



Jamiah Hargins – see page A-4



Rayah Marshall – see page D-2

# New CEO Joanna S. Jackson Heads Weingart Foundation’s Humanitarian Efforts Towards Racial Justice

BY BETTI HALSELL  
Digital Editor/Staff Writer

After a comprehensive search for their next CEO, the Weingart Foundation’s board members appointed Joanna S. Jackson to the chief executive officer role earlier this month.

She has dedicated her professional career to creating pipelines towards racial justice and aligning the Weingart Foundation’s values, mission and practice to the needs of marginalized communities for over 15 years. Jackson shared details about her philanthropic journey to CEO and president in an exclusive interview with the L.A. Sentinel.

Together with astute consultants and Koya Partners, The Weingart Foundation board members created an intricate candidate profile, emphasizing key features in their search for the Weingart Foundation’s next CEO and president. Jackson had the proven track record and characteristics to lead at the helm of the privately owned grant-



Joanna Jackson, 4th from right, with members of the Weingart Foundation board.

COURTESY PHOTO

making organization.

Jackson coordinated pathways that led to a successful and diverse portfolio by staying true to the values, mission and practice of philanthropy at the

Weingart Foundation; directly responding to the needs of underrepresented societies that directly or indirectly communicate the stress for more resources. “It’s a part of some-

thing I’ve always done—making sure that we are aligned to what we (the Weingart Foundation) say: what our mission is, what our priorities are, what our values are and actually put-

ting that into practice,” said Jackson.

Since 2008, Jackson has carried a people-focused viewpoint that fueled her acts of service in her professional career.

Loaning her talents to the Weingart Foundation, Jackson started as a program associate.

From there, she raised her hand at different opportunities to be of service, moving into positions like director of special programs and director of grant operations. Jackson later would exercise her voice in leadership as the vice president of programs and become the interim CEO before being appointed to the executive role.

Jackson emphasized her success comes from her commitment to equity and redefining risk for the organization.

“Getting to a place where we are talking about investing in people and communities, recognizing and re-evaluating what we consider risk; philanthropy tends to be risk averse, but we want to be able to support those organizations that at one point we would have thought of as risky—for me it’s not about what risks we think we are

**[See JOANNA JACKSON on B-6]**

# BMO President Darrel Hackett Meets with L.A. Black Leadership

BY E. MESIYAH MCGINNIS  
Staff Writer

The Los Angeles Sentinel was the gathering space for influential members of the Black community — from the grass-roots organizations to political, education and business leaders — eager to meet Darrel Hackett, president and CEO of BMO Bank, and Eric Smith, vice chairman of the company.

BMO (Bank of Montreal), is one of the largest banks in the midwest with over 600 branches and approximately 1,300 ATMs in Illinois, Wisconsin, Indi-

ana, Kansas, Missouri, Minnesota, Arizona, Florida and California. The bank recently acquired BMO Stadium, formerly Banc of California Stadium near downtown L.A.

BMO Bank aims to share \$16 billion of the \$40 billion secured to ignite small businesses owned by people of color or women throughout the country.

“When we initially embarked in this event, our desire was to create a dynamic group of people to network with a financial institution that is commit-

**[See BMO RECEPTION on B-6]**



E. MESIYAH MCGINNIS/LA. SENTINEL

Black community leaders met with BMO President Darrel Hackett and Vice Chair Eric Smith at a reception at the L.A. Sentinel office.

## Brotherhood Crusade Receives \$100k Donation from Dodger Foundation



COURTESY PHOTO

The Los Angeles Dodger Foundation presented Brotherhood Crusade officials with \$100,000 during the Dodger’s Black Heritage Day Game on June 15. From left are Brotherhood Crusade Executive Vice President Stacy Hill-Williams, Brotherhood Crusade President/CEO Charisse Bremond Weaver, Dodgers Foundation Chief Program Officer Manny Aceves, Brianna Betts of the 50/50 Foundation, 50/50 Foundation Managing Director Unique Kizer, and Los Angeles Dodgers’ Mookie Betts.

## LAHSA Unveils Welcome Navigation Center Interim Housing Pilot

BY LILA BROWN  
Contributing Writer

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) unveiled its Welcome Navigation Center, a new pilot program

designed to prepare the homeless for permanent housing within 30 days. LAHSA and city officials visited the 41-room, 24,000-square-foot facility in South L.A. on June 13 to commemorate the experi-

mental program and communicate its importance.

Mayor Karen Bass, Councilmember Curren Price, Metro Deputy CEO Sharon Gookin and **[See LAHSA NAVIGATION CENTER on B-6]**



LILA BROWN/LA. SENTINEL

From left, Metro Deputy CEO Sharon Gookin, L.A. Councilmember Curren Price, LAHSA CEO Dr. Va Lecia Adams Kellum, and L.A. Mayor Karen Bass at the new Welcome Navigation Center for the homeless.

# Local Bruins Honored by UCLA with Bridge Builders Awards

BY RODD A. AMOS  
Contributing Writer

UCLA Community Programs and L.A. Inner City Cultural Center presented the 2024 C. Bernard Jackson-UCLA Bridge Builders Awards and Beloved Community Luncheon on June 11, at The Bridge in Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza.

The awardees include Community Coalition Executive Vice President Aurea Montes-Rodriguez, and CBS Television executive producer Charles Floyd Johnson.

“The purpose of the Bridge Builders Awards is to recognize individuals who work with a diverse community of people to connect our work and our world to a deeper meaning and a higher purpose. “The luncheon itself is to honor the legacy of Jackie Robinson,” stated the UCLA Community Service Programs Advisor.

“The most iconic building on campus,” he continued, “is Royce Hall – named for Josiah Royce, who



RODD A. AMOS/L.A. SENTINEL  
*Aurea Montes-Rodriguez and Anne Burford-Johnson strike a pose.*

coined the phrase “Beloved Community.” Dr. [Martin Luther] King visited UCLA in 1965 and championed our cause.”

Prior to his opening remarks entitled, “Where’s the Check,” Dr. Oscar Edwards, keynote speaker and Advisory Committee

Chair of the UCLA Beloved Community Initiative, led

the gathering of roughly 30 Bruin alumni and associates into silent prayer in memory of Dr. James Lawson, a leading tactician of nonviolence within the Civil Rights Movement. Lawson taught Nonviolence and Social Movements at UCLA.

UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs alum Mandla Kayise and UCLA PhD can-

didate Sonya Brooks served as co-presenters of the event.

“I’m deeply honored to be considered a Bridge Builder,” said awardee and Bruin alumna Montes-Rodriguez. “As a LatinX woman immigrant who came to South Los Angeles as a child, and considering the investment made in me by community members, to receive this award is really meaningful.

“Community Coalition was founded by Mayor Karen Bass and we’re working in solidarity with other

culturalism.

“[Jack] was an alum of UCLA going back to the late 50s and early 60s,” recounted fellow Bruin, Ernest Dillihay.

“He was a rehearsal pianist in the Dance Department and met Dr. J. Alfred Cannon at the UCLA Neuropsychiatric Institute. They thought the arts would be an ideal vehicle of change in improving the lives of people, especially the disenfranchised.

“Fast forward, Oscar Edwards introduced us at

of the Historical Dictionary of African American Television (Historical Dictionaries of Literature and the Arts), accepted the award in her husband’s absence.

Other notable speakers included Fernando Montes-Rodriguez, the district director for L.A. City Council President Marqueece Harris-Dawson, LA-ICCC Board Member Carmen Hayward-Stetson, and Emmy-nominated CBS TV writer and producer Donna Brown Guillaume, known for “Unchained Memories:



RODD A. AMOS/L.A. SENTINEL  
*The Beloved Community Initiative family strikes a pose.*

like-minded organizations that are committed to building local leadership with political power in their communities. I’m also proud of the work of our young people, who’ve brought educational equity to the needs of Black and Brown students in our community,” she said.

The awards ceremony also honored playwright C. Bernard Jackson, founder of L.A. Inner City Cultural Center – one of the first arts institutions in the United States to promote multi-

Inner City to the Beloved Community Initiative, and Brother Azania gave C. Bernard Jackson the honor of renaming the Bridge Builders Award the C. Bernard Jackson-UCLA Bridge Builders Award,” Dillihay said.

The second award went to Emmy winning CBS TV Executive Charles Floyd Johnson, best known for “The Rockford Files,” “Magnum, P.I.,” “Red Tails,” and “NCIS.” Anne Burford-Johnson, co-writer

Readings from the Slave Narratives.” Guillaume is the widow of stage, TV and film star Robert Guillaume.

The awards ceremony was presented by the UCLA Beloved Community Initiative, UCLA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Department, UCLA Black Alumni Association; Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies; The Bridge at Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza, and more.

For more information, visit [cpo.ucla.edu](http://cpo.ucla.edu).



RODD A. AMOS/L.A. SENTINEL  
*The awardees are flanked by (L-R) Sonya Brooks, Vusisizwe Azania, and Dr. Oscar Edwards.*

## Links Inc. Present Sandra Evers-Manly with Co-Founders Award for the Arts

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Sandra Evers-Manly will receive the 2024 Co-Founders Award for the Arts from The Links, Inc., an international nonprofit volunteer service organization with a membership of more than 17,000 women.

The award will be presented on June 20 by Links National President Ethel Isaacs Williams, J.D., during the 44th Links National Assembly at the Gaylord Texan Resort in Grapevine,

Texas. Recipients of the award are individuals who have made a significant impact on the lives of others and society as a whole by being standard bearers of truth and equality.

Evers-Manly is president and founder of the Black Hollywood Education and Resource Center (BHERC), former president of the Beverly Hills/Hollywood NAACP, a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS). She is an Emmy-

winning executive producer for the Best Science and Technology Documentary “Into the Unknown,” executive producer of “Deep Sky,” and the author of a children’s book, “Raised Up By Mrs. Manly and Her L’s”

According to President Williams, “Evers-Manly continues to chart a most distinguished career, with achievements that extend well beyond the corporate arena and into the realm of film and media. Her passion for the arts and storytelling, the com-



COURTESY PHOTO  
*Sandra Evers-Manly*  
mitment to amplify youth and diverse voices, and her keen

understanding of the power of film to shape perceptions and inspire change, has made her a driving force and an undeniably deserving recipient of this award.”

As part of the award, Evers-Manly will receive a commissioned Elizabeth Catlett bronze sculpture and will be allowed to designate a charity to receive a monetary donation from the Links in her name.

“I am truly honored and humbled to receive this amazing recognition by

Links, Inc., one of the most distinguished and cherished organizations in our country. The work of the Links has impacted and changed so many lives, and to be honored with the Co-Founders Award For The Arts, my heart is full of gratitude,” said Evers-Manly.

“It comes with even more responsibility to continue the work to ensure Black representation in films and television, equity and equality while supporting the arts.”



COURTESY PHOTO  
*Gloria Jetter Crockett*

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Gloria Jetter Crockett, is the new executive director of the Alzheimer’s Association, California Southland Chapter. In her role, Crockett will be responsible for the overall strategic and

operational functions for the chapter, including program delivery, fundraising, community engagement, government and private grant funding, media relations and growth and delivery of the association’s mission.

Crockett also serves as the Alzheimer’s Association Regional 3 Leader, overseeing the four chapters serving Central and Southern California (California Central Coast, California Southland, San Diego and Orange County).

“Alzheimer’s disease impacts over 700,000 people in California alone, some of whom are my own

family and friends. I am thrilled to join the fight to end Alzheimer’s,” said Crockett.

“I am very inspired by the Alzheimer’s Association’s ability to accelerate global research, drive risk reduction and early detection; and maximize quality care and support for all families living with this disease, and I am honored to bring my expertise to the table.”

Crockett most recently served as the president and CEO of Make-A-Wish® Orange County and the Inland Empire, an organization that grants wishes to

children battling critical illnesses. Prior to that role, she was the chief development officer for Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County and formerly served as the interim executive director for development and the senior director of development for the cancer programs for the University of California, Irvine School of Medicine. In this role, Crockett led a team of seven and was responsible for \$10 million in fundraising annually.

Prior to the University of California, Irvine, Crockett spent 17 years in advanced roles with the American

Cancer Society culminating in the state senior vice president for Maryland, managing a team of 45 and raising over \$7 million dollars annually.

Crockett holds a bachelor’s degree in public relations from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, and currently resides in greater L.A. with her family.

Nearly 7 million Americans are living with Alzheimer’s disease, according to the Alzheimer’s Association 2024 Alzheimer’s Disease Facts and Figures report, including nearly 720,000 in

California. An estimated 1,373,000 California residents provide unpaid care to a family member living with dementia. Alzheimer’s is a leading cause of death in the United States and one in three Americans age 65 and older dies with Alzheimer’s or another dementia.

The Alzheimer’s Association California Central Coast Chapter provides free education programs, support services and care consultations across Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo and Ventura Counties while also supporting critical research toward new treatments.

## Alzheimer’s Association Announces New Executive Director

## Evan Michael Cablayan Passes Away

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

The greater Los Angeles community recently mourned the passing of Evan Michael (Horsely) Cablayan. Evan was born June 6, 1980 and died on April 29, 2024.

