

Welcome to the Fifteenth Annual National Civil Rights Conference



Dear National Civil Rights Conference Participants:

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Fifteenth Annual National Civil Rights Conference on the campus of the Wayne County Community College District. The National Education and Empowerment Coalition, Inc., the Wayne County Community College District, and Voices for Liberty are proud to co-sponsor the Fifteenth Annual National Civil Rights Conference. The 2026 conference, held in Detroit (MI), will provide an opportunity to remember, reflect, and jumpstart the spirit, commitment, and courage that fueled a movement that changed the nation. During this day and age and at this time, when important voting and citizenship rights are under attack, we can and should do nothing less than follow the example of history. We appreciate your presence and participation in activities focusing on civil rights, social justice and human dignity.

The three-day conference provides a wide range of topics related to the conference theme, *Engage, Educate and Empower: Striving in the Motor City*. I hope you will take full advantage of the workshops, artistic productions, sessions, tours, vendors and networking opportunities that will be available.

This conference, more than any other, provides a broad range of learning experiences for you to engage in. More important, this conference promises to generate considerable intellectual dialogue and debate, as well as create opportunities to strengthen existing networks and forge new relationships.

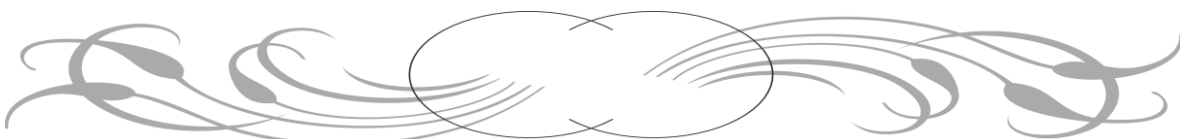
Again, welcome to the Fifteenth National Civil Rights Conference. If I can be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to call on me.

Sincerely,

Keith Parker

Dr. Keith D. Parker, Chair

2026 NCRC Planning Committee



Thursday, June 18|

**Wayne County Community College District
Curtis L. Ivery Downtown Campus**

8:00am – 4:00pm **Setup Vendor Tables**

8:00am – 4:00pm **Registration.....**

8:30am – 9:10am **Welcome**

- **City of Detroit Official, TBD**
- Keith D. Parker, PhD, 2026 National Civil Rights Conference Chair

Opening Keynote TBD

Introduction of Speaker Keith D. Parker, PhD

Speaker TBD

9:20am - 10:30am **Session 1-A** **Location TBD**

Contemporary Civil Rights Reflections from Ida B. Wells-Barnett for a Future in Relation to Human Rights Practices in East African Region

Dr. Thomas Otieno Juma, Senior Lecturer of Public Administration, University of Kabianga – Kenya

Dr. Fred Omweri Siambe (Lecturer of Public Administration, Machakos University - Kenya)

Moderator

Workshop

Session 1-B **Location TBD**

Leveraging Community Data & Collaborative Advocacy to Break Barriers to Equality

Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission (PHRC)

Moderator

Session 1-C **Location TBD**

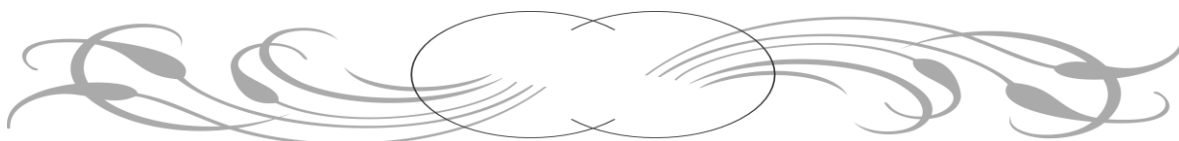
Moderator **TBD**

10:40am – 11:50 pm **Session 2-A** **Location TBD**

Differentiating Between Faith and Ideology: Hindu Pluralism and Hindu Nationalism in Civil Rights Spaces

Vidya Thirumoorthi, Hindus for Human Rights

Pradeep Sopory, Hindus for Human Rights



Moderator TBD

Workshop

Session 2-B **Location TBD**

Emotionally Intelligent Leadership: Building Emotional Literacy to Strengthen Civil Rights and Social Justice Movements

