AFRICAN AMERICANS AND SMART GROWTH

A joint summary

Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity and Institute on Race & Poverty

In collaboration with:

The Ford Foundation, PolicyLink, Inc., Environmental Justice Resource Center and Global Environmental Resources, Inc.
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AFRICAN AMERICANS AND SMART GROWTH

History and Purpose

The Ford Foundation African American Forum on Race & Regionalism was initiated in 2002. The Forum is a collaborative project of the Sustainable Metropolitan Communities Initiative directed by Carl Anthony at the Ford Foundation. The three co-chairs of the Forum are Angela Blackwell of PolicyLink; John Powell of the Kirwan Institute, and Robert Bullard, of the Clark-Atlanta University Environmental Justice Resource Center.¹

Through the Forum, Carl and the co-chairs are working on helping African American constituencies to (i) discuss perspectives, (ii) advance collective strategies in relation to smart growth, regionalism and equity, (iii) focus on and communicate targeted "message," and (iv) build strategic alliances.

In addition to the respective work of their own organizations, they're working collaboratively to help broaden, strengthen and promote the involvement of interdisciplinary African Americans and African American organizations in policy development and decisions and place-based projects.

Anticipated outcomes of the project include:

- networking and broadening key constituencies, and information sharing regarding lessons learned about regional and metropolitan sustainability, regionalism, equity and smart growth issues and policy tools;
- development of an interdisciplinary database of African Americans and a bibliography of relevant publications;
- strengthening the conversation among communities of color about metropolitan regional sustainability, community development, environmental justice and equity;
- addressing the challenges of collating community assets, shaping and setting a sustainable regional agenda and inclusion of African Americans in the discourse, planning and policy implementation;
- stimulating dialogue among key constituencies about differing experiences, definitions and benefits;
- creating a place for constructive conversation and healthy relationship building; and recommendations on strategies, projects and effective programs.

As an outgrowth of this work, and also funded by the Ford Foundation, the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity (Kirwin), and the Institute on Race & Poverty (IRP) convened the African Americans and Smart Growth Roundtable on February 6, 2004. The goals of the meeting, which built upon the Institutes’ May, 2003 conference, were to engage African American scholars, policymakers, and racial justice advocates to discuss African American concerns about smart growth and regionalism; to discuss transforming smart growth language; and to determine how to elevate African American voices around smart growth and regionalism issues.

The purpose of this report is to provide a brief history of the African Americans and smart growth initiative, to summarize the rich discussion that took place at the February 6th meeting and to highlight current and potential long-term opportunities for transforming the smart growth movement. The initiative aims to restructure the smart growth movement to:

a.) Reflect the values, voice, historic perspective and experiences of the African American community as articulated by the community; and
b.) To operate from a position of shared power and mutual benefit.

We begin with a discussion of the need for the initiative.
Need for an African Americans and Smart Growth Initiative

Despite the important and impressive gains over the past forty years, racial inequality remains a troubling and persistent fact of our national reality. There has been both a substantial improvement in the numbers of racial minorities transitioning to the middle-income bracket and, at the same time, an intractable increase in the number of racial minorities isolated in pockets of poverty.

The twin phenomena of larger numbers of middle-income racial minorities, and the simultaneous growth of low-income communities of color have rejuvenated the debate about the causes of persistent segregation and poverty. Many argue that outright racism — personal and institutional — is the cause. Some believe that naturally occurring race-neutral changes in the economy, such as the loss of relatively low-skill well-paying jobs, are the primary cause. Still others say the culture and choices made by members of minority groups create the problem.

A significant shortcoming of these theories is that most fail to seriously examine how race-neutral mechanisms, particularly structural and spatial racism, operate to isolate people of color from key life opportunities. Nor do they consider how political, racial and economic constraints interact in complex ways to maintain racial segregation and concentrated poverty, and to deny low-income people of color meaningful access to opportunity structures.

“Where we talk about smart growth and equity we have to talk about opportunities. The smart growth movement has isolated African Americans from opportunity structures through the use of public money. The problem isn’t social engineering, it is that we’ve been engineered out.”

