

Chamber's Wade: Now is an 'Opportunity' for Entrepreneurs of Color

Last Friday, Rick Wade, Vice President of Strategic Alliances and Outreach at the U.S. Chamber, spoke virtually at the Juneteenth Makers Market in Detroit, MI. The event, hosted by Shawn Wilson, president and CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of Southeastern Michigan, discussed the state of entrepreneurs of color during the pandemic.

"It's an opportunity for entrepreneurs and innovators to help solve these complex problems that confront us," said Wade. "We got to reimagine ourselves, not just as consumers but owning the business."

One challenge discussed was the digital divide. "It's unconscionable that we still have communities—urban and rural—where Black kids don't have access to the Internet," said Wade. He also noted the need for greater access to capital: "We have to figure out how to get capital flowing to invest in African-American entrepreneurs."

Joining Wade was rapper and actor Ludacris, who recently soft-launched [Kid Nation](#), a platform for kids to learn through music. "We have to find new forms of entertainment, and hopefully it's enriching." Kid Nation launched two music videos, one on the need for all Americans to "[Get Along](#)" and another on [promoting good hygiene](#) to avoid getting sick.

Watch the event on [Facebook](#).