



YOUTH ECONOMIC MOBILITY, EQUITY & JUSTICE

4:00 pm **Registration and Networking**

4:30 pm **Welcome & Opening Remarks**

- LaVeeda Morgan Battle Esq., Owner, Battle Law Firm & CLASP Board Chair.
- David Dodson, President, MDC Inc. & CLASP Board Member.
- Audra Cunningham, Senior Regional Leasing Director, Physicians Realty Trust.

Intergenerational Conversation on Youth Economic Mobility, Equity, and Justice

- **Remarks and Introductions:** Lesley Grady, Senior Vice President, Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta.
- Congresswoman Lucy McBath, Georgia's Sixth District.
- Ian Bridgeforth, Founder and Executive Director, Georgia Shift.
- **Moderator:** Kisha Bird, Director of Youth Policy, CLASP.

Partnerships: Young People at the Center

- Katrina D. Mitchell, M.Ed., Executive Director, Child Well-Being Movement, United Way of Greater Atlanta.
- Daniel Rosebud, Atlanta Community Action Team Representative, Opportunity Youth United.

Closing Remarks: CLASP at 50 and Beyond

- Olivia Golden, Executive Director, CLASP.

5:30 pm **Networking Reception**

CO-HOSTS



Audra L. Cunningham
Senior Regional Leasing Director
Physicians Realty Trust

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LaVeeda Morgan Battle, Owner, Battle Law Firm | @laveedab

Laveeda Morgan Battle has practiced law in Alabama for over 40 years. She was one of the first administrative judges with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Birmingham District Office, rendering decisions on federal sector employment discrimination cases in Alabama, Mississippi, and northwest Florida. She has been lead counsel on labor and employment cases for over 30 years.

Active in the American Bar Association (ABA), she was the Eleventh Circuit representative to the ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary, including the Senate confirmation of United States Supreme Court Chief Justice John G. Roberts.

In addition to her practice, Ms. Battle served on President Barack Obama's transition team focused on the Legal Services Corporation (LSC). She was appointed by President Bill Clinton to the LSC Board of Directors and served on the board for 10 years.

Ms. Battle is a former managing attorney of the Bessemer branch office of LSC's former grantee Birmingham Area Legal Services. She managed a caseload and supervised attorneys handling civil legal matters for individuals and families living in poverty in Alabama.

Today, she is a member of the board of directors of the statewide LSC grantee Legal Services of Alabama as well as the Babcock Foundation. She is also chair of the Center for Law and Social Policy's (CLASP) board of directors.

Kisha Bird, Director of Youth Policy, CLASP | @KishaKBird

Kisha Bird is CLASP's director of youth policy. The youth policy team seeks to advance equitable youth policy investments as well as build a vision with young people that leads to safety, wellbeing, and economic and racial justice.

Ms. Bird's team focuses on policy strategies and investments that support work, education, health, and mental health to dismantle structural barriers blocking youth with low incomes and youth of color from opportunity. She is an expert on federal youth policy and helps ensure national legislation has maximum impact for youth of color and opportunity youth in local communities.

Before CLASP, Ms. Bird was director of the Pennsylvania Statewide Afterschool/Youth Development Network, working to make quality education and afterschool programs accessible to young people. Prior to that, she was a program officer at the Philadelphia Foundation, where she helped develop and manage the Fund for Children, Youth Advisory Board, and discretionary grants process. She also has direct service experience, working in various community settings with children, youth, and families.

Ms. Bird holds a master of social service and master of law and social policy from Bryn Mawr College Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research. Additionally, she earned a bachelor's in sociology from Spelman College. She serves on the board of the National Youth Employment Coalition and is an active member of the social justice ministry at Shiloh Baptist Church in Washington, D.C.

Ian Bridgeforth, Founder and Executive Director, Georgia Shift **@IanBridgeforth**

Raised in Augusta, Georgia, Ian Bridgeforth's interest in politics was sparked at Georgia College & State University during an internship with former Congressman John Barrow. After graduating with a degree in mass communication with concentrations in broadcast & electronic media and public relations, he went on to work at the award-winning Cookerly PR in Atlanta, Georgia.

Prior to trying his hand at entrepreneurship, Mr. Bridgeforth worked in the nonprofit industry and in local politics in New York City. He was inspired to create Georgia Shift when he moved back to Georgia and saw a significant disconnect between political campaigns/organizations and young voters. Mr. Bridgeforth saw a need to empower young people to make change in the state.

