



Town Hall on Housing, Development, & Impacts in SOMA with Village President Sheena Collum and Mayor Dean Dafis

Maintaining socio-economic, racial, and generational diversity in a community where the cost of living continues to rise is a challenge in New Jersey's dense and desirable neighborhoods. On **September 14 at 7 p.m.**, members of the Coalition's Residential Committee will be in conversation with our town leaders to address how a variety of related factors, such as master planning progress, development, zoning, affordable housing, and neighborhood issues are impacting the South Orange/Maplewood community.

[Learn more and register today for this virtual event here.](#)



Celebrating Integration: Growing Our Commitment to Equity & Inclusion

When: October 12th, 7 pm

Where: Orange Lawn Tennis Club

Honoring: Dr. Ahadi Bugg-Levine & Gail Safian

Featuring Live Music: Essex Funk Collective

We are so excited to be together again this year! Join us for an evening of fellowship, food, music, a live auction, and fun as we raise funds to support our work in the coming year. [Purchase your ticket today here!](#)

Interested in sponsoring our event? [Click here for details.](#)



Integrated Art Circles Continue—Register Today

Reserve your spot for the September and October Circles today! [For details on each circle and to register, click here.](#)

Public Mural Art Circle with artist Roberta Melzl begins September 11th

Build connections as the group formulates a shared vision and decides which materials work best for the mural that will be created, and then publicly displayed in the SOMA/MapSo community. No experience is necessary –only enthusiasm, collaboration, and a willingness to learn.

Journey to Percussion/Shekere with artist: Ahmondylla Best begins Oct. 7th

Learning to play the beaded gourd instrument known as a shekere can take you on a journey of percussion ranging from exhilaration to meditation. Participants will explore traditional rhythms, tone, tempo, improvisation and composition as a group and in solo performance.

Integrated Art Circles 2023



Digital Marketing Strategist Needed

We are looking for a skilled and results-driven digital strategist to develop a targeted marketing strategy and design an implementation plan to reach and attract specific populations to South Orange/ Maplewood NJ to assist in achieving stable racial integration. This is a paid, part-time consulting position. [Read the full job description here](#) and apply today!



Call for Community Coalition on Race Board Members

Are you passionate about making progress in racial equity and integration in South Orange and Maplewood? Looking for an opportunity to give back to your community? Interested in working with a diverse group of your neighbors? We are seeking new members to serve on our Board of Trustees. If interested, please contact our Nominating Committee at soma@communitycoalitiononrace.org, putting "Board of Trustees" in the subject line.

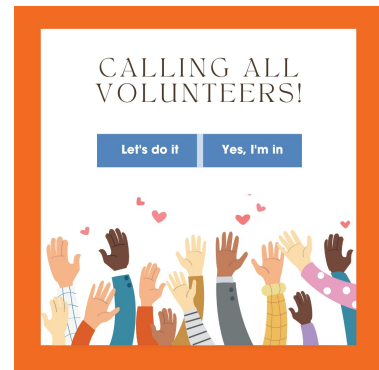


Community Coalition Committee Volunteer Openings

Looking to give some time and talent to racial integration and equity work in your community? Work on a committee or on a project and meet new people! We have openings in the areas noted below. Most committees meet monthly.

- **Community Program Planning Committees:** The Dr. King Observance, the Luminary Project, Black History Month projects, Conversations on Race, and other community engagement programs
- **Marketing:** social media, website updates, awareness campaigns, and more
- **Demographic Research:** research and data analysis of demographics, housing trends, and more

Visit our [volunteer page](#) to fill out a volunteer application today!



Learn about Our Loan Program

The Residential Committee introduced realtors and lenders to the Wealth Gap Equalizer Loan, a new, unique financing solution designed specifically to help qualified Black and non-white Hispanic applicants overcome common barriers to homeownership in SOMA. We hosted a virtual information session about the loan program with information on the application process and realtors and lenders can share it with their clients. [View the video here](#).



Coming up this fall... October is Coalition Month!

Since 1998, the towns of Maplewood and South Orange have recognized the month of October as a special time to celebrate our progress toward building an integrated, equitable, and inclusive community.

Join us at our [Celebrating Integration gala](#) and check our website for details soon on these and other upcoming events:

- The **2023 Neighborhood Symposium** hosted by the Residential Committee
- **Board of Education Candidates' Forum** hosted by the Schools Committee

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Visit our website

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