For 2021, the Community of Practice (COP) committed to focusing on community wealth building as a basis for our collective work together. The policy directives below are the COP's collective priorities: specific, yet practical, existing and new programs and interventions critical to transform a community wealth building strategy into practice.

These priorities can serve as a resource to our local communities to build upon the work set forth with the City's commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion as well as a national movement of Mayors for a Guaranteed Income in support of basic guaranteed income as way to provide economic security to families and individuals to prevent them from falling into poverty and address wealth and income inequality. Ultimately we believe that Community Wealth Building is a foundational strategy to guide local municipal policies and investments into practices that intentionally benefit Black and Brown communities.

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1. **Revitalize MicroATL and Invest Atlanta’s Southside Specific Small Business Initiatives.**
   - There is a critical need for initiatives that support organic opportunities for entrepreneurship and economic development for new and legacy businesses.
   - Leveraging success of proven concepts, offers opportunity to meet both the demand for urgency and sustainable impact.

2. **Designate Beltline Special Service District (SSD) Tax Proceeds and American Rescue Plan (ARP) Local Fiscal Recovery Funds for Resources Targeted at Growth Stage and Legacy Black Business Owners and Entrepreneurs.**
   - Funds will be used to create and maintain affordable commercial space that includes flexible, right-sized commercial spaces that support Black-owned businesses in various growth stages to age in place as community anchors.
   - Funds will provide small business improvement and facade grants for Black-owned legacy businesses and entrepreneurs.

3. **Pass Legislation and Fund the Creation of an Entrepreneurship Learners Permit Program That Connects Black Entrepreneurs and Business Owners with ATLCORE.**
   - The program will support first-time Black entrepreneurs and business owners navigate filing, licensing and permitting fees associated with establishing new business ventures.
   - Legislation will provide waivers and grants for upstart fees to remove barriers and spur growth among Black entrepreneurs, especially in growth industries establishing businesses in under-resourced and historically Black communities.

4. **Repurpose City-Owned Property to Create New Commercial Incubator Space for Creatives and Makers in SW or SE.**
   - Potential properties could be unused school buildings and churches.
   - Models to mimic would be Westside Studios, The Bakery Atlanta, Academy Lofts at Adair Park, and old Exide Battery Plant site.

5. **Require Mental Health and Trauma Informed Practices and Training as Standard Operating Procedures for City of Atlanta and Quasi-Government Organizations Public Service and Public Liaison Positions.**
   - Trauma-Informed Care understands and considers the pervasive nature of trauma and promotes environments of healing and recovery rather than practices and services that may inadvertently re-traumatize.
   - A trauma-informed approach to care acknowledges the need to have a complete picture of a person’s life situation in order to provide effective public policies and interventions that allow Atlantans to thrive.
INCREASE FUNDING AND SUPPORT FOR HUMAN-CENTERED ALTERNATIVE POLICING AND DIVERSION INITIATIVES THAT FOSTER ALTERNATIVES TO PUNISHMENT FOR SURVIVAL TACTICS EMPLOYED AS A RESULT OF EXTREME POVERTY, HEALTH, SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY ILLS.

- Consequences of extreme poverty, health, social and community ills include but are not limited to lack of housing and income, mental health challenges, and substance abuse.
- Atlanta Policing Alternatives and Diversion Initiative (PAD) is an excellent local model currently in operation to direct increased funding and support.

IMPLEMENT A COMPREHENSIVE CURE VIOLENCE PROGRAM.

- Cure Violence is an innovative approach to community safety and wellness in addition to advocacy for gun control and community safety programs.
- Cure Violence is a public health anti-violence program. It aims to stop the spread of violence in communities by using the methods and strategies associated with disease control – detecting and interrupting conflicts, identifying and treating the highest risk individuals, and changing social norms.

SUPPORT CARETAKERS RETURNING OR STAYING IN THE WORKFORCE BY DEDICATING FUNDING FROM ATLANTA’S AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (ARP) LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS TO PROVIDE CHILD AND ELDER CARE VOUCHERS.

- Nearly 1.8 million women have dropped out of the labor force amid the pandemic to become primary caregivers to children and elders. (Politico, 2021)
- A significant barrier to caretakers returning to work, including an overwhelming number of women, is affordable, flexible child and elder care in the new landscape of school and work created by COVID-19.

SUPPORT CARETAKERS RETURNING OR STAYING IN THE WORKFORCE BY DEDICATING FUNDING FROM ATLANTA’S AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (ARP) LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND FUNDING TO REMOVE BARRIERS FOR CURRENT AND NEW AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE LEARNING CENTERS.

- A significant increase in quality child centers is needed in order to support caretakers returning to work.
- To promote growth in the industry, incentives should be offered in the form of technical assistance and support to complete compliance requirements for state and local certification.

PROMOTE LEGISLATION TO CREATE A STATE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT (EITC) FOR WORKING FAMILIES.

- EITC is a benefit for working people with low to moderate income that the federal government, many states and some local communities offer that is designed to incentivize work and help reduce poverty, particularly for families with children
- Twenty-nine states plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico have enacted their own version of the federal EITC to help working families paid low wages meet basic needs. (Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, 2020)