Community Dialogue & Public Forum
Urban Revitalization Through the Lenses of Peace & Justice
Frederick Douglass Community Association
July 29, 2015

SOCIAL JUSTICE

ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE

PEACE EDUCATION

ECONOMIC JUSTICE
PROGRAM & SCHEDULE

9:00-9:30 Welcome & Greetings
Tony Jenkins, Director, The University of Toledo Peace Education Initiative
Paula Hicks-Hudson, Mayor of The City of Toledo
Tina Skeldon Wozniak, President of the Lucas County Commissioners

9:30-12:00 World Café Conversation: Urban Revitalization Through Social & Ecological Justice
Mark Chupp, Assistant Professor, Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences, Case Western Reserve University / Founding Trustee, National Peace Academy
(*see page 7 for a description of the world café)

12:00-1:00 Lunch
Against the Grain Ministries, spoken word performance
The Murals: Creative Peaceful Resistance (CPR)—Resuscitating Justice and Reviving Hope
(*see page 7 for a description)

1:00-2:30 Panel: Urban Revitalization with Justice: Toledo & International Perspectives
Dr. Dale Snauwaert, Greetings & Welcome
Lynne Hamer, Moderator
(*see page 7 for panelist bios)
• Peter Ujvagi, County Administrator, State Representative, City Councilman, neighborhood economic development and ethnic diversity advocate at the local and national level
• Dr. Romules Durant, Superintendent, Toledo Public Schools
• Guisselle Mendoza, Executive Director, Adelante – The Latino & Community Resource Center
• Alicia Smith, The Junction Community Organization – “Community Mobilization and Social Justice through community engagement”
• Rosa Jimenez Ahumada (Colombia). Director of the Observatory for Forced Displacement of the University of Cartagena and Academic Director of the Master of Social Conflict and Peacebuilding – “Urban Resettlement With Victims Of Displacement And Disaster In Colombia”
• Dr. Sakena Yacoobi (Afghanistan). Founder, President and Executive Director of the Afghan Institute of Learning (AIL) – “Using Traditional Culture to Move Communities Toward Peace: Lessons from Afghanistan”

2:45-4:15 Concurrent Workshops
***** Choose one workshop from our list of 15! See pages 4-6. *****

4:30-5:00 Where do we go from here?
What have we learned? How can we apply it? What are possibilities for partnership and future action?

Video: Junction Community Revitalization Promo Video
Promise Toledo
Reggie Williams, Board President, Frederick Douglass Community Association
Tony Jenkins, Director, The University of Toledo Peace Education Initiative
Huntor Prey, spoken word performance

Please thank our hosts, partners, & presenters for making this event such a success!
** See page 8 for a full listing of sponsors and partners. **
WORKING FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

Rev. Dr. Donald Perryman, D.Min.
Pastor, Center of Hope CBC
President, United Pastors for Social Empowerment
PhD Candidate, Antioch University

1. What is social justice and why is it an important issue here in Toledo?
For me, social justice is the biblical concept of righteousness, which means fairness and the dignity of all people. Obviously, people of color and of lower social economic status are over-represented in Toledo when it comes to negative outcomes related to education, health, wealth, and contact with the criminal justice system. As long as wide disparities continue to exist and until equity is achieved social justice will remain an important issue locally.

2. Describe the work that you and your organization(s) do in pursuing social justice.
My work involves facilitating the empowerment of individuals, families and children in urban settings. In the congregation I lead, I have established a center for change that weds Gospel Ministry with Social Ministry by connecting all facets of contemporary life (political, economic, social) to our spiritual and cultural foundations. I also convene urban pastors together with at-large local institutional representatives to address the issues which disproportionately affect the poor and people of color.

3. How can people get involved in this or similar work?
People/other organizations can attend weekly church services to hear culturally relevant messages around social justice. They can also attend monthly United Pastors for Social Empowerment meetings held at ProMedica. Finally, oppression and injustice have many faces and so the New civil rights movement is one that is multi-ethnic and multi-racial. Therefore, by necessity, it must also be a multi-issue campaign if it is to successfully achieve social change. This will require collaboration and support among various coalitions for each others' issues.

WORKING FOR ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Donald Lynn
10,000 Strong Toledo
419-509-0751
toledodonald@aol.com

1. What is economic justice and why is it an important issue here in Toledo?
Economic justice exists when people are given the opportunity to acquire and enjoy the fruits of income-producing property. A free and open marketplace, guided by the community, is the most objective and democratic means for determining just price, the just wage, and just profit. Economic justice requires reciprocity: something for something with mutual benefit that doesn’t violate the needs of others. We can control economic development in our communities by collectively contributing to the institutions and businesses we need and that matter that most to our community. We can control our local economy by supporting businesses and services that benefit the community.

