

**Rustin Lorde Breakfast 2019**

**WHAT  
#NOW**  
**2019**  
WHERE WILL YOU BE

*where will you be?*

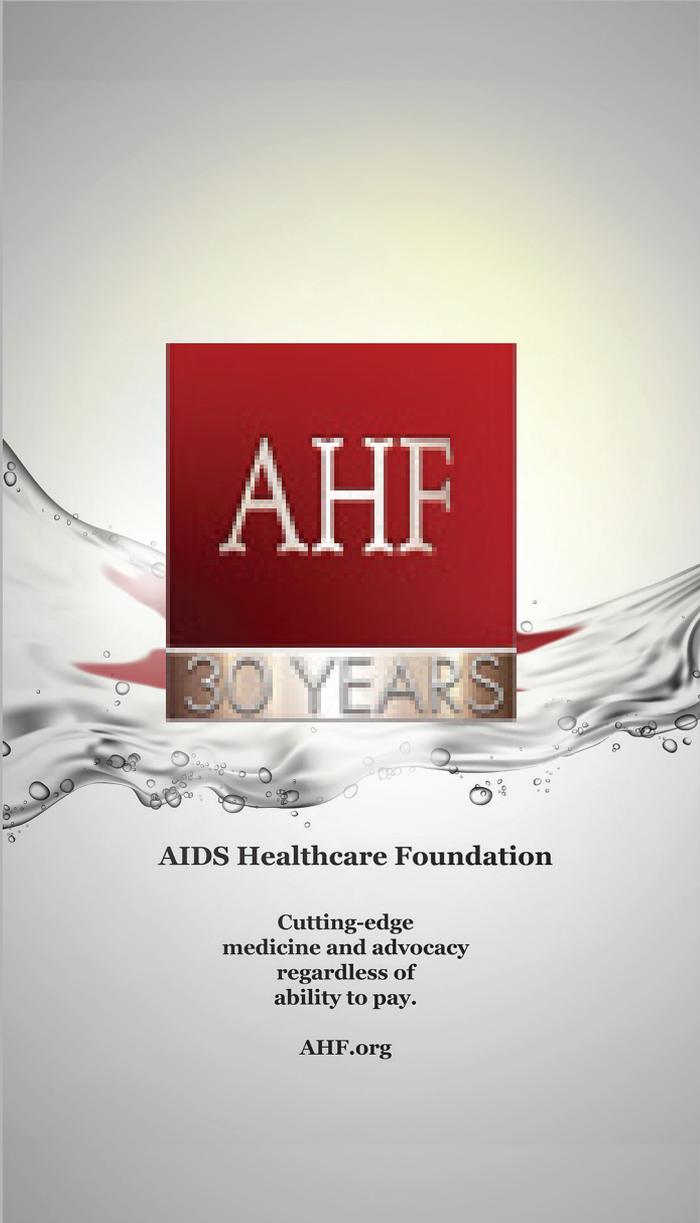
**MONDAY  
JAN. 21, 2019  
10AM**

**The Loudermilk  
Conference Center  
40 Courtland Street  
Atlanta, GA 30303**



**SouthernUnityMovement**

[www.southernunity.org](http://www.southernunity.org)



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## The Breakfast

The planning team welcomes you to the 2019 Bayard Rustin/Audre Lorde Breakfast! This year marks our 18th annual event. *The theme for the 2019 Rustin Lorde Breakfast is “What Now? Where will you be when they come for you?”* Words borrowed from a poem by the late activist poet Pat Parker – a black, lesbian who knew first-hand about racism and homophobia.

Following the breakfast, we will assemble at the corner of Peachtree St. and Ellis St. at 1:15PM. The March will start at 1:45PM. Immediately following the March, the annual rally will be held in front of the *Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Non-Violent Social Change* at Auburn Ave. and Jackson Ave. The Rally will present several distinguished speakers including honorary marshals. This year, **Larry Scott-Walker** Executive Director THRIVE Support Services, will serve as the honorary LGBTQI marshal. We invite all Breakfast attendees to participate in the March, attend the rally and support honorary marshal Larry Scott-Walker, who is one of the scheduled rally speakers.

