# PROSPERITY INDIANA SUMMIT 2019

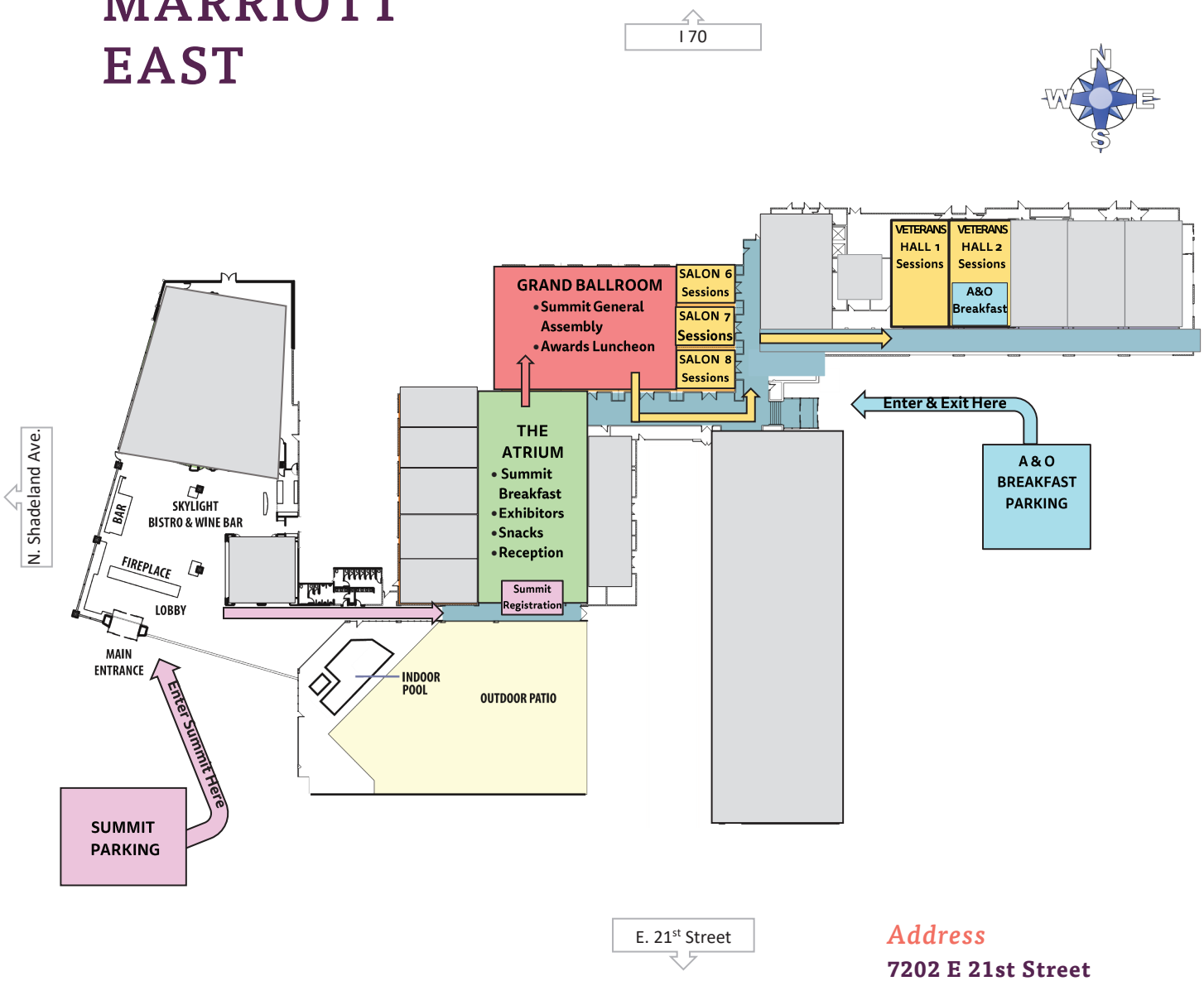
*Exploring diverse strategies to build individual, organizational & community wealth*

Prosperity INDIANA
*Strengthening our communities.*

*Presented by*
Fifth Third Bank

# LOCATION

# INDIANAPOLIS MARRIOTT EAST

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Prosperity INDIANA
*Strengthening our communities.*

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# Welcome to the 2019 Prosperity Indiana Summit!

While I've been with Prosperity Indiana since 2010, I come to this event with new enthusiasm this year! Like much of our work over the past year, my first as Executive Director, what we're doing is a continuation of that for which we've become known; but we've intentionally changed things up a bit as well. Our opening session will include a **presentation of an organizational identity statement**, including mission and values, that our amazing and dedicated board and staff developed as part of our strategic planning process over the past six months. The morning general session will also include a **major announcement** for members of Prosperity Indiana that will demonstrate the ways we're constantly thinking about advancing our network and partnering to encourage innovation in the field.

We've come to more fully realize the ways we are working to build individual, organizational and community assets that, each in their own way, strengthen our communities. We are also deliberately seeking out and presenting new ideas to those looking to do their very best to serve their community: people like YOU.

So, as you go through this day, I hope you will attend sessions that will not only inform the work you're already doing, but also a track that broadens your understanding of our collective work in some way. Whether it's a session about small business lending, evictions, housing development, the arts, outcomes measurement, ag or ..., there's surely something new for you to learn from what your peers share today.

I hope you will also recognize our efforts to generate new ideas and conversations about disparities, particularly along racial lines, and advancing equity and inclusion in our economy. With that in mind, we are proud to welcome **Deborah Frieze from Boston Impact Initiative** as our luncheon keynote. Deborah's work in Boston is in response to racial inequities in her community and mobilizes impact investments to create opportunity for all people – especially those most oppressed or abandoned by our current economic system. (She's even leading a session on BII's integrated capital approach that combines investing, lending, and grant making to build a resilient and inclusive local economy.) Also during lunch, we are excited to present our annual awards for excellence in the field. **Thank you to award sponsors, Fifth Third Bank, First Financial Bank, Merchants Bank of Indiana, and Brightpoint.**

I hope you will also leave here with at least one new connection that will impact your work for years to come and with excitement that sparks renewed energy to do the amazing work you devote yourself to each day.

