



Spark Justice Whats App



2024 Retreat:

**Collaborative Futures:
Building Strength Through
Partnerships**



COLLABORATIVE FUTURES:

Building Strength Through Partnerships



BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

4000 Grand Ave.
Birmingham, Alabama, 35226

MAY 6-10, 2024



RETREAT AGENDA

Event Dates:

May 6-10, 2024

Event Venue:

Birmingham, Alabama

Renaissance Birmingham Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa

Welcome

Dedicated to supporting grassroots organizing groups committed to ending unjust pretrial detention policies and progressing community safety, SJF is thrilled to convene our community—both grantee and philanthropic partners—for three days of meaningful dialogue, shared experiences, and strategic collaboration. Our Retreat promises an immersive environment conducive to forging meaningful connections, exchanging insights, and providing opportunities to delve into work across the US. Your presence in this transformative gathering is pivotal as we collectively strategize to reshape our approach to safety and justice.

We look forward to welcoming you to Birmingham for this empowering and impactful event.

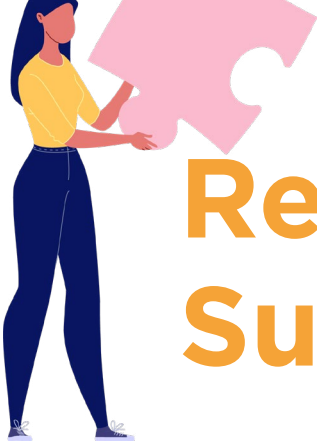
Spark Justice Fund Team

Sade Dumas,
Program Director,
Spark Justice Fund

Brandon Gleaton,
Program Officer,
Spark Justice Fund

Kelsey Trejo,
Program Associate,
Spark Justice Fund





Retreat Summary

Building Strength Through Partnerships

Why Birmingham, AL?

Selecting Birmingham, Alabama as the location for our convening holds profound significance in the context of the Spark Justice Fund's mission. Not only does Birmingham bear witness to pivotal moments in civil rights history, but it also symbolizes the ongoing struggle against systemic injustices. By convening in this historic city, we honor the legacy of grassroots organizing and resistance that has long defined Alabama.

Our convening offers an opportunity not only to engage with the rich history encapsulated in places like the Equal Justice Initiative Legacy Museum, but also to draw inspiration from the resilience and determination of those

who have fought for justice before us. Moreover, the serene and wellness-focused setting of the Renaissance Birmingham Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa offers a space for rejuvenation and reflection, fostering connections and collaboration in a supportive environment. Together, amidst the echoes of past struggles and the promise of collective action, we embark on a journey to advance transformative visions of pretrial justice and community safety, guided by the spirit of unity and empowerment.



