SESSION #4 (12:15pm – 1:15pm)

### Public Health and Safety - Why We Do What We Do

**Description:** Hear how young people are working to make a difference in their neighborhoods and communities. Sometimes we take to the streets for justice and “Good Trouble”

**Presenters:** **Farrakhan Shegog** is a community leader and activist in St. Louis focusing his time, talents and resources on neighborhoods of neglect. As founder and current CEO of Young Voices with Action, Farrakhan works to bring further economic, political and social development to his community. Farrakhan has co-founded many community entities and serves on several boards and commissions throughout the St. Louis region and has been awarded a host of awards and resolutions for his leadership and activism. Graduate of Spartan College of Aeronautics and Technology with a degree in Aviation and Technology Management, he is trained and certified in inspecting and testing for various industries such as Aerospace, Manufacturing, Automotive, and Oil & Gas fields. Farrakhan also works as a Workforce Development Specialist and Community Organizing Specialist for Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis. Farrakhan is a member of New Perfect Peace Church under the leadership of Pastor Robert Loyd where he serves as Deacon. Working with Young Voices with Action, Farrakhan oversees providing of financial and moral support in community activism ranging from fair housing, equality in education, investment in poor neighborhoods, job opportunities, and preventative healthcare. His desire is to mobilize people across the St. Louis region to get involved, be involved and make a difference. We have been making greater stride towards increasing the number of young community leaders in the St. Louis region. Our dedicated staff has done an incredible job at expanding our outreach while strengthening our programs and services. A few program highlights include: Civic Ambassadors Academy -St. Louis; Urban Farming Initiative; Season of Service Campaign; Homeownership Training; THE COME UP Business Development Series; Bricks4Kids Technology Camp; Annual Black Wall Street Festival. Young Voices with Action is stronger than ever due to our continually expanding community who come together to donate time, resources, and talent in support of our important mission. This year alone we worked with 14 civic organizations, 6 churches, 3 school districts, six home revitalization projects; our volunteers logged over 5,200 hours; our Board of Directors has helped us dramatically increase our donor base; and our Advisory Board has assisted us in expanding our hunger relief and youth empowerment programs. Thank you being a part of the Young Voices with Action movement. We are looking forward to more in 2020 and beyond! Learn more at [www.youngvoiceswithaction.org](http://www.youngvoiceswithaction.org)

**Moderator:** **Craig Schmid**, JD, a Government Services Analyst for the City of St. Louis Department of Health, is involved in youth violence prevention (Youth Violence Prevention Partnership); HEAL (Healthy Eating, Active Living) Partnership; heroin/opioids and substance use disorders; racial equity and disparities; internal and external partnerships; and policy and legislation. He served as Alderman for the 10th and 20th wards in the City of St. Louis for 20 years.

## BREAKOUT SESSION #5 (1:20pm – 2:20pm)

### New Generation Innovation Opportunities

**Description:** Each week, Travis Sheridan and Michael Calhoun host Nothing Impossible on 1120 KMOX and chat with innovators and entrepreneurs from the region to learn more about the work they do, why it matters, and how STL can support the effort. So, let us do it live. During the conference Nothing Impossible will bring you a closer look at the show and highlight the power of storytelling.

**Presenters:** **Travis Sheridan**, Senior Vice President, Chief Community Officer serves as Wexford’s first Chief Community Officer and works together with Wexford’s university partners, civic leaders and community groups in the Knowledge Communities we develop. His primary role is to ensure that Wexford is building inclusive communities in each of our cities and to lead the overall community engagement strategy, identify new partners and initiatives to add to the knowledge community portfolio, develop funding mechanisms to increase opportunities for under-represented innovators, and strengthen the connections between the Knowledge Community and the geography in which it resides.

Previously, Travis was President of the CIC Venture Café Global Institute (VCGI) where he was responsible for the growth and expansion of the organization. He was also the founding Executive Director of Venture Café St. Louis – the first expansion city outside of Cambridge located at the Wexford's property, @4240. In his role, Travis propelled Venture Café St. Louis to be the largest weekly event gathering for innovators and entrepreneurs in the United States. Prior to launching Venture Café St. Louis, Travis was the Assistant Vice President of Innovation and Entrepreneurship for the St. Louis Economic Development Partnership where he ran an annual business plan competition, launched a biotech incubator, and managed a network of four additional business incubators. Travis is a community designer who uses innovation and entrepreneurship to drive community and economic development. He co-founded 59DaysOfCode and GlobalHack, two competitions that create community and build talent. GlobalHack is now the world's largest hackathon and attracts participants from around the globe. A frequent speaker, Travis honed his skills while doing standup for more than three years and is often called upon to speak on the topics of innovation, community design, economic development and leadership. Travis was appointed by St. Louis Mayor Lyda Krewson to serve on the board of directors of the St. Louis Economic Development Partnership; he is also a board member for the Laumeier Sculpture Park in St. Louis and is an advisor to Balsa Foundation and Pipeline Entrepreneurs. He received a bachelor's in psychology with a minor in conflict resolution and peacemaking, a master's in organizational behavior and has completed the coursework for a doctorate in organizational leadership. Twitter: @TravisSheridan and **Michael Calhoun** is a news reporter at KMOX Radio and co-anchor of Total Information AM. He partners with Travis Sheridan to host "Nothing Impossible," the longest-running St. Louis media source spotlighting local innovation. Michael has been honored with numerous Edward R. Murrow journalism awards throughout his 14 years at KMOX. He went to Parkway West High, attended the University of Missouri, and graduated from Lindenwood University.