We are proud to announce the 2016 incorporation of the **Southern Unity Movement, Inc. (SUM)** as the official host organization for the Breakfast. The mission of SUM is to build a more unified Black LGBTQI community through educational and advocacy work that fosters multi-gender, intergenerational participation.

This morning, we invite you to enjoy yourself and spend time reconnecting with old friends and making new connections! For more information about the Breakfast, please visit our Facebook page [RustinLordeAtl](#) or our website [www.southernunity.org](http://www.southernunity.org).

Love ,  
The Rustin Lorde Breakfast Committee

A photograph of Darlene Hudson, a Black woman with glasses and a white t-shirt, speaking into a microphone. She is wearing a black hat and has her right arm raised. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people and a sign with the word 'and' visible. The overall color scheme is warm, with orange and brown tones.

DARLENE HUDSON

# CO-CHAIRS WELCOME

Greetings and Welcome to the 18th Annual Bayard Rustin and Audre Lorde Breakfast. WOW!!!! Eighteen years and still standing. That's quite an accomplishment thanks to the many people who helped us organize these events and attended them over the years.

Today we are facing seemingly unprecedented attacks by our own government on human rights – especially the rights of LGBTQ people, women, people of color, refugees and migrants, poor people and the list goes on. We are asking the questions, “What Now? Where will you be when they come for you?” Words borrowed from a poem by the late activist poet Pat Parker – a black, lesbian who knew first-hand about racism and homophobia.

I am reminded we have been here before – disrespected, told who we can and can't marry, denied the right to vote and serve our country, and segregated. The attempt to bar transgender people from serving in the military is a recent example of discrimination rearing its ugly head again. We've barely celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the March on Washington and the Voting Rights Act only to see



a slow reversal of those victories. But I am also reminded of an old Christian hymn that tells us “Time is filled with swift transitions” and goes on to say “You better hold on to God’s unchanging hand.”

This year’s Breakfast theme “#What Now!” is meant to provoke us to rethink our level of engagement and commitment to social justice. Although in 2019 we may need to develop new strategies, we should be relentless in our pursuit of justice. Just as faith sustained us through turbulent times before, we will need to hold on to it even more. You don’t necessarily have to be religious to have faith. People of all backgrounds who believe when they come together change can happen are coming from a place of faith. Let’s be mindful of that as well.

