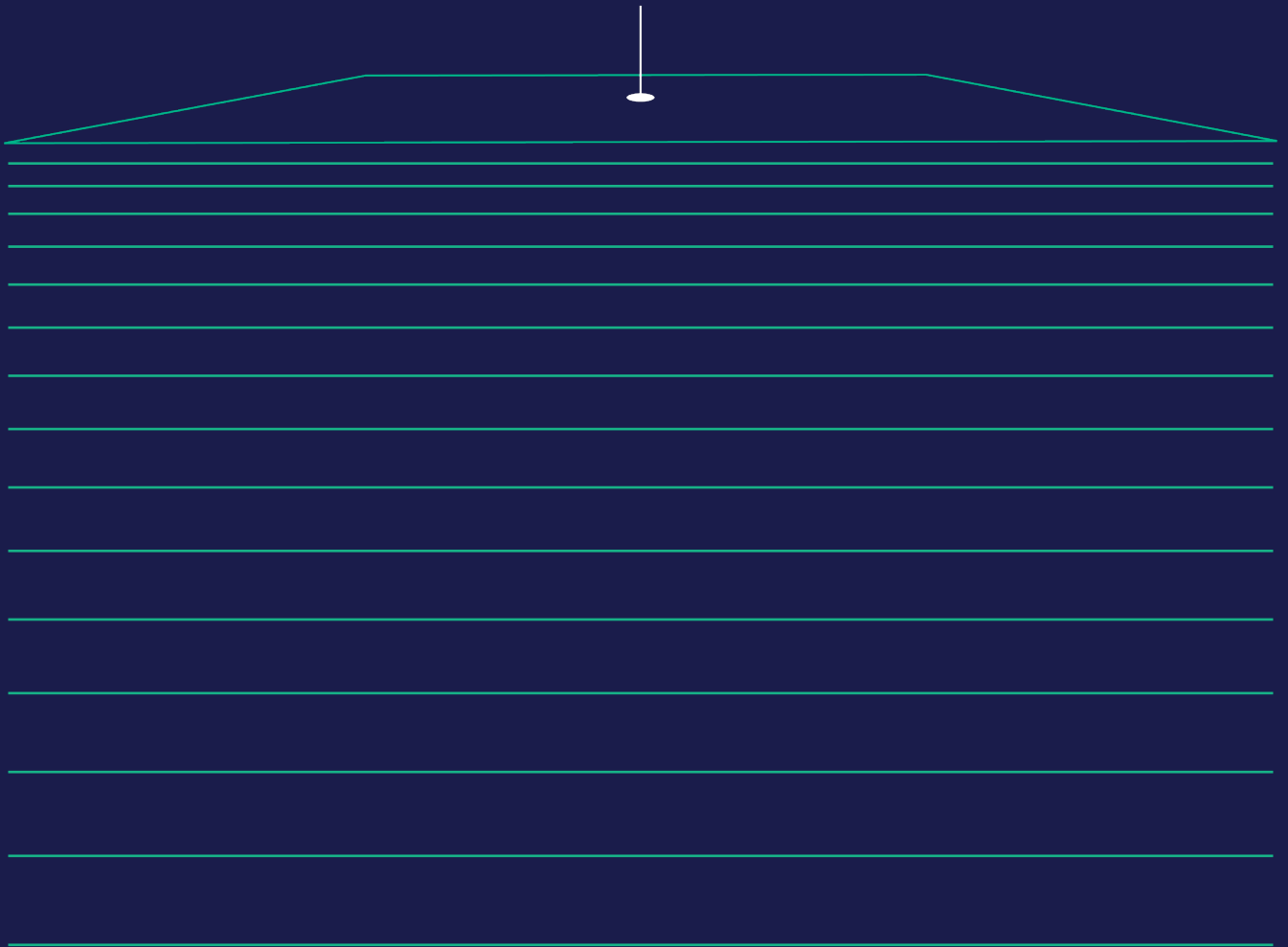




At Harlem Children's Zone

A Gathering of Leaders

# POWER OF PLACE





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**Wednesday, July 13 through Friday, July 15**  
Watergate Hotel, Washington, DC



### **Follow us and share on social media!**

We encourage attendees to follow us on Twitter and Instagram @WJWInstitute and post about the convening using @WJWInstitute and the hashtag **#PowerOfPlace**.