During the 43 years he lived, he exhibited a love for life and left an indelible impression upon those he knew as well as those who were less well-known to him. Raised in Altadena, California, he attended

Glendale Adventist Academy, Marshall Fundamental School and Flintridge Preparatory School prior to studying at Howard University in Washington, D.C. and Otis College of Art and Design in Los Angeles, CA.

According to a relative, “It was through his artistic endeavors that Evan leaves the most visual statements for us to enjoy. Evan specialized in acrylics, collage, and mixed media creations.”

Later in his life he developed an interest in mixology and created drinks for restaurants and bars throughout the Washington, D.C. area where he lived for 20 some years. His skills in mixology led to his appearance on “Good Morning D.C.” and a few other morning shows, and his drinks were highlighted in a variety of food magazines and news articles about specialty drinks.

Also, Evan loved to cook. His culinary creations,

despite the lack of formal training, were relished by family and friends who were fortunate enough to be present when he created his masterful culinary delights.

Evan was also a great athlete; his interest in football and basketball emerged at age six. He was a standout at Flintridge Prep as a quarterback and running back in football and point guard and guard in basketball. He served as a ballboy for the Los Angeles Clippers for seven

years. He also played football at Howard University while pursuing his degree in Fine Arts.

Cherishing Evan’s memory are his wife, Ngone; his beloved daughter, Ella, for whom her mother, Lisa Kerns continues to provide loving care and nurture; parents, Patrice and Leonardo Cablayan; his birth father, Kennard Horsely; brother, Stevan Cablayan; sister, Shanah Cablayan; brothers, Kennard Horsley, Jr. ,



COURTESY PHOTO  
*Evan Michael Cablayan*

Lance Horsley; and a large contingent of aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews and friends, all of whom Evan held close to their heart.

# Kamlager-Dove Awards \$900,000 for Women’s Re-Entry Program

By LILA BROWN  
Contributing Writer

After an eight-year journey grappling with domestic violence, substance abuse and being formerly incarcerated, Michelle Perkins triumphed over adversity establishing the Turning Point Alcohol & Drug Education Program Inc. in the vibrant community of South Los Angeles. Determined to transform her life, she embarked on a challenging yet rewarding path to offer vital tools for individuals to help them repair, rebuild and restore their own lives after incarceration.

During a Re-Entry Resources and Health Fair on June 15th, U.S. Congressional Representative Sydney Kamlager-Dove (D-CA-37) awarded Turning Point AOD with \$900,000 for housing and all the supportive services necessary to empower formerly incarcerated women. It’s family unification program provides pickups from jail or prison, transportation to appointments, referrals to community services/assistance, and

advocacy to navigate those systems.

“Nearly two million women are released from prison or jail each year in the United States, facing countless barriers to reentry. These women deserve the resources necessary to successfully reintegrate into, and become contributing members of, their communities,” said Congresswoman Sydney Kamlager-Dove. “Here in Los Angeles, Turning Point works daily to break the cycle of mass incarceration by connecting individuals with holistic community-based reentry resources. I was proud to secure \$900,000 for their Safe Housing Project, which will help formerly incarcerated women get back on their feet by connecting them with the supportive and housing services needed to heal, grow and flourish.”

Turning Point Women’s Reentry SAFE Housing is dedicated to the support of women marginalized by addiction, trauma, criminality, incarceration, poverty, racism, sexism, homelessness and violence. In 2020,

Turning Point opened its first home for women exiting prison and jail in Los Angeles County. It’s reentry

fast support of Turning Point, said Executive Director, Michelle Perkins who founded the organiza-

ing with us in our mission.” Turning Point clients receive all the necessities of daily living, including

manent housing – all designed to facilitate self-sufficiency and economic prosperity.

“Women are often ignored in discussions about the prison system and re-entry resources due to persistent societal stereotypes and biases that prioritize men’s experiences and needs, Perkins told the L.A. Sentinel. “Historically, the criminal justice system has been designed primarily around male offenders, leading to a lack of tailored support for women who face unique challenges such as childcare responsibilities, higher rates of trauma and different pathways into crime,” she explained, “This oversight perpetuates inequality and hinders effective rehabilitation efforts, ultimately failing to address the specific barriers women face upon re-entering society. Recognizing and addressing these disparities is crucial for creating a fair and effective criminal justice system that meets the needs of all individuals, regardless of gender.”



Michelle Perkins, executive director and founder of Turning Point AOD (left) participates in the check presentation from Congresswoman Sydney Kamlager-Dove.

home is based on the model established by Susan Burton at A New Way of Life (ANWOL) in 1998. Turning Point is a member of ANWOL’s SAFE (Sisterhood Alliance for Freedom and Equality) Housing Network.

“Turning Point extends our heartfelt gratitude to Congresswoman Kamlager-Dove for her stead-

fast support of Turning Point, said Executive Director, Michelle Perkins who founded the organiza-

ing with us in our mission.” Turning Point clients receive all the necessities of daily living, including

## Intersection Dedicated for Watts Activist ‘Sweet Alice’

CITY NEWS SERVICE

Longtime community activist “Sweet” Alice Harris was recognized on June 17 with an intersection in Watts named in her honor.

The 90-year-old Harris was joined by Los Angeles City Councilman Tim McOsker at the ceremony at the intersection of Lou Dillon Avenue and Santa Ana Boulevard North, near the eight homes she owns on Lou Dillon Avenue and where the social services



L.A. Councilmember Tim McOsker leads the crowd in saluting community leader and activist “Sweet Alice” Harris.

organization she founded in 1967, Parents of Watts

Working with Youths and Adults, is operated.

“This sign and this naming will remember your work – your decades and decades and decades of work, that’s going to continue for decades and decades and decades more,” McOsker said as he unveiled the signage designating the intersection in Harris’ honor.

Harris is the executive director of Parents of Watts, which encourages children to stay in school and always avoid drugs. It provides emergency food and shelter

for homeless people, prepares teenagers for trade school, college and the job market and also offers drug counseling, health seminars and parenting classes.

“Thank you all, and I’m ever so grateful that you all have come out and recognize me, because nobody does that but my husband sitting there,” Harris told the crowd of supporters gathered for the event. “I’m ever so proud of my husband because I couldn’t do what I’m doing if he wasn’t a part

of me and helping me.” McOsker, whose district includes Watts, called the organization “a beacon of hope for the community,” in the motion designating the intersection as Sweet Alice Square.

“Her remarkable journey and contributions have left an indelible mark on the history of Watts and will always stand as a testament to the resilience and strength of the human spirit,” McOsker said in the motion.

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# Jamiah Hargins is Feeding the Community

*Crop Swap L.A. feeds over 70 local families with fresh, organically grown fruits and vegetables.*

BY BRIAN W. CARTER  
Contributing Writer

Nestled in Leimert Park is a home with a beautiful garden full of vegetables and fruit on the front lawn. This garden is providing the community with fresh produce every weekend. This is just one of the gardens Jamiah Hargins has in the community — this is Crop Swap L.A.

Hargins started in 2018 with what was a general get together with crop swappers and became a formal nonprofit in 2022.

“I started it because my first daughter was born and I wanted to have the best food for her; and I started growing a garden and had extra that I swapped with other growers in the city,” said Hargins.

Crop Swap L.A. grows food on unused spaces and then sells the produce creating economic sustainability for employees and the community. The nonprofit offers a membership, which



BRIAN W. CARTER/L.A. SENTINEL  
Jamiah Hargins, founding executive director of Crop Swap L.A.

is currently feeding over 70 families each week.

“They harvest every Sunday and deliver to doorsteps that same morning,” said Hargins.

Crop Swap L.A. has multiple sites, the first being on Angeles Vista in

View Park and the second site in Hyde Park, on 8th Avenue and 50th, behind Crenshaw High School. The third site and headquarters is his home on Degan and Coliseum.

They grow everything that is seasonal and some of what’s being grown are squashes, green onions, beans, lettuces, brussels sprouts, celery, herbs and tomatoes.

“Crop Swap L.A. feeds seventy families every single week, so it would be about 240 people,” said Hargins.

He shared the response to Crop Swap L.A. has been almost entirely positive as people appreciate receiving fresh food being grown organically nearby, hired and run by their own neighbors.

“People love that the variety of food includes things you can’t even find at the grocery store and that the price is reasonable; and we accept EBT when possible so we keep it all hyper-

local,” said Hargins.

Hargins feels like growing produce locally for the



BRIAN W. CARTER/L.A. SENTINEL  
The produce from Crop Swap L.A. feeds over 70 families each week.

neighborhood is very important and very much needed.

“I think it’s essential,” said Hargins, “We’re growing food from scratch and in a time when we don’t know what’s really in our food in the grocery stores; and when the big agricultural system is so strained and pressured and artificially created by subsidies and collective interests.”

He continued, “We, as a people, need to utilize our unused spaces such as yards

Food Scapes at the Degan headquarters on Wednesday, June 26 between

and other institutional spaces to create our own equity, our own health and our own sustainability.”

Crop Swap L.A. also offers workshops. You can register online for the next one on Saturday, July 6 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. They will also be at the Juneteenth Business Expo at Cal State Northridge on Saturday, June 22 and speaking at L.A. Good

10AM and 1:00 pm.

“We need your support. And if you support any nonprofits or if you support your church or if you support any group consistently, please include Crop Swap L.A. because this is actually tangible and relatable and necessary in the world, and we could use your support,” said Hargins.

For more information, visit [www.cropswapla.org](http://www.cropswapla.org).

## GLAAACC’S Business Bootcamp Helps Small Businesses Grow

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

In 2020, Black people represented 14.2% of the population, but only 2.4% of all employer-firm owners. If Black business ownership continues to grow at its current rate of 4.72%, it will take 256 years to reach parity with the share of Black people in America. The Greater Los Angeles African American Chamber of Commerce Business Evolution Program is part of the solution to decrease this racial wealth gap.

Since 2005, GLAAACC BEP has provided a business bootcamp with corporate mentors and a rigorous curriculum that includes modules on contracting, procurement, supplier diversity, technical assistance, technology, access to capital and other financial products and a cloud-based back office platform.

The program provides Black entrepreneurs with the necessary tools to increase their capacity, enabling them to become employers and part of the



GLAAACC BEP 2024 graduating class

economic engine that keeps the state and local economy growing.

“Since its inception, BEP has been GLAAACC’s flagship program to take businesses to the next level and beyond,” GLAAACC Chairman Gene Hale said. “Businesses that go through the program have had exponential growth. It’s like getting an executive MBA from an HBCU.”

In May, 23 new BEP graduates walked across the stage after successfully completing the nine-month curriculum. The 2024 BEP graduates span a range of industries, from tech to photography to food service to transportation and media services.

One of those graduates was Skylar Taylor, owner of Taylor Melrose, a product and brand development company, specializing in beauty, personal care and wellness. He has developed over 250 products that are sold in Dollar General, TJ Maxx and Urban Outfitters. Taylor Melrose has been featured in Vogue, GQ, Glamour and Vanity Fair.

Taylor, a creative director and graphic designer with expertise in packaging design, has worked in the tech, jewelry, cosmetic and fashion industries. After the official end of the pandemic and helping others achieve success and not being compensated, Taylor was ready to take a leap of faith and strike out on his own.

After completing an online accelerator program at Dartmouth College Tuck Business School in December 2020, Taylor didn’t know what to expect from GLAAACC BEP.

He was pleasantly surprised. Taylor said while the Dartmouth program showed him how to run a business, GLAAACC BEP had a much more comprehensive and hands-on approach.

“The best part about BEP, while informative and providing the fundamentals for business, was also the

mentorship, the actual caring, connecting, meeting you where you’re at, and holding your hand, because this process can often be daunting. That was remark-

able. That helped me in understanding the resources that could be available to help me grow.”

The generous support of



Brittany Carter



Skylar Taylor

able,” Taylor said.

Brittany Carter, owner of OBP Services, a large order food delivery logistics service that partners with chefs, caterers, and restaurants was also a 2023 – 2024 BEP graduate. Carter started OBP Services after she was approached to form a logistics service as a means to develop a franchise business. She said starting her own business was a natural progression.

Carter learned about GLAAACC BEP after attending a virtual graduation during the COVID shutdown. As a new business owner, Carter was looking at different chambers of commerce. The information from the graduation ceremony piqued her interest enough to join GLAAACC and apply for BEP.

Of the eight program modules, Carter said the module on how small business owners can use artificial intelligence as a tool had the most impact.

“The session left me feeling more empowered with a resource that could help me make my dollars go farther and also to have better management of bringing on an actual human being,” Carter said. “BEP is a great collaborative and educa-

tional space to help support businesses. It helped me in understanding the resources that could be available to help me grow.”

“We’re committed to investing in new programs and continuing to expand opportunities to further drive positive change in underserved communities,” said BEP Title sponsor T-Mobile’s Vice President of Strategic Alliances and External Affairs Clint Odom. “We’re proud to once again partner with GLAAACC to champion African American businesses,” he said.

Other BEP sponsors include presenting sponsor Wells Fargo and program sponsors JP Morgan Chase, Citizens Business Bank, Microsoft, SoCalGas, Southern California Edison, and US Bank.

