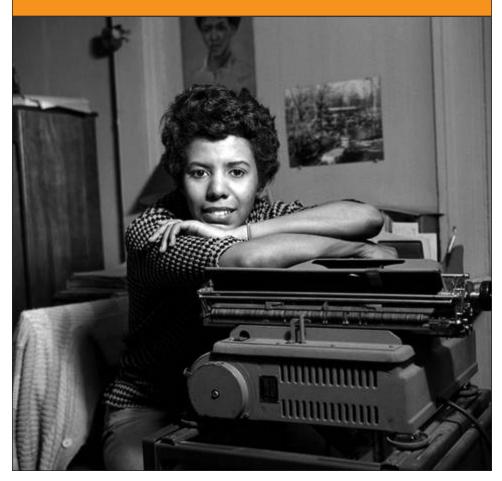
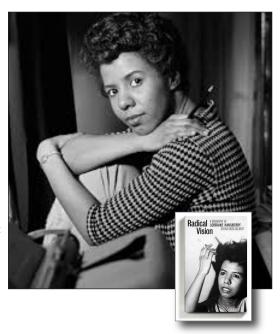
Bringing our communities together to explore the life and work of **Lorraine Hansberry:** Radical Artist and Activist



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### Welcome to CURE's Five Towns One Book Third Annual Event 2023

This year, we focus on the multifaceted and brilliant Lorraine Hansberry with a biography of her life, *Radical Vision by Soyica Diggs Colbert*. This biography opens many entry points for discussion, reflection and learning as Ms. Hansberry was a writer, playwright, activist, feminist and part of the gay community at a time when it was not as accepted. She died of cancer at 35 years old but contributed more to the Freedom movement than most in her short life.



Look through this beautiful program for detailed information on these events: **February 11 at 2 PM:** Croton Free Library – Discussion with author Soyica Diggs Colbert **March 2 at 7PM:** Rye Free Reading Room – Hansberry: Civil Rights & Freedom Practices **March 18 at 2PM:** Larchmont Public Library – A Raisin In The Sun, film screening & Talk Back **March 29 at 7PM:** Harrison Public Library – Hansberry & Activism in Black Art **April 15 at 3PM:** New Rochelle Public Library – Hansberry & A Theatrical Exploration of Redlining

This programming is made possible with generous funding from the *Westchester County Board of Legislatures.* This year, we are proud to be doing this work with the five libraries of **Croton on Hudson, Harrison, Larchmont, New Rochelle** and **Rye**. In addition, we are proud to be partnering with **The Lorraine Hansberry Coalition** in Croton.



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### February 11, 2023

The Croton Free Library 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm Meet Author Soyica Diggs Colbert



Join us in person for a round table discussion with Georgetown Professor and author **Soyica Diggs Colbert** about her inspiring book, **Radical Vision, A Biography of Lorraine Hansberry.** Ms. Colbert will engage in this chat with **Lynda Jones** of The Lorraine Hansberry Coalition in Croton, **Tejash Sanchala**, Executive Director of the Westchester Human Rights Commission and **Nicole Alifante** of CURE.

Ms. Colbert will answer questions from the audience and sign books afterwards. We are beyond honored that Ms. Colbert agreed to join us in person! If you would like a copy of Radical Vision to bring with you for signing, please reach out to the bookshop in Croton, **By-The-Dam Books.**  SOYICA DIGGS COLBERT is the Idol Family Professor of African American Studies and Perirming Arts at Georgetown University. Col-



bert's award-winning book, Radical Vision: A Biography of Lorraine Hansberry. She has held fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities to support a residency at the Schomburg Center, Woodrow Wilson Foundation, Stanford University, Mellon Foundation, and the Robert W. Woodruff Library at Emory University. Colbert has also lectured nationally and internationally at universities, high schools, and middle schools as well as for civic and arts organizations. Colbert's writing has been featured in the The New York Times. Washington Post, Public Books, Metrograph and American Theatre. She has been interviewed on NPR and commented for the New York Times. USA Today. CNN, and the Washington Post. She is an

Associate Director at the Shakespeare Theatre Company in Washington, D.C. She has also served as a Creative Content Producer for The Public Theatre's audio play, *shadow/land*. Her research interests span the 19th-21st centuries, from Harriet Tubman to Beyoncé, and from poetics to performance.