**Moderator: Rick Bonasch** is Director of Technical Assistance for Rise Community Development ("Rise"), where he specializes in building capacity for community-based development organizations in the St. Louis area. His expertise is in organizational strategic planning, staff and board development, community planning, and affordable housing development and finance. Rise's mission is to build strong and healthy neighborhoods in partnership with place-based, community development organizations. Rise does so through a combination of organizational capacity building services and targeted real estate development activities in the heart of the St. Louis region, in both Missouri and Illinois.



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## SEPTEMBER 30, 2020 (9:00am – 9:20am)

**Keynote Speaker:** Rev. Traci Blackmon, Associate General Minister of Justice & Local Church Ministries for The United Church of Christ, Senior Pastor of Christ The King United Church of Christ in Florissant, MO



Until the lion tells the story, the hunter will always be the hero.~ West African Proverb

Rev. Traci Blackmon is the Associate General Minister of Justice & Local Church Ministries for The United Church of Christ and Senior Pastor of Christ The King United Church of Christ in Florissant, MO. Initially ordained in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Rev. Blackmon served in various ministry capacities for 9 years, prior to becoming ordained in the United Church of Christ and installed as the first woman and 18th pastor in the 162-year history of Christ The King United Church of Christ. A registered nurse with more than 25 years of healthcare experience, Rev. Blackmon's clinical focus was cardiac care and in later years her focus shifted to mobile healthcare in underserved communities with the greatest health disparities in her region. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Birmingham - Southern College (1985), and a Master of Divinity degree from Eden Theological Seminary (2009).

As pastor, Rev. Blackmon leads Christ The King in an expanded understanding of church as a sacred launching pad of community engagement and change. This ethos has led to a tripling of both membership and worship attendance over the last seven years, expanding membership engagement opportunities, and the establishment of community outreach programs. Community programming includes a computer lab, tutoring, continuing education classes, summer programming, a robotics team, children's library and girls' mentoring program, all housed in the church.

Regionally, Rev. Blackmon's signature initiatives have included Healthy Mind, Body, and Spirit, a mobile faith-based outreach program she designed to impact health outcomes in impoverished areas. Sacred Conversations on Solomon's Porch, quarterly clergy in-services designed to equip local clergy to assess physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual health concerns within congregational life, Sista SOS Summit, an intergenerational health symposium for women and girls, and Souls to the Polls STL, an ecumenical, multi-faith collaborative that was successful in providing over 2,800 additional rides to the polls during local and national elections.

A featured voice with many regional, national, and international media outlets and a frequent contributor to print publications, Rev. Blackmon's communal leadership and work in the aftermath of the killing of Michael Brown, Jr., in Ferguson, MO has gained her both national and international recognition and audiences from the White House to the Carter Center to the Vatican. She was appointed to the Ferguson Commission by Governor Jay Nixon and to the President's Advisory Council on Faith-Based Neighborhood Partnerships for the White House by President Barack H. Obama. Rev. Blackmon co-authored the White Privilege curriculum for the United Church of Christ and toured the nation with Rev. Dr. William Barber of Moral Mondays and Repairer of the Breach, Rev. Dr. James Forbes of The Drum Major Institute and pastor emeritus of The

Riverside Church in New York, and Sister Simone Campbell of Nuns on the Bus proclaiming the need for a Moral Revival in this nation.

Rev. Blackmon is a graduate of Leadership St. Louis and currently serves on the boards of The Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, Chicago Theological Seminary, and WomanPreach! Rev. Blackmon is a co-author of the newly released White Privilege curriculum through the United Church of Christ and has received several awards and recognitions, inclusive of:

- The White House President's Volunteer Service Award
- The St. Louis American Stellar Award
- 2015 Ebony Magazine Power 100
- Deluxe Magazine Power 100
- St. Louis University - Community Leader of the Year
- 100 Black Men of St. Louis Community Leader of the Year
- The Coalition of Black Trade Unionist - Drum Major Award
- NAACP - Rosa Parks Award
- Rosa Parks Award - United Trade Unionist
- The Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis Woman in Leadership Award
- National Planned Parenthood Faith Leader Award
- The United Church of Christ - Antoinette Brown Leadership Award
- Honorary Doctorate, Eden Theological Seminary

Rev. Blackmon currently resides in both St. Louis, MO and Cleveland, OH and was named 2017 Citizen of the Year by The St. Louis American and as one of St. Louis' 100 most influential voices. Rev. Blackmon is the proud mother of three adult children: Kortni Devon, Harold II, and Tyler Wayne Blackmon.

