



CREATIVITY | COLLABORATION | CAPACITY

# SUMMIT OVERVIEW



HOSTED BY:  
METROMORPHOSIS  
PREPARED BY:  
JAZMIN ROBINSON-SMITH  
OCTOBER 31, 2022

*How you described the experience:*

**INFORMATIVE; HOPEFUL;  
POWERFUL; COURAGEOUS;  
DIFFERENT; EMPOWERING!**

## Overview

*On Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022, various organizations across the Baton Rouge region gathered to brainstorm realistic and effective ways to serve their local community. MetroMorphosis hosted the C3 Summit, presenting information gathered from community members and providing resources to help these organizations not only enhance the work they do daily but to also be in a shared space with one another to create relationships and gain potential long-term partnerships.*

*To kick off the C3 Summit, Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome and MetroMorphosis Board Chair Brandon Smith reminded the attendees of the purpose of the Summit and why we were gathering: to leverage the three Cs: Creativity, Collaboration and Capacity. Mayor Broome urged attendees to be present and lean in as we spent the next few hours digesting the information presented, discussing with one another the potential opportunities, and ultimately creating challenge statements to tackle.*

*During the Fishbowl conversation, we were joined by Christian Engle, Kaitlyn Joshua, Ebony Starks, and Trey Godfrey, facilitated by Raymond Jetson to discuss themes from the five Village Chats conducted across Baton Rouge communities. Panelists discussed their perspectives and understandings of who and why the community identified certain entities as stakeholders and resources as well as how to build and sustain community and the improvement of infrastructure. In this conversation, many deep insights were made, the continual messaging being “the people closest to the problem are the closest to a solution.” In this direct quote made by Trey Godfrey, the sentiment that we as organizations and entities cannot simply go into the Baton Rouge community and create change without intimately including the communities we are affecting, was made most prominent. Other points made during this conversation were to be willing to be vulnerable, to understand positionality, to ground oneself beyond the entry point, and to not shy away from the acknowledgment of issues that have been centuries in the making, like race.*

**“The people closest to the problem are the closest to a solution.”**

*Following the fishbowl conversation, attendees spent the remainder of the time engaging in the C3 Experience. They worked as pairs creating “challenge statements.” Though posed as a statement, these were in fact questions of how might we, as organizations, strive to better the Baton Rouge community. A couple of the statements centered around how might we find long-term partners that exceed the temporary funding so many non-profits experience as well as how we might get outsiders to be interested in wanting to be an integral part of the Baton Rouge community. In addressing these challenges, the resources provided by said non-profits have the opportunity to live a longer life in the community as the partnerships are not limited by the timestamp of a grant.*

*To close out the Summit, attendees were asked about the feelings they felt as they talked with other organizations and listened to the outcomes of the village conversation. These feelings, we hope, will continue to be the lifeline as we as a group of organizations in the Baton Rouge area strive to not only better the community but to keep the communities a central part of the conversation of change.*

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