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#### **MODERATORATED BY:**

**LYNDA JONES** is a Co-chair of the Lorraine Hansberry Coalition of Croton on Hudson, NY. The Coalition's mission is to celebrate the life of acclaimed playwright, author, and activist Lorraine Hansberry and her connection with Crotonon-Hudson. The Coalition is a volunteer-driven group that creates innovative and inclusive opportunities that reflect the values and ideals by which Hansberry led her life.



Lynda is also a versatile, accomplished leader with experience collaborating with management and governing boards to develop strategies supporting corporate objectives and missions. She recently stepped down after over a decade as the Vice President for Human Resources and Strategic Planning for Historic Hudson Valley, one of Westchester County's most prominent cultural organizations. While there, in addition to serving on the corporate leadership team, she directed all aspects of human capital management and planning and led a series of successful multi-disciplinary efficiency projects.

Lynda has held executive positions in the for-profit, government, and nonprofit sectors, including Regional Director for Administration with Merit Behavioral Healthcare, Deputy Commissioner for Administration with the NYS Department of Labor, and Associate Executive Director with Services for the Underserved. She has also served as an independent consultant, designing and implementing systems resulting in the enhanced performance of individuals, teams, and organizations. A believer in the power of education, Lynda served six years as an elected member of the Board of Trustees of the high-performing Croton Harmon School District.

Lynda earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Bernard M. Baruch College of CUNY and a master's degree in public administration, with a concentration in public finance, from New York University.

> Livestreamed on LMC Media's youtube page!

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### March 2, 2023

The Rye Free Reading Room 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm A discussion about Lorraine Hansberry and her role in The Civil Rights & Freedom Practices

Engage in this discussion about Hansberry's role in Civil Rights in the 1950s and 60s, her collaboration with Black thought leaders like James Baldwin and her personal "Freedom Practice". We'll be joined by the brilliant team from **Elevator Repair Service Theater Co.** in NYC who recently produced Baldwin vs. Buckley at Cambridge at The Public Theater. This will be an inspiring evening with **John Collins, April Matthis** and **Greig Sargeant.** You don't want to miss this – the best of NYC comes to Rye!



#### JOHN COLLINS

(Director, Baldwin and Buckley at Cambridge) founded **Elevator Repair Service** in 1991. Since then, he

has directed or co-directed all of the company's productions while also serving as the company's Artistic Director. ERS productions directed by Collins include *Cab Legs, Room Tone, Gatz, The Select (The Sun Also Rises), The Sound and the Fury, Arguendo, Measure for Measure,* and numerous others. He is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, a United States Artists Fellowship, and a Doris Duke Performing Artist Award.

**GREIG SARGEANT** (Conceiver/James Baldwin, Baldwin and Buckley at Cambridge) is an actor and associated artist of the Obie Award-winning **Target Margin Theater**, and a company member of the internationally renowned Obie Award-winning theater ensemble **Elevator Repair Service**. Recent credits include **Baldwin and Buckley at Cambridge**, **Measure for Measure** and **The Sound and the Fury** (The Public Theater), **Fondly**, **Col**-



lette Richland, Bonnie's Last Flight, and The Little Foxes (NYTW), The Parable Conference (BAM), Please Bury Me/Go Forth (Baryshnikov Arts Center), Uncle Vanya, The Dinner Party, The Seagull, Mamba's Daughters, Strictly Dishonorable, South, Dido, Queen of Carthage, India Song, Egypt, Cymbeline, Objects Lie in a Table, Measure for Measure, Boca, Sonoma, Infinity Lying Down (TMT), Gatz

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(REDCAT). Film: *Help Me Mary* (dir. Annie Tippe), *The Bad Infinity* (dir. Graham Sack). Sargeant has also been published in American Theatre Magazine, having written an article regarding agency and race in the theater. Greig was a W.E.B Dubois Fellow at West Virginia University, where he received his MFA in acting.