## JOIN THE FUN AND MEET THE CITY

Great Conversation #NU4Change/SISTERHOODS [www.slaco-mo.org](http://www.slaco-mo.org)



### BREAKOUT SESSION #1 (9:25am - 10:25am)

#### A Different Way: Neighborhoods United for Change/Sisterhoods

**"We may be from over 30 different neighborhoods, but we all are St. Louisans. And when we come together to make our communities better, we make the whole city better" #STLMade**

**Description:** Could the contention and turmoil that surfaced as a result of Ferguson locally and in cities all over the United States result in bridging the racial divide? SLACO's Neighborhoods United for Change/Sisterhood, a project initially discussed at the 2014 SLACO Neighborhood Conference and advanced by then Executive Director, Nancy Thompson, will allow people to interact across invisible community lines. Participants from one SLACO community will tour another St. Louis neighborhood to gain insight about its strengths, successes and challenges, creating an opportunity for people to connect their similarities, while reinforcing mutual respect for differences.

Because of its history of inclusiveness, SLACO provides a perfect convener for this program. SLACO specializes in providing opportunities for neighborhoods to learn from and network with each other to create

a desirable urban environment. SLACO 30 member neighborhoods represent over 33% of the City's population. SLACO has partnered with CDA, CREA (Civil Rights Enforcement Agency of the City of St. Louis), and the City's Neighborhood Stabilization Team to build a robust platform for discussing racial and social equity.

**Presenters:** **Madeliene Brice** is a 16-year resident of the West End and Chair of West End Neighbors (WEN). WEN's mission is to enhance the livability of the West End by establishing and maintaining an open line of communication with key stakeholders and facilitating civic action. She currently works as Executive Assistant in HR, Finance and Child Care with the Gateway Region YMCA. Madeliene received a B.S. in Business Administration from UM-St. Louis. She enjoys reading, volunteering as a Y Literacy Tutor and watching MSNBC. Madeliene is a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. **Harlan Hodge** serves as a consultant on topics of Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity. Currently he is the Senior Manager of Diversity and Inclusion at Barnes Jewish Hospital. He has worked with Judith as a facilitator of Neighborhoods United for Change and replicated this program for high school youth. **Charles Bryson, II**, has served in various aspects of human service from Case Worker and Case Manager at programs for homeless persons in Baltimore, St. Louis, and Peoria Illinois to the Director of a Head Start program in Springfield Illinois and Executive Director of a Youth Program in Peoria Illinois. He has also held various positions in state and city government including Area Representative for the Missouri Housing Development Commission, Neighborhood Development Executive, Senior Policy Advisor, Director of Department of Public Safety, and Director of the Civil Rights Enforcement Agency. **Judith Arnold** serves as the SLACO Project Manager for **#NU4Change/Sisterhoods**. See bio above.

**Moderator:** Dr. Mark Abbott

## **BREAKOUT SESSION #2 (10:35am – 11:35am)**

### **Office of Financial Empowerment, SLATE, Employment Connection**

**"Our conversations and collaborations create dialogue that build foundations for the future"**

**#STLMade**

**Description:** Here from the City of St. Louis and private employers on how they work to breakdown racism and how they are dealing with Covid 19 Pandemic.

**Presenters:** **Sal Martinez** has established himself as a force in the comprehensive revitalization of the St. Louis region. Martinez received his Bachelor of Science degree in Urban Education in 1994 from Harris-Stowe State University and was employed by the University as a Neighborhood Services Coordinator from 1996-1998. During his tenure at College, Martinez served as a liaison to many local social service and nonprofit agencies. These experiences had a profound effect on Martinez, as he developed a keen interest in assisting in the rebuilding of St. Louis's many disinvested neighborhoods. In January of 2017, Martinez was appointed the executive director of the North Newstead Association (NNA), a recognized community development corporation that has developed over 125 units of affordable housing in addition to providing other services including; home repair assistance for low-income families, neighborhood safety training, neighborhood beautification services and landlord training. Martinez also created a new program that addresses food insecurity that impacts senior citizens residing in North St. Louis city. In the fall of 2018, Martinez was appointed the CEO of Employment Connection, Inc., which assists individuals with limited opportunities to self-sufficiency. The agency currently serves over 1,800 clients on an annual basis with comprehensive services including job training/placement, mental/behavioral counseling, and housing/utility/transportation and clothing assistance. Martinez also currently serves as the chairman of the St. Louis Housing Authority's Board of Commissioners and serves on the boards of the North Newstead Association, Community Builders Network, Central Patrol Business Association and Civil Rights Enforcement Agency. **Howard Hayes** was appointed as Executive Director of the St. Louis Agency on Training and Employment (SLATE) Aug. 1, 2019 by Mayor Lyda Krewson. Leading the agency, Hayes works with business, governmental and civic leadership to develop a quality workforce that meets the economic and labor market needs of the region.

