

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 and the June 17th Pre-conference Workshop on the campus of the Wayne County Community College District. The National Education and Empowerment Coalition, Inc., the Wayne County Community College District 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.

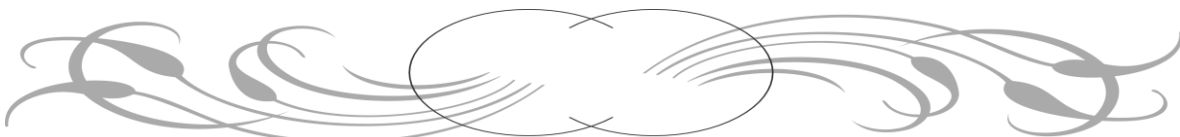
Again, welcome to the Fifteenth National Civil Rights Conference. If I can be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to call on me.

Sincerely,

Keith Parker

Dr. Keith D. Parker, Chair

2026 NCRC Planning Committee



June 17th Pre-conference Workshop

Sponsors: Mission Possible and the National Civil Rights Conference

Logistics

- **Time:** 1:00 – 5:00 PM
- **Location:** Room 236
- **Participants:** 20-30 civic engagement-minded community members from the Detroit region
- Staff/hosts
 - Debi Ghatge
 - Tim Hoefer
 - Manon Loustaunau
 - Harry Nathan Gottlieb

Purpose of the Convening

This convening is designed to bring together community members who have demonstrated a strong interest in civic engagement but who rarely have structured opportunities to engage across ideological differences. Our goal is to create a room where community members can interact directly with each other to explore where they share common ground and what underlies this. The National Civil Rights Conference, as an organization, shares these goals with Mission Possible. Its participants are some of the most open-minded and sincere during conferences and discussions.

About Mission Possible

Mission Possible is an emerging national movement dedicated to rebuilding American self-government by strengthening civic culture, trust, and cross-ideological collaboration. The program provides structured, well-facilitated opportunities for people who want to engage across difference but lack access to environments where that is possible.

Unlike many civic-bridge efforts that draw from narrow ideological slices, Mission Possible intentionally brings together a truly wide range of participants—left, right, and those in between—and centers their work on co-created Shared Principles and Principled Commitments. These frameworks articulate the civic values, responsibilities, and norms that support a healthy self-governing society. They serve as the foundation for all Mission Possible convenings.

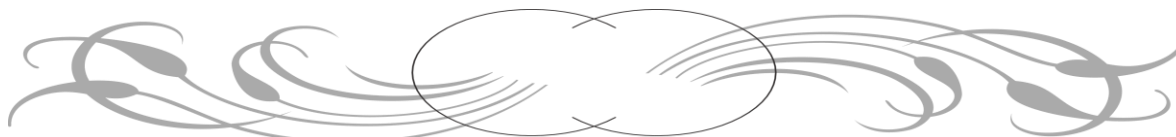
The program is highly interactive, emphasizing small-group deliberation, collaborative problem-solving, and trust-building. Across prior convenings with civic leaders from across the political spectrum, Mission Possible has seen exceptionally high post-program retention, with participants continuing to stay engaged, collaborate, and build relationships long after the formal sessions end. Many say they have never experienced a room like Mission Possible's.

Why This Convening Matters

This will be the first Mission Possible convening hosted at an HBCU. Most prior participants have been from various existing movements, from democracy reform to freedom conservatism. But those movements do not represent those fighting for civil rights. Nor do they represent all of our communities. This convening represents an important next step in testing whether the principles, methods, and insights developed through earlier gatherings of civic leaders can translate effectively to civil rights advocates and interested community members.

