



SOUTH ORANGE | MAPLEWOOD COMMUNITY COALITION ON RACE

Our Mission:

To build and sustain a community that is racially, culturally, and socially integrated and truly inclusive, where there is equity and equality for all.

2018 OFFICERS

OFFICERS

Robert A. Marchman
Chair

Carol Barry-Austin
Vice Chair

David Harris
Vice Chair

Kelly Quirk
Vice Chair

Erin Scherzer
Vice Chair

TRUSTEES

Lee Boswell May

Colleen Breslin

Walter Clarke, *ex off.*

Abigail Cotler

Catherine Cronin

Tegan Culler

Dean Dafis, *ex. off.*

Deborah Davis Ford, *ex off.*

Nina Essel

Leila Gonzalez Sullivan

Stephanie Lawson-Muhammad,
ex off.

Rhea Mokund-Beck

Fred R. Profeta, Jr.

George Robinson

Reynaldo Tapia

Barbara Velazquez

Meredith Sue Willis

STAFF

Executive Director

Nancy Gagnier

Program Director

Audrey Rowe

Office Administrator

Lorry Ripley

2018 Annual Report

Throughout 2018, our board worked on streamlining the Coalition's work so that we could focus on the most pressing issues confronting successful integration and inclusion. A well-defined plan and focus on the mission is critical to creating long-lasting change. The board and staff took a hard look at the results of the Coalition's demographics studies along with the outcomes of our advocacy work and programs in order to define focused initiatives for at least the next year. All our committee work will be guided by these initiatives:

- Strengthen the community's commitment to racial and cultural inclusion of all people of color by challenging the community power structures* to rectify disparities and by promoting the value of inclusiveness to the well-being of the community.
*municipal government, school system, realtors, businesses, arts and recreation groups, corporate and nonprofit groups, media, and key leaders and influencers
- Ensure the sustainability of racial integration in SOMA by both affirming and supporting the current population of Black people and by researching and developing strategies to increase the rate of Black in-movers.

Why are we focused on these initiatives? Our demographic research shows changing residential patterns that affect racial integration at the neighborhood level—and consequently in the elementary schools—and changing in-mover patterns that affect our future diversity. In response during 2018, we began new targeted marketing efforts that will be critical to attracting people of color to the towns; we participated in engaging the community in the school district's efforts to integrate the elementary schools; we continued to advocate for classroom integration, support for student success, and staff diversity. We also supported the establishment of a police community board in Maplewood and worked with both police chiefs on addressing bias in policing issues. We sat at the table at many leadership meetings, brought compelling voices to talk to the community about school segregation, racism, social injustices, and the future possibilities of integrated communities.

In 2018, we held nearly 50 dialogues, trainings, and celebrations that reached over 3500 people. We saw a rise in engagement with new community members, inquiries from other communities about what we do, and an increase in the number of people of color who attend our programs. For all of this, we are proud to be carrying on the mission in new and focused ways in the coming year.



2018 MLK Observance with Frank McGehee, Rep. Donald Payne, Jr., Sheena Collum, Robert A. Marchman, Nancy Gagnier



Patricia Canning oversees the Luminary Project with MAC Scholars at Columbia High School



Coffee House Discussion with the Latinx community

2018 Highlights...

The 17th Annual MLK Observance & Volunteer Fair

Hundreds of people filled the auditorium to honor Dr. King through music, a sharing of interfaith readings and an affirmation of Dr. King's call to action and service. Performances included "Lift Every Voice & Sing" and "Battle of Jericho" by the CHS Symphonic Chorus, spoken word "Change" by artists and activists Felicia George and Avery Julien, and a re-enactment of Dr. King's address "I've Been to the Mountaintop" by Kenny Vaughan. **Larry Hamm, chair of People's Organization for Progress**, delivered a powerful speech about Dr. King's legacy and the relentless attempts to end his life. Hamm emphasized that we should remember the sacrifices Dr. King and his wife Coretta Scott King made in order for black people to have a better life. He reminded us that people had to make this holiday happen because the government wouldn't: "At the root of all social change are people who will not let their imaginations be circumscribed by reality...because people would not accept the status quo, we have the Dr. King holiday, we have civil rights, we have made social progress in this country."



