



PROJECT 400

OUR LIVED EXPERIENCE

**Our Bodies, Our Minds, Our Communities:
Physical, Emotional, and
Environmental Impacts of Racism**

**Friday, February 24, 2023
Saturday, February 25, 2023**

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24

10:00 AM

WELCOME / OPENING REMARKS

DR. RONNIE A. DUNN

*Associate Professor of Urban Studies
Executive Director, The Diversity Institute, CSU*

DR. ROLAND V. ANGLIN

Dean and Professor, Levin College of Public Affairs and Education, CSU

DR. TAWANDA GREER-MEDLEY

*Associate Professor of Counseling Psychology
Associate Director, The Diversity Institute, CSU*

10:15 AM

OPENING PLENARY

DR. DAVID R. WILLIAMS

*Florence Sprague Norman and Laura Smart Norman Professor of
Public Health; Chair, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences,
Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health*

11:15 AM

CLEVELAND PUBLIC THEATER PRESENTATION

11:30 AM

FOCUS SESSION 1

The Overturning of Roe v. Wade's Impact on Black Women & Families

JAZMIN LONG *Chief Executive Officer, Birthing Beautiful Communities*

COLETTE NGANA *Board Chair, Preterm*

JENNY SPENCER *Ward 15 Councilmember, City of Cleveland*

MODERATOR: MARLENE HARRIS-TAYLOR

Director of Engaged Journalism, Ideastream Public Media

12:30 PM

LUNCH

12:50 PM

VIOLIN PERFORMANCE | TIRANAY CAMPBELL, CSU Student

1:05 PM

FOCUS SESSION 2

Effects of Racism on Mental & Physical Health

DR. HUGH TURNER *Clinical Psychologist*

DR. TAWANDA GREER-MEDLEY *Cleveland State University*

DR. CHARLES S. MODLIN *Medical Director, Equity, Inclusion,
Diversity; Urologist, MetroHealth*

MODERATOR: DR. RANDY VINCE

Assistant Professor, Director of Minority Men's Health, University Hospitals

2:20 PM

CLOSING REMARKS | DR. RONNIE A. DUNN



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25

10:00 AM

WELCOME / OPENING REMARKS

PRESTER PICKETT, MFA

Coordinator of Howard A. Mims African American Cultural Center

10:15 AM

OPENING PLENARY

COUNCILWOMAN CLAIRE McFARLAND, ESQ.

*Founder and Managing Partner of Claire McFarland Law;
Member of City of Evanston, IL Reparations Committee*

11:15 AM

SPOKEN WORD | SIMONE CUMMINGS, John Hay Student

11:30 AM

FOCUS SESSION 1

Redlining & the Residual Effects of Racism in Housing

LIONEL LEWIS *Broker, New Era Real Estate Group LLC;
Member, Akron Cleveland Association of Realtors*

JOHN CORLETT *President and Executive Director,
The Center for Community Solutions*

FRANK FORD *Senior Policy Advisor, Fair Housing Center for
Rights and Research*

MODERATOR: ROZ CAMPBELL

*Member Engagement and DEI Representative,
Akron Cleveland Association of Realtors*