BEP participants learn how to grow and scale their business, are provided with access to capital and financing, receive private business coaching, learn effective marketing, advertising and social media techniques and much more. Applications for the 2024 – 2025 BEP are currently being accepted through July 31, 2024. Visit [GLAAACC.org](http://GLAAACC.org) for more details to apply for BEP.

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# It's Bigger Than Us Provides Essential and Educational Resources in South L.A.

By SIMONE GRANT  
Contributing Writer

It's Bigger Than Us (IBTU) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is "to build stronger, more vibrant communities through meaningful programs and initiatives," and it has successfully been doing just that.

Founded by Los Angeles native Tyrone Nance, IBTU creates various pathways for communities to experience better living by promoting and advocating health equity and community engagement. The goal is to uplift the South L.A.

stating, "For my education, I attended Crenshaw High School—Go Cougars! For my undergraduate studies, I graduated from Oral Roberts University with a Bachelor's in Public Relations and later earned a Master's in Transformational Leadership from Azusa Pacific University."

His goal has always been to bridge gaps and affect positive change in his community, all while creating opportunities and support systems for those in need. This is what inspired him to create IBTU in 2020, which since then, has helped many.

10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., offering health supplies, groceries, and other central resources to families each month. The organization does not only supply the community with food, but also resources like diapers, wipes and dental supplies.

Aside from ensuring those in need have necessary essentials, IBTU also has a school-based program, Youth Community Builders, designed to address the needs of underserved communities in South L.A.

"The program includes guided coursework, on-campus activities, guest



Tyrone Nance addresses the crowd during a recent event.

COURTESY PHOTO



Nonprofit "It's Bigger Than Us" addresses community needs with meaningful programs and initiatives.

COURTESY PHOTO

community by addressing fundamental human needs and fostering sustainable growth.

Nance was born and raised in South Los Angeles - the Crenshaw district specifically. He describes his childhood as "blessed" having learned to play organized basketball at the Crenshaw YMCA and building a strong faith community at West Angeles C.O.G.I.C.

"I spent a lot of time connecting with the youth in my neighborhood, many of whom I still communicate with today," he said.

He continued proudly,

"The need for more civic engagement and volunteer opportunities addressing education advocacy, food insecurity and lack of resources in South L.A. was evident. The tipping point was seeing children and families go without essential resources and proper meals, struggling to make ends meet. This motivated me to create an organization that not only provides physical sustenance but also fosters hope, health and happiness in the community," Nance explained.

IBTU hosts weekly food and resource distributions in Leimert Park from



Many people have benefitted from programs offered by the nonprofit.

COURTESY PHOTO

speaker sessions, and field trips centered on self-development, higher education, career planning, health and wellness, and community service," Nance stated.

"By engaging students in real-world learning and

community service, we aim to boost their academic performance and personal growth."

The program also encourages parental involvement with their 8-week engagement initiative to bridge the gap between schools and families. In doing so, Youth Community Builders aims to improve student performance and foster stronger community connections.

"The Young Community Builders program equips students with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to become proactive, com-

passionate, and responsible community members."

Nance and IBTU does many wonderful things for the community, but one thing he is most proud of is the continued growth of their "Back 2 School Festival."

"The event features tons of family-friendly activities and entertainment, making it a highlight of our community outreach."

Nance told the Sentinel that the community can get involved by volunteering at

their weekly food distributions and monthly events, calling volunteers essential to their operations. Volunteers help with setting up, distributing food and necessities, engaging with community members, and more. Those who are in need of services can show up to any of the IBTU distribution events where they provide groceries and resources on a first-come, first-served basis.

IBTU is dedicated to making the community a better place for all. Their endless hard work and dedication has provided food and resources for thousands of students, families, and community members.

"I'd like to emphasize that IBTU is more than just an organization; it's a movement driven by the collective efforts of our community," Nance highlighted. "We're always looking for new ways to expand our impact and welcome anyone who wants to join us in making a difference."

More information on volunteering, receiving services, and on IBTU can be found at [www.itsbiggerthanusla.org](http://www.itsbiggerthanusla.org) or by emailing [info@itsbiggerthanusla.org](mailto:info@itsbiggerthanusla.org).










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• DR. MAULANA KARENGA •

# The Music and Magic of Blackness: The Centering and Sustaining Beauty of Soul

This is Black Music Month and we share again these sensitivities, thoughts and practice of Blackness as music and magic at the highest and deepest level. It is good to sing and celebrate ourselves, to dance in honor of the divine spark and specialness within each of us, and to rejoice in the midst of the sacred music we together make in the many ways we love, work and struggle to do and share good in the world.

But our celebrations must always be rooted in and reflective of our own agency, our own image and own interests. So, in our celebration of Black Music Month or any other of our holidays, let us not find ourselves raising and praising the name of others rather than ourselves.

Indeed, let us praise our people from whose rich and most ancient culture comes all the good we create and share with the world. Thus, we raise and praise the names of Kenny Gamble and Leon Huff, master songwriters and architects of the Philadelphia sound of soul and Gamble's then wife and partner, Dyana Williams, media strategist and coach, journalist, radio personality and activist, and others of the Black Music Association they founded in 1978.

They conceived and carried the idea and project of Black Music Month forward, lobbied two U.S. presidents, Carter and Clinton, to recognize it nationally, and organized musicians, producers, managers, DJ's, businesspersons, and others to bring it into celebratory being.

Although we celebrate June as Black Music Month, every day and hour is an open space for making and celebrating our music. We do it not only in writing, playing and performing of sounds and songs. But also,

we do it in the way we live our lives, do our work and wage our daily struggles.

At the heart and center of these struggles is the overarching struggle to be ourselves and free ourselves, and hold on to and constantly expand our humanity under the most inhumane and dehumanizing conditions. This celebration of our music and ourselves is in the righteous and upraising rhythms of our beautiful Blackness and in the melodies and harmonies of our togetherness, our loving and sharing good.

It is important to note that when we talk of the beauty, music, magic and miracle of Blackness, we are using a synonym for our Africanness. For Black is a colloquial term for the color, culture and consciousness that speaks to our being African. Being African is actively appreciating and honoring our unique and equally valid and valuable way of being human in the world.

As I've said before, it is the self-defining and particular cultural way we live our lives and open ourselves up to love; dance and do music; practice our faith traditions; cherish and challenge our children; fiercely fight for freedom; constantly seek justice; delight in doing good and walk gently in peace, but with dignified defiance in the practice of resistance.

For Blackness is not only an identity, but also a duty defined by that identity. Indeed, we are a soul people in radically evil oppression and relentless struggle to end it. Our identity, then, is also one born in struggle, a dignity-affirming, live-enhancing, world-preserving liberation struggle. Therefore, in the 1960s, we raised up the reaffirmation of the beauty of our human-

ity and Africanness in the declarations "Black is Beautiful" and "I'm Black and I'm Proud." We defi-



DR. MAULANA KARENGA

antly put forth the prophecy and pursued the promise and practice of freedom with the battlecry "Liberation Is Coming From A Black Thing."

At the heart and center of the music, magic and miracle of our Blackness is this rich and generative notion and reality of soul. We use the term in at least five basic ways: as a spiritual concept; a defining Black character trait and spirit; a category of cultural distinctiveness; an expression of the beauty and depthfulness of our being and becoming; and a measure and standard of African excellence.

In the Sixties, I defined soul as an inner sense of ourselves defined by creativity, sensitivity, and impulse. This speaks to our capacity to conceive and create magic and miracles, beauty and meaning in the midst of ugliness and meaninglessness, and to develop and defend free space in the midst of unfreedom. It speaks also to our depth of feeling, a sensitivity to others, to beauty and good, but also to human suffering and

a will to end it. The notion of soul speaks also to a creative and sensitive impulse also called improvisation. But I want to keep the word impulse which suggests a spontaneous urge and natural inclination to act in beautiful, creative and sensitive ways in art, love and life in general.

In other words, soul is an internal creative capacity, a centering and sustaining spirit and inner strength that undergirds our resilience and resourcefulness, our adaptive vitality and human durability in the face of the most radical evil, injustice, and oppression. It is in this context that we recognize the Divine presence in and with us as our ancestors taught. And in the depth of our appreciation of the unbreakable spirit within us, we give it a spiritual interpretation.

Thus, when we look back over all we've encountered and overcame and rejoiced in it, we are amazed at the miracles and magic we've made and yet giving due honor to the Divine in us and with us, as the ancestors used to say. This is the message and meaning of Sis. Clara Ward's instructive sacred praise song, called gospel, "How I Got Over." She says and sings, and we wonder with her: "My soul looks back and wonders how I got over." And she thinks and thanks the Divine.

Soul is—also and above all in its most definitive, distinctive and inclusive sense—a cultural concept. It speaks not only to the depth of our spirituality, but is a defining Black character trait and spirit which undergirds, infuses

and informs our being and constant becoming. We are again a soul people, soul men and women, soul sisters and brothers.

We call our food soul food, our music soul music, our Sunday forums on life and struggle soul sessions, and we designate our preaching, teaching and talking good as soulful. Curtis Mayfield assures us that no matter what happens "We got soul and everybody knows, it's all right."

Thus, we see soul not only as defining us, our music and way of life, but as a distinctiveness of peoplehood and personhood. It is one of the characteristics that makes us distinct without needing to claim superiority. It speaks to and reaffirms our unique and equally valid and valuable way of being African and human in the world.

It is this special distinction of peoplehood and culture that we treasure greatly and defend against the imitations of our lives and the appropriations of our culture by others in exploitative and insensitive ways.

The notion and expression of soul in our music or our lives in general also speaks of the depthfulness and beauty of our Blackness as both being and becoming, ever striving to come into the constantly expanding fullness of ourselves. I speak here of a centering and sustaining soulfulness as expressive beauty. By expressive beauty I mean to indicate a meaningful and moving beauty, revealing and reaffirming, eloquent, artistic and evocative, sensitive and suggestive of the good.

This soulful expressive-ness can be shared with or without words, sounds or even symbols. It can reveal itself in the music we make in loving close or simply be naturally embodied in the goodness and sacredness of ourselves, as a site of witness and wonder.

When I talk of the centering and sustaining beauty of soul, I conceive and engage beauty in the African sense as expressed in the ancient Egyptian word, *neferu*, the Zulu word, *ubuhle*, and the Swahili word, *uzuri*, all of which mean both beauty and goodness. To talk of the beauty of soul is to speak not only of what is aesthetically pleasing to our senses, but also what is ethically pleasing to our sense of the good.

Thus, the beauty and Blackness of our soul, and ultimately ourselves, must always be demonstrated and reaffirmed in the goodness we do, shared in righteous and relentless struggles and achievements in the world. In this sense, soul is also ultimately a standard and measure of our excellence in every sense of the word.

*Dr. Maulana Karenga, Professor and Chair of Africana Studies, California State University-Long Beach; Executive Director, African American Cultural Center (Us); Creator of Kwanzaa; and author of Kwanzaa: A Celebration of Family, Community and Culture and Essays on Struggle: Position and Analysis, www.AfricanAmericanCulturalCenter-LA.org; www.OfficialKwanzaaWebsite.org; www.MaulanaKarenga.org.*

• MARC MORIAL, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE •

## Why Every American Should Celebrate Juneteenth

Juneteenth originated in the June 19, 1865, federal proclamation that Major General Gordon Granger brought with him when he arrived in Galveston to take command of federal troops deployed to enforce the emancipation of its enslaved population and oversee Reconstruction.

But it is a narrow view that recognizes Juneteenth simply as a commemoration of the end of legal slavery in the United States. After all, slavery did not officially end and slavery did not end in Kentucky and Delaware until December 1865, when the 13th Amendment was ratified.

We could view Juneteenth, instead of an end, as a beginning, the birth of possibility and freedom for Black Americans to advance and live as full citizens of the U.S. But the end of Reconstruction and the dawn of Jim Crow crushed that possibility for nearly a century, until passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

What, then, does Juneteenth represent at this moment in history, when we are in the midst of the most vicious backlash against racial justice in generations? Since 2023, at least 85 anti-DEI bills have been introduced in 28 states and the U.S. Congress, with 14 being signed into law. The "Dismantle DEI Act," a bill introduced by Ohio Senator J.D. Vance, would disband DEI programs and sever fund-

ing for any related initiatives at the federal level. Teachers are afraid to teach American history or even acknowledge systemic and historic racism. Well-funded anti-racial justice activists are flooding the

resents hope. It represents persistence. It represents the ongoing journey of a flawed nation fitfully striving to live up to the promise of its founding premise: a more perfect Union.

In 2021, for the first



Marc H. Morial

courts with lawsuits intended to keep the gates of authority and influence locked tight against Black women and other marginalized people.