2. Describe the work that you and your organization(s) do in pursuing economic justice.
“Ten thousand (10,000) strong” is an organization seeking conscious black voters and contributors to join forces and pool resources to build capacity of our race; lift ourselves by our own collective efforts. Ten thousand strong is being formed to address needs specific to Toledo. Ten thousand strong has three objectives. 1) to support the Toledo Urban Credit Union, the city's only black-owned credit union; 2) to gather conscious black contributors who would readily pool his/her finances, other resources, and resourcefulness to provide the wherewithal to underwrite the cost of projects and programs designed and intended to serve the needs and interest of our people; and 3) create a solid block of black voters determined to influence public policy decisions that favor us socially and economically and open pathways for our children.

3. How can people get involved in this or similar work?
Get involved by registering as a part of “10,000 Strong,” a local branch of the “I Am One of the Million” national campaign (www.iamoneofthemillion.com). Please contact me for more information. We will have a website soon.
WORKING FOR PEACE (EDUCATION)

Alicia Smith, Community Organizer/Activist
The Junction Community Organization

1. What is peace education and why is it an important issue here in Toledo?

Peace education is the pathway to understanding for peaceful coexistence with and for our world and humankind. Peace education is not only a process of educating about peace, it is a process of educating for peace. Peace education provides a framework for analyzing difficult problems, for resolving conflicts nonviolently, and for engaging in dynamic future visioning and planning that can transform our community. Peace education provides a voice for harmony and hope for the future of Toledo. Peace is a self-reflective process. We have an opportunity to internalize that peace and project it onto the world from local to global.

2. Describe the work that you and your organization(s) do in pursuing peace education.

The Junction Community Organization works very hard to build collaborative relationships and partnerships so there can be a holistic voice for our community. Peace education informs the process through which these relationships are built. We help people to think about and understand important concepts and ideas such as peace, conflict. We engage the community in analyzing the ways in which violence is imbedded in our institutions and practices and how we can work as engaged citizens to change our community from the ground up.

3. How can people get involved in this or similar work?

The Junction Community Organization was started in the community and by the community. It began by talking with one another. We meet regularly to talk about issues concerning our community and through these discussions solutions arise and we form plans of action. Most important for us is that we listen to one another, seeking to understand each person’s situation. People need to be heard. These are principles that could be applied in any community across Toledo! All are welcome to join the Junction Community Organization meetings every third Monday at 6pm at the Frederick Douglass Community Association.

WORKING FOR ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE

Tiffany Jenkins, Youth Educator
Toledo Botanical Garden (Toledo GROWs program)

1. What is ecological justice and why is it an important issue here in Toledo?

Ecological justice is the ability to have a healthy (relationship with the) environment regardless of race, age, economic status or other socially contrived divisions. A city with ecological justice should include legal protections and a community-wide recognition of our interdependence with one another and the natural world. Many organizations in Toledo are working tirelessly to see ecological justice become a reality, but issues such as access to healthy foods, water quality, and safe natural places are still a daily struggle for many.

2. Describe the work that you and your organization(s) do in pursuing ecological justice.

Toledo GROWs is an outreach program of the Toledo Botanical Garden. GROWs supports a network of 120+ community gardens in Toledo by offering free seeds, plants, and education to community gardeners. These gardens have reclaimed many abandoned lots that create a physical place for community networks to grow, supplemental healthy food sources for community members, and habitat restoration. I am lucky enough to work with the city’s youngest gardeners. As the youth educator I provide programming for children around urban farming/gardening and nutrition; connecting how our daily actions impact our health and the health of the environment.

3. How can people get involved in this or similar work?

Call our offices at (419) 720-8714! The Toledo GROWs staff works to connect anyone interested in a plot to garden leaders around the city. You can attend workshops on urban gardening throughout the year and volunteers are welcome every Wednesday morning from 9-noon at the farm. GROWs is here to support the amazing efforts of a community-wide movement to nurture ecological justice one garden at a time.
Workshop 1

**THE SCHOOL TO PRISON PIPELINE AND AFRICAN-AMERICAN MALE YOUTH**

The University of Toledo (Anthony Bouyer)

My professional experience includes counseling in non-profit agencies, twenty years in the criminal justice system with the last twenty one years as a probation officer. In my current employment, I have witnessed the direct relationship between the lack of a high school education and a direct pipeline to prison, particularly for African American males. The black intellectual Cornel West discusses the effects of African American males dropping out of high school, and he examines nihilism that pervades the African American community: “the lived experience of coping with a life of horrifying meaninglessness, hopelessness, and (most important) lovelessness.” The frightening result is a numbing detachment from others and a self-destructive disposition toward the world. Life without meaning, hope and love breeds a coldhearted, mean-spirited outlook that destroys both the individual and others. I hope to examine more closely the relationship and factors contributing to the high number of African American males dropping out of high school. This is a population that is marginalized and little attention is given to their problems. My discussion will focus on the school to prison pipeline and strategies to change this destructive pattern for students of color.

