

Racial Justice Forums of YWCA Central Carolinas 2011 to present

- o Community breakfast forum at YWCA, “**Black Women, White Women, and the Space Between Us,**” on 01/25/11, featuring local research by Dr. Karen A. Geiger, exploring female relationships across race; Kirsten Sikkelee (CEO), Karen, and Rosalyn Allison-Jacobs were interviewed on WFAE’s “**Charlotte Talks**” with Mike Collins 01/14/11 to discuss these findings.

- o Community breakfast forum at YWCA, “**Giving Back: A Tribute to Generations of African American Philanthropists,**” on 01/11/12, featuring stories and photography by author Valaida Fullwood and photographer Charles Thomas. This coffee table book explores giving traditions in the black community, primarily local. Kirsten, Valaida, and attorney Rob Harrington were interviewed on WFAE’s “**Charlotte Talks**” with Mike Collins 02/28/12.

- o In our third year of participation, “**Stand Against Racism**” became an entire week of activities, culminating in the Uptown Stand at Trade and Tryon, April 27, 2012. ***YWCA has hosted this community engagement event on the last Friday of April, in conjunction with YWCA’s across the nation, from 2010 through 2018.*** For that week, YWCA hosted the Levine Museum’s traveling exhibit, “**Courage: The Carolina Story that Changed America.**” Nine other agencies participated in a Stand at the Children and Family Services Center that Wednesday. That Thursday evening, YWCA hosted a “**Cross Generational Look at School Segregation**” with a panel discussion. That Friday, over 800 orange “Racism Hurts Everyone” stickers went onto pedestrians at the Trade/Tryon intersection, and multitudes stopped to sign personal pledges to combat racism.

- o Invited public to 01/29/13 community breakfast forum at YWCA, “**Did Race & Money Matter? Discrimination in the NC Eugenics Program,**” on how failure to pay reparations undermines efforts to address public, moral obligations to past injustices, disproportionately affecting women, people of color, the poor, and the disabled. Kirsten and UNCC communications professors Drs. Dan Grano and Maggie Quinlan and graduate student Elliot Hamer were interviewed 01/24/13 on WFAE’s “**Charlotte Talks**” with Mike Collins on “Eugenics: Can We Right Past Wrongs?” Kirsten was interviewed by WSOC TV Channel 9 on 02/06/13 when legislators convened to discuss reparations, and the Observer ran an article as well. (That year, the NC budget earmarked \$10M for reparations to living victims of forced sterilizations.)

- o In our fourth year of participation, “**Stand Against Racism**” (SAR) encompassed an entire week of activities, culminating in the Uptown Stand at Trade and Tryon, April 26, 2013. For that week, YWCA unveiled a commissioned art exhibit, “**We Are,**” the story of Charlotte’s YWCA, spotlighting integration of facilities and staff in the 1960’s. That Thursday evening, YWCA hosted a panel discussion on “**Housing: the Impact of Racism in our Community Today.**” That Friday, over 1500 orange “Racism Hurts Everyone” stickers went onto pedestrians at the Trade/Tryon intersection, with choirs performing and hundreds stopping to share their thoughts and to sign personal pledges to combat racism.

- o **“Can We Talk About Trayvon and George? The Ongoing Cost of a Single Story”** – community dialogue held at Covenant Presbyterian Church at 6pm on August 22, 2013, convened nearly 200 attendees for discussion, healing and action.
- o Hosted forum, **“Social Mobility: How the Recent Harvard Study Relates to Charlotte’s Advancement Potential,”** with Dr. Owen Furuseth, April 24, 2014, followed by Stand Against Racism in Uptown the following day.
- o Hosted documentary screening with panel discussion, **“Spent: Looking for Change,”** on November 13, 2014.
- o 04/14/2015 **“Charlotte Talks”** on WFAE-90.7: Kirsten w/ Det. Garry McFadden, Quentin Williams (prep for 4/23 forum)
- o 04/23/15: **“Law Enforcement and the Communities They Serve: Building Trust”** with Chief of Police Rodney Monroe
- o 11/12/15: **“Charting the Way Forward: Police and Race Relations in a 21st Century Charlotte”** with panel
- o 04/28/16: **“Voting Rights & Voter Engagement in NC: Crisis or Opportunity?”** with panel
- o 11/10/16: **“How Charlotte Got Segregated...And Pathways Forward”** with Justin Perry, LCSW, Dr. Tom Hanchett and Courtney Morton
- o 02/02/17: Screening of Netflix documentary, **“13th”** w/facilitated discussion by diversity and inclusion trainer, Deborah Walker
- o 04/27/17: **“How to Use Your Privilege, Power and Purpose for Positive Change,”** facilitated by Toussaint Romain
- o 11/16/17: **“New South City, Old South Rules: Charlotte’s School To Prison Pipeline,”** moderated by Justin Perry, with panelists Federico Rios, Assistant Police Chief Vicki Foster, and Dr. Susan McCarter
- o 04/26/18: **“Micro-Aggressions: Insults & Dismissals from People in Power,”** led by Brandon Risher, Associate Director of Presbyterian Psychological Services
- o 11/16/18: Screening of documentary, **“Wilmington on Fire,”** w/ facilitated discussion by director, Chris Everett

- 01/31/19: “**Ending Cash Bail: A Community Conversation,**” led by Kristie Puckett-Williams/ACLU
- 04/25/19: “**Hitting Close to Home: A Community Conversation on Immigration,**” w/ panelists
- 05/02/19: “**Re-Imagining Justice: A Fireside Chat,**” w/ District Attorney Spencer Merriweather and ACLU’s Kristie Puckett-Williams
- 08/15/19: “**Court Watch Training,**” w/Kristie Puckett-Williams, ACLU
- 01/23/20, 01/30/20 and 02/27/20: CMPD “**CLEAR**” workshop (3-part series) w/Officer Dr. Shaun Ward
- 06/25/20: “**How COVID-19 Has Impacted Our Systems,**” w/Sheriff Garry McFadden, CMS Supt. Ernest Winston, DA Spencer Merriweather, Jan Edmiston, Shay Merritt
- 11/12/20: “**Addressing Traffic Stop Disparities,**” a fireside chat w/ former police chief Harold Medlock and Kirsten Sikkelee
- 04/22/21: “**Racism As a Public Health Crisis,**” with Dr. Ophelia Garmon-Brown, Dr. Raynard Washington and Calvin Fox, LCSW

Kirsten’s representation for YWCA in external virtual events, 2020-2021:

- July 8, 2020: "**After the Marches & Protests, What's Next?**" panel hosted by Rep. Brandon Lofton, with James Ferguson and Tiffany Capers
- July 15, 2020: "**A Crucial Conversation to Build Community Connections**" panel with Food Lion/RBS
- July 22, 2020: Plaza Midwood Neighborhood Association Town Hall, "**Housing & Racism**" panel with Taiwo Jaiyeoba, Dr. Tom Hanchett, Curtis Bridges, Matthew Schuerman
- August 13, 2020: Facilitate book club discussion of **White Fragility** for No Name Book Club (host, Jennie Buckner)
- September 3, 2020: Leadership Charlotte "**Past and Present**" panel w/Brenda Tindal, Justin LaFrancois, Vicki Foster
- March 10, 2021: panelist for Women + Girls Research Alliance Summit, "**Economic Equity: Closing the Gender Pay Gap**"