To me, Juneteenth rep-

resents hope. It represents persistence. It represents the ongoing journey of a flawed nation fitfully striving to live up to the promise of its founding premise: a more perfect Union. In 2021, for the first

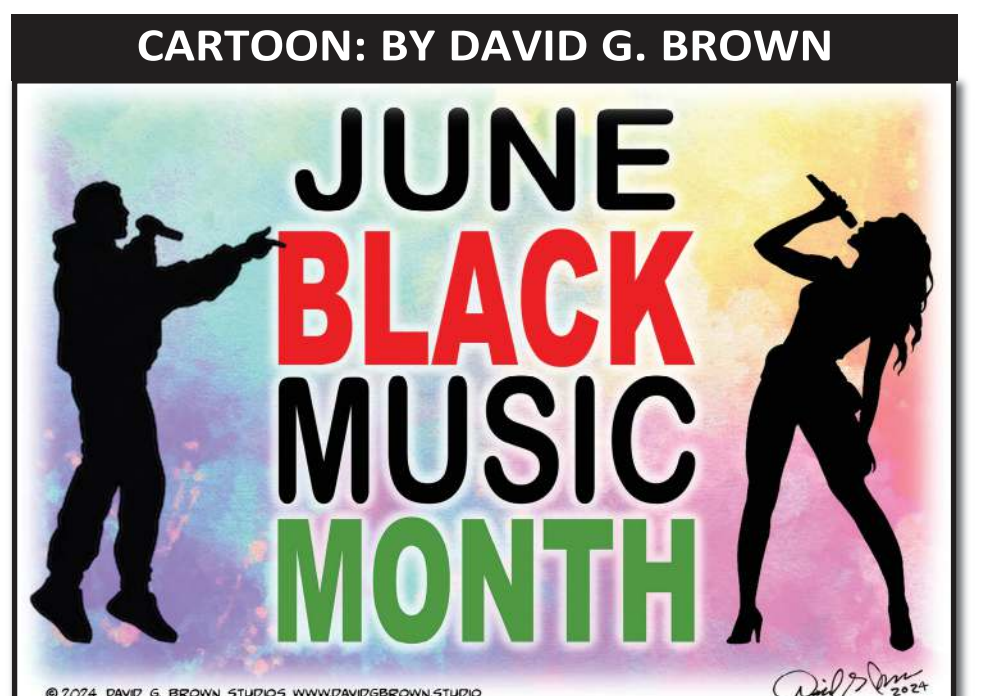
advancing equity for all, including people of color and others who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality."

Juneteenth is an opportunity to honor ourselves and our progress as a nation, allowing our optimism to flourish for the future of civil and human rights we are building every day.

While Juneteenth is a celebration, it is also still a fight. It will always be a reminder and example of what has been done, and can be done for equality, pushing us harder and further in our advocacy.

We will continue staying vigilant and empowering one another to ensure our future.

*Marc Morial is the president and CEO of the National Urban League.*



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# Coach Wendy

Life Strategist / Consultant  
Author / Speaker

## Remembering a Gentle Giant

My professional career started over three decades ago in the field of event management and community relations. One of the clients I had the privilege of working with was the historical Southern Christian Leadership Conference of Los Angeles (SCLC-LA).

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference is a civil rights organization originally founded by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Ralph Abernathy, Bayard Rustin, and Fred Shuttlesworth. One of SCLC's

goals was to help with, "Redeeming the Soul of America."

The SCLC chapter in Los Angeles was very strong and had deep ties in the community. One of the leaders involved in SCLC was Reverend James Lawson.

One day, I was in the SCLC-LA offices as I was preparing for a meeting to kick off King Week in the city of Los Angeles. During the meeting, a gentleman walked in who I did not know, at the time, and he was talking to various



people, interrupting my meeting with the various members present. I asked this gentleman politely if he could please refrain from talking and to please take a seat.

Everyone in the room turned in amazement and started looking at me because that gentleman was Rev. Lawson. He just looked at me and then took a seat. Afterwards, when I learned who he was, I went up to him to apologize and that I did not mean to overstep.

He stopped and looked at me straight in my eyes

and said, "I would never be upset for someone trying to do their job and do it well." I never forgot that day and, to me, he became a giant among men, but gentle as a servant of God.

Over the years, I got to know Rev. Lawson much better. For a period, he was the pastor of Holman United Methodist Church in Los Angeles and as an event planner, I had clients who held various community events at Holman, and we would run into each other. It was also the location for the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Prayer Breakfast with the National Council of Christians and Jews (NCCJ) that I organized for several years.

Once we became acquainted, it seemed like we would run into each other across the city at various functions and he would just nod at me and I would just smile. He could have broken my spirit the first day we met, yet he chose to encourage me in

my journey and that has stayed with me even to this day.

Rev. Lawson was a man of many talents. He not only was an advocate for nonviolence, but he was also an author, speaker and pastor. He was sought out by many as a lecturer regarding the civil rights movement, but what really speaks to me and will continue to have a lasting effect on me, personally, was his commitment to the teachings of Gandhi and peacefully making a difference in the world.

Rev. Lawson walked among many giants such as the Honorable John Lewis, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Little Rock Nine to name a few, but he always seemed to maintain a spirit of humility. He may have come from the South, but he eventually made Los Angeles his home.

I am truly grateful because it gave me the chance to meet and walk with someone who stood

up to help not only me but so many others to have a better life. Thank you, Rev. Lawson, for heeding the call given to you by God to sow into mankind and help make the world a better place. Your legacy will live on, and your works are appreciated.

Rev. Lawson once said, "The politics of Jesus and the politics of God are that people should be fed, that people should have access to life, that people should be treated equally and justly."

Sounds like good advice still today. What will be your calling card in life as to the difference you were able to make to help make the world a better place?

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Visit [www.WendyGladney.com](http://www.WendyGladney.com) and [www.forgivingforliving.org](http://www.forgivingforliving.org) to learn more. Wendy is a life strategist, coach, consultant, author, and speaker.

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### "Abominable"

Abominable may be applied to that which is morally repulsive, that which is detestable, that which the One Almighty God does not tolerate. God is so patient. He waited hundreds, thousands of years, and in a timeless range before He decided to send forth His only "begotten" son.

Jesus was "begotten before the world...born in the world." Elohim taking creature form to create as He later took human form (flesh) to redeem. We have here "creation" and redemption" combined in Christ (Revelation 4:11; 5:9). Therefore, you can say, "He is all and all," and He is all in all; the eternal.

Everything is held together by Him and by Him everything consists.

We, then, those of us who are believers, are the salt of the earth. When we live and walk in His pathway by His wisdom, we are ahead of the game—so to speak. Proverbs in speaking about wisdom says, "The Lord possessed me (acquired me by a definite act...before His works of old." (Proverbs 8:22).

Now, we know God didn't create evil. Right. We know that. A questioning mind might ask, "Well why did he create the tree of knowledge which exuded good and not good? Because He is omnipresent,

omniscient and omnipotent.

He doesn't see as man sees. His vision is all encompassing where His view is all-seeing, all-knowing and all-powerful. He created everything by His creative power. Nothing goes beyond His view, knowing all and seeing all at one instance in time.

He is out of time. We are in time and He allows us to use time. Because He is who He is, being perfect with all knowledge, He detests that which is morally impure. He is jealous and rejects the detestable. He is before all things. Why do we keep aggravating God by making decisions that oppose His God-

liness. He was, is and is to come (futuristic) in all his unlimited dimensions.

We have the answer now to guide us into all truth. No need to search for imaginary monster-like creatures, which walk upright, huge in stature, man like face, hairy all over the body of the beast....forget all the fantasy and get to "the real real."

There comes a time, which is close at hand and addresses the "abomination desolation." What is it? Matthew talks about it in Matthew 24:15. Daniel brings it up in Daniel 8:13; 9:27; 11:31; 12:11. Daniel's visions in the scriptures relate to the time of the end and relationship between now and the end, a part of which is "the abomination of desolation."

What is this "abomination of desolation" that gets set up? This detestable, most immoral, grotesque image has been defined as "a special idol that brings on God's desolating judgments." In other words, man has gone too far in attempting to make himself God through his pride, arrogance and self-worshipping

attitude and acts.

Remember Nimrod? He failed. Remember Haman and his hatred for the Jews, determined to kill them all off? He failed. Remember the Amalekites who would not allow the Hebrews to pass through as they were journeying to escape from Egypt? The Amalekites failed and they were plagued from generation to generation. Remember Saul, first king of the Israel? The Prophet Samuel had given him instructions to "wait" for him to offer the sacrifice. Saul decided to usurp the office of the priesthood, knowing he was not in the rank or office of priesthood or prophet. He lost his kingship because he agreed with the people instead of listening to the prophet.

This abomination which brings judgment can also be related to Jesus taking the scroll from the One who sat on the throne - "The lamb which was standing." Jesus prevailed as the only one worthy to take the book (scroll) and open the seals which are the judgments God has decided shall be unleashed

in a time of His own timing.

This brings us to a time when we will begin to see the beginnings or shadows of things to come. It's not by coincidence the things which are "now" taking place. The scriptures are clear that "judgment will begin at the house of God." Get ready and stay ready and stay prayed up without ceasing.

Thanks for reading! Jeanette Grattan Parker is the founder-superintendent of Today's Fresh Start Charter School, 4514 Crenshaw Boulevard, L.A. 90043, 323-293-9826, [www.todaysfreshstart.org](http://www.todaysfreshstart.org). (Ask Dr. Jeanette TM) "Inquiring Minds Want to Know." All articles are copyright. All rights reserved © Errors? Or Questions? Please let me know. Join Sundays for music and message at 11:30 a.m. by calling (712) 775-8971, code 266751. Don't stop praying and hoping. References: The Holy Bible, New American Standard, Daniel 7-12. "Today is another great day to do good and be successful."

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# LISC Hosts LA's Art of Resilience Luncheon

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

On June 12, Local Initiatives Support Corporation Los Angeles (LISC LA) hosted "The Art of Resilience," an exclusive power lunch and networking event at Hotel Indigo in downtown Los Angeles. The event was attended by 60 guests who came out for an inspiring afternoon celebrating the resilience of entrepreneurs and the transformative impact of LISC LA's Asset Building for Communities of Color (ABC) program.

Attendees included local small business owners and several prominent community and economic development leaders, including Mario Holten (Wells Fargo), Jason Foster (Destination Crenshaw), Rudy Espinoza (Inclusive Action for the City), Delphine Pruitt (US Bank), Delmy Martinez (City First Bank), Matthew Gates (In The Building Media), and Austin Curry (Curry Impact Fund).

The program began with a warm welcome from emcee and tech exec/entrepreneur Safiya Jihan Adams, who set the stage by highlighting the importance of resilience in entrepreneurship. Attendees were then greeted by LISC LA Executive Director



From left are Safiya Jihan Adams, Nicole Williams, and Christina Elmore at the LISC event.

Nicole Williams and Deputy Director Krista Phipps, who expressed their gratitude to sponsors and partners.

The highlight of the event was a panel discussion featuring two extraordinary entrepreneurs: Rosario Calatayud-Serna, founder of Art Space Huntington Park, and Ariell Ilunga, founder of Carla's Fresh Market.

Moderated by LISC LA Program Officers Sabin

Kim and Diana Reyes, the panel delved into the challenges and triumphs of these resilient business owners. Rosario and Ariell shared their journeys, the barriers they faced in accessing flexible capital before the ABC program, and how the program's support helped them achieve significant milestones.

Rosario, whose consulting agency and creative space use the arts to

inspire community creativity, spoke about overcoming obstacles as an emerging business owner in Southeast Los Angeles and how the ABC program's flexible capital enabled her to sustain and grow her business. Ariell, a former NYC fashion publicist turned food entrepreneur, shared how her passion for local, BIPOC food markers led to the creation of Carla's Fresh Market and how the

program helped her establish a brick-and-mortar presence, which recently opened in Highland Park.

Following the panel and lunch, attendees were treated to a special fireside chat between Nicole Williams and Christina Elmore, an entrepreneur and actor who starred in "Insecure" and HBO's "Girls on the Bus." During the chat, she reflected on her life's trajectory, the challenges of pursuing a

career in acting and running a business while raising a family, the importance of stepping outside your comfort zone, and taking risks in life.

The event concluded with inspiring words from Jason Foster, CEO of Destination Crenshaw.

L.A. County small businesses can learn more about LISC eligibility requirements at <https://www.lisc.org/los-angeles/abc-fund/>.

