A Red Circle

Founded in March 17, 2017
Erica Williams is the Executive Director of A Red Circle. She is also on the executive board committee as treasurer for an organization called Missouri Health Care for All. Erica attended Maryville University and currently holds a B.A. and an M.B.A in Paralegal Studies. She is currently working on her PhD for Public Policy and Administration with a concentration on policy analysis from Walden University.

She leads a Peer Circle for Executive Directors of Color for Winrock International’s Food Systems Leadership Network, is a member of the Youth Ed & Development Work Group of Kids Win-Missouri and a member of HomeGrown Stl, which is an initiative of Washington University for Black boys and young men aged 12 to 29, and she was recently named an unsung ‘shero’ by the Coalition for Human Rights. Last, but not least Erica is a St. Louis Master Gardener.
Our Board of Directors

Dr. Destiny Reddick, Ed.D
Darryl Commings
Alexandra E. Johnson, Esq.
Chris Brown
Roderick Gilliam
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Charles Johnson
Karen Taylor-Liggins, MA, LLM

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Director of Information Technology

Eric Williams
Fine Arts Liaison

Advisory Council

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Joyce Huston                 Erica Davis            Craig Bardo             Kristen Wagner, PhD, MSW    Betsy Sinclair
Purpose
Economic development through a racial equality lens

Mission
The holistic betterment of our community; reversing the effects of racism one person and cause at a time.

Five Focus Areas
1. Employment
2. Education
3. Holistic Living
   (health & financial wellness)
4. Policy
5. The Arts
Meet Tamara a student at S.I.U.E. majoring in Psychology and Sociology & Angie a senior at Hazelwood East, who plans to major in civil & electrical engineering.

Some interns helping with the mission of our organization from STL Youth Jobs.
Why I founded A Red Circle
North County Zip Codes:

- 63121
- 63133
- 63134
- 63135
- 63136
- 63137
- 63138
- 63140
- 63031
- 63033
- 63034
- 63042
St. Louis City versus St. Louis County

- Different taxing and school districts
- Unequal allocation of resources
  - Philanthropic funding is higher in St. Louis City
  - Funding projects have traditionally favored west or south St. Louis County
  - North St. Louis County is left underserviced and under-resourced
- North St. Louis County’s demographic is predominately Black/African-American
Importance of Racial Equity

- Trauma – effects everyone differently; depending on one’s coping capability, family structure, spiritual development, and positive influences
Healthy Food Access & Intersectionality
Healthy Food & the Economy

“While much progress is being made to develop new models of food retailing that serve communities previously left out, the evidence continues to suggest that many families are underserved and that the problem is most pronounced for residents of low-income communities and communities of color. The research indicates that poor access to healthy food corresponds with poor nutrition and that new healthy food retail contributes to community economic development in tangible, positive ways.”

– PolicyLink & The Food Trust

Dollar stores replace grocery stores in low-income Black communities at alarming rates, one town is fighting the surge
Healthy Food Access & Education

Poverty Impacts Education via
- Emotional and Social Challenges
- Acute and Chronic Stressors
- Cognitive Lags
- Healthy and Safety Issues

"A well-nourished body and brain are better able to withstand ongoing stress and recover from illness."
Healthy Food Access – dining, growing, shopping

Healthy Flavor

A Red Circle’s Holistic Living Bistro

Come enjoy a nutritious meal in a comfortable setting, prepared with fresh, organic, locally sourced ingredients.

Meet other community members and neighbors.

Learn from nutrition and financial experts.

Pay only what you can.

Bring the kids!

Menu Offerings: Soups, salads, wraps, stir-fry, turkey burgers, whole grain pastas, and more!

Hours of Operation are 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. every Friday.

All donations are tax-deductible.

Learn more at http://aredcircle.org

A Red Circle's
HEALTHY COMMUNITY MARKET

351 CHAMBERS, 63137
JULY 27 9 AM TO 1 PM

* Farmer’s Market
* Fitness Activities
* Kids’ Station
* Cooking Demos
* Nutrition Education
* Resource Tables
A Red Circle & MOCAN

- Erica - Chairs the Food Systems Work Group
- A Red Circle’s work – hyperlocal (doing our part)
- Fostering collaboration across the state
- Increase the conversation around racial equity
- Good food brings about...

There is no such thing as "cheap food." If the price isn't paid at the cash register, it's paid through our bodies, environment, your health.
What A Red Circle Aims to Accomplish

- Create a healthy food system in North Stl County
  - Create jobs;
  - Inspire healthier living;
  - Improve the environment by reducing food waste;
  - Inspire other similarly-situated communities.
  - To improve the physical health of the residents & the economic health of the region.
...because all blood is red

A Red Circle Non-Profit
Contact Us

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