



ATLANTA

LEADERSHIP EXCHANGE 2021

LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION



DENVER METRO CHAMBER
**LEADERSHIP
FOUNDATION**



A LEX Two Years in the Making

When we disembarked from the plane from Dallas in 2019, we were already thinking ahead to the next Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation Leadership Exchange trip to Atlanta. What we didn't realize is that it would take two years to get there. Thankfully, Atlanta welcomed 157 of us with open arms for the 2021 LEX trip, and we were so excited to be back together and ready to learn how Atlanta leaders are moving their community forward.

Our delegates saw and heard how Atlanta is growing while intentionally collaborating across sectors to ensure that growth is inclusive. From the Atlanta BeltLine of trails catalyzing equitable, healthy and sustainable city life, to Tech Square with the highest density of startups, corporate innovation centers and academic researchers in the Southeast, to the Porsche North American Headquarters in Atlanta's Aerotropolis – and much more. Atlanta inspired us once again to continue our important work to make the Denver Metro region the best place to live, work and do business for all residents.

We hope you enjoy this recap of the LEX trip and the reflections we heard from your fellow Leadership Foundation alumni. Prepare to go wheels up to Seattle for the 2022 LEX trip Sept. 22-24. In the meantime, you can immerse yourself in our own community through Access Denver on March 17-18.

Sincerely,



Andrea Fulton
Board Chair
Denver Metro Chamber
Leadership Foundation
Alum, Leadership
Denver 2015



Kirsten Vermulen
Interim Executive
Director
Denver Metro Chamber
Leadership Foundation



37 SPEAKERS

157 DELEGATES



7 EXCURSIONS

30 INDUSTRIES REPRESENTED





Excursions and Speakers

On every Leadership Exchange, our delegates disperse across the community, visiting leaders who are creating innovative change. Here's where we went in Atlanta:

[High Museum](#) – With more than 18,000 works of art in its permanent collection, the High has an extensive anthology of 19th and 20th century American and decorative art; significant holdings of European paintings; a growing collection of African American art; and burgeoning collections of modern and contemporary art, photography, folk and self-taught art and African art.

Speaker: Jeffrey Stepakoff, Executive Director, Creative Industries in GA: Georgia Film Academy

[Atlanta BeltLine](#) – The Atlanta BeltLine is envisioned as a 22-mile loop of trails, transit and greenspace that will transform the city. As one of the largest, most wide-ranging urban redevelopment programs in the United States, the Atlanta BeltLine is the catalyst for making Atlanta a global beacon for equitable, inclusive and sustainable city life.

Speakers: Kara Cooper, Natalie Jones and Chelsea Arkin with Atlanta BeltLine

[Westside Future Fund & Rodney Cook Sr. Park](#) – The Trust for Public Land partnered with the City of Atlanta, Westside Future Fund and the community to transform 16 acres of that flood prone land into a vibrant new city park, engineered to alleviate the risk of future catastrophic flooding and provide multiple benefits to the neighborhood.

Speakers: John Ahmann, President and CEO, Westside Future Fund, and Jay Wozniak, Director – Parks Program, Trust for Public Lands



“We learned that Atlanta’s business community pulled together to build a coalition around the development of its innovation district that has created incredible momentum for its local economy and a pipeline of young talent for corporate partners located in Tech Square. Today, it’s a place where everybody wants to be, a hub for entrepreneurial activity, creative collaboration and fun. We can do that here in Denver and have a transformational impact on our city and region.”

– Anthony Graves, 2020-2021 Board Chair, Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation, and Managing Director of Partnerships and Innovation, University of Colorado at Denver

“Atlanta’s commitment to truth-telling and equity is evident and moments like the visit to the Center for Civil and Human Rights pushed me to more deeply consider my role in furthering those ideas at home. LEX Atlanta was meaningful in many ways, one of which was the opportunity to reestablish connections with one another in person and through shared experiences.”

– Andrea Fulton, 2021-2022 Board Chair, Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation, and Deputy Director and Chief Strategy Officer, Denver Art Museum



[Cross-Sector Collaboration & Innovation](#) – Located in Midtown Atlanta, Tech Square has the highest density of startups, corporate innovators, and academic researchers in the entire southeastern United States. Conceived, designed and developed by Georgia Tech graduates, Tech Square was launched in 2003 and has quickly become a destination for startup firms, incubators, established technology firms, major corporate offices and more.