<b>Public Notices</b>	<b>Public Notices</b>	<b>Public Notices</b>	<b>Public Notices</b>	<b>Public Notices</b>	<b>Public Notices</b>	<b>Public Notices</b>
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Vendor Portal at <https://business.metro.net> or for further information email Joshua Haskins at [haskinsj@metro.net](mailto:haskinsj@metro.net).  
6/20/24  
CNS-3822312#  
LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
Notice is given that proposals for the Exclusive Franchise Contracts for the Areas of Bassett/Valinda/San Jose Hills/West Puente Valley, Charter Oak/Covina, La Crescenta/Montrose, Rowland Heights/South Diamond Bar, South San Gabriel/Whittier Narrows, and South & West Whittier/East La Mirada/Los Nietos/Sunshine Acres (BR0000446) will be received per the instructions listed on the RFP until 5:30pm, Monday, July 22, 2024. There will be an optional online Proposers' Conference on Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 10am. To participate, proposers will need to sign in using the electronic sign-in sheet accessible at the following link: <https://pw.lacounty.gov/contracts/opportunities.aspx>. The estimated total annual contract amount for Bassett/Valinda/San Jose Hills/West Puente Valley is \$5,102,000, Charter Oak/Covina is \$2,742,000, La Crescenta/Montrose is \$2,216,000, Rowland Heights/South Diamond Bar is \$4,469,000, South San Gabriel/Whittier Narrows is \$963,000, and South & West Whittier/East La Mirada/Los Nietos/Sunshine Acres is \$9,390,000. Instructions for accessing the RFP document are available at the following link: <http://pw.lacounty.gov/brodservicecontracts> or may be mailed to you upon request by calling (626) 458-7167 or TDDat(626) 282-7829.  
6/20/24  
CNS-3821781#  
LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL RAIL AUTHORITY**  
RFF NO. SP620.25  
ON-TRAIN DISPLAY  
ADVERTISING AND MEDIA INSTALLATION  
The Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA) is seeking proposals for On-Train Display Advertising and Media Installation. Proposal documents may be downloaded at SCRRA's website at <http://www.metroinktrains.com/contracts>. Proposals are due on 07/09/2024. For further information contact: Melissa Cousart, Contract and Compliance Administrator, at [cousartm@scrra.net](mailto:cousartm@scrra.net).  
6/20/24  
CNS-3817595#  
LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

## PROBATE

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: GEORGE ERNEST CHAMBERS AKA GEORGE E. CHAMBERS CASE NO. 24STPB06482**

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of GEORGE ERNEST CHAMBERS AKA GEORGE E. CHAMBERS. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by IRMA LEE ROBERTSON-CHAMBERS in the Superior Court of

California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that IRMA LEE ROBERTSON-CHAMBERS be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act with limited authority. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 07/12/24 at 8:30AM in Dept. 62 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. In Pro Per Petitioner IRMA LEE ROBERTSON-CHAMBERS 654 W 62ND ST LOS ANGELES CA 90044 6/13, 6/20, 6/27/24 CNS-3822460# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: LAURA ELIZABETH CLEVELAND CASE NO. 24STPB06102**

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of LAURA ELIZABETH CLEVELAND. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by RYAN

CLEVELAND in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that RYAN CLEVELAND be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 06/28/24 at 8:30AM in Dept. 29 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for Petitioner DIMITRIY ARISTOV - SBN 298467 FORWARD ESTATE PLANNING A LAW CORPORATION 222 N PACIFIC COAST HWY STE 2000 EL SEGUNDO CA 90245 Telephone (424) 259-3350 6/13, 6/20, 6/27/24 CNS-3821974# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

**AMENDED NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: EDITH F. PARKER CASE NO. 24STPB05798**

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of

EDITH F. PARKER. AN AMENDED PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by DENISE ROUNDS in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE AMENDED PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that DENISE ROUNDS be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE AMENDED PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 06/28/24 at 8:30AM in Dept. 44 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. In Pro Per Petitioner VANESSA L. DAVIS 6423 S. SHERBOURNE DR. LOS ANGELES CA 90056 6/6, 6/13, 6/20/24 CNS-3820732# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: JAMES HATHAWAY AKA JAY HATHAWAY CASE NO. 24STPB05890**

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of

otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of LORETTA L. TAYLOR. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by VANESSA L. DAVIS in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that VANESSA L. DAVIS be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 06/24/24 at 8:30AM in Dept. 62 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. In Pro Per Petitioner VANESSA L. DAVIS 6423 S. SHERBOURNE DR. LOS ANGELES CA 90056 6/6, 6/13, 6/20/24 CNS-3820732# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: GILBERTO FIGUEROA MONTANEZ CASE NO. 23STPB12465**

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of

HATHAWAY. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by SUSAN BEK in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that SUSAN BEK be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 06/24/24 at 8:30AM in Dept. 4 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for Petitioner ROBERT M. BASKIN, ESQ. - SBN 65149 LAW OFFICE OF ROBERT M. BASKIN 1849 KNOLL DRIVE VENTURA CA 93003 TELEPHONE: (805) 658-1000 6/6, 6/13, 6/20/24 CNS-3819718# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: GILBERTO FIGUEROA MONTANEZ CASE NO. 23STPB12465**

To all heirs, beneficiaries,

creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of GILBERTO FIGUEROA MONTANEZ. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by HUGO F. MONTANEZ in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that HUGO F. MONTANEZ be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. THE WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 07/02/24 at 8:30AM in Dept. 99 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. In Pro Per Petitioner HUGO F. MONTANEZ 7614 STANDORD AVENUE LOS ANGELES CA 90001 6/6, 6/13, 6/20/24 CNS-3819469# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: GILBERTO FIGUEROA MONTANEZ CASE NO. 23STPB12465**

To all heirs, beneficiaries,

# BMO RECEPTION {Continued from A-1}

ted and passionate about working and helping in our community,” said Danny J. Bakewell, Jr., L.A. Sentinel executive editor and president of The Bakewell Company.

“We have someone here today from every aspect of our community, from housing development to education,” he noted. Public officials in attendance represented the surrounding cities of Hawthorne, Inglewood, Compton, Los Angeles and Long Beach.

Danny J. Bakewell, Sr., L.A. Sentinel executive publisher and chairman of The Bakewell Company, greeted the crowd as he endorsed BMO’s mission of giving back to people of color. While Bakewell’s Taste of Soul festival, now in its 19th year, attracts people of all ethnicities, he made clear that his focus was connecting Black people.

“If you want to get with the Latino community, I’m not your guy, but if you want to connect to Black people, come see me,” said Bakewell, Sr., a veteran social justice activist and

longtime advocate of the African American community.

Mayor Karen Bass initially contacted Bakewell, Sr. about hosting the event. She mentioned to Hackett the Sentinel’s tradition of hosting events that support networking within the Black community.

“I called Danny right away after I met Daryl to say that our community needs to know who he is and needs to know about BMO. We have a stadium! You’ve watched the commercials. The idea is that you have two African American men who are at the center of this bank, we needed to know that,” she said.

Hackett says the company has invested millions to brand BMO bank. “We even had to put our name on a stadium, as well as all the marketing out here to make that happen. And it’s meaningful to us,” he said.

He suggests to the attendees that BMO is a different type of bank. “That’s really hard to say to people, you have to experience as you’re working with us, as you see



BMO President Darrel Hackett addresses the crowd at the reception. At left is Danny J. Bakewell, Sr., and at right is Eric Smith, BMO vice chair.

us. But our purpose is to boldly grow the good in business and in life. The reason we reached out to the mayor is because we really want to make a difference.”

Smith was asked to share the type of programs offered. “We created a part of our

BMO empowerment group called the Economic Equity Advisory Groups. Our sole focus is to cultivate relationships with Black business from \$10 million and up revenue wise, across all the different industries,” he said.

According to Smith,

BMO will focus on providing all the banking services, from treasury management, cash management, lines of credit, lending, in addition to capital markets and investment banking.

“The focus is to make sure we’re getting the access

to capital out there because we recognize that too many small businesses don’t have the ability to cultivate a relationship with major banks. We also are very focused on increasing the pipeline of Black-owned businesses,” said Smith.

# JOANNA JACKSON {Continued from A-1}

taking, for me it’s about the risk of inaction,” said Jackson.

The newly appointed CEO shared that intentionality is a key component to her strategy in strengthening the reach of the Weingart Foundation. Jackson highlighted an evolution in the small grants program; she looked at the investments made and its longevity.

Jackson observed that bigger and more developed organizations had longer periods of support than smaller establishments and she found a way to pivot to see more balance across different sizes of facilities— in order for smaller organizations to see the same longevity in support.

Also, Jackson emphasized the impact of the Weingart Foundation,



Joanna S. Jackson

specifically during the social awakenings happening during the Summer of 2020. In response to racial injustices like the murder of George Floyd, The Weingart Foundation was fast acting in the philan-

thropic sector, according to Jackson — investing over \$5 million over a course of five years to the California Black Freedom Fund.

Describing her view as CEO of a privately owned grant-making organiza-

tion, Jackson spoke candidly about the familiar pressure and urgency to meet the demand for resources on a regional level.

“This isn’t necessarily a new pressure, it’s always been — the pressure is responding to the urgency. When I look up in our communities and I look at the level of inequity, I look at the attacks that our communities are facing, when I look at the movement that’s not happening — Black home ownership rate has barely budged since 1960 — or Black people overrepresented in the unhoused population at rates that are nearly over four times our share of the population...things are increasingly at a crisis point for our communities,” she said.

Some of her action

plans that directly speak to that pressure includes assessing the problem and finding the best way to heal the hemorrhages in underrepresented communities, in addition to entrusting the organizations that are on the frontlines, facing critical problems head on.

Jackson noted she wouldn’t be where she is today without her village of family, friends, colleagues and mentors. She highlighted her “sister presidents” like Charisse Bremond Weaver; president and CEO of Brotherhood Crusade; and Renata Simril, president and CEO of LA84 Foundation. People like Blen Vargas, former Weingart CEO and President Miguel Santana, Weingart Board member Fred Ali, Dr. Robert Ross, and Judy Belk kept Jack-

son aligned with her mission through their support.

Another assert for Jackson is her personal legacy, which is rooted in a family tree of activism. She highlighted the work of her parents, James A. Johnson and MaryLouise Patterson, alongside her grandparents, William L. Patterson and Louise Thompson Patterson.

Jackson noted her role includes building trust internally and externally through the foundation.

“I feel pressure to figure out how to make the most impactful catalytic investments for us—a direct investment in the communities that are impacted,” said Jackson.

“Ultimately we are fighting for humanity, racial justice and equity for everyone in this country.”

# LAHSA NAVIGATION CENTER {Continued from A-1}

LAHSA CEO Dr. Va Lecia Adams Kellum toured the building which has already assisted more than 200 people. The center combines LAHSA’s efforts with the city and county to address homelessness with a hands-on approach that has the potential to reshape L.A.’s rehousing system.

Bass remains resilient towards urgent solutions preparing unsheltered Angelenos with permanent housing. “When we come together with the city, county and metro, this is the way we join forces to address this problem,” said the mayor, who also serves on the Board for both LAHSA and Metro.

“For people who are unhoused, the trauma they go through on the streets every day, to be able to walk into a building like this, calling it a welcome center, truly represents what we have here, and will go a long way to getting people off the streets, saving lives.”

The facility represents a new model for interim housing that will expedite the rehousing process by addressing multiple barriers to permanent housing under one roof. Once inside, community and county partners provide mental and physical health care, employment assistance and document readiness. System navigators

also assist with documentation and transportation to appointments.

The purpose of LAHSA’s new pilot is to prepare the unhoused for permanent housing within 30 days. After the 30-day period expires, participants may be given an extension or transferred to alternative interim housing while still receiving services and housing-related support. Relocating participants allows LAHSA to maintain a steady flow of clients through the Welcome Navigation Center and ensure people remain inside. Additionally, LAHSA will conduct outreach to the local community to engage with people experiencing homelessness near the Welcome Navigation Center.

The center provides participants with support staff and wraparound services with space for up to 80 participants who have access to common areas, a laundry room, an outdoor patio, and a pet relief area. City and County departments, along with service provider partners, offer physical and mental health care as well as other support, and system navigators transport clients to appointments. Staff offers employment assistance and document readiness to expedite the clients’ journey into housing.

“It really means so

much that we’re here as an example of the collaboration that it takes to be successful in this space. This building is just one example of how LAHSA is responding to the emergency,” stated Dr. Adams Kellum.

“We have five main pillars, but that first pillar which is to respond and make sure we are in alignment with the mayor’s call for the state of emergency and the County Board of Supervisors, also saying we must address the humanitarian crisis on our streets,” she added.

“We’re here in this 24/7 welcome center. We underscore the importance of it being welcoming. The staff here is welcoming. There are outreach teams available and responding to the needs. When people come, they’re often disillusioned, hurting, and experienced a great deal of trauma. We welcome them to reevaluate their lives and get onto a path of healing.”

In addition, Mayor Bass highlighted the importance of partnering with MTA to provide spaces for the unsheltered using Metro as a refuge near the Welcome Navigation Center.

“One of the things that we’ve done on board is start ambassadors. Those are members of the community who have basic

training in identifying somebody who is unhoused,” explained Bass. “An ambassador would be on a train or in a station, they would see an unhoused person, offer them housing and then suggest that they come here.”

“Metro sees firsthand the profound impact that L.A.’s unhoused crisis has on our community with our system having become an unintended shelter for far too many individuals seeking refuge from the streets,” said Metro CEO Stephanie Wiggins.

“Having these 25 shelter beds available 24/7 at LAHSA’s Welcome Navigation Center will be a tremendous help to ensure the unhoused we encounter in our system have a safe place to stay and get connected to the services they need no matter the time of day; something that is especially important in the middle of the night when many of our trains and buses go out of service.”

The pilot program is already showing early signs of success. Since its creation last December, more than 200 people have received help from the center. To date, LAHSA has handed 12 participants keys to their permanent homes. Another 52 people are document-ready and have been relocated to

interim housing while their permanent home is assigned.

LAHSA’s Welcome Navigation Center is a step forward in LAHSA’s

endeavor to address homelessness in L.A. County better. If successful, LAHSA plans to replicate the Welcome Navigation Center across the county.



## Ten L.A. Students Awarded 2024 Bessie Morris Foundation Academic Scholarships

By CHRISTY MCNORTON  
Contributing Writer

For the third year running, the Bessie Morris Foundation, a local non-profit organization, awarded 10 scholarships.