He has more than 15 years of executive experience creating new jobs through access to training and capital. Hayes served as Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion at PARIC Corporation where he supported

minority-owned and women-owned construction and professional firms seeking to do business with PARIC in St. Louis and Kansas City, Missouri. Hayes' work provided hundreds of new jobs and contracts for small businesses. He also served as Paric's Compliance Section Chief Executive, where he led a team responsible for several hundred million dollars in projects with St. Louis city workforce and enterprise requirements.

Prior to his work at PARIC corporation, Hayes worked at the St. Louis Development Corporation for more than seven years as the Director of Minority Business Development and Compliance. There, he promoted inclusion and workforce goals on large-scale projects, including Ballpark Village, Cortex Innovation Community, Union Station and Scottrade Center. In that position, he served as senior advisor to St. Louis city government on the growth and competitiveness of the city's Minority and Women owned enterprises.

He served for 10 years as chairman of the city's Land Reutilization Authority and as a St. Louis Development Corporation board member. His civic leadership includes serving as president of the Board of Directors Regional Union Construction Center (RUCC), STL Community College Foundation Board, board member of the Local Development Corporation Board, as an advisory board member of Small Business Development and Technology Centers of Missouri, and as a board member of the St. Louis Council of Construction Consumers and more. Hayes has earned a MBA from Webster University, and a bachelor of science degree in business administration from St. Louis University.

**Jared Boyd** serves as Chief of Staff and Counsel in the St. Louis City Treasurer's Office. In this capacity, Boyd directly oversees both the St. Louis Treasury Department, Office of Financial Empowerment and Parking Division, 150 employees, and a \$18 million annual budget. Boyd also manages the legal affairs for the Treasurer's Office, including drafting and reviewing contracts, collaborating with outside counsel on litigation matters, drafting legislation, and providing employment law advice for the office.

Prior to serving in the Treasurer's Office, he was a litigation associate with Bryan Cave LLP for four years. Boyd's litigation practice encompassed a wide range of civil litigation, including complex consumer class actions, labor and employment matters, business disputes, and defending colleges and universities. He also maintained an active pro bono practice and regularly represented victims of domestic violence in order of protection hearings. Boyd also successfully tried an international child abduction case in federal court.

Boyd graduated from the University of Virginia School of Law in 2008. Prior to attending law school, Boyd was a Coro Fellow in Public Affairs, worked as a fundraiser for Robin Carnahan's first campaign for Secretary of State, and wrote questions for the Scholastic Aptitude Test ("SAT"). Boyd obtained a B.A. in History from Morehouse College.

Boyd is active with several civic organizations including serving as a Past President of the Mound City Bar Association, the oldest African American bar association west of the Mississippi. Jared also serves on the boards of Habitat for Humanity St. Louis, St. Louis Artworks, and the St. Louis Morehouse Alumni Association.

**Moderator: Sundy Elizabeth Whiteside**

## **BREAKOUT SESSION #3 (11:40am – 12:40pm)**

### **Reaching out when we cannot reach out: Engagement in the time of Pandemics**

**"St. Louis is fueled by the sheer tenacity, support, optimism and innovation of people who come from these neighborhoods and communities. The realization of dreams like theirs builds a more resilient, collaborative city that's diverse in thought, perspectives, and backgrounds" #STLMade**



**Description:** This session will provide tools for engaging online with members and residents; zoom do's and don'ts, alternatives to meetings (something we can always learn!), and redefining what it means to be a "member" or a "community engaged" resident.

**Presenters:** **Claire Wolff Rippel** is the community development specialist for the St. Louis Urban Region at the University of Missouri Extension and Director, Neighborhood Leadership Academy. She develops community partnership initiatives that link university resources with the needs and priorities of communities by working on a variety of topics including capacity building, leadership development, and asset-based community development. Claire makes use of these tools in her role with UM Extension in particular, the Neighborhood Leadership Academy. **Barbara Levin** has pivoted her Brown School "Effective Meeting Management" course to online tools. Both promise to engage you and leave you tools to recreate and excel on your own!



**Formerly National Council on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse**

## **BREAKOUT SESSION #4 (12:45pm – 1:45pm)**

### **COVID-19 and HIV: One Moment, Two Epidemics**

**Description:** Like HIV and AIDS, coronavirus has a greater impact on people who are already marginalized. The purpose of this presentation is to discuss how we as the City of St. Louis Department of Health are tackling both HIV and COVID-19 using lessons learned from the HIV epidemic to the COVID-19 response.

