

From: J. Hackett
Sent: 6/8/2021 4:31:29 PM
To: "Jaime Matthews" <jmatthews@ashevillenc.gov>
Cc:
Subject: Re: Reparations Speaker Series Information
Attachments: [JTH Headshot.jpg](#)

J Hackett - Entrepreneur, Executive Director and Social Scientist

J Hackett is an entrepreneur, executive director, social scientist and a leading voice on social enterprise and public-private partnerships. He is the founder of GRIND, LLC, Asheville's first Black Owned Coffee shop and the home of Black Wall Street AVL, a movement to start, grow and expand Black Owned Businesses. J is also the executive director of Jordan Peer Recovery, a nonprofit organization dedicated to transforming lives through transformed people who share the lived experience of recovery/re-entry. With over 20 years of community/economic development programming, he connects for-profit and nonprofit agencies for the benefit of community progress. And through his programs, unemployment has decreased, jobs have been created, millions have been awarded in grants, and Black Owned businesses have grown. Using his incarceration as a life lesson, he blends evidence-based practice and real world experience to bring hope to all humanity. Hackett helps people discover their purpose and the partnerships available to make it happen.

A native of North Philly, J has experienced the challenges of economic disadvantage and the struggle to break that cycle. He has studied at UNC-Asheville, University of Ghana-Legon, Lenoir Rhyne University, Eli College & Seminary and non-profit management at Duke University. He started his first business and failed, but eventually succeeded and created a roadmap for others to follow. He is an instructor for Lenoir Rhyne University's Equity and Diversity Institute teaching professionals to become equity advocates in their organizations.

J's work is published in NAADAC's scholarly journal, recognized in NC Bar Association's journal, and highlighted in Forbes Magazine. He is a TedX host, speaker for South-by-Southwest, and a voice that bridges gaps. He is the recipient of numerous awards but is committed to connecting the dots for others. J Hackett leads the Black Wall Street movement in Asheville with hopes to make Asheville a destination for Black Business and Entrepreneurs. To this end, he launched GRINDfest, Asheville's newest festival - a celebration Black Business and Entrepreneurship. Most of all, he is a diehard fan of Golden Girls.

On Mon, Jun 7, 2021 at 4:35 PM Jaime Matthews <jmatthews@ashevillenc.gov> wrote:

Good Afternoon J,

Thank you for participating in the panel highlighting the future during the City of Asheville's Information Sharing and Truth Telling speaker series to be held at the Thomas Wolfe Auditorium in Asheville, North Carolina on June 17, 2021 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Doors will open for the event at 5:00.

Please provide the following information as soon as possible:

1. Bio and Headshot

We also are pleased to offer a stipend of \$500 for your participation. [Please provide information requested on this form](#)

Panel Information:

Your panel will feature you, Tracey Greene-Washington, Lakesha McDay, and Rob Thomas. Michael Jean Francois has been invited. The session and draft run of show is as follows:

- Welcome by the Vice Mayor

- Dr. Waters will provide opening remarks and then introduce panelists.
- Each panelist will provide 5 minutes of opening remarks.
- Following opening remarks Dr. Darin Waters will moderate a question and answer and audience reflection session.
- Dr. Daren Waters will then lead the panel in a conversation to address the questions listed below.
- Following the panel discussion, Dr. Waters will take additional comments/questions from the audience.
- Wrap up and closing remarks by Dr. Waters and Panel.

Please use the following information to help guide your remarks:

1. Framing Theme:

- a. Inspirational—By addressing the impact of discrimination now, what might our future as a community be?

2. Panel Questions to each panel member:

- a. Based on your experiences or expertise, what are reasonable expectations for us to have as we work through these issues as a local community?
- b. What is the one thing that the City should do within the next six months to make a difference?

Once again, many thanks for your involvement in the speaker series. We are all set for a virtual with Debra, Dr. Waters and other panelists on Wednesday, June 9 at 3:30.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (828) 713-3090, or jmatthews@ashevillenc.gov.

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Jaime Matthews
Assistant to the City Manager
City of Asheville
Email: jmatthews@ashevillenc.gov
Office: 828-232-4541
Cell: 828-713-3090

