

# Nathaniel Smith Biography

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Nathaniel Smith serves as **Founder and Chief Equity Officer (CEqO)/CEO** of the Partnership for Southern Equity. Empowered by the unified vision and voices realized through its regional engagement efforts, PSE pushes for policies and actions that promote balanced growth and inclusive prosperity in metropolitan Atlanta and beyond. Among PSE's notable accomplishments were the creation of the American South's first equity mapping and framing tool the Metro Atlanta Equity Atlas (MAEA); The Atlanta Regional Commission's Equitable Target Areas (ETA) mapping index to promote and measure equitable land-use planning efforts; supporting the creation of the nation's first "Equitable Development Plan" for a large scale neighborhood transformation project – The Atlanta Beltline; convening the inaugural Equity Atlanta Forum on the equitable utilization of Federal Stimulus Funding in metro Atlanta as well as its supporting document, co-written by PolicyLink, "Recovering Stronger: Building an Inclusive Metro Atlanta Economy. Mr. Smith is also the co-author of PSE's report, "Moving to Opportunity: The Case for Transportation Equity in Metropolitan Atlanta and PSE's 2016 report "Growing the Future: The Case for Economic Inclusion in Metropolitan Atlanta. In 2014 Partnership for Southern Equity led a coalition of diverse stakeholders and organizations to support the initiation and passage of a \$13 million transit referendum that expands Atlanta's metropolitan transit system (MARTA) into a new County (Clayton) for the first time in 45 years.

Before taking on the founding role of PSE's Chief Equity Officer/CEO Mr. Smith served as **Director of Partnerships and Research for Equitable Development** at Emory University's Center for Community Partnerships (CFCP). In this capacity Nathaniel facilitated engaged scholarship opportunities with external and community organizations to achieve balanced, sustainable and inclusive growth throughout the metropolitan Atlanta region.

Nathaniel also served as Public Policy Manager at the Atlanta Neighborhood Development Partnership (ANDP). His advocacy, research and coalition building activities supported the creation of many innovative policies that encouraged the equitable distribution of mixed income communities throughout the metropolitan Atlanta Region. Among them were Georgia's first anti-predatory lending (DeKalb County), inclusionary zoning (Fulton County) and local housing trust fund (City of Atlanta) ordinances in metropolitan Atlanta. Mr. Smith's research and advocacy activities were also instrumental in the ratification of a 15% set aside of Atlanta Beltline Tax Allocation District (TAD) dollars for the development and maintenance of affordable workforce housing within the Atlanta BeltLine Planning Area. Because of this policy \$250 million dollars will be allocated to this effort over the 25 year lifespan of the Atlanta BeltLine TAD.

A native of Atlanta Georgia, Mr. Smith holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Urban Studies from Morehouse College. Nathaniel received his Masters of Science degree from the Robert J. Milano School for Management and Urban Policy at the New School for Social Research. While attending Morehouse, Nathaniel received the prestigious Woodrow Wilson Fellowship for Public Policy and International Affairs. During his matriculation through the Milano School Mr. Smith received the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Fellowship.

Among his many acknowledgments, Nathaniel was selected for the National Congress for Community Economic Development (NCCED) 2000 Emerging Leaders Program; the Outstanding Young Person of Atlanta Award in 2003; Georgia Trend Magazine's 40 under 40 list in 2006 (cover); The Atlanta Business Chronicle's "Up and Comers" List in 2006; the 2007 Atlanta Housing Association of Neighborhood Based Developers (AHAND) 2007 Affordable Housing Champion Award; the 2014 designation in the Who's Who in Black Atlanta publication as a "Champion of Diversity and Inclusion" and honored in 2014 by the Atlanta Business League as a "Man of Influence." Nathaniel was designated a "Notable Georgian" by Georgia Trend Magazine in 2016 and 2017.

Mr. Smith is a graduate of the Regional Leadership Institute (RLI) class of 2004; the 2005 Inaugural class of Leadership Atlanta's L.E.A.D Atlanta program for Young Professionals; the 2006 class of the Faith and the City Leadership Institute; Leadership Atlanta class of 2009, and a 2009 graduate of the Georgia Academy for Economic Development. Nathaniel was awarded the German Marshall Fund of America's Marshall Memorial Fellowship (MMF) in 2009 and was selected to participate in the 2012 Aspen Seminar, sponsored by the Aspen Institute. Mr. Smith was recently selected as one of 50 international leaders to participate in the inaugural German Marshall Fund's Bilbao Urban Innovation and Leadership Dialogues (BUILD) to discuss strategies for leading equitable growth in cities. The Atlanta Business League (ABL) honored Nathaniel as a 2014 "Men of Influence". Mr. Smith is a 2015 Institute for Georgia Environmental Leadership graduate and was selected to participate in the prestigious BALLE Local Economy Fellowship program (2016). Nathaniel was recently (2017) highlighted in the Huffington Post as one of the eight up and coming Black leaders in the Climate Movement and Grist Magazine as one of eight Black leaders reshaping the Climate Movement. He has also received honors from the Atlanta Chapter of the New Leaders Council (2017) for his work on Economic Inclusion.

Nathaniel has served as an advisor to several local and national organizations and policymakers among them: The Annie E. Casey Foundation, PolicyLink, and the Southeastern Council of Foundations and Kellogg Foundation to name a few. Nathaniel serves on the Board of Directors for the Atlanta BeltLine Partnership. Nathaniel was recently selected to engage in a delegations of international thought leaders convened to support the efforts of the German Marshall Fund, Bertelsmann Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation and Open Society Foundations to engage the Cities of Boston, Massachusetts and Athens, Greece in creating a economic resiliency strategy for their respective justifications.

Nathaniel resides in the Summer Hill Community of Atlanta, Georgia with his wife, Alyshia, an educator and their daughter, Alexia.