ROOTED

A HOUSING EMPOWERMENT SUMMIT

COME AS YOU ARE. LEAVE WITH MORE.

PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

LISC VIRGINIA



SUMMIT PROGRAM

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026

Check-in: 8:30 AM

Program: 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center

2410 Wickham Avenue, Newport News, VA 23607

CO-PRESENTED BY

CHARITY MEANS LOVE FOUNDATION

Newport News Community Land Trust

EmPower All

The East End Civic Association

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WELCOME TO ROOTED

COME AS YOU ARE. LEAVE WITH MORE.

Welcome, and thank you for being here. ROOTED brings residents, community organizations and housing partners together to ask questions, share experiences and explore what comes next.

Whether you rent, own a home or are exploring your options, you belong in this conversation.

This Summit Program introduces the people and organizations behind today's event and helps you follow the day. Your separate participant packet contains resource contacts, presentation handouts and space to plan your next steps.

We hope you leave with a clearer understanding, a useful connection and a next step that feels possible.

Twylla Lozada and Yugonda Sample-Jones
ROOTED Summit Leadership

MAKE THE MOST OF TODAY

Bring your questions.

Visit the resource tables.

Write down one next step.

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Your Summit Day

Saturday, October 24, 2026
Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center
2410 Wickham Avenue, Newport News, VA 23607

8:30-9:00 AM | Breakfast & Resource Fair

Check in, enjoy breakfast from Panera Bread and meet housing resource partners.

9:00-10:00 AM | Where Our Roots Begin

Welcome: Asha J.W. Hardnett; event purpose, land and ancestor acknowledgment with Twylla Lozada and Yugonda Sample-Jones.
Shoe Lane: Angela Mickel and family share the community's story.
Redlining In Newport News: Dr. Johnny Finn, followed by questions.

10:00-11:30 AM | Expanding Our Roots

Community Land Trusts: CMLF introduction and Arc of Justice excerpt.
Panel & Audience Questions: Twylla Lozada moderates a conversation with Dakota Tappen, John Smith, Mikeya Griffin and A. Vaughn Poller about community, ownership and housing possibilities.

11:30 AM-12:50 PM | Strengthening Our Roots

LISC Virginia: Presentation by Victoria McKelvey and Brett Brooks.
Community Table: Lunch from LeeLee's Comfort Cuisine and networking.
Resource Highlights: Partner introductions, community questions and a drawing.

1:00-2:00 PM | Anchoring Our Roots

Community Voices: Terri Francis at 1:00 PM, followed by questions.
Housing Choice Voucher Homeownership: Jocelyn Brewer explains the pathway and answers questions.
Closing: Yugonda Sample-Jones and Twylla Lozada; feedback surveys, next steps and drawings. Winners must be present.

Find your space: Food: Boardroom. Resource fair: Marian Poe. Private sessions: HRCAP. For youth activities, ask at check-in.

Meet CMLF

CHARITY MEANS LOVE FOUNDATION
Newport News Community Land Trust

Charity Means Love Foundation

CMLF is a nonprofit community land trust based in Newport News. Its work centers on lasting housing affordability and community participation, helping residents remain connected to the neighborhoods they call home.

Through ROOTED, CMLF brings neighbors and housing partners into the same room to share information, ask questions and build relationships that can continue after the summit.

Community Land Trusts

A community land trust holds land for community benefit. In its homeownership model, the home and land are owned separately, with long-term agreements designed to preserve affordability for future buyers.

Visit the CMLF team to ask about the model, current work and ways to stay involved. Ask about current opportunities and eligibility directly with the organization.

Connect With Us

CMLFoundation.org

Twylla Lozada
Founder and Interim Executive Director

Our Co-Presenting Organizations

EmPower All

Led by founder Yugonda Sample-Jones, EmPower All connects residents with resources and opportunities through community engagement. At ROOTED, EmPower All joins CMLF and the East End Civic Association as a co-presenter, helping bring community voices into the conversation.

Facebook: EmPowerAllVA

East End Civic Association

The East End Civic Association strengthens its Newport News neighborhood through civic engagement, advocacy and collective action. Its work includes housing and economic mobility, environmental justice, business support, and connecting residents with information and opportunities.

eastendcivic.org

Community Voices & Leadership

Twylla Lozada

Founder and Interim Executive Director, Charity Means Love Foundation. ROOTED summit lead and community land trust panel moderator.

Asha J.W. Hardnett

Founder, Life On Purpose Solutions. A strategist, educator and community engagement professional, Asha serves as ROOTED emcee and programming lead.

Yugonda Sample-Jones

Founder and CEO, EmPower All and East End Civic Association. ROOTED co-presenter, community table and closing leader.