The goals for the day include:

- Creating a rare, structured space for cross-ideological dialogue among lawyers, who are more used to being on opposite sides.
- Engage participants with the Shared Principles and Principled Commitments earlier Mission Possible participants have been helping to co-create and discuss what underlying shared values anchor these.
- Piloting interactive exercises that have proven successful with other civic leaders
- Learning from the participants' experiences to refine future programming



Thursday, June 18|

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

8:00am – 4:00pm **Vendor Table Setup** **Gallery**

8:00am – 4:00pm **Registration** **Entry Ways Main Floor**

8:30am – 9:10am **Welcome** **Atrium**

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

Opening Keynote **Atrium**

Introduction of Speaker **Keith D. Parker, PhD**

Speaker **TBD**

9:20am - 10:30am **Session 1-A** **ERC**

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)

I have a dream! Defending civil rights as a self-represented litigant in District Court by establishing claim under TITLE VII, TITLE IX and 42 USC § 1983

Keiron D. Bailey, University of Arizona

Moderator **TBD**

Workshop

Session 1-B **123A**

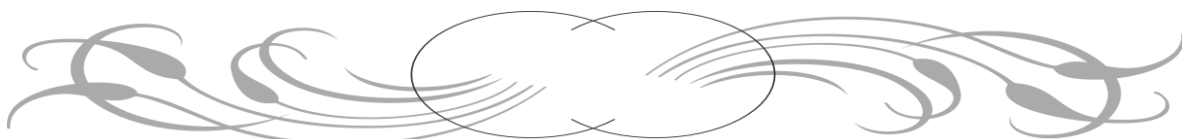
Leveraging Community Data & Collaborative Advocacy to Break Barriers to Equality

Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission (PHRC)

Moderator **TBD**

Session 1-C **123B**

Moderator **TBD**



10:40am – 11:50 pm Session 2-A 218
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 236
Emotionally Intelligent Leadership: Building Emotional Literacy to Strengthen Civil Rights and Social Justice Movements
Dr. Dianna Hollins

Moderator TBD

Session 2-C 124
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 Atrium

Introduction of Speaker Keith D. Parker, PhD

Luncheon Keynote

Awards Presentations Keith D. Parker, PhD

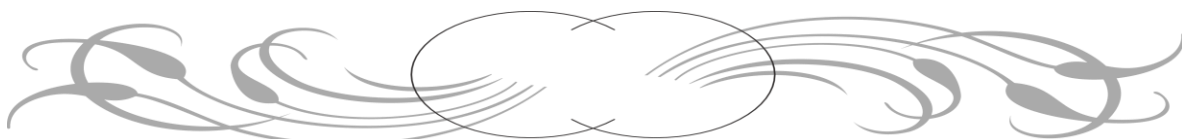
2:00pm – 3:10pm Sessions 3-A 124
Lives in Deathless Constellation: Poetry of Heartache—A Literary Response to Violent Acts Committed against Civil Rights Movement Youths
Dr. Antoinette Gazda, Valdosta State University

Moderator TBD

Workshop

Sessions 3-B ERC
The Psychology of the Vote and Its Impact
Jessica Fortune Barker

Moderator TBD



Sessions 3-C 218

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

Claire Hagan and Faith Tucker, HOHA Program Coordinator & R-51 Research Director, 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 123A

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 123B

Partnering with Human Rights Commissions: Strategies to Engage, Educate, and Empower Communities

