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Q1

Applicant Contact Information

Name	**Amy Meier**
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Q2

Are you a native of Asheville, North Carolina?

No

Q3

Are you a current resident of Asheville, North Carolina?

Yes

Q4

If "Yes," how long have you been a resident of Asheville, North Carolina?

11-20 years

Q5

If not a current resident of the City of Asheville, are you a current resident of Buncombe County?

Respondent skipped this question

Q6

If "Yes," how long have you been a resident of Buncombe County?

Respondent skipped this question

Q7

Do you support the City of Asheville's Reparations Resolution?

Yes

Q8

Have you been impacted personally by systemic racism in Asheville?

No

Q9

If "Yes," please provide a brief summary of one or more examples

Yes in the sense that I have taken Building Bridges, learned about neighborhood "rennovations" that scattered black families and business to the streets, housing projects, and away. I learned about the systems in place that block opportunities for Black Ashevillians. I served as MANNA's Buncombe Co Outreach Coordinator and saw the impact of systemic racism while it was in action and was able to begin my connection with Black Asheville and knowledge around this topic.

Q10

If "Yes," In which of the following categories have you been impacted personally by systemic racism in Asheville? (Check ALL that apply)

Respondent skipped this question

Q11

If you have not been impacted by systemic racism personally, please describe your understanding of systemic racism in Asheville, North Carolina

See above. Slavery and the dehumanization of labor set the stage for poverty in Black Asheville. Despite that the Black community created a thriving, enterprising, community with many outstanding educators, business people, civic leaders, and property owners. Urban "renewal" devastated the Black community in Asheville and diminished the opportunities and potential for continued positive growth. The "City" has lied to the Black community about their future public policy repeatedly and treated the community as a dismissable, movable entity. I have looked up platt maps in helping with revitalizing a community garden/gathering space in Falconhurst (West Asheville), they plainly say that the property shall not be sold to negroes. I know this used to be the norm as Asheville was developing and growing. Homes in West Asheville have been/ are cash cows for families that were able to purchase or benefit from selling. This impacts generational wealth. I know policing is a huge issue for the Black community. I do not live in those communities so I don't have a deep understanding about being policed as a Black person but I do follow the news. I have seen cops and ex-cops join up with people that are clearly espousing overt racism. I have worked in the housing projects (with MANNA) and know the sentiment towards cops is very mixed. I am someone who has been shocked and now accepts that racial bias is inherent in many or most police culture and training. I know Black Ashevillians die and it barely makes the paper. I know medical treatment and outcomes for Black people is shameful. I know there is and has been a culture in medicine that Black bodies are somehow more tolerant of pain, are more likely to exaggerate, and have less options for healthcare regardless of their insurance coverage. I know a handful of wonderful Black community activists in Asheville that shoulder a huge load and are overwhelmed with needs requests, education requests, and unrealistic expectations. I know there isn't really a bridge between the Black and white spiritual communities of Asheville (leadership maybe, but we are still a segregated town in so many ways), and the Black churches have been hubs and backbones to those that have lived here/been able to stay. I know the Executive Director of RJC in Asheville can't afford to live here. I know ACS has a shameful education gap and a struggle to attract Black educators. And that the policy makers and administrators have not been adequately address that gap. I know our wages are terrible for nearly everyone in Asheville and opportunities for robust economic development are constantly stymied by the need to live hand to mouth. I know addiction and Fentanyl has devastated the community, undermined safety and caused more death and crime. I know Asheville is chock a block FULL of white people who would desperately say they are "not racist" and then continue to ignore and sustain the systems that have locked Black people in, shut them out, and hold them down because to upset those systems would be uncomfortable or inconvenient for them. I'm grateful to Keith Young and his cohorts for the reparations proposition. It is past due time to put our money where our mouth is.

Q12

Are you a resident or have you been a resident of any of the following impacted neighborhoods (Check ALL that apply)?

Have not been a resident of any of the above

Q13

If applicant is or has been a resident of a public housing community in Asheville, please specify which one(s):

Respondent skipped this question

Q14

Have you completed any cultural competency training programs?

Yes,
If "Yes," please describe the training.:
Building Bridges, several RE/DEI workshops online and in person with MANNA, UMOJA (trauma awareness and policing trauma awareness), and through professional development. I am a co-leader of a Racial Equity group and we are working on educating ourselves through books/discussions (like Resmaa Menakem).