**APRIL MATTHIS** (Lorraine Hansberry, Baldwin and Buckley at Cambridge) is an Obie Award-winning actor and company member of **Elevator Repair Service**. With ERS: **Baldwin and Buckley at Cambridge** (Philadelphia Fringe Festival), **The Sound and the Fury; Fondly, Collette Richland** (NYTW); **Measure for Measure** (The Public); **Everyone's Fine with Virginia Woolf** (Abrons Art Center); **Gatz** (Perth Festival). Broadway: **August Wilson's The Piano Lesson**. Off-Broadway: **Help** (The Shed);

Toni Stone (Roundabout); Fairview, LEAR (Soho Rep); Signature Plays—Funnyhouse of a Negro (Signature Theatre); IOWA, Antlia Pneumatica (Playwrights Horizons); On the Levee (LCT3). Regional: Most Happy in Concert (Williamstown), Little Bunny Foo Foo (Actors Theater of Louisville), A Streetcar Named Desire (Yale Rep). TV: "The Blacklist" (NBC), "Evil", "The Good Fight" (Paramount Plus), "New Amsterdam" (NBC). Film: Black Card, Fugitive Dreams, Ramona at Midlife.

#### **MODERATORATED BY:**

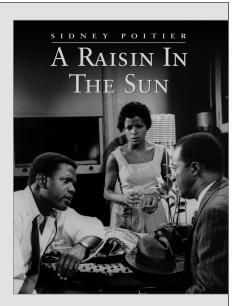
The CURE Team members. Stay tuned for details.

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### March 18, 2023

Larchmont Public Library 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm A Raisin In The Sun – film screening & talk back

Settle in with your neighbors for a screening of the classic film, **A Raisin In The Sun** by Lorraine Hansberry. Refreshments and discussion after the filming with local Mamaroneck actor and activist, **Larry Albert**. Share your thoughts about how this film still resonates today.



#### TALK BACK FACILITATED BY:



**LARRY ALBERT** has been acting since 1975 on stage,TV, films, music videos,print modeling,and singing. After graduating college in 1975, he began his career as a counselor for disadvantaged youth in Westchester County and NYC helping them accomplish their academic and career goals. He worked for non profit agencies such as The College Careers Fund of Westchester, and New York state department of Corrections at Sing Sing. His social activism started

in1964, at 14 years old during the modern day CivilRights movement, and the student protest and Black Power movement of the late 1960s. He continues today to speak for those who can't speak for themselves, and to advocate for those that are oppressed and disenfranchised.

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#### March 29, 2023 Harrison Public Library 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm Hansberry & Activism in Black Art

A panel discussion with local Black activist artists including painter **Alvin Clayton** and writer/poet **TBD**. Learn about how these artists are inspired by current events and the call to express their ideas on Liberation, Social Justice and Politics. Inspired by this event, Mamaroneck school district students submitted artwork and writing which reflected their thoughts on social justice today. Look for where there work will be exhibited on CURE's website: www.learnwithcure.com

#### ALVIN CLAYTON is

a Trinidad-born artist, restauranteur, and model. Alvin and his wife, Gwen, are the owners and operators of the awardwinning Southern and Caribbean Restaurant, *Alvin and* 



**Friends** in New Rochelle, NY. Alvin's restaurant experience started with an investment partnership in the famed Georgia Restaurant, on the trendy Melrose Ave in Los Angeles, headed by Restauranteur Brad Johnson and several celebrities, including Denzel Washington, Norm Nixon, Debbie Allen, and other celebrities.

Alvin Clayton is a self taught artist. He is heavily influenced by Matisse and the French Impressionist movement. His paintings exudes bright bold colors of life in the African experience as it relates

to the pasted and present conditions. Alvin has had several groups and oneman shows featuring his work, most recently, *Alvin And Friends at the Rye Art Center*, in Rye, NY, and *Unapologetically Me: a virtual political show at Iona College's Brother Kennith Gallery*. His work has been featured at the Smithsonian Institute of African-American Art, has been featured in several films, including The Best Man Holiday, and has been collected by several celebrities, and collectors, including Ken and Kathy Chenault, New York University, Denzel Washington, Blair Underwood, Hill Harper, CC H. Pounder, Lorraine Toussaint, to name a few. Alvin's focus is now on being acquired by museums!

