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# PROGRAM IN BRIEF

## **7:30am: REGISTRATION, CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST, MEET EXHIBITORS**

### **Common Area**

**7:30am** – Conference Registration – Continental Breakfast – Meet Exhibitors

**8:30am** – Welcome: Call to Order – Ms. Sundy Whiteside, Board President

Words of inspiration: Father Gerald Kleba, SLACO Founder

Welcome: Dr. Julie Fickas, President, STLCC, Forest Park Campus

Welcome: The Honorable Cori Bush, 1<sup>st</sup> District Congresswoman

Welcome: The Honorable Tishaura O. Jones, Mayor of St. Louis City

**9: 00am – 9:50am** – Reimagining Neighborhood Governance: Opportunities with Ward Reduction

Presenter: Kathleen Farrell

A Community Development Model

From the Cultural Heritage Workshop

Presenter: Judith Arnold

**9:50am – 10:00am** - BREAK

### **“Public Health is Public Safety”**

**10:10am – 10:50am** – Moderator, Craig Schmid

Panelists: Felicia Spratt, Dr. Bart Andrews

**10:50am – 11:00am** - BREAK

### **“The Kingsville B.E.S.T Collective”**

**11:10am – 11:50am** – Moderator, Dr. Mark Abbott

Panelists: Michael Baird, Catalina Frixas, James Clark

### **Lunch and Learn**

**11:50am – 12:55pm** – Meet The Vendors, Network, Lunch

### **“RCOs: Registered Community Organizations”**

**12:15pm – 1:00pm** – Moderator, Dr. Mark Abbott

Panelists: Brittany Hubbard, Alexa Seda, Dana Malkus

### **“Neighborhood Leadership Dialog”**

Member Presidents and Member Reps

**1:15pm – 2:15pm** – Building Stronger Neighborhoods –

Moderator, Kevin B. McKinney

Panelists: Nancy Thompson and Kay Gasen Thenhaus



**September 10, 2022**  
**CONFERENCE OPENING**  
**(8:30 am – 8:55 am)**

**Call to order:** **Sundy Whiteside**, SLACO Board President

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

**Welcome:** **Dr. Julia Fickas**, President, STLCC, Forest Park Campus  
**The Honorable Cori Bush**, Congresswoman, 1<sup>st</sup> District Missouri  
**The Honorable Tishaura O. Jones**, Mayor, City of St. Louis

**Sundy Elizabeth Whiteside** serves as Board President of the St. Louis Association of Community Organizations (SLACO). She is Co-Founder of the Walnut Park East Neighborhood Association (WPENA) and the St. Louis Vacancy Collaborative. She also serves as the current Co-Chair of the Vacancy Advisory Committee of the St. Louis Vacancy Collaborative. Sundy is also a Steering Committee member for the Cure Violence Program Initiative in St. Louis. Sundy received her Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from the Missouri University of Science & Technology. Being a native of St. Louis, Sundy is a graduate of Cardinal Ritter College Preparatory High School. She worked as a Project Engineer for MEMC Electronic Materials, Inc., and a Factory Information Systems Engineer for Daimler Chrysler. Sundy has worked for the Community Action Agencies of both St. Louis City and County as a Site Coordinator and Technology Administrator, where she also functioned as a Certified Community Action Professional, CCAP, and a Results Oriented Management & Accountability, ROMA Trainer. Sundy is also a licensed realtor in the state of Missouri. Sundy has had community involvement and professional affiliations with the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the National Society of Black Engineers, Girl Scout Council of Greater St. Louis Board (Technology Committee) and was appointed by Mayor Francis Slay to serve as a Tax Increment Financing Commissioner for the City of St. Louis (2000-2014).