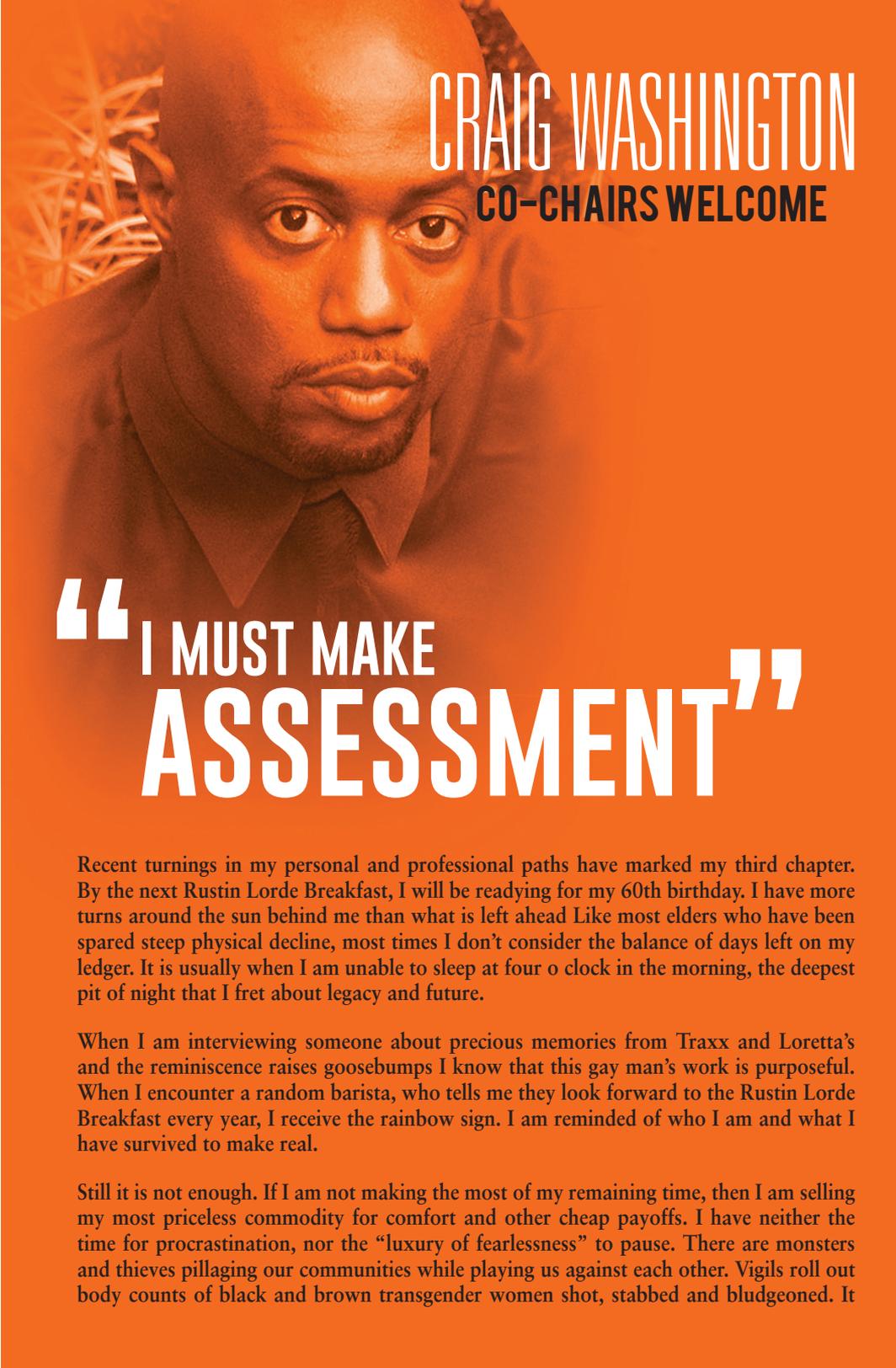
Personally, I am committing myself to the launch of the co-gender Southern Unity Movement whose goal is to fill the gaps in support for the needs of the LGBTQ community. I will also be working with others to secure and count every vote in the state of Georgia. I invite you to join me in these endeavors or find an organization you can support to stay engaged.

Finally, I want to leave you with this inspirational poem written and recorded by two black actress/activists, Beah Richards and Ruby Dee (both deceased). I think it speaks to what we need to do now to seize this day and move forward. It’s originally entitled

### “Today”

Today is ours; let’s live it.  
And love is strong; let’s give it.  
A song can help; let’s sing it.  
And peace is dear; let’s bring it.  
The past is gone; don’t rue it.  
Our work is here; let’s do it.  
Our world is wrong; let’s right it.  
The battle hard; let’s fight it.  
The road is rough; let’s clear it.  
The future vast; don’t fear it.  
Is faith asleep? Let’s wake it.  
Today is our; let’s take it!

Welcome again to the Rustin-Lorde Breakfast. This is our time, this is our day!



# CRAIG WASHINGTON

## CO-CHAIRS WELCOME

# “ I MUST MAKE ASSESSMENT ”

Recent turnings in my personal and professional paths have marked my third chapter. By the next Rustin Lorde Breakfast, I will be readying for my 60th birthday. I have more turns around the sun behind me than what is left ahead. Like most elders who have been spared steep physical decline, most times I don't consider the balance of days left on my ledger. It is usually when I am unable to sleep at four o'clock in the morning, the deepest pit of night that I fret about legacy and future.

When I am interviewing someone about precious memories from Traxx and Loretta's and the reminiscence raises goosebumps I know that this gay man's work is purposeful. When I encounter a random barista, who tells me they look forward to the Rustin Lorde Breakfast every year, I receive the rainbow sign. I am reminded of who I am and what I have survived to make real.