Through Georgia Shift, his goal is to give young people across the state a platform and voice for their issues. Mr. Bridgeforth strives to show them that they don't have to wait on anyone or get permission to become active in their communities.

Mr. Bridgeforth is a 2015 alumnus of the New Leaders Council (Augusta Chapter) and is currently pursuing his M.A. in design management from the Savannah College of Art & Design.

David Dodson, President, MDC Inc.

Since joining MDC in 1987, David Dodson has directed major projects to increase postsecondary student attainment, address stalled economic mobility, sharpen philanthropy as a tool for addressing structural inequity, and build multiracial leadership across the South and the nation. He frequently speaks around the country on creating equity and opportunity for low-wealth communities and has advised major philanthropic foundations on strategies to address poverty and reduce disparities.

His recent work includes: creating the Southern Network for Economic Mobility to develop pathways to credentials and living-wage employment for Southern youth and young adults; helping create and incubate "Made in Durham," a public-private partnership focused on creating education-to-career pathways for all Durham youth; and guiding MDC's "Passing Gear Philanthropy" research and practice to focus philanthropic investments on the upstream causes of social disparities.

Mr. Dodson is a graduate of Yale University, where he received a B.A. in architecture and urban policy and master's degrees in divinity and public-private management. He is coauthor of numerous MDC publications, including "Philanthropy as the South's Passing Gear: Fulfilling the Promise" in 2017 and "State of the South: Building an Infrastructure of Opportunity for the Next Generation" in 2014. Mr. Dodson is on the boards of the Public Welfare Foundation, CLASP, and Dwight Hall, the student-led Center for Public Service and Social Justice at Yale.

Prior to joining MDC, he served as executive director of the Cummins Engine Foundation and director of corporate responsibility for Cummins Engine Company in Columbus, Indiana.

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Olivia Golden, Executive Director, CLASP | @CLASPOlivia

Olivia Golden, former assistant secretary for children and families at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, became the executive director of CLASP in 2013. Founded in 1968, CLASP is a nonpartisan, anti-poverty organization that advocates for practical and bold policy solutions for people with low incomes—including solutions to tear down systemic barriers affecting people of color and immigrants—at the national, state, and local levels.

Ms. Golden is regularly invited by Congressional leaders to testify on the importance of the safety net and economic security for children, families, and individuals. She appears frequently in the media to discuss and explore key policy issues, including repeated appearances on C-SPAN's *Washington Journal* and NPR's *The Diane Rehm Show*. Her byline has appeared in leading publications like *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *The Hill*, and *USA Today*.

She holds a doctorate and a master's degree in public policy from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard, where she also earned a B.A. in philosophy and government.

Lesley Grady, Senior Vice President, Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta | @Lesley_TheEdge

Lesley Grady oversees the community impact work of the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, including grantmaking, scholarships, and multiple community initiatives, connecting this work with foundation donors and their passions.

Ms. Grady has 25 years' experience creating strategic partnerships to stimulate community and economic growth. Immediately prior to joining the Foundation, she worked as an independent contractor providing strategic planning, training, and community programming for corporations, nonprofits, and governmental entities.

Congresswoman Lucy McBath, Georgia's Sixth District **@RepLucyMcBath**

Congresswoman Lucy McBath is a mother, wife, author, and activist. But the most important title she will ever hold is Jordan's Mom. McBath spent 30 years working for Delta Airlines as a flight attendant until the death of her 17-year-old son, Jordan Davis, in 2012. Jordan was shot and killed in what became known as the "Loud Music Shooting." After his death, Rep. McBath turned to activism. She has dedicated her life to preventing other families from experiencing the same tragedy that she did.

Rep. McBath held dual roles as the national spokesperson and faith and outreach leader for both Everytown for Gun Safety and Moms Demand Action. After years of advocating to local, state, and federal legislators, the Congresswoman decided to run for office herself. She chose to run for the Georgia State House in 2017. But after the Parkland shooting, she knew she had to step up and run for Congress.

In addition to her experiences with gun violence, Rep. McBath was inspired to run for Congress because she is a two-time breast cancer survivor. She knows the importance of covering people with preexisting conditions and increasing access to quality, affordable health care. The Congresswoman proudly represents Georgia's Sixth Congressional District.

