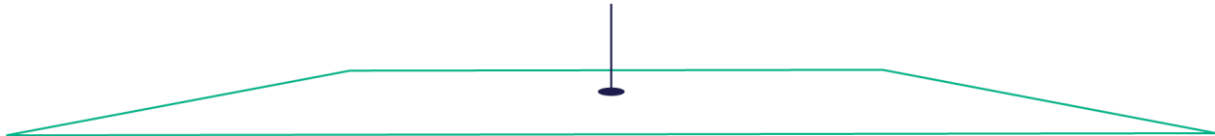




At Harlem Children's Zone

A Gathering of Leaders

POWER OF PLACE



blue meridian
partners

Guide to Power of Place: A Gathering of Leaders

Greetings, Power of Place: A Gathering of Leaders participants! In advance of our convening on Wednesday, July 13 through Friday, July 15 in Washington, DC, we are providing the following *Guide to Power of Place: A Gathering of Leaders*. This includes information on the hotel and venue, accommodations, travel and transportation, and more. If you have any questions, please email us at weviola@hcz.org or tfountain@hcz.org. **We look forward to seeing you at the convening!**

About Power of Place: A Gathering of Leaders

The convening will bring together hundreds of cross-sector leaders, practitioners, and policymakers working tirelessly to drive social and economic mobility, at scale, for the most vulnerable children and families in our country. It will include Blue Meridian Partners Place Matters investees and leaders in the field of place-based partnerships, philanthropic partners, and public sector leaders. **Invitations are not transferable.**

Power of Place: A Gathering of Leaders is made possible with support from Blue Meridian Partners and will be inclusive of many of the place-based partnerships field actors including StriveTogether, PolicyLink, Results for America, Opportunity Accelerator, Purpose Built Communities, and Community Solutions, to name a few.

Vision for Power of Place: A Gathering of Leaders

The vision for our convening is rooted in our north star: Through our work with communities, **one million young people will** be connected to opportunities that place them on a pathway to **social and economic mobility** and **racial equity**. These outcomes will drive **systems change** and **scalable solutions** that are informed by research and practice, and our belief that centering neighborhood-based cradle-to-career strategies is the best way to attain them.

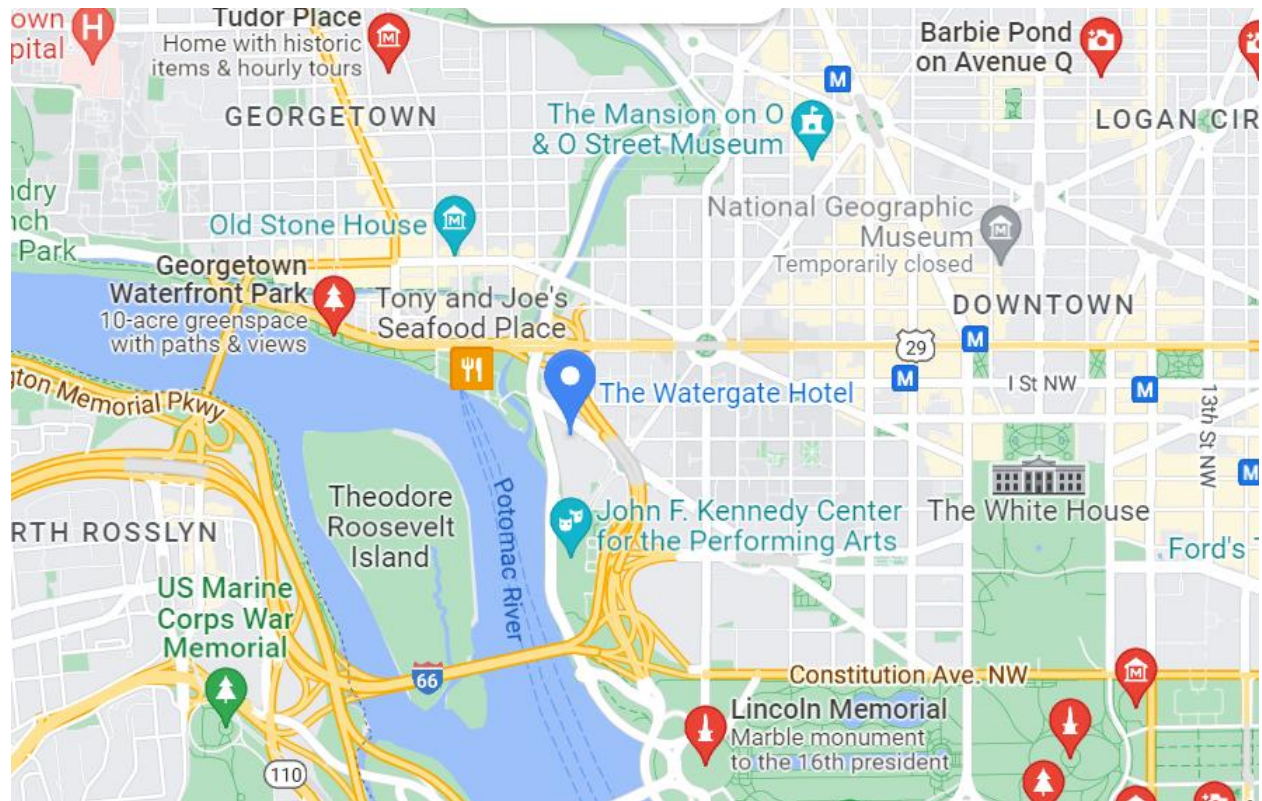
Reaching this audacious goal is only possible with your partnership. We see this convening as a time to:

