

ISLES VIRTUAL FORUM 2022

TOWARDS A MORE EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

All sessions are free and open to the public



JUNE 6 - 10

ISLES.ORG/FORUM



For Immediate Release

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Isles to Host Community Forum: Building A More Sustainable & Equitable Future

Trenton, N.J. – Isles, Inc., a community development and environmental nonprofit headquartered in Mercer County, NJ is hosting its second annual virtual [Forum](#) from June 6 – 10, 2022.

This free, one-of-a-kind event includes webinars, panels, and workshops on urban community development topics including access to safe housing, building a green workforce, street-violence prevention, closing the education gap, eradicating food deserts, and other sessions.

Community members can learn about local initiatives such as:

- GoTrenton: an electric vehicle pilot service that will offer a carshare, rideshare, and shuttle service in the City of Trenton;
- Trenton Climate Corps: a supportive pathway for youth training and employment in climate resilience and green infrastructure careers;
- Trenton Community Street Teams: a violence-interruption initiative adapted from the successful Newark program;
- The new NJ Lead Safe Certificate law: Taking effect in July, it will require all apartments to be tested for lead paint before tenants move in.

The Forum is free and open to the public, in acknowledgement that learning, sharing, and innovation has been core to Isles' approach since its founding in 1981.

“Over four decades, Isles has focused on building family self-reliance and healthy communities, by innovating, testing out new approaches, learning what works, and sharing our findings,” says Isles' Chief Executive Officer Sean Jackson. “Through this Forum we virtually connect a range of voices to tackle how best to achieve transformative change at the community level.” Last year several hundred attendees from around the state and across the country joined in the various seminars and discussions.

Over five themed days, 15 sessions will feature Isles staff, other nonprofit leaders, and topic experts. “One of Isles' main goals is to build collaborative environments where nonprofits and social impact groups can work together and learn from each other regularly,” says Jackson.

“In line with this goal, Isles also officially opened our Social Profit Center in Hamilton last year, where another ten local nonprofits and social impact groups have co-located offices. This has brought to life our vision of creating both physical and virtual ways to partner together to better serve the community. During the pandemic, we already have seen the fruits of this collaboration.”

This year’s Forum’s daily sponsors are NJM Insurance and PSE&G, and session sponsors are M&T Bank, Capital Health, Bristol Myers Squibb, The Bank of Princeton, Santander, and Philadelphia Insurance Co.

To view the complete forum schedule and to read descriptions of each individual session visit <https://isles.org/forum>. The website is updated regularly with additional panelist information.

About Isles:

Founded in 1981, Isles, Inc. is a community development and environmental organization designed to foster self-reliant families and healthy, sustainable communities. Isles revitalizes communities, builds wealth, educates and trains, and creates healthy homes and spaces. Beyond its central New Jersey base, Isles works to influence policy and helps others build healthy, self-help approaches.

Through an array of self-help services, Isles has empowered more than 1,300 students to receive educational opportunities and job training, 600 families to purchase homes and receive coaching for financial sustainability, and hundreds of gardeners to participate in urban agriculture across in the city. In addition, 500 homes were built or renovated through community revitalization, an additional 3,000 homes have been tested for lead, and more than 450 have been rehabbed to be lead-safe and energy efficient. This work in Trenton to convert dangerous, inefficient older homes into high-performing safe places for kids and adults, is expanding to other parts of New Jersey.

For more information on Isles or to learn how you can get involved, visit www.isles.org

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