12:30 PM

LUNCH

12:50 PM

SPOKEN WORD | KWANZA BREWER, CSU Alumna

1:05 PM

FOCUS SESSION 2

Environmental Racism's Long-Lasting Health Impacts

YVONKA HALL *Executive Director, Northeast Ohio Black
Health Coalition*

SeMIA BRAY *Co-Director, Black Environmental Leaders*

KIM FOREMAN *Executive Director, Environmental Health Watch*

MODERATOR: DR. RODERICK HARRIS

Commissioner, Cuyahoga County Board of Health

2:20 PM

CLOSING REMARKS | BLAINE A. GRIFFIN

Ward 6 Councilman and Council President, City of Cleveland



PARTICIPANT BIOGRAPHIES




Kwanza Brewer

Kwanza Brewer is currently an educator in the Cleveland Metropolitan School district. Ms. Brewer is a member of the national sorority of PHI DELTA KAPPA, Alpha XI chapter. She is a published poet, storyteller, and founding member of The Black Poetic Society. Additionally, she was a member of the National Champion Slam Team for Cleveland, Ohio. Ms. Brewer is also one of the former project managers for the Children's Defense Fund Freedom School in Northeast Ohio. She is an active member of the Cleveland Association of Black Storytellers. Presently she is serving as the President of the National Association of Black Storytellers Incorporated. Her favorite proverb comes from the spirit of Ubuntu: "I am because we are, we are because I am." Kwanza Brewer has performed and shared stories locally at the historic Karamu House Theater and for international audiences in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, as well as Luxor in Egypt.

Frank Ford

Frank Ford is Senior Policy Advisor at the Fair Housing Center and serves as Chair of the Greater Cleveland Vacant and Abandoned Property Action Council (VAPAC). He is an attorney who has worked in the field of community development for over 40 years. From 2013 to 2022 Frank was Senior Policy Advisor at the Western Reserve Land Conservancy where he led VAPAC policy initiatives and conducted housing research focusing on disparate impacts on people of color communities. In 2013 a research study he led on the outcomes of property emerging from foreclosure was published by Harvard University. From 1999 to 2013 Frank was Senior Vice President for Research & Development at Cleveland Neighborhood Progress (CNP) where he directed CNP's Land Assembly, Vacant Property Reform and Neighborhood Stabilization Initiatives. From 1991 through 1998 Frank was Associate Director for Urban Programs at the Colorado Center for Community Development at the University of Colorado at Denver where he taught community development and conducted applied research.

In Denver he published one of the first studies in the U.S. to document racial disparities in lending to small businesses – this study was cited by Attorney General Janet Reno in her Martin Luther King Day speech in Birmingham, Alabama in 1997. A study he conducted on home mortgage lending discrimination was the subject of a news story aired by Tom Brokaw, NBC Nightly News in 1993. From 1986 through 1990 Frank served as Executive Director of the Union-Miles Development Corporation in Cleveland, Ohio. In 1986 he litigated the first case under



Ohio's Nuisance Abatement Property Receivership Law. Frank graduated from Kenyon College with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English and received his Juris Doctor Degree from Case Western Reserve University School of Law.

Kim Foreman

Kim is the executive director of the Environmental Health Watch in Cleveland and a founding member and driving force behind the Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition. She was instrumental in the Cleveland City Council's historic 2019 legislation requiring owners of residential rental units built before 1978 to obtain lead-safe certifications and all landlords to have inspections and lead-safe certification by 2023.

During more than 20 years with Environmental Health Watch, Kim has developed, implemented and managed various local, direct service on-the-ground grassroots projects. She has also worked on national projects like the National BuildHealth Challenge and has spoken at local and national conventions, like the Food & Justice Conference. Kim has also appeared on several radio and television shows to share her expertise.


Kim's vision for the next 40 years in affordable housing and community development is to create sustainable communities where everyone has the opportunity to live a healthy lifestyle.


Councilman Blaine A. Griffin

Ward 6 Councilman and Council President Blaine A. Griffin represents one of Cleveland's most diverse wards, encompassing the East Side neighborhoods of Fairfax, Larchmere, Little Italy, Woodland Hills, and parts of Buckeye-Shaker, University Circle, North Broadway, Slavic Village and Union-Miles.

Prior to serving on council, Councilman Griffin had been executive director of the city's Community Relations Board for 11 years. He led a staff and board trustees in efforts to improve cross-culture relations throughout the city. The Community Relations Board also oversees police/community relations and youth initiatives.

Prior to City Hall, Councilman Griffin worked with the Cuyahoga Department of Justice Affairs. As a program officer, he managed community re-entry efforts and initiatives to help transition serious violent offenders from correctional facilities back into their communities.