### **Visit us online**

To learn more about William Julius Wilson Institute, and for resources on how to build place-based, cradle-to-career strategies, visit us on the web at [hcz.org/william-julius-wilson-institute/](https://hcz.org/william-julius-wilson-institute/).

## **Our Vision**

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 way to attain them.

# AGENDA

## DAY 1

**5:00 PM**

### **Cocktail Hour and Dinner at the Watergate Hotel with a performance by Forces of Nature Dance Theatre**

#### **Opening Remarks**

*Cecilia Gutierrez, Managing Director of Operations and Stakeholder Engagement, Blue Meridian Partners*

#### **Keynote Address**

*Geoffrey Canada, Founder, Harlem Children's Zone | Founder, William Julius Wilson Institute*

Ms. Gutierrez and Mr. Canada ground convening attendees in our current challenging moment and discuss the growing field and movement of place-based, cradle-to-career work. They will also discuss the specific actions that organizations can take to address the issues our communities are facing.

## DAY 2

**6:30-7:30 AM**

### **Optional Wellness Activities**

**7:35-8:30 AM**

### **Breakfast**

## DAY 2

**8:45 AM**

### Opening Remarks

**Jim Shelton**, *Chief Investment and Impact Officer, Blue Meridian Partners*

**9:00 AM**

### Remarks and Fireside Chat

**Secretary Miguel Cardona**, *U.S. Secretary of Education*

**Geoffrey Canada**, *Founder, Harlem Children's Zone | Founder, William Julius Wilson Institute*

Secretary Cardona and Mr. Canada discuss current issues in American education, what we need to do as a country to recover and mitigate learning loss throughout COVID-19, and how the U.S. Department of Education is playing a role.

**9:30 AM**

### Keynote Address

**Dr. Lester Young**, *Chancellor, New York State Education Department Board of Regents*

Dr. Young discusses some of the challenges that communities and schools are facing and the urgency behind addressing them now.

### Power of Place Reel

Introduced by Oakland Promise Scholars Brandon Oliver and Jermaine (JT) Thomas.

# AGENDA

## DAY 2

**10:00 AM**

### **Panel: Updates from the Field**

**Dr. Russell Booker**, *Executive Director, Spartanburg Academic Movement*

**Alan Cohen**, *Executive Director, Child Poverty Action Lab*

**Taylor Toyne**, *Chief Executive Officer, For Oak Cliff*

**Rob Watson**, *Co-founder and Advisor, Poughkeepsie Children's Cabinet and Director for Partnerships and Community Impact, EdRedesign Lab at Harvard Graduate School of Education*

**Moderated by Othello Meadows**, *Managing Director, Portfolio Strategy and Management, Blue Meridian Partners*

Leaders of place-based partnerships share how their organizations are structured, and the barriers they have encountered and how they have overcome them.

**11:00 AM**

### **Panel: Programs to Support Neighborhood-Based, Cradle-to-Career Strategies**

**Dr. Ron Ferguson**, *Founder and CEO, The Basics, Inc.*

**Sonali Nijhawan**, *Director, AmeriCorps State and National*

**Paul Reville**, *Francis Keppel Professor and Founding Director of The EdRedesign Lab, Harvard Graduate School of Education, Former Massachusetts Secretary of Education*

## DAY 2

**Barbara Squires**, *Director of Leadership Development, Annie E. Casey Foundation*

**Moderated by Dr. Russell Booker**, *Executive Director, Spartanburg Academic Movement*

Leaders of organizations that provide specific programs and strategies in support of place-based work discuss what their organizations do and how local leaders can implement the programming they have developed.

**12:00 PM**

**Lunch**

Message from **Dr. Rev. Alfonso Wyatt**, *Founder, Strategic Destiny: Designing Futures Through Faith and Facts*

**1:00 PM**

**Virtual Address**

**Kwame Owusu-Kesse**, *Chief Executive Officer, Harlem Children's Zone*

Introduced by Harlem Children's Zone Scholars Amber Deas and Kiara Molina.

**1:10 PM**

**Keynote Address**

**Dr. Michael McAfee**, *President and CEO, PolicyLink*

Dr. McAfee provides an overview of policies that can accelerate the scaling of neighborhood-based, cradle-to-career solutions, where those policies stand, and their potential impact.