**Presenters:** **Claudia Jones, BS, MPH** is a former Disease Intervention Specialist for the State of Florida Department Health. She currently serves as a Public Health Program representative for the City of St. Louis Department of Health Section of Communicable Disease Hepatitis/HIV/AIDS/STI and TB. She works with the prevention team performing community outreach events working in high-risk/morbidity locations throughout St. Louis. Claudia works on the Barber/Beauty Shop Initiative (BBI) where she trains local barbers and beauticians in high-risk locations about the prevention of HIV/STI/Hepatitis. She conducts presentations on STI/HIV 101 as requested by organizations, probation and parole as well as other community partners. She assists her peers with health fairs, health screenings, outreach events, testing, awareness days and the promotion of disease prevention, education and reduction of chronic disease.

**Ms. Nakima Yokley** currently serves as a Public Health Program Rep. / (DIS) for the City of St. Louis Department of Health- Section of Communicable Disease Hepatitis / HIV/ AIDS/ STI and TB. She plays a large role in developing community outreach events that take place within high-risk / morbidity communities in St. Louis. She conducts STD /HIV 101 presentations as requested by organizations, schools, probation and parole offices, seminars, media advertisements, etc. and community partners. Delivers educational health programs /CDC group level and individual interventions such as SISTA, NIA, CLEAR, TREVOR, Healthy Relationships, Life 101, Be Proud! Be Responsible, Promoting Health Among Teens! Abstinence only. just to name a few. She coordinates and participates in public health outreach events such as health fairs, health screenings,

community back to school events, stroll care, BBI etc., to promote awareness, disease prevention, and to aid in the detection of chronic diseases.

**Moderator:** Craig Schmid

## **BREAKOUT SESSION #5 (1:50pm – 2:50pm)**

### **Dream Builders and St. Louis Art Works**

**Description:** Here how organizations designed for and developed to empower youth and create an opportunity to better themselves and our City.

**Presenters:** **Neal Richardson**, Head of Financial Education Strategy at U.S. Bank, develops and over sees the strategy to improve recognition and use the U.S. Bank's financial education programs nationally, to support the needs of a diverse set of stakeholders, including customers, employees, community organizations, and regulators. Since April 2018 he has developed financial education campaigns that have reached over two million people and resulted in approximately 280,000 engagements in U.S. Bank financial education resources. He co-founded Dream Builders 4 Equity, a nonprofit organization that aims to build social equity through financial equity. **Margaret Mulligan** is the Program Manager at St. Louis ArtWorks and works hard to run the Apprenticeship Program. She graduated from Macalester College in 2017 with a B.A. in Geography. She has lived in Peru twice working with indigenous women artisans. Her time abroad and experiences working in the nonprofit sector have contributed to her skills in organizational leadership, communication, youth development, artisanship, and multiculturalism. St. Louis ArtWorks enriches the lives of the region's youth by providing art education, essential job skill training and exposure to career opportunities through paid apprenticeships. **Sabrina Silvers** is the Office Manager at St. Louis ArtWorks, holds a bachelor's in business administration/ Management, from Harris-Stowe State University. Outside of ArtWorks, Sabrina manages her family's Art Studio, and is a dedicated Youth Mentor/Leader at St. Luke Memorial M.B. Church.

**Moderator:** Rick Bonasch

**OCTOBER 3, 2020**

## **BREAKOUT SESSION #1 (9:00am – 10:00am)**

### **Evictions in St. Louis: Flattening the Curve**

**Description:** Alongside the COVID-19 and racism pandemic, we have an impending housing crisis in the St. Louis region. Waves of families are losing their homes because of an inability to pay rent following the end to our region's eviction moratoriums. The impact of this sudden wave is overwhelming social service agencies and will persist years into the future. Join us to hear 1) how advocates in the Housing Defense Collective are organizing to stop evictions and provide support to tenants and 2) how local stakeholders are taking a community-driven approach to assessing the need through a St. Louis City-County Housing Report Card. This session will also be an opportunity to contribute the assessment and learn tangible ways you can act in your neighborhood.

**Presenters** **Gary Newcomer** is the director of Operations at the Community Builders Network of Metro St. Louis where he has worked since 2016. He also helps to facilitate the St. Louis Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF) Coalition, a group of stakeholders who actively support increased funding and a greater role for the AHTF in the City of St. Louis and St. Louis County. **Shuron Jones** is a member of the St. Louis Housing Defense Collective, and a leader of State Streets Tenant Resistance of St. Louis. **Cristina Garmendia** is Principal at URBNRX, a research consulting firm that provides data and research support to organizations that seek to make more equitable decisions and practice accountability to their community.

