



**OCT 4-10 2020**

#elevateart  
[www.elevateart.com](http://www.elevateart.com)  
**ELEVATE: West End**



**EQUITY  
ACTIVISM  
ENGAGEMENT**



THE FIRST YEAR OF THE NEW DECADE HAS USHERED IN A PANDEMIC, RACIAL UNREST, AN ECONOMIC RECESSION, FOOD SHORTAGES AND A POLITICAL STRUGGLE FOR THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE COUNTRY. WE HAVE COLLECTIVELY BEEN STRETCHED TO LIMITS WE NEVER COULD HAVE IMAGINED POSSIBLE BUT WHICH ARE NECESSARY. THE VULNERABILITY AND INEQUITIES WITHIN OUR SYSTEMS HAVE BEEN LAID BARE FOR ALL TO SEE, AND VOICES CALLING FOR CHANGE HAVE RISEN TO A DEAFENING PITCH.

AGAINST THIS BACKDROP, ELEVATE 2020 BRINGS TO ATLANTA'S HISTORIC WEST END ITS SIGNATURE, COMMUNITY-BUILDING BLEND OF VISUAL ARTS, PERFORMANCE AND CULTURAL EVENTS. THROUGH THE DIFFERING LENSES OF ARTISTS, THOUGHT LEADERS, CREATIVES AND OTHERS, WE CELEBRATE ONE OF ATLANTA'S OLDEST COMMUNITIES AND EXPLORE THE ISSUES OF INEQUITY AND INJUSTICE THAT WILL CONTINUE TO PLAGUE US AS A CITY, STATE AND NATION UNTIL WE SAY, "ENOUGH!"



**Schedule (All events are virtual and can be viewed at [ELEVATEatIart.com](http://ELEVATEatIart.com))**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2020  
ACTIVATE!**

**REGISTER TO VOTE WITH  
GEORGIA STAND-UP**

**NOON- 9:00 PM, WEST END MARTA  
STATION**

With two days left to register before the 2020 elections, ELEVATE partners with Georgia Stand-Up and MARTA to hold an all-day voter registration drive at the West End MARTA Station. If you cannot get to the West End MARTA station we encourage you to visit [georgia.gov/register-to-vote](http://georgia.gov/register-to-vote) and register online.

**IN RESPONSE TO THE MOMENT,  
A CURATED SOUNDTRACK**

**NOON**

We have commissioned **DJ Salah Anase** to create a soundtrack for ELEVATE that responds to this moment in time. By blending his signature rare grooves, house music and electronic Afrobeat with the voices of movements for equality, both past and present, Anase delivers a soundtrack that we can both reflect on and vibrate higher to.

**ELEMENTS OF A REVOLUTION,  
HAMMONDS HOUSE MUSEUM**

**2:00 PM**

Elements Of A Revolution gathers a group of 20 visual artists who have responded through their work to the ongoing fight for equity in American and global society. Each of the artists in this exhibition brings a unique and committed eye to expressing the emotions and documenting the moments of a social justice movement that seeks to lead our society toward uncompromising and inclusive wellbeing. Curated by **Lessie Vernardo Dixon, Dwayne Mitchell, Kevin Sipp** and **Leatrice Elzy Wright**.

**SPEAK POET! A LITERARY  
CYPHER**

**3:30 PM**

From the Harlem Renaissance to the Black Power Movement and beyond, the voice of the poet has formally and informally broadcast the stories of a people. Speak Poet! A Literary Cypher presents five poets who use their words to paint pictures of what the current state of being looks like through their many viewpoints. Hosted by **Adan**. Featuring **W. J. Lofton, Kemi Bennings, Jon Goode, Luvenia White** and **John Wood**.

## OUR VOICES. OUR LIVES.: BLACKNESS

4:30 PM

Our Voices. Our Lives.: Blackness is an intimate conversation with 15 Atlanta-based visual artists about the experience of being a Black creative. Our Voices. Our Lives. is a docu-series by award-winning filmmaker **William Feagins Jr.** (Wfjrfilms) that features artists and entrepreneurs of color discussing a variety of topics such as how they got started, what differentiates them from others, the influence of community on their work and more.

Check out the featured artists and their work by following them on Instagram: **@tiffanycharesse, @goldigold45, @lordyatta, @artfluxc, @quakesolo, @jbarberstudio, @sheisdizzy, @cbrooksart, @awtheartist, @myname\_mikej, @miragev, @bri.simpson, @honeypierre\_, @pashlima, @lecollagedart;** music by **@focus3dots**

## FILM: AGENTS OF CHANGE AND POST FILM CONVERSATION

5:00 PM

Current struggles to make colleges welcoming and relevant for students of color continue movements that swept across campuses 50 years ago. Agents of Change tells the timely and inspiring story of how successful protests for equity and inclusion led to establishing the first Black and Ethnic studies departments at two very different universities, San Francisco State (1968) and Cornell (1969). (2016, 66 minutes, produced and directed by **Frank Dawson** and **Abby Ginzberg**)

**A Conversation between Agents of Change filmmaker Frank Dawson and City of Atlanta Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs Project Supervisor Anthony Knight immediately follows.**



MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2020  
**WELCOME  
TO THE WEST END**

**MURAL, MURAL ON THE WALL**  
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Atlanta is a city replete with murals. Three new murals will be added to the citywide collection during the ELEVATE Festival, with the murals being installed in the West End. New works include:

Rev. James Orange: Hey Leader!, Artists: **keif schleifer, Golden 305, Tom Davii & George F. Baker**, West End Goodwill. Sponsored by GA Stand-Up.

Heroine: Unsung Women In Civil and Social Justice, Artist: **Ashley Dopson**, West End Goodwill. Sponsored by GA Stand-Up.

Vote is Voice, **Troy Lamarr Chew II**, West End Mall, Sponsored by Facebook

The Sun Shines Because of You, **Joseph McKinney**, West End Mall, This mural is sponsored by the Consulate General of Israel in Atlanta and dedicated but not limited to the following countries: Bahamas, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Haiti, Israel, Japan, the Republic of Korea and Switzerland.

Join us as we tour the murals and speak with the artists about the work and their inspiration as well as the family of Rev. James Orange and GA Stand-Up Director **Deborah Scott**.

**MAMA KOKU: A STORY OF THE  
WEST END**  
3:00 PM

We asked **Mama Koku** to create a story about the West End and how the community came to be. She's including all of our favorite people, places and things. If you have ever heard Mama Koku tell a story, you have probably found yourself inside of the tale. Whether her audience is children or adults, the stories she tells mesmerize listeners, whom she asks to be ready to participate when prompted.

**TAKE A TOUR OF THE WEST END**  
3:30 PM

Let's take a stroll around the West End with the man behind the WETourATL program. Insight Cultural Tourism presents guided walking tours that connect participants with art, history, and urban farming in the West End. Led by community historian and culturalist **Robert Thompson**, this one-of-a-kind walking tour explores the history of people, places and events that have shaped the area.

**THE WEST END THEN AND NOW:  
A CONVERSATION WITH SKIP  
MASON**  
4:30 PM

Few people know more about the history of Black Atlanta than **Dr. Herman "Skip" Mason**. Dr. Mason is the author of numerous books on the history of the African American experience in Atlanta,

Georgia and the South, and he has published more than 10 books. He has curated major exhibitions and served as a historical consultant on numerous PBS documentaries. He is the founder of Skip Mason Vanishing Black Atlanta, which has more than 39,000 members on Facebook.

## FILM SHORT: TO WEST END, WITH LOVE

5:30 PM

To West End, With Love serves as a visual love letter to Atlanta's West End neighborhood, a community steeped in blackness and history, yet on the verge of change. Director and cinematographer **Melissa Alexander** documents the West End as it looks today, glorious and radiant, championing a love that gentrification cannot consume. To West End, With Love premiered at Gallery 992 on October 13, 2018. (2018, 12 minutes, directed by Melissa Alexander)

## WEST END LOVE: MELISSA ALEXANDER & SHANEQUA GAY

6:00 PM

Photographer and filmmaker **Melissa Alexander** and visual artist **Shanequa Gay** have both created projects that celebrate the uniqueness of the West End community. Alexander's film To West End, With Love and Gay's Lit Without Sherman: A Love Letter to the West End exhibition at Hammonds House Museum portray the community with affection, respect and a mutual

hope for a vibrant future. The two artists sit down to discuss their West End.

## THE TALK: PEARL CLEAGE & TAYARI JONES

7:00 PM

Amazing things happen when you bring together powerful women. Literary giants **Pearl Cleage** and **Tayari Jones** sit down with host **Gail O'Neill** to talk about their literary journeys, works, connection to the West End, how the neighborhood is often another memorable character in their stories.

