



AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES  
&  
AFRICAN DIASPORA STUDIES  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BERKELEY



**Great Cities  
Institute**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2021**

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**MEDIA ADVISORY  
HOUSTON MAYOR TURNER JOINS  
CHICAGO MAYOR LIGHTFOOT & NEWARK MAYOR BARAKA  
IN A VIRTUAL SERIES: BLACK MAYORS & LEADERSHIP IN THE U.S.  
*Nat'l Reporters Moderate Conversations  
on Diversity & Inclusion, The Wealth Gap and Criminal Justice Reform***

**WHAT: *Black Mayors & Leadership in the U.S.***, a virtual series of conversations on critical issues facing the nation, concludes with **Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner** speaking on diversity and inclusion. Two previous sessions featured **Newark Mayor Ras J. Baraka** on the wealth gap and **Chicago Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot** on criminal justice reform.

These three major-city Black mayors will share their insights, strategies and tactics into the policies, practices and programs that have been most effective under their leadership and describe the alliances and partnerships they have built. The series, presented **by the Institute for the Study of Societal Issues and the Department of African American Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, in conjunction with the Great Cities Institute at the University of Illinois at Chicago** will feature conversations moderated by nationally recognized journalists, with scholars discussing issues raised by these mayors.

**WHO:**

- **Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner**
  - **Moderator: Natasha Korecki, Politico National Correspondent**

**Panelists:**

- **Pedro Noguera, Emery Stoops and Joyce King Stoops Dean, Rossier School of Education, University of Southern California**
- **Kathleen Yang-Clayton, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Public Administration, University of Illinois at Chicago**
- **Dr. Gail Christopher, Executive Director of the National Collaborative for Health Equity and Former Senior Advisor and VP, W K Kellogg Foundation**

- **Newark Mayor Ras J. Baraka**
  - **Moderator: Tracy Jan, The Washington Post, Reporter**

**Panelists:**

- **Darren Walker, President, Ford Foundation**
- **Paul Ong, Research Professor and Dir., Center for Neighborhood Knowledge, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs**
- **Elsie Harper-Anderson, Associate Professor, Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs, Virginia Commonwealth University**



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- **Chicago Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot**
  - **Moderator: Cheryl Corley, NPR National Correspondent**

**Panelists:**

- **Nikki Jones, Professor, African American Studies, University of California, Berkeley**
- **Cid Martinez, Associate Professor, Sociology, University of San Diego**

**WHEN: Houston: 2 p.m. CST, Tuesday, March 16, 2021**

**Newark: 3 p.m. EST, Wednesday, March 10, 2021**

**Chicago: 2 p.m. CST, Thursday, March 4, 2021**

**WHERE: Register here for these free events: <http://bit.ly/BlackMayors>**

**WHY:** Given the lack of national leadership in the past four years and the sharpening crises of our times, Black mayors in the United States have stepped in to fill the vacuum, taking on roles they didn't bargain for, but embracing the opportunity to make a difference for their cities. The key elements of this leadership -- and the major obstacles that it seeks to overcome -- are the focus of this virtual series.

**Co-sponsors Include:**

**African American Mayors Association, National Urban League, California Association of Black Lawyers, Charles Houston Bar Association, Litigation Division of the California Bar Association, Goldman School of Public Policy at UC Berkeley, Othering and Belonging Institute at UC Berkeley, Equal Justice Society, City Club of Chicago, Executives' Club of Chicago, the Chicago Community Trust, Metropolitan Family Services of Chicago, Communities Partnering 4 Peace, Institute for Nonviolence Chicago, Strides for Peace and WBGO-FM (Newark).**

**ABOUT:**

The **Institute for the Study of Societal Issues**, part of the University of California, Berkeley, fosters innovative, community-engaged, qualitative and quantitative interdisciplinary research on the issues central to social stratification and inequality. The primary focus is on institutional patterns that impact marginalized communities - in the United States and around the world – as well as social and political movements that disrupt such patterns. ISSI trains, advises, mentors and supports the next generation of social change scholars to identify and collect empirical data so as to interpret and explain social stratification, with significant attention to the processes that support and disrupt stratification. Founded in 1976 as the Institute for the Study of Social Change, ISSI was the first institute in the University of California system to focus on race, stratification and social change. <https://issi.berkeley.edu/>

The **Department of African American Studies** at the University of California, Berkeley, is an intellectual community committed to producing, refining and advancing knowledge of Black people in the United States, the Caribbean, Latin America, Europe and Africa. A key component of the department's mission is to



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interrogate the meanings and dimensions of slavery and colonialism, and their continuing political, social and cultural implications. <https://africam.berkeley.edu/>

**UIC's Great Cities Institute** is a research hub for scholars, policymakers, and stakeholders who share an interest in finding answers to the question of how cities and regions can make themselves into great places. The Great Cities Institute represents UIC's commitment to "engaged research" while contributing to its stature as a Research One University thereby highlighting the value of quality research for addressing today's urban challenges. GCI's goal is to improve the quality of life of residents living and working in Chicago, its metropolitan region, and cities throughout the world. <https://greatcities.uic.edu/>

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