



BOARD CHAIR
Bruce Wojack

VICE-CHAIR
Kelly Turner

SECRETARY
Phil Hausken

TREASURER
Kevin Robinson

COUNSEL
Case Hoogendoorn

BOARD
IV Ashton
Alejandro Bodipo-Memba
Tiffany Bolden
Denise Burns
Douglas R. Dixon
Ana Garcia Doyle
Jon Hale
Lisa Johnson
Sarah Jolie
William Planek

PRESIDENT & CHIEF
EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Antonio Martinez, Jr.

NEWS RELEASE

Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation Marks Release of Community Voices Report with Event Series

OAK PARK, Illinois (July 26, 2022) — The Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation today announced the release of Community Voices, a report sharing the results of its recent community needs assessment for the west Cook County region and presenting a framework for future efforts toward racial equity. The report is available online at oprfcf.org/community-voices, and the Foundation will host a series of events to share insights from the report and engage with the community.

“Two years in the making, this report reveals the most pressing needs in our area, what the data tells us, and how the power of our community will guide our future to a racially just society.” said Foundation President and CEO Tony Martinez, Jr. “We believe the Community Voices Report will be of great value not just for the Foundation and nonprofit sector, but for local government, schools and the community at large.”

The Community Voices events will be facilitated by Foundation staff and The Nova Collective, a local Black-owned, woman-owned consulting firm specializing in transforming organizational cultures around diversity, equity and inclusion issues. Sessions will be held online or in person on the following dates:

- Wednesday, August 3 at 6 p.m. VIRTUAL:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4eNjqOs6e0w>
- Saturday, September 17 at 9am at Proviso East High School,
807 S. 1st Ave. in Maywood
- Saturday, September 24 at 10am at the Oak Park Public Library -
Main Branch, 834 Lake St. in Oak Park
- Tuesday, September 27 at 6pm VIRTUAL:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MdkrZOQpoe0>

At each of these events, The Nova Collective will share highlights from focus group conversations with 100 neighbors, partners and stakeholders describing the priority areas identified in the community needs assessment. Foundation staff will present compelling data that underscores how racial inequality is the root cause of challenges in the west Cook County region.

There will also be a panel discussion with focus group participants to gain perspective and discuss next steps, and the audience will get involved through a Q&A and other activities to build understanding and solidarity.

For more details and to RSVP, please visit oprfcf.org/community-voices, email communityvoices@oprfcf.org, or call 708-848-1560.

About the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation

Founded in 1959, The Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation has built lasting, impactful connections among area residents and locally-based service programs. Today as an integral presence in the community, the Foundation's mission is to unite community members and mobilize resources to advance a racially just society and equitable outcomes for residents of Oak Park, River Forest and surrounding neighborhoods in western Cook County. Learn more about the Foundation's programs and services online at oprfcf.org.

###