

# **Sustainable Economic Development – Is Atlanta Ready for 2050?”**

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**FEDERAL  
RESERVE  
BANK  
of ATLANTA**

# **THE “GOLDEN GOOSE”?**

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- **Those cities that can attract, retain and “grow” their own skilled have a bright future**
- **My New York City in the 1970s vs. New York City today**
- **Some argue that quality of life is “too good” in Manhattan today such that it is unaffordable.**
- **Cities compete against each other as footloose people and firms move across cities**

# **THE FUTURE OF ATLANTA?**

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- **How will Atlanta compete against other top tier cities over the next 35 years?**
- **What is Atlanta's edge? Which cities does it compete with?**
- **What challenges does it face?**
- **Both property owners and anyone concerned about the next generation should care!**

# A CURRENT “TOP TEN” LIST

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Source: <http://atlanta.about.com/od/newcomersguide/tp/10-Great-Things-About-Atlanta.htm>

1. The Weather
2. The Airport
3. The Cost of Living
4. Big City Culture
5. Career Opportunities
6. The Restaurant Scene
7. The Neighborhoods
8. MARTA
9. Nature
10. Southern Hospitality

# HOW WILL THIS “TOP 10” EVOLVE OVER THE DECADES?

- 1. Climate change and southern cities and adaptation to further heat and storm challenges**
- 2. Declining center city crime between 2002 and 2012, will this trend continue?**
- 3. Poverty rate in the City of Atlanta in 2010 was 24.3% while it was 17.4% in Georgia**  
[\(<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/13/1304000.html>\)](http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/13/1304000.html)
  - This suggests that Atlanta can do better in investing in the next generation's human capital***

# 1991 NOBEL LAUREATE GARY BECKER AT THE PLATE (WITH ME ON THE RIGHT!)



# 2000 NOBEL LAUREATE JAMES HECKMAN OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO



See [www.heckmanequation.org](http://www.heckmanequation.org)

# % OF KIDS BY STATE AND YEAR IN PRE-K EDUCATION

	Georgia	Georgia	Illinois	Illinois
Year	3 Year Olds	4 Year Olds	3 Year Olds	4 Year Olds
2002	0%	53.4%	7.6%	22.0%
2012	0%	58.7%	20.0%	27.7%

# ATLANTA AND UPWARD MOBILITY?

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[http://www.nytimes.com/2013/07/22/business/in-climbing-income-ladder-location-matters.html?pagewanted=all&\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/07/22/business/in-climbing-income-ladder-location-matters.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0)

## Atlanta features less upward mobility than other cities

Chetty, Raj, Nathaniel Hendren, Patrick Kline, and Emmanuel Saez. *Where is the Land of Opportunity? The Geography of Intergenerational Mobility in the United States*. No. w19843. National Bureau of Economic Research, 2014.

**Why?**

# CONCLUSION

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- **The rise of the “consumer city” era**
- **Those cities with great quality of life are most likely to thrive**
- **Atlanta’s quality of life as perceived by those who are rich, middle class and poor**