Still it is not enough. If I am not making the most of my remaining time, then I am selling my most priceless commodity for comfort and other cheap payoffs. I have neither the time for procrastination, nor the "luxury of fearlessness" to pause. There are monsters and thieves pillaging our communities while playing us against each other. Vigils roll out body counts of black and brown transgender women shot, stabbed and bludgeoned. It



is 2019 not 1989, yet activists like Daniel Driffin and Nina Martinez must still build alternative pipelines for people with HIV because the service system is so broken. Policies, politicians and popular ideologies conspire to “X away our right to life”. Meanwhile far too many of us choose assimilation over liberation, posing instead to pass as normal. How can we sacrifice our most vulnerable, and defend the patriarchal violence of Black male predators, by asking how come white men can get away with it? Why is it that we assign shame to opening our ass to another man, a subversive act which gives and receives joy?

Across four decades Pat Parker’s lilting voice calls out to us and calls us out. She alerts “the time for ruses is over” Our times call for a serious reckoning. In order to rally our strength, we must assess not only our opponents but ourselves. How steadfast is our commitment to one another? How far does our community extend past our kin and friendship circles? How does our thirst for justice measure up to our desire for acceptance from those who do not accept us? Are we showing up as activists to clarify our vision or to be seen? What kinds of compensation do we seek from our involvement?

There is a model of leadership largely missing in Atlanta. We do not need more “exceptional” individuals to be cited for unique talents rarely recognized among the masses. We need more leadership generated by the masses, not extracted from them and placed on pedestals because they are male, cisgender, HIV+, young or cute. I came of age during the era of the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum. It was not an AIDS conference, nor was it reserved for men. There was a spectrum of age and gender that I have rarely witnessed in one Black queer setting since the nineties.

One investment that must be taken up beyond the organic level, is formal leadership development made available to the young and those less experienced re community advocacy. How can we teach technical skills and social movement theory? What trainings could address key community attitudes, ego and activist stardom, self-awareness and gender politics?

However we get there, I need the kind of change that requires more than vanquishing our threats. I need a community that ponders what a healthier community might look like. What kind of spiritual consciousness does it embody? Look up at the times and ask yourself “*what now*”? *Where will you be*?

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can do to help stop HIV.



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Bayard Rustin/Audre Lorde Breakfast.

**LET'S GET STARTED.**  
[HelpStopTheVirus.com](http://HelpStopTheVirus.com)



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## BLACK TRANS FUTURES.

*We imagine a world where Black trans people are free, affirmed, sustainable, nourished, and abundant. A Black Trans Future is where everyone of all identities are free from ideological and physical cages of gender binaries and gender violence. A world in which our experiences, feelings, identities, communities, and bodies are not caged or defined by performance, presentation, or medicalization. In this future we're fighting for, our autonomy and agency to be ourselves is no longer contingent on antiblack violence, perception, negotiation, or shame. Our future is restored by a deep authentic connection and belongingness, starting first within our given families and within the families/ communities that we choose. A world that is able to transform power and transform harm. A world that allows for the embodiment of self beyond oppression. A world where healing is possible and sustainable. A world that dreams of possibility without bloodshed.*



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# ACCOUNTABILITY

Nasheedah Bynes-Muhammad

Why does R-Kelly piss on little girls? Did they tell him their real age? Where were the parents while all this was going on? Ya'll so worried about R-Kelly, but what did you say when [Insert White Man's Name Here] was doing it? How many times should Kevin Hart apologize? What more could he say to make you happy? Does everyone have to agree with your lifestyle? Why should he have to answer to you for how he wants to raise his son?

Over and over this week my newsfeed, across social media sites, is full of what is easily the most disappointing and disgusting anti child rhetoric or my young year. Fully-grown men and fully-grown women wielding arguments crafted from the stuff of every single logical fallacy, from red hearing to straw man, about why men who abuse and/or advocate for the abuse of children, minors, and underage girls and boys, deserve absolution, more record deals, the Oscars, and absolutely must be protected from accountability.

