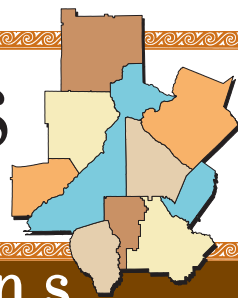


GLOBAL ATLANTA SnapSHOTS

A LOOK AT ETHNIC COMMUNITIES IN THE ATLANTA REGION



ENGLISH-SPEAKING CARIBBEANS

The Global Atlanta Snapshots were created to foster understanding among all people of the Atlanta region. The Snapshots show the rich ethnic and cultural diversity that our region now enjoys. The residents of Atlanta's ethnic communities may have lived in the region for a long time or may have recently arrived. They may come from cultures and have customs significantly different from each other's, and from those of the general population of the Atlanta region. What they have in common with the rest of the region is that they make it their home, and they share in and contribute to its success. The Snapshots introduce and portray selected communities in terms of their backgrounds, their customs and cultures, their roles in the regional economy, and specific local resources available throughout the region.

Caribbean People in the Atlanta Economy



In understanding the role of these Caribbean people within the Atlanta regional economy, we focus on the English-speaking Caribbean community. An estimated 18,000 workers from this community were working in greater Atlanta in 2000, 8,000 of them men and 10,000 women.¹ A relatively high percentage of these workers are in management, business, finance and professional occupations, 32 percent of men and 41.5 percent of women. The women in particular are well represented

in health care occupations. One of every nine of these Caribbean women (1,100 workers) is working as a Registered Nurse; another 500 women are in health care support positions. Caribbean women also make a major contribution in business and finance, holding 930 jobs in these occupations, with a large number holding positions as accountants. Other professional areas with significant numbers of women are teachers/librarians (650 jobs), computer-related (290) and community services (190). In service occupations, beyond health care support, women are found in food preparation, building maintenance and personal care positions, primarily childcare.

In addition to those in business and professional occupations, about 25 percent of Caribbean men (2,000 jobs) are employed in sales and office jobs. Many are identified as sales representatives. The men are also represented in construction and related work (1,230 jobs), production (1,390), services (1,010) and transportation/materials handling (680).

Many Caribbean people come to Atlanta with important skills. In interviews, the University of the West Indies (UWI) was mentioned as a significant factor in preparing people from the Caribbean region for today's economy. Founded in 1948, the University today has campuses in Jamaica, Trinidad and Barbados. Doctors and others who receive their professional training at UWI may come to Atlanta for their medical residency and for opportunities in other professional specialties.

Entrepreneurs are also prevalent within Atlanta's Caribbean community. Local sources state, "The entrepreneurial spirit in this community is strong." Business ventures include restaurants, grocery stores, art and music stores, auto repair shops, real estate brokerages, accounting firms, insurance agencies, engineering firms and others. Sometimes, enterprising individuals own more than one small business.

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A PERSONAL STORY

Miguel Drayton was born and raised in Barbados. In 1988, at the age of 16, he moved to Atlanta to join his father who was already living in the city (his father moved to Atlanta from New York when his company relocated). A year after Miguel moved to Atlanta his sister joined him and his father. Their mother remains in Barbados.

Miguel completed high school in Barbados. When he arrived in Atlanta he became involved in the United Methodist Church's youth ministries, took continuing education classes, and spent hours in the library "pretending it was school". He applied to college in Georgia but his high school transcripts from Barbados were not accepted as valid. He took the GED and reapplied a year later. He took the SAT as well, and his scores won him acceptance to the Honors Program at DeKalb College where he began his studies in the journalism and art departments in 1992. During his year at DeKalb College he excelled academically. He states he was "obsessed" with maintaining a 4.00 GPA. In addition, he was head of the video club, was chosen as Outstanding Scholar for DeKalb by the Georgia State Assembly, and was appointed Chief Justice to the college court. He also "tagged along" with members of the Barbados Association and received awards from them for his academic achievements. During his studies at DeKalb College, Miguel was a production assistant on a documentary film for TBS and won an Emmy.

In 1993 Miguel received a full scholarship to Stanford and he moved to California to continue his education. Miguel went on to Oxford University in England as part of the Stanford overseas program and he studied visual anthropology. During his time at Oxford he

made a documentary (featuring Prince Charles) about the Stanford program at Oxford.

