Acknowledgments

The editors would like to express their appreciation to each of the contributors to this book and the scholarly gathering on community wealth building and the future of American democracy hosted by the Jepson School of Leadership Studies at the University of Richmond in June 2019. They thank Dr. Allison Archer (formerly of the University of Richmond) for her help in planning this gathering as well as related events, Jepson School of Leadership Studies staff member Shannon Best for planning and logistical support, and Dean Sandra Peart of the Jepson School for overall support. They also thank Jepson School staff member Cassie Price for her assistance in copy-editing contributions to this book, and to Professors Kristin Bezio and George R. “Al” Goethals, series co-editors of the Jepson Series in Leadership published by Edward Elgar Publishing, of which this book is a part. They also express their appreciation to Senior Editor Alan Sturmer at Edward Elgar Publishing and to the Edward Elgar Publishing production staff for accepting their proposal and working diligently towards its timely publication.

Melody C. Barnes is deeply appreciative of those who supported this work so generously—engaging in robust and productive debate, and reading early drafts, including Tamar Bland, Sheri Brady, Marland Buckner, Chekemma Fulmore-Townsend, Olatunde Johnson, Sidney Milkis, Lara Putnam, Adria Scharf and Karen Zivi. She thanks her colleagues at the Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solutions whose equity-focused work at the local level serves as an inspiration and important lens. She is grateful for the support offered by the University of Richmond, and her partnership with co-editors Thad M. Williamson and Corey D.B. Walker. Thad and Corey brought their intellect as well as commitment to equity to this project. Without them, this book wouldn’t be possible. She wishes to thank her parents, Frances and Charles Barnes who made all things possible. And finally, she thanks her biggest fan, most rigorous reviewer and favorite debate partner, her husband, Marland Buckner. His unwavering and constant support is a gift.

Corey D.B. Walker is truly grateful for the friendship of Greg Carr, Claudrena N. Harold, Keisha-Khan Y. Perry, James Pope, and Larry L. Rowley and the years of sustained and engaged conversations about race, religion, and democracy. Thanks also to the citizens of Charlottesville, Virginia, Providence, Rhode Island, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and Richmond,

Virginia for allowing him to learn rewarding lessons about the rich textures of local politics and the promise of deep democracy.

Thad M. Williamson additionally expresses appreciation to his former City of Richmond colleagues who played integral roles in the formation, development and expansion of the Office of Community Wealth Building over the time period 2013–18, an experience that directly shaped this book, including especially Risha Berry, Selena Cuffee-Glenn, Nicholas Feucht, Reginald Gordon, Christina Mastroianni, Valaryee Mitchell, Councilwoman Ellen Robertson, and Evette Roots. Each of these individuals have been valued conversation partners, thought leaders, and practitioners in the work of bringing the community wealth building vision to life in Richmond, as well as treasured friends. He also thanks the Jepson School of Leadership Studies and the University of Richmond for its support of this important community work and in particular to colleagues and friends Julian Hayter, Amy Howard and Crystal Hoyt for countless conversations on topics related to this book. He thanks co-editors Melody C. Barnes and Corey D.B. Walker for many additional conversations fleshing out the meaning of “community wealth building” and its local and national application, as well as for their specific work on this book. Finally, he thanks his wife Adria L. Scharf and daughter Sahara Scharf Williamson for their unstinting and patient support of not only this specific book but also the years of practical work that informs it.

Melody C. Barnes, Corey D.B. Walker and Thad M. Williamson
Richmond, Virginia
February 2020