

Conditions in Harlem Revisited

From the 1936 Mayor's
Commission Report to Today

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

8:30 Coffee

9:15 Welcome and Acknowledgements

9:30–10:30 Plenary Panel

10:45–11:45 Employment Economic Development

LUNCH

12:30–1:30 Housing and Land Use

1:45–2:45 Education and Recreation

3:00–4:00 Healthcare and Environment

4:15–5:15 Justice/Public Safety

5:30–6:30 Conclusions and Recommendations

6:30 Reception



<https://harlemconditions.cityofnewyork.us>



NYC Department of Records
& Information Services

McSILVER INSTITUTE
FOR POVERTY, POLICY AND RESEARCH
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

Schomburg Center
for Research
in Black Culture
The New York Public Library

NYC
Speaks

VITAL CITY

CONFERENCE PANELS

9:15 Welcome and Acknowledgements

Rosemonde Pierre-Louis, Executive Director of the NYU McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy and Research

Rosemonde Pierre-Louis is a highly recognized public sector leader, known for driving social and economic change. She is Executive Director of the NYU McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy and Research, which is committed to disrupting generational poverty through research, policy and action. From 2014–2016, she served as the Senior Adviser to the NYC Commission on Gender Equity (CGE) and prior to that served as Commissioner of the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence. In 2006, Ms. Pierre-Louis became the first Haitian-American in New York City's history to serve as Manhattan Deputy Borough President and served in this capacity until 2013. Prior to entering government Ms. Pierre-Louis practiced law for 17 years and served in leadership positions within legal services organizations representing survivors of intimate partner violence. In April 2022, she was appointed by New York's Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) to a blue ribbon "Fareness" panel to address solutions to reduce fare evasion.

9:30 – 10:30 Plenary Panel

Cheryl Greenberg, Paul E. Raether Distinguished Professor of History, Trinity College

Cheryl Greenberg is the Paul E. Raether Distinguished Professor of History at Trinity College in Hartford, CT. She teaches and writes on twentieth century African American political activism, race relations, the Civil Rights Movement and civil liberties. Her first book, "Or Does It Explode?" Black Harlem in the Great Depression, relied heavily on materials from both the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture and the Mayor's Commission on Conditions in Harlem, she is delighted to be part of this conference.

William M. Rodgers III, Vice President and Director of the Institute for Economic Equity, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

William M. Rodgers III is vice president and director of the Institute for Economic Equity at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. Before joining the Fed, Rodgers served as professor of public policy and chief economist at the Heldrich Center for Workforce Development at Rutgers University. His areas of expertise include compensation, pay equity, diversity and inclusion, labor market and general economic trends.

Dr. Shango A. Blake, Co-Executive Director, NYC Speaks

Dr. Blake — nationally known as the Hip Hop Principal and president of Black Edfluencers-United (BE-U) is a sought-after speaker about issues in urban education and community development. As a Principal of a local public school, Dr. Blake saw a profound need to institute drastic and creative changes to his school's failing health. He initiated a bold and daring self-created project to integrate a conceptualized hip-hop based educational program. As a result of his efforts, his school went from one of the lowest-performing schools in the district to #1 in reading and math. Dr. Blake also served as Chair of the Education and Youth Committee of the Million Man March Coordinating Council of Queens. He has spent over 25 years working to empower communities through social action. Currently, he is the host of a popular educational podcast titled "The Classroom Hip Hop 101 with Dr. Blizzy." Dr. Blake has been featured on The Oprah Winfrey Show, People Magazine, 98.7 Kiss FM, The Joey Reynolds Show, WABC Channel 7 News, and WCBS Channel 2 News for his work.

Moderator/Presenter

Pauline Toole, Commissioner, NYC DORIS

Pauline Toole serves as the Commissioner of the New York City Department of Records and Information Services (DORIS), the agency responsible for preserving, protecting and making publicly available City government's historical and current materials. Toole spent more than 30 years building accessible and effective government organizations in New York City and State. This includes establishing conversation groups for English Language Learners, launching the City's first Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Coalition and coordinating the start-up of the New York Capital Defender Office that provided defense attorneys in death penalty cases.

10:30–11:45 Employment Economic Development

Kim Phillips-Fein, the Robert Gardiner-Kenneth T. Jackson Professor of History, Columbia University

Kim Phillips-Fein is the Robert Gardiner-Kenneth T. Jackson Professor of History at Columbia University. She is the author of *Fear City: New York's Fiscal Crisis and the Rise of Austerity Politics* (Metropolitan Books: 2017), a finalist for the 2018 Pulitzer Prize in History, and has written widely about the history of New York as well as about 20th century American political history.

