



2023 Community Builders Breakfast

FORMERLY STAKEHOLDERS BREAKFAST

COMMUNITY BUILDING IS A VERB

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

8:00 AM - 9:30 AM

THE CONFERENCE CENTER AT FRIENDSHIP
3400 Beatties Ford Road

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AGENDA

MUSICAL OPENING

WELCOME

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

TABLE CONNECTIONS

INAUGURAL COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD

CALL TO ACTION & NEXT STEPS

MUSICAL CLOSING



SCAN TO DONATE!

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION



ELY PORTILLO, MODERATOR

Ely Portillo is the Senior Editor for News and planning at WFAE, Charlotte's NPR news source. He is also the interim editor for race and equity coverage. Before joining WFAE in 2022, he worked at the UNC Charlotte Urban Institute, and prior to that was a journalist at the Charlotte Observer. A graduate of Harvard University and UNC-Chapel Hill, he lives in Charlotte with his wife and two children. Ely is a graduate of LDI Class 19.



CHARIS BLACKMON

Charis Blackmon is one of the highest-profile champions of affordable housing in Charlotte-Mecklenburg. She currently serves as Executive Director of West Side Community Land Trust, and is responsible for generating initiatives that allow residents of historically Black urban neighborhoods beset by gentrification to remain in place.



KENNY ROBINSON

Kenny Robinson is the Founder/Executive Director of Freedom Fighting Missionaries. He strives to assist formerly incarcerated and criminal justice-involved persons with reentry by achieving self-sufficiency. By believing in the power of second chances, and by building relationships and partnerships in our community - Kenny and Freedom Fighting Missionaries are giving those in need the best chance for a successful new start.



LOU TROSCH

Lou Trosch, Jr., is a Superior Court Judge in the 26th Judicial District in Mecklenburg County. He served as District Court Judge from 1999-2018. Judge Trosch co-chaired Race Matters for Juvenile Justice, an initiative dedicated to reducing racial and ethnic disparities in the court system, from 2010-2020. He was instrumental in CBI's early work with the court system, and is a graduate of LDI Class 16.



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TABLE CONNECTIONS

1. Introduce yourself and share what brings you here this morning.
2. **Now that you've heard our panel of Community Builders: WHAT IS YOUR VERB?**

Write your verb on the fan provided.
Feel free to take a photo with your table mates!

You can share on social media using the hashtag **#CommunityBuildingsAVerb**
3. What would support you to be more courageous in your own community building?

My Verb Is...



SCAN TO DONATE!

Charlotte needs to talk

New task force aims to engage the whole community

Westerners aren't known for pointingedly speaking our minds. The tradition here is to be polite, even at the expense of honesty. You make your point obliquely and hope others read between the lines.

This tradition has given us genteel manners and a courteous public demeanor. Both have helped Charlotte avoid the rancor of many other cities, something this city takes just pride in. But as a result, some unpleasant realities go unaddressed, because too few people want to say them aloud for fear of sounding well, rude. That means many people in Charlotte are

high school students, neighborhood activists, ministers, executives, ex-school board members and a former governor. The political views range from those of Frank Barnes of the conservative Citizens for Effective Government to Minister Robert Muhammad of the Nation

The "Later and a community cor is to get people talk

DIVERSITY

Continued from page 1A

Reinsurance and a member of the group's seven-member leadership committee.

More than 300 people were nominated for the task force. Those chosen include religious leaders, community activists, high school students, PTA members and business leaders. There are 31 men, 13 women, one boy

but who came to a meeting at the community at large?" said Diane English of the interfaith organization Mecklenburg Minis-

tries. English's group will help coordinate task-force activities. The Foundation for the Carolinas has donated \$50,000 toward the effort.

Task force members want to: ■ Promote understanding of the community's increasing diversity.

tion in community life.

■ Stimulate community participation in building better race relations.

"We have a formidable task ahead of us, but I am encouraged because we have a formidable group," Ferguson said. Helms said the group will force Mecklenburg residents to deal with race.