I'm proud to carry on the legacy of strength that Prosperity Indiana has enjoyed over the years and build upon it as well. I'm delighted to serve our members who are making a real difference in the lives of our neighbors every single day. And I'm honored you chose to spend this day with us. It takes all of our members and partners to create the change we want to see in our communities, recognizing we are all a Piece of PI. I'm so thankful we can all come together in this way.

So, thank you – most abundantly – to our sponsors. We definitely could not put on an event of this magnitude without you. We appreciate **Fifth Third**'s eagerness to be our **presenting sponsor**, and we take seriously the trust all of our sponsors place in us today to make the most of this experience, to do our very best to advance community economic development in this state, and to generate positive results in the lives of those being impacted by the work you do when you leave here.

Thank you for your participation today and partnership every day. Prosperity Indiana is nothing without its members and partners. As always, thank you for being a Piece of the PI!

Sincerely,

**Jessica Love**
*Executive Director*

# ITINERARY

**7:30 – 8:45 AM** **Indiana Assets & Opportunity Network Breakfast – Veterans Hall 2**

**8–9 AM** **Registration and Welcome – Main Entrance**

- Breakfast, Networking – Atrium

**9–10 AM** **General Session – Grand Ballroom**

- Opening Plenary Remarks
- Sowing New Opportunities – REAPing Prosperity
- Empower Indiana Announcement

**10–10:15 AM** Networking Break

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**10:15–11:30 AM** **Session 1**

- Minding the Gap Between Benefits and Prosperity – **Salon 6**
- Finding Community Assets, Working Together and Measuring Success – An Outline of the Organizer's Workbook – **Salon 7**
- Lake County Community Benefits Plan and the Creation of a Small Business Loan Program – **Salon 8**
- Crowdfunding to Build Community Collaboration – **Veterans Hall 1**
- The Focused Focus Group – **Veterans Hall 2**

**11:30–11:45 AM** Networking Break

**11:45–1:45 PM** **Luncheon – Grand Ballroom**

- Keynote Speaker: Investing to Close the Racial Wealth Divide – Deborah Frieze
- Awards Program

**1:45–2 PM** Networking Break

# ITINERARY

**2–3:15 PM** — **Session 2**

- Social Capital: Building Connections to Create the Future – **Salon 6**
- Fostering Internal and External Champions to Achieve Community Goals: How Your Community Financial Institution May Be the Missing Partner – **Salon 8**
- Architecting an Integrated Capital Fund – **Veterans Hall 1**
- Advancing Equity in Community Development through Collective Impact – **Veterans Hall 2**

**3:15–3:30 PM** — Networking Break

**3:30–4:45 PM** — **Session 3**

- Creating a Vibrant Community through the Arts – **Salon 6**
- Cooperatives and Affordable Housing Needs – **Salon 7**
- Working Together to Create Healthy, Vibrant Communities – **Salon 8**
- Building Community Wealth through Urban Ag – **Veterans Hall 1**
- Evictions: Causes, Consequences, and Community Solutions – **Veterans Hall 2**

**5–6:30 PM** — **Networking Reception** – **Atrium**

# SESSION 1 | 10:15 – 11:30 AM

## Minding the Gap Between Benefits and Prosperity

**Salon 6**

**Speakers:**

**Shellye Suttles,** *City of Indianapolis*
**Madeline Steck,** *Indy Hunger Network*
**Marie Wiese,** *BRiCKs Alliance, Inc. / Circles Indianapolis*
**Jill Chappell,** *BRiCKs Alliance, Inc. / Circles Indianapolis*

The "cliff-effect" occurs when low-income families lose eligibility for benefit programs when their income surpasses the federal poverty threshold – a disincentive for working harder. Confusion surrounding the "cliff" is common because eligibility requirements are complex and vary between programs. This workshop will: (1) demonstrate how a collaboratively-developed, Indiana-specific "Cliff Effect Calculator" allows low-income families to predict when benefits will be lost due to income increases, (2) use an interactive experience to represent how a family could "make it through" the cliff with stronger support systems, and (3) discuss how data gathered from the calculator could lead to policy changes.

**Individual and Community Assets:** *Financial Capability, Poverty, Public Policy, Social Capital, Sustainability*

## Finding Community Assets, Working Together and Measuring Success – An Outline of the Organizer's Workbook

**Salon 7**

**Speakers:**

**Ashlee Weaver,** *Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center*
**Maury Plambeck,** *Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center*

brightpoint For a Brighter Future.

The Organizer's Workbook was developed by the Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center in 2008 as a roadmap to discovering, organizing and engaging communities. This session will outline the 10 chapters of the workbook, with emphasis on Asset-Based Community Development, Neighborhood Engagement, Collaboration, and Measuring Success. The session will be an interactive discussion, with participatory activities designed to help the audience fully understand the concepts of asset mapping and be able to use those assets to improve community engagement among residents, business owners and other stakeholders.

**Community Assets:** *Engagement, Neighborhoods, Organizing*

## Lake County Community Benefits Plan and the Creation of a Small Business Loan Program

**Salon 8**

**Speakers:**

**Jean Ishmon,** *Northwest Indiana Reinvestment Alliance*
**Bill Kubal,** *Usona Development*
**Tim Brown,** *Lake County Community Economic Development Department*
**Phil Black,** *Community Investment Fund of Indiana, Inc.*

This workshop will offer insights into the motivation and creation of the Lake County Community Benefits Plan and the Lake County Small Business Loan Program in partnership with the Community Investment Fund of Indiana.

**Individual, Organizational and Community Assets:** *Economic Development, Financing, Partnerships, Entrepreneurship*

## Crowdfunding to Build Community Collaboration

**Veterans Hall 1**

**Speakers:**

**Carmen Lethig,** *Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority*
**Melissa Norby,** *City of Decatur*
**Justin Taylor,** *City of Warsaw*
**Colleen Smith,** *Brown County Skate Park*

This panel will explore three CreatINg Places campaigns/projects. Speakers from three funded communities and the State will discuss the collaboration and communication strategies which resulted in successful projects that help build community wealth through crowdfunding. The group will also describe how stronger individual organizations were built as staff learned/refined skills that helped their overall organizational and community goals. IHCDA's Placemaking Indiana and the CreatINg Places program will also be covered.