After graduating, Miguel started his graduate training at the University of Southern California. Since 1997 Miguel has worked for Warner Brothers and DreamWorks, and written a sitcom for Paramount Network TV. He recently directed a feature film shot in Barbados and is on the faculty at the Art Institute of California in Los Angeles, teaching film and television history, and visual language.

Miguel states that he went through a period of culture shock when he moved to Atlanta. His move was made out of the assumption and hope that the U.S. could offer him better economic and educational opportunities than could be found in Barbados. But, in addition to the difficulty of leaving all his friends behind, one of the most difficult things he had to adjust to was what he terms "the race issue". In Barbados, race is not as much of an issue as class. In Atlanta, Miguel was forced to adjust to being treated as a black person. That meant he was made to be aware of the fact that he was different. Miguel states that the police, for example, treated him and his friends differently. Teachers didn't expect much from him as a young black man and an immigrant. They critiqued his accent when he gave presentations saying his English was not understandable. Miguel states that the negative attitude from his teachers forced him to "change my mind because I couldn't depend on their minds to change". Miguel says that, although one never gets used to these negative and destructive attitudes, being faced with prejudice and racism made him stronger.

Who are the Caribbean People?



For many North Americans, the Caribbean region represents an array of relatively nearby vacation paradises. The region has much to offer tourists, far beyond just sandy beaches, blue waters and resort hotels. The Caribbean region encompasses over two dozen island nations or territories that, at various times, have been possessions of Spain, Great Britain, France, the Netherlands and the United States. In addition to the islands in the

Caribbean Sea, also referred to as the West Indies, the larger region includes the nation of Belize, on the Central American mainland, and Guyana, on the northern coast of South America. Taken as a whole, the Caribbean region has a population of close to 40 million, greater than that of Canada.

The people of the Caribbean represent an incredibly rich diversity of ethnicities and cultures. Prior to contacts made by European explorers, the Caribbean was inhabited by indigenous Indian groups, including the Arawak, Carib, Lucayan, Ciboney and Taino tribes. Encounters with Europeans began with the explorations of Christopher Columbus in 1492 and were then followed, in the 16th century, by additional visits and settlement by the Spanish, French, Dutch and British. The indigenous

people were largely wiped out by disease and wars. The European settlers then turned to importing slaves from Africa to work on plantations. The numbers of these workers were augmented in the late 19th century with the importation of people from the Middle East, South Asia and the Far East as indentured servants.

The interaction of these many nationalities and ethnic groups means that the people inhabiting the Caribbean today can trace their ancestries to many parts of Africa, China, India, Spain, France, other areas of Western Europe and the Middle East. This diverse mix of people means that many languages are spoken today throughout the Caribbean including: Spanish, English, French, Patois, Papiamentu, Bajan, Creole and Hindi.

This Snapshot places a particular focus on the people and lands of the English-speaking Caribbean. Over 6 million people live today in areas that were once, and in a few cases still are, British colonies. The largest of these include: Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Bahamas, Barbados and Belize.

While proud of their origins, Caribbean people recognize that they are part of a larger Caribbean community and embrace that identity as well. Following are brief introductions to a few of the Caribbean nations well represented in the Atlanta region.