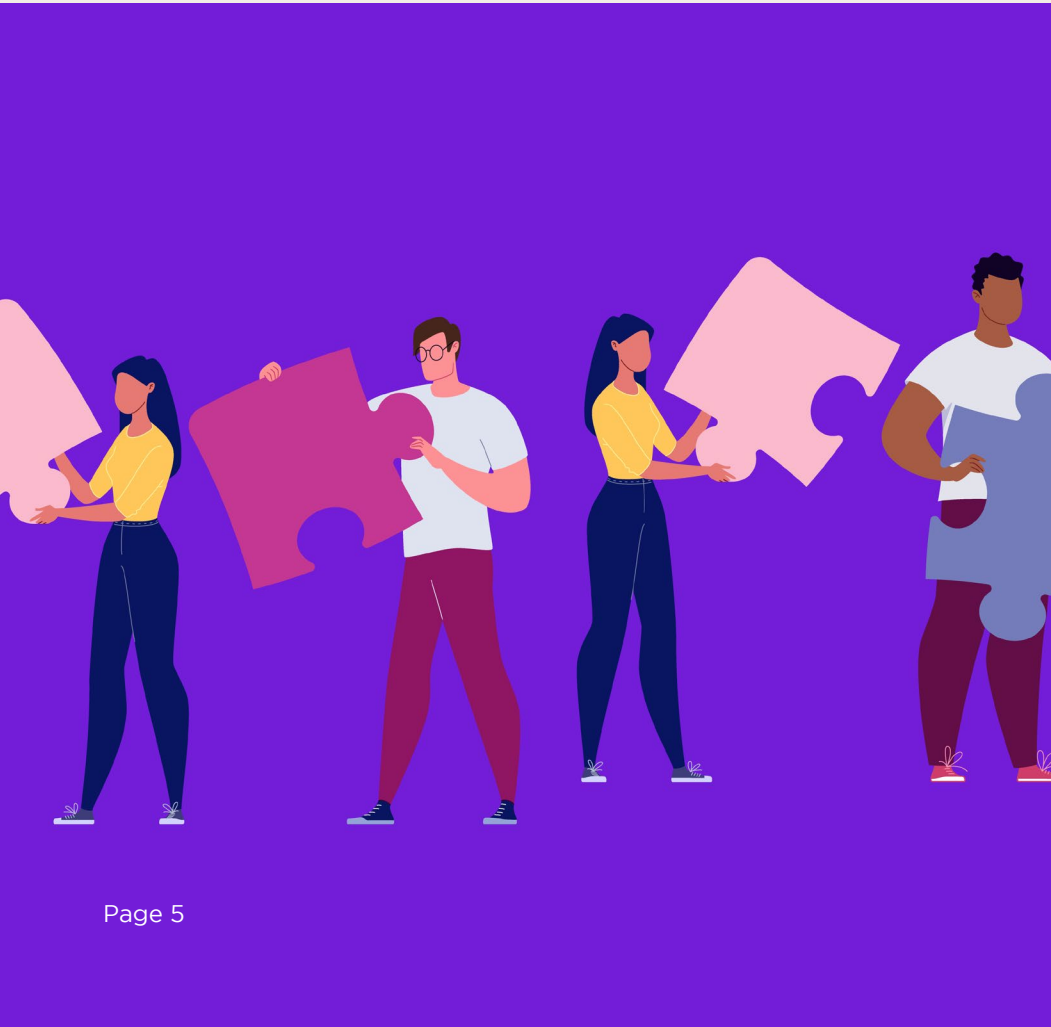
The Location



Renaissance Birmingham Ross Bridge
Golf Resort & Spa



Retreat Schedule



MONDAY

May 6th, 2024

Travel Day Arrivals | Meet & Greet Evening Reception

3:00-8:00 PM **Retreat Registration Check-In**

Hotel Main Lobby

6:00 - 8:00 pm **JT's Bar**

Hotel Main Lobby

TUESDAY

May 7th, 2024

Retreat Day #1 Grounding



7:30 - 8:30 am

Sunrise Yoga

KIM RICHARDSON
Yes You Yoga & Wellness

Pelham Room, Level I - Press "G" on the elevator

8:30 - 10:00 am

Networking Breakfast

Location: Salon C Foyer, Level I - Press "G" on the elevator

10:00 - 10:35 am

Welcome & Introductions

SADE DUMAS
Spark Justice Fund
Program Director

WAKUMI DOUGLAS
MSW - Liberatory Transformation
Coach & Consultant

Location: Salon C, Level I - Press "G" on the elevator

10:35 - 10:45 am

Welcome to Birmingham

Hear from the Alabama Justice Initiative about Birmingham's historical importance in civil rights struggles and the urgency of our shared vision to advance transformative visions of pretrial justice and community safety amidst this backdrop of resilience and activism.

SPEAKER

LATONYA TATE
Alabama Justice Initiative, Executive Director

Location: Salon C, Level I - Press "G" on the elevator



10:45 - 11:00 am

Break

Location: Salon ABC Foyer, Level I

11:00 - 11:45 am

State of the Movement

Step boldly into the heart of the struggle and join us for a vital and illuminating discussion that dives deep into the present state of organizing and power-building. Front-line organizers are indispensable in an era rife with mounting attacks and unyielding backlash against grassroots movements. In this session, we will anchor ourselves in the harsh realities faced by our resilient grantee partners at SJF amidst a deliberate assault on the very core of community safety and empowerment. This will set the stage for our time together to build strength through partnerships.

SPEAKERS:

SARAH MOORE
Arkansas Justice Reform Coalition

DAUDA SESAY
L.O.R.I. - Louisiana Organization for
Refugees and Immigrants

Location: Salon C, Level I - Press "G" on the elevator

11:45 - 1:00 pm

Narrative Power Building

Resonance will lead an introductory conversation about narrative power building for SJF retreat participants. We will unpack the term 'narrative power' and uplift harmful and helpful narrative examples. We will hear directly from grantee partners about their narrative power building and strategic communications efforts, and then open up the floor for an interactive discussion about how grantee partners and funders are navigating narratives.