SOMa was Shining with Luminaries on MLK Day for the 5th year

Nearly 1000 SOMa homes put luminaries outside their homes in honor of King's life and legacy, "This is a community where children naturally serve and are inspired to take action." "We are proud to be actively pursuing Dr. King's vision of the beloved community," said Patricia Matthews Canning, chair of the MLK Luminary Project. The Luminary Project is a way to end a day of service and observance of Dr. King's fight for racial justice and a reminder to carry the work forward into the days ahead. This year, the Townships of South Orange and Maplewood held public lighting ceremonies in the towns as well.

The Schools Committee

Advocacy "Our district has talked about equity, integration and diversity for far too long while the schools have had an educational system that has resulted in divisions by race," stated Carol Barry-Austin and Sue Willis in a plea before the Board of Education to support changes to the district's system of academic tracking that has adverse effects for students of color and has created segregated classrooms in the high school. Throughout 2018, the committee promoted the benefits of integrated schools for all families and urged the district to prioritize school and classroom integration in an equitable way.

Forum on Integration & Equity in our Schools Speakers Assemblywoman Mila Jasey and nationally-recognized expert in civil rights Professor Elise Boddie discussed school integration efforts in the district as well as in the region and the state—achievements, failures, and visions for the near future.

Talking To Children About Race Dr. Hughes shared why it's critical to be intentional about discussing race at home and a panel of local parents shared their personal challenges and successes in their ongoing effort to address race openly and honestly at home.

SOMa Integrated Playgroup The playgroup brings together children ages 6 months to 5 years and their parents/guardians in a relaxed, fun setting, monthly on Saturdays.

BOE Candidates Forum Candidates offered their positions on vital issues for our schools and towns, including the access and equity policy, the continuing minority achievement gap, and how to create true integration in our schools.

17th Annual Preschool Open House This event provides parents with the opportunity to learn about the preschool options in and near our towns. Renee Joyce, Supervisor of Special Services, gave a talk for parents on choosing an appropriate school for their children.

New Teacher Orientation The co-chairs welcomed new teachers and staff to SOMSD with a presentation on district diversity and inclusion and gave them resources for making their classrooms welcoming to all students.

SOMSD Diversity Hiring Fair The Schools Committee was proud to support and to encourage this effort to attract and hire a more diverse staff in the district.



18th Annual Conversations on Race Elizabeth Williams-Riley of the *American Conference on Diversity* reminded us that the integration struggle is real—the country has been at work on it for nearly 150 years and has faced many failures. She noted that we have to reimagine what integration is, develop a stance of conscious inclusion in all parts of our lives, and not allow diversity to be a substitute for true integration. This means acknowledging white privilege, our biases, and systemic racism. Attendees voiced some common concerns about inclusion in SOMA: lack of school integration; lack of equity among schools because of resources; classroom segregation because of academic tracking; not enough social integration opportunities for people; exclusion of people of color from leadership roles; general lack of knowledge of Black History in the community and poorly taught in the schools; ongoing biases reflected in community interactions—among neighbors and people in critical roles like the police. These concerns became the impetus behind actions steps taken by the Coalition and other groups.



Coffee House Discussions

Giving Teens a Voice Middle school students met with trained high school student facilitators, while their parents and other adults met with Coalition facilitators to discuss how they define and where they experience racism. Our town libraries won the NJ State Library's Multicultural Program award for this collaborative effort between the youth librarians and the Coalition to provide students with 2 guided discussions to candidly discuss race with their peers “Your joint program “Giving Teens a Voice” was truly outstanding and received high praises from the judges.”

Talking about Race on Social Media The goals were to discuss what it means to be a responsible online poster and to share productive ways to address personal attacks, micro-aggressions, and direct racism in our social media exchanges.

Coffee House for the Latinx Community centered on the experiences and concerns of the Latinx and Hispanic community in SOMA. Some of the concerns were lack of understanding, language barriers, feeling invisible, and fears about personal safety given growing anti-immigrant sentiments.