**Organizational and Community Assets:** *Arts and Culture, Engagement, Neighborhoods, Partnerships, Placemaking, Project Development*

## The Focused Focus Group

**Veterans Hall 2**

**Speakers:**

**Lionel "Bo" Beaulieu,** *Purdue Center for Regional Development*
**Michael D. Wilcox, Jr.,** *Purdue Extension Community Development*
**George Okantey,** *Purdue Cooperative Extension, Marion County*
**Melinda A. Grismer,** *Wabash Heartland Innovation Network (WHIN)*

Integral to a community and economic development professional's job is the ability to conduct focus group sessions – and leverage the findings to achieve collective impact. But "focus group" can be a vague assignment in the midst of a larger civic engagement project. The key is a focused process that allows you to recruit diverse participants, engage them, and draw pertinent information out of them. During the presentation speakers will discuss options for choosing the right protocol, questioning strategies, tabulation methods, and reporting format for your task at-hand – and you will leave with the tools you need to do it yourself when you return to your office.

**Organizational and Community Assets:** *Engagement*

**Sessions continued »**

# SESSION 2 | 2:00 – 3:15 PM

## Social Capital: Building Connections to Create the Future

**Salon 6**

**Speakers:**

**Diop Adisa,** *Kheprw Institute*
**Stephanie Fernhaber,** *Butler University*
**Mimi Zakem,** *Scarabys Consulting*

This interactive and engaging workshop will help build skills and practice on how you can use social capital to create change in your community. During this session we will walk you through the critical steps of developing people first values and behaviors, identifying and building your social networks, and accomplishing your goals drawing from this social capital you have built. We will highlight how the Community Controlled Food Initiative and We Run This illustrate social capital in action.

**Individual and Organizational Assets:** *Partnerships, Social Capital, Sustainability*

## Fostering Internal and External Champions to Achieve Community Goals – How Your Community Financial Institution May Be the Missing Partner

**Salon 8**

**Speakers:**

**MaryBeth Wott,** *Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis*
**Megan Coler-Hasser,** *Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis*
**Karen Gregerson,** *The Farmers Bank*
**Kristen Hodge,** *The National Bank of Indianapolis*

Developing and implementing projects is an endeavor that is often difficult and time-consuming. Having an internal champion to spearhead your project is one key to success. Identifying and partnering with external champions is likely the next ingredient to accomplish your project. Your community financial institution may be the missing partnership to achieve your community development goals. Learn from two Indiana financial institutions on what their role is in community development, how they build community partnerships, what resources they have to help the community, and how to engage with your local financial institution to help accomplish your next community projects.

**Organizational and Community Assets:** *Financing, Partnerships, Project Development*

## Architecting an Integrated Capital Fund

**Veterans Hall 1**

**Speakers:**

**Deborah Frieze,** *Boston Impact Initiative Fund*

In its work to close the racial wealth divide, the Boston Impact Initiative Fund takes an integrated capital approach – combining equity, debt and grants to provide friendly and fair capital to entrepreneurs of color. In this workshop, we'll explore the nuts and bolts of this approach: the regulatory structure, blended finance, impact covenants, impact measurement and governance.

**Individual, Organizational and Community Assets:** *Economic Development, Entrepreneurship, Financing, Inclusivity, Project Development*

## Advancing Equity in Community Development through Collective Impact

**Veterans Hall 2**

**Speakers:**

**Tysha Hardy-Sellers,** *Edna Martin Christian Center*
**Gina Lewis-Alexander,** *Oasis Christian Development Corporation*
**Gina Fears,** *MOVE / OneVoice Martindale-Brightwood*
**Rhiannon Edwards,** *PACE Indy*

Equity and inclusion create more sustainable communities where people from all walks of life have the right to, and can participate fully in, social, economic, political, and cultural life. Addressing social inequalities with the community as partners is a cost-effective approach to community development. This panel will review the Martindale-Brightwood Collective Impact approach through its success and failures. It will provide attendees with an understanding of developing a common agenda, a commitment to implementation, asset mapping, resource development, and outline backbone agency responsibilities.

**Individual, Organizational and Community Assets:** *Collective Impact, Engagement, Inclusivity, Neighborhoods, Partnerships*

# SESSION 3 | 3:30 – 4:45 PM

## Creating a Vibrant Community through the Arts

**Salon 6**

**Speakers:**

**Tetia Lee,** *Tippecanoe Arts Federation*
**Paige Sharp,** *Indiana Arts Commission*
**Brian Sheehan,** *City of Rushville*
**Sean Starowitz,** *City of Bloomington*

Looking to develop your community, but not sure how? Or, maybe you've made some great progress, but could use a little direction and inspiration. Come join the Indiana Statewide Cultural District designee representatives and others doing great creative-based work across the state. Learn from their successes – and their not-so-much successes – for building a creative community that attracts tourists and talent while deepening community pride and identity, quality of place, and economic development potential.

**Community Assets:** *Arts and Culture, Economic Development, Engagement, Neighborhoods, Partnerships, Placemaking*

**Sessions continued »**

## Cooperatives and Affordable Housing Needs

**Salon 7**

**Speakers:**

**Deb Trocha,** *Indiana Cooperative Development Center, Inc.*
**Anne Mannix,** *Neighborhood Development Associates*
**Rosie Leyva,** *South Bend Heritage Foundation*
**Frankie Morton,** *Mayfield Green Cooperative*

As housing costs are increasingly out of reach for more Americans, housing cooperatives have become an increasingly attractive affordable housing option. Cooperatives are mechanisms for economic and community self-determination. When markets fail to provide needed goods or services, the cooperative option can be a solution. While housing cooperatives come in many shapes and sizes – including townhouses, garden apartments, mid- and high-rise apartments, senior housing, scattered site single family homes, student housing and mobile home parks, to name a few – the key aspect in any cooperative is democratic control by the owner-residents of the cooperative. Join us to learn about housing co-ops and how they not only provide housing but help revitalize communities.