Regina L. Smith, Deputy Director of Special Projects, Harlem Business Alliance

A lifelong Harlem resident, Regina Lynn Smith has always been deeply committed to Black economic empowerment having been raised in a politically active household. Over the years she has served as a member of the Consortium on African American Education, the African American Leadership Summit and the Coalition for Excellence in Black Education and on the boards of Community School District Five, Operation Open City, the Harlem Red Cross, the Harlem Education Roundtable and WE ACT for Environmental Justice. Ms. Smith is currently President of the West 130th Street Homeowners Association and an advisory member of the Greater Harlem Coalition and Hit The Books. She gained private, public and non-profit sector experience at Union Carbide, Revlon, the NYC Housing Partnership, Harlem Commonwealth Council and the Harlem Business Alliance.

Curtis L. Archer, President, Harlem Community Development Corporation

Since January 2006, Curtis Archer has served as President of the Harlem Community Development Corporation. He sees his role as essential in enhancing the economic climate for both businesses and residents in the Greater Harlem community. In 1989, Curtis began his career in community development in the New York City Office of Business Development under Mayor David Dinkins, as a Development Manager in the Neighborhood Development and Commercial Revitalization Program. It was there that he got a real taste for a career in public service in the field of community and economic development. Curtis, a native New Yorker, was born in the Morrisania section of the Bronx. His early education included attendance at the prestigious Stuyvesant High School for Math and Science. After graduating from there in '75, he went to Mercy College in Dobbs Ferry, where he played varsity basketball, and graduated with a degree in sociology and criminal justice. He later attended Columbia University as a Ph.D. candidate in Political Science. Curtis has been the recipient of many awards and citations throughout his career.

Arva R. Rice, President & CEO, New York Urban League

Arva Rice is a passionate community leader who has dedicated herself to creating pathways to success for young people with a focus on girls and women. Arva currently serves as President & CEO of the New York Urban League. The New York Urban League is leading the way underserved African Americans are educated, employed and empowered across the 5 boroughs. For the past 100 years we've inspired, influenced, and ignited over 1 million black people to achieve their highest aspirations. Arva is Interim Chair of the Civil Complaint Review Board, a member of the Women's Forum, Greater New York Chapter of The Links Incorporated, and Trustee at First Corinthians Baptist Church. Arva is a 2013–2014 Annie Casey Fellow, a national fellowship for government and nonprofit leaders focused on supporting innovation solutions for children. Arva graduated from the Northwestern University. She currently lives in Harlem.

Moderator/Presenter

Lloyd A. Williams, President & CEO, The Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce

The Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce, now celebrating its 125th anniversary, is the 2nd oldest continuous business/civic organization in Manhattan (originally founded in 1896). The Chamber's motto "The Business of Business is People" is primarily focused is on improving quality of life issues including business/economic development and community revitalization in the Upper Manhattan area with specific emphasis on the needs of the business, education, technology, cultural, tourism, civic and professional sectors.

LUNCH BREAK

CONFERENCE PANELS (Continued)

12:30 — 1:30 Housing and Land Use

Mia White, Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies, The New School

Mia Charlene White is Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies in the Environmental Studies Program at the Schools of Public Engagement, with a co-teaching appointment at the Milano School of Policy, Management, and Environment. She is a faculty-affiliate of the Tishman Environment and Design Center, as well as with the Heilbroner Center for Capitalism Studies. She has a bachelor's degree in Anthropology and Political Science from the State University of NY at Stonybrook, a Master of International Affairs (Environmental Policy) from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA), and a Ph.D in Urban Studies and Planning (Housing and Environment) from MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology). Given the diversity of her training, Mia's work is interdisciplinary and she situates herself among radical geographers (race geography) and applied anthropologists, planning/urban theorists (fugitive planning), radical sociologists/historians and those others seeking to link social science concepts of space and race, to the humanities via art and protest.

Wallace L. Ford II, Professor of Public Administration, Medgar Evers College

For the past two decades, in addition to teaching in the Department of Public Administration at Medgar Evers College in the City University of New York, Professor Ford has taught Masters of Public Administration and Masters of Business Administration candidates at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs, Metropolitan College of New York's School of Public Affairs, Pace University, John Jay College and La Universidad Externado (Colombia). Professor Ford was born in Harlem and educated in Japan, Puerto Rico and the United States. He is a graduate of Dartmouth College where he was a Senior Fellow and received his Juris Doctorate from Harvard Law School. He currently resides in Harlem.

