

THE CITY CLUB OF CLEVELAND



HELPING DEMOCRACY THRIVE

HOW CAN WE COLLECTIVELY WORK TOWARD A MORE EQUITABLE DEMOCRACY?

THE BARRIERS, THE MYTHS, AND THE STATE OF DEMOCRACY

Friday, Nov. 12, 2021 at 12 p.m.





SPEAKER

Erika Anthony

Executive Director, Ohio Transformation Fund; Co-Founder, Cleveland VOTES

We've all seen the headlines regarding voter turnout in Cleveland. In September 2021, Cleveland's primary election saw voter turnout increase from 2017 numbers, but still ran below a 20% turnout. Voting turnout was also alarmingly low for the latest 2020 Presidential Election. By the time we engage for this forum, Cleveland will have decided on a new mayor for the first time in 16 years—and the turnout will understandably spark more debate over the civic health of Cleveland.

Erika Anthony is the co-founder of Cleveland VOTES and in 2019 became the Executive Director of the Ohio Transformation Fund. Erika has been at the forefront of civic engagement in Northeast Ohio for years. Her most recent work centers around developing relationships with trusted stakeholders that are most proximate to historically disenfranchised and marginalized residents and grounding those relationships in the realities of our social fabric. While some of the election related data may lead us to question whether Cleveland voters are apathic - recently commissioned research actually elevates that Cleveland voters are not apathic. In fact, they care deeply about their community and believe that collective power needs to be amplified and equitably distributed to affect change.

So, what exactly is needed in this moment? How might we all reimagine the future of equitable civic engagement and democracy building? And how we collectively work towards increasing voter engagement in future elections and beyond?



Have questions? **Tweet** them at **@TheCityClub** or send a **text** to **330.541.5794**.

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WOMEN VOTERS*
OF GREATER CLEVELAND



The logo for the Ohio Transformation Fund consists of three overlapping, upward-pointing arrow shapes in maroon, red, and teal. To the right of the arrows, the text "OHIO TRANSFORMATION FUND" is written in a serif font, with "ADVANCING SAFE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES IN OHIO" in a smaller sans-serif font below it.

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YOU CAN ASK A QUESTION

What makes The City Club of Cleveland unique is our Q&A. We welcome questions from everyone.



- Once acknowledged and motioned over, walk to the microphone holder on your side of the room. The speaker does not call on audience members.
- One question per person. Make sure your question is an actual question, not a statement. Keep your question short, no follow-ups. This will allow us to fit in as many questions as possible.
- Please don't grab the microphone. This is to ensure that we are getting the best audio recording. We are recording this program, so please speak directly into the microphone.
- Nervous about asking in person? **Tweet @TheCityClub** or send a **text** to **330.541.5794**, and we will do our best to work your question in.



MASK REMINDER

Thank you for joining us in-person
at the City Club today!

As a reminder:

- Masks are required to be worn at the City Club at all times, except when consuming food or drink.
- Need a mask? We have masks available for free in the lobby. Ask any staff member for assistance.

[Click here](#) for our full guide on returning
to the City Club.



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This event will be photographed, recorded, and distributed. Your participation is appreciated.

Today we welcome guests at tables hosted by:

- Cleveland Foundation
- Cuyahoga Community College
- Legal Aid Society of Cleveland
- League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland
- Lakewood High School
- MidTown Cleveland, Inc.
- Ohio Environmental Council
- Policy Matters Ohio
- The Char & Chuck Fowler Family Foundation
- The George Gund Foundation
- ThirdSpace Action Lab
- Wickliffe High School



UPCOMING FORUMS

Tuesday, Nov. 16 at 12 p.m. Virtual Forum

The Worldwide Reverberations of Jamaica's 18th Century Slave Revolts

Novelist Marlon James and Historian Vincent Brown will crack open their ideas in a unique conversation centered on Jamaica. The island is a lynchpin in world history, and a wellspring of world culture. Both men won an Anisfield-Wolf Book Award in this vein: James in 2015 for "A Brief History of Seven Killings" and Brown this year for "Tacky's Revolt: The Story of an Atlantic Slave War." They are enthusiastic readers of each other's work.

Thursday, Nov. 18 at 12 p.m. Virtual Forum

Youth Forum: Reimagining Education Post-COVID 19

The year 2020 sparked massive change in education as a result of the pandemic, equal parts highlighting innovative ways of teaching kids as well as the ways in which education has fallen short. Prior to this year, the way in which students in the U.S. are educated has remained steady over the past century. However, educators are now taking another look at what can be done to improve. So, what are the available solutions?

Thursday, Nov. 19 at 12 p.m. In-Person Forum

Planning for Justice

Cuyahoga County is poised to build a new justice center-- a construction project that is much more than just a new building. It's a unique opportunity to either create the conditions for criminal justice reform to truly take hold, or to cement the status quo. Karen Chinn was part of the group of national consultants who assisted Cuyahoga County leadership in the first phase of the work. How can her firm's findings help inform the construction of a new justice center?

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