

The Summit for Civil Rights

We are seeking to **Make America One Nation**" - *The Other America*, Dr. Martin Luther King, 1967

Thursday and Friday, September 28-29, Cleveland State University

Overview of Program

Most listed speakers and panelists are not yet confirmed for these roles. No more than 3 to 4 for each panel. Plenary and Keynote speakers will be placed throughout in key breaks based on the theme and subject.

Day One

Cleveland State University Student Center, 2121 Euclid Ave, Cleveland, OH 44115

1:00 Opening of the Summit – Why we are here.

Welcome to Cleveland

Purpose (and theme) of the Summit *“..We are the ones we’ve been waiting for..”*

Section I.

The State of Metropolitan America and the Enduring Role of the Color Line in the 21st Century

A powerful description (and analysis) of how and why nearly all of America’s (and many of the worlds) most pressing issues are directly connected to racial segregation and discrimination in America.

- Economic inequality and widening wealth disparities.
- Political polarization, insurgencies, and instability
- Sprawl and abonnement - environmental degradation and climate change
- The criminal justice system, crime, police brutality and mass incarceration
- The wide and growing gap in education outcomes and access educational opportunity and health and even mortality.
- Job apartheid, unemployment, underemployment, job insecurity and anti-unionism or why the working poor are poor.

The color line runs through all these issues and impacts all Americans. They cannot be solved by electric cars, community development corporations, sensitivity (or DEI) training, reform or privatization of prisons and schools without addressing the racial divide, the powerlessness it produces and the exploitation it invites.

This speech will set the framework for the summit. Each topic will be explored in a part of the program and an excerpt of this talk (it will also be a paper) will set the context for each panel discussion.

1:30 - Section II.

Panel 1. Race, Place and Power

- **Race, place, Inequality and powerlessness** - How discrimination and segregation widen wealth disparities, fuel political polarization and stymie Black political power - *and thus multi racial power.*
- **Break**

Panel 2. Crime, Police, Mass Incarceration, and the Ghetto

- **When diversity *doesn't* matter** - Police brutality and criminal justice reform in the age of hypersegregation
- **The Deadly symbiosis** - When the ghetto and the prison meet and mesh

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- First Day Closing Keynote

5:00 Break

Shuttles to the Maltz Performing Arts Center for the 2023 Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards Ceremony

Day Two

Cleveland State University Student Center, 2121 Euclid Ave, Cleveland, OH 44115

9:00 AM Opening and Welcome

9:15 – 12:00 *The Color Line* Continued

Two Panels (jobs and the environment and schools and opportunity)

Work, School, and the Environment

- **Monopolizing whiteness** – Racism as a Cartel - Opportunity Hoarding in Education
- **Schools and Segregation** - Why separate is still not equal
- **When work disappears** - The future of work in the age of automation and persistent segregation - From Black surplus labor to the warehousing of the obsolete
- **How Racism Fuels Climate Change** - *Electric cars won't fix it.* The role of racial segregation and white flight in driving suburban sprawl, urban abandonment fueling environmental degradation and catastrophic climate change

12:00 Lunch Keynote

Working Lunch

1:00 – 3:30 Building the New Civil Rights Coalition

The tripartite alliance

- **Interfaith organizing for power and justice** – *going beyond nostalgia and guilt and drawing on shared legacy, moral outrage and self interest.*
- A discussion of the role of faith institutions, constituencies, and leaders in building the power needed to end American Apartheid – building on shared legacy to leverage the moral imperative *and* self-interest of our people.
- How is the continued existence of the ghetto (and other forms of social containment) today, a violation of our moral values and harmful to our people and our society.
- How did the Jewish and Christian faith leaders find not only moral courage but how did they connect with their constituencies of self-interest and harness their united power.
- What does this mean for us today and how do we organize for power?

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Fusing Labor and Civil Rights – *Going beyond nostalgia, slogans, symbolism and virtue signaling and back to building multiracial working-class power.*

- Building a unifying policy agenda *and* a unified constituency that advances labor and civil rights

The diverse suburb – *the missing link* to building a unified multi racial coalition across metros, states and the nation.

- The promise of inclusion and multi racial power - Closing the Black voter gap
- Metropolitan diversity versus suburban resegregation – the modern redlining and the new *color line*
- Black power and the promise of multi racial power
- More powerful than the sum of their parts - political volatility versus unified multiracial power
- 2:00 The Program of the Summit for Civil Rights

Metropolitan Organizing

- Leadership Training
- Civil Rights Policy Advancement
- Regional Organizing

3:30 – 4:00 – Closing Remarks and Closing Keynote

- **What was learned, what was accomplished and what was committed to?**
- **4:00 Adjourn**