Jennifer Booz

Moderator TBD

Sessions 4-C 236

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

4:40pm – 5:00 pm
Plenary I

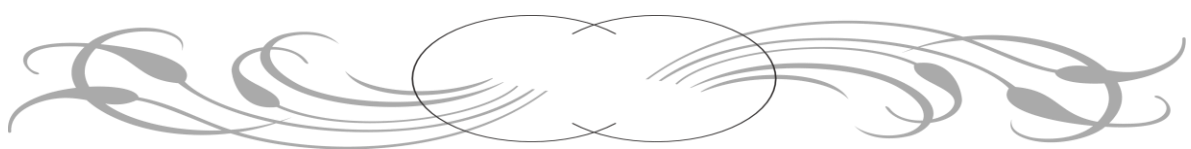
Session 5 Atrium

America 250: Using your right to free speech for good

Debi Ghate, Mission Possible and Partner at Steadfast

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 Vendor Table Setup Gallery

8:00am – 12:00pm Registration Entry Ways Main Floor

8:30am – 9:10am Welcome Atrium

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

Opening Keynote Atrium

Introduction of Speaker Keith D. Parker, PhD

Speaker TBD

9:20am - 10:30am **Session 6** Atrium

Plenary II

Charles C. Diggs, Jr.: From Detroit to Congress

Dr. Marion Orr, Brown University

10:40am – 11:50 am **Session 7-A** 236

Remember 2 Lock Your Car™: A Simple Action, A Lifesaving Impact

Dr. Sandra Collins, Founder & Director, Blue Light™ Community Outreach

Moderator TBD

Workshop

Session 7-B 124

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

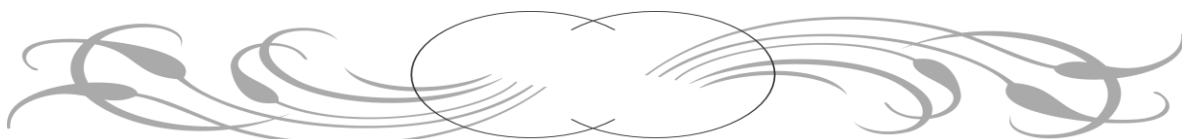
Moderator TBD

Session 7-C ERC

Reflections of Brilliance: The Kujichagulia of Four (unsung) QUEEN Mothers of the Civil Rights Movement

Dr. Calvin DaRonne Harvell, Henry Ford College

Moderator TBD



12:00pm – 1:20pm **Authors Recognition Luncheon** **Atrium**
Introduction of Speaker Keith D. Parker, PhD
Luncheon Keynote **TBD**
Authors ≤ 500 Word Synopsis of Book

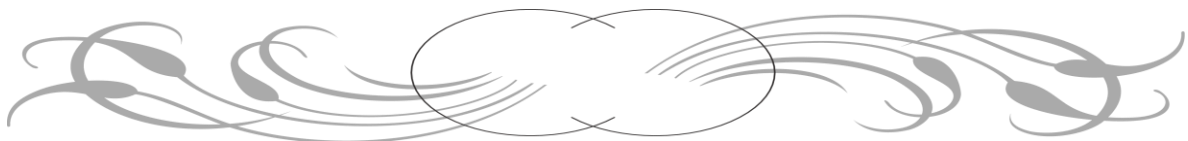
1:30pm – 2:40pm **Session 8** **Atrium**
Plenary III **Title TBD**
Debi Ghatge, Mission Possible and Partner at Steadfast
Mike Reitz, Executive Vice President Mackinac Center
TBD, Michigan Civility Coalition

3:00pm - Until **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:

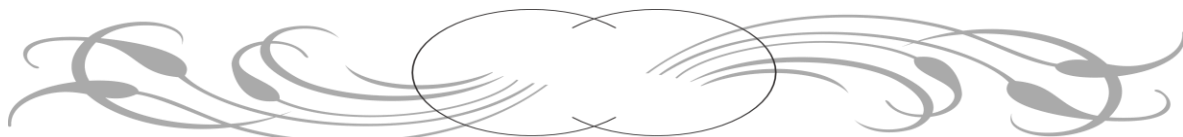
- The Emancipation Proclamation, issued in 1863, declared an end to slavery in the southern states; however, many enslaved people in Texas did not learn of their freedom until June 19, 1865;
- In recognition of this history, June 19 was formally designated as Juneteenth National Independence Day in 2021; 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	Vendor Table Setup	Gallery
8:00am – 12:00pm	Registration.....	Entry Ways Main Floor
8:30am – 9:10am	Welcome	236
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 9-A	ERC
	<i>Continuity and Contention: Comparing Immigration Enforcement and Economic Outcomes Across U.S. Administrations</i>	
	Dr. Ogbonnaya John Nwoha, Louisiana Tech University	
	Dr. Lemmy Akoma, Louisiana Tech University	
	Moderator	TBD
Panel	Session 9-B	124
	<i>The Inconvenient Color of Law</i>	
	Jeffrey Kass, CatheXis Publishing	
	Moderator	TBD
	Session 9-C	218
	Moderator	TBD
10:40am – 11:50 pm	Session 10-A	236
	<i>Jeffersonian Democracy and Spencerian Social Darwinism in American Thought</i>	
	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 10-B 123A

Misogynoir Is the Context: Understanding Gender-Based Violence Against Black Women

Karen Lopez-Scott

Moderator TBD

Session 10-C 123B

Moderator TBD

12:00pm – 1:10 pm

Panel Discussion

Session 11-A ERC

Empowering Youth to Serve and Research the Elderly: An Intergenerational Panel/Vignette

Dr. Frances Staten,

Moderator TBD

Session 11-B 124

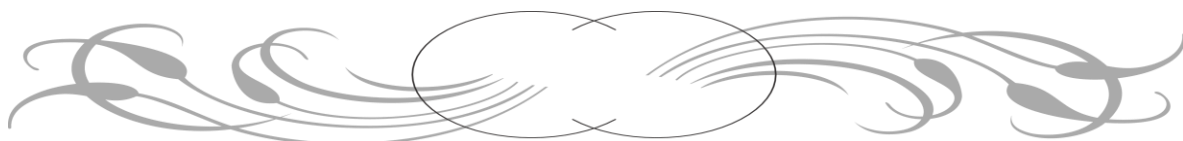
Asa Gordon's Impact on Declaration Historiography

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

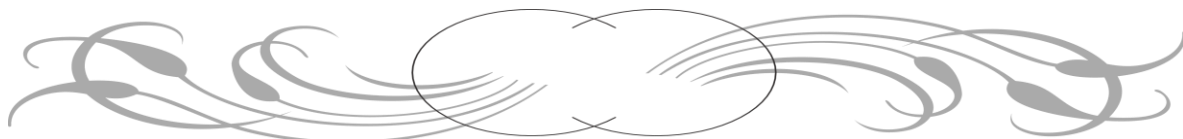
Moderator TBD

Session 11-C 218

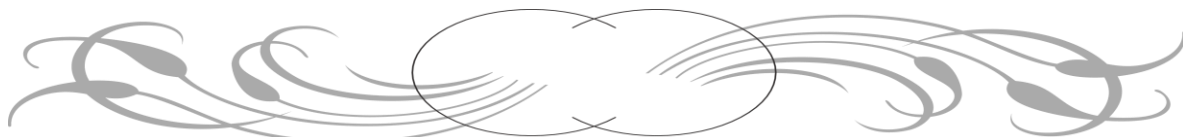
Moderator TBD



Presenter	Session	Affiliation
Dr. Lemmy Akoma	Session 9-A	Louisiana Tech University
Keiron D. Bailey	Session 1-A	University of Arizona
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 7-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
Dr. Antoinette Gazda	Session 3-A	Valdosta State University
Debi Ghatge	Session 5 Session 8 Room 236	Mission Possible and Partner at Steadfast
Pre-conference Workshop		
Kelly Girtz	Session 3-C	Athens-Clarke County
Asa Gordon	Sessions 10-A & 11-B	Research Historian and Consulting Curator, African American Civil War Memorial Museum
Harry Nathan Gottlieb	Pre-conference Workshop	
Claire Hagan	Session 3-C	HOHA Program Coordinator & R-51 Research Director, Historic Athens
Dr. Kalvin Harvell	Session 7-C	Henry Ford College
Tim Hoefler	Preconference Workshop	



Presenter	Session	Affiliation
Dr. Dianna Hollins	Session 2-B	Founder & Chancellor, Ekklesia Institute
Walter James, III	Session 7-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 9-B	CatheXis Publishing
Karen Lopez-Scott	Session 10-B	Founder & CEO, GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE ADVOCATE & CORPORATE WORKSHOP FACILITATOR
Manon Loustaunau	Pre-conference Workshop	
Dr. Omekia McNeal	XXXXXXX	XXXXXXX
Dr. Ogonnaya Nwoha	Session 8-9	Louisiana Tech University
Dr. Marion Orr	Session 4-A	Brown University
Dr. Keith D. Parker	Session 10-A	National Education and Empowerment Coalition, Inc.
Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission	Session 1-B	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
Grace Powell	Session 10-A	Louisiana Christian University
Dr. Jerry Shannon, Sessions	3-C	University of Georgia
Mike Reitz	Session 8	Mackinac Center
Dr. Fred Omweri Siambe	Session 1-A	Lecturer of Public Administration, Machakos University – Kenya
Pradeep Sopory	Session 2-A	Hindus for Human Rights