Flores A. Forbes, Adjunct Associate Professor Graduate School of Architecture Planning and Preservation, Columbia University in the City of New York

Flores is an urban planner, professor and writer who has practiced urban planning professionally in New York City since graduating from the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, NYU in 1989. He has practiced urban planning as a land use planner with a particular focus on Harlem with the City of New York and for 15 years plied his expertise at Columbia University as part of the team that planned and developed the University's Manhattanville Campus. He also teaches Critical Race Theory as a Lecturer of Law at Columbia Law School.

Sideya Sherman, Commissioner, The Mayor's Office of Equity

Sideya Sherman serves as the Commissioner of the new Mayor's Office of Equity, where she leads the City's effort to advance equity through policy, practice, and programs that serve New Yorkers. Sherman brings nearly two decades of equity-focused community and economic development experience, most recently having served as Executive Director of the City's Taskforce on Racial Inclusion & Equity (TRIE), and Executive Vice President for Community Engagement and Partnerships at the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA). Sherman is a lifelong New Yorker. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Utica College in political science and a Master of Science degree in urban affairs from Hunter College.

Moderator/Presenter

Marco A. Carrión, Chair, Archives Reference and Research Advisory Board, Executive Director, El Puente

Marco A. Carrión serves as Executive Director of El Puente. He previously served as Commissioner of NYC's Community Affairs Unit. He began his career in the Labor Movement, working for the national AFL-CIO, the United Federation of Teachers, before serving as the Political Director of the NYC Central Labor Council. A Bronx native now living in Brooklyn, Marco Carrión is a graduate of Vassar College, and Bronx High School of Science.

1:45-2:45 Education and Recreation

Ansley T. Erickson, PhD, Associate Professor of History and Education Policy, Teachers College, Columbia University

Ansley T. Erickson is a historian of education in U.S. cities. Her research asks how schools are shaped by, and how they can contest, racism and capitalism. Her first book, *Making the Unequal Metropolis: School Desegregation and Its Limits* was published by the University of Chicago Press in 2016 and won the History of Education Society's Outstanding Book Award in 2017. She is co-director of the Harlem Education History Project, and co-editor of *Educating Harlem: A Century of Schooling and Resistance in a Black Community* –

published by Columbia University Press in 2019 and available in an open-access digital edition. Through TC's Center– on History and Education, she works with students and teachers on several projects to link histories of schooling and educational activism in Harlem to local classrooms.

Basil A. Smikle Jr, Ph.D. Distinguished Lecturer and Director of the Public Policy Program, Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute Hunter College–CUNY

Dr. Basil Smikle Jr. is a Distinguished Lecturer and Director of the Public Policy Program at the Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute at Hunter College. With over 15 years in higher education and 25 years of a career dedicated to public service, Basil regularly shares insights on electoral politics, governance, and public policy on national media outlets. Prior to that, he was appointed by former Governor David Paterson to serve as the Executive Director of the New York State Democratic Party where he was the “second highest ranking Democrat” in the State. Basil was a senior aide to Hillary Rodham Clinton on her Senate staff where he advised Senator Clinton on state-wide policy and politics. Mrs. Clinton called Basil a “key advisor and tremendous public servant...who makes sure all voices are heard” A life-long New Yorker and raised in the Bronx by Jamaican immigrants, Basil received his BS from Cornell University and his MPA and PhD from Columbia. Basil is a Trustee of The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and sits on the boards of the NYC Center for Charter Excellence, The Opportunity Charter School in Harlem, The Hebrew Language Academies and The Association to Benefit Children.

John T. Reddick, Curator, and discussion leader for the Harlem Focus series, Smithsonian Institution's Cooper-Hewitt Design Center

John Reddick currently serves as a curator and discussion leader for the Harlem Focus series at the Smithsonian Institution's Cooper-Hewitt Design Center. Reddick has applied his knowledge of Harlem's culture and architecture towards work he has done with the Heritage Health & Housing: Heritage Heights Village Business Improvement, the Apollo Theater and the Harlem One Stop. He has worked on public art & space projects at a number of Harlem-based organizations including Abyssinian Development Corporation, the Ralph Ellison Memorial Committee, Harriet Tubman Square and Frederick Douglass Circle, among others. Reddick also served as President of Cityscape Institute and held leadership positions at the Central Park Conservancy. Reddick received a Bachelor of Science in Architecture from Ohio State University and a Master of Architecture from Yale University.

Moderator/Presenter

Terri N. Watson, PhD-Associate Professor of Educational Leadership-2022- 2024 Provost Fellow Director, The Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, City College of New York

Terri N. Watson is an Associate Professor of Educational Leadership at The City College of New York and a member of the Urban Education faculty at The City University of New York's Graduate Center. Her research examines effective school leadership and is aimed to improve the educational outcomes and life chances of historically excluded and underserved students and families. She employs Critical Race Theory, Black Feminist Theory and Motherwork as methodological frameworks. Her scholarship is featured in several edited books and journals, including *Educational Administration Quarterly*, the *Journal of Cases in Educational Leadership*, the *Journal of Negro Education*, the *Journal of School Leadership*, and *Leadership and Policy in Schools*.

BREAK

3:00 — 4:00 Healthcare and Environment (Health and Hospitalization)

Patti Jacobs, MHS, Treasure, Kennedy Center Advisory Board

Ms. Jacobs earned a master's degree in Human Services from Lincoln University (HBCU) in Pennsylvania (2009). She also completed the Advanced Certificate Program at CUNY/School of Professional Studies, Murphy Institute in Hospital Administration, and Public Policy (2017). Ms. Jacobs has worked for Health +Hospitals /Harlem in Ambulatory Care for the past twenty years. –

CONFERENCE PANELS (Continued)

She retired as Program Coordinator for Diabetes Self-Management Education (DSME). Ms. Jacobs has managed successful programs and clinics for Harlem Hospital Center such as the Infection Disease Clinic, Managed the Ryan White III Grant, HIV Outreach Program, Quit Smoking Day to Day Operation, Ophthalmology, and Chronic Disease/Population Health.

Dr. Mary T. Bassett, Commissioner, New York State Department of Health

Mary T. Bassett, M.D., M.P.H., was appointed Acting Commissioner of Health on December 1, 2021, and confirmed by the New York State Senate on January 20, 2022. She previously served as Director of the François-Xavier Bagnoud (FXB) Center for Health and Human Rights at Harvard University and FXB Professor of the Practice of Health and Human Rights in the department of Social and Behavioral Sciences at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Prior to that, she served as Commissioner of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Director for the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation's African Health Initiative and Child Well-Being Prevention Program; and as Deputy Commissioner of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Early in her career, Dr. Bassett served on the medical faculty at the University of Zimbabwe and went on to serve as Associate Director of Health Equity at the Rockefeller Foundation's Southern Africa Office. After returning to the United States, she served on the faculty of Columbia University, including as Associate Professor of Clinical Epidemiology in the Mailman School of Public Health. Dr. Bassett received a B.A. in History and Science from Harvard University, an M.D. from Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons, and an M.P.H. from the University of Washington.

Eboné M. Carrington, Managing Director, Manatt Health

Eboné Carrington is a managing director with Manatt Health, an interdisciplinary policy and business advisory practice of Manatt. Based in New York, Eboné is a distinguished health and business executive who draws on her extensive leadership experience with complex health care organizations to advise clients on successfully operationalizing groundbreaking care delivery strategies as they continue to evolve in line with the broader industry's transformation.

Moderator

Dr. Torian Easterling, First Deputy Commissioner and Chief Equity Officer at the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYCDOHMH)

Dr. Easterling has spent more than 7 years in a senior leadership role at the Health Department. Prior to serving as First Deputy Commissioner and Chief Equity Officer, Dr. Easterling served as Deputy Commissioner of the Center for Health Equity and Community Wellness at the NYC DOHMH, where he oversaw programmatic work focused on reducing overall premature mortality and closing the racial gap on the top leading causes of preventable death. He also served as the Assistant Commissioner of the Department of Health's Bureau of Brooklyn Neighborhood Health, where he helped advance key programming to address pressing concerns, including maternal deaths and gun violence. Dr. Easterling is a community physician committed to health equity, social justice and movement building to achieve the health outcomes that all people deserve both locally and globally.