As regions continue to gain economic importance, we are increasingly looking toward understanding how advocacy groups of color can affect regional structures to eliminate racial disparities and achieve civil rights goals. Knowledge of how regional structures currently operate to maintain inequality, are not well known, however. Community Development Corporations, and other local advocacy organizations, cannot revitalize neighborhoods by themselves “because the main source of the problem, lies outside the neighborhood, within broader regional dynamics.” Any efforts to lift the standard of living for the urban poor will be hampered by the negative “neighborhood effects” within their communities when left in isolation from their metropolitan area.

Within the smart growth movement itself, little, if any, attention is paid to how regional decisions affect communities of color. The focus remains largely on transportation and environmental concerns. Even at its best, the smart growth movement does not address issues of segregation and concentrated poverty because it “tends to focus on infrastructure rather than people and because, lacking a broad political base it takes a narrow, technical approach to its work.” Another reason for its limitations is that, “the urban ghetto underclass has been used as a kind of bogeyman to frighten white working-class suburbanites into opposing domestic policies associated with central-city constituencies.”

Within the African American community there are also barriers to engaging in regionalism as a means for addressing community concerns. There are a number of potential reasons — including loss of political power base — why advocacy organizations are skeptical about focusing squarely on regional dynamics. Control over the political process could be lost if the political base of minority communities diminished or the minority population was dispersed throughout any region.
Minorities would often rather retain this control even if opportunity structures are lacking in their communities. Some also fear a loss of community. As Cornel West argues, the dispersion of black professionals and entrepreneurs into predominantly white communities does little to change the culture and values of the white opportunity structure.

Instead, the argument goes, deconcentration of persons of color results in both their assimilation into more affluent areas and the dilution of their culture in areas where white flight and poverty persists. As Lani Guinier acknowledges, despite the capacity to marginalize, the recognition of race can be “empowering, affirming, and energizing.”

Other barriers exist as well. Community-based advocacy groups often have limited resources to extend the reach of their work outside the traditional neighborhood paradigm, or to even form strategic coalitions across local boundaries in an effort to do so. Preliminary inquiry also suggests that these groups lack empirical evidence presented in an accessible form, funding to facilitate convenings that would promote coalition-building, training around structural and institutional racism and knowledge of sources of inequality and leverage points for addressing them.

In response to these barriers, advocates could view regionalism and smart growth, not as alternatives to existing programs or as competition for resources and power, but as complementary efforts with the potential to reduce problems in the center cities to a manageable size and to provide more resources for development through such programs as tax revenue sharing.

Participants at Kirwan Institute’s May 2003 conference on African Americans and smart growth pointed to these various tensions inherent in actively engaging in smart growth efforts, including solving important problems now versus developing a long-term strategy or strategies; solving critical problems at the local level versus building capacity and a resource base to tackle regional dynamics; and that too often African Americans have been “subjects of” and not “participants in” nor “leaders of” research and planning efforts. Nonetheless, there are a number of reasons that we believe it is critical to better develop and steep the African American experience and voice in the struggle for social justice in a regional context.
Many of the policies that have animated our current metropolitan arrangements have been explicitly or implicitly generated in opposition to the needs of African Americans. African Americans have historically experienced the most persistent isolation of any group in the country with the exception of American Indians. Lani Guinier and Gerald Torres refer to African Americans as “the canary in the coal mine,” suggesting that the African American experience should be used to measure social progress. Further, it is not only important to recognize the experience of the African American community of being isolated and structurally discriminated against, but to acknowledge the history and experience of challenging discriminatory practices that gave rise to the civil rights movement and influenced other movements such as the women’s movement and the Latino movement.

While we aren’t suggesting that the civil rights movement or the past experiences of African Americans can merely be transposed into the present initiative, neither would we suggest that it can be ignored. Therefore our approach, while grounded in the African American experience will create space for other voices and experiences. As Guinier and Torres explain, a properly conceived movement with an anchor in the Black situation is not simply about African Americans, but about the entire society.

