

2020 COMMUNITY IMPACT SESSIONS



FOCUSED FORWARD

Community Foundation
for Greater Buffalo

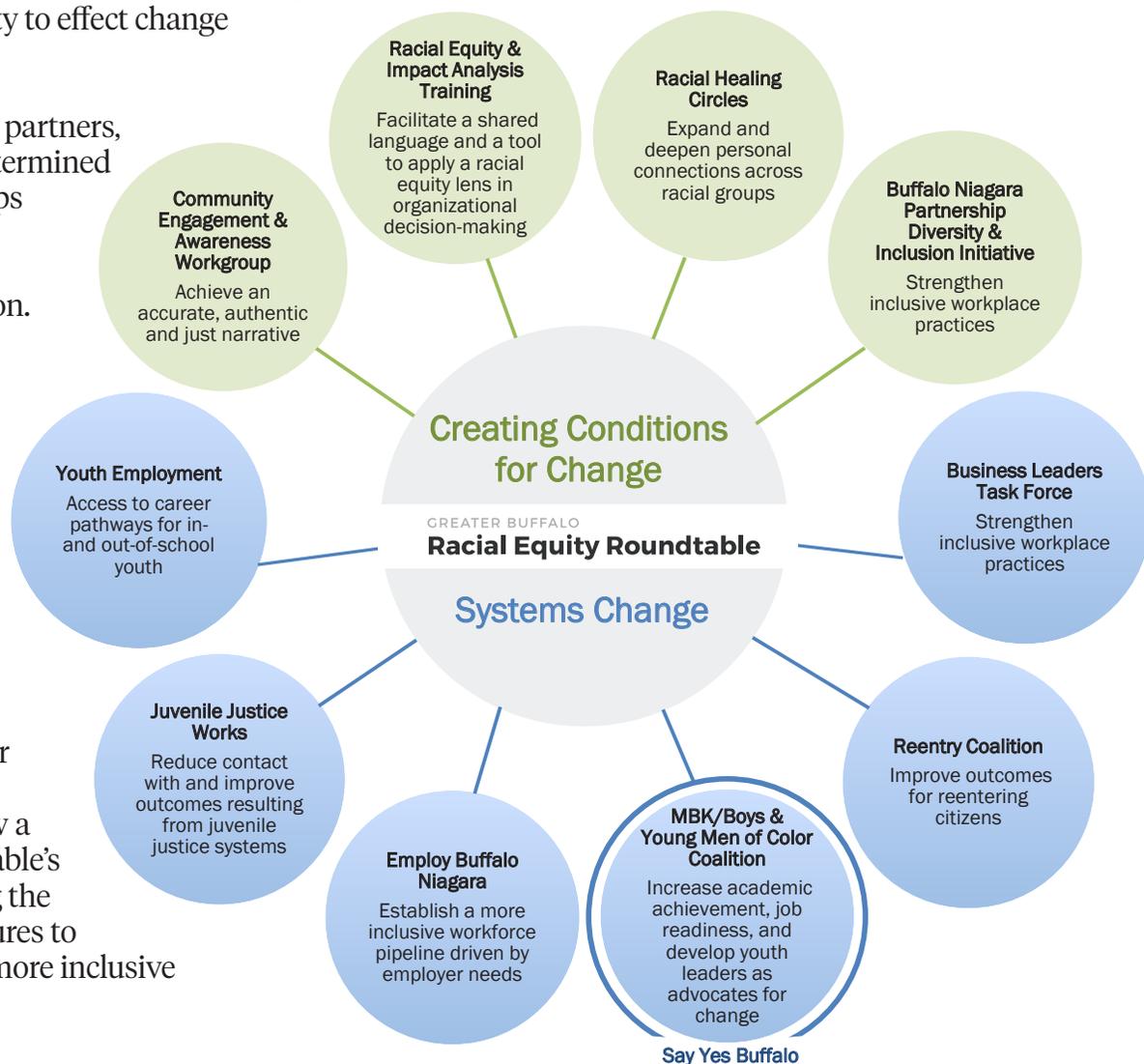
Reaffirming Our Commitment to Racial Equity

We all share a desire to leave our community a better place for future generations. Our community is in a pivotal moment in our nation's history with an opportunity to make much needed change and close racial equity gaps to ensure ALL residents have the opportunity to learn, work and contribute in our community.

Recognizing that Buffalo is the 6th most segregated city in the nation, the Community Foundation convened the Greater Buffalo Racial Equity Roundtable in 2015. The Roundtable is a group of more than 35 civic leaders who, by position, have the ability to effect change across sectors.

With an additional 250 partners, the Roundtable has determined specific, achievable steps we can take to expand opportunity to every community in our region. The 10-point agenda of the Roundtable is moving forward with even more urgency given the spotlight on health disparities and racial injustices in 2020. To the right is a snapshot of those 10 agenda items.

On Tuesday, September 29, you will hear from key partners about how a number of the Roundtable's initiatives are changing the institutions and structures to achieve an expanded, more inclusive economy.



Reentry Coalition

Back to Basics Outreach Ministries

Speaker: Rev. Charles Walker, Program Director

The odds are against reentering citizens. The County has an 80 percent recidivism rate, which means that eight out of 10 individuals booked into the local jails have been previously booked within the past five years. The reentry coalition, formed in 2016, is made up of over 80 stakeholders working together to improve outcomes for reentering citizens. This coalition has developed a clear agenda for a path forward to reduce the recidivism rate and better serve the reentry needs of individuals incarcerated in the county's two jails. The top two priorities and recommendations identified were to improve reentry services for the jail population and the establishment of a reentry one-stop. This clear agenda – with all stakeholders in agreement at the table – has been critical to moving the work forward.



Youth Employment Coalition

Northland Workforce Training Center

Speaker: Stephen Tucker, President/CEO

In 2019, the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo, in partnership with the City of Buffalo, Buffalo Niagara Partnership, Say Yes Buffalo, the John R. Oishei Foundation, and the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation, commissioned a report on the youth employment landscape in Buffalo. The group agreed to move forward with the report's recommendations, including convening a coalition to strengthen a systemic approach to youth employment. Over 25 organizations joined the Youth Employment Coalition to create a strengthened, more coordinated youth employment system that effectively connects 16-24-year-old youth to career pathway opportunities in Buffalo. One key initiative was the summer youth employment program that moved forward with the support of a public/private partnership and was adjusted given the COVID-19 pandemic.



Diversity & Inclusion Initiative

Buffalo Niagara Partnership

Speaker: Laura Smith, Vice President, Economic Development

The benefits of a diverse and inclusive workforce include enhanced innovation, increased competitive advantage, higher employee engagement and improved talent attraction and retention. More than ever before, business leaders recognize they need to strengthen inclusive workplace practices. The Buffalo Niagara Partnership has taken a leadership role in this work through a number of initiatives. This summer, through a grant the Community Foundation secured from the Walmart Foundation, the first D&I Business Community Assessment was conducted to better understand the steps Western New York employers are currently taking to build diverse and inclusive cultures within their workplaces, how employers are measuring progress, what roadblocks organizations face in addressing these issues and what resources employers think are necessary to assist in this important work. A preview of the results will be shared on September 29.