**Individual, Organizational and Community Assets:** *Cooperatives, Engagement, Housing*

## Working Together to Create Healthy, Vibrant Communities

**Salon 8**

**Speakers:**

**Kim Irwin, MPH,** *Health by Design*
**Joey Vrazel, Ph.D.,** *Leverage Points Consulting*
**Peter Fritz, AICP, PLA,** *Indiana State Department of Health*

In the last five years, Health by Design and its partners have conducted 46 active living workshops across Indiana promoting policies, systems and built environment changes that support active living behaviors and the development of vibrant communities. The workshops included an intensive day-long interactive session, followed by the development of an action plan and year of implementation, culminating in a success story from the overall process. In this session, we will provide an overview of the workshop and community engagement processes that were used and offer concrete examples about how Indiana communities came together to implement strategies to support the health of people and places in their communities.

**Organizational and Community Assets:** *Engagement, Health*

## Building Community Wealth through Urban Ag

**Veterans Hall 1**

**Speakers:**

**Scott Truex,** *Ball State University / Sustainable Communities Institute*

Urban Ag is a growing movement in cities. Residents, food/health advocates, and sustainability leaders are joining this trend toward local food production. Land once a vacant eyesore is now filled with hoop houses, chicken coops, beehives, and rows of micro-greens. This once niche idea is now a movement, awakening new economic development opportunities, creating jobs, alleviating food deserts, and improving children's health. Urban Ag has the power to address underutilized land, health problems such as childhood diabetes, abandoned buildings, and job shortages while building community. The session will challenge participants to evaluate urban agriculture as a viable community wealth builder.

**Individual and Community Assets:** *Economic Development, Entrepreneurship, Microenterprise, Sustainability*

## Evictions: Causes, Consequences, and Community Solutions

**Veterans Hall 2**

**Speakers:**

**Ross D. Silverman, JD, MPH,** *Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health (Indiana University) / Robert H. McKinney School of Law (Indiana University)*
**Michael Hurst,** *Indiana Legal Services*
**Jay Chaudhary,** *Indiana Legal Services*
**Kathleen Lara,** *Prosperity Indiana*

Evictions have a devastating impact on families, neighborhoods, and communities. Research shows that a single eviction can result in devastating lifelong outcomes across multiple domains, including education, income, and mental and physical health. Indianapolis is one of the worst cities for evictions nationwide. This session will explore: (1) law and policy causes of the eviction epidemic using cutting-edge legal epidemiology research, (2) the impact of evictions, and (3) some practical and policy solutions, including the Indiana Legal Services' Eviction Avoidance Project.

**Individual and Community Assets:** *Housing, Public Policy*

# AWARDS

The **Key Award for Supportive Services Program of the Year** honors a unique program model that leads in the area of service provision and/or volunteerism.

***Nominees:***

- Indiana Supportive Housing Institute
- Holding Hands with Our Future

The **Robert O. Zdenek Staff Member of the Year Award** honors an individual who contributes to their organization and to the community economic development field as a whole. This person shows leadership and personal initiative and continued participation and contribution to general public service.

***Nominees:***

- Judith Essex, Old Southside Neighborhood Association
- Leigh Riley Evans, Mapleton Fall Creek Development Corporation
- Erin Macey, Indiana Institute for Working Families
- George Okantey, Purdue Extension Community Development
- Stephanie Roland, Old National Bank
- Jeffrey Sparks, Sagamore Institute
- Christal Stephenson, New Albany Housing Authority
- Evan Tester, King Park Development Corporation

The **John Niederman Rural Development Leadership Award** honors an individual who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in improving the quality of life, influencing policies, and fostering opportunities for growth and development for the betterment of rural Indiana.

***Nominees:***

- David Miller, Hoosier Uplands Economic Development Corporation
- Brenda Myers, Hamilton County Tourism

The **Michael Carroll Community Economic Development Leadership Award** honors an individual who has exhibited exceptional advocacy to further support the community economic development industry.

***Nominees:***

- Tom Fodor, Morning Light Inc.
- John Franklin Hay, Near East Area Renewal
- Michael Howe, Community Alliance of the Far Eastside
- Sister Dorothy Rasche, The Connecting Link

## A special thanks to our 2019 Award Committees

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Steven Meyer
MaryBeth Wott
Sandra Sandifer
Ann Sumner

### SELECTION COMMITTEE

Jadira Hoptry
Keith Broadnax
Angela Byers
Adam Mueller
Steve Hoffman

# know

you're making our community a better place.

Thank you for your advocacy, capacity building and support of the community economic development industry of Indiana. We are a proud sponsor of the 2019 Summit

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Love THY Neighborhood AWARDS

These awards were created to recognize community game changers in the Indy region by celebrating the people and places that have made outstanding progress in developing thier neighborhoods as desirable places to live, work, learn, play and stay. Each year 12 groups or projects are recognized with five winning unrestricted cash prizes.

The 3nd Annual Love Thy Neighborhood Awards will take place on April 18, 2019 at the Indiana War Memorial. The event will be glamorous, yet rooted in the authentic cultures of area neighborhoods. The event includes a cocktail reception featuring heavy hors d'oeuvres and drinks provided by local entrepreneurs who have been impacted by LISC's small business support. Attendees then move into the beautiful auditorium space for the awards ceremony.

Tickets for this event are only $25 per person and go on sale Feb. 1, 2019. Learn more by visiting:

***loveawards.liscindianapolis.org.***

LISC Indianapolis
*Helping neighbors build communities*



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Phone: 317-644-0673
Email: info@fhcci.org

# KEYNOTE SPEAKER AND SESSION PRESENTER

## Deborah Frieze

*Boston Impact Initiative*

## Investing to Close the Racial Wealth Divide

Despite today's strong economic indicators, too many families in our country lack the financial means to cover their basic needs. As philanthropic services and economic development dollars pour into programs that seek to give low income communities of color a leg up, wealth disparities continue to grow worse than ever. In this talk, we'll explore a fundamental shift in perspective that is required to build an economic system based on inclusion and solidarity—a system that puts relationship, rather than competition and profit, at the center of an investing strategy.

**Workshop**

## Architecting an Integrated Capital Fund

In our work to close the racial wealth divide, the Boston Impact Initiative Fund takes an integrated capital approach—combining equity, debt and grants to provide friendly and fair capital to entrepreneurs of color. In this workshop, we'll explore the nuts and bolts of this approach: the regulatory structure, blended finance, impact covenants, impact measurement and governance.