PRESENTERS

DEBAYANI "DEBI" KAR

NAOMI ABRAHAM
(pronounced Now-Me)

SPEAKER

LISA-MARIA RHODES
Free Alas

SPEAKER

ALLEN SHROPSHIRE
C.A.L.E.B.- Chattanooga in Action
for Love, Equality and Benevolence

SPEAKER

HALIMA AMAL
Free Hearts

Location: Salon C, Level I - Press "G" on the elevator



TUESDAY

May 7th, 2024

Retreat Day #1 Grounding

1:00 - 1:05 pm

Gratitude Offering

SPEAKER



KELSEY TREJO
Spark Justice Fund Program Associate

Location: Salon C, Level I - Press "G" on the elevator

1:05 - 1:15

Closing & Announcements

SPEAKER



WAKUMI DOUGLAS
MSW - Liberatory Transformation Coach & Consultant

Location: Salon C, Level I - Press "G" on the elevator

1:15 - 2:00 pm

Lunch + Wellness Break

Lunch

Location: Salon C, Level I - Press "G" on the elevator

1:25 - 1:55 pm

Midday Sound Bath Meditation



KIM RICHARDSON
Yes You Yoga & Wellness

Location: Pelham Room, Level I - Press "G" on the elevator

2:00 - 5:00 pm

Headshots

Bold as a Lion Studios will capture your professional essence with a complimentary headshot. This is a perfect opportunity to shine your light and create or refresh your personal brand. Our skilled photographer will help

Location: Salon C Foyer, Level I - Press "G" on the elevator

2:00 - 4:30 pm

Grantee Huddles

Join us for SJF Grantee Community Huddles at Ross Bridge, where you'll have the opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions on topics selected by you! These sessions are crafted to facilitate strategy development, collective learning, and deepen community ties among our partners.

Location: Various locations

2:00 - 4:30 pm

Philanthropic Partners Huddle

Facilitator: Doing Business Right Consulting - Samantha Bickham & Candace Carter

Location: Bessimer Room, Level 2 - Main Lobby

4:30 - 6:00 pm

Extended Break + Wellness Activities

6:00 - 8:30 pm

Dinner & Karaoke

Don your wildest costumes and join us for an evening of laughter, camaraderie, and epic performances. As we celebrate joy as an act of resistance, let's belt out our favorite tunes and create unforgettable memories together.

Location: Salon B, Level I - Press "G" on the elevator

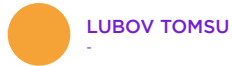


WEDNESDAY

May 8th, 2024

Moving Forward by Building Strength Through Partnerships

7:00 - 8:00 am Wellness - Sunrise Morning Mindfulness Meditation



LUBOV TOMSU

Location: Pelham Room, Level I - Press "G" on the elevator

8:30 - 9:00 am Breakfast Opens

Location: Salon C Foyer, Level I - Press "G" on the elevator

9:00 - 9:15 am Welcome



SADE DUMAS
Program Director,
Spark Justice Fund



WAKUMI DOUGLAS
MSW - Liberatory Transformation
Coach & Consultant

Location: Salon C, Level I - Press "G" on the elevator

9:15 - 9:25 am Welcome to Birmingham cont.

The Huntsville Bail Fund extends a warm welcome to Birmingham for the Spark Justice Fund convening, recognizing its profound significance in the next iteration of our fight against mass incarceration for true community safety.

SPEAKER



TAHIRAH OSBORNE
Huntsville Bail Fund, Executive Director

Location: Salon C, Level I - Press "G" on the elevator

9:30 - 10:30 am

Building the Pipeline of Leaders

When leaders flourish, their communities flourish alongside. The journey of racial justice activism often takes a toll, with 71% of activists reporting feelings of depression and roughly half of them ultimately departing from their movements due to burnout. It's evident that prioritizing wellness and self-care is paramount. Learn about how the Spark Justice Fund is resourcing wellness and the soon-to-be launched Blackprint Fellowship, crafted through a participatory design process by grantee partners, serving as "the blueprint for Black leaders."