"We know how to build businesses, how to build towers, how to build stadiums. But I think many would agree we have failed to deal with our inability to build relationships," he said. "(The task force) will clearly help us make that decision — who are

we? What do we stand for? Must learn to live together cannot... we will not succ

WANT TO HELP?

Anyone interested in volunteering should call Diane English at 347-2404 anytime. Donations can be made payable to Community Building Task Force, and mailed to Foundation for the Carolina P.O. Box 34769, Charlotte 28234-4769.

Diversity panel seeks better race relations

A formidable task for 47 in Charlotte group

By BOB MEADOWS Staff Writer

A 47-member, multiethnic task force will lead Charlotte's efforts to improve race relations.

The Community Building Task Force, composed of 42 blacks, 19 whites, three Hispanics, one Asian and one Native American, will begin meeting next month. It was introduced Thursday. The Foundation for the Carolinas, a nonprofit charity organization, assembled

"I think we can make a difference by bringing people together, facilitating people talking," said Manuel Zapata, president of Zepeta Engineering and a member of the leadership committee. "This is the Charlotte way. I've seen before that when we work together, we can make things happen."

Others on the leadership team include James Ferguson II, a Charlotte attorney; Shirley Fulton, a Superior Court judge; Hugh



MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE

The Community Building Task Force will be headed by a leadership team that includes:



James Ferguson II, Attorney



Shirley Fulton, Superior Court Judge and president of the Queen City Congress



Hugh McColl Jr., CEO of Bank of America



Ralph Maddox, Mayor of Charlotte

The Task Force will include: From left: Alder Beiler, Mayor Ann Rubin, Carolinian, the Rev. Claude Anderson, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Light League Race Minister, Senior Pastor at University Park Baptist Church, Paul Williams, Director For Effective Government, the Rev. James

and CEO, First Union National Bank of North Carolina; Robb Murray Ewing, Temple Israel; Dennis Anderson, Student, Charlotte Chapter; Melissa Graham, executive director, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Regional Development Council; Waverly Hightower, Senior Vice, Mecklenburg Ministries; Julian Hayes, PIA

2023 COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD

JAMES E. FERGUSON, II

James E. Ferguson, II was born in Asheville, North Carolina into the Jim Crow South, in the late 1950s. He began his journey toward justice in high school as a leader of local citywide desegregation efforts. With fellow students, he formed the Asheville Student Committee On Racial Equality and attended the founding meeting of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee in Raleigh, NC in 1960.

Ferguson, who became Student Body President at North Carolina College for Negroes (now North Carolina Central University), graduated in 1964. He then graduated from Columbia University Law School in 1967 and settled in Charlotte as a founding member of NC's first integrated law firm, Ferguson, Stein, and Chambers.

In the early 1970's Ferguson led the defense in one of NC's most well-known trials, the Wilmington Ten, in which he secured Pardons of Innocence for each defendant.

In 1986 he established a legal training program in Apartheid-era South Africa, continuing throughout the presidency of Nelson Mandela. Ferguson was also a leader of the Trial Advocacy Program for Black Lawyers of South Africa.

Seen in "The Trials of Darryl," a documentary of Darryl Hunt, Ferguson won a judicial declaration of innocence after Hunt's nearly 20 years in prison for a wrongful conviction. Ferguson also recently obtained commutations, from death sentences to life imprisonment, in the four cases decided under NC's Racial Justice Act.

In 2018 Ferguson filed and resolved a police misconduct action against the City of Asheville. He now works with experts, leaders and residents in Charlotte, to apply the same philosophy in pursuit of healing in both communities.

Ferguson is in every edition of The Best Lawyers in America. He was featured in The National Law Journal as a top 10 litigator in the country. He was featured in the Charlotte Observer as "The Lawyer Lawyers Come to See" and recognized as a Super Lawyer by Super Lawyers Magazine. He is a member of Inner Circle, 100 of the best plaintiffs' lawyers in the country.

Ferguson joined Emily Zimmern as co-chair of the Leadership Team of the Community Building Task Force in April 1997. His leadership and guidance established the foundational work upon which CBI continues to operate today.



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NOTES



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