**Moderator:** Dr. Mark Abbott

## BREAKOUT SESSION #2 (10:05am – 11:05am)

### Voter Education and Engagement, Voter Rights and Education

#### Sponsored by Missouri Foundation for Health and Neighborhood Forward

**Description:** Lets discuss how you can GOTV in your neighborhood and why it is important. Registration, Education and Participation

**Presenters:** **Michael Reid** opens the line of communication between citizens, civic leaders, and service providers to get projects done. With over 30 years in the Community Organizing sector, Mike has experience in management consultation, team building, professional development, strategic implementation, and community organizing. Mike has served Executive Director at The Literacy Council of Greater St. Louis, Winstanley Industrial Park Neighborhood Organization, Mark Twain Community Alliance, North 7 Star Redevelopment Corporation, Union Communion Ministries and Veterans for Peace. Mike has completed Gamaliel Advanced Organizer Training and Organizing for Change Non-Violent Training. Mike is currently the Executive Director of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council. **Keith Antone Willis Sr.** is a sales coach & trainer, author and veteran communications professional! Based in St. Louis, Missouri, Keith Willis has been a top sales producer for over 25 years. His book “10 Laws of the Ultimate Rainmaker; Shake a Hand, Make a Friend and get Paid” is a must read for sales professionals! Keith has worked in politics as a Campaign Manager, fundraiser, Senior Advisor, Field Manager and Lobbyist. Keith was named one of the “100 Most Inspiring St. Louisans” by the NAACP. He also received the 2011 Distinguished Entrepreneur Award, from the Dr. Martin Luther King State Celebration Commission of Missouri and was recognized as the 2014 Member of the Year by the National Sales Network, St. Louis Chapter. A native of Columbus, Ohio, Willis is a Saint Louis University graduate, a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. **Gena Gunn McClendon, PhD**, CSD Director of Voter Access &Engagement, Financial Capability & Asset Building initiatives Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis .Her work focuses on policy research analysis and consultation with community-based programs, academic institutions, state and federal policymakers and advocacy groups. Dr. McClendon’s program development and policy advocacy work centers on issues related to voter suppression and civic participation of low- and moderate-income households and marginalized populations. Her research focuses on finding and advancing practice and policy strategies that support an inclusive democracy and the professional training of social work students. Dr. McClendon earned a PhD in Urban Higher Education from Jackson State University, received her Master of Management and Leadership from Fontbonne University in St. Louis, and Bachelor of Science degree from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale.

**Moderator:** **Kevin B. McKinney, SLACO Executive Director**, former Alderman and Mayor of the Town of Jonesborough, TN.

## SLACO AWARDS AND COMMUNITY FORUM

(11:30am)

**“Your unwavering commitment to achieving not only success in your neighborhood, but in all of our communities is just one example of your leadership abilities and dedication to the growth of St. Louis as a whole” #STLMade**

**Description:** SLACO Recognizes the St. Louis Community

**Presenter:** **Sundy Whiteside, SLACO Board President**

**(12:00pm – 12:30pm)**

### **The WHY of My City**

**Saint Louis Story Stitchers Artists Collective.** The mission of Saint Louis Story Stitchers is to document St. Louis through art and word and to promote understanding, civic pride, intergenerational relationships and literacy. Story Stitchers is comprised of artists and African American youth ages 16-24, working together to create social change with a current focus on gun violence prevention. The organization works to promote a better educated, more peaceful and caring region through the creation and dissemination of original art, bringing the humanities to the forefront through discussion. Pick the City UP presents Saint Louis Story Stitchers unique brand of urban storytelling, featuring live original STL hip hop, spoken word and story magic on public health issues St. Louis cares about including gun violence. Pay tribute, join the fun, and make a difference. Bringing a positive change to the Lou. To learn more visit [storystitchers.org](http://storystitchers.org)



**CLOSING PANEL 12:35 pm – 1:45 pm**

### **Let us Hug our Youth and Show Them We Love Them**

**Description:** Hear from community leaders about their visions for engagement of our Youth in St. Louis. Let's talk Cure Violence Prevention

**Presenters:** **Sal Martinez**, CEO with Employment Connections the contractor for the Health Department and City of St. Louis for the operation of 2 of the 3 initial Cure Violence sites: Wells-Goodfellow/Hamilton Heights and Dutchtown. Cure Violence Global the founder of the program has their own contract with the Health Department/City of St. Louis to providing training and technical assistance to our Cure Violence staff and to provide program evaluation support for the Health Department and City of St. Louis. **Wilford Pinkney, Jr.**, Director, Office of Children, Youth and Family, City of St. Louis has spent the last 30+ in the criminal justice sector promoting safety, education, policy development and training. He served 20 years as a member of the New York City Police Department and is founder and CEO of Puissance Management & Consulting LLC. The company helps organizations create highly effective systems, internally and beyond, that allow them to develop successful strategies and approaches to today's problems while anticipating future ones. He has also served as Chairperson of the School of Criminal Justice at Monroe College and taught public policy at both the undergraduate and graduate level. Mr. Pinkney is currently serving as the Director of the Mayor's Office of Children, Youth, and Families for the City of St. Louis. The office has the singular purpose of making sure St. Louis' children have the support and resources needed to lead productive and successful lives.