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*Deborah Frieze* is an author, entrepreneur and social activist. Her award-winning book (co-authored with Meg Wheatley), Walk Out Walk On: A Learning Journey into Communities Daring to Live the Future Now, profiles pioneering leaders who walked out of organizations failing to contribute to the common good—and walked on to build resilient communities. She helped start the Boston Impact Initiative in 2013 to help address inequities in access to capital and opportunity. Deborah is also founder of the Old Oak Dojo, an urban learning center where neighbors gather to rediscover how to create healthy and resilient communities.

Deborah is Co-Founder and President of BII Fund.

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# SESSION PRESENTERS

## Diop Adisa

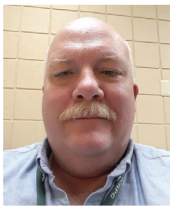
Diop Adisa was born and raised in Indianapolis. He attended Broad Ripple high and IUPUI. He has been with the grassroots community organization Kheprw Institute (KI) since its inception in 2003. To describe him simply, he's an artist, activist and entrepreneur. He is part of the social enterprise KI NuMedia (www.kinumedia.org), which is a web graphic video and social media design company. He is also an independent hip-hop artist who has worked within the Indianapolis hip-hop community for the past 10 years.

## Lionel "Bo" Beaulieu

Bo Beaulieu is director of the Purdue Center for Regional Development and assistant director of the Extension Community Development Program. Beaulieu has played a major role in the launch of a number of innovative national research and Extension programs, including the Stronger Economies Together (SET) regional economic development initiative in partnership with USDA Rural Development. He has been a key player engaged in the Hometown Collaboration Initiative, a statewide program established in 2014.

## Phil Black

Phil Black is the Executive Director of Community Investment Fund of Indiana (CIFI), a statewide Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI). He joined CIFI in 2013. His prior experience in the CDFI field includes serving as Program Director for Pathway Lending and Director of Community Economic Development for People Incorporated of Virginia. He graduated from the University of South Carolina and is a Certified Business Finance Professional by the National Development Council.



## Tim Brown

Tim Brown is the Executive Director of the Lake County Community Economic Development Department. His prior experiences include the Executive Director of the Northwest Indiana Regional Bus Authority and the Town Manager in the Towns of Cedar Lake and Merrillville.

## Jill Chappell

Jill Chappell is a passionate advocate with an entrepreneurial spirit for community building and volunteering. She is a clinical researcher, wife and mom to three children, and a volunteer Ally with Circles Indianapolis. In order to give a new home to Circles INDY in 2016, she became the co-founder and President of BRiCKs Alliance, Inc.

**Presenters continued »**

# SPEAKERS

**Presenters continued »**

## Jay Chaudhary

Jay Chaudhary is a nationally-recognized expert in the use of Medical Legal Partnerships to aid in mental health and substance use disorder recovery. A 2009 graduate of the Indiana University Maurer School of Law, Chaudhary was the founding director of the award-winning Eskenazi Midtown Medical Legal Partnership in Indianapolis. Since 2017, he has been the Managing Attorney and Director of Medical Legal Partnerships for Indiana Legal Services in Indianapolis. He is also an adjunct faculty member at the Indiana University Fairbanks School of Public Health. He is a member of the Legal Services Corporation Task Force on the Opioid Crises, the vice president of the Indiana Health Advocacy Coalition and the chair of the Indiana Protection and Advocacy Commission.

## Megan Coler-Hasser

As FHLBank Indianapolis' Community Investment Outreach Analyst, Megan Coler-Hasser is responsible for coordinating outreach efforts related to the Affordable Housing and Community Investment programs. She works closely with the Community Investment Officer regarding enhancements to programs, coordination of outreach events, developing newsletters and outreach materials, and identifying organizations for partnership opportunities. Megan joined the Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis in 2015.

## Rhiannon Edwards

Rhiannon Edwards has served as Executive Director of Public Advocates in Community re-Entry (PACE) for 19 years. PACE, founded in 1960, is the only organization in the state of Indiana that serves only individuals involved in the justice system. Rhiannon has a Master's degree in criminal justice. She is dedicated to giving a voice to those with criminal histories. Rhiannon has created relationships with community and criminal justice partners to ensure an even playing field for those exiting incarceration.

## Gina Fears

Gina Fears, a wife, mom and grandmother, has served for 20+ years in Indianapolis' Human Services field. A trained educator and certified in many alternative therapy offerings, she has been active in substance abuse treatment, training and research. Gina coordinated services for the Indianapolis Mayor's first Office of Offender Re-entry. She currently serves as Quality of Life Neighborhood Engagement Director and Assistant Director of Recovery and Community Engagement in Indianapolis' East Promise Zone, the Martindale-Brightwood Neighborhood.

**Presenters continued »**

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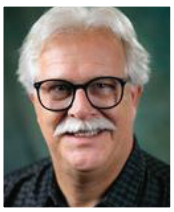
# SPEAKERS

**Presenters continued »**

## Stephanie Fernhaber

Stephanie Fernhaber is an Associate Professor of Entrepreneurship at Butler University. In addition to teaching a variety of entrepreneurial courses as the undergraduate and graduate levels, she conducts research on international entrepreneurship and grassroots innovation. Her research has been published in various academic journals, including the Journal of International Business Studies, Strategic Management Journal, Journal of Business Venturing, Strategic Entrepreneurship Journal and Entrepreneurship, Theory & Practice. Stephanie has also co-created two books: Routledge Companion to International Entrepreneurship, Teaching the Entrepreneurial Mindset to Engineers. At the community level, Stephanie has a passion for spurring innovation with an emphasis on social entrepreneurship.



## Peter Fritz, AICP, PLA

Pete Fritz is the Healthy Communities Planner with the Indiana State Department of Health, Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity. He has a passion for working with project stakeholders in planning and designing great communities with a focus on promoting healthy, active lifestyles through changes to policies and the built environment. Pete has a unique background in community planning and landscape architecture, having worked in both the public and private sectors.

## Karen Gregerson

Karen Gregerson is President and CEO of The Farmers Bank in Frankfort, Indiana, previously serving as Senior Vice President and CFO of STAR Financial Bank in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Karen earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from Ball State University and a master's degree from Indiana Tech. She is a Certified Public Accountant and a Certified Financial Planner. She currently serves on the Board of FHLBank Indianapolis.