Dr. Dianna Hollins

Moderator TBD

Session 2-C **Location TBD**

Let's Have Manversation® – Engaging the Next Generation of Male Leaders in Mental, Social & Civic Responsibility

Dr. James Bush, LPC

Moderator TBD

12:00pm – 1:50pm **Dr. Ronald Scott and Deborah Scott Recognition Luncheon**

Introduction of Speaker Keith D. Parker, PhD

Luncheon Keynote

Awards Presentations Keith D. Parker, PhD

2:00pm – 3:10pm **Sessions 3-A** **Location TBD**

Lives in Deathless Constellation: Poetry of Heartache—A Literary Response to Violent Acts Committed against Civil Rights Movement Youths

Dr. Antoinette Gazda, Valdosta State University

Moderator TBD

Workshop

Sessions 3-B **Location TBD**

The Psychology of the Vote and Its Impact

Jessica Fortune Barker

Moderator TBD

Sessions 3-C **Location TBD**

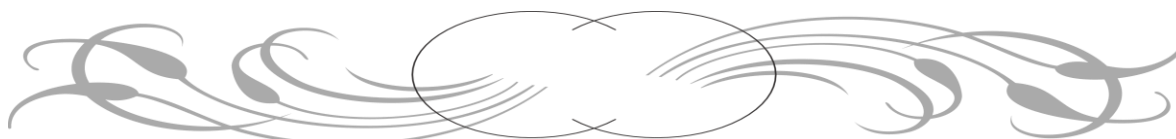
Research to Repair: Connecting Urban Renewal Project R-51 to Affordable Housing in Athens, GA

Claire Hagan and Faith Tucker, Historic Athens

Drs Jerry Shannon, Liam England, and Keagan Croom, University of Georgia

Kelly Girtz, Athens-Clarke County

Moderator TBD



3:20pm – 4:30pm **Sessions 4-A** **Location TBD**
*From Detroit to Congress: Charles C. Diggs Jr. and the Transformation of
Civil Rights Leadership*
Dr. Marion Orr, Brown University

Moderator **TBD**

Workshop

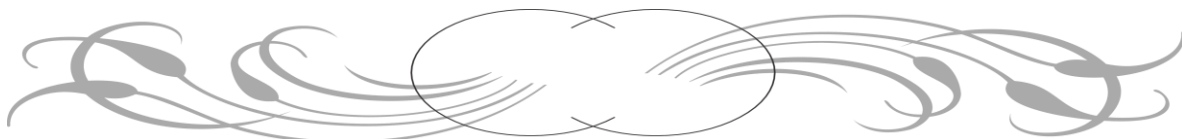
Sessions 4-B **Location TBD**
*Partnering with Human Rights Commissions: Strategies to Engage, Educate,
and Empower Communities*
Jennifer Booz

Moderator **TBD**

Sessions 4-C **Location TBD**
*From Fear to Force: Deconstructing James Meredith’s March Against Fear
and Dr. King’s Poor People’s Campaign*
Dr. Frederick Douglas Dixon, Western Carolina University

Moderator **TBD**

5:00 pm - Until TBD by Detroit-area planning committee members!



**Friday, June 19 | Wayne County Community College District
Curtis L. Ivery Downtown Campus**

8:00am – 12:00pm Setup Vendor Tables

8:00am – 12:00pm Registration.....

8:30am – 9:10am Welcome

- WCCCD, Downtown Campus Rep. TBD
- Keith D. Parker, PhD, 2026 National Civil Rights Conference Chair

Opening Keynote

Introduction of Speaker Keith D. Parker, PhD

Speaker TBD

9:20am - 10:30am Plenary *Charles C. Diggs, Jr.: From Detroit to Congress* Location TBD
Dr. Marion Orr, Brown University

10:40am – 11:50 am Session 5-A Location TBD
Remember 2 Lock Your Car™: A Simple Action, A Lifesaving Impact
Dr. Sandra Collins, Founder & Director, Blue Light™ Community Outreach