Anthony Bouyer, MA & LICDC-CS is a Probation Officer, Toledo Municipal Courts and a Ph.D. candidate in the Social Foundations of Education in the Department of Educational Foundations and Leadership at The University of Toledo. His professional experience includes counseling in non-profit agencies, twenty four years in the criminal justice system with the last twenty one years as a probation officer. In his current employment, he works with repeat offenders. As we witness African American males lead in every negative life category, his case load is 85% African American.

Workshop 2

**BUILDING DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES INTO GROUPS WORKING FOR PEACE**

The University of Toledo Judith Herb College of Education (Mary Ellen Edwards)

Peace education and work takes place in groups. Group structure partially determines group functioning and outcomes of group activities. The workshop focuses on building basic democratic principles: respect for all members as equals, active participation, and tolerance, into the structure of groups working for peace. Using their group experiences, participants practice techniques demonstrating respect for equality, and tolerance of differences in forming groups within the workshop. They will brainstorm activities that encourage participation. Distributive leadership and shifting roles within groups will be explored. Participants will share ideas for fostering democratic relationships and using linkages between groups to build peace networks.

Mary Ellen Edwards is a professor in the Department of Educational Foundations and Leadership at the University of Toledo. Her interest areas are in social policy issues in education and health, human development and in comparative education. She first became interested in peace studies many years ago while doing dissertation work at the Karolinski Institute in Stockholm. She has taught in several countries through study abroad programs including Costa Rica.

Workshop 3

**HUNGER BANQUET**

Seisen University – Japan (Kathy Matsui)

Hunger Banquet is an interactive event that gives participants a real connection to the issue of hunger and helps them to understand why these problems are significant. Participants will be assigned by the luck of the draw—just as in real life some of us are born into relative prosperity and others into poverty—to a high-, middle-, or low-income tier based on the latest statistics about the number of people living in poverty. The workshop will search for solutions to alter the current structure that causes poverty and measures that benefit all countries.

Kathy R. Matsui, Ph.D. is Professor at the Department of Global Citizenship Studies, Seisen University (Tokyo) and teaches courses on conflict resolution and peace related subjects. Her research concerns the development of capacities for conflict resolution and reconciliation. She works with peace researchers and educators internationally in the International Institute on Peace Education and Global Partnership for Prevention of Armed Conflict. As a peace educator, she focuses her activities on Northeast Asia Regional Peacebuilding Institute (NARPI), Global Campaign for Peace Education and Peace Education Task Force of World Conference of Religions for Peace (WCRP), Japan.

Workshop 4

**TO YOUR CREDIT**

Toledo Financial Opportunity Center Network (Michelle Gorsuch, Financial Coach)

During this interactive workshop you will learn how to read a credit report, understand the difference between a credit report and a credit score, how to build a credit history, and even rebuild credit after experiencing a financial set back. Most importantly, you’ll receive valuable information about how to connect with a FREE financial coach to establish and work your own personalized financial plan!

Michelle Gorsuch is an experienced financial coach with the Toledo Financial Opportunity Center Network. As a financial coach she works to build relationships in the community and provides one on one coaching and counseling services to help individuals improve their financial bottom-line. Michelle is a certified Financial Coach through Central New Mexico Community College, a certified Ohio Benefits Bank Counselor through the Ohio Associate of Food Banks, and certified Credit Counselor through Justine PETERSSEN. She utilizes her specialized training to provide financial education, and assist clients with goal setting, budgeting, credit repair, tax preparation and skill building necessary to help them achieve their personal and financial goals. She studied at Owens Community College and has 18 years experience working in the non-profit sector. Michelle is the 2010 recipient of the East Toledo Family Center Staff award, and was a 2015 Jefferson Award nominee for outstanding public and community service.

Workshop 5

**DIALOGUE: OUR ROLES AS GLOBAL VOLUNTEERS OR LOCAL ACTIVISTS?**

Georgetown University Center for Research, Teaching, & Service (Amanda Munroe)

How do short-term immersion programs outside of one’s local context impact host communities? What aspects of immersive experiences help shape participants into more peaceful and globally conscious, local activists? A tension exists between the educational value of immersion experiences for participants and the impact of immersive learning with host/partner communities. How might peace educators constructively address this tension? Workshop participants will consider recent literature on immersion as a catalyst for global human development and the role of immersion experiences in the development of peaceful global learners through engaging with their own and each others’ stories of immersion in the tradition of Boal and Freire.