**Pearl Cleage** is an Atlanta-based author whose works include such novels as What Looks Like Crazy on an Ordinary Day, I Wish I Had a Red Dress and Some Things I Never Thought I'd Do; a dozen plays, including Flyin' West, Blues for an Alabama Sky, Hospice and Bourbon at the Border; two books of essays, Mad at Miles: A Blackwoman's Guide to Truth and Deals with the Devil and Other Reasons to Riot; and a book of short fiction, The Brass Bed and Other Stories. She is also a performance artist, collaborating frequently with her husband, Zaron W. Burnett Jr., under the title Live at Club Zebra.

**Tayari Jones** is the author of four novels, including An American Marriage. That novel was chosen as an Oprah's Book Club Selection, appeared on Barack Obama's reading list, and was awarded the Women's Prize for Fiction. Jones

has received the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award and fellowships from United States Artists and the National Endowment for the Arts. Her third novel, Silver Sparrow, was added to the NEA Big Read library of classics in 2016. Jones is a graduate of Spelman College, University of Iowa, and Arizona State University. She is an Andrew D. White Professor-at-Large at Cornell University and the Charles Howard Candler Professor of Creative Writing at Emory University.

**Gail O'Neill** is a writer for ArtsATL.org, where she covers arts and culture in Atlanta.

She is the host and co-producer of Collective Knowledge—a weekly series of conversations with artists, entrepreneurs and thought-leaders—which can be viewed on YouTube, Facebook and TheA Network. And NPR listeners know her voice thanks to guest appearances on WABE's City Lights with Lois Reitzes and A Closer Look With Rose Scott.



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2020  
**QUARANTINED, MASKED  
AND SOCIALLY DISTANCED!**

**ATLANTA JAZZ SESSIONS**

**11:00 AM**

The Atlanta Jazz Festival was canceled but the Office of Cultural Affairs created a new program called Atlanta Jazz Festival Sessions, which gave a curated list of Atlanta jazz artists the opportunity to perform virtually for thousands of viewers via the Atlanta Jazz Festival social media platforms. We extend that reach by programming many of the artists into ELEVATE. Music always takes us higher!

11:00 AM - **Mose Davis Trio**

11:30 AM - **Tony Hightower,  
Kenny Banks, Jr.  
and Kevin Smith**

12:00 PM - **Tyrone Jackson and  
Friends**

12:30 PM - **Brenda Nicole  
Moorer**

1:00 PM - **Lil' John Roberts  
and the Senators**

1:30 PM - **Alexandra Jackson**

2:00 PM - **Avery Dixon**

2:30 PM - **Joe Grandson and  
Kenny Banks, Sr.**

3:00 PM - **Kathleen Bertrand**

3:30 PM - **Mike Burton**

4:00 PM - **Karla Harris**

4:30 PM - **Gary Motley and  
Billy Thornton**

**DANCING INTO A NEW NORMAL  
— ATLANTA DANCERS RESPOND  
TO COVID-19**

**5:00 PM**

When Covid-19 disrupted the world, the City of Atlanta Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs acted immediately to provide some relief to artists and arts organizations throughout the city. Artists were able to consider the impact of Covid-19 on their lives and the lives of their fellow Atlantans. These dancers interrogated the effects of the pandemic in terms of its impact on the human condition, spirit and what Covid-19 uncloaked in terms of systemic inequity. We are officially in the new normal.

**DESTINATION DANCE AILEY  
ATLANTA**

**6:00 PM**

**Destination Dance Ailey**

**Atlanta** was launched by Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in 2017 to serve as a central meeting point for dance audiences, artists, teachers and students in the Atlanta area. As the choreographer and cultural leader Alvin Ailey said, "Dance came from the people, and it should always be delivered back to the people." The goal of Destination Dance Ailey Atlanta is to engage Atlanta's vibrant cultural community through partnerships between Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater — which has been performing in the city since the 1970s — and Atlanta-based

cultural, civic, and educational organizations.

Using dance as the centerpiece for engagement, the partner organizations present performances, classes and workshops for the public, education programs in schools, conversations with artists and civic leaders, and more. Destination Dance “connects the dots” between these various activities, and it promotes them through the press, email, and social media. The following programs demonstrate the excellent artistic work being offered by Destination Dance Ailey Atlanta partners.