XRootsFest (cross-roots-fest) Brought Together Culture, Food, and Fun

XRootsFest returned with a bang this year to Memorial Park where more than 500 people gathered to celebrate the music, food, dance and culture from different regions around the world. The multicultural festival included new acts and a return of the popular “Edu-tainment Tent,” which featured multicultural ambassadors hosting interactive, family-friendly activities throughout the day. Children participated in multicultural story time, Vietnamese bamboo jumping, Zumba, Japanese Taiko drumming and African drumming. The stage hosted acts like Native American Red Storm Drum & Dance Troupe; Hip/Hop & Rap from Felisha George & Freetown; East Indian dancing from Creations Dance Academy; soul-filled singing from Jonathan Celestin; Haitian dance troupe Racines, and more.

The festival was supported by generous grants from Discovery NJ Arts through the Essex County Local Arts Grant program and from Investors Foundation and supported by many generous local sponsors.





Celebrating Integration: Local Businesses Are Community Champions

The celebratory atmosphere at The Woodland set the stage for a wonderful evening filled with lively conversation, delicious food, music and an inspiring award ceremony. The trustees of the Coalition were proud to honor Julie Pauly of The Able Baker in Maplewood and Yanick Ranieri of Papillon 25 Restaurant and Bar in South Orange with the 2018 Celebrating Integration Awards. These two local business owners have modeled racial inclusion in their businesses and have supported the Coalition in many ways over the years.

Neighborhood Summit Gathers Organizers from SOMA

Leaders of neighborhood associations, block groups and interested organizers gathered to share history, best practices, and issues of concern. It was organized by the Coalition's Residential Committee which made presentations on forming an association, affordable housing and redevelopment issues, and the Coalition's Home Maintenance Loan Program. Safety, police-community relations, and supporting residential racial integration were the main topics of concern.



2018 Civic Engagement Institute

The Institute supported SOMA residents in honing their skills to become more effective change makers in our community and beyond. Participants ranged in age from Columbia High School students to grandparents who were coached using presentations, discussions, surveys, and group exercises led by instructors Leila Gonzalez Sullivan, Barbara Velazquez and Program Director Audrey Rowe.



Foundation, Community, & Local Business Support—Thank You!

Township of Maplewood Village of South Orange

County of Essex
Acheive Foundation of South Orange and Maplewood

Benevity Community Fund
The F.B. Heron Foundation
The Fraentzel Foundation
The Investors Foundation
The Merck Foundation

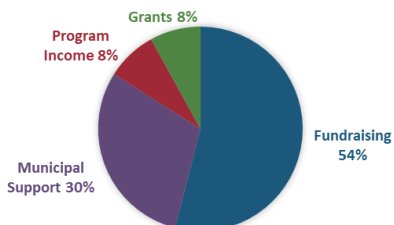
A Paper Hat Art, LLC
Activity and Human Performance, LLC
Bunny's Restaurant & Sports Bar
Careergoggles
Children's Academy Of Springfield
Cielo Consulting LLC
Congregation Beth El
Curated Spaces, Inc
Eastside Fitness
Election Fund of John F McKeon
Election Fund of Mila Jasey
Election Fund of Sen Codey
Freemans Fish Market

Gefken Flowers
Giants of Jazz
Gleason Cleaners
Green Bezel
Hair Chalet
Hedwig Gruenwald Early Childhood Center
Hilton Neighborhood Association,
Home Salon, LLC
Inkosi Cafe
InterACT Theatre Productions
John James Architect
Kamaya Kama
Keller Williams - Pollock Realty Group
Kim's Nails
Kinder-Gan Preschool
Krystal Nails
Les Saisons Inn
Little Shop of Hip Hop
Macys East
Maplewood Chamber Of Commerce
Maplewood Memorial Library
Maplewood Outside School

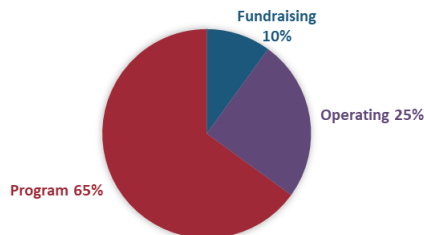
Mark Murphy's Muisic
Matters Magazine
Milk Money
Modern Auto Body of South Orange
Mona Lisa Frames
Montclair Cooperative School
Morrow Memorial Preschool
National Staffing Associates
Neighborhood House Nursery School
Open Door Nursery
Papillon 25 Restaurant
Parkwood Diner
Photo Booth Studios
Playhouse Inc.
Preschool of Rock
Prospect Coop Preschool
Public Works Partners
Rainbow Families of Maplewood
Roman Gourmet
Sadie's Shop LLC
SOMA Action
South Mountain YMCA
South Orange Chamber Of Commerce

South Orange Civic Association
South Orange Frame Shop
South Orange-Maplewood Adult School
St. James Gate
Sparkhouse Kids
St. Rose of Lima Academy
Staynd
Studio 1200
Tanmax computer Services
Temple Sharey Tefilo-Israel's Iris Family Preschool
The Able Baker
The DBQ Project
The Red Oaks School
The Tenth Muse Gallery
Thomson Blueprints for Living
Total Care Endodontics & Microsurgery
TOTRI Child Care
Village Coffee
Sara Wakefield
Watchung Pediatric
Words Bookstore

2018 INCOME SUMMARY TOTAL PROJECTED: 191,743



2018 EXPENSE SUMMARY TOTAL PROJECTED: 155,992



2018 Contributors: *Thank You for Your Support!*

Coalition Platinum Sponsors \$5,000 +

Fred & Susan Profeta

Coalition Gold Sponsor \$2,500 +

Tegan Culler
David & Betty Harris
Robert A. & Fay P. Marchman
Kelly Quirk & Martin Ceperly

Coalition Builders \$1,000 +

Andrew Berndt & A. Elliot
Smyth Berndt
Hilary Hoover
Brad Motta & John O'Grady
John & Mary Beth Scherer
Erin & Matt Scherzer
Elliot Sommer
Edward & Nancy Stuart
Leila Gonzalez Sullivan &
Charles Sullivan

Benefactors \$400 +

Clarence & Carol Barry-Austin
Walter & Sara Clarke
Abigail & Donald Cotler
Susan & Steve Cramer
Catherine Cronin
Trenesa and Christopher Danner
Mark Decambre
Joanna Doran-Paley
Andrew Errico
Sanford & Zella Felzenberg
Kyle and Vikki Fritz
Margo & Dan Greenfield
Mary Joan & Francis X. Murphy
Victor Newman
Phylis & Carl Peterman
George & Laura Robinson
Madeline & Steven Tugentman
Mia White
Meredith Sue Willis & Andrew
Weinberger

Sponsors \$200 +

Barbara Arena
Elizabeth Baker & Joel
Vandervusse
Alice Baldwin Jones & George
Brandon
Gary Berger
Diana Blain
Terri Borden
Lee Boswell-May
Colleen Breslin
Chad Brown
Lillie Bryen
Carol & Jim Buchanan
Antony and M. Ahadi Bugg-
Levine
Ellen Chen & Rebecca Ritters

JJ and Tara Connell
Erica Constable
Carmen and Maria Corrales
Dean Dafis
Vic & Janey DeLuca
Beth Dobrish
Jay & Nancy Dougherty
Virginia & Brian Falconer
Peter & Heather Gilheany
Donald & Ellen Greenfield
Pete Hauptman
Lillian Hawkins
Laura Prato & Howard Holtz
Neil & Mila Jasey
Diane Simmons & Burt Kim-
melmán
Sarah Lester
Annemarie Maini
Maria Mayer Feng
Steve Mershon
Kathleen & Michael Morrison
Khalil Gibran Muhammad &
Stephanie Lawson-
Muhammad
Edith Oxford
Sarah & Geneva Paul
Jane and Todd Perry
Vanessa Pollock
Mary Sue Price
Lawrence Neher & Deborah
Prinz
Troy & Vananza Rhodes
Ray Roberts & Linda Marsh
Richard & Jocelyn Ryan
Edward Schwarz
Albert Shikiar & Sue Marsh
Carol & Douglas Simon
Aducci Slackman Anderson
Irnel Stephen
Chris and Xiaoyun Stetson
Tanya Suwankosa
Elizabeth Testa
Sally Unsworth
Kenny Vaughan and Tracy
Lynn Carroll
Jody Weinmann & David De-
maree
Karen Wells
Richard Wener & Ginny
Kurshan
Dan & Emily Zacharias