Amanda Munroe serves as Social Justice Curriculum & Pedagogy Coordinator at Georgetown University's Center for Research, Teaching, & Service. In this role, she coordinates community-based and immersive learning programs within Washington, DC and around the world, supports the development of educational initiatives for social justice; and works closely with the undergraduate program in Justice and Peace Studies. Amanda holds an MA in Conflict Resolution, also from GU, during which she conducted field research in Germany on effective practices for peace education through sport. She has worked in online learning at the United Institute of Peace and Future Generations Graduate School.
Equally to all regardless of creed or class or color. For all lives to matter, Black Lives must Matter. We discuss measures to hold local leadership accountable to the implications of militarized police forces, the system of Jim Crow justice in America, the pipeline from schools to prisons that many of our young black people are subjected to and what this movement has and continues to build toward as a new slogan of justice or else begins to echo across the land. Our black youth are faced with a constant threat of police profiling, harassment and violence and subjected to it on a daily basis. How is #BlackLivesMatter making change?

Ram Chandra Paudel was born in rural village in Nepal and experienced absolute poverty and child labour. He has served as teacher for 14 years. He has founded many social organizations, including CHILDREN-Nepal. Since last 20 years, he is working as an executive director. He is an author of many books including Peace Ways. He was awarded a Peace Facilitator by Training for Change, USA. He has facilitated more than 800 peace education related training workshops. His experience includes the alternative to violence program and conflict management.

Workshop 6 Room: 2nd Floor – “FDCA / Executive Office”

Creating Need Based ‘I’ Message
CHILDREN-Nepal (Ram Chandra Paudel)

Improving communication is an essential part of peace education which helps us finding alternatives to violence. To have non violent communication, we should recognize our feelings. Feelings are a clue to our needs. Negative feelings mean our needs are not met. Positive feelings mean our need is met at this moment. Recognizing our own needs, we could better communicate to ourselves and others. In this workshop we will focus, through ‘I’ message, on holding respect for ourselves and others as a foundation of our communication, which helps each other to build confidence to resolve/transform conflicts in creative ways.

Ram Chandra Paudel was born in rural village in Nepal and experienced absolute poverty and child labour. He has served as teacher for 14 years. He has founded many social organizations, including CHILDREN-Nepal. Since last 20 years, he is working as an executive director. He is an author of many books including Peace Ways. He was awarded a Peace Facilitator by Training for Change, USA. He has facilitated more than 800 peace education related training workshops. His experience includes the alternative to violence program and conflict management.

Workshop 7 Room: Gym #3

Creating Possibilities for Peace
Padua Center (Sister Virginia Welsh & Mr. Terry Crosby)

The Padua Center provides two unique programs during the school year. “Padua Possibilities” provides an alternative to suspension for children from grades K-6 from Sherman Elementary, Martin Luther King Academy for Boys, and Robinson School. Children are given an educational environment, while they meet and discuss their ‘offense’ with staff. “Restoring Possibilities” provides a parallel program for children who are expelled. We will include one or two peace activities for the participants.

The Padua Center, founded in 2006, is a neighborhood-based center that provides an environment for empowerment for individuals of all ages. The Padua Possibilities and Restoring Possibilities programs provide skills for peaceful living, after school tutoring provides for academic enhancement, summer camps provides opportunities for children to explore the larger world, in an atmosphere of healthy living. Kwanzaa Park Neighbors is the area block watch and a gathering of neighbors to come together to improve the neighborhood. All are welcome to the monthly meetings held on the first Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

Workshop 8 Room: 1st Floor “Green Room” (will go outside!)

Peace Pedagogy and Urban Farming as a Complete Ecosystem
Toledo Botanical Gardens - Toledo GROWS (Tiffany Jenkins)

Participants in this workshop will experience multiple ways of introducing children to the underlying peace principles of urban farming - sustainability, collective security, and interconnectedness. Participants will engage in games, experiments, and get their hands dirty while learning about the challenges and successes of connecting the children of Toledo to locally grown food and their natural environment.

Tiffany Jenkins has been a peace educator for the past ten years. Through both formal and non-formal education she has worked with children of all ages to explore their rights, appreciate themselves, and discover what it means to live in a community. Tiffany received a Masters degree from Teachers College, Columbia University where she formally studied peace education. She now works as an environmental educator with Toledo GROWS, a community gardening outreach program of the Toledo Botanical Gardens. Tiffany is an active board member with Passos Peace Museum, a nonprofit dedicated to peacebuilding through the arts.