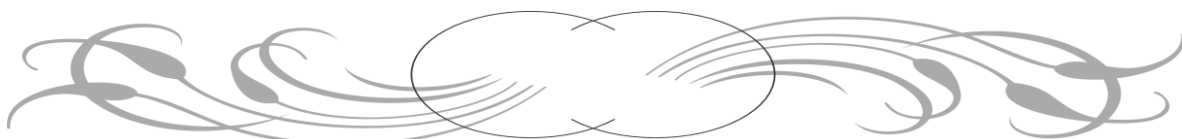
Moderator TBD

Workshop Session 5-B Location TBD
*Holding the Line: Legal Observers, Clergy, Grassroots Organizers, and
Movement Leaders at the Front End of Protest Arrests*
Walter James III, LLM, JD. Founder, Civil Rights and Criminal Justice Reform
Advocates; CEO, National New Christian Leadership Movement

Moderator TBD

Session 5-C Location TBD
*Reflections of Brilliance: The Kujichagulia of Four (unsung) QUEEN Mothers of
the Civil Rights Movement*
Dr. Calvin Harvell, Henry Ford College

Moderator TBD



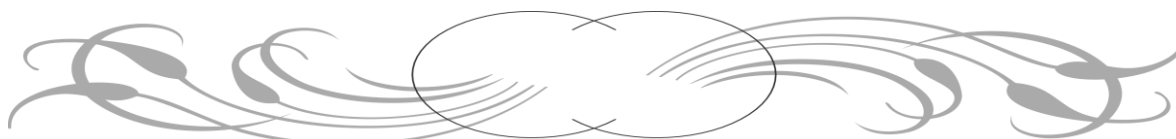
12:00pm – Until **Authors Recognition Luncheon**
Introduction of Speaker Keith D. Parker, PhD
Luncheon Keynote
Authors ≤ 500 Word Synopsis of Book

Friday Afternoon **Experience Juneteenth in Metro Detroit!**



The 2026 Juneteenth festivities in Detroit are opportunities to celebrate, learn, and reflect on a significant moment in U.S. history. A little background on this holiday:

- The Emancipation Proclamation, issued in 1863, declared an end to slavery in the southern states; however, many enslaved people in Texas did not learn of their freedom until June 19, 1865;
- In recognition of this history, June 19 was formally designated as Juneteenth National Independence Day in 2021; and
- Across the country—and here in Detroit—Juneteenth is commemorated through a range of events and activities that invite community engagement, education, and reflection.



Saturday, June 20 |

**Wayne County Community College District
Curtis L. Ivery Downtown Campus**

8:00am – 12:00pm Setup Vendor Tables

8:00am – 12:00pm Registration.....

8:30am – 9:10am Welcome

- **Speaker** TBD

- Keith D. Parker, PhD, 2026 National Civil Rights Conference Chair

Opening Keynote

Introduction of Speaker Keith D. Parker, PhD

Speaker TBD

9:20am - 10:30am **Session 6-A** **Location TBD**

Continuity and Contention: Comparing Immigration Enforcement and Economic Outcomes Across U.S. Administrations

Dr. Ogbonnaya John Nwoha, Louisiana Tech University

Dr. Lemmy Akoma, Louisiana Tech University

Moderator **TBD**

Panel

Session 6-B **Location TBD**

The Inconvenient Color of Law

Jeffrey Kass, CatheXis Publishing

Moderator **TBD**

Session 6-C **Location TBD**

Moderator **TBD**

10:40am – 11:50 pm **Session 7-A** **Location TBD**

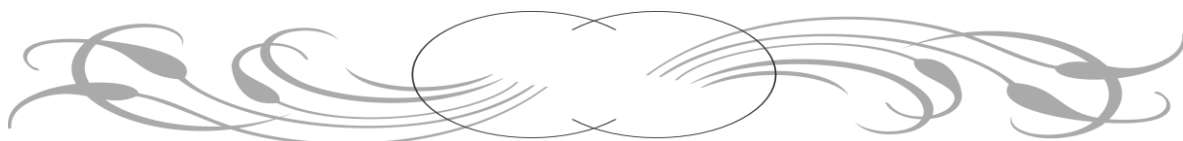
Jeffersonian Democracy and Spencerian Social Darwinism in American Thought

Asa Gordon, Research Historian and Consulting Curator, African American Civil War Memorial Museum

Grace Powell, Louisiana Christian University

Dr. Keith D. Parker, National Education and Empowerment Coalition, Inc.

