National Plenary Sessions

Igniting Radical Imagination – Opening Keynote by Deanna Van Buren
October 13 from 12:00pm-1:00pm EDT
Activist Architect Deanna Van Buren uses design to reimagine a world without mass incarceration. She creates spaces for restorative justice and restorative economics at her design firm, Designing Justice + Designing Spaces. As the communities we serve experience new levels of upheaval in 2020 due to the pandemic, Van Buren will help us to ignite our own radical imagination to meet the moment. She will share stories and lead us through exercises that will help us to imagine boldly during these two weeks of Strengthening Resilient Communities | The National Forum.

The Pandemic, Public Health, and the Opportunity to Strengthen Our Communities
October 15 from 12:00pm-1:00pm EDT
The pandemic has increased focus and investment in public health – and laid bare the fact that poverty and racism damage health. Thought leaders are increasingly focused on how policies can improve or harm the health of populations. How can the community development and public health sectors work together to advocate for healthier places during the COVID crisis and embed resilience and equity as part of the recovery?

Building Racial Equity into Organizational Practices
October 19 from 12:00pm-1:00pm EDT
Advancing racial equity is a core value of the community development sector. How can community development networks help their members (and themselves) build racial equity goals into organizational practices?

How to Be an Antiracist Community Developer: Keynote Remarks by Ibram X. Kendi
October 21 from 12:00pm-1:00pm EDT
How can community developers and their networks advance antiracism and an equitable recovery? How can we build antiracism into our own organizational practices? Ibram X. Kendi, author of the #1 bestselling book How to Be an Antiracist, will discuss strategies with NACEDA Board Member Marla Newman, Community Development Director for the City of Winston-Salem, NC. Community development leaders will ask Kendi questions and offer their reflections on his remarks.

The Community Reinvestment Act and Stakes for Community Developers
October 23 from 12:00pm-1:00pm EDT
Hear from experts and office seekers about their vision for the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) — a financial pillar of the community development field that affects the flow of billions of dollars the communities we serve. Federal office-seekers up and down the ballot have made reforming CRA a campaign issue. We’ll discuss the OCC’s new rule and the decision by the two other CRA regulators not to participate. And, we’ll explore opportunities to impact the direction of CRA.

Forum Closing: Spoken Word Presentation
October 23 from 1:00pm-1:15pm EDT
Spoken Word Poet Hannah Hasan uses storytelling and performance art to build and empower communities. She will capture her experience of Strengthening Resilient Communities: The National Forum in a poem that she writes during the event. NOTE: Stay in the Zoom room for the previous session for this special performance.