Scholarships are awarded based on academic achievement, community involvement, future aspirations, and financial need. The recipients are at various stages on their educational journey.

Aurrie Parker and Tyree Littles, graduates of University Pathways Public Service Academy, received the NOBLE Reddick Scholarship and will attend Dillard University and Huston-Tillotson University respectively in the fall. Other high school graduate recipients attending college this fall are Adela Ruiz, UCLA; Jonae McGee, University of California, Santa Barbara; Mitchell Thomas, California State University, Fullerton; and Kennedy Mitchell-Egbo, Bucknell



Mitchell Thomas



Aurrie Parker



Kennedy Mitchell-Egbo



Jonae McGee



Tyree Littles

University. Undergraduate recipients continuing their studies are Alana Matthews, George Washington University; and Brianna Maldonado, University of California, San Diego. Karlan Arenas and Maricela Rojas both 2024 graduates of California State University, Dominguez Hills, will begin graduate studies.

Ivory Freeman founded the Bessie Morris Foundation in 2005 in memory of her grandmother, Mrs. Bessie Bernice Morris, to

provide underserved girls in Los Angeles with resources and tools to help them reach their dreams. In 2022, the Academic Scholarship program was established through a grant from the Southern California Chapter of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (SCC NOBLE). That year, four scholarships in the name of 'Mom and Pop' Riddick were awarded.

Bessie Morris Foundation expanded the scholarship program in 2023 and

for the second consecutive year is awarding ten scholars \$500 each towards their college studies.

"Even those who have been awarded financial aid may have difficulties purchasing school supplies and dorm furnishings, as funds are often not distributed until after the school session has begun. We want to help those of low-income to have the opportunity to better themselves," said Freeman.

Scholarship recipients completed an online appli-

cation, provided transcripts, proof of college acceptance, and wrote an essay about their personal circumstances. Although the foundation's programs focus on girls and young women, the academic scholarship is open to male students as well.

Bessie Morris Foundation is a Los Angeles County-based 501 (C) (3) organization founded in 2005 by Ivory Freeman. The organization is dedicated to inspiring girls and young women to realize their

dreams by emphasizing the importance of academic performance, self-esteem, self-confidence, and self-sufficiency. The foundation offers leadership development training, health education, mentorship, personal development, and character-building programs to at-risk, underprivileged girls. The organization is supported through grants and individual donations. Learn more about the organization and its programs at <https://bessiemorris.org>.

## Sheroes & Cocktails Event Recognizes Los Angeles' Prominent Female Leaders

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

The Los Angeles African American Women Political Action Committee (LAAAWPAC) will honor female leaders making significant contributions to local communities through

public service and local government roles. The Sheroes & Cocktails event will take place on June 29, at The Cameo Beverly Hills Hotel, located at 1224 Beverwil Dr., in Los Angeles.

The Sheroes & Cock-

tails 2024 event will celebrate 'Sheroes' who champion diverse causes and support the ongoing mission of bringing Black women to the forefront in roles of leadership. Attendees will enjoy live jazz music, and the company of

phenomenal individuals dedicated to making a difference.

Honorees include Assemblymember Tina McKinnor, Culver City Mayor Yasmine-Imani McMorris, and L.A. Deputy Mayor Dr. Etse-maye Agonafer. Other honorees are Yvette Chappell, co-founder and President/CEO (Ret.), African American Board Leadership Institute (AABLI); Angela Gibson-Shaw, president of the Greater Los Angeles African American Chamber of Commerce, and Yvonne Wheeler, president of the L.A. County Federation of Labor.

In addition, the event will recognize local elected



Asm. Tina McKinnor



Yvonne Wheeler

supervisors, councilmembers, Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) school board members, state assembly members, United States representa-

tives, retired elected officials, and political candidates.

To learn more, visit [www.laaawpac.org](http://www.laaawpac.org) or contact [Events@laawpac.org](mailto:Events@laawpac.org).

## California Hospital Medical Center Receives 'LGBTQ+ Equality Leader' Recognition

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Dignity Health - California Hospital Medical Center (CHMC) has been recognized as an LGBTQ+ Healthcare Equality Leader in the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's 2024 Healthcare Equality Index (HEI).

"As a mission-driven organization founded to provide care for all, providing welcoming and affirming care for LGBTQ+ patients is an important priority," shares Alina Moran, California Hospital Medical Center president and CEO.

"We know that our LGBTQ+ community has long faced barriers to accessing health care and that health inequity persists today. This recognition from HEI is a testament to the dedication of our compassionate care teams, who are committed to helping make sure that our LGBTQ+



COURTESY IMAGE

patients feel welcome, heard, and safe in our care sites every day."

The HEI is the nation's foremost benchmarking survey of healthcare facilities on policies and practices dedicated to the equitable treatment and inclusion of their LGBTQ+ patients, visitors and employees. The HEI evaluates and scores on detailed criteria falling under five central pillars: Non-discrimination and Staff Training; Patient Services and Support; Employee Benefits and Policies;

Patient and Community Engagement, and Responsible Citizenship.

In the 2024 report, among the record 1,065 healthcare facilities actively participated in the HEI 2024 survey and scoring process. California Hospital Medical Center stood out as one of the 384 institutions to achieve a top score of 100, earning the prestigious title of "LGBTQ+ Healthcare Equality Leader." This achievement underscores California Hospital's dedication to providing inclusive, compassionate care for LGBTQ+ patients and their families, addressing historical challenges in accessing healthcare.

As part of the HEI process, California Hospital underwent a comprehensive review of LGBTQ+ care policies and practices within the organization. CHMC updated dozens of policies to support LGBTQ+ health care outcomes, expanded training for staff and clinicians, updated patient forms and IT processes to better capture preferred pronouns and solicit feedback from LGBTQ+ patients, and clarified wording in employee benefits to be explicitly inclusive of LGBTQ+ employees - to name just a few examples.

For information on California Hospital Medical Center's commitment to LGBTQ+ care, visit [www.dignityhealth.org/californiahospital](http://www.dignityhealth.org/californiahospital).

## Simon Burriss: Africana Diaspora Black History Month II Crossword

### JUNETEENTH CELEBRATE!

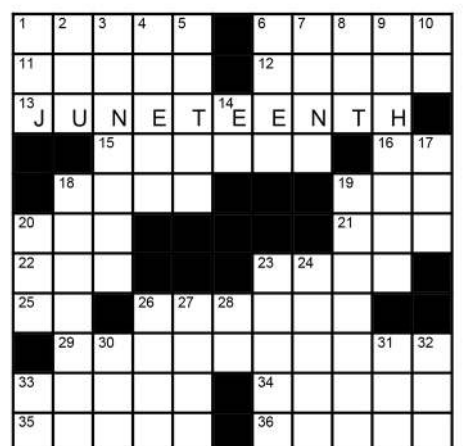
[www.simonburriss700.com](http://www.simonburriss700.com)

#### Across

- \* Black Wall Street massacre locale (1912)
- \*44th American president
- Airship
- \*\*Original JUNETEENTH state
- \*\*Theme of this puzzle
- "They will be \_\_\_ children of God" (Matt. 5:9)
- \*Hibbler, Jarreau or Roker
- \*New Jersey Senator \_\_\_ Booker
- \*Celebrated civil rights leader's monogram
- \*Buffalo \_\_\_ diers (Black cavalry troops)
- \* \_\_\_ Jordan (sneaker)
- \*"A Raisin in the \_\_\_"
- Ida Vale, Louisiana, for short
- Not out
- Alluring
- \*Famed pro-golfer (2 wds.)
- Mine product
- \*Richard \_\_\_; founder, Afr. Meth. Epis. Church (1816)
- \*40 Acres and \_\_\_ (promise made to 4 million freed slaves (1865)
- \*Singer/dancer \_\_\_ Davis, Jr.

#### Down

- Abbr. for Trial by Jury
- \*Mr. Obama's birthplace Honol \_\_\_
- \*Historically Black university (Penn.)
- Attack ad, maybe
- In a fitting way
- Dev \_\_\_ (follower)
- Curve



- T \_\_\_ IME (April 15; 2 wds.)
- \*Grammy winning gospel songstress Jackson
- \*Rev. Sharpton's monogram
- \_\_\_ Pollo Loco
- \*Like LeBron James, for one (abbr.)
- See how many there are (informally)
- \*Mr. X; Muslim human rights activist
- Government issued program
- "Sorry, \_\_\_ an accident"
- \*Actress Davis of "The Help"
- ILL \_\_\_ (unlawful)
- \_\_\_ ASE (let go)
- If not
- R \_\_\_ AL (ceremony)
- \*Like Kamala Harris or Karen Bass, so to speak (abbr.)
- Ship's plank
- \* \_\_\_ Rainey; early blues singer

(ANSWERS ON D-3)

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# 'Playdate with Dad' Father's Day Event at Baldwin Hills Recreation Center

BY SHELBY STEPHENS  
 Contributing Writer

To celebrate Father's Day, L.A. Councilwoman Heather Hutt hosted "Playdate with Dad" on Saturday, June 15, at Baldwin

and lunch along with an exciting Dad vs. Kid Derby Race with handmade and decorated slot cars. The playdate facilitated an environment to strengthen family bonds and create lasting memories.

The morning began with free breakfast from the Eastside Riders Bike Club (ESRBC), an all-volunteer grassroots bicycle club seeking to positively impact the community in areas of disparity that affect the youth: Inadequate Organized Recreational Outlets for local youth in the Watts area, a community that is rife with high rates of child obesity, asthma and other respiratory challenges amongst youth;



SHELBY STEPHENS/L.A. SENTINEL



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Camp Hutt



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Fathers at Playdate with Dad Event

Hills Recreation Center. She invited the community for a free, family-friendly event with various games, music, breakfast,

lack of Safe Passage and Travel Routes; while Watts is a very small community, there are clear gang-related boundaries and territories

that limit the movement of local youth based on where they reside; families lack the resources to purchase bikes, safety gear, and/ or other necessary equipment.

Attendees had their pick of activities from face painting, airbrush tattoos and t-shirts, Connect 4, kid-friendly axel throwing, a photobooth, and customized slot cars for the Dad v. Kid Derby Race. The South L.A. Carpenters provided a handmade wooden derby track and slot cars for the race. The South L.A. Carpenters are a sub-section of the Southwest Mountain States Carpenters Training Fund. The program is committed to maintaining the United Brotherhood of Carpenters' tradition of quality craftsmanship by providing the highest quality training to those interested in a career in various carpentry fields. Wesley Crunk, South L.A.'s coordinator was present for the event and derby races.

event as "a fun day outside with my kids. Reminds me that fathers aren't forgotten and that we matter in the community." Families that participated in park recreations also enjoyed the event throughout the day. Lunch was provided by the Habit Burger Grill.

In addition to food and games, fathers had the opportunity to receive par-

enting resources and free clothes from the Children's Institute Project Fatherhood. The institute believes the presence of nurturing fathers has a profound impact on children's health and well-being and empowers dads to build strong relationships with their children.

The councilwoman and her staff engaged with the

community and ensured all resources were utilized. "Playdate with Dad" was aimed at celebrating the special bond between fathers and their children while encouraging a sense of community.

To learn more about happenings in the Tenth District, visit City of Los Angeles Council District 10.



SHELBY STEPHENS/L.A. SENTINEL

Councilwoman Hutt with South L.A. Carpenters



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Fathers described the Slot Car Derby Winners

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## More Sure Word Midwest College of Theology Holds Commencement Ceremony

By CORA JACKSON-FOSSETT  
*Religion Editor*

A joyous audience witnessed the graduation of biblical scholars during the recent commencement ceremony of More Sure Word Midwest College of Theology (MSWMCOT) and School of Ministry (SOM).

Directed by Chancellor Dr. King Dale Felton, the college conferred degrees upon 19 students and recognized 21 graduates and enrollees in the School of Ministry. The ceremony's theme was "It's Not Optional, It's Mandatory" based on the scriptural references of Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:14-20, Luke 9:1-2, and I John 3:23 and 5:13.

The program featured



Chancellor Dr. King Dale Felton, center, and Dr. V. Renee Felton, 2nd from left, with members of the More Sure Word MCOT faculty.

music by Mikol Wilburn, a Texas-based singer-songwriter. Other program participants included Apostle Donna Edward, chancellor of MSWMCOT – San Jose Campus; Dr. V. Renee Felton, MSWMCOT vice president; and Pastor Steven Bivens, MSWMCOT faculty.

Delivering the commencement address, Chancellor Felton stressed the importance of spiritual knowledge and education to combat the "spirit of ignorance" that has "killed more than any assault weapon or disease of mankind."

"The 'Spirit of ignorance' is more powerful than the weapons of war and mass destruction," he insisted, citing Hosea 4:6 - "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou has rejected knowledge."

Felton continued,

"Ignorance has destroyed dreams, hopes, families and communities. More Sure Word College of Theology has been launched for such a time as this, to eradicate biblical illiteracy and the perpetuation of propagation of biblical ignorance and error."

