



THE INAUGURAL 2024 DETROIT EQUITY ROUNDTABLE

A discussion with Equity Leaders on the @DetroitJCS audio podcast

Scheduled for Thursday, February 8, 2024



THURSDAY, FEB. 8, 2024 LIVE, 2 P.M. EST

FRIDAY, FEB. 9, 2024 12 NOON





THE INAUGURAL 2024 DETROIT EQUITY ROUNDTABLE



Creator/Moderator,
Alina J. Johnson





Development Equity
Linda Campbell
Founder and Senior Director, Detroit People's Platform, Equitable Detroit, and the Detroit Affordable Housing Trust Fund



Housing Equity
Cassandra Floyd
Executive Director of the West Grand Boulevard Collaborative



Education Equity
Devon Keen
Director of Inclusion, Equity and Outreach at the University of Michigan School of Information



Law Equity
Tonya Myers Phillips
Development Director for Community Partnerships, Sugar Law Center for Economic and Social Justice



Health Equity
Dr. Caira Boggs
Director, Center for Health Equity Practice at the Michigan Public Health Institute



Social Justice Equity
Triniti Watson
Executive Assistant at the Detroit Justice Center and Cohort facilitator at the Detroit Equity Action Lab at Wayne State University

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Part I: Development, Health, Education
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HEALTH EQUITY



Caira Boggs (She/Her/Hers), DHed, MCHES

Director, Center for Health Equity Practice, MPHI

Dr. Caira Boggs has worked in the community health field with high risk/high need populations for the past 19 years. She is currently the Director of the Center for Health Equity Practice at the Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI). Caira previously directed and managed Healthy Community Coalitions and has worked in the health and wellness industry with occupational health and worksite wellness at Detroit automotive manufactures plant and a Michigan based baby food manufacture. For the past nine years, she has worked in Community Health Prevention programs focusing on health disparities for Michigan’s largest health system and contributed as Public Health and Community Health faculty at local and remote universities for the last seven years. She is an advocate for healthy living at any age with a research focus on social determinates of health.

Caira is a Master Certified Health Education Specialist (MCHES) and a Certified Intrinsic Health Coach. She holds a Doctorate in Health Education from A.T. Still University, Masters of Exercise Science in Health Science from Oakland University, and a Bachelor of Science in Human Movement Science from Bowling Green State University.



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LAW EQUITY



Tonya Myers Phillips

**Development Director for Community Partnerships,
Sugar Law Center**

Tonya Myers Phillips is an attorney who advocates for equitable and inclusive public policies. Tonya currently serves as the Community Partnerships & Development Director for the Sugar Law Center for Economic & Social Justice in Detroit. In this role, she develops relationships and attracts funding to support the work of the Sugar Law Center. Tonya also negotiates community benefits agreements (CBA) on behalf of community groups and promotes the expanded and intersectional use of CBA's as an equitable development tool.

Tonya also consults with Michigan Legal Services on housing policies for low-income families as the Public Policy Advisor. She is the ERASE Project Lead for “Keeping Detroiters in their Home” and the Project Leader for the Detroit Right to Counsel Coalition since 2019.

In the Fall of 2022, Tonya co-instructed the Community Advocacy Law Clinic at Wayne State University Law School; Ms. Phillips assisted in creating this year's curriculum to focus on advocacy in housing, economic development, and civic engagement.

Tonya has over eighteen years of legal experience and twenty-eight years of professional public service experience. Tonya received her bachelor's degree with honors from the University of Michigan and her law degree from the University of Michigan Law School. Tonya was selected to serve on the esteemed City of Detroit Charter Revision Commission from 2010-2012. She was honored with the Distinguished Young Lawyer Award from the Wolverine Bar Association and the Maryann Mahaffey Public Servant of the Year Award and the Community Advocate of the Year from the United Community Housing Coalition.

Ms. Phillips devotes valuable time to the community by serving on the Board of Directors for Community Development Advocates of Detroit, Sidewalk Festival Detroit, and her neighborhood block club. Tonya served on the Justice Policy Initiatives Committee and the Character and Fitness Committee for the State Bar of Michigan. Tonya has also served on the Board of Directors for Habitat for Humanity-Detroit, the Wolverine Bar Association, and Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice. She also serves as a member of the State Fairgrounds Development Coalition and with numerous other organizations.

Tonya is a native Detroiters who resides in Detroit with her husband and son and enjoys reading, cooking, and spending time with family and friends.



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DEVELOPMENT EQUITY



Linda Campbell

Founder and Senior Director, Detroit People's Platform, Equitable Detroit, and the Detroit Affordable Housing Trust Fund

Linda Campbell is founding Senior Director of Detroit People's Platform (DPP). Detroit People's Platform is a community organizing group founded by Detroiters in response to emergency management takeover of Detroit a decade ago. DPP is also active in national and statewide coalitions advancing equity and racial justice.

Detroit People's Platform organizes with majority Black Detroiters to build power and win important public policies that improve the material wellbeing of low income Detroiters.

DPP is a founding member of Equitable Detroit, the city-wide Community Benefit Coalition, and the Detroit Affordable Housing Trust Fund. In addition, DPP organizes with bus riders to improve DDOT bus services for those who depend on public transit as their primary means of transportation.



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EDUCATION EQUITY



Devon Keen

Director of Inclusion, Equity, and Outreach

Devon leads the University of Michigan's School of Information (UMSI) Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) office which involves developing, facilitating, and supporting DEI initiatives and events across the UMSI campus. She supervises the DEI Outreach Coordinator and DEI Graduate student staff assistants and also serves as one of the staff co-chairs of the UMSI DEI Committee. Along with the Assistant Dean Judy Schabel,

Devon is able to consult with UMSI faculty, staff, and students regarding DEI-related issues and concerns.



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HOUSING EQUITY



Cassandra Floyd

Executive Director, West Grand Boulevard Collaborative

Cassandra Floyd is currently the Executive Director for the West Grand Boulevard Collaborative, a nonprofit 501c3 community development organization that advocates for a better “Quality of Life” for three black historical neighborhoods where she was born and raised to include the Virginia Park, LaSalle Gardens, and Northwestern Goldberg communities.

She is also the founder and creator of Brooklynn Brownies with Love, a family-owned business in Detroit. Cassandra has over 25 years of business administration experience in the retail, finance, and insurance industries.

She holds an Associate Degree in Interior Design from Wayne County Community College. She continued her education at Davenport University where she obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Management. Some years later, after experiencing the effects of a decline in the quality of life within the City of Detroit, she was propelled to pursue a Masters of Urban Design Degree at Lawrence Technological University to assist nonprofits in revitalizing communities throughout Detroit.

Cassandra currently resides in the Grandmont Community on the northwest side of Detroit.



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SOCIAL JUSTICE EQUITY



Triniti Watson is a Black writer, caregiver, and Resource Mobilizer rooted in Detroit, MI. She recently moved from Development Assistant to Executive Assistant at the Detroit Justice Center (DJC). Through a Just Transition framework, Triniti takes on a holistic, healing-centered approach towards building power. She believes the cultivation of strong relationships and the practice of wealth redistribution will build a more just world. She has a deep commitment to resourcing justice movements, amplifying their stories, and empowering them to shape change. Alongside DJC, Triniti is actively involved in fellow Detroit movement spaces,

and serves as a cohort facilitator for the Detroit Equity Action Lab (DEAL) at Wayne State University, and is a Community Table Member at the Transforming Power Fund.

Triniti Watson, Executive Assistant
Detroit Justice Center



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MODERATOR



Alina J. Johnson is the sole creator and moderator of this inaugural event, and she is the audio podcaster for the @DetroitJCS audio podcast of her small business, ☎️ Johnson Consulting Services LLC of Detroit, Michigan. Her company is a woman owned, [SBA-certified HUBZone](#) business, a [MiSC](#) supplier, and a Michigan [Geographically Disadvantaged Business Enterprise](#) headquartered in a [Michigan Qualified Opportunity Zone](#). She believes in and works for an equitable Detroit, and desires equitable solutions from Detroiters to solve our problems from within.

A very proud Detroiter, Wolverine, and Detroit Public School graduate, Alina J. Johnson is a lifelong Detroit resident, and credits her work in and throughout Detroit communities with becoming a lifelong public servant, where she formerly served as her community's Vice President of the Community Council; Planning Chair of the District Council; and Corresponding Secretary of the Coordinating Council on Community Redevelopment. She also served two terms in AmeriCorps and completed a graduate internship in the PMO office of the Corporation for National Service before working in former President Obama's administration as a FIN-TECH Auditor in Washington, D.C.

Alina is a former local STEM scholar who previously worked at the University of Michigan (Center for the History of Medicine, doing pandemic research); the Detroit Regional Chamber (as a Business Research Intern); and locally. To date, Alina's work has been lauded by federal (U.S. Comptroller General of the United States), state (a tribute from a Michigan Senator), and local leaders such as two Detroit Mayors and Detroit City Council for success in academic and community economic development efforts.

Today, she is engaged with her commitment to Detroit families, and through her company, supports students and their families with goals towards completing higher education. Alina is a proud Detroit graduate with a Master of Science in Information (MSI) degree from the University of Michigan School of Information with a specialization in Information Economics, Management, and Policy.

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Ms. Johnson is the eldest daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Eddie and Linda Johnson of Detroit, Michigan; Sister of Danita Miles; Mother of Milán Johnson; and proud Aunt of four nephews.



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