Within this framework, and building upon the May 2003 conference, the participants of the February 6th convening at the Kirwan Institute set out to continue the conversation. This report provides a synopsis of the meeting discussions – particularly those focused on voice/language, leadership and inclusion – and highlights current opportunities for advancing the initiative’s goals.
African Americans and Smart Growth Roundtable

During the February 6th African Americans and Smart Growth Roundtable, the group agreed that, for the purposes of promoting smart growth, addressing the co-dependent issues of language, voice, inclusion and leadership was imperative. In comments concerning language, the subtopic of “framing” emerged; and in regard to voice, the subtopic of “spreading the word” surfaced. Concerning leadership, the group accented the importance of advancing African American voices by engaging current – and developing new – African-American leaders, mobilizing elected officials, and gathering academics together around issues of smart growth. And concerning inclusion, the group outlined the imperatives for African Americans to address the needs of Blacks in all regions of the country, to examine interracial and class issues, and to provide long and short-term solutions for “people who are hurting.”

Finally, the group raised the notion of conceptual rigor early in the day, with participants returning to the term several times during the discussion. Conceptual rigor may be characterized by clarity of objectives, discipline, and logical reasoning based on quantitative and qualitative data. It was suggested at the meeting that without conceptual rigor it will be difficult for other potential actors in the movement to understand what it is they’re being asked to do, what they are acting upon, and why they should be interested given competing demands on their time and resources. Thus, in an attempt to bring greater coherence and conceptual rigor to this initiative, we raise questions throughout this report that, given further discussion, may strengthen this particular quality of the initiative. The questions may then be addressed at future meetings.

Language

Language allocates power through politics, defines and determines it, decides its efficacy.
— Talking Power: The Politics of Language

Framing Language - Framing, a form of meaning making and meaning managing, is a subtopic of the topic of language that emerged during the February 6th meeting. According to authors Gail T. Fairhurst and Robert A. Sarr, the three key components of framing are language, internal framing, or defining purpose and goals internally before framing for others, and finally forethought, which is being able to speak spontaneously within a frame based on experience. Framing approaches discussed at the convening include,

+ Ensuring that our language is clear, concise and will lead others to participate fully in the fair growth/smart growth discussion.

  ▪ Defining “fairness,” and the concept of “smartness”
  ▪ Ensuring that our language is race-based and not race-neutral
    o Discussing smart growth policies in race-based terms

+ Ensuring that our language is relevant, pertinent and of interest to all socioeconomic groups by framing language around issues, such as

  ▪ Livability
  ▪ Health
  ▪ Wealth-building
  ▪ Opportunity-based housing
    o Ensuring that our language is relevant to the faith-based community
    o Ensuring that our language is relevant to all cultures
† Ensuring that our language is backed by data and analysis
† Using language to highlight, make the issue vibrant and imperative

Central to the discussion was the need to create understanding of smart growth so that it becomes imperative to an intended audience. As Professor John Powell commented, “Interest itself is a function of understanding.” 17 In a Letter from a Birmingham Jail, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s words reach into the future, admonishing us today to ensure that the intended audience understands set goals, “Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will.” 18

How do we create understanding? Fairhurst and Sarr state, “Effective framers make sure that the question, ‘How does this apply to me,’ does not go unanswered.”19 Equally important, “Effective framers know the perspective of their audience and take seriously the question, ‘For whom am I managing meaning?’ This is not just asking, “What’s the situation, but ‘What’s their situation’?”20

Voice

Spread the Word - Understanding is the basis for action. “Through mutual understanding, collective behavior is made possible…” The group found it vital to use voice to spread the word – or inform – as well as to build power via multiracial coalition-forming. In regard to developing alliances, Professor Powell declared, “The question is not, ‘How do we get her on our agenda,’ but, ‘Do we know her agenda?’ Part of it as we think about these different associates is to think about what they are doing and to link up to what they’re doing.” Similarly, Hattie Dorsey of the Atlanta Neighborhood Development Partnership, Inc. stated, “You have to use their strategies whoever ‘they’ are. Look at how the far right started to get their message out to the church and we need to do the same thing….We have to be messengers ourselves.”21