# AGENDA

## DAY 2

**1:30 PM**

### **Panel: Neighborhood-Based, Cradle-to-Career Work and the Public Sector**

**Michael Nutter**, *Former Mayor of Philadelphia*

**Marcus Molinaro**, *Dutchess County Executive*

**Jim Shelton**, *Chief Investment and Impact Officer, Blue Meridian Partners*

**Margery Turner**, *Fellow, The Urban Institute*

**Moderated by Hayling Price**, *Senior Managing Director of External Engagement, Harlem Children's Zone*

Public officials and individuals with experience working with the public sector discuss how to effectively partner with local governments to advance neighborhood-based cradle-to-career work.

**2:30 PM**

### **Panel: Braiding Public and Private Funding to Support Neighborhood-Based, Cradle-to-Career Strategies**

**Marland Cole**, *Executive Director, Evolve502*

**Dreama Gentry**, *President and CEO, Partners for Rural Impact*

**Andre Dukes**, *Vice President of Family and Community Impact, Northside Achievement Zone*

**Logan Herring**, *CEO, The WRK Group*



## DAY 2

**Moderated by Richard Raya, Chief Strategy Officer,**  
*Mission Economic Development Agency*

Regional- and neighborhood-level practitioners share best practices and lessons learned for integrating public and private funding sources.

**3:30 PM**

### **Discussion on Leveraging Advances in Science to Increase the Early Childhood Impacts of Place-Based Strategies**

**Dr. Jack P. Shonkoff, Julius B. Richmond FAMRI Professor of Child Health and Development and Director, Center on the Developing Child, Harvard University**

**Rev. Dr. Alfonso Wyatt, Founder, Strategic Destiny: Designing Futures Through Faith and Facts**

Dr. Shonkoff presents a new framework, informed by advances in the science of adversity and resilience, to drive fresh thinking about how to increase the impacts of place-based strategies on the early foundations of educational achievement and lifelong health. Rev. Dr. Wyatt shares how convening participants can find strength and resilience as they lead responses to the challenges that Dr. Shonkoff describes.

**4:45 PM**

**Break**

**6:30 PM**

**Dine Around**

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. This intimate experience will allow participants to connect, build relationships, and exchange ideas. Transportation to and from the dine-around will be provided.

# AGENDA

## DAY 3

**6:30-7:30 AM**

**Optional Wellness Activities**

**8-8:45 AM**

**Breakfast**

**9:00 AM**

**Panel: Resourcing Neighborhood-Based Cradle-to-Career Strategies**

*Jennifer Klein, Chief Development Officer, Harlem Children's Zone*

*Andrea Levere, President Emerita, Prosperity Now*

*Teresa Wilke, Owner and Principal, Silver Arrow Strategies*

**Moderated by Geoffrey Canada, Founder, Harlem Children's Zone | Founder, William Julius Wilson Institute**

Experts in private fundraising, grant writing, and grant management share best practices and practical solutions to finance and sustain neighborhood-based, cradle-to-career strategies.

## DAY 3

**10:00 AM**

### **Panel: Supporting the Work and Building the Field**

**Jennifer Blatz**, *President and Chief Executive Officer, StriveTogether*

**Carol Naughton**, *Chief Executive Officer, Purpose Built Communities*

**Jennifer Park**, *Executive Director, the Opportunity Accelerator at Results for America*

**Takema Robinson**, *Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Converge Consulting*

**Robert Runcie**, *Chief in Residence, Chiefs for Change*

**Wendy Viola**, *Managing Director, Knowledge and Awareness Building, William Julius Wilson Institute*

**Moderated by Dr. Ryan Lugalía-Hollon**, *Chief Executive Officer, UP Partnership*

Leaders of national organizations share how they are providing support to local organizations and what needs to be done to catalyze neighborhood-based cradle-to-career work.

# AGENDA

## DAY 3

**11:00 AM**

### **Community Visioning and Town Hall Discussion: Where Do We Go From Here?**

Teams from participating place-based efforts meet to discuss recent learnings and how to move their work forward. Then, attendees share reflections on learnings from the convening, ask questions, and share hopes for the future of the field, including priorities for a field-wide learning agenda.