Recipients of the Doctor of Theology degree were James W. Hammonds, Alisa N. Hill, Karen B. Jackson, and Venetia L. Simmons. Master of Theology graduates were Alan E. Barfield, Donna M. Edward, Robert L. Edward, Dashe Hilson, Shirley Humphrey, Felicia J. Smith, and Teresa A. Tate.

Albert D. Haynes, Fumi Ibadapo, and Barbara L. Mason received Bachelor

in Biblical Studies degrees and Dominique Campbell, Erika J. Campbell, James Davis, Ivory Hayes, and Lameisha Sherri earned Associate in Biblical Studies degrees.

School of Ministry graduates and enrollees included Yolanda Armon, Alan Barfield, Laurene Bishop, Dalecia Felton, Alicia Hamilton, James Hammonds, Mark Henley, Charles Lewis, Verrine Lewis, Amber McNeal, Christalyn Metoyer, Joseph Metoyer, Ronald Pullen, Venetia Simmons, Hurley Taylor, Ty'Brittany Thomas, Dawn Trapp, Robert Wilson, and Mika Young.

To learn more, visit [moresurewordcot.org](http://moresurewordcot.org) or call (323) 291-2159.

## Gospel Group, Basking in Resurgence, Releases First New Music in Nearly 50 Years

By MICHAEL CASEY  
*Associated Press*

She made a single gospel soul record in the 1970s with her brothers, when they were all teenagers. Then, Annie Brown Caldwell moved on with her life.

Decades later, she was running a clothing store in a tiny Mississippi town and singing on weekends with her husband and children when she got a call from a label founded by David Byrne. They wanted to add a single from her first band, the Staples Jr. Singers, to a compilation record.

That 2019 call led to more — the Luaka Bop label reissued the band's 1975 record "When Do We Get Paid," drawing rave reviews in 2022 for its raw sound and mix of blues, funk and soul. And soon the Brown siblings, now in their 60s, found themselves on a course that would make any rising pop star jealous.

Over the past four years, they flew for the first time, toured Europe four times and played hipster clubs like Brooklyn's Baby's All Right. Finally, last year, they saw a performance by Mavis Staples, whose group The Staple Singers inspired their own early sound with genre-busting, socially conscious Stax Records hits. Also a band of

siblings, they covered several of their songs.

"It's been a dream come true," said Brown Caldwell, who was 11 when she and R.C. and Edward, who were 12 and 13, co-founded The Staples Jr. Singers in 1967. They started playing in the church where their mother was a preacher and father a deacon, and toured by van around the South.

And on Friday, the Browns are releasing "Searching," their first batch of new songs in nearly 50 years, and gearing up for a tour in July to the Roskilde festival in Denmark as well as the Netherlands, Slovakia and Germany.

"It's a blessing," Brown Caldwell said. "It feels good. We are getting older and it seems the Lord just now is blessing our youth like it's brand new again."

Their resurgence began with a record collector who stumbled on their first single in a Midwest thrift store and bought it for \$1.

Greg Belson, whose gospel collection fills three rooms in Los Angeles, was intrigued that the band's name was so similar to The Staple Singers. He put "We Got a Race to Run," on a portable turntable he often brings with him, and was struck by their sound: "It sat completely in the wheel-

house of what I look for, which is specifically gospel with a soulful tinge, rather than what I would say is more classical church-based gospel," Belson said.

Yale Evelev, the president of Luaka Bop, heard Belson's radio show and pulled a compilation of 1970s gospel soul songs called "The Time for Peace is Now" from his collection. He wanted to include the Staples Jr. Singers' single, but first he had to find the band. He figured out that Annie Brown was now Annie Caldwell and called all seven listed in Mississippi.

Like Belson, Evelev was attracted to a gospel sound that isn't heard much on the radio these days. "These are soul records really," he said. "Soul records with a message. That message imbues the performance with a certain underlying intensity and honesty."

He reached Brown Caldwell on the last call.

"I never believed that this record would come up again," Brown Caldwell said. "For real though. Is this for real?"

She agreed to put the single out, but her brothers were initially resistant and they balked at reissuing "When Do We Get Paid." Only a few hundred original copies of the record exist, one of which



Siblings R.C. Brown, Annie Brown Caldwell, and Edward Brown, are original members of the Staple Jr. Singers.

Belson bought off a Milwaukee collector for \$600.

"There was a lot of family drama that was happening that had existed for a long time," Evelev said. "We kind of ended up in the middle of it, and it was a lot of back and forth and a lot of yelling at each other."

They worked it out and agreed to perform four shows in New York in 2022. Evelev heard some songs that weren't on their 1975 record and asked if they had any unreleased music. It turned out they recorded about a dozen songs in Muscle Shoals in the 1980s.

Evelev brought in Ahmed Gallab, who performs as the artist Sinkane, as a producer, and he recorded them over two nights in a Mississippi

church where they sat in a semi-circle as they played. Gallab then went to Nashville to mix it and do some overdubs, aiming to have the songs "Ring as true as possible," to when he first heard them play.

Like their first album, "Searching" weaves its gospel message with blues, guitar and influences ranging from boogaloo to swamp music to rhythm and blues to soul.

A world-weariness comes through in songs like the lead track, "Living In This World Alone," with Brown Caldwell lamenting how she misses her mother and tries to "live free from sin" without her.

"I can listen to their voices and hear the stories that

they're talking about and really understand them," Gallab said. "That's the one thing that's really sets them apart, especially when Annie sings. She's just telling you a story."

The band members — now four generations of the Brown family — shrug off their newfound celebrity. On the latest record, R.C. plays guitar and the two other siblings sing. Edward's son sings backing vocals, R.C.'s son plays bass and R.C.'s grandson plays drums.

They still live in Aberdeen, a town of 5,000 along the Tombigbee River where they grew up and where Edward and R.C. retired from factory jobs. All three insist their mission remains the same as it was all those years ago — to spread the word of God and inspire listeners to follow his path.

Edward Brown said he rarely hears anything good on the radio anymore and worries about younger generations turning to gun violence. So he is doing his part by singing and trying to "touch people" with his life story.

"You have to do what God said do," he said. "When I hit the stage, I tell the Lord, 'take self out, You take over.' I just give it all to him and do what he wants me to do."

## Faith and Fortitude — How Black Muslims' Core Values Can Transform the Racial Wealth Landscape

By DR. QUIANA M. SHAMSID-DEEN  
*DSW, LMSW, Exe. Dir. Supreme Family Foundation Assoc. Prof., Georgia State University*

In order to encourage economic empowerment, the Nation of Islam (NOI) put a strong emphasis on business education and financial literacy. They founded a national bank in 1973 with offices in



Dr. Quiana M. Shamsid-Deen

like small business loans and credit cards that were especially suited to their members' requirements.

The Nation of Islam also aimed to establish member-run cooperatives and small businesses in order to foster a culture of economic self-sufficiency. They established Muhammad Speaks Music Group, their own record company, to release albums from various rap and R&B artists. In terms of economic justice and self-sufficiency, the Nation of Islam has left a significant legacy, and its teachings are still applicable today.

In order to build a sustainable business that generates jobs and supports the neighborhood economy, Black Muslim entrepreneur Khalilah Beavers opened the Halal Soulfood restaurant in New York City in 2019. She did this by drawing on Islamic principles of economic justice.

Meals were donated to food banks, homeless shelters and other charitable organizations as a result of Beavers' dedication to social responsi-

bility.

The development of impact investment funds are another instance of how Black Muslims have applied these ideas. The Black Muslim Investment Group (BMIG) is an African American-led investment fund that focuses on delivering financial returns while also achieving positive social and environmental impact.

The BMIG has made investments in companies in a variety of sectors, including technology, healthcare, education and renewable energy. They support sustainability while also fostering economic opportunity within their community by utilizing their resources to invest in companies that share their values.

Through the concept of Zakat, an obligatory act of charity and one of Islam's Five Pillars, Islamic principles can be used to combat the structural causes of the racial wealth gap. By requiring people to donate a portion of their wealth to the less fortunate, zakat promotes eco-

nomonic justice by providing a source of income for those who are in need.

If properly implemented, this system can help lessen economic inequality by redistributing wealth among the various social classes. Islamic principles also place a strong emphasis on racial and class-neutral solidarity among all members of society; this idea of universal equality under God serves as a foundation for opposing systemic racism and advancing equality for all.

Last but not least, Islamic banking practices like the ban on interest can act as an alternative to conventional banking systems, which have been accused of fostering racial socioeconomic inequality.

Islamic banking can increase access to financial services for minorities, who frequently lack access to traditional banking services due to income inequality. Islamic banking does this by providing an ethical framework for lending money without charging interest.

It's no longer a choice but an obligation to take the current economic state of our community into consideration. We need to be aware of the influence of our purchasing power and support the policies that influence the expansion of the local economy. We should not rely on the government or corporate entities to bring about change in our communities.

However, we should hold them responsible and have a plan in place for how to make amends for their wrongdoing. It is our responsibility to ensure that we are championing the idea of contributing to capital reinvestment in our community in order to ensure its expansion and prosperity for coming generations.

The racial wealth gap nonetheless persists, so Black Muslims must keep advocating for measures to address the causes of inequality in order to close the gap. Black Muslims can regain the self-assurance to take charge of their financial destinies and build a new world for them-

selves and future generations by relying on these principles and upholding this legacy.

If our voices are included in the global dialogue, our vision of equality can take shape; however, without first addressing injustice at home, we won't be able to make real progress on a global scale. We've waited too long; it's time for us to take control and turn survival into thriving!

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This article originally appeared in *The Muslim Journal*.

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# ENTERTAINMENT

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## L.A. Honors The Whispers for Contributions to R&B and Soul Music

BY LILA BROWN  
Contributing Writer

There were flashbacks to the days of Soul Train during a special presentation at Los Angeles City Hall in celebration of Black Music Month. Councilwoman Heather Hutt (CD 10) presented The Whispers with a certificate of recognition on June 14 for its legendary contributions to the genres of R&B and Soul.

The Whispers are an American vocal group from Los Angeles, California who are known for their hit records since the late 1960s, earning them two platinum and five gold albums by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA).

The original members included identical twin brothers Wallace "Scotty" and Walter Scott, along with Gordy Harmon, Marcus Hutson, and Nicholas Caldwell. Known for hit records, such as "And the Beat Goes on" (1979) and "Rock Steady" (1987), the group has made a huge impact on soul, pop, jazz, and disco genres and is known to be one of the world's longest running vocal groups.

"For more than 50

years, The Whispers have created timeless hits that have brought joy to our homes, hearts and ears," said Hutt.

California more than 50 years ago attending Jordan High School and [living in] the Jordan Downs projects. I'm so proud of that," he stated.

(CD 9) discussed the cultural impact of how music from The Whispers gave good vibes during troubling times in the local communi-

In more praise of Black music, Councilwoman Hutt also honored JazzZone Jazzabration, Inc., a nonprofit dedicated to creating and

June 18, she spearheaded recognition of Debbie Allen, Norman Nixon, and the Debbie Allen Dance Academy (DADA) to mark the city's Juneteenth celebrations.

Allen is a legendary actress, dancer, choreographer, and director and her husband, Nixon, is a former NBA player and DADA co-founder. Allen shared her deep appreciation and joy by stating, "It is a blessing to have this mission to have a real purpose in life, to have a purpose that you feel not only the wind beneath your wings but the support of this incredible family, this incredible community."

Expressing gratitude to Allen, Nixon, and DADA for their remarkable impact on the community, Hutt said, "We want to thank Debbie for being a true inspiration to our entire community. Thank you for your dedication to not only your craft but to the entire community."

"On behalf of the Los Angeles community, thank you Debbie, Norm, and the entire Debbie Allen Dance Academy for continuing to bring joy to our community."



LILA BROWN/LA. SENTINEL

Councilmembers Curren Price, Heather Hutt and Marqueece Harris-Dawson salute members of The Whispers at L.A. City Hall on June 14.

"This Black Music Month I am so excited to celebrate a legendary group that has truly shaped the landscape of R&B and Soul, while inspiring so many through their passion and art."

"We deeply appreciate seeing this honor," said Walter Scott during the city council meeting. "This all started for us in Watts, Cali-

His brother, Wallace "Scotty" remembered first meeting his wife on Soul Train and also as a child "pretending that we would be doing exactly what we are doing today. Our dreams came true," he reminisced.

Council President-Elect Marqueece Harris-Dawson (CD 8) shared personal recollections and Councilmember Curren Price

Other Councilmembers chimed in with flashbacks, agreeing how significant Soul Train was during their Saturday mornings, showcasing youth culture through the then-latest dance moves, new music and fashion which gave national exposure to up and coming musical talent that would go on to become iconic superstars.

preserving legacies, financially, educationally, musically, artistically, and culturally. For the past decade, JazzZone Jazzabration, Inc. has celebrated Black Music Month in Council District 10 throughout June.

This is the first of two presentations that Hutt highlighted in the Council Chambers this month. On

## Grammy Museum Celebrates Little Richard with Special Screening

BY CHERYL ECKFORD  
Contributing Writer

The Grammy Museum invited the public out on Saturday, June 8 for a screening of the Grammy-nominated documentary and musical "Little Richard: I am Everything."