“But doesn't R-Kelly deserve our compassion?” “After all he was molested himself and many of the girls in question were fast.” “Aliyah lied about her age and the Savage girl's parents were negligent.” Hoards of folks, mostly Black and mostly men, rush, militarized, to the ready to launch counter strikes at anyone who demands accountability for a well-documented 30-year track record of abuse against black women and girls perpetrated by Kelly in plain sight. These sentries of toxic masculinity attack the girls themselves blaming them for being too sexy, too fast, too hypersexual. One defender went so far as to tell me that Mary was only 14 when she was wed to Joseph. The foot soldiers of misogyny launch blame, at parents, like firey buckets of oil and tar from mid-evil war machines: “they should have known better.” The parents should have known better, the girls should have known better, everybody should have known better except R Kelly.



But 16 year old Cyntoia Brown, abducted, pimped, and repeatedly raped by men who enjoy sex with underage girls knew better when she shot her abuser dead and ran for her life, pockets full of anything she could grab. It was her life or his an she knew better. Thomia Hunter knew better when she fought the man who had abused her for years held a knife to her kneck. Cyntoia and Thomia paid, like sacrificial lambs, for the crimes committed against them by men who took what they wanted from them, like R Kelly, over and over again with impunity. Biblical scape-goats forced, in their innocence, to be vessels for the sins of evil men and to take the prison time that justly belonged to those men.

“Well at least Kevin Hart apologized.” But did he really? I’ve scoured the internet for this so-called prior apology that Kevin feels exempts him from further discussion of his dangerously homophobic “comedy.” But a rumor of an apology should be enough, right? A man who advocated beating a young boy unconscious in righteous response to finding him playing with dolls cannot be expected to be genuinely contrite or take concrete steps to atone for this behavior. Everybody should know that a boy child playing with dolls is a threat to his fragile Black masculinity and an even larger threat to the flimsy manhood of his father. Mention holding Hart accountable and familiar sentinels will take up arms to remind us that we cannot “force him to believe in our lifestyle.” “Kevin Hart is a comedian; can’t the LGBT community take a joke?”

It wasn’t a joke to Jamel Myles, the beautiful 9-year-old gay boy who took his own life in August, 2018 after incessant bullying at school. It wasn’t a joke to Anthony Avalos, the brave 10-year-old beaten to death by his mother’s boyfriend for coming out as gay. Every day a child is abused, and sometimes they die, because of sentiments like those expressed in the “comedy” of Kevin Hart. But while Hart’s only loss is the Oscars and a few fans Jamel and Anthony are dead. While Ellen Degnerace and Don Lemon, play gay-tom and issue indulgences for ratings and social media like the life story of a 9 year old boy was abruptly ended and a 10 year old was subjected to a death that most would not wish upon their worst enemy. I wonder if those who bullied and abused these babies ever heard Hart’s “jokes.”

By now we are all familiar with both stories and we have all heard the many defenses and excuses taken up to protect these men from being accountable for their actions and words. My question, as someone who works to make life better for vulnerable youth every day is, when will protecting our girls be more important than a play list? When will it be our responsibility to defend our children from deadly “comedy?” When will we hold famous Black men accountable for toxic masculinity and violence against women, girls and queer people?

# BREAKFAST PROGRAM

Bayard Rustin

Audre Lorde

“IF I DIDN'T DEFINE MYSELF FOR MYSELF, I WOULD BE CRUNCHED INTO OTHER PEOPLE'S FANTASIES FOR ME AND EATEN ALIVE”

Audre Lorde



CO-CHAIRS' WELCOME

*Darlene Hudson and Craig Washington*

MAYORAL GREETING

*Rashad Taylor*

WHERE WILL YOU BE?

