

# The Michigan Roundtable establishes Michigan's only Truth and Reconciliation Commission

*Public nominations welcome for Race to Equity project that will examine the segregation of Metro Detroit and racial inequity before and after 1967*

The Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion is kicking off a Race to Equity Project that will work toward the establishment of Michigan's only Truth and Reconciliation Commission to examine housing segregation, its history and its continued effects. Members of the Commission will be seated Nov. 4-5 at a Truth Conference at Cobo Conference/Exhibition Center and public nominations are now being accepted.

"Racism continues to cast a shadow over southeast Michigan and we are still feeling the impact of these troubled times," said Thomas Costello, President and CEO of the Michigan Roundtable. "Racial segregation is also the segregation of opportunity and hope for the future."

"An inclusive and prosperous future can only be ensured by an inquiry into and understanding of the structural dynamics of racial segregation, past and present," he said.

Any resident of the Detroit metropolitan area can nominate any individual to serve as a Commissioner. Nominations should be accompanied by a brief statement articulating who the nominee is and why she or he is being nominated. A selection panel will then ensure that each nominee completes a full application. These applications will guide the panel in decisions regarding Commissioners.

"The establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission, inspired by the process that took place in South Africa and Greensboro, N.C., will allow an understanding of past injustices and to envision constructive remedies to create a new regional culture of fairness, equal opportunity and prosperity," said Costello.

The Commission will spend 18-24 months delving deeply into the history of housing and race in the region and how it impacts those living here today. It will also examine what can be done to create a new regional culture in Metro Detroit.

The Michigan Roundtable has worked for the past 16 months with members of the Housing Project Partnership and has established a charter and a mandate to guide the Commission.

For additional information visit <http://www.miroundtable.org/truthcommissionernomination.html> contact Freda G. Sampson of the Michigan Roundtable, 313-870-1500 or [fsampson@miroundtable.org](mailto:fsampson@miroundtable.org).