Katrina Mitchell, Executive Director, Child Well-Being Movement, United Way of Greater Atlanta

Katrina Mitchell is executive director of the Child Well-Being Movement at United Way of Greater Atlanta. Ms. Mitchell is an experienced, respected leader with more than 15 years' experience working nationally and regionally. She has worked in the nonprofit, philanthropic, and public sectors, including serving as a program officer at Andrus Family Fund (AFF) and as deputy officer of strategic partnerships at the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services (GADFCS).

At GADFCS, she developed partnerships between philanthropy and government. At AFF, she was responsible for cultivating national grantmaking opportunities for vulnerable youth based on research, emerging issues, policy interventions, and innovations.

Prior to joining AFF, Ms. Mitchell served as interim vice president of education at United Way of Greater Atlanta, focusing on developing and implementing local and regional strategies to improve outcomes for children and youth and their families. She also provided leadership oversight for United Way's funding allocations to agencies and community partners serving children and youth in Metropolitan Atlanta.

Ms. Mitchell has dedicated her life to supporting children and their families. Prior to assuming her role at United Way, she worked for Literacy, Inc. (LINC) and the National Urban League. She also served as an advisory member of the Children's Defense Fund's Freedom School Curriculum Committee for more than 10 years. She continues to volunteer her time and currently serves as a board member for the Westside Atlanta Charter School, the Wellesley College Alumnae of African Descent (WAAD), and United Way of Greater Atlanta's Community Engagement Council.

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Ms. Mitchell is the recipient of the Association for Black Foundation Executives Connecting Leaders Fellowship and Annie E. Casey Foundation's Atlanta Results Based Leadership Program. After receiving a B.A. in English from Wellesley College, Ms. Mitchell earned a master's of education from the Harvard University Graduate School of Education.

Daniel Rosebud, Atlanta Community Action Team Representative, Opportunity Youth United

Daniel Rosebud is an active member of United Way of Greater Atlanta's Youth Advisory Council, which is also a Community Action Team for Opportunity Youth United. Additionally, he operates Project Moguls, LLC, a strategic management firm.

Mr. Rosebud graduated from Alonzo A. Crim High School. He completed a dual enrollment program with Atlanta Metropolitan State University and Year Up Atlanta, where he earned a diploma in business communication and computer software. He continued working in the field of operations and sales until he discovered his passion for project management.

He is passionate about helping nonprofits that offer support and training to disadvantaged populations, particularly youth of color. Mr. Rosebud's ultimate goal is to create sustainable change for young adults in Metropolitan Atlanta.

Audra Cunningham, Senior Regional Leasing Director, Physicians Realty Trust | @AudraCunningham

Ms. Cunningham is a senior real estate executive with extensive experience representing corporate, nonprofit, law firm, and health care clients in complex lease negotiations. In her capacity as a senior regional leasing director for Physicians Realty Trust, she is responsible for leasing over 4 million square feet of medical office space in the southeast. She is highly skilled in corporate governance and management, portfolio management, financial analysis, and real estate transactional management.

The adroit management and leadership skill that Ms. Cunningham leverages on behalf of clients were honed during a successful 23-year senior management career with America's leading telecommunications firms. This endows her with a unique perspective and approach to real estate transactions.

Ms. Cunningham has a passion for nonprofits, especially those that support disadvantaged people and people of color. She teaches nonprofits to leverage their real estate to help further their mission.

She is on the board of CoreNet, a commercial real estate association, and is co-chair of the Diversity in Action Committee. She is also a supporter of Habitat for Humanity and recently participated in their global build in the Dominican Republic. Ms. Cunningham is a co-founder of NEW CRE, a group of women of color in commercial real estate. She has built a legacy in commercial real estate recruiting people of color into the business.

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- Kimberly Pham and Shanice Turner | Opportunity Youth United.
- Curtis Carmichael | National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).
- Carolina Mincey | MOI Celebrations.

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Lastly, we would like to acknowledge CLASP staff for the planning, design, and execution of this 50th anniversary event: Beth Barefoot, Andy Beres, Kisha Bird, Mary Faxon, Marlén Mendoza, Duy Pham, Tom Salyers, Barbara Semedo, and Cormekki Whitley.