## ATLANTA BALLET SUNRISE DIVINE

6:00 PM

Described as a performance for the soul, **Atlanta Ballet** commissioned former Alvin Ailey dancer and Complexions Contemporary Ballet's Co-Founder **Dwight Rhoden** to create a unique work for Atlanta Ballet which premiered February 2019. This was Rhoden's first commission for Atlanta Ballet. Under the direction of **Dr. Kevin Johnson**, members of the Spelman College Glee Club and the **Golden Gate Singers** created the musical landscape for Sunrise Divine that expresses the heart and soul of the African American experience.

The movement is classical based, but not classical, with a use of upper body movement

that's mobile and contemporary - expressive torsos, complex footwork, physical and athletic. The weaving of bodies cutting through space to create a passionate symphony of shape and form.

Themes of faith and devotion, tenacity and love, loss and evolution will power the work on a journey with a universal message of humanity and compassion.

## NATIONAL CENTER FOR CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS HOW TO RAISE AN ANTI-RACIST

6:07 PM

Addressing race with young ones can be a daunting but necessary task. Many parents, guardians and caregivers are looking for ways to start the conversation. Join Center personnel for a panel discussion breaking down the need to talk to children about race, and ways to approach these critically important conversations. CEO **Jill Savitt**, of the National Center for Civil and Human Rights, moderates a discussion with **Madison Brown**, content coordinator at Be the Bridge, and **Terra Gay**, principal transformation consultant at Change and Transformation Consulting.

## HIGH MUSEUM OF ART PICTURE THE DREAM

7:07 PM

Created by brothers **Matthew and David Adeboye**, who founded the production company **The Palette Group**, this film is featured as part of the High Museum of Art's exhibition *Picture the Dream: The Story of the Civil Rights Movement* through Children's Books.

Through compelling interviews with authors, illustrators and activists, viewers may gain a more comprehensive idea of the voices within the movement, as well as the artists who visualize history into the pages of treasured books. Author and co-curator **Andrea Davis Pinkney** will discuss her role in planning this one-of-a-kind exhibition, Martin Luther King III will reflect on his father's legacy, and audience members can get a glimpse of the next generation of people fighting for racial justice and equality.



## A.R.E.A THIS BITTER EARTH

7:15 PM

Choreographed by **Allyne D Gartrell**, this ballet was created during the pandemic, in response to the social unrest and injustice confronting our society as a whole.

## REIGNING VICTORY DANCE ACADEMY “AWAKENING” LOCATE AUTHORITY WITHIN YOURSELF

7:25 PM

This dance film addresses a major shift in the social justice atmosphere that is both spiritual and literal. Two works are to be presented, Sunrise, and Acceptance. Sunrise was birthed out of the Black Lives Matter Movement and ideas about mental health. It is a work — by Indya Childs and the Peace, Love, and Dance Project — set on **Reigning Victory Dance Academy Students**. Acceptance is a work created by RVDA Choreographer **Imani Tornes** to address being accepted in a world where people are searching for who they are.

## RIALTO CENTER FOR THE ARTS RUSSELL GUNN AND THE ROYAL KRUNK JAZZ ORKESTRA. “LIVE AT THE RIALTO”

7:45 PM

The jazz big band, **Royal Krunk Jazz Orchestra** featuring **Dionne Farris**, performed a live, socially distanced concert for the Blue Note New York that was produced

by the Rialto Center for the Arts and GSUTV. The performance was streamed live on Facebook and Instagram from the Rialto Center and recorded and edited for broadcast by GSUTV. The finished production includes bonus footage of bandleader and trumpeter **Russell Gunn** discussing his work, Atlanta musicians and jazz education.

Russell Gunn is one of the most prolific musicians of our time. Gunn has produced two GRAMMY-nominated recordings, Ethnomusicology volumes 1 and 2. Their latest album, Pyramids, is dedicated to the ancient African Pyramid builders.





WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2020  
**FILMS OF CONSCIOUSNESS**

**Race — The Power of an Illusion (part 2), 1:00 PM**

**Race — The Power of an Illusion (part 3), 2:00 PM**

The division of the world's peoples into distinct groups — “red,” “black,” “white” or “yellow” peoples — has become so deeply embedded in our psyches, so widely accepted, that many would promptly dismiss as crazy any suggestion of its falsity. Yet that's exactly what this provocative, new three-hour series by California Newsreel claims. *Race — The Power of an Illusion* questions the very idea of race as innate biology, suggesting that a belief in inborn racial difference is no more sound than believing that the sun revolves around the earth. Yet race still matters. Just because race doesn't exist in biology doesn't mean it isn't real and helping to shape life chances and opportunities. (2003, 112 minutes, Produced by: California Newsreel, Executive Producer: Larry Adelman, Episode Producers: **Christine Herbes-Sommers, Tracy Strain, Llewellyn Smith**, Series Co-Producer: **Jean Cheng**)

**DIRT AND DEEDS IN MISSISSIPPI**

**3:00 PM**

*Dirt and Deeds in Mississippi* uncovers the largely unknown and pivotal role played by Black landowning families in the deep South who controlled more than a million acres in the 1960s. They were prepared to put their land and their lives on the line in the fight for racial equality and the right to vote in America's most segregated and violently racist state.

In the face of escalating terror, Black landowners and independent farmers provided safe havens, collateral for jail bonds, armed protection and locations for Freedom Schools. They were often the first to attempt to register to vote and run for public office. (2015, 82 minutes, narrated by **Danny Glover**, produced and directed by **David Shulman**)

**JAMES BALDWIN: THE PRICE OF THE TICKET**

**4:30 PM**

James Baldwin (1924-1987) was at once a major 20th-century American author, a Civil Rights activist and, for two crucial decades, a prophetic voice calling upon Americans, Black and White, to confront their shared racial tragedy. *James Baldwin: The Price of the Ticket* captures on film the passionate intellect and courageous writing of a man who was born Black, impoverished, gay and gifted.

James Baldwin: The Price of the Ticket uses striking archival footage to evoke the atmosphere of Baldwin's formative years — the Harlem of the 1930s, his father's fundamentalist church and the émigré demimonde of postwar Paris. Newsreel clips from the '60s record Baldwin's running commentary on the drama of the Civil Rights Movement. The film also explores his quiet retreats in Paris, the South of France, Istanbul and Switzerland — places where Baldwin was able to write, away from the racial tensions of America. (1990, 87 minutes, Producer/Director: **Karen Thorsen**, Producers: **William Miles** and **Douglas K. Dempsey**)

## HOMECOMING

6:00 PM

Homecoming is the first film to explore the rural roots of African American life. It chronicles the generations-old struggle of African Americans for land of their own, which pitted them against both the Southern white power structure and the federal agencies responsible for helping them. Director **Charlene Gilbert** weaves this history together with a fond portrait of her own Georgia farming family into what she calls "A story of land and love."

Homecoming is also a mediation on the unfinished work of redeeming the land African Americans worked as slaves for hundreds of years. August Wilson once asserted that African Americans are a rural people

who, after the Great Migration, found themselves in an alien urban milieu. This film argues that Black farms, though small in number today, can continue to provide African Americans with a sense of cultural stability and family unity into the 21st century. In a country that has never tried to make African Americans feel at home, this film, like the farming families it celebrates, offers a real "homecoming." (1999, 56 minutes, Producer/Director: **Charlene Gilbert**)

## AGENTS OF CHANGE

7:00 PM

Current struggles to make colleges welcoming and relevant for students of color continue movements that swept across campuses 50 years ago. Agents of Change tells the timely and inspiring story of how successful protests for equity and inclusion led to establishing the first Black and Ethnic studies departments at two very different universities, San Francisco State (1968) and Cornell (1969). (2016, 66 minutes, produced and directed by **Frank Dawson** and **Abby Ginzberg**)

## JOHN LEWIS: GOOD TROUBLE

8:15 PM

An intimate account of legendary U.S. Representative John Lewis' life, legacy and more than 60 years of extraordinary activism — from bold teenager on the front lines of the Civil Rights Movement to the legislative powerhouse he was throughout his career. After Lewis petitioned Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to help integrate a segregated school in his hometown of Troy, Alabama, King sent "the boy from Troy" a round-trip bus ticket so they could meet. From that meeting onward, Lewis became one of King's closest allies. He organized Freedom Rides that left him bloodied or jailed, and he stood at the front lines in the historic marches on Washington and Selma. He never lost the spirit of the "boy from Troy," and until his passing on July 17, 2020, he called on his fellow Americans to get into "good trouble." (2020; produced by **Laura Michalchyshyn**, **Dawn Porter**, **Erika Alexander** and **Ben Arnon**; directed by **Dawn Porter**)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2020  
**ENGAGE!**  
**A DAY OF REVOLUTIONARY  
ARTS AND IDEAS**

