Equal Opportunity Day
An Evening of Celebration & Fundraising
Hosted by: Jonathan Slocumb
WELCOME

BLESSING OF THE OCCASION

OPENING REMARKS

BOARD MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR AWARD

CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP AWARD

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION AND IMPACT AWARD

CHAMPION FOR THE PEOPLE AWARD

MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT

CLOSING REMARKS
Welcome to our Equal Opportunity Day annual event. We are pleased to host this annual gathering that gives us a chance to come together in celebration. To shine the spotlight on a few people whose extraordinary work propels our mission of justice and equality for all. And to recharge our batteries to meet the intense challenges the new year will bring.

In February, we released our first State of Black Georgia report, which factually illustrates the most serious causes and consequences of racial and economic disparity in our state. It also offers legislative solutions and other actions we can take to disrupt historical impediments to progress in Black and Brown communities. Tonight's honorees all have played, and continue to play, notable roles in the collaborative effort to push for equity, diversity, and inclusion in our state.

The honorees – young and not so young, clients, business leaders, elected officials, League family members – all share a devotion to doing their part to make the world a better place. I believe you will be inspired by their deeds and motivated to act, as well.

Thank you for being here! Please visit our website, ulgatl.org, to learn more and add your power to our movement. Speaking of power, helping us recharge our batteries tonight is the legendary R&B crooner Joe in performance after the awards show!
Greetings! As chair of the Urban League of Greater Atlanta's Board of Directors, I am pleased to welcome you to our 2023 Equal Opportunity Day event. I look forward to this event each year because it gives us a chance to celebrate our progress in opening doors of opportunity for people who have been shut out. Celebrating with honorees, supporters, guests, and clients makes this "evening out" enjoyable and encouraging!

My fellow board members and I, along with the companies we represent, are deeply committed to the Urban League's mission. We give our time, talent, and treasure to help empower programs in education, workforce development, small business growth, aid to returning citizens, advocacy for justice, homeownership, and more in the region and throughout the state. We feel rewarded and validated by the results and we are pleased to share some of that information with you tonight. Congratulations to the 2023 honorees, huge appreciation to Joe for the stellar performance he brings and hats off to you for your presence here!

This evening gives you a brief look at the depth of the League's influence, partnerships, and potential. We invite you to learn more at ulgatl.org and to become a contributing member of the Urban League family. Together, we can steer a course for progress that will serve as a model for the nation.
A highly regarded business and civic leader, Jeff Maggs is managing partner at Bruner (ad agency with offices in Atlanta and Pittsburgh). He has a proven history of finding, growing, and retaining talent, generating new business wins and profitable growth for agencies, and driving results for clients.

Maggs has won multiple industry related awards including EFFIEs, National ADDYs, and Cannes Lions. He serves on the boards of several non-profit organizations and industry associations. An Investor Member of the Metro Atlanta Chamber and long-time member of the Midtown Alliance, Maggs is a graduate of Leadership Pittsburgh XV and Leadership Atlanta 2020, the 50th Anniversary Class.

He takes pride in his roles as son, brother, uncle, husband, father, and grandfather.
After retiring from a highly successful career in advertising, sales, and marketing, Larry McHugh has been focused on 'paying it forward.' He has mentored entrepreneurs in Chattanooga and Atlanta, with organizations such as Georgia Tech’s ATDC and Venture Atlanta. Larry joined the Urban League of Greater Atlanta Board of Directors in 2017. He has focused his attention on The Entrepreneurship Center, the Marketing Committee, and the Development Committee, where he served as Chair, driving an increase in financial support for the League.

He also serves on three other non-profit boards and supports various entrepreneurial organizations. A native of Pittsburgh, PA, and a graduate of Gannon College in Erie, PA, Larry moved with his wife of 37 years to Atlanta three different times. They now live happily in Vinings.
Brittany Marshall, DrPH is a Behavioral Scientist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Broadly, Dr. Marshall's practice and research interests include HIV prevention, program evaluation, and implementation science. Dr. Marshall serves as the Immediate Past President of the Urban League of Greater Atlanta Young Professionals and recently was a member of the American Public Health Association Executive Board.

She has received several awards, including the 2023 Atlanta Business Chronicle 40 Under 40 and June 2023 President of the Month for the National Urban League Young Professionals. Dr. Marshall holds a B.S in Health Education from the University of Florida, a MPH from the University of South Florida, and a DrPH from the University of North Texas Health Science Center.
Target serves guests at nearly 2,000 stores and at Target.com, with the purpose of helping all families discover the joy of everyday life. Across Target, we continue to work to advance solutions that address community needs and drive meaningful and positive impact for people and planet. This builds on our long history of community support including a philanthropic commitment to giving 5% of our profits to communities in cash, products, and through the Target Foundation, an industry-leading track record of team member engagement and volunteerism, and a commitment to use our size, scale and business to positively impact communities.
Michael L. Thurmond, CEO of DeKalb County, Georgia, has built a reputation for improving trust, accountability, integrity, and service in county government. The son of a sharecropper, Thurmond has served in the Georgia General Assembly and as head of the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services, the Georgia Department of Labor, and the DeKalb County School District. He holds a BA from Paine College and a JD from the University of South Carolina’s School of Law. His book, Freedom: Georgia’s Antislavery Heritage, 1733-1865, was awarded the prestigious Georgia Historical Society’s Lilla Hawes Award, and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Georgia Historical Records Advisory Council. He and his wife, Zola Fletcher Thurmond, have one daughter, Mikaya.
Congresswoman Nikema Williams, a fierce advocate for social justice, women, and families, proudly upholds the legacy of her predecessor, Congressman John Lewis, by fighting to end voter suppression and expand fair access to the ballot.