Councilman Griffin also served as a program director for the Hunger Network of Greater Cleveland. He was responsible for the fiscal and operational oversight of the largest network of emergency food distribution sites in Cuyahoga County with a budget of more than \$2.7 million. He managed seven staff members and more than 800 volunteers throughout Cuyahoga County to service 160 emergency food distribution centers.

Councilman Griffin began his community-based service work with the Harvard Community Services Center, as well as a community organizer and later program manager at East End Neighborhood House. While at Harvard Community Services Center, Councilman Griffin established a coalition of community residents, activists, and businesses to fight infant mortality and morbidity as part of the Healthy Family/Healthy Start project.


He is affiliated with a number of community and professional organizations: He is a member of Mount Sinai Ministries; F.B.I. Citizen's Academy; Malone University Advisory Board; Ecclesiastes #120 Lodge of the Free and Accepted Masons; and Bezaleel Consistory #15. Griffin is a graduate of the Cleveland State University Maxine Goodman Levine College of Urban Affairs Leadership Academy and the Cleveland Leadership Center's Leadership Cleveland; Class of 2014, as well as a German Marshall Memorial Fellow.


Councilman Griffin, originally from Youngstown, moved to Cleveland in 1993. He and his wife of 26 years, Jeanette, and their three sons live in the Larchmere neighborhood of Ward 6. Griffin graduated from Malone College in Canton, Ohio, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in communications. He was reelected in November 2021, and first started representing the ward in May 2017.

Yvonka M. Hall

Yvonka M. Hall, MPA is the Executive Director of the nationally recognized Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition. She received a Master of Public Administration from Texas Southern University and a Bachelor of Arts from Notre Dame College. She is a proud graduate of John Marshall High School in Cleveland, Ohio and a 2019 inductee into the Alumni Hall of Fame. The Cleveland Plain Dealer named her the HomeGrown Hero for her work addressing food insecurity.

The 1974 murder of her mother Yvonne Boston Hall dramatically changed her life; her childhood promise to use her life to help others has led to the creation of cutting edge programs and impacted thousands of people's





lives. She was recently named as 100 Women to Know in America.

She is a mother, grandmother and activist deeply impassioned and involved in social justice activities locally and nationally. Her efforts will save many children from the lifelong impact of lead poisoning. Her work is designed to address equity issues in the community and highlight the need for policy in calls to declare racism a public health crisis. She was honored as a Black Green Woman in 2021. She was recently appointed to serve on the National Environmental Protection Agency National Environmental Justice Advisory Committee (NEJAC).

She is a board member serving on numerous local and national organization's. She is a nationally recognized Congressional award winning health disparities expert. She speaks all over the country about effectively engaging the African American Community the Art of Community Engagement.

She is an activist, leader, influencer, humanitarian, speaker, researcher and philanthropist.


Marlene Harris-Taylor


As the Director of Engaged Journalism, Marlene Harris-Taylor, currently directs community-focused news coverage for Ideastream Public Media, the NPR/PBS affiliate in Cleveland Ohio. In this role she leads journalism initiatives that address issues and opportunities identified in and by communities across Northeast Ohio.

She also contributes to daily news coverage decisions and the overall editorial direction by managing a team of reporters and editors who inform the public about major health issues, including the Connecting the Dots between Race and Health project. Prior to moving into leadership roles, she was a senior health reporter at Ideastream for more than three years and her reporting earned numerous television and radio awards.

Marlene has had a wide and varied career as a journalist including, working as the Medical Editor for the Toledo Blade newspaper, hosting an award-winning public affairs program on WBGU-PBS, and working as a producer for NPR's Morning Edition program.

Marlene is also a board member for the Press Club of Cleveland and also member of the Association of Health Care Journalists Board and was Chair of the Membership Committee for several years. She is also a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.





She is a graduate of the Ohio State University and has a master's degree from Miami University of Ohio. Follow her on Twitter at @marlenetaylor48.

She and her husband Darrell live in Shaker Heights. Her son, D.J., is a student at Howard University in Washington, D.C and her daughter, Ashley, is an attorney in NYC.