Speakers: Greg King, Associate Vice President – Economic Development, Georgia Institute of Technology, Kevin Carmichael, Executive Director, Communications & External, NCR Corporation, Kevin Green, President and CEO, Midtown Alliance, Chancellor Michelle Marks, University of Colorado Denver, and Anthony Graves, Managing Director of Partnerships and Innovation, University of Colorado at Denver (Moderator)

[Kendeda Living Building](#) – With a \$30 million commitment from The Kendeda Fund, The Kendeda Building is proving that a regenerative building can be built in a hot and humid climate, and inspiring change on the Georgia Tech campus and across the Southeast building industry.

Speakers: Maria del Mar Ceballos, DIM/VDC Manager, Georgia Institute of Technology, and Steve Place, Horticulturist II, Kendeda Living Building

[National Center for Civil & Human Rights](#) – The National Center for Civil and Human Rights, which opened in 2014, is a museum and human rights organization in Atlanta that inspires people to tap their own power to change the world around them. The Center’s iconic exhibitions feature the papers and artifacts of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the history of the U.S. civil rights movement and stories from the struggle for human rights around the world today.

Speaker: Jill Savitt, President and CEO, National Center for Civil and Human Rights

[Russell Innovation Center for Entrepreneurship](#) – RICE is an economic mobility engine for the community, driving Black entrepreneurs and small business owners to innovate, grow, create jobs and build wealth.

Speaker: Jay Bailey, President and CEO, RICE



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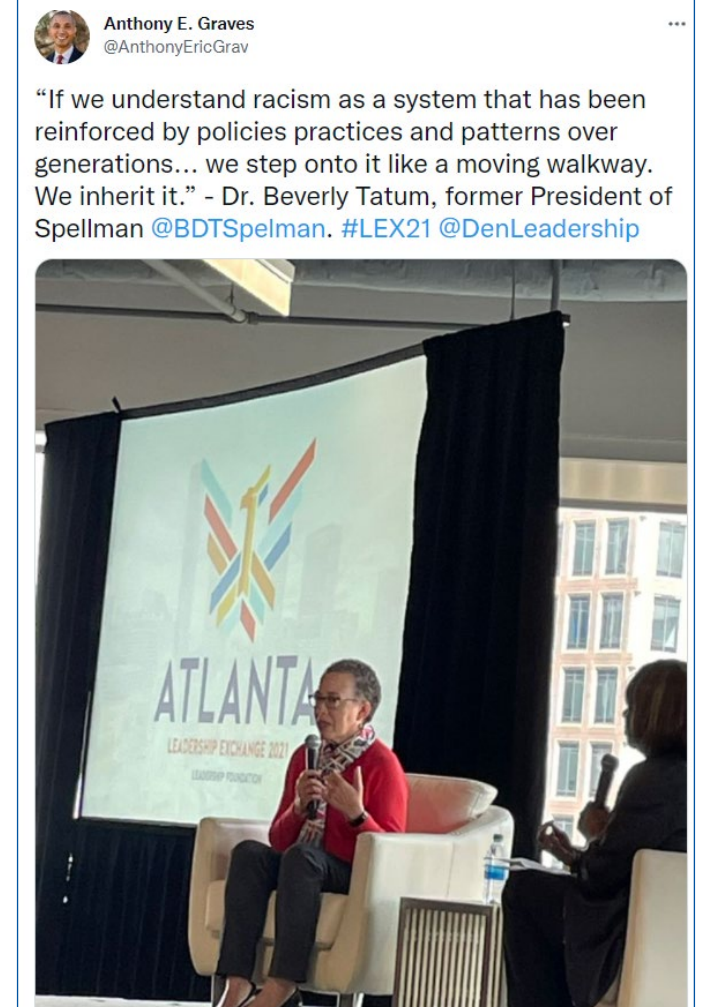


“Being surrounded by Atlanta’s visionaries and thought leaders forging meaningful change renewed my commitment to the collective work ahead in our own backyard. The experience illuminated that the seed of an idea, no matter how audacious, can begin to bear fruit when stakeholders of all backgrounds come together with a shared vision, dogged determination and an inclusive, growth mindset. The conversations were a poignant reminder that we can and must do better to create communities where everyone has the ability to thrive.”