Approaches suggested for spreading the word to inform and develop multicultural alliances include,
† Preparing communities before it [smart growth planning/development] happens
† Infusing our agenda into those of others and vice versa
† Getting to speak at “regional” tables to make sure our issues are known
† Moving beyond writing a book and expecting people to read it, to personally becoming messengers
† African American Forum on Race & Regionalism, some roles of this group could be ,
  † Informing the work of institutions
  † Lifting up work that you are doing
  † Utilizing the “voice of experience”

“To truly consider the other’s perspective requires us to have a high level of flexibility and to take the initiative.” 22
Inclusion

*Intraracial* - Developing inclusive multiracial coalitions was addressed as well as developing intraracial coalitions amongst members of the African American community. Comments on intraracial inclusion were,

† African Americans need to address intraracial class issues

  ▪ There is a need to develop strategies to draw African-Americans from every socioeconomic group into the fair growth/smart growth discussion
  
  ▪ There is a need to recognize that African Americans in cities who are being displaced by whites reentering the city is a concern of all African Americans
  
  ▪ Smart growth will have differential effect on African Americans in regions around the country. As a result there is a need to develop regional strategies to promote Fair Growth.
  
  ▪ Address the needs of hurting people/ long-term, short-term solutions, strategies

**Leadership**

*Internal and External* - Participants noted the importance of internal leadership within the African American community, and external leadership, or connectors, who can work outside of the African American community to help deconstruct the past harms of smart growth while ensuring that future policies will contribute to the betterment of all members of a metropolitan area. The group identified the importance of engaging the following leaders: The African American Forum on Race & Regionalism, informed people on the ground, African American political leaders, the Clergy, lay leadership and congregations, and emerging leaders of color.

The leadership discussion was quite intricate and included the following components,

† Mobilizing elected officials (political leadership)

† Advancing African American leadership: Leading ourselves and others
  
   ▪ Create our own movement

† Leadership that can be at the forefront instead of playing catch up

† Engaging current African American leadership
  
   ▪ Clergy
  
   ▪ African American Professional Associations
  
   ▪ Fraternities/Sororities
  
   ▪ Sports celebrities

† Developing new African American Leadership
  
   ▪ Lay leadership
  
   ▪ “Young” People
  
   ▪ Build a new generation of metropolitan regional leaders to repair damage to African American communities.
  
   ▪ Create a leadership development/professional development experience out of Kirwan and IRP that will cultivate leadership on regionalism issues, specifically regionalism and race

   ▪ Crystallizing current leaders in academia/research
Ideas for Action

As noted previously in this report, one of the tensions that exists in engaging in the smart growth/regionalism movement relates to balancing the need to immediately act upon current problems, while maintaining a long-term vision. To address this tension, participants identified a number of immediate, intermediate, and long-term opportunities. It should be noted that throughout the meeting, participants emphasized the importance of incorporating research, education, and organizing as important elements of any strategy undertaken.

Immediate and Intermediate Opportunities:

† *Enumerating Fair and Equitable Growth Principles* – It was suggested that the group articulate 3-5 principles of fairness and equity that should be embedded into the larger set of generally accepted smart growth principles. The African American Forum on Race and Regionalism has agreed to take on this task. Upon agreeing on those principles, the group will identify strategies for getting them into the larger set.

† *Providing Resources to Support the Challenge to Richland County, SC’s Town and Country Plan* – Maya Wiley of the Center for Social Inclusion and South Carolina Representative Joseph Neal gave a presentation highlighting a case they are working on in Richland County, South Carolina. Richland County, South Carolina is a large (748 acre) area, nearly half of which is rural, with the remaining area being comprised of the city of Columbia and suburban areas. Richland County has experienced rapid population growth in the last 30 years prompting the county to develop a land use plan named the “Town and Country Plan.” While not explicitly labeled smart growth, the plan nonetheless articulates smart growth *principles*. The written preamble to the plan articulates the County administrators’ conscious effort to avoid discussion of race and ethnicity, and as a result, planners have failed to assess any potential negative impact on African American residents, particularly the economic development impacts.