Moderator **TBD**



Workshop

Session 7-B **Location TBD**
Misogynoir Is the Context: Understanding Gender-Based Violence Against Black Women
Karen Lopez-Scott

Moderator **TBD**

Session 7-C **Location TBD**

Moderator **TBD**

12:00pm – 1:10 pm

Panel Discussion

Session 8-A **Location TBD**
Empowering Youth to Serve and Research the Elderly: An Intergenerational Panel/Vignette
Dr. Frances Staten,

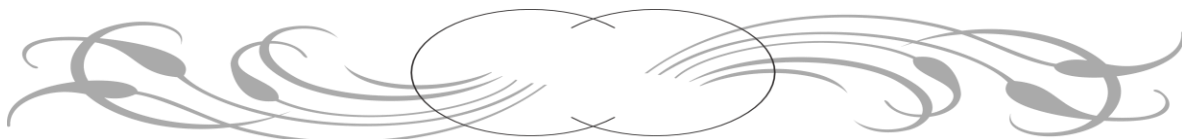
Moderator **TBD**

Session 8-B **Location TBD**
Asa Gordon's Impact on Declaration Historiography
Asa Gordon, Research Historian and Consulting Curator, African American Civil War Memorial Museum

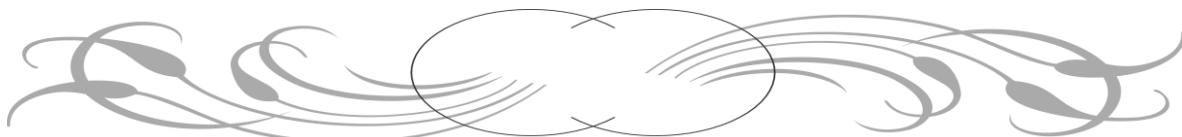
Moderator **TBD**

Session 8-C **Location TBD**

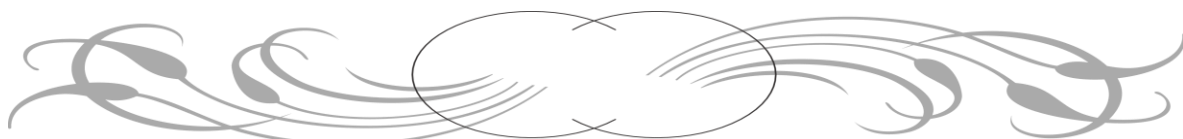
Moderator **TBD**



Presenter	Session	Affiliation
Dr. Lemmy Akoma	Session 6-A	Louisiana Tech University
Jessica Fortune Barker	Session 3-B	Founder & Lead Organizer, Lift Our Vote®
Jennifer Booz	Session 4-B	Executive Director, Anchorage Equal Rights Commission
Dr. James Bush	Session 2-C	LPC, Let's Have Manversation Inc.®
Dr. Sandra Collins	Session 5-A	Founder & Director, Blue Light™ Community Outreach
Keagan Croom	Sessions 3-C	University of Georgia
Dr. Frederick Douglas Dixon	Session 4-C	Western Carolina University
Liam England	Sessions 3-C	University of Georgia
Asa Gordon	Sessions 7-A & 8-B	Research Historian and Consulting Curator, African American Civil War Memorial Museum
Dr. Antoinette Gazda	Session 3-A	Valdosta State University
Kelly Girtz	Session 3-C	Athens-Clarke County
Claire Hagan	Session 3-C	Research Project Manager at Historic Athens
Dr. Kalvin Harvell	Session 5-C	Henry Ford College
Dr. Dianna Hollins	Session 2-B	Founder & Chancellor, Ekklesia Institute
Walter James, III	Session 5-B	Founder, Civil Rights and Criminal Justice Reform Advocates; CEO, National New Christian Leadership Movement
Dr. Thomas Otieno Juma	Session 1-A	Senior Lecturer of Public Administration University of Kabianga – Kenya
Jeffrey Kass	Session 6-B	CatheXis Publishing