Dr. Roderick Harris


Dr. Roderick Harris was appointed Health Commissioner of the Cuyahoga County Board of Health (CCBH), effective February 23, 2022. In this role, he develops and executes program, operations, and fiscal strategies that assure the agency's alignment with accreditation, regulatory, and internal policies.

He has over 25 years of experience in public health. Prior to joining CCBH, Dr. Harris was a Deputy Director at the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD), in Pittsburgh, PA, and oversaw the operations of the Bureau of Community Health Promotion & Disease Prevention at ACHD since 2014. During his tenure on ACHD's senior leadership team, the department acquired accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board, a voluntary designation achieved by state, tribal, local and territorial health departments nationwide.

Dr. Harris led ACHD's gun violence prevention efforts alongside local philanthropies, dedicated staff members and passionate community partners. As a result, ACHD established the Office of Violence Prevention which employed men and women to serve as "boots on the ground" violence interrupters and outreach workers—implementing evidence-based approaches to prevent homicides.

Also, while at ACHD, Dr. Harris served as Principal Investigator for a federally funded Racial & Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) project to address health disparities in priority African American communities. Among a variety of REACH activities, this initiative provided mini-grants to partnering grassroots organizations, conducted a series of anti-racism healing circles with partners, and supported capacity building of Black Breastfeeding Circles.

His previous professional experiences include serving as Director of the Children & Family Health Division at Sedgwick County Health Department (SCHD) (in Wichita, KS), Founding Director of the Center for Health Equity at SCHD, and Health Services Manager at Eastman Kodak Company. Dr. Harris also completed fellowships with the U.S. Centers for





Diseases Control, as well as the American Evaluation Association.

He earned a Doctor of Public Health degree from the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public Health, a Master of Science in Public Health in Health Services Administration from Meharry Medical College, and a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Health from Ohio University.

Lionel Lewis

Lionel Lewis is a distinguished and experienced Real Estate Broker in northeast Ohio. With over 45 years of experience, Lionel is affectionally known as "Mr. Real Estate". His mission is to serve his community by creating generational wealth through real estate. Through publishing the "Seven Steps to Homeownership" guide, Lionel works to ensure his clients are educated on the entire homebuying process. Additionally, Lionel has created a real estate investor series titles "CEADDL" that guides his clients on how to become savvy investors.


Lionel has served President and Chairman of the Board of the Cleveland Realist Association, Ohio Realist Association and Regional Vice President and National Board Member of the National Association of Real Estate Brokers. Additionally, Lionel has served as a Board member for Cleveland Action to Support Housing (CASH), Working to Empower Community Organizations (WECO), Cuyahoga Plan and Living in Cleveland Center (Currently Live Cleveland).


Lionel is the Broker for New Era Real Estate Group, Inc. and former Owner and Broker of A.J. Lewis and Associates. Due to exceptional loyalty from his past clients, Lionel is on his 4th generations of real estate sales. His motto remains "People don't care about how much you know, until they know how much you care."

Jazmin Long

Jazmin Long is the President & Chief Executive Officer of Birthing Beautiful Communities, a nonprofit dedicated to transforming lives and reducing Black by matching women with a doula and a perinatal support team member from their neighborhood at no cost.

Jazmin believes that if our babies aren't doing well, our communities aren't doing well, and recognizes the reason we have high infant mortality rates is 20 percent clinical and 80 percent social, and that is why BBC





works to reduce the internalized stresses caused by problems with employment, housing, and education.

Jazmin's passions are fueled by her lived experiences, and under her leadership BBC has secured over \$3.5 million dollars in funding, contracts with 3 out of 5 managed care providers for reimbursement, added a second location in the city of Akron and will break ground on Ohio's only free-standing birthing center in Fall 2023.

In addition to her extensive perinatal experience, Jazmin serves as a board member of many community organizations, including Near West Theatre, The Cleveland Police Foundation, and Assembly for Action.