Continued inside



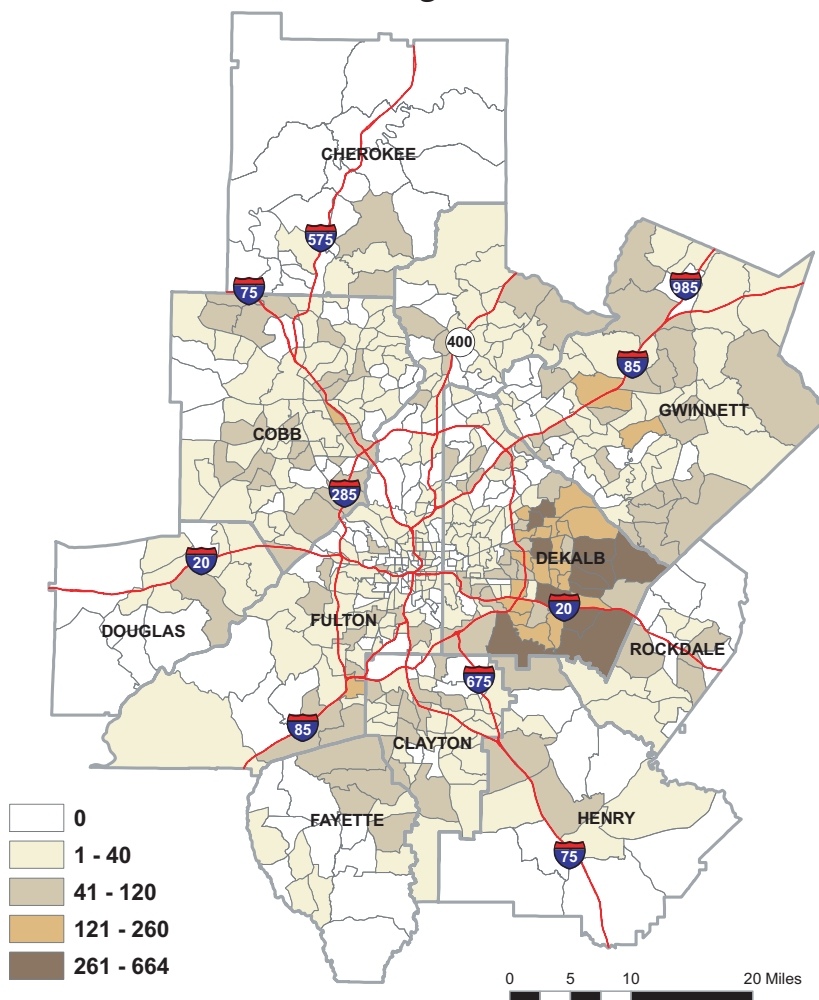
Caribbeans in the Atlanta Region: By the Numbers

Cherokee: 215	Fayette: 325
Clayton: 1,222	Fulton: 2,630
Cobb: 2,729	Gwinnett: 2,299
DeKalb: 10,210	Henry: 293
Douglas: 235	Rockdale: 369

Total 10-county Region: 20,527
(Due to Census categories, here are the English-Speaking Caribbean refers only to the countries of Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana, i.e. the region total does not include the population of 3,478 identified in the Census from "Other Caribbean" countries.)

- **DeKalb County** is home to the largest population of English-speaking Caribbean (this includes only Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana) with 10,210. This is **by far the largest concentration** of persons born in those countries. **Cobb is second** with 2,729.
- More than **10 percent** of DeKalb's **101,320 foreign-born population** is from the English-speaking areas of the Caribbean.
- **DeKalb** is home to **almost half** (49.7 percent) of the region's Caribbean population and **43 percent** of the state's Caribbean population.
- The 10-county Atlanta region had approximately **42 percent of Georgia's total population**, but had **86 percent of the state's Caribbean population**.
- The largest concentrations of Caribbean populations are in the **eastern and southeastern DeKalb County** outside the perimeter and south of I-20.

ENGLISH-SPEAKING CARIBBEAN* POPULATION Atlanta Region, 2000



Source: 2000 Census Data on Foreign-Born Population by Region, Country or Area of Birth

* Due to Census categories, here the English-Speaking Caribbean refers only to the countries of Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana, i.e. the region total does not include the population of 3,478 identified in the Census from "Other Caribbean" countries.

Caribbean Carnival & Rhythms

One of the most exciting events for the Caribbean people is the Caribbean Carnival. It is a frenzied and colorful extravaganza of dance, music and costumed parades. It originated in Trinidad but has spread to other islands of the Caribbean as well as many other regions of the world. In Atlanta, Carnival activities extend over several weeks in April and May, concluding with the three-day Memorial Day weekend. A parade winds its way through Atlanta's downtown streets, culminating at Turner Field. Any Caribbean Carnival or other celebration would not be complete without one or more of the islands musical traditions, including Calypso, Soca, Reggae, and Steel Drum (or Steel Pan). Over the years, some of these musical styles have entered into American popular culture.



Who are the Caribbean People? (cont'd)

Jamaica

Independent from Great Britain since 1962, Jamaica is the most populous of the English-speaking Caribbean nations. Its nearly 2.6 million people are predominantly the descendants of African slaves imported, first by the Spaniards and later by the British, to work on the island's sugar cane plantations. Seventy-six percent of Jamaicans are of African descent, while another 15 percent are of Afro-European ancestry. Other much smaller population groups include Asian-Indians, Afro-Asian Indians, Chinese and whites.