**Fr. Gerald Kleba**, Founder of SLACO. Anyone who has met Father Gerry Kleba, despite his towering, six-foot, five-inch frame, is immediately drawn to his personal magnetism, enveloped in his teddy-bear warmth, and soon lost in the deep pools of his sincere blue eyes. One soon learns, however, that this attraction is followed by a call—to self-reflection, social consciousness, and action to help one’s fellow human beings. (Peter Green) As stated by SLACO secretary at the time, Claudine Clay “The best thing about SLACO to me is that no one knows how to quit. When we fail, we just back off and re-examine the situation and choose another plan of attack. That’s what SLACO taught me about life that I never knew before Don’t quit!” from “the People Parish” by Gerald J. Kleba

**Dr. Julie Fickas**, President, STLCC, Forest Park Campus, joined the full-time faculty at St. Louis Community College (STLCC) in 2009 after nearly eighteen years as an adjunct faculty member. Her adjunct career included teaching coursework in Biology at St. Louis Community College at Florissant Valley, Lindenwood University in St. Charles, and Parkland College in Champaign, IL. Since coming to STLCC she has served at multiple campuses as a faculty member, department chair, interim dean, dean, and interim president. Dr. Fickas is currently the campus president and chief academic officer at the Forest Park campus of St. Louis Community College.

Dr. Fickas received her Ed.D. in Interdisciplinary Leadership from Creighton University. She also holds master’s and bachelor’s degrees in Biology from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville.

Dr. Fickas serves on several boards including the St. Louis City Workforce Development Board, School District of University City NAF Advisory Board, and the Missouri Botanical Gardens Education Mission Council.

In her free time, Dr. Fickas enjoys native and vegetable gardening, traveling with her husband, and her five grandchildren.

**Congresswoman Cori Bush** was born on July 21, 1976, in St. Louis and graduated from Cardinal Ritter College Prep High School in 1994. Her father, Errol Bush, is an alderman in Northwoods, Missouri and previously served as mayor. Bush studied at Harris–Stowe State University for one year (1995–96) and worked at a preschool until 2001. She earned a diploma in nursing from the Lutheran School of Nursing in 2008 and also became a pastor. In 2011, Bush established the Kingdom Embassy International Church in St. Louis, Missouri. She became a political activist in the 2014 Ferguson unrest, during which she worked as a triage nurse and organizer. Bush is a Nonviolence 365 Ambassador with the King Center for Nonviolent Social Change. She is an American politician, registered nurse, pastor, and Black Lives Matter activist serving as the U.S. Representative for Missouri's 1st Congressional District. The district includes all of the city of St. Louis and most of northern St. Louis County. A member of the Democratic Party, on August 4, 2020, Bush defeated 10-term incumbent Lacy Clay in a 2020 U.S. House of Representatives primary election largely viewed as a historic upset, advancing to the November general election in a solidly Democratic congressional district. Bush is the first African American woman to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives from Missouri.

**Mayor Tishaura O. Jones**, with a deep personal commitment, a wealth of experience, and a proven record of leadership, Mayor Tishaura O. Jones started her career as a public servant in 2002 when she was appointed as Democratic Committeewoman of the 8th Ward in the City of St. Louis. She served two terms in the Missouri House of Representatives and became the first African American woman in state history to hold the position of Assistant Minority Floor Leader.

From financial empowerment to the modernizing of services, Jones has worked to make city government easier to navigate, easier to participate in, and easier to understand. Elected the first African American woman as Treasurer in 2012, Jones helped the City of St. Louis earn and save more than \$30 million during her tenure in the office. Jones launched the Office of Financial Empowerment (OFE) to help St. Louisans make better financial choices, and OFE's College Kids Program has helped over 18,000 public school students start saving through educational savings accounts.

After becoming the first mayor in decades to be born, raised, and still live in North St. Louis, Jones recognizes that St. Louis cannot succeed if one half is allowed to fail. She is working to reverse decades of disinvestment in neighborhoods by ensuring incentive agreements contain community benefits while responsibly investing nearly \$500 million from the American Rescue Plan. Through data-driven deployment strategies, alternative responses to conserve police resources, and investment in community violence intervention programs, she is committed to improving public safety in the city.