**A CONVERSATION BETWEEN  
SISTER CITIES: ATLANTA  
CONTEMPORARY AND LES  
ABATTOIRS**

**12:30 PM**

**Les Abattoirs** in Toulouse, France, and **Atlanta Contemporary** partner for a dynamic conversation between their respective executive directors, **Veronica Kessenich** and **Annabelle Ténéze**. Their talk will center on how the two directors steward their organizations through these unprecedented times, with a focus on the relevance of promoting contemporary art and artists during Covid-19. In addition, the two women will speak to how their organizations navigate gender equity and address racism and inequality. This event will also provide an opportunity to further promote friendship and cultural understanding between Atlanta and Toulouse, which have been sister cities since 1974.

**LES NUBIANS: NÜ REVOLUTION  
NOON**

Since 1998, **Les Nubians** has attracted a global fanbase with its blend of African music, hip-hop and jazz. The duo's members have also been outspoken advocates of equity and anti-oppression around the world. In response to

the recent uprisings in the U.S. and abroad, **Helene and Celia Faussart** reached into their musical catalog and remixed their 2011 Nü Revolution video. The words are timeless, but the new images of protest, frustration, hope and love take viewers on another type of journey.

**TALKIN' 'BOUT A REVOLUTION**

**2:30 PM**

**Dr. Leah Creque**, chair of the Department of English at Morehouse College and director of the school's Honors Program, along with students from that program, engages us in Talkin' 'bout a Revolution, a moderated discussion. Reflecting on the current movement within the context of the movements of yesteryear, and the impact these new initiatives have on young adults and ultimately the shaping of the country, Dr. Creque and her students dig into a toolbox that includes film, a music playlist, and books by writer and cultural critic, Ta-Nehisi Coates.

Since the mid-1800s Morehouse College and the other universities that make up the Atlanta University Center have been the iconic center of Black intellectual life in Atlanta. The AU Center's proximity to the West End has greatly influenced the intellectual and creative profile of the community.

**ART BURST: JESSICA CARE  
MOORE**

**3:30 PM**

After the Apollo Theater catapulted her to fame, after New York, **jessica Care moore** lived on Oak Street, in the heart of the West End. Over the past two decades, she has become a cultural force as a poet, performer, publisher, activist and critic.

Reflecting moore's transcendent electric voice, her searing poetry is filled with moving, original stanzas that speak to both Black women's creative and intellectual power, and that express the pain, sadness, and anger of those who suffer constant scrutiny because of their gender and race. Fierce and passionate, jessica Care moore argues that Black women spend their lives building a physical and emotional shelter to protect themselves from misogyny, criminalization, hatred, stereotypes, sexual assault, objectification, patriarchy, and death threats. Her new collection, *We Want Our Bodies Back*, is an exploration of — and defiant stance against — these many attacks.

## PERSPECTIVES ON RACE, CULTURE AND COMMUNITY: DANIEL BLACK PH.D. AND GREG CARR PH.D. IN CONVERSATION

4:00 PM

**Dr. Daniel Black** is a professor of African American Studies at Clark Atlanta University, an award-winning novelist and founder of the Ndugu-Nzinga rites of passage nation. Dr. Greg Carr is associate professor of Africana Studies and chair of the Department of Afro-American Studies at Howard University and adjunct faculty at the Howard School of Law. ELEVATE brings these academic giants together to forecast the future of Black people in America, based upon the patterns, trends and cultural markers they are observing.

## VOICES OF THE MOVEMENT

5:00 PM

Unarmed African Americans being killed by law enforcement officers in America reached an alarming regularity this summer, with peaceful protests and civil unrest breaking out across the country. Atlanta, the City Too Busy to Hate, became the focus of national headlines after civil unrest erupted across the city and an unarmed Rayshard Brooks was shot and killed by an Atlanta police officer. We speak with young activists to hear what they have taken away, what they are doing now to continue the fight and what their end game might be.

## HISTORY REDUX: A CONVERSATION WITH THE ELDER, ANDREW YOUNG

5:30 PM

When we explore the chapters of American history, there are moments that define all moments which followed. The Civil Rights Movement remains one of the most critical and pivotal moments in the history of our country. The rights Black people received helped us move forward in many ways, but the systemic and institutional racism that was problematic then remains problematic now. We are literally fighting the same battles.

