



**CGI AMERICA**

CLINTON GLOBAL INITIATIVE

An Initiative of the Clinton Foundation

JUNE 12-14, 2016  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

**PRESS CONFERENCE: Mayor Reed & Local Organizations Highlight CGI America Commitments to Benefit Atlanta**

Monday, June 13, 3:30pm - 4:00pm

Press Room (M301-303), Marquis Level, Atlanta Marriott Marquis

Livestream: [live.cgiamerica.org](http://live.cgiamerica.org)

Media accreditation for CGI America 2016 can be found here:

<https://cgiamerica2016.iworldreg.com/public/apply/press>

**Participants**

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**Opening Remarks:** Bob Harrison, CEO, Clinton Global Initiative (CGI)

**Framing Remarks:** Mayor Kasim Reed, City of Atlanta

**Commitment Makers:**

- Scott Shelar, President & CEO, Construction Education Foundation of Georgia (CEFGA) - Construction Ready: Putting Atlantans to Work
- David Stiffler, Community Affairs Manager, Equifax
- Cathleen Mahon, CEO, National Federation of Community Development Credit Unions
- Michael Halicki, Executive Director, Park Pride
- Reverend Raphael Warnock, Senior Pastor, Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church: Creation Care Ministry
- Penny McPhee, President, Arthur M Blank Family Foundation

**Construction Ready: Putting Atlantans to Work**

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Commitment by: Construction Education Foundation of Georgia (CEFGA)

Partners: The Center for Working Families, Inc. (TCWFI), Atlanta Workforce Development Agency (AWDA), Annie E. Casey Foundation, Atlanta CareerRise/United Way, Georgia Ready Mixed Concrete Association, HB NEXT

In 2016, CEFGA, in partnership with TCWFI, committed to replicate their proven construction and ready mix driver training model in communities south of I-20 in Atlanta. Over a period of three years, these training programs will lead to full-time living wage employment for over 250 metro Atlanta residents from communities where more than 20% of the population is unemployed and many have significant barriers to employment. Of the 250 participants, this program aims to serve 150 formerly incarcerated individuals and increase the participation of females in the program from 10 to 15%. CEFGA plans implement at least 14 20-day boot camp style training programs (known as Construction Ready) and 10 40-day ready mix driver training programs (known as Driver Ready) by June 2019.

**West Side Financial Empowerment Center**

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Commitment by: National Federation of Community Development Credit Unions

Partners: Equifax, MetLife Foundation, Neighborhood Trust Financial Partners

In 2016, the National Federation of Community Development Credit Unions (the Federation) committed to launching the West Side Financial Empowerment Center. The West Side Financial Empowerment Center will open its doors in early 2017 in the West Side of Atlanta. Access to affordable financial services is extremely low in the West Side neighborhoods of Atlanta, GA where 44% of adults live below the poverty line. The Center will provide financial counseling well as access to responsible financial products such as accessible checking and

savings accounts, payday alternative loans, and microenterprise loans to 600 low-income residents of the West Side by May 2019. This commitment was made possible by Equifax, which has provided \$450,000 in grant funding to design and launch the Center.

### **Building Community with Green Infrastructure & Parks**

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Commitment by: Park Pride

Partners: City of Atlanta Department of Parks and Recreation, The Conservation Fund, City of Atlanta Office of Sustainability, University Community Development Corporation & AUC/Vine City/English Avenue, EcoDistrict (Atlanta University Center), Proctor Creek Stewardship Council, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, Greening Youth Foundation

In 2016, Park Pride and partners committed to converting several blighted urban lots into a positive and vibrant public park, known as Boone Park West. The space will engage and educate the community in green infrastructure solutions, increase public access to recreational opportunities, provide jobs and workforce training for residents, improve environmental quality, restore natural habitat, and act as a catalyst for economic revitalization. The park's centerpiece will be a green infrastructure demonstration component designed by Chattahoochee Riverkeeper to capture and clean 37,500 cubic feet of stormwater runoff from local neighborhoods. Additionally, the Atlanta University Center and Proctor Creek Stewardship Council will lead education tours; Park Pride and The Conservation Fund will facilitate a community-led process to develop the park plan; and the Greening Youth Foundation will recruit local young adults to apprentice during park construction. The partners aim to achieve direct economic, environmental, and social benefits for local residents.

### **Creation Care Education and Energy Stewardship Initiative**

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Commitment by: Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church: Creation Care Ministry

Partners: Southeast Energy Alliance, Center for Sustainable Communities, Bloc Power, Creation Care Ministry EBC, Green Faith

In 2016, the Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church, home of civil and human rights champions Martin Luther King Jr and Sr., committed to a one-year education and energy stewardship initiative with multiple partners led by its award-winning creation care ministry. Partner BlocPower will kick off the commitment by conducting a comprehensive energy audit of the worship, educational and community buildings, recommending energy savings and solar generation measures. In support of the building upgrades, the church, with its partner Green Faith, will design an educational program about energy efficiency and renewable energy in the context of the call for people of faith to care for God's creation, with an emphasis on how congregants can implement energy efficiency at home. Other supporting partners include the Center for Sustainable Communities and the Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance.

### **Westside on the Rise: Developing Mims Park**

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Commitment by: The Arthur M Blank Family Foundation and City of Atlanta

Partner: Trust for Public Lands

In 2016, the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation (AMBFF), City of Atlanta, and the Trust for Public Land (TPL) committed to develop Mims Park in the historic Vine City neighborhood in Atlanta's Westside. This development will be a catalyst for community redevelopment at the headwaters of Proctor Creek, one of Georgia's most degraded urban streams. Building Mims Park will meet a critical community need by creating a unique park that manages stormwater, improves water quality in the Proctor Creek watershed, provides an intergenerational and safe recreation space, and honors the civil rights leaders who called Vine City home. Park development includes hiring a design consultant team, community engagement in park design, identifying construction job opportunities for local residents, and creating amenities to complement an innovative green infrastructure system. Mims Park will provide a vibrant community asset that fosters a positive change in health, education, employment, and environmental conditions in the Westside community.