Jones has a bachelor's degree in Finance from Hampton University and a master's degree in Health Administration from the Saint Louis University School of Public Health. A graduate of the Executives in State and Local Government program at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, she has served as Vice President of Public Finance for Blaylock Robert Van, LLC, as well as adjunct faculty at the Anheuser-Busch School of Business at Harris-Stowe State University. A member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., her dedication to public service has earned her numerous accolades including awards from the St. Louis Coalition for Human Rights, the RCGA, and the Lupus Foundation of America. She is the proud mother of Aden.

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## **SESSION ONE (9:00am - 9:50am) Common Area**

### **Reimagining Neighborhood Governance**

The League of Women Voters has been advocating for a transparent redistricting process at all levels of government. The League collaborated with Show Me Integrity to reform St. Louis City Government to be more ethical, equitable, effective, fair, and accountable. The League joined Reform St. Louis in turning in more than 38,000 petition signatures in September to get Prop R on the April 5 ballot in 2022. City residents approved the measure with nearly 70% of the vote. As a result, St. Louis Aldermen will no longer draw their own ward maps every 10 years. Instead, there will be an open, transparent, independent redistricting process with citizen input. During this presentation, neighborhood leaders will learn about new opportunities to work with City government and have a better understanding of what is going on.

**Presenter: Kathleen Farrell** is a retired professor and college administrator and a proud resident of St. Louis City. She served as Co-President of the League of Women Voters of Metro St. Louis from 2011 till 2017 and is currently the leader of the St. Louis City League. She was a core coalition member of the successful Approval Voting ballot initiative that resulted the election of a mayor and alderpersons with a majority vote in April 2021 and was reaffirmed by 68% of voters in April 2022 with the passage of Prop R.

She began the Voters Guide partnership with the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, a voter resource that reaches over 250,000 each election with candidate and ballot issue information for seven counties.

### **Community Development Model from the Cultural Heritage Workshop**

In recent years, there has been a growing recognition of the importance of cultural activity in the lives of people, communities, and places. There is now a clear acknowledgement of social and economic value of the cultural sector and the role played in education and life changes and local economic growth and community cohesion. Judith will discuss aspects of placemaking as it relates to the neighborhoods along the Hodiament Tracks. The Hodiament Tracks is a revered 3.5-mile abandoned space to become a greenway which is activating community engagement and stimulating economic development. Placemaking according to Judith relates to the role of culture and heritage which residents remember so well. Using a short video of voices of former and current residents, Judith has captured cultural identity – a shared history of traditions of people belonging and appreciating their ‘place.’ Judith will discuss how placemaking is repurposing the dormant tracks into a unique community asset, inspiration, and potential model for urban neighborhoods.

**Presenter: Judith R. Arnold, SMA-AICP** is an Urban Planner working to break the “Delmar Divide.” When British Broadcast Corporation wrote a critical news story about north city neighborhoods, Judith set out to change this narrative by organizing residents in seven neighborhoods to propose a 3.5-mile greenway on an abandoned streetcar route. Great Rivers Greenway said yes, and she became a planner for this work. She is rooted in vacancies, working to pass PropNS which created a \$42M stabilization fund for city-owned vacant buildings. Now, Judith is tackling vacant lots along the greenway path. Her plans won a recent award from the Kresge Foundation and has earned support from various public and private resources. Now, new, and rehabbed construction is happening in unprecedented amounts in neighborhoods along the tracks. Judith is a 2022 Women of Achievement honoree.