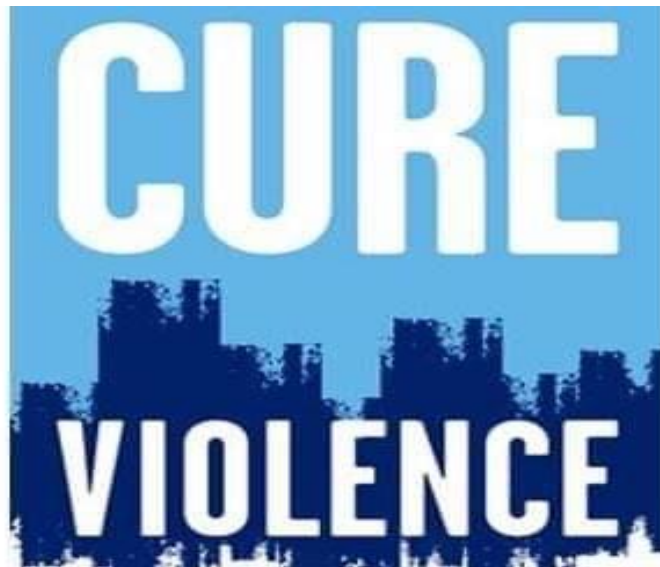


Prior to joining the administration, Pinkney was a FUSE Executive Fellow leading a cross sector group of stakeholders in the development of a comprehensive pretrial reform plan in the City of St. Louis. Wilford holds a B.S. in Organizational Management from Mercy College, a Master's in Public Administration from New York University and a Master of Arts in Political Science from the CUNY Graduate Center. He is currently a doctoral candidate in Political Science at the CUNY Graduate Center where he specializes in public policy and American politics.



**Presenter: Dr. Fredrick Echols**, is the Director of Health for the City of St. Louis, MO. Dr. Echols earned his medical degree from Boston University School of Medicine in Boston, MA. He completed post-graduate training with the United States Navy in Portsmouth, VA. During his military career, Dr. Echols served as the primary medical officer for Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 16 (MALS-16) in Miramar, CA, lead medical provider for Camp Bastion during Operation Enduring Freedom, and a member of the Aeromedical Advisory Board. After completing his military service obligation, Dr. Echols, served as the Chief of Communicable Disease for the Illinois Department of Public Health, and the Director of Communicable Disease Control Services, Vector and Veterinary Programs for the Saint Louis County Department of Public Health.





"There's still a lot of work to be done to make the St. Louis region a place with more opportunities for more people. But with our communities leading the way from the ground up.... exposing the issues and having conversations to ignite change...there's good reason to be optimistic for our future"

PROUD TO BE  
**STL**  
**MADE**



# REGISTERING TO VOTE ONLINE IN MISSOURI

1. Go to <https://s1.sos.mo.gov/elections/voterregistration/>



**SUBMIT**



2. Fill out the form and submit application.

3. Get your voter registration card in the mail.



**BE THE CHANGE!  
USE YOUR POWER!**



THIS ACTIVITY IS FINANCED IN PART THROUGH AN ALLOCATION OF GRANT FUNDS FROM MISSOURI FOUNDATION FOR HEALTH.



A special shout out to Missouri Foundation for Health and Neighborhood Forward for their support of the SLACO Voter Registration and Engagement and Get Out The Vote Efforts

**PLEASE VISIT OUR  
SUPPORTERS ONLINE**

Bi State Development; Black Power Blueprint; Chapman Ventures; Creative Exchange Lab/WITH Action; Commerce Bank; Delmar Devine; DeSales Community Development; Destiny Catering & Sauce Development; Enterprise Bank and Trust; Employment Connection; Givable St. Louis; Great Rivers Greenway; IFF; InvestSTL; Midwest Bank Centre; North Hampton Neighborhood Assn.; Places for People; Planned Parenthood; Present-ED; ReVitalize St. Louis; Shaw Neighborhood Improvement Assn.; Sheriff Vernon Betts; Simmons Bank; SLACO; State of Missouri Dept. of Conservation; St. Louis Community College; St. Louis Community Credit Union; St. Louis Civil Rights Enforcement Agency; St. Louis Equity Fund; STL Village; St. Louis Health Department; St. Louis Public Library; STL Village; Tower Grove Neighborhoods CDC; The Muny; Twenty-Second Judicial Circuit Court-Juvenile Division;

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**THANKS TO THE CONFERENCE PLANNING  
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TISHAURA O.  
**JONES**  
for CITY TREASURER

THANK YOU TO SLACO FOR 24 YEARS OF  
BRINGING COMMUNITIES **TOGETHER**

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## Great Rivers Greenway

We connect the St. Louis region with greenways so people can explore their rivers, parks and communities, making it a more vibrant place to live life outside!