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Gaining status as a "Super Model," Alvin's modeling career started at Wilhelmina Models and ended with the Ford Modeling Agency, just eight years ago. As a supermodel, he has graced the pages of the top publications such as *GQ*, *Vogue, Glamour, Elle, Ebony, Essence, EM*, to name a few; countless catalogues, including *Nordstrom's, Bloomingdales, Lord & Taylor, Macy's J-Crew, L.L. Bean.* Alvin has also done major ads on TV and billboards including *Banana Republic, AT&T, Haynes*, and countless others.

With a well-rounded resume, Alvin has now been signed by the world-renowned IMG Models. Alvin and Gwen live in Westchester as partners in the restaurant; they have four kids and a dog and two cats.

Additional artist joining Mr. Clayton TBD. Stay tuned for details.

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### April 15, 2023

New Rochelle Public Library Ossie Davis Theatre 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm Looking at the work of Lorraine Hansberry through a Theatrical Exploration of Redlining

This is our final event of Five Towns: One Book but sure to be memorable! It is truly fitting that it's happening in the Ossie Davis Theater as Mr. Davis was a comrade of Hansberry who also fought for Black liberation and civil rights. Engage in a moderated discussion with theater director. Kevin R. Free (artistic director, Miles Square Theater), local redlining expert, Gregory Jost (Fordham University) and brilliant actors (TBD). There will be excerpts read from A Raisin In The Sun and Bruce Norris's play Clybourne Park, a present day spin off of Raisin in addition to informative history about local redlining laws and how federal segregation affects local communities today. Don't miss this!

**GREGORY JOST** is

a Bronx-based organizer, educator and facilitator with expertise in the history of systemic and structural inequality and strategies for racial equity and justice



through community reinvestment and economic democracy. He is an Adjunct Faculty member in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Fordham University where he focuses on the Bronx's history with redlining and grassroots approaches to systemic issues. Gregory's work at Banana Kelly **Community Improvement Association** in the South Bronx keeps him grounded in current campaigns and coalitions fighting back against the extractive economy, and fighting forward for community ownership and wealth building opportunities. He has extensive experience co-designing curricula. interactive exhibits. databases and popular education workshops. He is currently writing a book on the Bronx's battles against redlining while working to bring a community development credit union to the Bronx.

streamed

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**KEVIN R. FREE** is a multidisciplinary artist whose work as a storyteller has been showcased many places, including Target Margin (2018), the Where Project (2015), QED: A Place for Storytelling (2014); on the *Moth Mainstage ("Heart of Darkness,"* 2012), Dana Rossi's *The Soundtrack Series*, Kathleen Warnock's *Drunken! Careening! Writers!* (2012). Kevin is currently the Artistic Director of Miles Square Theater in Hoboken, NJ.



As an actor, Kevin has appeared on television on Law & Order and Law & Order: SVU, Murphy Brown, Cyberchase, and in several national and regional commercials. In 2018, he made his feature film debut in Bo Burnham's Eighth Grade. New York audiences have seen Mr. Free Off-Broadway, playing the role of Bellomy in *The Fantasticks* (the first African-American to play the role in the New York Production's 54-year history). He created the role of Michael Curtiz in Reid & Sara Farrington's Drama Desk-nominated CasablancaBox in 2017. Other notable NYC acting work: Night of the Living N-Word!! (Also, writer; Overall Excellence in Playwriting, FringeNYC 2016); Marian, or The True Tale of Robin Hood (Flux Theatre Ensemble); The Making of King Kong (Target Margin); From My Hometown (Amas Musical Theatre; Audelco Award Nominee); Taking A Chance On Love (York Theatre); The Conjure Man Dies (New Federal Theatre) and as one of the ninjas in Happy Sunshine Kung Fu Flower at the Zipper. Some of his favorite roles in regional theatre include Dr. Frans in the World Premiere Production of Jen Silverman's **WINK** at Marin Theatre Company; Murray in the World Premiere Production of DAVE at Arena Stage; James Farmer in The Parchman Hour at the Guthrie Theater: Donnie in the World Premiere of Colman Domingo's DOT at Actors Theatre of Louisville: Albert/Kevin in Clybourne Park at Portland Center Stage: Tonton Julian in Once On This Island (Paper Mill Playhouse); Dromio of Ephesus in The Boys from Syracuse (CENTERSTAGE); Nemur in *Chasing Nicolette* (Prince Music Theatre); Flick in Violet (Arden Theatre, Barrymore Award Nominee - Best Supporting Actor in a Musical), and Belize in Angels in America (Charlotte Repertory).