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**SESSION TWO (10:00am - 10:40am)**  
**Public Health is Public Safety: 911 Diversion and Co-responder Services  
 in Our Community**

Community efforts around the country, like the Camden Coalition in New Jersey, quickly found a strong link between community members showing up in the emergency department for psychiatric services and community members receiving numerous law enforcement responses for quality of life and minor disturbance events. The City of St. Louis recognized that a significant portion of their public safety efforts were addressing public mental health needs and that the options of arrest or hospitalization were not sufficient for the task. In response the City of St. Louis created its 911 Call Diversion and Co-responder program. Starting in February of 2021, the city began diverting appropriate 911 calls to Behavioral Health Response's crisis clinicians AND created Crisis Response Units (CRUs) that paired a police officer with a trained crisis clinician. CRUs operate under a street triage model, acting as first responders on clear behavioral health cases, as second responders when patrol units have responded and identified a significant behavioral health concern and after event follow up to make sure community members who needs services get those services. Part of this project included tracking outcomes and ensuring the program is meeting its goals. CRUs divert over 90% of their cases away from the hospital and over 99% away from arrest. Behavioral Health Response (BHR) clinicians divert over 80% of 9-1-1 calls away from a law enforcement or Emergency Medical Services (EMS) response on call taker transferred calls. In addition, the program has created a system of care that links these services recipients to the surrounding behavioral health safety net. Please join this presentation to learn more about how the City of St. Louis is transforming public behavioral health into public safety.

**Moderator: Craig Schmid, JD**, is the Government Services Analyst for the Department of Health of the City of St. Louis. In that position he has been involved with violence prevention (Youth Violence Prevention Partnership and St. Louis Area Violence Prevention Commission); Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Health Committee; heroin and substance use disorders (including a Community Resource Response Team and St. Louis Substance Misuse Task Force); Racial Equity and Disparities; internal and external partnerships; food access; Community Health Improvement Plan/Community Health Assessment; Strategic Plan; Academic Health Department; legislation and policy. He served as Alderman for the 10th and 20th wards in the City of St. Louis for 20 years.

**Panelists: Felicia Spratt** is a clinical director with the Saint Louis 911 Call Diversion and Crisis Response Unit program at Behavioral Health Response, Inc. (BHR). The program sends calls to BHR's experienced, trained clinicians who co-responds with their assigned police officer to manage behavioral and mental health crisis. As BHR's clinical director, Felicia manages a 20-member team and develops, implements, and provides coordination of care between the Crisis Response Unit and the



St. Louis community. An outstanding collaborator, she assists with improving polices and processes among community partners. Felicia is responsible for monthly expense reports, grant reporting, internal/external audits, and data reporting to stakeholders. **Bart Andrews, Ph.D.**, Chief Clinical Officer, Behavioral Health Response is the Chief Clinical Officer at Behavioral Health Response. Dr. Andrews is the facilitator of Missouri's Suicide Prevention in Healthcare ECHO, a member of the Missouri Suicide Prevention Network's executive committee, member of the Suicide Lifeline's Standards, Training and Practices committee, a member of the Suicide Prevention Resource Center's (SPRC) Steering Committee and a ZeroSuicide Academy Faculty member. Dr. Andrews is a suicide attempt survivor and a proponent of embracing of lived expertise in our suicide prevention efforts. Dr. Andrews is also known far and wide for his master of Facebook memery.



# PGIM

## REAL ESTATE

### SESSION THREE (11:00am -11:40am)

#### The KingsVille B.E.S.T. Collective: An Alternative Approach for Intervening in Highly Distressed Neighborhoods

Over the last fifty years or more, many St. Louis neighborhoods have experienced cataclysmic change in terms of physical devastation and population loss. Several very ambitious projects have been attempted in several of these neighborhoods—but most have failed. Come learn about a pilot project that the Advocacy Committee is undertaking in conjunction with numerous partners in the KingsVille community—a community that straddles Kingsway East and the Greater Ville neighborhoods—that will attempt to apply “Wraparound Theory” at the neighborhood and why the committee is hopeful that this project will suggest a more fruitful approach for intervening in highly distressed neighborhoods.