Donors \$100 +

Joani & David Ascher
Brian Bamforth
Mary Barber
Carla Barry-Austin & Michael
Rufino
Chris Black
Barbara Bornstein
Andre Braugher & Ami Brab-
son
David Brown & Mindy
Schwartz-Brown
Jeanette Brummell

Joan & Harvey Bucholtz
Tawana Burnett
James & Patricia Canning
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Carter
Camille & John Carter
Oliver Cato
Evelyn Chu
Margery & Frederick Cohen
Treasure & Richard Cohen
Sheena Collum
Ellen & Donald Davenport
Deborah Davis Ford
Holly Gauthier & Stuart
Deutsch
James DeVaul
Anne & Patrick Dwyer
Frenchie Edmonson
Jonathan Ratner & Pamela
Erens
Jim Ferruggiario
Allen & Shirley Fields
Daniel and Rachel Fisher
Joseph S. & Marina Hernan-
dez-Ford
Jean Fredette
Mattie & Robert Gandel
Jessica Gottlieb
Wilma Grey
Amy Henry
Tom Heymann
Jim & Karen Hilton
Diana Galer Jaffe
Michael Jaffe
John & Linda James
John Kaufman
Jeff Klein
Melissa Kopecky
Kyle Kroll
Toni Ann Kruse
Rachel Kruskal
Rebecca Linn
Paulina Marks
Rita Marshall
Nabil Marshood
Patricia Martinez
Kate McCaffrey
Julie Snyder & Jeff Melman
Derek Murphy & Mary Lacey
Susan Newberry
H. Dean & Jennifer Nielsen
Risa & Mark Olinsky
John Pearson
Susan & Tim Pendleton
Irwin & Blossom Primer
Robert & Robin Rabinowitz
Yannick and Albert Ranieri
Jeannine Redd
Melissa Renny
Barbara Rosenfeld
Eva Samo
Gretchen Shook
Leigh Shultz
Alyson & Richard Slutzky
Matthew Smalls
Alice & Burt Solomon

William Steinbrunn
William Stoeber
Muriel Storey
Patricia & William Thornton
Catherine and Christopher
Townsend
Lisa & Thomas Vilardi
Louis Vogel & Marcelo Men-
dez
Helaine & Jerry Warshaw
Yolande & Kenneth Wasser-
man
Irene Weinberg
Max Weisenfeld
Len & Audrey Winkler
Andrea & David Wren Hardin
Zachary & Trish Yamba

Friends up to \$99

Richard Adinaro
Sylvia Amato
Vicki Herzfeld-Arlein & Robert
Arlein
Elliot & Claire Asarnow
Jason Asbury
Peter Barnett
Mutlu Bascillar & Steven Feld-
man
Wayne Bass
Leslie & Jesse Bayer
David Berry
Bahati & Ahmondylia Best
Kenneth Bingham
Eric Blaine
Alison Blank
Marcia Bloomberg & Jerry
Fish
Phyllis Bolling
George Brandon
Luke and Kate Breslin
Jeff Bruckner
Aixa Cintron-Velez & Julie
Burch
John Buschman
Vijaya Campagne
Marcia Leonard & Thomas
Carlson
Sharon & Arnold Cohen
Roy Cohen
Barbara and Philip Cokorinos
Barbara & Martin Cotler
Mary Ellen Dawkins
Jay Eisenberg
Jessi Empeston
Chester & Barbara Ensign
Anna & Farrell Fand
Liz Athos & Bill Figdor
George Finlay
Istvan Flesch
Laurie Folkes & Jane Bean-
Folkes
Mary Forbes
Linda Gadsby
James & Patricia Giese
Timothy & Crystal Glynn