- Align on an understanding of the importance of community-based, cradle-to-career strategies and vulnerable neighborhoods in place-based partnership work;
- Foster a community of practice by celebrating progress, sharing what's working, highlighting innovations, and discussing challenges; and
- Provide clarity on ways WJWI and other key actors can help leaders accelerate our work.

We know the last two years have been some of the hardest for leaders in this country. As such, the convening will also be an opportunity to **recharge, renew, and reinvigorate** ourselves. We will create space to connect and heal together.

Hotel & Venue

The convening will be held **Wednesday, July 13 through Friday, July 15 in Washington, DC** at the [Watergate Hotel](#). The hotel will serve as both our accommodation and convening space.



Accommodations

Convening registration includes a 2-night stay on Wednesday, July 13 and Thursday, July 14 at The Watergate Hotel in Washington, DC.

Check-in

Check-in is on Wednesday, July 13 at 3:00 PM and check-out is on Friday, July 15 at 12:00 PM. Please bring your luggage to the Elmore room when you join the conference activities on Friday morning. The Elmore room is on the lobby level. Luggage storage will be available 7:00am-4:00pm

Reservations

If you haven't already, please use [this link](#) to reserve your room. You will not need a credit card to make the reservation; however, you will need to provide one at check-in for incidentals.

Parking

Parking is available at The Watergate Hotel at a cost of \$58 per night.

Staying Additional Nights

If you would like to stay at The Watergate Hotel for additional nights before or after the nights of July 13 and July 14, you can make a reservation at your own expense (\$239 per night plus taxes and fees). Please email hcz@thedceventplanner.com to request additional nights.

Travel & Transportation

There are a number of options to get to The Watergate Hotel in the DC Metro area.

Public Transportation

Public transportation in Washington D.C. is available. We recommend using the [DC Metro's Trip Planner Tool](#) to map your trip.

Driving

- [From Dulles International Airport](#) - The Watergate Hotel is a 30- to 40-minute drive from Dulles International Airport. Taxis are available at taxi stands at doors 2 and 6 on the lower level of the terminal. Typical fares are \$60-\$70.
- [From Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport](#) - The Watergate Hotel is a 10-to 15-minute drive from Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. Taxis are available at taxi stands immediately outside of the doors at baggage claim at Terminal A, and outside the baggage claim at doors 5 or 6 in Terminals B and C. Fares are typically \$20.
- [From Union Station](#) - The Watergate Hotel is a 20- to 25-minute drive from the Amtrak stop at Union Station. The taxi dispatch is located on the front portico outside the Main Hall entrances. Fares are typically \$17.