Workshop 9 Room: Gym #4

Building an Urban Youth Leadership Organization
(Christopher Young)

How can urban youth be working together more effectively to address problems in and across their communities? This workshop will be an interactive vision-building session aiming to lay the foundation for a new organization that makes reality of the answers to the question above. It will start with the story of how and why student leaders of Berkeley High School, California, organized the first-ever Bay Area Urban Schools Student Leadership Conference in 2012. Then we will use small to whole group brainstorming and discussions to develop the foundation and frame of an organization that can sustainably shape the creative actions of young people to address problems in their urban communities. The result should be inspiration and process tools to start a chapter of the organization, which will at least happen in the SF Bay Area. Youth participants of the IIPE are strongly encouraged to attend!

Christopher has worked as an educator in California and internationally since 2002, including projects in the Czech Republic, Uganda, South America and China. Always looking to learn from his students and experiences, his main focus is helping young people to become personally empowered toward life goals and increasingly conscience agents of social change. His educational philosophy has many influences, namely examples found in many of history’s great nonviolent social movements and the Stanford University School of Education, where he received my MA in Education and training in “teaching for social justice.” As director of student activities at Berkeley High School he designed and developed the student leadership program with his students, serving a beautifully diverse community of 3460 students.

Most recently, he was the principal of a small school in China promoting critical analysis and creativity.

Workshop 10 Room: 3rd Floor – Room A (front)

Community Solidarity Response Network: CSRN (Julian Mack, Twila Page & Washington Muhammad)

This workshop will discuss the evolution of the Black Lives Matter movement here in Toledo within the context of international solidarity, peace and justice. The workshop leaders will present and discuss the evolution of the Community Solidarity Response Network of Toledo since this movement began almost a year ago, sparked by the gunning down of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri. The presenters will discuss the implications of militarized police forces, the system of Jim Crow justice in America, the pipeline from school to prisons that many of our black youth are subjected to and what this movement has and continues to build toward as a new slogan of justice or else begins to echo across the land. Our black youth are faced with a constant threat of police profiling, harassment and violence and subjected to it on a daily basis. How is #BlackLivesMatter making change?

The Community Solidarity Response Network of Toledo was officially formed on November, 25, 2014, the day after it was announced that the killer (a Ferguson, Missouri police officer) of Michael Brown (an unarmed teenager) would NOT be indicted. *We Bring Awareness to the Injustices experienced by Black men, women and children who are disproportionately murdered, attacked, provoked and harassed by law enforcement. Police Brutality has to end. We bring awareness to the fact that most often, police brutality goes without consequence and accountability. Police Impunity has to end. *We utilize the tactics of Protest, Civil Disobedience, Event-Disruption, and Citizen Advocacy to give voice to those who are otherwise voiceless. *We facilitate progressive community-based events that help to foster self-development, and we discuss measures to hold local leadership accountable to their sworn duties, be they politicians, clergy, law enforcement; educators, etc. *We want Justice. Equal Justice under the law. We want justice applied equally to all regardless of creed or class or color. For all lives to matter, Black Lives must Matter. *Injustice anywhere is a threat to Justice Everywhere.*
Workshop 11  Room: 3rd Floor – Room A (back)

GRASSROOTS LEADERSHIP

The Center for Servant Leadership w/ the Friendly Center (Amelia Gibbon & Sam Melden)

This workshop will focus on the importance of Grassroots Leadership in the context of Urban Revitalization. We will look at common leadership models as well as the roles & responsibilities necessary for the Grassroots Leader. The group will discuss both historical and real time examples of urban revitalization and examine what types of leadership were present in those situations.

Amelia Gibbon is the current Exec Director of The Friendly Center. She has 20+ years in the nonprofit arena. Amelia is passionate about leadership development in neighbors and believes that change happens one person at a time. Sam & his wife Lindsey live in West Toledo with their two brilliant & brave daughters. Together they are actively involved in the Five Points neighborhood as well as St. Andrews Episcopal Church. Outside of being the Executive Director of The Center for Servant Leadership, Sam is a Tigers fan and novice marathoner.

Workshop 12  Room: 3rd Floor – Meeting Room 1 (front)

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION: EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITIES OF BECOMING A MORE INTENTIONALLY INCLUSIVE AND WELCOMING COMMUNITY

Welcome Toledo-Lucas County (Sarah Allan & Salma Barudi)

Participants will briefly learn about the history and mission of Welcome Toledo-Lucas County (TLC). The majority of the workshop will be dedicated to a community conversation. Welcome TLC believes community input and involvement are necessary and integral to creating a welcoming place to live, work, and thrive. Through small and large group discussion, participants will imagine what is possible if Toledo-Lucas County became an intentionally inclusive and welcoming community to immigrants and diverse communities. The ideas and concepts envisioned by participants will be documented and used to continually inform the work of Welcome TLC.

