

The Summit for Civil Rights

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

August 30, 2023

Mr. Darren Walker
President
Ford Foundation
New York, NY, 10018

Dear Mr. Walker,

We are pleased to invite you to [sponsor](#) and participate in the 4th [Summit for Civil Rights](#), Thursday and Friday, September 28 and 29, 2023 at Cleveland State University in Cleveland, Ohio. It will be presented jointly by Building One America, The University of Minnesota Law School, and Cleveland State University.

Fred Redmond, Secretary Treasurer of the AFL-CIO and the first African American labor leader to ascend to this powerful post, will receive the [James Clyburn “Vaults of Opportunity” Award](#). Former Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence will receive the 2023 [Shirley Chisholm Breakthrough Leader Award](#) for her inspiring and trail-blazing career in public service. Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick and Donald Norcross will jointly receive the [Steve LaTourette Unified America Award for Outstanding Bipartisan Leadership](#) for their role in launching the Building Trades Caucus. We will also pay tribute to the late William (Bill) Spriggs and John H. Bracey Jr., two heroic and brilliant scholars who were members of our Summit for Civil Rights team.

Since 2017, the Summit for Civil Rights has convened multi-racial, non-partisan gatherings of some of the nation’s top civil rights leaders in the field of organizing, labor, faith, academia, law, and elected office to respond to the powerful and dangerous intersection of enduring racial disparities, widening economic inequality, and rising political polarization throughout our society. As the country prepares for another tumultuous election year, this year’s Summit, whose theme is *reclaiming populism*, will continue the work of building multi-racial power behind a unifying agenda of racial justice and economic opportunity.

This year’s Summit comes six decades and one month after the great *March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom*. The Summit will reflect on the tremendous gains achieved for working people of all colors since 1963 while proposing action around the critical demands still not met for full and meaningful employment and an end to segregated housing, jobs, and schools.

The Summit will start 1:00 PM, Thursday, September 28, and end at 4:00 PM Friday, September 29. We look forward to discussing with you your participation and support for this year’s *Summit for Civil Rights*. You can go [here to register and sponsor](#) or for more information about [sponsorship levels and packages](#).

Sincerely,

Myron Orfield
Professor of Law and Director, Institute for Metropolitan Opportunity, University of Minnesota Law School

Rev. Dr. Willie D. Francois
Social Justice Chair, Progressive National Baptist Convention and Pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Pleasantville, NJ.