Session Four
Topic: Mass Incarceration
Speaker: James Bell
Founder and Executive Director
The W. Haywood Burns Institute

3:00.....The massive amount we pay for the criminal justice system isn’t making us safer.

8:10.....This is an unprecedented opportunity for criminal justice reform.

10:15.....Criminal justice policy is often determined by whoever can tell the saddest stories. What we need is data.

11:15.....The justice paradigm: Who will suffer abuse and who will be shielded from harm? A question determined by structures, not by individual behaviors.

14:40.....A pre-schooler in handcuffs is the culmination of a history of race-based practices of custody and control.

15:40.....Mass incarceration in the context of seismic demographic shifts.

21:00.....How fear-based policies punish normal behavior in children as if it were criminal behavior.

24:50.....“Just doing our job” is a red flag for structural racism.

26:00.....Our desire to incarcerate is “rooted in our historical DNA.”

33:00.....We need to be “color smart,” not color blind.

36:15.....We have to choose between two visions of justice: Custody, control, and suppression, or intervention, services, and an asset-based approach to changing behavior. We cannot have both.

45:00.....So how do we make the justice system do less harm?

49:00.....Not only does the justice system not deliver justice, there’s no actual “system” either.

50:10.....What philanthropy can do.