The mission of Welcome Toledo-Lucas County (TLC) is to engage and integrate immigrants and diverse communities as valued contributors to building a more inclusive economy and vibrant civic and social fabric for all. Welcome TLC is an initiative of inclusion that recognizes differences between people and acknowledges this diversity as a valued asset. Focus areas of the initiative include community outreach, immigrant legal services, language access, and workforce and economic development. Launched in March of 2014, Welcome TLC is housed at the Board of Lucas County Commissioners. Other founding members of the initiative include Toledo LISC, Lucas County Land Bank, Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, and City of Toledo Board of Community Relations.

Workshop 13  Room: 3rd Floor – Meeting Room 1 (back)

BEING A COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITY - COMPASSION IN ACTION

Greater Toledo & NW Ohio Compassionate City (Barb Colvin & Shelly Kotz)

Participants will learn how the Compassionate City movement got started and a brief timeline of the MultiFaith Council of NW Ohio’s initiative to designate Greater Toledo as one of the Compassionate Cities. Participants will receive handouts and postcards about the Charter for Compassion and Toledo’s compassionate action. They will learn about our successful participation in last year’s Compassion Games (9/11 – 9/21) and how to join in the games this year. Most of all, they will gain a better understanding of how compassion can be a strategy in revitalizing our city.

Barb Colvin has been a Compassion Ambassador and leader in the local Compassion Games for a little over a year. She is also involved in Tree Toledo, an ambitious project to plant a tree for every person in Toledo. This project is in line with a concept for compassion for the planet. Shelly Kotz is a more recent member of the Compassion Team and is enthusiastic in her support of the movement.

Workshop 14  Room: Gym #5

LISTENING TO COMMUNITY VOICE IN ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

Junction Urban Waters/TMACOG (Kari Gerwin and Alicia Smith)

The Junction Urban Waters project is a partnership of community members and local government with a goal of revitalizing vacant and abandoned parcels into beautiful, useful green spaces. We will share the process of building a strong working relationship between members of the Junction Community and City staff and discuss tools of effective engagement. Participants will apply the community engagement framework to a hypothetical planning and visioning session while offering their own experiences to the collaborative planning process. Participants will benefit from the collective knowledge of the group and will take away next steps for implementing similar programs in their communities.

Kari Gerwin is an Environmental Planner at Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG). She is fortunate to have the opportunity to work with diverse stakeholders in planning for long-standing and emerging regional water quality issues including environmental justice, stormwater management, and environmental policy and goal setting with local governments. Kari is a lifelong resident of northwest Ohio holding a B.A. in Environmental Studies and an M.A. in Geography from the University of Toledo. Mrs. Alicia Smith is the proud mother of three TPS students, and now University of Toledo students. Alicia and her husband of 22 years have lived in the Junction Community for over 20 years. As a Doctoral student in the Social Foundations of Education in the Department of Educational Foundations and Leadership at The University of Toledo, Alicia is focused on helping to improve the quality of life for disenfranchised communities through education, collaboration, and connectivity. She is the Junction Community Liaison for TMACOG and a Restorative Justice practitioner. Alicia believes that resource information and systematic networks are the keys to community sustainability and revitalization.

Workshop 15  Room: Gym #6

TOOLS AND RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Toledo-Lucas County Sustainability Commission (Melissa Greene, Jim Minesky, Juliana Sample)

The Toledo-Lucas County Sustainability Commission is busy implementing Greater Toledo: Going Beyond Green, which is our regional sustainability plan. The plan emphasizes projects and programs that promote social equity, economic prosperity, and the health of our natural environment. One of the projects we are working on has a focus on working with a community group to incorporate sustainability into their neighborhood revitalization efforts. In this workshop, we will give an overview of the sustainability plan, and the current neighborhood project we are working on. Then we will have a discussion on resources available to neighborhood groups looking to improve their neighborhood. Through this workshop, we hope to start a dialogue amongst neighborhood groups, so that collaboration and a sharing of knowledge and resources may begin to take place community wide.

Melissa Greene serves as the Sustainability Coordinator for the Lucas County Commissioners Office. Her responsibilities include serving as chair of the Toledo-Lucas County Sustainability Commission, planning and facilitating sustainability workshops and seminars, and promoting and improving sustainability within Lucas County. Melissa is also responsible for the management and implementation of the Toledo-Lucas County Sustainability Plan. Melissa holds a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Policy & Analysis and a Masters of Public Administration degree. She earned both of her degrees from Bowling Green State University. Juliana has served as the Executive Director of Keep Toledo/Lucas County Beautiful, Inc. (KT/LCB) since 1988. She is responsible for overseeing the non-profit organization operations and administration; development and implementation of education/awareness, litter prevention and recycling programs; and reporting to the KT/LCB Board of Directors, the Lucas County Solid Waste Management District, the City of Toledo departments involved in KT/LCB activities; and Keep America Beautiful, Inc. She has served at the state level on the Keep Ohio Beautiful Board of Directors as Secretary and has served on committees at the national level for Keep America Beautiful, Inc.
PRESENTER BIOS

