

**Recap of the Joint Minneapolis Downtown Council-
East Town Business Partnership Business Forum
*Listening to Our Leaders of Color***

[\(https://easttownmpls.org/presentation-available-from-the-joint-etbp-mdc-business-forum-on-june-18/\)](https://easttownmpls.org/presentation-available-from-the-joint-etbp-mdc-business-forum-on-june-18/)

Thursday, June 18, 2020, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Via Zoom Conference

I. Welcome and Announcements

Steve Cramer, President and CEO of the Minneapolis Downtown Council, thanked everyone for joining and noted this marks their return to programming after the seismic event, the killing of George Floyd that occurred in our community, that has literally shaken not only our city and nation but the world as well. Given that set of circumstances, he can't think of a better topic to return to their programming efforts. Many of us, organizationally and personally, have committed to listening more carefully about the reality of systemic racism that pervades our communities and institutions, more about which we'll hear from four important leaders of color.

Cramer explained this conversation will be recorded and posted on the MDC YouTube channel in the near future, and to use the Q&A feature if anyone has questions they'd like to pose. Then he announced their virtual panel discussion *Back-to-Business | Operating Under the Influence of COVID-19* on Wednesday, June 24th, 11:00 a.m. (<https://www.mplsdowntown.com/event/back-to-business-operating-under-the-influence-of-covid-19-2/>).

Dan Collison, Executive Director of East Town Business Partnership, stated as he's taken time to speak with dozens and dozens of leaders, and particularly a roundtable with diversity, equity and inclusion executive practitioners, what has led to today's forum and the four leaders we're privileged to hear from has continued to place all business sectors onto new trajectories, new frameworks of thinking that can move us forward in this moment borne of collective pain, and new possibilities. He thanked Cramer for this forum and the shared partnership between the ETBP the MDC, and to the members of each organization. Then he announced the following ETBP events:

- Today will be the last ETBP business forum in the 2019-2020 season. They'll be off in July and August – historically they've tracked with the school year – and the 2020-2021 season starts on Thursday, September 17th with *Introducing the New Thrivent Financial Corporate Headquarters* (<https://easttownmpls.org/2020-2021-business-forum-series/>). The framework for the new season is People, Place and Possibility.
- Emerging priorities:
 - Bar & Restaurant “Re-Open Collaborative/Coopetition (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coopetition>)”
 - Food & Hospitality Task Force
 - Chameleon Consortium (<https://www.chameleonconsortium.com/>)
- The Mill City Farmers Market continues on Saturdays through October under COVID-19 safety measures and preordering availability (<https://millcityfarmersmarket.org/covid-19-and-mcfm/>).
- Continue to support the work of important East Town nonprofits during COVID-19, e.g.:
 - Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis (<https://www.cctwincities.org/be-the-helper/>)
 - House of Charity (<https://www.houseofcharity.org/contribute>)
 - People Service People (<https://www.givemn.org/organization/Peopleservingpeople/>)
- Visit MRA website, an ETBP member, for COVID-19 business resources at <https://www.mranet.org/covid-19-updates>.
- Stay engaged with neighborhood association meetings which have pivoted to Zoom and are more accessible:
 - For Downtown Minneapolis Neighborhood Association Board and Land Use Committee meeting dates, visit <http://www.thedmna.org/>.

- For Elliot Park Neighborhood, Inc., Building, Land Use and Housing (BLUH) meeting dates, visit <https://www.elliottpark.org/>.
- The City is conducting a survey of nonemergency crimes. To provide input, visit https://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/5533612/Reporting-Non-Emergency-Crimes-Survey?utm_content&utm_medium=email&utm_name&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term&fbclid=IwAR1t84VuZxooFbTvq7JfTf87xi9fwKIPRT9H0511CP2-k7CqoJ1qFXSgP7E.
- Coffee with Council Member Steve Fletcher, usually held on Wednesdays, 5:00-6:30 p.m. at varying locations within Ward 3, have gone virtual (<https://www.facebook.com/pg/MinneapolisWard3/events/>).
- For help in navigating City Hall with your business questions, visit the Minneapolis Business Portal at <https://business.minneapolismn.gov/> which is designed to connect entrepreneurs and small business owners to the information and resources needed to plan, launch and grow a business.

II. Listening to Our Leaders of Color

Collison introduced the following panelists who he considers colleagues, friends, and mentors:

- Kevin Lindsey, CEO, Minnesota Humanities Center (<https://mnhum.org/about/staff-and-board/> and <https://www.linkedin.com/in/kevin-lindsey-3766698/>).
- Rosemary Ugboajah, CEO, Neka Creative (<https://www.nekacreative.com/about/> and <https://www.linkedin.com/in/rugboajah/>).
- Jamica Quillan, AVP, Human Resources & Inclusion and Associate Director, Office of Minority and Women Inclusion at Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis (<https://www.minneapolisfed.org/people/jamica-quillan> and <https://www.linkedin.com/in/quillan/>).
- Liliana Maria Percy Ruíz, Executive Producer, On Being Studios (<https://onbeing.org/our-story/our-team/>).

To view and hear their thought-provoking discussion, visit <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFpgpfU8Yc0Zgq6A7yTRzKg>.

III. Closing Remarks

Collison extended gratitude to all four panelists and those who joined via Zoom, and encouraged them to spread the webinar to their employees and anyone in their network because what they just experienced was a veritable feast of wisdom, incisive knowledge, and lived experience. He wished everyone a good week, month and year and may we all together move into these conversations with courage and clarity to make Minnesota an example of how we can learn, do better and become something that is different than what has played out over the last many decades of our history.