



Celebrating Integration—Save the Date! Thursday, October 16th, 7 pm, Orange Lawn Tennis Club

Our annual gala and fundraiser will be on Thursday, October 16th at 7 pm at the Orange Lawn Tennis Club in South Orange. We are excited to announce that **Audrey Rowe**, our former program director, is this year's honoree. The evening will include a special **memorial tribute to Carol Barry-Austin**, founding member and Schools Committee leader for over two decades. Please join us to honor and learn more about these two gifted women who have done so much to keep SOMA on the path to integration and equity. Plus, **Essex Funk Collective** returns with great dance music! RSVP details to attend, to purchase sponsorships, and to place ads or messages in the journal will be available in mid-August.



Join the Board of Trustees – Make a Difference in Your Community

Are you passionate about racial equity, inclusion, and building a truly integrated community? The South Orange/Maplewood Community Coalition on Race is seeking new members to join our Board of Trustees. This is a meaningful opportunity to give back by working with a diverse group of neighbors to advance racial integration and equity in every facet of community life. [Join the Community Coalition on Race's board.](#)



Integrated Art Circle: Murals

The Mural Art Circle, led by award-winning teaching artist Roberta Melzl, brings together students and adults to create a community mural across four-six sessions beginning September 15th. [Register here today!](#)



Integrated Art Circle: Opera Exploration

The Opera Art Circle, led by acclaimed opera singer Lori Brown Mirabal, begins September 22nd at Prospect Church and explores opera's rich history through the lens of racial diversity. [Register here today!](#)

The Community Coalition on Race
presents



Opera Exploration
with
Lori Brown Mirabal



Register for **FREE**

Two Wealth Gap Equalizer Loan Amounts Increased to \$15,000

We are excited to announce that we are increasing two of our Wealth Gap Equalizer Loans (WGEL) from \$7,500 to \$15,000. This change comes in response to rising housing costs in our towns and is designed to make homebuying more attainable for Black and non-White Hispanic families. [Learn more about the loan and application process here.](#)



BOE Candidates' Forum, September 18th, 7:30 pm

The Schools Committee of the Coalition will host its annual BOE Candidates' Forum for the 6 candidates running for the 3 open seats: Ashley Ludovicy-Donahue, Daniel Caplan, Ashwat Rishi, Malini Nayar, Paul Stephan, and Meredith Higgins. This is an opportunity for voters to learn about the candidates' positions on the integration plan, equity policies, and their commitment to excellence and equity for all students at this critical time of challenge to diversity, equity, and inclusion. [Register here.](#)

Plus, coming in October, the Schools Committee is hosting a forum on the history of school integration in SOMA and the benefits of the current SOMSD integration plan.

2025 SOUTH ORANGE/MAPLEWOOD BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES' NIGHT

Thursday, September 18th
7:30 pm

SPONSORED BY THE SCHOOLS COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNITY COALITION ON RACE

Calling All Artists & Arts Lovers!

Join our Integration through the Arts Committee and help us plan and support powerful programs that use the arts to bridge racial and cultural divides in SOMA. This is a great opportunity for those passionate about equity, inclusion, and community building through creative expression. [Click here to learn more and get involved.](#)

Integration through the Arts

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DONATE



Visit our website

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