Travel expenses, including airfare, parking, and taxi/rideshare are at your own expense, with the exception of speakers. **Transportation for any group outings at the conference will be provided.**

Arrival

Upon arrival, please visit the Watergate Hotel front desk to check in. If you plan to stay at the hotel for additional nights, please have a credit card available for payment. You will need to produce a credit card to be used for incidentals and parking.

Once you have checked in at the hotel, please visit the *Power of Place: A Gathering of Leaders* check-in table, which will be located on the "basement" level directly beneath the lobby. A representative will be present to help guide you to the table. The check-in table will be open Wednesday, July 14 from 1:00-8:00 PM and Thursday July 15 from 7:00 AM-1:00 PM.

At check-in, we will:

- Provide welcome materials
- Provide a media/photo release form for your signature
- Ask for proof of a negative COVID-19 test taken within 24 hours
- Direct you to an on-site nurse to administer a rapid COVID-19 test. Please allow half an hour for COVID-19 testing before joining convening activities.

Please note that you must receive a negative COVID test on-site before joining conference activities.

COVID-19 Testing Protocols

Upon arrival, you will be asked to show proof of a negative COVID-19 test (rapid antigen or PCR test) taken within 24 hours prior to the start of the gathering (a photograph of the test results is acceptable). In addition, you will be asked to test upon arrival at The Watergate Hotel. **Please note: you must receive a negative COVID-19 results on-site to participate in the convening.** Schedule your COVID test using the following [link](#).

COVID-19 testing will be available on the B1 level in Moretti AB at the following times. Please proceed to the COVID-19 testing site immediately after checking in.

- Wednesday, July 13, 12:00-8:00 PM
- We will have self-administered COVID-19 tests available for conference participants arriving on Thursday, July 14 or Friday, July 15 and participants who experience symptoms.

Masking throughout the conference will be optional.

Meals

The following meals will be provided during the convening:

- Dinner at The Watergate Hotel on the evening of Wednesday, July 13
- Breakfast, lunch, and snacks at The Watergate Hotel on Thursday, July 14
- “Dine-around” dinner at a local Washington, D.C. restaurant on the evening of Thursday, July 14
- Breakfast and lunch at The Watergate Hotel on Friday, July 15
- On Thursday and Friday July 13 and 14, breakfast will be available from 8:00 to 8:50 and lunch will be available beginning at 12:00 PM

Dine-Around

On the evening of Thursday, July 14, all participants will attend a “dine-around” dinner at local Washington DC restaurants in small, pre-assigned groups of 30 to 40 people, co-facilitated by members of the William Julius Wilson Institute and Blue Meridian Partners teams. We hope that this intimate experience will allow participants to connect, build relationships, and exchange ideas.

We have curated a group of restaurants that are minority- and woman-owned and feature minority or female head chefs, and represent a cross-section of Washington DC’s cultural diversity.

Transportation to and from the dine-around will be provided.

What to wear

Attire for convening sessions will be business casual. Please pack comfortable clothes if you plan to participate in Wellness Activities.

Wellness Activities

Optional wellness activities will be held on the mornings of Thursday, July 14 and Friday, July 15. Activities are likely to include group walks or runs and yoga. The Watergate Hotel also has a pool available for guests.

Press & Media

Convening sessions will be recorded and segments of the recordings may be made publicly available on the William Julius Wilson Institute's website and elsewhere. Additionally, we are planning to capture still photographs. You will be asked to sign a media/photo release form upon arrival consenting to being filmed and photographed.

Social Media

We encourage guests to post about the convening on social media using the hashtag #PowerOfPlace. Please mention @WJWInstitute on Twitter and Instagram, and Harlem Children's Zone on LinkedIn.