

Equitable Recovery: How Practitioners are Preventing COVID-19 from Expanding the Racial Wealth Gap

Speaker Bios

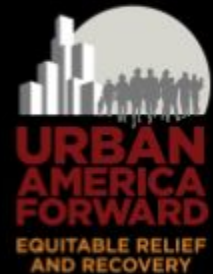


TABLE-SETTING SPEAKER



Marc H. Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League

Marc Morial, who has been described as one of the few national leaders to possess “street smarts”, and “boardroom savvy”, is the current President and CEO of the National Urban League, the nation’s largest historic civil rights and urban advocacy organization. He served as the highly successful and popular Mayor of New Orleans as well as the President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

He previously was a Louisiana State Senator, and was a lawyer in New Orleans with an active, high profile practice. He is a leading voice on the national stage in the battle for jobs, education, housing and voting rights equity.

A graduate of Georgetown University Law Center, and the University of Pennsylvania, he has been recognized as one of the 100 most influential Black Americans by Ebony Magazine, one of the top 50 Non Profit Leaders by the NonProfit Times, one of the 100 Most Influential Black Lawyers in America and he has also been inducted into the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame in Atlanta, GA.

PANELISTS



James Feagin

CEO, projects + PEOPLE

An urban practitioner with a passion for inclusive economic development, James’s client roster includes New Economy Initiative, Rock Ventures, the Knight Foundation, Wayne State University and the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation. He has contributed to programs as NEIdeas, Motor City Match, Detroit Demo Day, the Knight Cities Challenge, and Detroit Revitalization Fellows. These efforts have helped redefine Detroit’s entrepreneurial ecosystem, shift the flow of capital, diversify the region’s talent pool, and create a more connected city.

To support projects + PEOPLE's growing brick-and-mortar development activities, James recently studied urban revitalization with Theaster Gates as part of University of Chicago's Placelab Principles of Ethical Redevelopment, and he was also selected to participate in Capital Impact's Ethical Redevelopment Initiative, which aims to cultivate and fund more developers of color.

James was a 2017 Aspen Ideas Festival Scholar, and also served as the inaugural Entrepreneur-In-Residence for Ford Motor Company Fund's FREC City, an economic mobility hub stationed in a Detroit Public School on Detroit's East Side. With a proven ability to think from the boardroom to the barbershop, James enjoys sharing Detroit's innovation success and lessons learned with other cities. In 2019, he served as a technical expert for the Equitable Economic Development Fellowship, a collaborative effort led by National League of Cities, PolicyLink, and Urban Land Institute to foster best practices in economic mobility. He also helped launch MIT Media Lab's Innovator's Guild, a predecessor to its Director's Fellows program, which worked to scale and accelerate innovation to global problems. His firm's current local projects include the Corktown Neighborhood Framework Plan, the City of Detroit's Transportation Master Plan, and In Good Co Detroit.



Dr. Helene D. Gayle

CEO, Chicago Community Trust

Helene D. Gayle joined the Chicago Community Trust as president and CEO in 2017. She began her career as a physician before entering the public health and global development fields. She has worked for the Centers for Disease Control, Bill Melinda Gates Foundation, CARE.

Under Helene's leadership, the Trust has embarked on a 10-year strategy to close the racial and ethnic wealth gap in the Chicago region. In March, when the coronavirus pandemic struck, the Trust partnered with the United Way of Metro Chicago to launch the Chicago Community COVID-19 Response Fund, which has raised more than \$34 million to meet the emergency needs of the region's most vulnerable residents. The Trust has

also partnered with the City of Chicago on the Small Business Resiliency Fund, a \$100 million fund offering emergency loans up to \$50,000. In partnership with the City of Chicago and other philanthropic partners, the Trust is launching a Together Now fund to focus on an equitable recovery for Black and Latinx communities most economically impacted by the COVID crisis.

A native of Buffalo, N.Y., Helene earned a B.A. at Barnard College, M.D. at the University of Pennsylvania, and M.P.H. at Johns Hopkins University.



K. Sabeel Rahman

President, Demos

K. Sabeel Rahman is the President of Demos, a dynamic think-and-do tank that powers the movement for a just, inclusive, multiracial democracy. Sabeel is also an Associate Professor of Law at Brooklyn Law School and the co-author most recently of *Civic Power* (Cambridge University Press, 2019), which looks at how to build a more inclusive and empowered bottom-up democracy. His first book, *Democracy Against Domination* (Oxford University Press, 2017), won the Dahl Prize for scholarship on the subject of democracy. His academic research focuses on issues of democracy, economic power, law, and inequality. He has worked extensively with a range of think tanks, advocacy organizations, and foundations to develop novel approaches to addressing these issues in practice.