## Melinda A. Grismer

Melinda Grismer, a community and regional development specialist with Purdue Center for Regional Development, currently has an administrative appointment to the Wabash Heartland Innovation Network (WHIN) as the Vice President of Regional Development. WHIN, a 10-county region in north-central Indiana, was awarded a $40 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. (LEI) for regional community and economic development in 2017. Melinda has been working with the WHIN core team since 2016 to develop the proposal that was funded by LEI.

## Tysha Hardy-Sellers

Tysha Hardy-Sellers is the CEO of the Edna Martin Christian Center—a 78-year-old multi-service center. She has worked in public and private corporations, media, and community services. An applied medical sociologist by education, Tysha has focused on connecting people to opportunities resulting in thriving people and places. Her passion is to help people realize their full potential and help organizations reduce barriers, dismantle silos, and connect to the asset-based power of people to address social issues.

# SPEAKERS

## Kristen Hodge

Kristen Hodge joined The National Bank of Indianapolis due to her desire to serve the nonprofit industry. She advises her nonprofit clients on all aspects of their financial relationship with the Bank while providing them with personal, attentive service and expertise. Kristen earned a bachelor's degree in finance from Ball State University. She currently serves on the board of CMF International.

## Michael Hurst

Michael Hurst is an attorney with Indiana Legal Services where he represents clients at risk of homelessness and facing eviction. Michael previously served as executive director of an Indianapolis nonprofit providing counseling and advocacy to victims of violence. Michael was also program director for the Coalition for Homelessness Intervention and Prevention and worked closely with individuals experiencing homelessness. Prior to working for nonprofits, Michael held roles in state government. Also licensed in Illinois, Michael joined the Illinois Attorney General's Office in 1992 where he handled state and federal cases on appeal. Michael relocated to Indiana in 1997 and held a similar position with the Indiana Attorney General's Office. Michael is a former Deputy State Health Commissioner and he also served as general counsel to the state health department and as director of public health preparedness and emergency response for that agency. In the latter role Michael assembled the medical teams deployed to Biloxi, Mississippi, following Hurricane Katrina.

## Kim Irwin, MPH

Kim Irwin is the Executive Director of Health by Design, which works at the intersection of the built environment and public health, collaborating across sectors and disciplines to ensure Indiana communities have neighborhoods, public spaces and transportation infrastructure that promote active living for all. She has a Master of Public Health from the Indiana University School of Medicine Department of Public Health and an undergraduate degree from Northwestern University.

## Jean Ishmon

Jean Ishmon is the CEO of Ishmon & Associates, Inc. The agency provides education and outreach, training and technical assistance to new and existing businesses, agencies, and organizations. Ms. Ishmon is currently the Consulting Executive Director for the Northwest Indiana Reinvestment Alliance and has more than 30 years of experience in the fields of housing, fair housing, fair lending, and community and economic development.

**Presenters continued »**

# SPEAKERS

**Presenters continued »**

## Bill Kubal

William Kubal is a Principal with Usona Development LLC and has 20 years of professional experience in housing and community development programs, including the Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnerships Program, and Emergency Solutions Program. He is one of the nation's leading experts on HUD's planning and reporting requirements. Currently, Mr. Kubal works for Lake County and the City of Hammond. He assisted with the development of the Lake County Community Benefits Plan.

## Kathleen Lara

As the Policy Director, Kathleen Lara works to move Prosperity Indiana member priorities forward by helping to craft and advance the organization's policy agenda before the executive and legislative branches of federal, state, and local government. She keeps members informed on policy issues, mobilizes members in response to specific advocacy efforts, and helps produce statewide convenings for the network.

## Tetia Lee

Tetia Lee has impacted the cultural landscape of Indiana for more than 20 years. She has worked across the state in a variety of roles, including outreach director and professor. Tetia has degrees from the American Academy of Art, Florence Academy of Art, Indiana State University and Texas Tech. During her tenure with the Tippecanoe Arts Federation, she has provided leadership for a regional cultural plan and its implementation, development of nationally recognized programs, and increasing the quality and quantity of public art within north central Indiana. She is an advocate for equitable access to arts and arts education and serves on the board of the Quality of Life Council of Greater Lafayette. Tetia is a Joyce Fellow for Americans for the Arts.

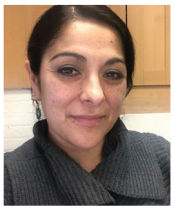
## Carmen Lethig

Carmen Lethig is the Placemaking Manager at IHCDA. She helps connect people and communities to resources and programs that contribute to the overall quality of life in Indiana communities. Carmen has a BA in Communications from Purdue University and a Masters in Urban and Regional Planning from Ball State University.

## Gina Lewis Alexander

Gina Lewis Alexander is the Executive Director for Oasis Christian Community Development Corporation and Vice President of Hopeside Senior Communities. She came to the corporation after 17 years of service in employment and training, which included direct client services, contract development and management, new venture start-ups and as a trainer. Throughout her tenure she has brought over $17 million dollars of housing development to the Martindale-Brightwood area. She currently serves as a member of the Martindale Brightwood Collaborative MOVE—the Quality of Life plan convener; the founder of the Youth Employment Program; and, The M.U.S.T.A.R.D (Making Unique Successful Talented Articulate Responsible Dependable young adults) Seed Group. She is also the current 1st Vice President of One Voice, the community's neighborhood umbrella association.

# SPEAKERS



## Rosie Leyva

Rosalina "Rosie" Leyva has worked in affordable housing since 2006. She has worked as a Senior Project Manager, where she wrote and administered affordable housing grants for nonprofits, local units of government, and for-profit organizations in Northern Indiana. Recently, Rosie became employed at South Bend Heritage Foundation as the Assistant Director of Property Management. She worked on the development of South Bend Mutual Homes for several years and now works as the property manager.

## Anne Mannix

Anne Mannix has a worked in community development/affordable housing since the early 1980's. She started Neighborhood Development Associates (NDA) in 1997, an organization specializing in supportive housing and innovative redevelopment projects. NDA has worked in partnership with community development corporations and for-profit corporations to develop 24 low-income housing tax credit projects. One recent project involved developing an affordable housing cooperative – South Bend Mutual Homes – a 24-unit single family cooperative.