4:15- 5:15 Justice- Public Safety (Crime and the Police)

Bruce Western, Bryce Professor of Sociology; Director Justice Lab, Columbia University

Bruce Western is the Bryce Professor of Sociology and Social Justice and Director of the Justice Lab at Columbia University. He studies poverty and socioeconomic inequality with a focus on the U.S. criminal justice system. Current projects include a randomized experiment assessing the effects of criminal justice fines and fees on misdemeanor defendants in Oklahoma City, and a field study of solitary confinement in Pennsylvania state prisons. Western is also the Principal Investigator of the Square One Project that aims to re-imagine the public policy response to violence under conditions of poverty and racial inequality. He is the Co-Chair of a National Academy of Sciences panel on reducing racial inequality in the U.S. criminal justice system. He is the author of *Homeward: Life in the Year After Prison* (Russell Sage Foundation, 2018), and *Punishment and Inequality in America* (Russell Sage Foundation, 2006). He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences.

Iesha Sekou, CEO and Founder, Street Corner Resources

Street Corner Resources (SCR) was born out of a concern over gun violence -

and gang activity amongst Harlem's youth. In 2005, Iesha Sekou, a long-standing community activist, decided to start a non-profit organization that would engage youth and provide them with the resources to help them with the resources to help them develop holistically and serve as a positive alternative against the ongoing trend towards violence in urban neighborhoods. Since its inception, Street Corner Resources has lived up to its name by providing multiple resources to community youth. SCR's activities include workshops, (Rekindling the Inner Spirit to Succeed, the Male Box Group Series, Financial Literacy), a very active street presence (Speak Peace Forward and Occupy The Corners), and the installation of the first I AM PEACE Music Studio located within a Harlem High School. Street Corner Resources' most recent initiative is the Cure Violence program in Central Harlem.

James Johnson, Chief Operating Officer Trinity Church

Mr. Johnson is the Chief Operating Officer for Trinity Church in New York City. He previously served as Corporation Counsel for New York City's Law Department, the largest municipal law department in the country. Prior to that, he was Special Counsel to Gov. Phil Murphy of New Jersey, where he led the review of the state's 2016 takeover of Atlantic City and charted the course for its future. He also was a partner at Debevoise & Plimpton and former Under Secretary of the U.S. Treasury. He has served on the boards of several nonprofits, including the Brennan Center for Justice, Citizens Campaign, Harvard University's Board of Overseers, the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, Jazz House Kids and The Academy of American Poets.

Frederick A. Davie, M.Div., Senior Strategic Advisor to the President, Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York

Mr. Davie is the Senior Strategic Advisor to the President of the Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York. He has a long and distinguished career in public service including service on the NYC Racial Justice/Charter Reform Commission, as the chair of the NYC Civilian Complaint Review Board, on the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom and as member of President Obama's Transition Committee. Mr. Davie has extensive experience in senior-level roles in philanthropic and social and economic justice organizations, including Public/Private Ventures and the Ford Foundation. A Presbyterian minister in the Presbytery of New York City, Mr. Davie has served the national Presbyterian Church, the NYC presbytery, and local congregations in various volunteer capacities.

Moderator

Sheena Wright, Deputy Mayor for Strategic Initiatives under the Eric Adams Administration

Deputy Mayor Wright focuses on advancing the administration's top priorities. Prior to her appointment, Deputy Mayor Wright served as the Transition Chair for the Adams team helping to engage and oversee over 600 stakeholders. Additionally - Sheena served as the first female President and CEO of UnitedWay NYC. United Way is a nonprofit organization dedicated to help mobilize our communities to break down barriers and build opportunities that improve the lives of low-income New Yorkers for the benefit of all. Sheena was named number one on City & State New York's Nonprofit Power 100, listed in Crain's New York Business' Notable Black Leaders and Executives, was appointed Mayor De Blasio's Education Sector Advisory Council and Governor Cuomo's New York Forward Re-Opening Advisory Board. Wright serves as a Trustee for Columbia University, and as a Board Member for New Visions for Public Schools, NYC Kids Rise, and the New York City Regional Economic Development Council.

5:30 — 6:30 Conclusions and Recommendations

Sheena Wright, Deputy Mayor for Strategic Initiatives under the Eric Adams Administration

Glenn Hunter, Co-Founder and Co-Executive Director, Harlem Cultural Archives (HCA) Historical Society

Harlem historian Glenn Hunter is Co-Founder and Co-Executive Director of the Harlem Cultural Archives (HCA) historical society. Since 2008, HCA has maintained a repository of oral history interviews, hosted panel discussions, and street co-naming ceremonies recognizing the noteworthy contributions of important Harlemites. Glenn, a lifelong Harlem resident, is a career educator who specializes in high school and college mathematics. He is currently an Adjunct Lecturer at Baruch College of the City University of New York and continues to be a tireless community organizer.

RECEPTION