Q15

Why are you interested in serving on the Community Reparations Commission?

I see you need more applications. I wonder if enough neighborhood community members are engaged and what their impressions are. I would be honored with the difficult task of helping sort this out and have always admired the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that South Africa was able to put together so shortly after overcoming apartheid, I was even able to visit South Africa and see that - while they definitely did not solve racism - some of their systems were already more integrated than the U.S. (visited in 2000) when we had supposedly been integrated for a much longer time. They understood that integration isn't just about moving people around, it's about moving power.
Black Asheville has been disempowered by policy and enforcement of that policy. Policy and enforcement tactics can and should be changed. I care about that and don't want Asheville to get it really wrong (even if intentions are super duper).

Q16

List any special knowledge, qualifications, and/or experience in the five impact focus areas (and beyond) you will provide as a member of the Community Reparations Commission

I have a Masters of Public Affairs from WCU. I have worked with MANNA and Black leaders/communities in that service. I have been active at Jubilee!'s racial equity group as a co-lead (that is in flux right now as Jubilee is in flux), I co-administer a social media account for racial equity and social justice and we have hundreds of members and try to educate each other and lift up POC achievements/businesses. I have a heart that wants justice and eyes that see it isn't happening. I am a co-founder of ALIA Labs, LLC that specializes in "wicked problems" - i.e. strategic planning around civic issues. Our current client is The Carter Center, we are working on a human rights project with them. We also are collaborating with a nonprofit in India around lifting up the manual scavengers (the untouchables) into better working and living conditions.

Q17

What do you hope to achieve by serving on the Community Reparations Commission?

Honestly I don't know. It is complex. I hope to move the needle on something. It would be great to actually compensate families financially or return property/offer property. I hope we can be holistic in addressing many fronts. The reality is that we can never truly compensate the harm that's been done. The best we can do is allow the Truth to be Heard, actually listen to it, build trust by being our word (and having the City support that), and then cut some checks. If money or property is not directly given to Black people, many will consider this another sham.

Q18

What impact focus areas are of the most interest to you? Please rank from 1st to 5th. If completing this form online, please click and drag in the order of interest.

Criminal Justice	**2**
Economic Development	**5**
Education	**4**
Healthcare	**3**
Housing	**1**

Q19

What do you believe your greatest contribution will be in serving on the Community Reparations Commission?

A level of formal education on policy that might be helpful. I like doing research, love learning, love connecting. I might be able to offer some structures or scaffolding to help with some of the processes around info gathering, interviews, analyzing data analysis, some social work skills, non-violent communication skills, and organizing some processes.

Q20

Are you aware of any potential conflicts of interest (i.e. property interest, business interest, etc.) that exist currently or may arise during your service on the Community Reparations Commission if appointed?

Yes

Q21

If "Yes," please explain. Potential conflicts of interest may not preclude being appointed.'

My company has a vendor application in with the City of Asheville. We do not have any bids in and I only registered very recently but we may want to bid on something in the future. We do not specialize in racial equity or pretend to be experts (we are all white). We are more about data supported research.

Q22

Applicant Race (Check ALL that apply)

White or Caucasian

Q23

Applicant Gender

Female

Q24

Applicant Age

45-54

Q25

What language(s) is/are spoken at your home? Please check all that apply or use "other" to describe.

English

Q26

Do you have equipment and access to the internet to participate in remote meetings?

Yes

Q27

What day(s) work best for you to attend meetings on a consistent basis? (Check ALL that apply)

Monday,

Tuesday,

Thursday

Q28

What time(s) during the work week work best for you to attend meetings on a consistent basis? (Check ALL that apply)

Mornings,

Afternoons,

Evenings

Q29

What type of support might be helpful to you if you are appointed to serve on the Commission (Check ALL that apply)?

No additional support needed

Q30

Additional Comments

I'm not going to ask for endorsements. Some folks in the community have gotten to know me and some of my work if you want to ask around. Rob Thomas knows me a little. Keynon Lake, Libby Kyles, Alice Dixson, Michael Hayes, Rasheeda McDaniels know me and my work a bit. If this is a make or break thing I will consider asking. What I have heard from the black community is that they would rather a neighborhood black person be on the commission, but in lieu of that a white person like me would be better than a lot of other options. That is also how I feel.

Q31

Signature

Name	**Amy Meier**
Date	**12/29/21**

Q32 **Respondent skipped this question**

Please list name, phone number, and email address for each of your endorsers: