



Welcome to the 25th Bayard Rustin Audre Lorde Breakfast. This occasion is a testament to the loyalty of those who show up year after year. It was Southerners On New Ground co-chair Paulina Helm-Hernandez who assessed the Breakfast as the Black LGBTQ community's gift to Atlanta. Like any living thing, the Breakfast has evolved through change which is as necessary as it is inevitable. One thing that has not changed is the steadfast presence of the beloved community for which the Breakfast was created.

We have made a tradition of honoring two extraordinary human beings who dedicated their lives to the struggle for human rights across intersections of race, gender, sexual identity, creed and nationality. Bayard Rustin and Audre Lorde. These immortals personify the indispensable place that Black queer folk have always held throughout Black community formation and liberation movements. In lifting up our fellow Sister and Brother Outsider, we present our full selves in observance of another anointed dreamer Martin Luther King Jr.





The 25th BREAKFAST

By Craig Washington

When Darlene and I organized the first event in 2002, I had no way of imagining that this would become a local ritual that meant so much to so many. I have come to understand that it is the relationships we have built which has kept this ceremony afloat over the years. The relationship between the Breakfast and the community it serves, and the relationships among the guests, volunteers, community partners and staff who lead without pay are what sustains. In 2025, we endured sudden and painful losses of angelic troublemakers within our circle. Alvin Agarrat. Jillian Ford. We thank you both for coming by here and giving us your all.

Longevity is rare among LGBTQIA institutions, especially those that are Black LGBTQIA. Many of the local brick-and-mortar spaces that were here in 2002 (Loretta's, TRAXX, Outwrite Bookstore) may now only be visited in our memories. We are compelled then to celebrate this hidden high trump win, the survival of a communion which nurtures Black queer advocacy and connection. We thank the Southern Unity Movement co-chairs Darlene Hudson and Maurice Robinson-Cook for keeping this ritual relevant. On that great-great morning, when I walk through the doors of the Loudermilk Center to attend the 25th Rustin Lorde Breakfast, my head will be held up high. For I will be wholly welcomed as I break fast at a table divined by my ancestors, one that was built sturdily to last.