## Frankie Morton

For over 30 years, Reverend Frankie Morton has dedicated herself to improving the lives of others by creating opportunities and resources for the members of Indianapolis' Mayfield Green Cooperative. Since 1999, Reverend Morton has served on the board of directors for Mayfield Green Cooperative; and in 2003, she became Board President, where she oversaw the vision for a community with nearly 1,000 residents. Her association with Mayfield Green Cooperative has allowed her to follow her passion of helping people improve their lives.

## Melissa Norby

As the Director of Community Development for the City of Decatur since 2015, Melissa Norby does everything from grant writing and fundraising to social media and volunteer management for the city. She also works closely with community organizations to connect them with resources – city and otherwise – to help them succeed. Melissa is a graduate of Ball State University, with a bachelor's degree in journalism and master's degree in sports management.

## George Okantey

George Okantey is a Purdue Extension Community Development Educator and Association for Talent Development, Certified Professional in Learning and Performance (CPLP). George holds a Master's in Public Affairs and Organizational Communication degrees from Indiana University. He is a Facilitation Application Specialization Training (FAST) session leader and certified Vital Smarts instructor in Crucial Accountability and the Science of Behavior Change. His areas of expertise include: learning design and training, talent development, facilitating strategic planning processes, and coaching.

**Presenters continued »**

# SPEAKERS

**Presenters continued »**

## Maury Plambeck

Maury Plambeck is the Director of Neighborhood Services at the Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center. He revised the curriculum for the Indianapolis Community Building Institute, which has had graduates from 13 Indianapolis neighborhoods. He has also organized and facilitated individual courses for neighborhood organizing, appreciative inquiry, planning and project management.

## Paige Sharp

Paige Sharp serves as Director of Programs for the Indiana Arts Commission (IAC) where she oversees, directs, and manages statewide services and grant programs funding over $3.5 million state and federal dollars to Hoosier artists and organizations each year. Sharp graduated with a BFA from the School of the Arts Institute of Chicago and has served as a passionate arts professional since. Her over 20 years of arts service has focused on arts education, community arts program development, exhibition development, and grantmaking. She has also served on multiple boards and committees from local to national.

## Brian Sheehan

Brian Sheehan is Director of Special Projects for the City of Rushville. Brian also answers to "Big Bri the Smile Guy" and is a self-proclaimed Ambassador of Rushville, a title he takes very seriously. Brian is a life-long resident of Rushville where he graduated in 1989. In 1993, he graduated from the University of Indianapolis, earning a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. Brian created the Rushville Smile Fund, a fund designed to raise money and encourage façade improvements in the downtown business district and spearheaded the Lion's Pride Art project, designed to promote community pride via decorated concrete lions about the town.

## Ross D. Silverman, JD, MPH

Ross D. Silverman is Professor of Health Policy and Management at the Indiana University Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health and holds a secondary appointment as Professor of Public Health Law at the Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law. His interdisciplinary research interests include legal, ethical and policy issues in public health and healthcare, policy implementation and surveillance, medical humanities, human rights, and mental health and substance use.

## Colleen Smith

Colleen Smith is a designer residing in Nashville, Indiana. Her son, Isaiah, is a skate boarder and approached his mother about the possibility of building a skate board park in Brown County. The project became the focus of Isaiah's senior project in which Colleen guided him through the process.

# SPEAKERS

## Sean Starowitz

Sean Starowitz lives and works in Bloomington and is the Assistant Director of Economic Development for the Arts. His notable projects include Fresh Bread, BREAD! KC and Byproduct: The Laundromat. He has also explored curatorial projects, such as the Speakeasy and Vagabond, Kansas City's premiere pop-up restaurant. He has contributed to writings to Proximity Magazine and Temporary Art Review and has lectured in Queens College in NY, UCLA's World Arts and Culture Department, and at American University in D.C. He was the artist-in-residence at the Farm to Market Bread Company from 2010-2015. He is a 2010 graduate of the Interdisciplinary Arts program at the Kansas City Art Institute and a 2012 Rocket Grant recipient with support from the Charlotte St. Foundation, Spencer Museum of Art and the Andy Warhol Foundation.

## Madeline Steck

Madeline Steck is an AmeriCorps*VISTA member serving with Indy Hunger Network as their Nutrition Programs Coordinator. Having recently moved to Indianapolis from Texas, Madeline is excited about getting to know the local community and working with partner organizations to build capacity to end hunger.

## Shellye Suttles

Shellye Suttles is the Food Policy and Program Coordinator in the City of Indianapolis' Office of Public Health and Safety. Her work focuses on food security, food access, and economic development via food and agribusiness.

## Justin Taylor

Justin Taylor graduated from Ball State University with a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture. He worked as a Landscape Architect in Chicago for five years before starting his own business creating models and animations for landscape and architectural projects. He currently works in Warsaw as the Senior City Planner. Justin has brought a focus on place-making projects to Warsaw, taking the lead on grant applications and design for the Warsaw Alley and the upcoming Rotary Park. He serves as Chair for the Ride + Walk Committee for Warsaw and Winona Lake, and is the president-elect of the Warsaw Rotary Club.

## Deb Trocha

Deb Trocha has been Executive Director of the Indiana Cooperative Development Center since 2006 and during that time has worked with many different types of cooperatives from food co-ops and food hubs, to housing, to agriculture, to artists. She is committed to increasing awareness of cooperatives and is passionate about the cooperative business model's ability to empower people and their communities.

**Presenters continued »**

# SPEAKERS

**Presenters continued »**

## Scott Truex

Scott Truex is an Associate Professor in the Department of Urban Planning, College of Architecture and Planning at BSU. Past Director of Community Based Projects Program and founding Director of CAP's Indianapolis Center, his teaching and research activities focus on Sustainable Community Design, Public Engagement, Community Visioning, and Urban Agriculture. Scott created Sustainable Communities Institute (SCI) with Dr. John Motloch in 2012. SCI is a "think and do" institute focused on helping communities thrive through food, water, and energy systems.

