

SPRING IS HERE

COMMUNITIES FIRST ASSOCIATION

March 15, 2015



CFA
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Spring Forward CFA Off to the Races

Communities First Association is approaching the one year mark with the leadership of its new Executive Director, Mrs. Reesheda Washington. In the past year, the board of directors, the staff, and the Community Advancement Coaches, formerly *members* of C.F.A have collaborated extensively to re-vision the organization. From the development of new branding, to revisions in the structure of the organization, CFA has been and continues to be stretched in new and exciting ways. There continues to be healthy and productive conversations around racial, gender, and class inequality, and their context pertaining to asset based community

development, as well as conversations around reconciliation which has been critical to the health and continued development of CFA as an organization.

Spending the past year building relationships and getting a better sense of CFAs strengths and weaknesses, CFA and its affiliates have explored the depth and breadth of possibilities offered by the organization. As such, the logo and the website (www.cfapartners.org) have been enhanced to reflect the innovations and growth that the organization has experienced

*CFA Semi-Annual
Gathering
Richmond, Virginia
April 22-23 2015*



The CFA Semi-Annual Gathering is quickly approaching and the time is now for you to begin to make your flight arrangements.

The gathering will be held in Richmond, VA and we have been in conversation with Marriott Hotels in an effort to make this the most cost effective, enjoyable, and informative gathering possible.

More details on the site location in the coming days.

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO
SEEING YOU SOON!!!**



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The Sankofa Journey

A Journey towards Racial Righteousness

Sankofa is a West African word meaning “looking backward to move forward.” This year two of CFA’s very own Brandon Allen and Bernadette Arthur took the four day journey towards racial righteousness.

The trip began at the Evangelical Covenant Offices where a group of forty eight believers came together to embark on a journey to change their lives and their perspective on race relations in our country. The journey went from Chicago to Birmingham, AL. where they visited the **16th Street Baptist Church** which is where four girls under the age of twelve were killed as a result of a church bombing.

From there they drove to Selma, AL. where they were given the opportunity to cross the **Edmund Pettus Bridge**, which is where civil rights activists from all over the country marched hand in hand to Montgomery, AL. in

an effort to gain equal voting rights for all people.

After their time in Selma they drove to Jackson, MS where they were able to visit **The John Perkins Center** where John Perkins himself stood before the group and spoke life and encouraging words into the group.

Leaving Jackson the bus headed north to Memphis, TN where the group spent some time at **Slave Haven** which by most accounts the most impactful stop on the journey. Slave Haven is a very old Memphis home that was used as a stop on the underground rail road on the enslaved Africans journey to freedom.

After leaving Memphis the next stop was back to Chicago where the group was given the opportunity to debrief and unpack the emotions of the journey.

Bernadette had this to say about her experience:

“Now I know that it was God ordained for me to have went at this time and I owe it to CFA's willingness to support it's partners in embarking on a journey to racial righteousness. It's a journey that we all need to be on, no matter what line of work we do, and it's a journey that is in no way separate from the "narrow path." Thank you!”

To learn more about the Sankofa Journey feel free to email Christie Palmerlee at: chrissy.palmerlee@covchurch.org

The Sankofa Bird

