



Freedom Recovery Fund

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THREE WAYS TO BE IN CULTURAL COMMUNITY

1 The James L. Kingsland Cultural Hub

A cultural hub is an organically formed, culture-specific place where history, education, and art of a particular culture are recognized and affirmed through meaningful relationships, skill-sharing, and direct dialogue—unhindered by external social regulations that are often unintentionally imposed in mixed company.

The James L. Kingsland Cultural Hub was created to bring diverse ideas into a physical space for people of color, with a focus on the Black community in Northwest Indiana. This effort was founded by members of the Northwest Indiana African American Alliance and supported by members of Project Neighbors in response to the deplorable absence of cultural resources in the region.

The Kingsland family, under the leadership of Professor Renu Juneja, are the principal financial contributors to this significant project. The Hub is named in honor of Dr. James L. Kingsland, a longtime political science professor, activist, and supporter of cultural efforts in the region.

What does the Hub do?

- ◆ ECHO Gatherings – A monthly space for Encouraging, Community, Healing, and Organizing.
- ◆ Workshops & Discussions – Classes on poverty, cultural identity, and political engagement.
- ◆ Meetings & Organizing – A home for Black organizations and businesses.
- ◆ Creative & Cultural Events – A space for Black storytelling, music, and media.
- ◆ A Place for Growth – A gathering space for learning, strategizing, and community building.

Moving Forward Together

The James L. Kingsland Cultural Hub continues to expand its programming while supporting community-led efforts for cultural preservation and education. As we rethink and reimagine our responsibility to the cultural communities we serve, we invite you to be part of this growing movement. Let's continue building this space for us, by us.

Want to get involved?

Contact Dr. Gregory Jones at greg.jones@projectneighbors.org or (219) 200-4131.

(flip over)

2 ECHO



ECHO
Encourage
Community
Healing
Organizing

Where? Union Community Church
(602 Monroe St, Valparaiso)

When? 1:00 – 3:00 PM

How Often? Every 4th Sunday

Who? Everyone is welcome!

ECHO—short for Encourage, Community, Healing, and Organize—is a monthly gathering that fosters compassionate interaction and collective action. It provides a sacred space for those who serve, and those who seek to serve, our neighbors in need.

ECHO brings together individuals and organizations to share stories, exchange information, and support the positive efforts happening throughout our community. Through meaningful conversations and collaboration, ECHO strengthens the bonds that unite us in service and justice.

ECHO meets on the fourth Sunday of every month from 1:00 – 3:00 PM at Union Community Church (602 Monroe St, Valparaiso). All are welcome to join in this ongoing effort to build a more connected and compassionate community.

3 Union Community Church

Union Community Church, located at 602 Monroe St, Valparaiso, Indiana, is a historic congregation affiliated with the United Church of Christ (UCC). As the first Black congregation in Valparaiso, the church has a long-standing commitment to faith, community, and social justice. Its mission statement, "That they all may be one," reflects its dedication to unity and inclusivity.

The church offers worship services every Sunday at 11:00 AM and actively serves the community through various ministries. Notably, Union Community Church hosts the monthly ECHO gatherings (Encourage, Community, Healing, and Organize), providing a space for compassionate interaction, collaboration, and support.

For more information or to get involved, you can contact the church at (219) 464-3197.



Questions? Contact Dr. Gregory Jones at
greg.jones@projectneighbors.org or (219) 200-4131.