The Jamaican economy is heavily dependent on services, primarily tourism. Remittances from expatriates and exports of bauxite and agricultural products are also important to the island nation's economy. Economic hardships have led many Jamaicans to migrate to the United States. Some of those now living in Atlanta have relocated from other cities, such as New York and Miami. As the local community has grown, however, more are migrating directly to Atlanta. Slightly more than half of those Atlantans born in Jamaica (6,900 persons) live in DeKalb County; the rest of the local community is found principally in Fulton, Cobb and Gwinnett counties.

Trinidad and Tobago

The two-island nation of Trinidad and Tobago also gained its independence from Great Britain in 1962. Trinidad and Tobago is the leading Caribbean producer of oil and natural gas, making it one of the more prosperous nations. Other

important economic sectors include tourism and international business services. Its population includes two major ethnic groups, each about 40 percent of the total: Asian-Indian and African. Another 18 percent are of mixed race, with the remaining few of Chinese and European ancestry. Of the 3,400 Trinidadians and Tobagonians living in metropolitan Atlanta in 2000, almost 40 percent reside in DeKalb County.

Guyana

Originally a Dutch colony in the 17th century, by 1815 Guyana had become a British possession and is now the only English-speaking country in South America. Guyanese consider themselves more Caribbean than South American because of ties with the Caribbean islands, especially Barbados. The abolition of slavery in the former British Guiana led to black settlement of urban areas and the importation of indentured servants from India to work the sugar plantations. This ethno-cultural divide has persisted and has led to turbulent politics over the years. The Guyanese population is estimated to be 50 percent Asian Indian, 36 percent of African origin, 7 percent Amerindian, with the balance consisting of people of European, Chinese or mixed ancestry.

Guyana achieved independence from Great Britain in 1966. Its economy is depend-

ent on exports of bauxite, gold, sugar and rice. Because of a sometimes unpredictable economy, Guyanese have migrated to the United States, with many first settling in New York City. Some Guyanese have since relocated to the Atlanta region, with most of the 3,200-member community located in DeKalb, Fulton and Gwinnett counties.

Barbados

The island was uninhabited when first settled by the British in 1627. African slaves imported by the British worked the sugar plantations established on the island until 1834 when slavery was abolished. The Barbadian economy remained heavily dependent on sugar, rum, and molasses production through most of the 20th century. Complete independence from Great Britain was realized in 1966. In the 1990's, tourism and manufacturing surpassed the sugar industry in economic importance. Offshore finance and information services have become important foreign exchange earners more recently. The people of Barbados, who also call themselves Bajans, are predominantly of African descent (92 percent), with smaller groups of whites, Asian Indians and mixed-race people. About 740 Barbadians were living in the Atlanta region in 2000, with almost 300 in DeKalb County.

"SOME CARIBBEAN PEOPLE... HAVE MADE ATLANTA THEIR SECOND HOME, WHILE MAINTAINING THEIR PRIMARY RESIDENCE IN [THE ISLANDS]..."

Caribbean Life in Metro Atlanta



People from the Caribbean region come to the United States for a variety of reasons. Many come to enjoy greater economic or educational opportunities than those available in their island home countries. As noted earlier, some receive a good education at home, but want to pursue graduate or professional studies at U.S. universities. Some come out of economic necessity. Many of the islands have rather fragile economies, depending upon just a few sectors to generate income. For example, Jamaica is dependent on its tourism industry, agricultural exports, and the

mining of bauxite, the basic ore used in the production of aluminum. If any one of these sectors should experience a downturn, economic distress can become widespread. Periodically, natural disasters have wreaked havoc on some island economies. In 1995, Hurricane Luis destroyed the banana crop on Dominica. In 2004, several island countries in the English-speaking Caribbean, notably Grenada and Barbados, were hard hit by the string of hurricanes that struck the region. (Hardest hit, in terms of loss of life and property, was the French-speaking country of Haiti.)

It is also true that some people move to the area because it is relatively easy to do so. Frequent and lower cost airline connections between Atlanta and major Caribbean destinations have made travel between Atlanta and the islands fairly routine.

Some Caribbean people, in fact, have made Atlanta their second home, while maintaining their primary residence in, say, Montego Bay, Jamaica or Port-of-Spain, Trinidad. Of course, some Caribbean natives, such as U.S. Virgin Islanders, are U.S. citizens and are free to relocate as they wish.