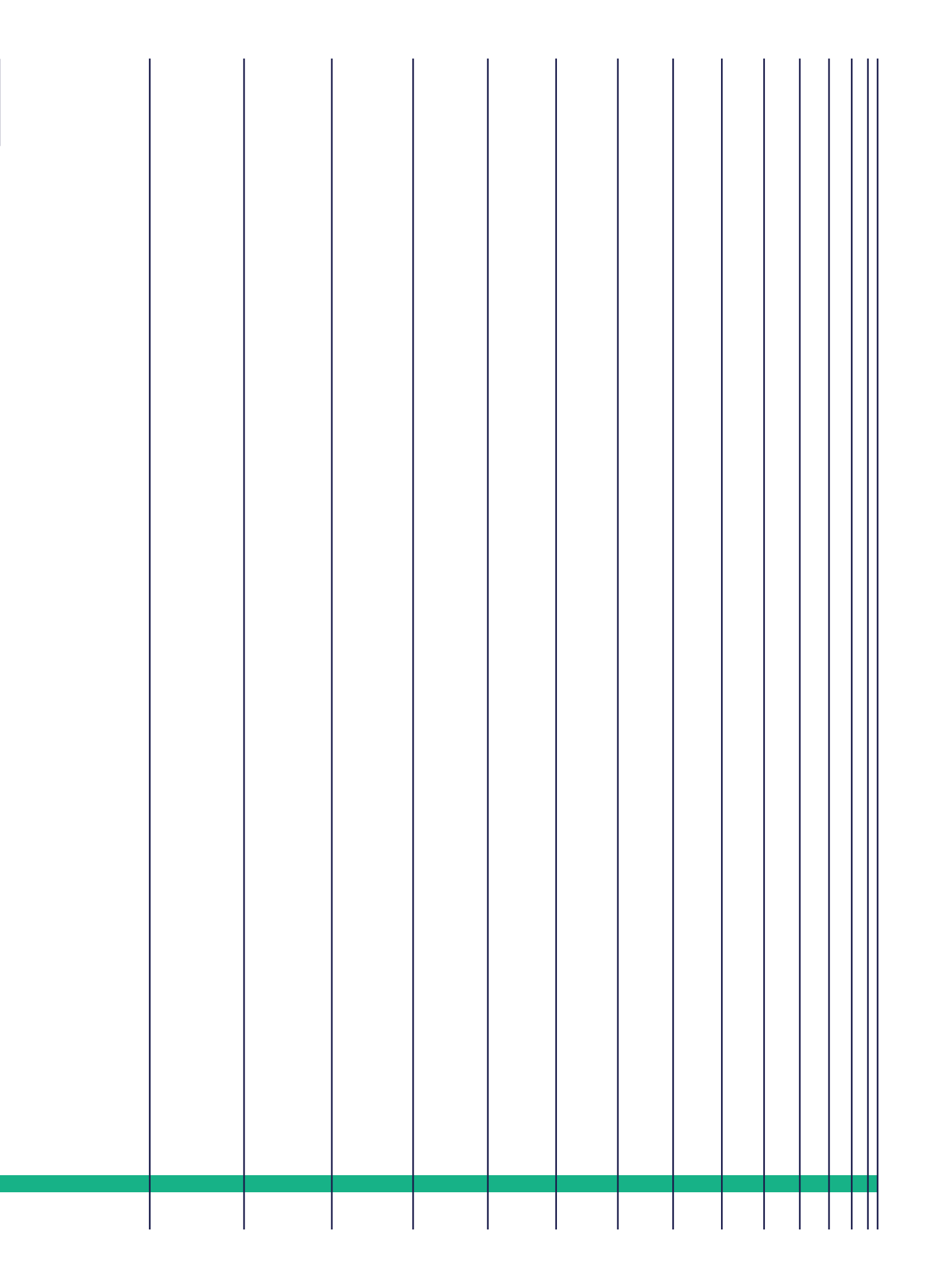
**Moderated by Cecilia Gutierrez**, *Managing Director of Operations and Stakeholder Engagement, Blue Meridian Partners* and **Wendy Viola**, *Managing Director, Knowledge and Awareness Building, William Julius Wilson Institute*

**12:00 PM**

### **Lunch & Closing Keynote**

**Geoffrey Canada**, *Founder, Harlem Children's Zone* | *Founder, William Julius Wilson Institute*

Mr. Canada emphasizes the collective power of convening attendees to lead their communities in recovering, rebuilding, and moving forward in the wake of COVID-19.



# NOTES

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