His full-length plays are *Face Value* (Henry Street Settlement Playwright's Project Grant, 2000; Mill Mountain Theatre New Play Festival Finalist, 2003); (*Not) Just a Day Like Any Other* (written & performed with Christopher Borg, Jeffrey Cranor, and Eevin Hartsough; recipient, 2009 NY IT Award for

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Outstanding Ensemble); and A Raisin in the Salad: Black Plays for White People (Eugene O'Neill Playwrights Conference Semi-Finalist 2013), The Crisis of the Negro Intellectual, or TRIPLE CONSCIOUSNESS, and You Are in An Open Field (written & performed with Eevin Hartsough, Marta Rainer, Carl Riehl, and Adam Smith); Night of the Living N-Word!! (FringeNYC 2016); AM I DEAD? The Untrue Narrative of Anatomical Lewis, The Slave (Commission from Flux Theatre Ensemble); BALBOA IS NOT DROWNING. His ten-minute plays include ... in which Bishop Eddie Long loses a battle with his demons... (Sticky at the Bowery Poetry Club, JACK) and PORTAL, or Metaphorical Tricycle (The Fire This Time Festival), and Turn This Motha Out (with Prayer) (48 Hours in Harlem, inspired by Tyler Perry's "Diary of a Mad Black Woman"). He is an alumnus of the New York Neo-Futurists, with whom he wrote and performed regularly in Too Much Light Makes The Baby Go Blind (30 Plays in 60 Minutes) between 2007 and 2011. His work has been published by Commonplace Books ("What it Means To Be A Grown Up: The Complete and Definitive Answer") and at www.indietheaternow.com. In 2010, He was named one of NYTheatre.com's 15 people of the year, because of his "outstanding, noteworthy contributions to the New York theatre scene."

As a director, Kevin is in rehearsal now for Marcus; or The Secret of Sweet at Nevada Conservatory Theater. In 2019, he directed 8 world premiere plays for season 10 of The Fire This Time Festival; Topdog/Underdog at The University of Arkansas; The Last Five Years at Portland Stage; GLORY! at Dixon Place; Pipeline at Mile Square Theater (named one of the top 10 theatre productions of 2019 by NJ.com); and the World Premiere of Amy R. Berryman's WINNER, which was a Finalist in the Samuel French Off-Off-Broadway Short Play Festival. Other significant credits: Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill at Portland Stage: Renita Martin's Blue Fire on the Water at The Fresh Fruit Festival; Okello Kelo Sam's Forged in Fire at City Tech Theatreworks; 30 Plays in 60 Minutes as a guest director at Bloomsburg University, and 4 works by Nathan Yungerberg at the Bed-Stuy Playwright Series. He directed Adrienne Dawes's brilliant Am I White at Blackboard Plays Reading Series, Tracey Conver Lee's **Poor Posturing** and **The** First Time for The Fire This Time Festival, and Michelle T. Johnson's Wiccans in the 'hood for the Midwinter Madness Festival. Passionate about the solo show format, he also developed and directed Elizabeth Stewart's Racist is My Middle Name for the Estrogenius Festival (2010), and Tracey Conver Lee's Standing Up: Bathroom Talk and Other Stuff We Learn From Dad (FringeNYC 2010). Mr. Free has also directed several productions performed or written by young people,

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including several plays in Writopia Lab's Bestival of New Plays, **The Wiz, The Robber Bridegroom, Godspell, Barnum, The Big Bad Musical, Dear Edwina, A Year with Frog and Toad** and **Starlight Express.** 

