

MTAMANIKA YOUNGBLOOD

BIO

Mtamanika Youngblood is a nationally recognized community development practitioner and a strong proponent of equitable development, sustainability and cultural and historic heritage as the model for addressing both the human and physical development needs of revitalizing communities.

Ms. Youngblood is the Chair Emeritus and the founding Board Chair of Sweet Auburn Works (SAW), a nonprofit organization supported by a broad range of stakeholders established to support the revitalization of the Sweet Auburn commercial corridor that preserves its history and legacy. SAW is modeled after the successful national Main Street program which uses historic preservation and economic development as its the driving force.

Ms. Youngblood is the Chair Emeritus and past President & CEO of the Historic District Development Corporation (HDDC) the non-profit, community-based development organization that led the revitalization of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Historic District and subsequently, Atlanta's Old Fourth Ward. HDDC's neighborhood revitalization efforts are based on cultural and historic preservation, economic diversity and the non-displacement of long term residents. Its goal is to reestablish the mixed-income residential and commercial community that once thrived around "Sweet Auburn" Avenue and the childhood home of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Ms. Youngblood, an avid collector, and advocate for the arts, spearheaded the development of Studioplex, a 225,000 sq ft converted warehouse to provide gallery, work, living and office space for artists and creative organizations in Sweet Auburn.

Ms. Youngblood has been widely acknowledged for her work. Awards and recognition have come from The National Trust for Historic Preservation, The Atlanta Urban Design Commission, Central Atlanta Progress, the Georgia Association of the American Institute of Architects, the Atlanta Business Chronicle, Atlanta Magazine, the State of Georgia Affordable Housing Division, the National Neighborhood Coalition and the National Community Land Trust Network.

In addition to Sweet Auburn Works and HDDC, Ms. Youngblood is a Trustee Emeritus of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and a member of the National Advisory Council for the African American Heritage Action Fund. She has served on various boards, including the Fulton County Arts Council and the City of Atlanta Public Art Advisory Committee, the Partnership for Southern Equity, the Atlanta BeltLine Partnership, United Way, the Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Center for Working Families.

Ms. Youngblood earned a BA from New York University and an MBA from Atlanta University. She was a Fellow to the Kennedy School of Government Executive Program at Harvard University, an Inner City Fellow for the Urban Land Institute, and a James A. Johnson Community Fellow of the Fannie Mae Foundation.

Mtamanika Youngblood recently converted her restored 130 year-old, art-filled historic home into a neighborhood amenity, providing short term rentals in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Historic District.