Presenter**Session****Affiliation**

Dr. Frances Staten

Session 11-A

XXXXXXXXXXXXX

Vidya Thirumoorthi

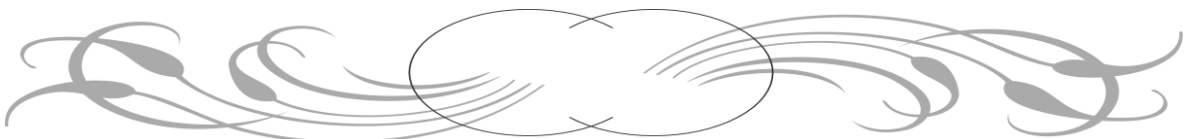
Session 2-A

Hindus for Human Rights

Faith Tucker

Sessions 3-C

Historic Athens



SPONSORSHIP



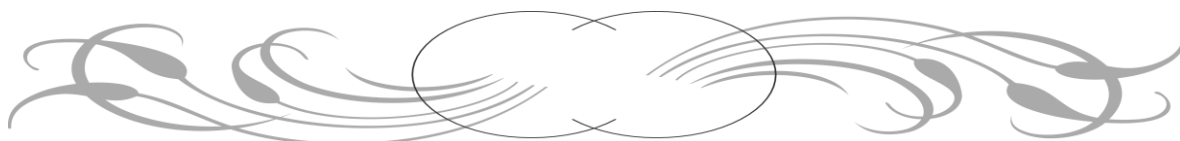
**VOICES FOR
LIBERTY**

FREE SPEECH · CIVIL RIGHTS · SOCIAL PROGRESS

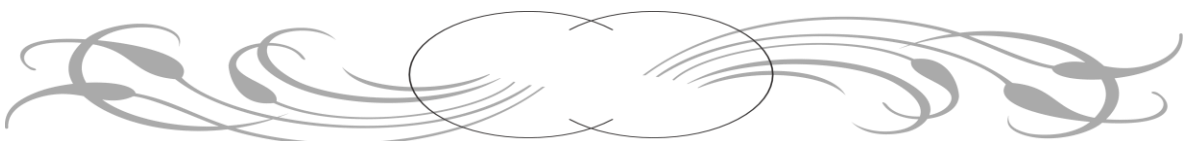


**VOICES FOR
LIBERTY**

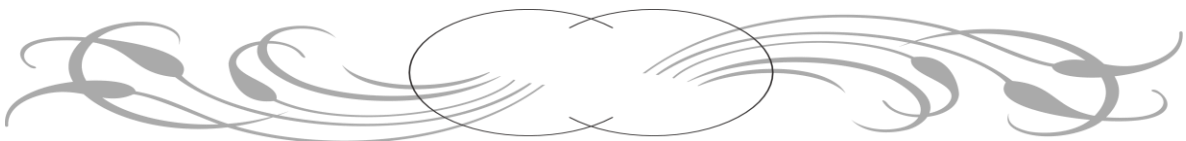
FREE SPEECH · CIVIL RIGHTS · SOCIAL PROGRESS



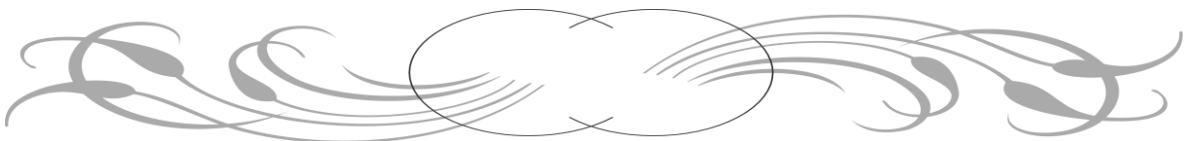
SPONSORSHIP



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