Under the plan the County has designated three village types. “Upscale villages,” which are less likely to have many African American residents; “employment villages,” with shops and stores, and again, it is unclear whether African Americans, particularly poor African Americans, will have meaningful access to opportunities such villages offer; and “non-employment villages,” which may well be government sanctioned ghettos in portions of the County where high numbers of African Americans live.

Rural communities of color have only few assets, the most important of which is land. The Town and Country Plan may function to strip people of the most meaningful wealth accumulation asset they have while providing little in the way of new strategies or opportunities for wealth accumulation to replace it. It mandates parcel sizes, which in some cases may deny current African American landowners the ability to subdivide lots for family uses, reduces their ability to use land as collateral for credit, and prevents the appropriate economic development, access to jobs and transportation infrastructure.

Director Wiley and Representative Neal are coordinating efforts to document potential negative effects of implementing this plan, for the purpose of raising awareness and altering the plan in such a way as to elevate fairness and equity.

Addressing smart growth in Richland County is another immediate action that the group expressed interest in elevating to a level of national attention. It was suggested that in addition to making an immediate impact, this case could be used educationally in the intermediate- and long-term as a prototype to demonstrate to other African American groups and leaders how to impact fair and equitable development from an African American perspective.
† Define an Approach and Appropriate Balancing Remedy in Current Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Lawsuits in New Jersey — At the heart of a battle for the future of American race, housing and urban policy lies an important lawsuit filed in 2003 in the New Jersey state court. On its face, this case seeks to interpret critical portions of the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 (Title VIII). Its resolution will determine the reach and meaning of this important statute. Perhaps more importantly, this case highlights critical differences in approaches to urban policy and individual opportunity between civil rights advocates and many practitioners of local community development.24

† The Detroit Branch of the NAACP and Transportation Investments —

Heaster Wheeler, executive director of the Detroit Branch of the NAACP, outlined the Detroit Branch of the NAACP’s focus on regional transportation investments. Executive Director Wheeler also serves on the Michigan Land Use Leadership Council, and is exerting influence to garner commitment to expanding public transit from the core urban area to the outlying employment epicenters.

Currently, in the Detroit region, significant transportation dollars are going to the outer suburbs where whites are accruing the greatest benefit. Additionally, the most active job centers are located in the outer suburbs. There has been very little commitment to expanding public transit to these employment epicenters.

Detroit is one of the most segregated regions in the country. The skewed geography of highway investments and job gains deepens the social and economic gulf by enhancing the opportunities available to those residents living in the outer suburbs of the region at the expense of the inner parts of the region where a vast majority of minority residents live. An examination of highway investments shows that the majority of the recent highway projects in the region were in Oakland County, serving its predominantly white outer suburbs. In contrast, highway improvements in the core of the region, where minority residents live, were limited to a few smaller-scale projects. The decentralization of jobs and residences encouraged by this pattern of highway investments especially hurts the region’s minority residents. Most of the job gains in the region occurred in places far away from where most of the minority residents live. Meanwhile, the city of Detroit and the inner suburbs to the city’s north and southwest either lost jobs or lagged behind the regional average. This pattern of transportation investment is replicated in other parts of the country as well.

† MOSES’ Lawsuit against the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), the Region’s Legally Authorized Planning Commission —

MOSES (Ponsella Hardaway, executive director), along with the City of Ferndale, has challenged SEMCOG, asserting that it is aware of the racial patterns of southeast Michigan and has taken no action to alleviate the disparate pattern of housing, transportation and jobs in the region.