She was elected as Freshman Class President for the 117th Congress and sits with several caucuses. Prior to her election to Congress, she served in the Georgia State Senate. Her honors include Georgia Trend magazine’s 100 Most Influential Georgians and Forty under Forty, among many others.

Rep. Williams attended Talladega College in Talladega, Alabama – where she was initiated into Chi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. She and her husband, Leslie Small, live in Atlanta with their son, Carter.
JOIN US IN OUR MISSION TO OPEN DOORS FOR EVEN MORE FAMILIES TO ADVANCE THROUGH:

Everyone deserves a fair shot at the basics: sustainable income, safe and affordable housing, education, health care, nutritious food, clean air, and equal rights to participate in civil society as our democracy guarantees. Yet far too many people have been historically locked out and continue to face barriers to success.

We can change that. The Urban League and its partners are making great strides in tearing down barriers to allow families and small businesses to reach financial success.

To donate, text ULGA to 243725 or click here.
AMERICAN R&B SINGER-SONGWRITER

A self-described “country boy” born in South Georgia and raised in Alabama, Joe often accompanied his traveling evangelist father on the road. Growing up, he also learned to play the guitar and piano while developing his vocal skills in church. Joe’s dream of attending Dillard University in New Orleans to study business and law took a backseat when he opted to relocate to New Jersey in pursuit of a musical career. After notching his first R&B top 10 for Mercury Records in 1993 with “I’m in Luv,” Joe began hitting his stride in the mid-’90s with the R&B and pop crossover smash “All the Things (Your Man Won’t Do).”

An ensuing string of hits—“All That I Am,” “I Wanna Know,” “No One Comes Close”—sealed Joe’s reputation in the 2000s as an R&B superstar. And the seven-time Grammy nominee’s memorable collaborations with Mariah Carey (“Thank God I Found You”), Big Pun (“Still Not a Player”) and G-Unit (“Wanna Get to Know You”) further underscored his musical versatility.

Joe’s flexibility offstage extends beyond cooking to sports (“I’m very competitive when it comes to basketball, bowling and shooting pool”).

“I’d love to be remembered in the same league as a Marvin Gaye,” says Joe. “And I’ve got time. That’s the beauty of R&B. It’s a classy genre—and class always lasts.”
Equal Opportunity Day 2023

Thank you to our Gold Sponsors!
Community is the commitment we make to each other

When a community is strong, it’s more than a collection of streets and buildings—it’s a place that helps its residents thrive. That’s why we’re committed to building stronger communities as a proud sponsor of The Urban League of Greater Atlanta’s 2023 Equal Opportunity Day Celebration.
For all that can be

Here’s to the dreamers and the doers. Your vision and hard work continue to make Atlanta an economic light in the world. And since a successful community is a healthier community, we couldn’t be prouder to support the The Urban League of Greater Atlanta. Learn more at kp.org

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Creating vibrant communities

When we come together to build stronger communities, we give our time, energy, and ideas to help influence positive change. And as we watch progress take root, we grow as well.

Urban League of Greater Atlanta, it’s an honor to recognize your commitment and service to the community.
BUILDING A BETTER WORLD WITH THE POWER OF ALL.

A train runs on the strength of the people behind it. At Norfolk Southern, we run on the strength of our diversity. That’s why we work with organizations like the URBAN LEAGUE OF GREATER ATLANTA to create a culture of respect and lay the foundation for a more inclusive tomorrow. Together, we can all achieve more.

See how we lead the way to a greater future at NorfolkSouthern.com.
Making way for an equitable future.

At Cox, we work to build an environment that celebrates the unique perspective of every individual. Our commitment to inclusion, diversity and equity is core to who we are. We are honored to partner with the Urban League of Greater Atlanta and support their efforts in creating equal opportunities for all.

Learn how we're growing the good and working to build a better future that’s even more inclusive at cox.career/inclusion.
Diversity enriches the world we live in.

Whether it’s different perspectives, backgrounds, or life experiences, we embrace diversity because it enriches our company, our communities and our employees’ lives.

And that’s good for everyone.
Equal Opportunity Day 2023

Thank you to our Silver Sponsors!
Thank you to our Bronze Sponsors!
Thank you for attending our 2023 Equal Opportunity Day Celebration! We hope you leave this year's event motivated and inspired by our mission, programs, and services. We are grateful for your partnership and continued support of our work.

We extend special thanks to this year's sponsors as well as our dedicated Board of Directors and staff, honorees, host - Jonathan Slocumb, musical guest - Joe, vendors, and volunteers who made this event possible.

Planning Committee:

- Nancy Flake Johnson, President & CEO, Urban League of Greater Atlanta
- John E. Armstrong Jr., Chief Fund Development Officer
- John Moye, Senior Director, Policy, Legislative Affairs & Civic Engagement
- Dottie Johnson, Executive Assistant
- DeShaun C. Blake, Operations Efficiency Change Manager
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