A native of Connecticut, Jazmin is a graduate of Connecticut College, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Government. She is also a graduate of Case Western Reserve University's Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences where she earned two degrees: Master of Science in Social Administration and Master of Nonprofit Management.


Dr. Charles Modlin


Dr. Charles Modlin, M.D., MBA, is a Staff Urologist and Medical Director of the MetroHealth Office of Equity, Inclusion and Diversity. He joined MetroHealth in September 2021 and was formerly at Cleveland Clinic for 28 years as a kidney transplant fellow and then as a member of Cleveland Clinic's Surgical Staff, as a Kidney Transplant Surgeon & Urologist.

He founded Cleveland Clinic's Minority Men's Health Center (MMHC) and in 2003 established Cleveland Clinic's famed Annual Minority Men's Health Fair that has proved free health screenings, health examinations and health education to nearly 35,000 predominantly African American males for the early detection of disease to save lives. MetroHealth will conduct its first Minority Men's Health Fair April 28, 2022.

In 2011, Dr. Modlin was named by The Atlanta Post as one of the Top 21 Black Doctors in America. Dr. Modlin was the First African American Staff Urologist in the History of Cleveland Clinic AND the First and Only ever Black Transplant Surgeon in the History of Cleveland Clinic.

He graduated from Northwestern University and Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, completed a six-year residency in Urologic Surgery at New York University, a three-year fellowship in kidney transplantation surgery at Cleveland Clinic and joined the Cleveland Clinic Staff in 1996.





He is a noted national leader for the eliminating health disparities and promotion of health equity. Honors include Appointment to the Ohio Commission on Minority Health by two Ohio Governors, Northwestern University Presidential Alumni Medal, the Inaugural 2009 Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine Distinguished Humanitarianism in Medicine Award, 2007 MLK Greater Cleveland Partnership Community Service Award, Call & Post 100 Top Influential Leaders, numerous Cleveland Magazine Best Doctors recognitions, and the prestigious 2015 Black Professional Association Black Professional of the Year recognition among many other recognitions and awards.

Governor Mike DeWine in March 2020 appointed Dr. Modlin to serve on the Ohio Governor's Minority Covid-19 Strike Force (MSF) where he chaired the Education, Communications & Outreach Subcommittee.

Colette Ngana


Colette is a doctoral candidate in Sociology at Case Western Reserve University. Her research focuses on health inequities, particularly the institutional influences of housing on risk of accidental burn injury. Colette is also a reproductive justice advocate working with Preterm since 2013, recently completing her term as board chair in 2022.


Samone

Samone is sixteen, in the twelfth grade at John Hay Early College. She has been cast in a number of local productions in both film and theater including: A Raging Silence (film); An Uber Holiday (film); The Mafaa (theatre); A Christmas Story (theatre); and 2 runs of Objectively Reasonable: A Community Response to the Shooting of Tamir Rice 11/22/14 (theatre). Samone is also a dancer with Djapo Cultural Arts. When Samone is not performing, you will find her with a book in hand or coding with Indeed We Code.

Councilmember Jenny Spencer

Cleveland Councilmember Jenny Spencer represents Ward 15 where she is a 14-year resident. Councilmember Spencer was raised in Shaker Heights and graduated from Shaker Heights High School in 1996. She holds an undergraduate degree in political science from The Ohio State University and a Master's degree in Public Policy and Urban





Planning from the Harvard Kennedy School. From 2005-2007, she served as a U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer in Paraguay, South America, where she met her husband Mario.

Committed to public service, she has a decade-long record of success in community development. She worked with Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization (DSCDO), at Team NEO, and at Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization (now Norwest Neighborhoods CDC).

Councilmember Spencer has worked on multiple political campaigns and considers her vocation to be community organizing.


Dr. Hugh A. Turner

Dr. Hugh A. Turner is a clinical psychologist in private practice in Richmond Heights. He graduated from Florida Tech in 1984, returning to Cleveland he established his practice in 1987.