MODERATOR



WAKUMI DOUGLAS
MSW - Liberatory Transformation Coach & Consultant

SPEAKER



BREONNA MCCREE
The Transgender District

SPEAKER



REGINA LIVINGSTON
Unspoken Treasure

SPEAKER



TANYA WATKINS
S.O.U.L. Southsiders Organized
for Unity and Liberation

Location: Salon C, Level I - Press "G" on the elevator

10:30 - 10:45 am Break



WEDNESDAY

May 8th, 2024

Moving Forward by Building Strength Through Partnerships

10:45 - 11:45 am Optimizing Spark Justice Fund

Enter a dynamic session where leaders share their journeys with the Spark Justice Fund's tools, igniting inspiration and innovation. Learn how they scaled their organizations sustainably while growing as leaders. Their stories showcase collaboration and transformative impact, empowering you to maximize SJF offerings to lead with purpose and conviction.

MODERATOR



BRANDON GLEATON
Program Officer, Spark Justice Fund

SPEAKER



NICOLE HANSON-MUNDELL
Racial Justice Activist and former Executive Director for Out for Justice

SPEAKER



PRENTISS HAYNEY
Philanthropist and former Co-Executive Director for Ohio Organizing Collaborative

Location: Salon C, Level I - Press "G" on the elevator

11:45 - 1:00 pm Lunch

Location: Brock's Restaurant Terrace, Level I - Press "G" on the elevator

12:15 - 12:45 pm Pranayama/Yoga breath



LUBOV TOMSU

Location: Pelham Room, Level I - Press "G" on the elevator

1:00 - 2:15 pm

Why Funders Say Yes!

Join us for the closing panel, "Why Funders Say Yes," where funders will provide invaluable insights into what they look for in grant reports and offer strategies for overcoming barriers to securing funds. SJF grantee partners will discover how to authentically connect with donors and approach conversations from a place of confidence.

MODERATOR



SADE DUMAS
Program Director,
Borealis Philanthropy

SPEAKER



ALTAF RAHAMATULLA
Wellspring Philanthropic Fund

SPEAKER



MAISHA QUINT
Libra Foundation

SPEAKER



PATRICIA "PAT" CLARK
Fund for Nonviolence

Location: Salon C, Level I - Press "G" on the elevator

2:15 - 2:30 pm Break

2:30 - 5:00 pm Grantees - Media Lab Session

Resonance will lead a deep dive session into narrative power building with grantee partners to move beyond theory and get into the practical steps required to shift narratives. We will review best practices from Black and BIPOC-led organizations and movements working in a similar space to grantee partners as well as walk through a strategic framework for doing narrative shift work. We will spend the bulk of our time together on a hands-on liberatory narrative power activity that also builds skills around media and messaging, and will debrief what we learned to surface actionable insights and lessons.

Location: Salon C, Level I - Press "G" on the elevator



WEDNESDAY

May 8th, 2024

Moving Forward by Building Strength Through Partnerships

2:30 - 5:00 pm **Philanthropic Partners Huddle**

Facilitator: Doing Business Right Consulting - Samantha Bickham & Candes Carter

Location: Bessemer Room, Level II - Main Lobby

5:00 - 5:30 pm **Closing Activity**



BRANDON GLEATON
Program Officer, Spark Justice Fund



WAKUMI DOUGLAS
MSW - Liberatory Transformation Coach & Consultant

Location: Salon C, Level I - Press "G" on the elevator



THURSDAY

May 9th, 2024

Equal Justice Initiative Day



6:30 - 8:30 am	Breakfast at Brock's Restaurant <i>SJF will provide breakfast tickets</i>
8:30 am	Load Bus to Birmingham
9:00 am	Depart Birmingham to Montgomery
10:30 am	Arrival to Montgomery and tour EJI Legacy Museum
12:30 pm	Transition to EJI private room for lunch
12:45 pm	Lunch in assigned EJI private room
1:30 pm	Transition to Monument Sculpture Park
1:45 pm	Tour EJI Monument Sculpture Park
3:00 pm	Transition to EJI Memorial
3:15 pm	Tour the EJI Memorial
4:00 pm	Debrief with the EJI Staff
4:45 pm	Depart EJI to return back to Birmingham

FRIDAY

May 10th, 2024

Travel Day Departures / Everyone

6:30 - 11:30 am

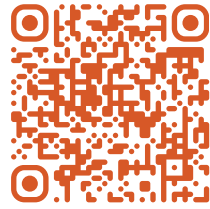
Breakfast at Brock's Restaurant

SJF will provide breakfast tickets

Location: Level I - Press "G" on the elevator



More Information:
sparkjusticefund.space



Spark Justice Whats App



THANK YOU

See You There!



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Building Strength Through Partnerships



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