Ken Gold & Marcy Felsenfeld
Lisa and Mark Gongloff
Mark & Robin Gordon
David & Salamatu Greeley
Doug Greenfeld
Gail Greenstein
Christie & Jim Harrington
Edward & Emily Hyans
Huzefa Irfani
Robert and Janet Kast
Dennis Kearney
Lisa Kearney
Luanne and Bryan Kleppe
Jonathan Kohn
Robert Koontz
Scott and Jacqueline Lahey
Bruno & Thora Lee
Tina Lehn
Kathleen M. & Gerald Le-
venthal
Leonard Levin
Martin J. Levine & Judy For-
rest
Abigail Liebowitz
Ralph & Dena Lowenbach
Frank and Ruth Lowenkron
Whelan Mahoney
Edward Marcoux and Alison
Shames
Joy & Jeff Markel
Jacqueline Mesnik
Francesca Neilson
Ryan Newberry
Valencia Norman
Sigrid & Darryl Novak
Jose & Jill Perez-Fox
Lawrence & Rebecca Petrac-
caro
Marc Pomper
Rachel Power
Alexander & Tara Ragone
Jane Rauen
Amelia Riekenberg
Harry & Patricia Robinson
David Rodriguez
Miriam Rosenstein
Libby Rosof
Crawford Sabin
Gary and Jessica Sachs
Barbara Salz & Travis Gering
Eric Schwartz
Dorothy Scull
Noel Siegel
Andrew & Arlene Silikovit
Ruth & Peter Simmons
Ellen Sleeter
Edmund & Joyce Stibitz
Diane Sammons & Thomas
Savoth
Cynthia & Joe Vengraitis
Joan Walsh
Anne Wigglesworth
Hannah Zollman
Susan Vercheak & Bennet
Zurofsky



BUILDING INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES SINCE 1996

South Orange/Maplewood Community Coalition on Race

516 Prospect Street, Maplewood, NJ 07040

www.communitycoalitiononrace.org info@twotowns.org phone 973-761-6116



Facebook.com/CommunityCoalition



@coalitiononrace



CoalitionOnRace



communitycoalitiononrace

Chair Robert A. Marchman and Program Director Audrey Rowe appeared on *Here & Now* on ABC 7 NY to discuss the mission of the Coalition for the past 20 years, sustaining integration in the South Orange/Maplewood community and the importance of racial equity



Marketing & Seton Hall

Partnership The Marketing Committee develops the campaigns to promote the towns as welcoming and inclusive. In an effort to understand what draws particular populations to SOMA, they collaborated with Seton Hall University students at the Stillman School of Business, Marketing Research Center on developing a targeted marketing program.



Celebrating Black History Month

Tasting Freedom: Octavius Catto and the Battle for Equality in Civil War America Authors Biddle and Dubin shared their passion for the remarkable Black men and women who were activists and educators in the Civil War period in Philadelphia.

Celebrating & Reflecting on Black Politics, Progressive Politics, and Black History Jillian Johnson, activist and Mayor Pro Tempore of the city of Durham, led a guided discussion co-sponsored by SOMA Action, SOMA Justice and the Township of Maplewood.

Realtor Coffee & Conversation

The Coalition's work with realtors for over 21 years has been critical to the success of marketing the towns as inclusive and in working toward integrated neighborhoods by encouraging sales to people of all races in all areas. This year's conversation focused on upgrades to the schools, school integration, and the importance of marketing all neighborhoods on the strength of all the schools.



The SOCO 48h Annual MLK Celebration

The South Orange Civic Organization honored outstanding community members Ondine Abramson and Peri Smilow with 'Beloved Community' Awards. The featured speaker was Barbara Heisler, CEO of GlassRoots-Newark who focused on the importance of arts in building a strong community.



Demographics Research Continued throughout 2018 with a Special Focus on School Integration

Throughout 2018 as the community discussed elementary school integration plans and other racial equity issues, we presented an extended version of the schools section of the report that included staff diversity information and a history of integration efforts in the school district. Working on a re-issue of the report for 2019, the MERT Committee is writing a section on affordable housing in SOMA.

Visit our website to view the reports