Dr. Turner has ministered to Nubian males (Black/African Americans), from primary grades where they were diagnosed as Severely Behaviorally Handicapped, to the dungeons of Death Row as a forensic psychologist, in both these experiences he observed how external forces create the disturbed child, and the monster on death row.

For 12 years he provided trauma informed services to combat veterans who medicated themselves in order to live with the horror they were trying to live through. Dr. Turner now believes that the term Mental Illness no longer has meaning and prefers to identify his patients and clients as using Mental Adaptations to deal with a chaotic and inhuman world. Dr. Turner maintains a private practice Quantum Relaxation Therapeutic, in Richmond Heights Ohio

As a practicing clinician for over three decades, Dr. Turner has had broad and in-depth experiences working with and evaluating African American males carrying the psychological and physical effects of what he terms Systemic Pathological Preferencing. Which is utilized, to some degree, by practically all racial groups, but particularly Caucasians relative to Nubian maleness. SPP is the conscious and/or unconscious desire of a racial group to identify, classify, and memorialize codex's that represents itself as morally, spiritually, and ethically superior to "others." It accomplishes this through its language expressed in the transmission of its "culture."



Dr. Randy Vince

Dr. Randy Vince recently started at University Hospitals and Case Western Reserve University as an assistant professor of urology and director of minority men's health. He is a native of Baltimore, Maryland. Dr. Vince attended Towson University, where he was a Varsity Letterman in Football. At Towson University, he double majored in MB3 (Molecular biology, Biochemistry, and Bioinformatics) and Chemistry. He later attended LSU Shreveport for medical school and subsequently completed a residency in Urology at Virginia Commonwealth University. He developed a passion for Urologic Oncology after his grandmother's passing in medical school and decided to pursue a fellowship in Urologic Oncology at the University of Michigan. While at the University of Michigan, he earned a master's degree in computational medicine and bioinformatics.

Dr. Vince actively participates in research and community outreach events to promote health equity and eliminate healthcare disparities. He has a personal philosophy that he applies to his career and life: leadership through service.

Dr. David R. Williams

Dr. David R. Williams is the Norman Professor of Public Health and Chair of the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences at the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health. He is also a Professor of African and African American Studies at Harvard University. His prior academic appointments were at Yale University and the University of Michigan. The author of over 500 scientific papers, his research has addressed how race, stress, socioeconomic status, racism, health behavior and religious involvement can affect health. The Everyday Discrimination scale that he developed is the most widely used measure of discrimination in health studies.


He is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the National Academy of Sciences. He was ranked as the Most Cited Black Scholar in the Social Sciences in the world. In 2014, Thomson Reuters ranked him as one of the World's Most Influential Scientific Minds. Dr. Williams has played a visible, national leadership role in raising awareness levels of the problem of health disparities and identifying interventions to address them.

His research has been featured by some of the nation's top print and television news organizations and in his TED talk.



Dr. Regennia N. Williams

Dr. Regennia N. Williams is the Distinguished Scholar of African American History and Culture at the Western Reserve Historical Society, where she recently launched the A. Grace Lee Mims Arts and Culture Oral History Project. Her honors include Fulbright grants to support teaching and research in Nigeria (2010) and South Africa (2019). She currently serves as a Research Fellow for the Centre for Gender and Africa Studies at South Africa's University of the Free State, President of the African American Archives Auxiliary of the Western Reserve Historical Society, and President of the Northeast Ohio Chapter of the Fulbright Association.



4TH ANNUAL PROJECT 400 CONFERENCE

Thank you for joining The Diversity Institute and member organizations of the Project 400 Collaborative for our fourth annual conference, "Our Bodies, Our Minds, Our Communities: Physical, Emotional, and Environmental Impacts of Racism."

Project 400 began in 2019 as a year-long observation of when the first Africans were brought to the British Colonies in North America in 1619. This two-day conference examines the contemporary challenges African Americans face, while highlighting the obstacles that have been overcome and identifying those that remain.

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