Angela Mickel and family

Shoe Lane descendants. Community keynote voices sharing family history and lived experience.

Dr. Johnny Finn

Professor of Geography, Christopher Newport University. His research examines segregation, environmental racism and discriminatory public policy; he brings a historical perspective on housing inequality.

Terri Francis

Neighborhood Services Manager, City of Newport News. Community leader and advocate sharing lived experience.

Jocelyn Brewer

FSS / HCV Homeownership Program Coordinator, Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority. She has guided families toward self-sufficiency and homeownership for more than 25 years.

Community Land Trusts & Partners

Dakota Tappen

Lighthouse Beloved Community Land Trust homeowner and Certified Peer Recovery Specialist. Dakota brings lived experience of affordable homeownership and the importance of a safe home for her family.

John Smith

Executive Director, Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative. John brings experience in nonprofit leadership, government and advocacy, with a focus on community ownership and collective power.

Mikeya Griffin

President and CEO, Rondo Community Land Trust. Rooted in St. Paul's historic Rondo neighborhood, Mikeya advances reparative development, community ownership and long-term wealth building.

A. Vaughn Poller, AICP

Neighborhood Development Administrator, James City County. Vaughn leads neighborhood and housing programs and brings more than 30 years of housing and community development experience.

Victoria McKelvey

Program Officer for Capacity Building, LISC Virginia. Victoria supports community organizations through training, technical assistance, digital inclusion and financial capability initiatives.

Brett Brooks

Program Officer for Wealth Building and Community Development, LISC Virginia. Brett advances economic opportunity, drawing on experience in affordable housing, resident services and housing choice voucher programs.



Investing In People, Places And Possibility

LISC Virginia works with residents and local partners to strengthen communities. Through grants, loans and technical expertise, it supports affordable homes, local businesses and community spaces.

Affordable Housing & Community Development

Financing and expertise that help local organizations invest in their neighborhoods.

Capacity Building

Training and technical assistance to strengthen community organizations and their work.

Wealth Building

A Financial Opportunity Center network connecting residents with employment support, financial coaching and access to benefits.

LISC Virginia's support of this event is made possible through their partnership with Sentara.

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WITH GRATITUDE

Thank you for helping our community connect, learn and move forward.

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HRCAP
Hampton Roads Community Action Program
Maximizing Opportunities & Transforming Lives

COMMUNITY HOMEOWNERSHIP PARTNER

Fulton Mortgage Company
A Division of Fulton Bank, N.A.

newport news

City Of Newport News

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Resource Partners & Contributors

Legal Aid Society of Eastern Virginia
Civil legal services for eligible low-income residents of Hampton Roads.

Fulton Bank / Fulton Mortgage Company
Mortgage guidance and homeownership resources; ROOTED Community Homeownership Partner and drawing gift-card contributor.

TowneBank Mortgage
Mortgage and homebuyer guidance. Meet Carla Bryce at the resource fair.

THRIVE Peninsula
Food, critical bill assistance, financial coaching and community resources.

The CoLink Foundation
Support for working families facing financial hardship, including housing-related assistance.

The Legacy of HOPE Foundation, Inc.
Providing essential resources of food and clothing, youth empowerment and life-skills education to youth and adults.

KORE Mortgage
Home-purchase and refinancing resources, represented by Teante Gray.

City of Newport News
Neighborhood Services resource table, represented by Kenny Powell.

Hampton Roads Community Action Program
Housing counseling, financial education and resource navigation.

Keep your Housing Resource & Connection Guide for organization contacts and follow-up resources.

Thank You For Being Part Of ROOTED

To every resident who brought a question, every speaker who shared a perspective, and every organization that showed up ready to connect, thank you.

The People Behind The Gathering

Thank you to our planning committee, volunteers and community contributors; Asha J.W. Hardnett and Life On Purpose Solutions for facilitation and programming; House of Refuge for youth programming; Panera Bread for breakfast; and LeeLee's Comfort Cuisine for lunch catering.

Our Venue And Community Support

City of Newport News, thank you for your in-kind support. We appreciate Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center as our summit venue and Hampton Roads Community Action Program, our Community Sponsor, for providing space and supporting print materials.

SILVER / SUPPORTING SPONSOR



Thank You For Supporting ROOTED

Thank you, Atlantic Union Bank, for helping bring neighbors, housing partners and practical information together.

Stay Connected

Keep learning. Share your voice.

Presentations & Resources

Scan for speaker slides, handouts and resources. Materials will be added as they become available. Return to this same page after the summit.

CMLFoundation.org/rooted-resources/

Event Feedback

Tell us what helped and what you would like next. Answer the questions you wish; contact details are optional. Wait for the saved-response confirmation.

CMLFoundation.org/rooted-feedback/

Open your phone camera and tap the link that appears.

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