PROGRAM

2024 LOCAL NEWS IMPACT SUMMIT

Thursday, May 16, 2024
WFAE Center for Civic & Community Engagement
301 E. 7th Street, Charlotte, NC 28202

9:30 AM - REGISTRATION

Coffee and tea will be available.

10:00 AM - WELCOME

Chris Rudisill | Director, Charlotte Journalism Collaborative
Ju-Don Marshall | President & CEO, WFAE 90.7 FM

10:30 AM - SESSION 1: TALE OF TWO CITIES

Panelists will discuss a holistic approach to what the City of Charlotte looks like for residents across zip codes exploring poverty, economic mobility and access to core services. How do these things fit into our approach to affordable housing solutions? How does the identity of Charlotte vary across different neighborhoods and experiences?

Moderated by Ely Portillo | Interim Executive Editor, WFAE

Panelists

- Jamaal Kinard, Executive Consultant for the Lakeview Neighborhood Alliance
- Salma Villarreal, Director of Leadership Development and Student Wellbeing at Our Bridge for Kids
- Melissa Gaston, Co-Founder and Executive Director of the North End Community Coalition
- Monica Holmes, Deputy Planning Director City of Charlotte

11:30 AM - LUNCH

Boxed lunches from Bleu Barn Bistro
Compliments of the Charlotte Journalism Collaborative

12:00 PM - LUNCH PROGRAM

Mary Ann Priester, author of the 2023 State of Housing Instability & Homelessness Report, will give a debrief on the latest report from Mecklenburg County Community Support Services.

Presented by Mary Ann Priester | Senior Management Analyst, Housing and Homelessness Research Coordinator at Mecklenburg County

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CONTINUED

12:45 PM - SESSION 2: RENTING IN CHARLOTTE

In Mecklenburg County, about 44% of households are renters, not owners. For the first time, North Carolina renters have a statewide organization specifically focused on lobbying for tenants' rights. What does t mean for Charlotte as the newly formed North Carolina Tenants Union seeks to level the playing field in our tight housing market?

Moderated by Lisa Vernon-Sparks | Race, Culture and Community Engagement Editor, The Charlotte Observer

Panelists

- Nick MacLeod, Executive Director of North Carolina Tenants Union
- Jessica Moreno, Community Organizer with Action NC
- Local renters in the Charlotte area.

1:45 PM - BREAK

2:00 PM - SESSION 3: WHAT DOES IT COST AND HOW DO WE EVOLVE OUR STRATEGY?

People struggle with the question of how do we create more affordable housing in Charlotte. How much does it cost and where's the money coming from? In this panel, we bring together a local advocate who is building affordable housing, a consigliere to Charlotte leaders, DreamKey Partner's executive vice president of real estate, and Charlotte's oldest affordable housing model, Habitat for Humanity, to discuss the challenges and opportunities that exist.

Moderated by Chris Rudisill, Director, CJC

Panelists

- Tonya Jameson, Director of Civic Engagement at Leading on Opportunity
- Fred Dodson, COO & EVP of Real Estate at DreamKey Partners
- Shannon Green, SVP Organizational Advancement & Development at Habitat for Humanity of the Charlotte Region
- Eliza Hammond, founder of EC Legacy Properties and Legacy Lake Senior Apartments.

3:00 PM - DEBRIEF AND NETWORKING

DOORS CLOSE AT 4 PM

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