



ADDRESS AND CHALLENGE EXCLUSIVITY

> Dr. Jamil Bey

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF URBANKIND INSTITUTE

There are communities in Pittsburgh. There's just not an all-inclusive Pittsburgh community.

I think what gets us to “a community of we” is being able to share in experiences that contribute to a sense of collective hope. When people are hopeful, they engage in the community that makes them hopeful.

In order to be connected to a community, members of that community have to recognize you as part of it. You also have to acknowledge the rules and mores of that community.

In Pittsburgh, there are lots of folks who don't feel that everyone is included in the broader community. Politically, economically, socially, culturally, they don't participate. Their access to participate is restricted.

We need to address and challenge those who exclude folks from our community. We need to challenge those who maintain spaces of exclusivity—in housing, in the workplace, in recreation or play spaces—and address their need to maintain that exclusivity. We need to call that into question. What is the need to be exclusive?

At UrbanKind, we're pretty explicit about calling foul and identifying these exclusive practices and policies. We don't shy away from that. Also, we actively work for the inclusion of different voices. We work with folks who are most typically excluded—low-income residents, immigrants and African Americans—and we work with providers that serve these populations to collect, strengthen and elevate the power of their voices.

— Interviewed by Elwin Green