[GreatRiversGreenway.org](http://GreatRiversGreenway.org)







#### **St. Louis Association of Community Organizations (SLACO) Mission:**

To improve the quality of life for the residents and stakeholders of neighborhoods of the St. Louis Region through community-based initiatives, citizen empowerment, and neighborhood organizing and building the resiliency of its community organization membership.

#### **SLACO Historical Highlights**

- Celebrating 40 years as an advocate for Neighborhoods in St. Louis and the Metro East Community
- Received CDA Funding (\$150,000.00 each) to redevelop two homes in the Baden Community
- Received 2018, 2019, 2020 CDA funding and CREA Funding to continue the Neighborhoods United for Change
- Participated in the education of our neighborhood members in the Prop NS vacancy stabilization bond issue.
- Board of Directors vote to support a ballot initiative to allow the Citizens of St. Louis to vote for a bond issue to improve and make ready for sale Land Reutilization Authority (LRA) properties.
- Successful implementation of the SLACO Vacancy LRA Sub Committee "Finest 15" Program
- Successful implementation of Neighborhoods United for Change via an \$11,000 grant from the St. Louis Civil Rights Enforcement Agency to promote dialog regarding race, cultural, and housing issues with 10 SLACO member Neighborhoods and four non SLACO member neighborhoods. #NU4Change 2016
- Summer Camp, Neighborhood Houses@SLACO with Horizon Housing Foundation, begins, 2016
- SLACO receives a Community Based Development Organization (CBDO) certification from Community Development Association (CDA).
- Administered a \$25,000 grant from the CDA for a Sustainable Neighborhood Academy and Inspiration Lab to train St. Louis residents. Received funding in 2016 and 2017 from CDA!
- Vacancy Committee worked with Board of Alderman to increase funding for board ups, mowing and stabilization of LRA properties.
- After-school program, Neighborhood Houses @SLACO began in 2015.
- Two AmeriCorps VISTA neighborhood organizers, three Summer Associate VISTAs, and a fundraising and marketing VISTA began serving SLACO in 2015.
- Partnered with C.F. Vatterott in Etzel Place V Apartments in the West End neighborhood, 2014.
- Full-time Executive Director Position reinstated in 2014.
- Neighborhood Roundtables and All-Neighborhood Forums initiated in 2013.
- Support for establishment of Neighborhood Ownership Model-based police sub-station in Etzel Community Center in 2012.
- Collaboration with Computer Village to offer computer classes, successful after-school program and summer youth camp, Etzel Make a Difference Center in 2012-2014.
- Partner in Boulevard Heights Homes in 2008.
- Partner in McKinley Heights and Fox Park Homes – five homes in 2006.
- Partner in Maffitt Garden Homes, 10 Lease Purchase homes, Wells-Goodfellow in 2005.
- Neighborhood Leaders Roundtables and Leadership Training in 2004-2009.
- Walk with Your Neighbors, 2005-2010.
- Received Bank of America Community Builders Award in 2005-2006.
- Partner in St. Vincent Homes – 100 new homes, Gate District in 2003-2006.
- Community Links with International Institute in 2003-2013.
- St. Louis Community Air Project, 2000-2007.
- Operation of Make a Difference Center in the West End neighborhood, 1998-2012.
- Community Policing – closing drug houses, graffiti paint-outs, closing problem liquor establishments, from 1995-2005.
- 40-ounce bottles banned– saving almost 9 million bottles per year since 1995.
- St. Louis Regional Neighborhoods Conference established in 1995.
- Joint venture with Ranken Technical College – 50 homes, 1994.
- Buder Place Homes – 100 new homes, Gate District, 1989-1998.
- Partner in Etzel Place Apartments, 175 family apartments, West End, from 1989-2010.
- Partner in Fairfax Court – 28 new homes, Vandeventer, from 1985-1987.
- SLACO founded in 1978.

# CITY OF Saint Louis NEIGHBORHOODS

The map displays the following neighborhoods and districts:

- North:** Riverview, Granite City, Baden, North Riverfront, Riverfront, Bear Riverfront.
- West:** Jennings, Bellefontaine Neighbors, Pine Lawn, Hillside, Wellston, University City, Clayton, Richmond Heights, Maplewood, Shrewsbury, Mackenzie, Affton, Lemay.
- Central:** Forest Park, Dogtown, The Hill, Shaw, Tower Grove Park, Tower Grove South, Bevo Mill, Boulevard Heights, Prichard Heights, Carondelet, Patch.
- East:** Madison, Venice, Brooklyn, East St. Louis, Sauget, Cahokia, East Carondelet.
- South:** Forest Park, Midtown, Downtown, Downtown West, Sate District, Fox Park, Soudard, Kosciusko, Marine, Dutchtown, Grayvois Park, Barton West, Barton East, Lower Grove East, Lower Grove West, Shaw, Tower Grove Park, Tower Grove South, Bevo Mill, Boulevard Heights, Prichard Heights, Carondelet, Patch.

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# **St. Louis Association of Community Organizations**

## **2020 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Regional Neighborhoods Conference**

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