His popular writings have appeared in venues like *The Atlantic*, *The New Republic*, *The Boston Review*, *Dissent*, and *The Washington Post*. He earned his law degree and doctorate at Harvard University, and his Masters degrees at the University of Oxford, where he was a Rhodes Scholar.



Lynnette White-Colin

Vice President of Small Business Growth, New Orleans Business Alliance

Ms. White-Colin is the Vice President of Small Business Growth at the New Orleans Business Alliance, a public-private partnership with the City of New Orleans, which delivers economic development for the city. Lynnette develops and implements strategies toward alleviating barriers to growth for business owners of color. Ms. White-Colin leads “InvestNOLA,” a small business growth accelerator focused on scaling high growth-potential businesses owned by ethnic minorities. Additionally, she manages relationships within the community of local private sector corporations, anchor institutions and public agencies, fostering development of procurement and contract opportunities for

businesses of color. Prior to joining the New Orleans Business Alliance, Lynnette directed economic development programming at the Urban League of Louisiana, directing the Women’s Business Center and founding the Contractors Resource Center and the Women-In-Business Challenge. Ms. White-Colin served as the Executive Director of the O. C. Haley Blvd Merchants & Business Association and Main Street Initiative, where she led the revitalization strategy of the Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard commercial corridor and cultural district, which realized over \$35M in development projects. Additionally, Lynnette commenced the first commercially-focused urban land trust in the Country. Formerly a Vice President with Hope-Enterprise Corporation, Ms. White-Colin served as a Regional Director of Retail Operations for Hope Federal Credit Union, where she worked extensively with small and micro businesses assisting them to access financing. She directed consumer lending, deposit and retail operations and managed the organization’s socially responsible investment and philanthropic relationships, leveraging over 16 years of diverse banking experience.

Lynnette holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of New Orleans. She was awarded a Certified Credit Union Executive Certificate at the Community Development Credit Union Institute at Southern New Hampshire University. Ms. White-Colin serves on the boards of the New Orleans Redevelopment Unlimited (an auxiliary of the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority); the East New Orleans Business Development District; Advisory Board for the University of New Orleans African American small business study; and a former board member of the Ashe Cultural Arts Center.

RESPONDENTS



Vincent Ash

Director of Economic Development, Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce

Vincent Ash is the Director of Economic Development for Develop Indy at the Indy Chamber. He manages incoming site searches, corporate expansions, relocations and attractions projects. A native to Indianapolis, Vincent is passionate about the city and economic development. Vincent graduated from IU Kelley School of Business with a bachelor's in Finance. Before working at the Indy Chamber, Vincent worked as an analyst for Simon Property Group. Vincent loves staying involved with the community and serves on the board of Reconnecting to our Waterways and as President for Speedway Parks & Recreation Board. In his free time Vincent loves attending concerts, sporting

events and games nights with his family. Vincent lives in Speedway with his two kids, daughter Noelle and son Grayson.



Lauren Counts

Sr. Director, Head of National Programs, Capital Impact Partners, Capital Impact Partners

Ms. Counts is Sr. Director, Head of National Programs at Capital Impact Partners, a national community development financial institution (CDFI) with over \$2.7 billion deployed serving 5 million people in sectors critical to building equitable communities. Over the past 25+ years, Ms. Counts has worked with commercial banks, CDFIs, investment funds, philanthropy and government agencies to expand access to finance. At Capital Impact, Ms. Counts leads a team of experts managing multi-year programs across the country to drive innovation and equitable economic development in affordable housing, small business, health, inclusive food systems and cooperatives. She serves on the Board of Directors of two national organizations committed to affordable housing and homeownership: ROC USA and Grounded Solutions Network. Previously, she was Director of

Inclusive Finance at Enclude Ltd. (formerly Shorebank International), where she led multi-national teams of financial experts across Latin America, Eastern Europe, Asia, and Africa in housing, small business, agribusiness and clean energy finance. She holds a M.A. from Georgetown University's Center for Eurasian, Russian and East European Studies and holds the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) designation.



Ashleigh Gardere

Senior Advisor to the President & CEO. Director, All-In Cities, PolicyLink

Ashleigh Gardere, Senior Advisor to PolicyLink’s President and CEO and Director of the organization’s All-In Cities initiative, expands place-based partnerships, shares liberating innovations, and works in transformative solidarity with local leaders to achieve policy wins. Formerly, Ashleigh served as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at the New Orleans Business Alliance, the city’s economic development agency. She previously led a citywide Economic Opportunity Strategy as a Senior Advisor to former mayor Mitch Landrieu.

Ashleigh has been recognized by Living Cities as one of the nation’s “Top 25 Disruptive Leaders” working to close racial opportunity gaps. She is an expert in economic and workforce development, organizational leadership and culture change, and large-scale systems transformation. Ashleigh holds a bachelor’s degree in urban studies from New York University and a master’s degree in public policy from Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government.