*Holiday Simmons, Jillian Carter Ford,  
Tori Cooper, Richard Hutchinson*

ANGELIC TROUBLEMAKERS

*Racial Justice Action Center, Women Healing Women, THRIVE SS*

THE CHARGE

*Simone Bell*

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE

*Theresa Davis*

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SPACE

*Special Presentation*

GRATITUDE & CLOSING

*Southern Unity Movement, Inc. (SUM)*



# NOBLA

## National Organization of Black Lesbians on Aging

Centering Service, Advocacy and Community based Research

### ***The ZAMI NOBLA Biggers House for Black Lesbians Elders/Community Garden***

This is the first HOUSE in the country meeting quality, affordable, accessible housing needs and food production for Black aging lesbians 55 and older.

### ***ZAMI NOBLA Lunch and Learn Saturdays***

Monthly information sessions centered around Health & Wellness designed for sexual minority women to learn new skills and exchange ideas.

### ***Rainbow Dollars: LGBTQ Financial Literacy Webinar***

A free six-month monthly Financial Literacy Series open to any LGBTQI person over 18 years of age living anywhere in the country.

### ***The Audre Lorde Scholarship Fund***

The Audre Lorde Scholarship Awards are designed to recognize out black lesbians and lesbians of color who are 40 years old or older attending any technical, undergraduate or graduate school located in the United States.

***ZAMI NOBLA Podcast:*** The Sound Source for Black Lesbian Herstory Amplifying the Stories of Black Lesbians over 40 years of age across the United States. The ZAMI NOBLA Podcast publishes a new episode every other Wednesday and can be found at [www.zaminobla.org](http://www.zaminobla.org), the Apple Podcast App, YouTube, Stitcher, Google Podcast App, on Twitter @ zaminobla2010 or Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/zaminobla/>.

### ***Annual Joan P. Garner Breast Health and Wellness Day***

This health fair in collaboration with local organizations focuses attention on the importance of regular breast exams, physical activity and health awareness for women over 40.

### ***Johns Hopkins School of Public Health- Our Breast Health: The Access Project***

The aim of this study is to conduct an online survey with cisgender women (i.e. female-assigned at birth and current identity as women) who have been diagnosed with breast cancer and/or had an abnormal result of a mammogram.

### ***University of California at San Francisco-PRIDENet/The PRIDE Study***

PRIDENet is a network of organizations and individuals dedicated to involving LGBTQ people in all stages of health research. The PRIDE Study is the first longitudinal health study of sexual or gender minority (SGM) people.

**Contact Us:** [www.zaminobla.org](http://www.zaminobla.org) 404 510-1660 [zaminobla@zaminobla.org](mailto:zaminobla@zaminobla.org)



# NOBLA

National Organization of Black Lesbians on Aging



**UPDATE**

Progress is being made on the ZAMI NOBLA Biggers Residence. Here are some “Then and Now” photos to view the work accomplished so far.

**NOBLA**

National Organization of Black Lesbians on Aging

“

It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept and celebrate those

**DIFFERENCES.** - Audre Lorde



**#STOPHIVATL**  
**STOPHIVATL.ORG**

“

The proof that one truly believes is in

**ACTION.** - Bayard Rustin



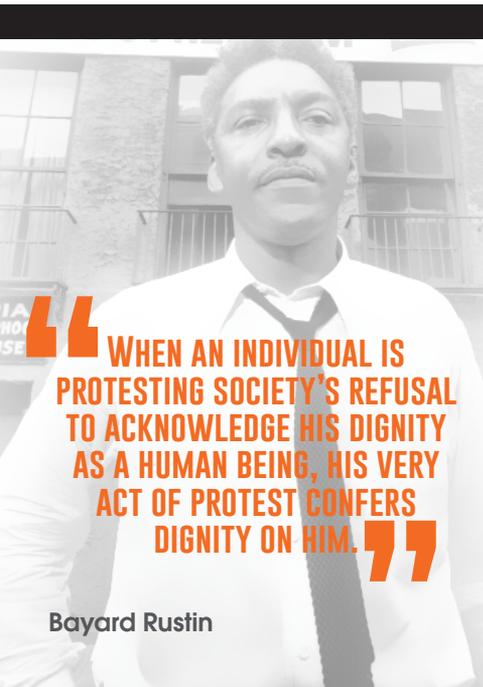
# Special Thank You

to All Our Volunteers

## 2019 Rustin Lorde Planning Committee

- R. Darlene Hudson - Co Founder, President  
 Craig Washington - Co Founder, Vice President  
 Ashe Hernandez - Founding Board member  
 Maurice Cook - Creative Art Director  
 Jamie Allen - Volunteer Committee\*  
 Jamie Roberts - New Volunteer Coordinator\*  
 Wula Dawson - New Media & Marketing Manager\*  
 John Ortiz - Program Committee\*  
 Tonie Tobias - Pre -Planning Committee  
 Margaret Conley -Pre- Planning Committee