PANELISTS

Peter Ujvagi
County Administrator, State Representative, City Councilman, neighborhood economic development and ethnic diversity advocate at the local and national level

Dr. Romules Durant, Superintendent, Toledo Public Schools
Dr. Durant has spent the past 14 years working for the Toledo Public School District, as a teacher, administrator, and assistant superintendent. He was most recently selected as the Interim Superintendent/CEO of TPS. In his work, he became the driving force behind data-driven decisions that assisted in the increase of state performance rating in 16 of the 17 schools. Dr. Durant, himself comes from an impoverished background, which inspired his doctoral research, formulated around the oppressive platform of today’s achievement gap. His doctoral dissertation “The Collective Factor of Social Oppression and Urban Poverty on the Achievement of Black Students” was considered for Dissertation of the Year.

Guisselle Mendoza, Executive Director Adelante, the Latino Resources Center
Guisselle Mendoza is the Executive Director of Adelante, the Latino Resources center and President of the Latino Alliance of Northwest Ohio. She leads the only Latino resource center in Northwest Ohio and hopes that Adelante and the community it serves gains recognition for the power and potential that the Latino community has and that the community as a whole continues to support and invest in future of Latino children. She was born in Nicaragua and moved to the United States in the late 80’s and has been a resident of Ohio for 23 years. Guisselle considers herself an advocate for the for the Latino community who may feel that they do not have a voice. Her passion is to give someone an opportunity just like someone gave her an opportunity if that is through teaching, encouraging, volunteering, education or empowering it doesn’t matter it’s all worth it to her. Her goal is to continue her education and place Adelante as one of the leading agencies empowering the Latino community in the state of Ohio. Guisselle sits on the following boards WGTE and the Lucas County Land Banks, she also serves in committees such as Welcome Toledo Lucas County, ASPIRE, Early Literacy Partnership and the Diamante Award. She is a member of the Toledo Rotary Club, Spanish American Organization and the Young Latino Professionals of Toledo.

Alicia Smith, The Junction Community Organization
Mrs. Alicia Smith is the proud mother of three TPS students, and now University of Toledo students. Alicia and her husband of 22 years have lived in the Junction Community for over 20 years. As a graduate student at the University of Toledo, Department of Education, Social Foundations program, Alicia is focused on helping to improve the quality of life for disenfranchised communities through education, collaboration, and connectivity. She is the Junction Community Liaison for TMACOG and a Restorative Justice practitioner. Alicia believes that resource information and systematic networks are the keys to community sustainability and revitalization.

Rosa Jimenez Ahumada (Colombia). Director of the Observatory for Forced Displacement of the University of Cartagena
Social Worker, MA in Education. Director of the Observatory for the forced displacement of the University of Cartagena and Academic Director of the Master of Social Conflict and Peacebuilding, with field experience in peace-building and peace education in conflict zones.

Dr. Sakena Yacoobi (Afghanistan). Founder, President and Executive Director of the Afghan Institute of Learning (AIL)
Dr. Sakena Yacoobi is Founder and CEO of the Afghan Institute of Learning (AIL). Yacoobi has also established four private schools, a private hospital and a radio station. Seeing the impact of war on Afghans, Yacoobi began AIL to provide education, training and healthcare to Afghan women and children. Under her leadership, AIL has become a groundbreaking grassroots organization, reaching 12 million and empowering women. Born in Herat, Afghanistan, Dr. Yacoobi has received many honors including five honorary doctorates and the prestigious Opus Prize. An acclaimed international speaker, she carries the voice of Afghan women to the world.

THE MURALS ON DISPLAY

Creative Peaceful Resistance (CPR)—Resuscitating Justice and Reviving Hope
CPR is a grassroots module that uses creative expression to protest injustices and herald the shared visions of marginalized groups to the general public. All CPR murals are informed and guided by people who experience marginalization and they are painted by local artists. The CPR module may be used in city as well as campus settings. Most recently, a Fulbright specialist grant sponsored a critical service learning project using the CPR module in South India.*

WORLD CAFÉ CONVERSATION

The World Café is built on the assumption that people already have within them the wisdom and creativity to confront even the most difficult challenges. Given the appropriate context and focus, it is possible to access and use this deeper knowledge about what’s important. World Café conversations are an intentional way to create a living network of conversation around questions that matter. It is a creative process for leading collaborative dialogue, sharing knowledge and creating possibilities for action in groups of all sizes. The challenges of life in the 21st Century require us to find new ways to access the wisdom and intelligence inherent in groups both small and large. The need for collaboration, insight and coordinated action has never been greater. Café conversations are one way that communities, businesses, governments, and people from all walks of life are using to create a common purpose, share knowledge, make more intelligent decisions, and call forth life-affirming action together. For more on World Café process and methodology please visit: theworldcafe.com