Many of those coming to this country still want to maintain strong ties to the Caribbean. For example, there are plans in the works for a major reunion in Jamaica for people from Atlanta and other urban centers where Caribbean people have settled. Unlike in other major U.S. cities, the Atlanta region's community of individuals from the English-speaking Caribbean have not formed dense, homogenous enclaves. Rather, these individuals have chosen to live throughout the 10-county metropolitan region, as shown on the map.

Celebrated Holidays

In addition to other Western holidays, the Caribbean people may celebrate the following:

New Year's Day
January

Masharani (Mash)
February (Guyana)

Carnival
February/ March
(traditional)

Ash Wednesday
February/ March

Good Friday
March/ April

Easter Monday
March/ April

Carnival
April/ May
(St. Thomas, Virgin Islands)

Hurricane Supplication Day
July
(Virgin Islands, prayer for safety through the hurricane season)

Freedom Day
August (Guyana)

Independence Day
August (Jamaica)

Republic Day
September (Trinidad and Tobago)

Thanksgiving Day
October
(Virgin Islands, local day of thanks for the end of the hurricane season)

Divali
November (Trinidad and Tobago)

Christmas
December

Boxing Day
December

Junkanoo
December/ January (Bahamas)

What are Caribbean Customs and Culture?



Caribbean people are frequently characterized as friendly, easy-going people. However, they are also ambitious, proud and hard working. As a whole, the people from the Caribbean place a great value on education, economic stability and personal achievement – values pervasive in mainstream U.S. culture.

Traditional folklore has always played an important role in Caribbean history and storytelling. Important events and customs are passed down to future generations through oral traditions such as *Ananse* (also spelled *Anancy* or *Anansi*) stories. *Ananse* stories, like Aesop's fables, communicate essential universal truths to listeners. *Ananse* can be a message coupled with a living creature, a folk hero, a man or a spider. As a metaphor for humanity, *Ananse*, the folk hero, has both good and bad qualities, which teaches children how talent can be used for evil or good.

Religion is important in the lives of most Caribbean people. Most of the world's major faiths are represented in the Caribbean, along with some faiths indigenous to the region: Protestantism, Catholicism, Hinduism, Rastafarianism, Judaism, Evangelical, Islam, Spiritual Baptist and Bahai. These faiths are reflected in many of the holidays and festivals that are celebrated by Caribbean people now living in Atlanta. Other celebrations are based on significant events such as a country's date of independence.

Caribbean cuisine is the result of combining similar ingredients in different ways to produce a variety of foods.

Popular foods include chili powder, allspice, thyme, curry, nutmeg, ginger and homemade hot sauce. The dishes of the Caribbean reflect "the people who came." For example, a main meal may consist of Jamaican jerk chicken, Trinidadian curried goat, peas and rice, Guyanese meat patties, Barbados flying fish and *coo-coo*, or some combination thereof. Soups include oxtail, cow heel, callaloo and Jamaican "manish water." Callaloo is a soup made from taro (malanga) leaves and served at traditional Trinidadian gatherings. Desserts include sweet potato pudding, corn meal pudding, bulla cake, Johnny cake and fruitcake. Guyanese fruitcake is called "blackcake."

Breads include cassava and coco. East Indian roti is frequently used to wrap a variety of foods. Dumplings are a mainstay in Trinidad and Creole-style shine rice is popular in Guyana. To accompany any meal, a variety of beverages are available, including ginger beer, sorrel, mauby, blue mountain coffee and peanut punch.

In the Atlanta region, Caribbean people have formed a number of local organizations and associations to foster social and cultural ties within and between their communities and other mainstream groups. These associations provide a forum where members can share information from home, find out about local jobs, celebrate holidays, and, in general, support one another. These groups include business associations, civic and cultural associations and sports leagues. Outdoor sports, especially cricket and soccer, are popular throughout the Caribbean. In Atlanta, some Caribbean people participate in a local cricket league that plays every Sunday, from spring through early fall.

Caribbean* Organizations, Associations and Resources

Below is a listing of selected organizations who work with the Caribbean Community. Additional resources are available at www.atlantaregional.com

GENERAL INFORMATION

Atlanta/Port of Spain Sister City Committee

(770) 433-8211, ext. 17181
Contact: Norma Kendall-Hamlet

Barbados American Cultural Alliance of Georgia

1641 Devon Court
Stone Mountain, GA 30088
(770) 593-1832
Contact: Allan Russell

Los Islanderos

(770) 801-8391
www.losislanderos.homestead.com

National Association of Barbados Organizations, Inc.

