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/.

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
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.
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 Toynes, 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
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.
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.

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.
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.
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 Lugalia-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.
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