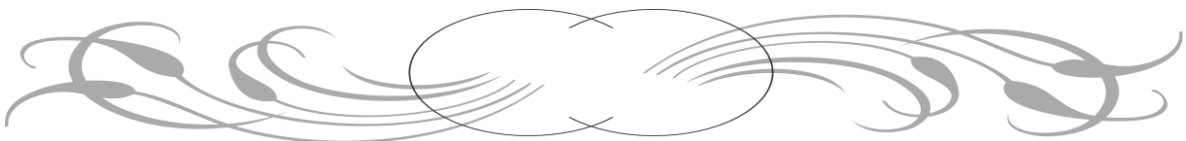
Presenter	Session	Affiliation
Karen Lopez-Scott	Session 7-B	Founder & CEO, GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE ADVOCATE & CORPORATE WORKSHOP FACILITATOR
Dr. Omekia McNeal	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX
Dr. Ogbonnaya Nwoha	Session 6-A	Louisiana Tech University
Dr. Marion Orr	Session 4-A	Brown University
Dr. Keith D. Parker	Session 7-A	National Education and Empowerment Coalition, Inc.
Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission	Session 1-B	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
Grace Powell	Session 7-A	Louisiana Christian University
Dr. Jerry Shannon, Sessions	3-C	University of Georgia
Dr. Fred Omweri Siambe	Session 1-A	Lecturer of Public Administration, Machakos University – Kenya
Pradeep Sopory	Session 2-A	Hindus for Human Rights
Dr. Frances Staten	Session 8-A	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
Vidya Thirumoorthi	Session 2-A	Hindus for Human Rights
Faith Tucker	Sessions 3-C	Historic Athens



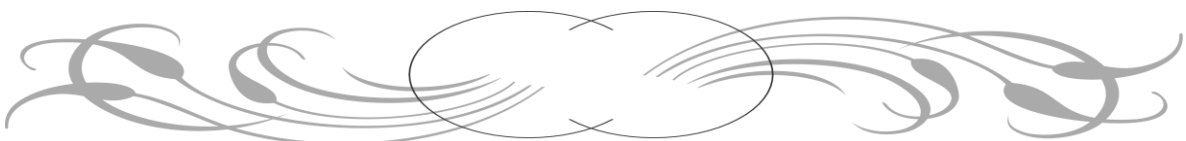
SPONSORSHIP

**VOICES FOR
LIBERTY**

FREE SPEECH • CIVIL RIGHTS • SOCIAL PROGRESS



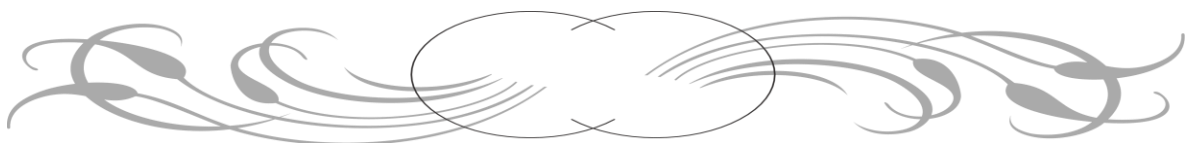
SPONSORSHIP



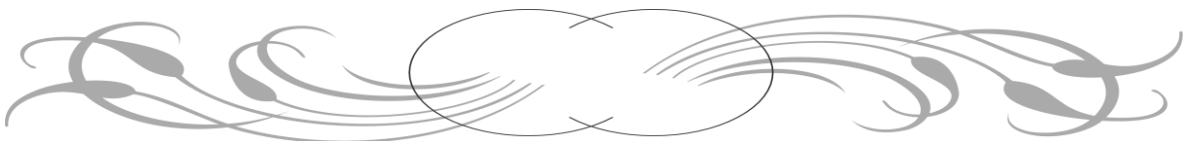
SPONSORSHIP

**VOICES FOR
LIBERTY**

FREE SPEECH · CIVIL RIGHTS · SOCIAL PROGRESS



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

