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Center for Economic Inclusion Hosts New Documentary “A Reckoning to Rise Together” and Virtual Discussion with Black Business Owners, Jan. 15

Session Looks for Solutions for Reimagining Our Economy After a Year of COVID-19 and Racial Justice Protests

(SAINT PAUL, January 12) — The Center for Economic Inclusion is hosting a viewing at noon, Jan. 15, of a new documentary about how three local Black entrepreneurs made it through the pandemic and racial uprisings and then asking local business leaders about how the community can move the economy forward together

The virtual event is free and open to the public and the media. More information and register [here.](#)

The documentary, “Reckoning to Rise Together,” explores the risks, trials, and triumphs of Jim Mills, who runs J-Klips, Kiara Ellis, who owns the Nail Bar, and Tim Wilson of Urban Lights Music. All three are Black business owners who navigated the pandemic, uprisings, wealth extraction, and racial healing in Minneapolis and St. Paul.

After the film, there will be a moderated discussion about issues facing the community and solutions for reimagining the economy and reckoning to rise together.

“The devaluation of Black businesses, Black homes and Black people did not begin with the pandemic or last summer’s protests for racial justice,” Black said. “Yet, Minnesota’s Black business owners have been navigating almost insurmountable odds to protect their thriving businesses from predatory and racially exclusive lending practices, violence following the uprisings stemming from a community in mourning, and fear of gentrification from place-based, race-neutral efforts to restore commerce at all costs.”

She added that “we reject the idea that economic recovery means returning to the same economy we had before COVID-19. We demand a reimagining of our economy to create one that truly works for everyone, and that requires reckoning with the racism that has divided our communities for centuries and fueled the extraction of wealth, homes, and life for far too long. It is time to reckon with racism; it’s time to reckon with the truth and rise together.”

Black encouraged not only business people but members of the wider community to attend the virtual event because Black Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC)-owned businesses depend on all of us to support them.

The registration includes a link to BIPOC-owned restaurants where attendees can order food during the virtual session.

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About the Center for Economic Inclusion

The Center for Economic Inclusion is a cross-sector organization committed to strengthening the Minneapolis-St. Paul region's civic infrastructure and collective capacity to disrupt systems and influence market forces to catalyze shared prosperity and advance an inclusive economy. More at CenterforEconomicInclusion.org.