**Moderator:** **Mark Abbott**, SLACO Advocacy Committee, Co-Chair

**Panelists:** **Michael Baird, EdD** is the principal of Hickey Elementary School. Dr. Baird will explain the role of Hickey School in the Collective as an anchor institution. He will also detail the programs that the Collective is creating to enhance student academic performance. **Catalina Freixas:** is an Associate Professor of Architecture in the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts at Washington University. Professor Freixas will describe the neighborhood plan that her students are preparing in collaboration with KingsVille stakeholders as part of her Segregation by Design course that she is offering this semester. **James Clark** is the Vice President of Public Safety & Community Response at the Urban League. He is currently heading up the League's neighborhood initiatives that include Gun Violence De-Escalation, Urban Opioid Triage, Neighborhood-based case management, Neighborhood through Neighborhood Churches. Today, he will discuss how the League will assess Kingsville resident needs and integrate the myriad League programs with the Collective.



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8/29/22 10:28 AM



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## Lunch and Learn

11:50am – 1:00pm

Meet the Vendors, Network and Eat

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MidAmerica Transplant	The ARCHES Study	

12:15pm – 1:00pm

## RCOs: Registered Community Organizations

**RCOs: How “Registered Community Organizations” Can Strengthen the St. Louis Neighborhood Ecosystem.**

Over the last year, the Neighborhood Engagement Working Group of the St. Louis Vacancy Collaborative has been studying what cities across the country have been doing to make their neighborhoods stronger and more engaged. Come learn what this best practice research has revealed, how a variety of St. Louis stakeholders have responded to these findings, and why the working group is proposing the creation of registry of community organizations as the first step in making St. Louis neighborhoods stronger.

**Moderator:** Mark Abbott, PhD, St. Louis Vacancy Collaborative Neighborhood Engagement Working Group, co-chair

**Panelists:** **Brittany Hubbard, JD** serves as a staff attorney for legal Services of Eastern Missouri. Through the Neighborhood Vacancy Initiative, Brittany serves neighborhood clients to address nuisance and vacant property issues. She will summarize the best practice research that the working group conducted. **Alexa Seda, MPH**, Senior Planner, City of St. Louis, Urban Planning and Design Agency: Alexa’s primary role with PDA is with the new planning initiative that will be launched early this fall. She will review the community engagement undertook this winter and spring and highlight some major trends among the participants. **Dana Malkus, JD** Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Clinical Professor, Director, Entrepreneurship and Community Development Clinic Saint Louis University School of Law. As the Neighborhood Engagement Working Group co-chair, she will explain how St. Louis can build on existing efforts to implement a RCO system.

1:15pm – 2:15pm

## “Neighborhood Leadership Dialog”

Members Presidents and Member Reps  
Building Stronger Neighborhoods

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

**Panelist:** **Kay Gasen Thenhaus** served as the Director of Community Partnerships at UMSL, linking the resources of the university with the needs and priorities of St. Louis neighborhoods and providing technical assistance to community improvement efforts. She was a founder of the Neighborhood Leadership Academy, a certificate program that has trained more than 250 leaders across the St. Louis region. Since retirement, Kay has completed two terms as an Executive in Residence at the United Way of Greater St. Louis, provided staff support to the Building Union Diversity (BUD) program, served on the Board of Directors for Habitat for Humanity St. Louis, and currently volunteers for several St. Louis area nonprofits. **Nancy Thompson** served as Executive Director of SLACO (St. Louis Association of Community Organizations) from 2013 to 2016. Ms. Thompson holds a Master of Urban Planning degree from the University of Illinois-Urbana and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners. She is the Managing Editor of the Useful Community Development website for ordinary people taking leadership roles in their neighborhood or community. Nancy served as a neighborhood planner in the City of St Louis, a planning director for several cities and a county, and Planning Division Manager at East-West Gateway Council of Governments. Her passion for robust and inclusive community engagement and extensive dialogue with neighborhoods has been a guiding principle for her planning work.



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Missouri Botanical Garden*



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