**Lauren Tate Baeza**, director of exhibitions at the National Center for Civil and Human Rights, sits down with former mayor of Atlanta and U.S. ambassador **Andrew Young** to discuss the repetitive nature of history, the philosophy of dismantling unjust systems, and lessons learned from the movement that should be applied today.

## THE TALK: MAYOR KEISHA LANCE BOTTOMS AND CARRIE MAE WEEMS

6:30 PM

Art often provides a voice for the voiceless. African American, Latinx, and Native American communities have been disproportionately affected by the deadly virus Covid-19. No one knows this better than **Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms**, who

has been navigating a pathway through the many crises the pandemic has caused for Atlanta and its residents. Artist **Carrie Mae Weems** has also turned her eye to the pandemic. Her RESIST COVID TAKE 6 campaign visually investigates the devastating political, cultural, class and racial impact of Covid-19 on black and brown communities.

Moderated by Spelman College Museum's **Andrea Barnwell Brownlee, Mayor Bottoms** and **Carrie Mae Weems** investigate the different pathways they are taking to amplify their messages and facilitate change.

## ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER PRESENTS LAZARUS

7:30 PM

ELEVATE continues its longstanding relationship with the **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater** through this presentation of *Lazarus*, the company's first two-act ballet. Acclaimed hip-hop choreographer **Rennie Harris** completes a trilogy of works — including past Ailey audience favorites *Exodus* and *Home* — with this hour-long work inspired by the life and times of Alvin Ailey. With *Lazarus*, Harris connects past and present in a powerful work that addresses the racial inequities America faced when Mr. Ailey founded his company in 1958 — and still faces today.



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2020

## SONGS OF FREEDOM

The songs of the Civil Rights Movement were influenced by African American spirituals, work songs, gospel and folk. In his 1963 book *Why We Can't Wait*, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. states that activists sang freedom songs because they added hope to the determination of the movement and that the songs of the movement were the “the soul of the movement.” We present two programs that focus on movement music and freedom songs.

### THE TALK: TOSHI REAGON AND MARK ANTHONY NEAL IN CONVERSATION

7:30 PM

Described by *Vibe* magazine as “one helluva rock'n'roller-coaster ride” and by *PopMatters* as “a treasure waiting to be found,”

**Toshi Reagon** is a one-woman celebration of all that's dynamic, progressive and uplifting in American music. Since first taking to the stage at age 17, this versatile singer-songwriter-guitarist has moved audiences of all kinds with her big-hearted, hold-nothing-back approach to rock, blues, R&B, country, folk, spirituals and funk. Since Lenny Kravitz chose her more than 30 years ago, straight out of college, to open for him on his first world tour, she has gone on to share stages with notable colleagues such as Nona Hendryx, Elvis Costello, Ani DiFranco, Pete

Seeger, Dar Williams, Lizz Wright, Me'shell NdegéOcello and Marc Anthony Thompson (aka Chocolate Genius). Her performances with her mother, Bernice Johnson Reagon — civil rights activist and founder of the a cappella group Sweet Honey in the Rock — are legendary.

With the breadth of musical and historical influences Toshi Reagon embodies we couldn't think of a better person to examine the music of movements, their impact and how (or whether) contemporary artists are taking up the mantle of providing “hope to the determination of the movement.”

## FREEDOM MIXTAPE

8:06 PM

We gathered a group of Atlanta musicians to discuss Freedom songs and what came to mind when they considered music that has been instrumental in moving people through struggle. We were surprised by the song list they came back with. Instead of the expected mix of traditional songs from the Civil Rights Movement, these artists chose songs by Max Roach and Abbey Lincoln, Nina Simone, Bob Marley, The Last Poets, and Gil Scott Heron, plus newcomers Keedron Bryant, D-Smoke and Little Baby.

Join us as **Julie Dexter, Ali Barr** and **Brandon Thomas** lead us through the first set of our Freedom Mixtape. **Henry Conerway, Tony Hightower, Kenny Banks, Jr.** and **Kevin Smith** bring up the rear, walking us through set number two. We reach our destination with the two groups collaborating.



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2020  
IN THE COMMUNITY

**SELF-GUIDED PUBLIC ART TOUR**

12 PM

Experience all of the great public art found in the West End community by [downloading the Office of Cultural Affairs' West End Public Art Tour Map](#) and taking a self-guided tour of the neighborhood. Don't forget to wear your mask and comfortable shoes.