Mr. Free has also excelled as a producer and arts administrator. In 2018, he produced a borough-wide celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the original recording of Louis Armstrong's "What A Wonderful World" in Queens Libraries. He is the former Education Director of Queens Theatre in the Park, bringing arts to underserved communities in Queens. He is also the former Producing Artistic Director of The Fire This Time Festival, a platform for early career playwrights of the African Diaspora, winning an Obie for his efforts in 2015. He maintains a collaboration with Frigid New York as curator of QUEERLY, a multi-arts LGBTQ+ festival. He has a long-standing collaboration with Eevin Hartsough and Katie Rosin, with whom he co-wrote and produced the web series *Gemma & The Bear!* and the upcoming *BECKYS THROUGH HISTORY* (MyCarl.org).

Once a regular contributor the NPR show "News & Notes," Mr. Free's voice can now be heard on the popular podcast Welcome to Night Vale, as Kevin, the voice of Desert Bluffs. He was a singer on the World Premiere Recording of the musical Avenue X and is the narrator over 300 audio books, including Martha Wells' Murderbot Diaries; Victor LaValle's The Ballad of Black Tom; the Pulitzer Prize-winning The Known World (AudioFile Magazine Earphones Award, 2004) and Say You're One of Them (Oprah's Book Club) and Rick Riordan's The Kane Chronicles (Audie Award Finalist, Audiobook of the Year 2011).

He is also an asshole who watches and live-tweets political debates, Awards Shows and Network TV. Follow him on Twitter: @kevinrfree.

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### Join us for the events built around

### **Radical Vision,** A Biography of Lorraine Hansberry

by Soyica Diggs Colbert

Borrow in print from your local library or download via the Libby app or purchase it from By-The-Dam Book in Croton or www.thehumblebumblebook.com

#### The Lorraine Hansberry Coalition (LHC), established in February 2021, is part of the **Diversity & Inclusion Committee** of Croton-on-Hudson, NY. It is dedicated to celebrating the life of acclaimed playwright, author, and activist Lorraine Hansberry and her connection with Crotonon-Hudson, A volunteer-driven group, we create innovative and inclusive opportunities that reflect the values and ideals by which Hansberry led her life, and welcome new members to join! Get in touch with us via email: coh.di.lhc@gmail.com.

### Please support us.

DONATE what you can if you believe that anti-racist work can start right in your own backyard! CURE cannot continue this work without your support! Learn more about us at **www.learnwithcure.com** 

### We are grateful.

Thank you to all who made these events possible: the Mamaroneck Union Free School District's District Equity Task Force for partnering on the March 29th event; Catherine Parker for her continued sponsorship.

All of CURE's Five Towns: One Book events are **FREE** to the public and made possible by funding from the **Westchester County Board of Legislators**. In the words of Dr. Kimberle Crenshaw, "There is no daylight between the protection of our Democracy and the protection of Anti-racism."

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Anti-Racist Alliance Black Westchester Catherine Parker Center For The Study of White American Culture (CSWAC) Community Resource Center Hudson Valley Birth Network The Humble Bumble Indivisible New Rochelle Indivisible Westchester Jay Heritage Center Larchmont Avenue Church Larchmont Mamaroneck Human Rights Committee Larchmont Mamaroneck Indivisible Larchmont Mamaroneck Local Summit Larchmont Mamaroneck Lions Club Larchmont Temple LMC Media League of Women Voters' Voters of Westchester County New Rochelle Council on the Arts New Rochelle United Methodist Church New Rochelle Public Library Foundation

NPW - Non Profit Westchester One Mamaroneck One Small Stone pRYEde Race Talk Revolution **RveAct Coalition** SURJ Showing Up for Racial Justice St. John's Episcopal Church St. Thomas Episcopal Church Teach the Truth - Westchester Tom Murphy – Mayor Village of Mamaroneck Town of Mamaroneck Racial Equity Task Force Unison Arts Urban Legacy Foundation **WESPAC** Westchester Alliance of Black School Educators Westchester Black Women's Political Caucus Westchester County Board of Legislators WWA Westchester Women's Agenda

### Thank you for supporting our efforts and for the great work you do!