



SOUTH ORANGE | MAPLEWOOD
**COMMUNITY
COALITION
ON RACE**

communitycoalitiononrace.org

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Mission

To build and sustain a community that is racially, culturally, and socially integrated and truly inclusive, where there is equity and equality for all.

Vision

We aspire to be a community that is a model for the nation in which people of different races, ethnic groups and backgrounds can interact, form friendships and participate fully in the community's economic, political, civic, educational and cultural life.

Our volunteer Board of Trustees is intentionally varied by race, gender, age, skills, and time served in the organization. Trustees chair the committees noted below which are staffed by community volunteers. Join us!

Schools This committee works to ensure that our schools are supportive environments in which students of all races are both expected and encouraged to excel. They focus on several key initiatives, including eliminating the academic achievement gap, providing resources and training to teachers and parents, and advocating for diversity hiring as well as integrated schools and classrooms.

Community Engagement Bringing the community together to learn, to build relationships across racial and cultural barriers, and to celebrate differences is the focus of this mission area. Volunteers are active in one or more events and projects like the annual Dr. King Observance, the Luminary Project, Anti-Racism workshops, Conversations on Race, Black History Month programs, and Integration through the Arts.

Marketing Communications This group promotes the welcoming and inclusive nature of our towns to potential homebuyers, and raises local, regional, and national awareness for the Coalition on Race's mission and programs. Volunteers identify target audiences and publications for placing promotional ads, develop stories, oversee our website and social media marketing, and support Coalition events with outbound communications.

Residential Using pro-integrative strategies to support stable racial integration in our towns' neighborhoods, this group works with realtors and neighborhood associations, develops resources for supporting racial equity in home purchases, and oversees the Wealth Gap Equalizer Loan (WGEL) in support of integrated neighborhoods.

Demographics Research Volunteer data analysts and researchers track our integration levels—in the towns, in neighborhoods, in schools and classrooms, on boards, among leadership, and in businesses—to help us work toward stable racial integration.

The South Orange/Maplewood Community Coalition on Race is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit that is supported by individual donations as well as municipal, foundation, and corporate funding.

Visit CommunityCoalitionOnRace.org to donate online.

Stay connected with us!



Community Education—Racial Integration, Equity, & Inclusion Advocacy

Anti-bias/Anti-racism Workshops: we design trainings to help residents, teachers, leaders, businesses, and organizations develop awareness of race, culture, bias, and discriminatory practices in order to become anti-racist

Closing the Racial Achievement Gap: advocacy for racial integration and equity in schools and classrooms

Community forums, book readings, film screenings: discussions on race and related integration topics with renowned leaders, authors, journalists, and filmmakers including Beverly Daniel Tatum, Prof. Ronald Ferguson, Marc Morial, Prof. Khalil Gibran Muhammad, Jelani Cobb, Larry Hamm, Jesse Hagopian, Juan Williams, Nancy Solomon, and more

Conversations on Race: community-wide conversations on integration, inclusion, and race-related issues of concern to our community and our nation

Demographics Research: ongoing assessments of community demographics to inform our pro-integrative strategies

Talking to Children about Race: workshops to help parents and teachers talk to children about race at home and in the classroom

Community Empowerment—Honoring and Celebrating Difference

Community Celebrations like Black History Month, Juneteenth: activities, forums, and workshops, for all ages

Coalition Youth Collective: empowering youth to use their voices to impact social justice and racial equity

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Observance & the MLK Luminary Project: annual celebration honoring the vision of the 'beloved community' with nationally known speakers

Integration through the Arts: building relationships across racial barriers through a variety of art experiences

Interfaith Outreach: multi-faith collaborations and building understanding between faiths through a racial equity lens

Community Growth—Fostering & Promoting the Benefits of Residential Integration

Two Towns, One Great Community: a virtual video tour promoting our towns to visitors and prospective homebuyers

Homebuying Resources & Loan Program: workshops and financial assistance to support integrated neighborhoods

Community Outreach: Coalition staff and trustees consult and speak on intentional integration in diverse communities

Realtor Advisory: dialogues with realtors to support equitable marketing practices and to ensure that prospective homebuyers of all races are welcomed in every part of the community

Targeted Marketing: we use multiple media, including ChooseSOMA.com, to highlight the benefits of and quality of life in a racially integrated community

Recognitions Received

- 2023 Carol Buchanan Award for Outstanding Contribution to Civic and Intellectual Life given to Audrey Rowe and Nancy Gagnier for their work at the Community Coalition on Race.
- Vincent H. Huggins Foundation award for racial integration and inclusion community work
- Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders recognition of support
- NJ Council for the Humanities, selected to be part of the Face to Face Community Conversations program
- Humanitarian Award, American Conference on Diversity
- Regional Equity Achievement Award for outstanding leadership in achieving social justice & regional equity, PlansmartNJ
- NJ State Legislative Commendation, honoring the Coalition on Race for its pro-integrative initiatives
- Exemplary Partnership Program Award, NJ Association of School Administrators & the NJ Association of Partners in Education
- Leadership Award for promoting civic engagement in the community, Leadership New Jersey
- Promising Strategies for Valuing Diversity Award, the American Psychological Association
- Invited to participate in President Clinton's Initiative on Race/HUD study to explore state and national pro-integrative policy
- Special recognition from State Assemblyman John McKeon as the leading group in the state promoting racial harmony