**CHILDREN'S CORNER**

11 AM

ELEVATE partners with the **Alliance Theater, Alvin Ailey Dance Theater, Quik Rojas** and **Mama Koku** to deliver an arts filled 90 minutes for children to engage.

**FILM SHORT: LEVITATE.  
LEVITATE. LEVITATE**

12:30

Short Afro-futuristic drama about four young children overcoming the forces of gravity to embark on a cosmic adventure in West End Atlanta. (2018) Directed by **Ebony Blanding + Amber LN Bournett** (The House of June).

**GIVING THEM THE BUSINESS**

1:00 PM

The Greater West End of Atlanta is where you will find the Atlanta University Center, West End Community Masjid of Atlanta, Shrine of the Black Madonna, Hammonds House Museum, and The Wren's Nest. It is also a community which is full of businesses owned and operated by African American entrepreneurs. Discover long-standing and new business in the West End corridor through our final suite of conversations.

**1:00 PM The History of Black Businesses in the West End Reggie Hammonds,**

West End resident and owner of Your Crescendo Consulting speaks with **Willie Watkins** (Willie Watkins Funeral Home), **Myrna Anderson Fuller**, (West End Merchants Association) and others to discuss the history of Black businesses in the West End.

**2:00 PM West End Generations**

Canopy Atlanta is proud to present "West End Generations," a conversation about the legacy of Black-owned businesses in Atlanta's West End neighborhood, featuring the **Portis family** of Benjamin Moore/Southwest Paint and **John Onwucheckwa** of Portrait Coffee. This dialogue will highlight issues of community, culture, and entrepreneurship as seen through the perspectives of both established and emerging West End businesses. This event is moderated by **Floyd Hall** and is

in conjunction with the Fall 2020 inaugural issue of Canopy Atlanta.

### **3:00 PM Farming in the Greater West End**

Nestled in the urban cityscape of the West End are an unusually high number of farms. Truly Living Well, Patchwork City Farms, West End Community Gardens, Mena's Farm and others provide fresh food to the community, a classroom to students and purpose to those who find peace in the land and a responsibility to Black liberation through food development.

**Jamila Norman** and **Ras Kofi da Farmer** join **Leatrice Elzy** for a conversation about the significance of Black farms in urban spaces.

### **4:00 PM Gentrification vs. Urban Renewal ... Perspectives**

For too many years, the West End has been neglected in terms of development and investment. With the Beltline came some development and gentrification. Is there a balance to be struck which invites investment into the community but does not displace residents nor destroy cultural and community ties? Developer **Donray Von** and former Invest Atlanta Southside Community & Economic Development Manager **Erika Smith** explore this topic with **Reggie Hammond**.

### **5:00 PM Gritz and Jelly Butter**

After just one listen to the explosive Atlanta-based band, Gritz & Jelly Butter, and you will become a believer in the "Gritz Revolution" ... the musical revolution that is. The trio of musicians and vocalists were formed by what they refer to as the "natural mystic", and are committed to sending a message of personal freedom through their unique style of music and creative expression. Performing the perfect blend of old and new songs, while mixing in several of Gritz & Jelly Butter's original songs, paves the way for a new brand of soul/funk music.

### **5:45 PM Kebbi Williams and the Wolfpack (waiting on bio)**

**6:30 PM** Encore Performance: **Russell Gunn** and the Royal Krunk Jazz Orchestra

**7:30 PM** Encore Performance: Freedom Songs featuring **Julie Dexter, the Henry Conerway Trio** and **Tony Hightower**



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Devin Young, Project And Communications Coordinator

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Shaundraey Carmichael, Project Coordinator

Anthony Knight, Program Manager - Cultural Experience Project

Hunter Sims, Project Coordinator

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Darshon Crudup, Office Support Assistant

Alma Kadri, Data Reporting Analyst

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### **GALLERY 72**

Kevin Sipp, Project Supervisor

### **ELEVATE CONSULTANTS**

Leatrice Ellzy, Director/Curator for ELEVATE 2020

Ravi Windom, Curatorial Assistant

Lamman Rucker, Festival Host

Mike Moss, Video Production

Vanna Farley, Production Assistant

Bolaji Bailey, Audio

Brandon Sheats, Digital Producer

Wendell Hurst, Production Assistant

Stephanie Lee, Streamyard Producer

Wesley Hickson, ELEVATE Intern

Karen Hatchett, Public Relations Consultant

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