Session Goals:
- Build community through sharing of common concerns
- Identify shared challenges, opportunities and strategies
- Foster citizen empowerment and local community engagement
- Network for possible holistic community collaborations
# EVENT PARTNERS

## Endorsed by
City of Toledo – Board of Community Relations

## Sponsoring Partners
- Art Corner Toledo
- The Arts Commission
- Christ Presbyterian Church – Toledo
- Food for Thought
- Holy Spirit Catholic Community
- MultiFaith Council of NW Ohio
- Pax Christi Toledo
- ProMedica
- Toledo LISC
- Welcome TLC

## Food Sponsors
- Balance Pan-Asian Grille
- Plate 21
- Holey Toledough
- Jimmy John’s
- Subway
- McDonald’s

## Arts Based Partners Working for Peace & Justice
- The Arts Commission
  - theartscommission.org
- Art Corner Toledo

## Community Service Providers Working for Peace & Justice
- Adelante-The Latino Resource Center
  - www.adelantetoledo.org
- Food for Thought
  - www.feedtoledo.org
- Frederick Douglass Community Association
  - www.fdcatoledo.org
- The Center for Servant Leadership
  - www.servantleader.org
- The Friendly Center, Inc.
  - www.freellycentertoledo.org
- The James and Grace Lee Boggs Center
  - www.boggscenter.org
- The Padua Center
  - www.paduacenter.org

## Governmental, Development Agency & Business Partners Working for Peace & Justice
- City of Toledo - Board of Community Relations
  - toledo.oh.gov/services/community-relations
- Junction Avenue Urban Waters Project
- Lucas County Land Bank
  - www.LucasCountyLandBank.org
- ProMedica
  - www.promedica.org
- Toledo Community Development Corporation
  - www.toledodcc.org
- Toledo LISC
  - toledolisc.org
- Welcome Toledo-Lucas County Initiative
  - http://co.lucas.oh.us

## Ecologically Focused Partners Working for Peace & Justice
- Phoenix Earth Food Co-op
  - phoenixearthfoodcoop.com
- Toledo Botanical Gardens – “
  - Toledo GROWS program
    - www.toledogarden.org/toledogrows
- Toledo-Lucas County Sustainability Commission
  - www.lucascountygreen.com

## Grassroots and Community-based Partners Working for Peace & Justice
- Community Solidarity Response Network of Toledo
  - www.facebook.com/csrmtoledo
- The Junction Community Organization

## Faith Based Partners Working for Peace & Justice
- Center of Hope Community Church
  - centerofhopebaptist.org/
- Christ Presbyterian Church – Toledo
  - www.cpctoledo.org
- Greater Toledo Compassionate Community
  - compassionateatoledo.org
- Holy Spirit Catholic Community
  - www.holyspirittoledo.org
- MultiFaith Council of NW Ohio
  - multifaithcouncil.org
- Pax Christi Toledo
- The University of Toledo Center for Religious Understanding
  - www.utoledo.edu/llss/philosophy/cfru/
- United Pastors for Social Empowerment
  - unitedpastors.org/

## University Based Partners Working for Peace & Justice
- Peace Education Initiative, The Judith Herb College of Education at The University of Toledo
  - www.utoledo.edu/education/peace
- The Judith Herb College of Education at The University of Toledo
  - www.utoledo.edu/education/peace
- The University of Toledo Center for International Studies and Programs
  - www.utoledo.edu/cisp/
- The University of Toledo Center for Nonviolence and Democratic Education
  - www.utoledo.edu/education/depts/eff/cnde.html

## National & International Partners Working for Peace & Justice
- Global Campaign for Peace Education
  - www.peace-ed-campaign.org
- International Institute on Peace Education
  - www.i-i-p-e.org
- National Peace Academy
  - nationalpeaceacademy.us
The Peace Education Initiative at The University of Toledo was established with the goal of making The University of Toledo a global leader in peace education through developing and sponsoring programming and research in peace education and peace studies to serve UT students, the UT community, Toledo, the region, and the world. UT is home to: the International Institute on Peace Education; an online graduate certificate in Foundations of Peace Education; the Global Campaign for Peace Education; The Center for Nonviolence and Democratic Education and more…

Tony Jenkins is the Director of the Peace Education Initiative. He also serves as the Managing Director of the International Institute on Peace Education and Coordinator of the Global Campaign for Peace Education and is a member of the UNESCO Experts Advisory Group on Global Citizenship Education. Most recently, Tony was the Vice President for Academic Affairs at the National Peace Academy and prior to that the Co-Director of the Peace Education Center at Teachers College, Columbia University.