



## ABOUT JANEEN BRYANT

CBI envisions a connected community where everyone WAKES UP to discrimination and injustice; INTERRUPTS inequitable systems and structures; and STEPS UP to champion equal rights, access and opportunity. Janeen Bryant's life encapsulates these goals. She credits the start of her own personal development to her upbringing in Greenville, SC. Sitting around the dinner table, Bryant and her siblings were encouraged to express their opinions, with her mother sometimes playing devil's advocate to teach the children how to defend their positions.

She took these skills with her to Davidson College, where she graduated with a degree in Anthropology, and focused on Ethnic Studies. Being a first-generation college student in her family, Bryant recognized the opportunities that were available to her and took full advantage – traveling to India, Bolivia and Ghana to study abroad. These experiences broadened her perspective and led to a deep appreciation for diversity and the value to be found in differences of belief and culture.

Leveraging her degree in Anthropology, Janeen has studied cultural and systems dynamics as a classroom educator, museum leader, multi-region advocate, and entrepreneur. She received her Master of Science in Management and Leadership from Montreat College.

Most recently, Janeen worked as the Founder and Principal Consultant for Facilitate Movement, LLC where she and her team specialized in crafting proactive strategies that guided institutions to address shifting demographics with responsive leadership to strengthen long-term vision, cultural competency and empathy. Janeen also served as a liaison and Community Catalyst Coach for 12 communities in the Southeast through her work with My Brother's Keeper Alliance, an initiative of the Obama Foundation. She has served on the boards of MeckEd and the Brenda H. Tapia Family Foundation, and is a 2021 Black Voices for Black Justice Award recipient.

Janeen is proudly raising her 16-year-old daughter, a student in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Public Schools. She still very much believes parents play a vital role in the education and development of students, much as her own mother did for her.

After more than 20 years in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg community, Janeen brings a wealth of experience in nonprofit leadership, community engagement strategies and pragmatic partnership processes to the work of Community Building Initiative. CBI's mission and work very much align with her own belief that once we accept and value others, we can move forward as a stronger and more connected community. Janeen has come to view herself as an architect building a more just and equitable world. Her current role at CBI is a natural continuation of that work.



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLOTTE, NC (June 16, 2022): After a competitive search process with significant interest, the Board of Directors is proud to announce Janeen Bryant has been hired as the next Executive Director of Community Building Initiative (CBI). Bryant succeeds founding Executive Director Dianne English, who retired at the end of last year.

"I have taken part in CBI programming and worked with them in the past, so I am thrilled at the opportunity to now lead Community Building Initiative," says Bryant. "CBI's mission and values align perfectly with mine: A human-centered society in which we see all individuals as valuable and move closer to our goal of community equity. My intention is to both preserve the legacy of Community Building Initiative, and to guide it onward as CBI evolves to meet the ever-changing needs of Charlotte-Mecklenburg."

Community Building Initiative Board Chair Rick McDermott said, "Janeen is a tireless advocate for issues of diversity, equity and inclusion, and she brings with her a wealth of experience that spans more than 20 years, five countries, two degrees and multiple areas of expertise. She is perfectly positioned to move Community Building Initiative forward with competence and compassion."

Bryant was selected from a large pool of applicants after a six-month search. Elinvar Leadership Solutions worked with the CBI Board and a Search Committee composed of current and former Board members and community stakeholders to make this decision. During this time, Stephen Smith served as Interim Executive Director.

Most recently, Bryant worked as the Founder and Principal Consultant for Facilitate Movement, LLC. She and her team specialized in crafting proactive strategies that guided institutions to address shifting demographics with responsive leadership, strengthening long-term vision, cultural competency and empathy. Bryant also served as a liaison and Community Catalyst Coach for 12 communities in the Southeast through her work with My Brother's Keeper Alliance, an initiative of the Obama Foundation. She has served on the boards of MeckEd and the Brenda H. Tapia Family Foundation, and is a 2021 Black Voices for Black Justice Award recipient.

CBI engages about 2500 people each year through a range of programs designed to equip people and organizations with the knowledge, skills and courage to fight bias, remove barriers to opportunity and to build a more equitable and just Charlotte-Mecklenburg. More information about CBI's mission, programming and work can be found at [cbicharlotte.org](http://cbicharlotte.org). Bryant is scheduled to begin her new role with Community Building Initiative on July 25th.

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## A LETTER FROM THE BOARD

Dear valued CBI alumni, partners, supporters and friends,

We are proud to announce that the CBI Board of Directors has selected Janeen Bryant to be Community Building Initiative's next Executive Director. Janeen is a tireless advocate for issues of diversity, equity and inclusion. She knows Charlotte, knows CBI and understands our mission, vision and needs. After more than 20 years in our community, she brings to CBI a wealth of experience in nonprofit leadership, community engagement strategies and pragmatic partnership processes.

Most recently, Janeen has worked as the Founder and Principal Consultant for Facilitate Movement, LLC. She and her team specialized in crafting proactive strategies that guided institutions to address shifting demographics with responsive leadership, strengthening their long-term vision, cultural competency and empathy. Janeen also served as a liaison and Community Catalyst Coach for 12 communities in the Southeast through her work with My Brother's Keeper Alliance, an initiative of the Obama Foundation. She has served on the boards of MeckEd and the Brenda H. Tapia Family Foundation, and is a 2021 Black Voices for Black Justice Award recipient.

Janeen graduated from Davidson College and received her Master of Science in Management and Leadership from Montreat College. She is proudly raising her 16-year-old daughter, a student in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Public Schools, and is an advocate for the transformative power of education.

Taking on this new role as Executive Director at CBI brings Janeen full circle in her affiliation with our organization. She was in Class 2 of CBI's Leaders Under 40 (LU40) program as a representative from Levine Museum of the New South, and later worked with CBI and the Foundation For The Carolinas as a project director for Leading On Opportunity's On The Table Charlotte. Through these experiences and more, Janeen has come to view herself as an architect building a more just and equitable world. We have every confidence that as Janeen assumes leadership of CBI, she will continue to do just that.

On behalf of the entire board, we would like to thank the other members of our Search Committee (Claude Alexander, Jenni Gaisbauer, Ray Feaster and Jenny Ward) for the time and energy they devoted to this process. We extend our gratitude to the search Firm Elinvar Leadership Solutions for their guidance and expertise. Last but certainly not least, thanks to our Interim Executive Director Stephen Smith for his service during this time of transition.

Janeen begins her work with CBI on July 25th, and we know we can count on you as part of our CBI family to make her feel welcome. If you would like to learn more about Janeen or the search process in general, we invite you to visit our Leadership Transition page on the CBI website, which can be found at <https://cbicharlotte.org/leadership-transition/>. Thanks, as always, for being part of the CBI community.

Sincerely,

Rick McDermott  
Board Chair

Byron Hawkins  
Search Committee Chair