\*New Members



“WHEN AN INDIVIDUAL IS PROTESTING SOCIETY'S REFUSAL TO ACKNOWLEDGE HIS DIGNITY AS A HUMAN BEING, HIS VERY ACT OF PROTEST CONFERS DIGNITY ON HIM.”

Bayard Rustin

*“They don't know  
 we are becoming powerful.  
 Every time we kiss  
 we confirm the new world  
 coming.”*

- excerpt from “American Wedding”,  
 a poem by Essex Hemphill (1957-1995)

In grateful appreciation and allyship from GLOBE, the  
 association of LGBTQ colleagues at CDC/ATSDR

## LARRY SCOTT-WALKER

HONORARY  
LGBTQI  
MARSHAL“THERE IS NO PILL TO  
REBUILD WILL.”

A love poet trapped in an advocate's body. A spiritual being having an utterly amazing human experience, *Larry Scott-Walker*, Baltimore native, is an author, poet and proud black gay man living with HIV. Shortly after coming to grips with his sexuality, Larry was introduced to the works of James Baldwin, Marlon Riggs and Essex Hemphill. He immediately fell in love with their passion, persistence and their use of language to call attention to the injustices faced by Black people. While attending Morehouse College, Larry would go on to cofound the first Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) “*Safe Space.*” Larry’s passion for community would land him working at several community based and AIDS service organizations (ASO) before cofounding Transforming HIV Resentments into Victories Everlasting Support Services (THRIVE SS Inc) in 2015. Along with Dwain Bridges and Daniel Driffin, Larry has cultivated the largest support network for Black gay men living with HIV in the country and has made tremendous strides in redefining what support, linkage to care and HIV stigma reduction looks like for this vulnerable community. Larry often states, “*there is no pill to rebuild will*” to remind audiences that no biomedical intervention can reverse the damage done by stigma and hate and it is the community’s responsibility to love, heal, fortify and save itself.

Larry Scott-Walker  
Executive Director  
THRIVE Support Services





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[impulsegpr.org/atlanta](http://impulsegpr.org/atlanta)

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# 2019 Donations



Thanks for your participation in the 16th Annual Bayard Rustin/Audre Lorde Breakfast. Donations to continue the work of the Beloved Community are welcomed and greatly appreciated!

**Please make checks payable to:**  
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 Memo line: Rustin/Lorde Breakfast 2017.



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THE SPOT was made possible by a grant from Gilead Sciences, Inc.





# Thank You

## TO OUR 2019 RUSTIN LORDE SPONSORS

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Solutions Not Punishment Coalition - Snap Coalition – (New)  
Fulton County Board of Health

### FREEDOM ORGANIZERS

ASPCares (New)  
The Health Initiative & Phillip Rush  
Impulse (New)

### FREEDOM MARCHER

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GLOBE Association LGBTQ Colleagues (New)

### SPECIAL GRANT

Atlanta Pride Committee  
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**COALITION BUILDING**



## **ACTION ALERT SIGN UP**

Georgia Equality monitors legislation and policy affecting LGBTQ Georgians throughout the year. For more information or to sign up for GE Action Alerts to stay informed on breaking news, notices on when your legislators needs to hear from you, and when Georgia Equality will be in your area!

**[WWW.GEORGIAEQUALITY.ORG](http://WWW.GEORGIAEQUALITY.ORG)**

# JOIN THE **MARCH**



**CORNER OF PEACHTREE ST. & ELLIS ST.**

**MARCH ASSEMBLY: 1:15PM**

**MARCH STEP OFF AT 1:45PM.**