– Gloria Schoch, Board Member, Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation, Executive Director, The VF Foundation, and Director of Global Impact, VF Corporation



Social Media Engagement



LeadershipFoundation
@DenLeadership

Today, we loved learning about @KendedaBuilding, a #regenerative building built with a \$30m commitment from the @kendedafund. #green #LEX21

3:19 PM · Oct 1, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

Michael Niyompong
@MikeNiyo

Thank you Dan for your service over the last six years leading @DenLeadership. We will miss you! #LEX21

6:52 AM · Oct 2, 2021 from Loews Atlanta Hotel · Twitter for Android

LeadershipFoundation
@DenLeadership

We're prepping for #Atlanta at our pre-#LEX21 reception!

5:20 PM · Sep 23, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

Jim Licko
@DenverPRguy

Walking Tour of Atlanta's 22-mile Beltline multi-use path that circles the city. From how they're financing the project to how they're assisting small businesses and residents from being priced out of the market - tons of lessons here for the future 5280 trail in Denver. #LEX21

9:07 AM · Oct 1, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

LeadershipFoundation
@DenLeadership

A few lucky #LEX21 delegates got to hit the track in a #Porsche at the Porsche Experience Center!

11:32 AM · Oct 2, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

Will Simpkins, Ed.D.
@willsimpkins

Great story from the @GAFilmAcademy about multi campus partnerships and state policy to create talent pipelines at home to support a billion dollar new industry in Georgia. #LEX21

6:40 PM · Sep 30, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

Dawanta Parks, MBA, MS, MHR, CSSBB, ASM · 1st
Local Government Enthusiast | CCCMA Board Representative and COVLG Chair | ICMA Vet...
2mo · 🌐

It was wonderful to experience the 2021 Atlanta Leadership Exchange trip with my Leadership Denver classmates.

#LEX21 #leadership #experience #communitydevelopment #communityengagement #leadershipdenver2020 #denver #atlanta

with Kirsten Vermulen and 2 others

Lorena Zimmer and 60 others · 6 comments

Amber McReynolds
@AmberMcReynolds

Great discussion @DenLeadership #LEX21 at the Atlanta Tech Square on the impact of cross-sector innovation districts ~ the connection of higher ed + business community = a powerful collaboration for the future. I have lots of ideas. 🤔 @GeorgiaTech

12:57 PM · Oct 1, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

Dawanta Parks
@dparks_mba

Traveling with 150 business and civic leaders for the 2021 Leadership Exchange in Atlanta.

#LEX21 #denver #denvermetro #leadership #executive

linkedin.com

Dawanta Parks, MBA, MS, MHR, CSSBB, ASM on LinkedIn: #LEX21 #denver #... Traveling with 150 business and civic leaders for the 2021 Leadership Exchange in Atlanta. #LEX21 #denver #denvermetro #leadership #executive...

Scott Hutchings @ScottHutchings1 · Oct 2

#LEX21 so glad to have the opportunity to reconnect with leaders from Denver and meet new friends in Atlanta. What an inspiring session on leadership from @GaSecofState!

“New businesses, people, attractions and more have popped up along the (Atlanta BeltLine) where new and old Atlanta intersect. People are excited about living in the city again. This undertaking has inspired and modeled future endeavors around the U.S., including Denver’s own 5280 Trail. It is one positive step toward bringing enthusiasm and prosperity to any city, while acknowledging the social concerns necessary to create equitable development solutions.”

– Carmyn Ginnett, 2020 Student Leader of the Year





Atlanta Photos



**VIEW ALL PHOTOS FROM
THE 2021 TRIP TO ATLANTA**



LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION

LEADERSHIPEXCHANGE

NEXT STOP: SEATTLE 2022

SEPT. 22-24

Lead Change on the Leadership Exchange

When: Sept. 22-24, 2022

Program Tuition: \$3,950*

Start your journey today at denverleadership.org/leadershipexchange

LEARN MORE

Sponsorships available. Contact Megan Vivier at megan.vivier@denverleadership.org for more information.

**By invitation only. Nominations accepted at denverleadership.org/leadershipexchange.*