(404) 365-8377
Contact: Kenneth Knight

Virgin Islands Department of Tourism

(404) 688-0906
Jacqueline Hodge, Regional Manager
www.usvitourism.vi

ASSOCIATIONS

Atlanta Dominica Connection

(770) 323-4670

Bahama Tourist Association

(404) 636-3911

Atlanta Caribbean Association

(404) 377-5506
Cleopatra Edwards Butera, President
www.atlantacaribbean.org

Atlanta Sports and Domino Association

(770) 465-9004
Contact: Gordon Barnwell

Atlanta Garifuna Association

(770) 987-1051
Contact: Eusebia Niako, President

Atlanta Jamaican Association

(770) 593-9290
Contact: Derrick Harvey, President
www.theaja.com

Belizean Association of Georgia

(404) 209-8006
email: gran6532@bellsouth.net
Contact: Rosie Rose

Belizean and Friends Association

(404) 233-2232
Contact: Dione Frazier, President

Guyana Association of Georgia

(770) 483-7562
Contact: Conrad Wilson
www.gaog.org

Union of Jamaican Organizations In Atlanta

(404) 297-7696
Vin Martin, Jamaica's Honorary Consul
www.jusfun.com

Virgin Islands Association of Atlanta

P.O. Box 362254
Decatur, Georgia 30036
(770) 623-6828
e-mail: annjolem@aol.com

BUSINESS

Metro Atlanta Caribbean Chamber of Commerce, Inc.

P.O. Box 14714
Atlanta, Georgia 30324
Contact: Ms. Chantel Ross-François,
Founder/ President
e-mail: caribcc@hotmail.com
www.maccpga.org

Trade Counsel to Jamaica – Atlanta

3340 Peachtree Rd. NE, Suite 850
Atlanta, Georgia 30326
(404) 239-5740
Contact: Raoul "Ray" Donato
e-mail: donato_r@niac.com

CULTURAL

Atlanta Carnival

www.atlantacarnival.org

Carilanta Players, Inc. – Caribbean

Performing Theater Group
Contact: Mrs. Hertencer Shepherd
(404) 294-6601

Reggalypso

(770) 918-8702
Contact: Adofus Taylor

The Sugarcane – Jamaican

Singing Group
(770) 484-5359
Contact: Sybil Leslie

EDUCATION

Caribbean Students Association – Georgia State University

(404) 463-9000 or (404) 463-9010
Contact: Mr. Chris Stephenson, President
email: cstephenson1@student.gsu.edu

Jamaican/American Partners in Education

(678) 560-7651
Contact: Beresford Davidson

SPORTS

Atlanta United Sports & Cultural Association

(404) 786-3185
e-mail: ausca@comcast.com
Contact: Marcus Joseph

Boroquette Atlanta Sports & Cultural Association

(770) 808-7958
Contact: Ashaki Sharpe
www.boroquetteatlanta.com

Caribbean Star News Magazine

Executive Square
4283 Memorial Drive, Suite D
Decatur, Georgia 30032
(404) 294-9099
www.thecaribbeanstar.com

Caribbean Soccer League

(770) 381-9615
(Atlanta District Amateur Soccer League)
Contact: Mike Hogan
e-mail: admin@adasl.com

Stone Mountain Youth Soccer Association

(770) 879-1123, (770) 469-5379 or
(770) 736-5314
Contact: Dexter D. Owen
www.smysa.org

Tropical Sports Club

(404) 545-0597
Contact: Barry Bennett

*English-speaking nations and territories of the Caribbean

Contact:

E-mail: globalsnapshots@atlantaregional.com

Order printed copies from the ARC Information Center at 404-463-3102 or download free from the ARC website at www.atlantaregional.com

Atlanta Regional Commission • 40 Courtland Street, NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30303 • 404.463.3100 • www.atlantaregional.com

Charles Krautler, Executive Director Darlene Daly, Project Coordinator

The Atlanta Regional Commission is the official planning agency for the ten-county Atlanta Region including Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, and Rockdale, as well as the City of Atlanta and 63 other cities. ARC provides a forum where leaders come together to discuss and act on issues of regionwide consequence.

The Community Foundation • 50 Hurt Plaza, Suite 449, Atlanta, Georgia 30303 • 404.688.5525 • www.atlcf.org

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