‡ Ponsella Hardaway

MOSES, a coalition of 65 congregations, is developing key equity principles such as fair shared governance, a planning-driven rather than fiscal-driven process, and transparency of disposition to be included in the Detroit Land Bank Authority. MOSES congregations will educate the community on this important resolution and organize to push public officials to adopt these key principles. MOSES’ first goal is to get the Detroit City Council and Mayor Kilpatrick to agree on these principles.
The organization’s second goal is to get the Detroit City Council and Mayor Kilpatrick to provide public support of a Detroit land bank that includes the principles identified by the MOSES congregations, allies and the community. “When Detroit ceases to function out of a position of political paranoia and embraces cooperation with clear understanding of self interest, we can become a world-class city.”

MOSES’ Land Bank Initiative – Detroit faces many challenges in becoming a world-class city. However, standing between Detroit and World Class City status is 40,000 parcels of vacant land. State Land Bank legislation presented in 2002 was fought by the Detroit City Council and other local Detroiters, because it was seen as another effort to take over a precious resource from Detroit. That legislation was shelved, briefly. Beginning January 2004, Governor Jennifer Granholm passed the Land Bank Fast Track Legislation for the State of Michigan. This legislation would give Detroit the freedom to develop a land bank to their satisfaction. Detroit has opportunity to create a land bank that would turn dirt into viable and inviting communities and neighborhoods.

Slow Moving Trains – There are numerous opportunities on the landscape that participants termed “slow-moving trains.” This refers to those opportunities where policy is either currently being formulated, or will inevitably be formulated, and where the group could exert considerable influence. This would involve determining where we are in the process (the beginning or the middle), determining what “end” we would like to see, understanding what resources and capacity are required to achieve that end, and finally, taking action to get there. An example of a “slow-moving train” was highlighted by George Knox in reference to the Overtown section of Miami.

George Knox, Senior Principal of the Knox Firm, drew the group’s attention to the Overtown section of Miami and referred to the area connecting upper and lower Overtown as the “absolute epicenter of opportunity.”

Overtown is described as “one of Miami’s oldest neighborhoods,” and as a “center of American Black culture and commercial activity.”

Suburban sprawl has resulted in a declining population, and limited employment opportunities. The natural boundaries present in Florida are preventing further sprawl however, and it is reasonable to expect that developers will soon cast their collective gaze on Overtown as having significant potential for redevelopment, and thus commercial and residential growth, given appropriate public and private investment.

It is also reasonable to expect that without intervention, the current African American residents in the Overtown section will be gentrified out of the neighborhood and away from opportunity.

Knox suggested that the current situation suggests a number of opportunities for the group, including a unique possibility to develop what he termed an “opportunity fund” that would allow wealthy African Americans to invest in the African American community and maintain historically Black locations. He ended his presentation with the reminder that “the African American community can be trusted to manage themselves and their interests.”
Long-term Possibilities Raised on February 6, and Discussed in May, 2003:

During both convenings, participants identified several strategies for advancing and transforming the discourse on smart growth and regional equity to elevate the values, perspectives, and experiences of the African American community – as articulated by the community.

Possible strategies include:

† Continuing to hold strategic meetings
† Developing conceptual rigor through existing and new research
† Writing and publishing a book
† Launching an ongoing targeted public education campaign involving
  ▪ Media
  ▪ Legislatures
  ▪ Communities
    ▪ Faith-based community
    ▪ Advocacy community
    ▪ Youth
† Identifying and pursuing legal strategies
† Continuing Advocacy
† Grass-roots organizing
  ▪ Developing an “Opportunity Fund” 28
Conclusion and Next Steps

The African Americans and Smart Growth Roundtable advanced a number of key ideas important to process, such as crystallizing the need for and further defining what we mean by language, voice, inclusion, and leadership. It also advanced some grounded consideration for how to proceed both in the short, intermediate and long term, and on an on-going basis. The summary presented in this report provides a new layer upon which to build.

In looking forward, the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, and the Institute on Race & Poverty are planning a conference to be held in early 2005 in Minneapolis. The conference will serve to tie together many of the strands that emerged in the February meeting – a place for African American scholars, policymakers and activists to collectivize their experiences around smart growth and regionalism, an opportunity to further develop conceptual rigor, and an opportunity to further develop informed leaders.

Many challenges lie ahead. Professor powell reminded the group that, "Things can change. Things will change. What we do matters."29
**End Notes**

1. Deoohn Ferris, Global Environmental Resources; consultant to the Ford Foundation

2. Professor John A. Powell, February 6th African Americans and Smart Growth Roundtable, hosted by the Institute on Race and Poverty and the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity at the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, The Ohio State University.


13. Discussants agreed that across all Smart Growth/regionalism dialogue, the concept of *fairness* needs to be lifted up and held in parity with the concept of *smartness*. Bob Bullard suggested that it may not be enough to “tinker” with the Smart Growth movement, we may be required to develop a parallel movement.

14. February 6th African Americans and Smart Growth Roundtable


End Notes

17. Professor John A. Powell, Executive Director of Kirwan Institute. February 6th African Americans and Smart Growth Roundtable

18. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. *Letter from a Birmingham Jail.* Jan 16, 1963


23. Heaster Wheeler, Executive Director of the Detroit branch of the NAACP. February 6 African Americans and Smart Growth Roundtable.

24. *In re Adoption of the 2002 Low Income Housing Tax Credit Qualified Allocation Plan,* NJAC 5:80-33.1— to 33.40 by the New Jersey Housing and Finance Agency.

25. Ponsella Hardaway, Director of MOSES


27. George Knox, Senior Principal of The Knox Firm. February 6th African Americans and Smart Growth Roundtable

28. Keying off George Knox’s presentation, participants discussed the disconnect between wealthy African Americans wanting to invest in the African American community, and the knowledge of how to go about doing so. Given the establishment of an opportunity fund, education and outreach would assist potential contributors in appropriately targeting their funds.

29. John A. Powell, Executive Director of the Kirwan Institute. February 6th African Americans and Smart Growth Roundtable
African Americans and Smart Growth Roundtable Participants

john powell, Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race & Ethnicity, OH

Carl Anthony, Ford Foundation, Department of Conservation Resource Unit, NY

von Nkosi, Atlanta Neighborhood Development Partnership, GA

Hattie Dorsey, Atlanta Neighborhood Development Partnership, GA

George Knox, The Knox Firm, FL

Myron Orfield, Institute on Race & Poverty, MN

Ponsella Hardaway, MOSES, MI

Heaster Wheeler, Detroit Branch of the NAACP, MI

Rev. Joe Neal, South Carolina State Legislator, SC

Bob Bullard, Environmental Justice Resource Center Clark Atlanta University, GA

Deeohn Ferris, Global Enviromental Resources Inc., DC

Rev. Cheryl Rivera, Gamaliel, IN

Mellody Parchia, Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race & Ethnicity, OH

Julie Nielson, Institute on Race and Poverty, MN

Joe Brooks, PolicyLink, CA

Roland Anglin, New Jersey Public Policy Research Institute, NJ

Hasan Jeffries, Ohio State University, OH

Maya Wiley, Center for Social Inclusion, NY

Roger Clay, National Economic Development and Law Center, CA

† Participants are listed in order of introduction at the February 6th African Americans and Smart Growth Roundtable

This joint summary was prepared by Julie Nielsen, Institute on Race & Poverty and Mellody Parchia, Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity. Layout and design were provided by Mellody Parchia. The authors wish to thank The Ford Foundation for providing funding for the February 6, 2004 African Americans and Smart Growth Roundtable, as well as the May 22-23, 2003 Growing Together: Achieving Racial Justice and Sustainable Growth Through Regional Planning conference, and the African American Forum on Race and Regionalism for it’s visionary leadership. They would also like to acknowledge the contributions made to this summary by: Carl Anthony, Deeohn Ferris, Ponsella Hardaway, Marguerite Spencer and Maya Wiley.
Works Cited at the African Americans and Smart Growth Roundtable

Articles


Books


Documentaries