## Joey Vrazel, Ph.D.

Joey Vrazel, PhD, is the President of Leverage Points Consulting and a partner of Health by Design. Dr. Vrazel offers a wealth of public health and community-based knowledge from experiences working at the local-, state- and national-level. Drawing from a diverse professional background as a consultant, speaker, writer, and coach, Joey specializes in partnering with city and community leaders and organizations to assess, design, implement, and evaluate policies, systems and environments to create healthy, thriving communities.

## Ashlee Weaver

Ashlee Weaver is the Training and Engagement Manager at the Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center. She connected with the non-profit sector as an AmeriCorps member of both the VISTA and Public Allies Programs, where she served terms with the Indy Hunger Network and Girl Scouts of Central Indiana. She has facilitated trainings for AmeriCorps members, IUPUI, Near East Area Renewal, Prosperity Indiana, Purdue Extension, The Mandela Washington Fellowship, and numerous neighborhoods in Indianapolis.

## Marie Wiese

Marie Wiese serves as the Coordinator for Circles Indianapolis, a role she has loved for these past seven years. She also serves as a bi-vocational pastor at Garden Baptist Church on the west side of Indianapolis. Her favorite role, however, is "Mom," to Nathan, Emma and Jacob.

## Michael D. Wilcox, Jr.

Michael D. Wilcox, Jr. is a Community Development and Regional Economics Specialist in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Purdue University. Michael also serves as the Assistant Program Leader for Community Development with Purdue Extension, joining the Extension staff in 2012. His Extension responsibilities include staff development, program planning, evaluation, and reporting. He is also a Senior Associate at the Purdue Center for Regional Development, leading and supporting Center projects related to regional development.

# SPEAKERS

## MaryBeth Wott

As the FHLBank Indianapolis' Community Investment Officer, MaryBeth Wott manages the Community Investment Department, which is responsible for administering the affordable housing and community investment grants and lending programs. She works closely with the FHLBank Indianapolis' Affordable Housing Advisory Council to develop the Implementation Plan and other policies to meet the community economic development needs of the district. MaryBeth joined the Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis in 1986.

## Mimi Zakem

Mimi Zakem studied environmental management at Indiana University – Bloomington where her passion for community-based social change and food system work blossomed. She moved to Indianapolis in 2015 to work with urban farmers as an AmeriCorps VISTA. She connected with the Kheprw Institute and became heavily involved with the Community Controlled Food Initiative as an approach to fresh food access and community building. She is grateful for heaps of mentorship and community love, as she works toward self-mastery and growing her contribution to community.

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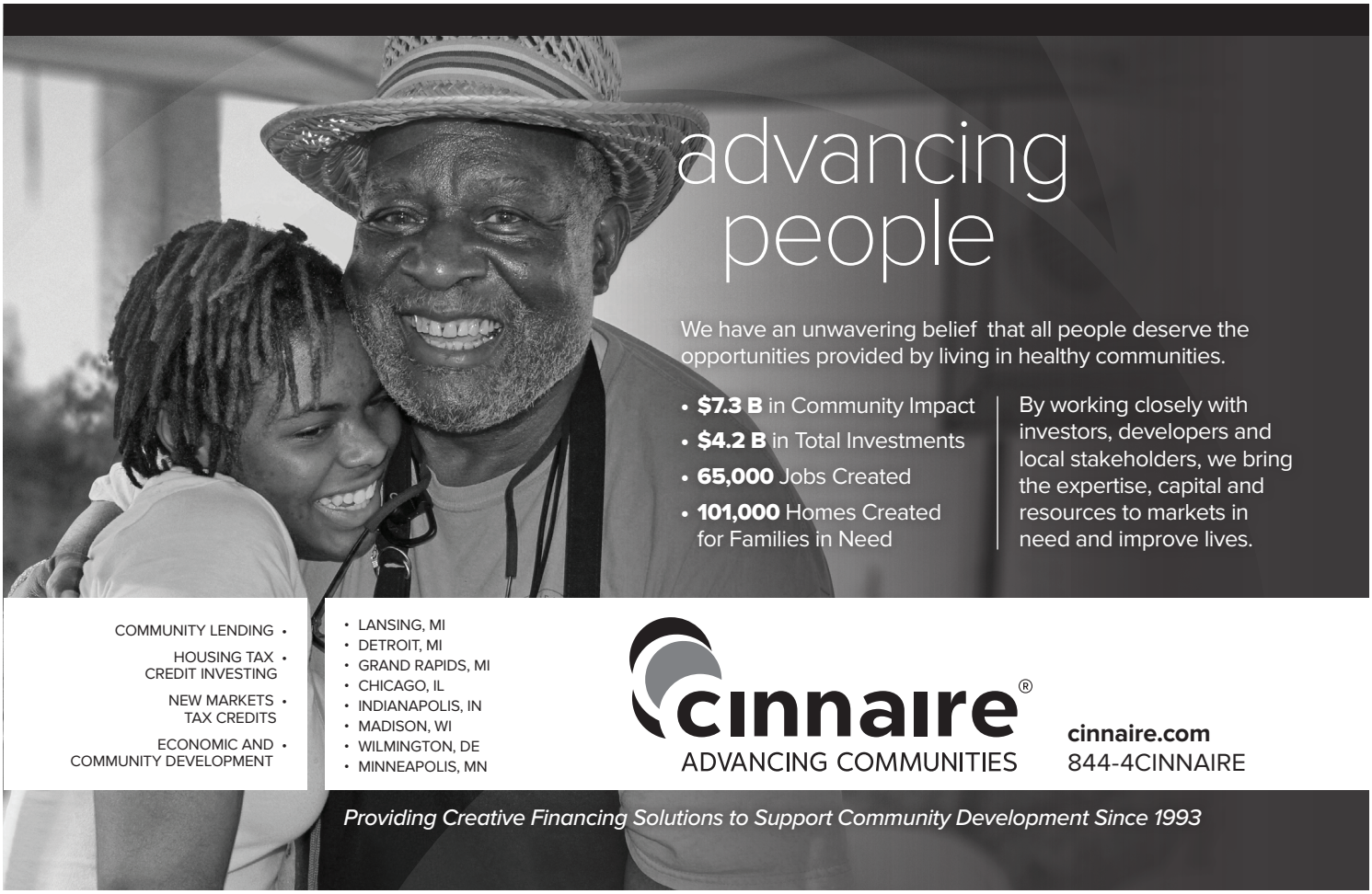

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