The event, held in the Clive Davis Theater, also celebrated June as Black Music Month. Following the screening, a conversation took place with the film's director and producer, Lisa Cortes, Black Music Month founder Dyana Williams, and Phylcia Fant, head of Amazon Music and veteran multi-hyphenate Erica Grayson.

The program was organized by Gil Robertson IV, president and co-founder of the African American Film Critics Association, along with Cortes and Schyler O'Neal, the Grammy Museum manager of Education and Communication.

The screening did not disappoint by showing Little Richard in all his lively electrifying performances where he revealed confidence as well as a very vulnerable side. "Little Richard was full



REBECCA SAPP/GETTY IMAGES FOR THE RECORDING ACADEMY

From left are Jimmy Jam, Dyana Williams, Erica Grayson, Lisa Cortes, and Phylcia Fant at the screening of the Little Richard documentary on June 8 at the Grammy Museum in L.A.

of contradictions as he had a wife but was [also] a drag queen. However, I am so grateful for Little Richard to be recognized and I hope he inspires us to dance, live our life and not let anyone define us," Cortes said.

The documentary was nominated for the 2024 Grammy Best Music Film. Although it didn't win, the documentary highlighted the importance of Little

Richard to Rock and Roll. The documentary begins with Little Richard recalling his life in Macon. "You could see lots of Blacks playing the blues on the guitar as you went down the street and I can remember my mom had 12 kids and she would cook us greens, beans and rice," he said.

"My dad was a minister who had a night club where he bootlegged and I too

wanted to be a minister," Little Richard recalled. "We went to the AME Church. I would sing, but the choir wouldn't always let me sing because I didn't know how to stop."

Remembering how he was bullied by other children and his dad, Richard said, "I would put make up and wear my mom's pins she had pinned to her dresses. My dad didn't like it and

later he threw me out for being gay."

Although with the success of his music, Richard's father would later accept him back. Richard would face his own demons as he battled being queer and a Christian.

In October 1947, Sister Rosetta Tharpe overheard 14-year-old Richard singing her songs before a performance at the Macon City Auditorium, and Tharpe invited Richard to open her show. After the show, Tharpe paid Richard, thus inspiring Richard to become a professional performer.

The documentary illustrates how Richard influenced such artists as David Bowie, Beatles, and Mick Jagger and how these artists, in their own words from footage in the film, looked up to him as an artist.

"Esquerita, an American song writer and pianist, taught me everything he knew about playing the piano," said Richard.

The documentary showcases some of Richards solo hits like "Tutti Frutti" from 1955, which had to be rearranged for its risqué lyrics. In those days, Whites

stole songs from Black artist and made them their own. Pat Boone would do a version of Richards song "Tutti Frutti."

Over the years, Richard would struggle with his sexuality and at one point left secular music to do work in ministry and he married Ernestine Harvin in 1959. Richard wanted to keep his family in the home he purchased in Riverside, California and later returned to secular music to provide for his family.

Little Richard had such songs as "Long Tall Sally," "Good Golly Miss Molly," "Slippin' and Slidin,'" and also "Lucille."

Richard was in the first class of Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductees in 1986 and received a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in 1993. Richard, an American Icon, song writer and pianist, passed away May 9, 2020, at age 87.

Following the documentary, the panel discussed how Blacks often had their music stolen and were not always paid fairly.

To learn more about events at the Grammy Museum, call (213) 725-5700.

## That Cool Tony Awards Moment When Jay-Z Joined Alicia Keys? Turns Out It Wasn't Live

BY MARK KENNEDY  
Associated Press

Jay-Z's electrifying reunion with Alicia Keys on what appeared to be a live duet of "Empire State of Mind" at the Tony Awards on June 16 was actually pre-taped, a show official who wasn't authorized to speak publicly told The Associated Press.

The appearance of the rapper in support of Keys' musical "Hell's Kitchen" led to a boost of excitement inside the arena but it now appears it was a piece of Hollywood trickery, undercutting the Broadway commu-

nities' full-throated embrace of live singing and dancing.

"Hell's Kitchen," which won two awards Sunday night — for star Maleah Joi Moon and Kecia Lewis, who plays her mentor — is loosely based on Keys' years growing up in that Manhattan neighborhood and contains old hits and new songs from the singer-songwriter. Keys is a producer but doesn't appear in the show. The show ends with a rousing edition of "Empire State of Mind."

Then Keys appeared at the piano on the stage of the David H. Koch Theater in Lincoln Center and

began singing her and Jay-Z's 2009 smash. She soon got up and went down the steps of the stage and into the orchestra seat section and out the side of the auditorium — "Had to do something crazy. It's my hometown," she explained to the crowd — moments later apparently joining the rapper on some of the venue's marble steps to wild applause. "Brooklyn, New York City in the Tonys tonight!" Jay-Z signed-off at the end.

The audience and media was inside the auditorium and no photos have surfaced of the two performers

live. A version of the two finishing the song was beamed to the TV audience and a video screen inside the venue. Keys wore the same outfit she was wearing onstage. Jay-Z was never spotted entering the packed auditorium.

While some parts of the Tony telecast are pre-taped — technically awards are or technical awards are out before the show, some advertising packages and often segments from the top nominated plays — the strong feeling is that the musical performances are what audiences will see when they come to Broad-



CHARLES SYKES/INVISION/AP

Alicia Keys performs with the "Hell's Kitchen" cast on the Tony Awards on Sunday, June 16.

way, with no trickery.

New York Magazine

first reported that the segment had been pre-taped.

## Student Athlete of the Week: Rayah Marshall

By AMANDA SCURLOCK  
Sports Editor

Playing for USC was a dream for forward Rayah Marshall. During her junior season, she aided the Women of Troy basketball team reach national prominence. Marshall made 10.2 points and 10.5 rebounds per game, helping the Women of Troy to a 29-6 overall record.

"I feel like our team has so much hunger and so much intensity going through that time," Marshall said. "We were eager to win. We had so much grit ... even

though we were ranked in the top five, we carried this chip on our shoulder."

Her 10 points and 18 rebounds aided USC in defeating Stanford 74-61 in the Pac-12 Championship.

"It was like us breaking through barriers, putting SC basketball back on the map this past season," Marshall said. "That was huge for us."

As a junior, the Women of Troy reached the Elite Eight. The program was unable to reach March Madness during her freshman year. While noticing the growth of the program, Marshall also noticed her person-

al growth.

"The culture is just remarkable, I feel like every year we're improving," she said. "From my freshman year to now, we have new strength coaches, our locker room has been renovated ... after four years with an SC degree, I'll be forever grateful."

In 2023, Marshall helped Team USA win a silver medal in the FIBA AmeriCup. She was in a pool of over 20 players who battled to get one of 12 roster spots. Playing for Team USA taught her how to compete and be consistent.

"I'm playing against all the top names you could think of in college basketball," Marshall said. "I felt like USA Basketball taught me how to set more physical screens. Playing against older, more veteran players from other countries, it helped my career a lot."

Being a student athlete at USC can be rigorous, Marshall recognizes how being a student athlete can provide lucrative opportunities.

"They expose us to a lot of events and putting us in situations where we could speak to business owners," she said. "They're aware of

what we're doing on the court, they're aware of our work ethic and that helps us a lot."

Marshall noted how USC began recruiting her when she was in the ninth grade.

"I was always grateful for the experience because I didn't really know what sports held for the future of women's basketball," Marshall said. "I didn't know it could provide so much for my college career."

During her time at Lynwood High School, ESPN ranked her 27th in the nation. In 2021, she led the



AMANDA SCURLOCK/LA. SENTINEL  
USC forward Rayah Marshall averages 10.2 points and 10.5 rebounds per game during her junior season.

Knights to winning the CIF Division 1AA Championship. Marshall also became McDonald's All-American that season.

## ICEF Rugby Competes in Washington D.C. and Japan

By Amanda Scurlock  
Sports Editor

The View Park (ICEF) boy's and girl's rugby teams culminated their season with a trip to the Urban Rugby Championship and Japan.

The Urban Rugby Championship took place in Washington D.C.; the Knights competed with high school rugby teams from different parts of the nation. The ICEF boy's rugby team came in third while the girl's rugby team came in fourth at the Championship.

A highlight for the ICEF boy's rugby team was their victory over Withrow High School of Cincinnati; Withrow won the Ohio State Rugby

Championship in 2023.

"We kept trying to lift each other up," said senior scrum half Dominic Jackson about the boy's rugby team. "We all had a great time there, great performance at the whole entire little events and great game, great community."

Along with competing, the teams got a chance to visit several historic places including Howard University, the White House, and the Lincoln Memorial.

Girl's rugby team captain Kloe Bacchus used the Championships as an opportunity to learn and adapt new rugby tactics to improve her game. ICEF girl's battled the likes of Play Rugby USA of New York and Alexandria City



AMANDA SCURLOCK/LA. SENTINEL  
ICEF girl's rugby team captain Kloe Bacchus (left) poses with ICEF boy's rugby player Dominic Jackson.

High School of Virginia. Being a captain also means being a sounding board for the team.

"I had to be open and available physically, emotionally, mentally and just all around," Bacchus said. "Being that support that they needed really showed me that I grew mentally and emotionally."

During their "Cherry Blossom Tour" in Japan, the teams battled the teams at Kanto Gakuin Mitsuura High School of Yokohama. Their girl's team is one of the best in Japan, according to ICEF rugby coach Stuart Krohn.

"It was a really experienced team against a very

inexperienced team," Krohn said. "After we played them one game, we mixed teams for the second game so they all played against each other."

Bacchus was in awe of their playing style; she noted how watching the girl's rugby team in Japan was like "watching ballet."

"They're so strategic in everything they do, like their lineouts, how they run up on defense," Bacchus said. "I'm just so blessed to have been a part of their team and to play with them."

After the matches, the rugby teams would have parties and cook meals together to get to know one another. For Jackson, the trip gave him a broader perspective on life. It also helped him improve his leadership skills.

"That's the hardest competition I've ever gone against my entire life," Jackson said. "It was all fun, we were tackling big guys."

Each ICEF Rugby student had to do a project that expressed their perspective

on the trip. Students created videos, PowerPoint projects, and poetry. Senior Mekhi Abdul-Shaheed enjoyed scoring tries dur-

gies rising because that's when we had our championships, so we were still technically in league," Abdul-Shaheed said. "As



COURTESY PHOTO  
ICEF Rugby visited Howard University and the White House.



COURTESY PHOTO  
ICEF Rugby competed against and alongside the Kanto Gakuin Mitsuura High School rugby teams.

ing the Urban Rugby Championship and in Japan.

"D.C., it was a lot more competition-based, ener-

for Japan, everybody was just friends, we're just having a good game ... nobody thought nothing of it win, lose, or draw."



COURTESY PHOTO  
ICEF Boy's rugby team placed third in the 2024 Urban Rugby Championships.

## Rams Celebrate Girl's Flag Football With Spring Classic

By AMANDA SCURLOCK  
Sports Editor

The Los Angeles Rams recently hosted their inaugural Girl's Flag Spring Classic at El Camino College. Over 500 flag football

players competed in tournament-style play.

The Classic included a high school seven-on-seven tournament. There were also five-on-five tournaments in four divisions: 10U, 12U, 14U, and 18U. The winners

of the tournament received a trophy along with championship rings.

The 2023-2024 school year is the first year that girl's flag football was a sanctioned sport in the CIF.

"There have been youth teams who have been playing for years and some of those youth teams are out here," said Rams associate manager of social justice and football development Noel Grigsby. "We want the opportunity to not only celebrate high school and the one-year anniversary since it's been sanctioned but also youth girl's flag which has been going around for a while."

The football stadium and soccer fields at El Camino were divided into flag football fields. Several

matches were going on at once, the youth displayed their talents, teamwork, and competitiveness.

"I like to play with my friends and I like to play against other people," said seventh grade student Londynn Brown. "Effort is everything because if one person on the team isn't doing well then the rest of the team is just gonna start doing worse and worse."

Teams throughout the Southern California area competed in the Classic. Tre Wilson, the coach of the Scorpions Elite 10U team from San Diego, hopes his players learn from competition that has more experience than they do.

"They don't never get down and out or get too upset," Wilson said about



AMANDA SCURLOCK/LA. SENTINEL  
The Spring Classic included five-on-five and seven-on-seven tournaments.



AMANDA SCURLOCK/LA. SENTINEL  
Youth got a chance to participate in a Rams Football Academy clinic.

the way Scorpions Elite competed. "They ain't really get mad when stuff didn't go their way ... they just played."

During the Classic, the Rams Football Academy hosted a coed youth clinic for kids ages five to 14 years old. They participated in several drills, including catching and running.

The Legends Elite girls flag football team competed for the first time together at the Classic, their coach Monique Adams wanted to see what talents and qualities the team possessed.

"We have a lot of

speed," Adams said. "The defensive players that we have, they're really tough."

Along with competition, the Flag Football classic had a festival atmosphere which included a vendor village and food trucks. Attendees had the opportunity to take photos with Rams Cheerleaders and their mascot Rampage.

"It's really fun because you get to go against different teams and not just the same people over and over again," said fourth-grader Amaya Brown. "My favorite part is having time to spend with your friends."

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# Los Angeles Urban League Holds Successful Whitney M. Young, Jr Awards Gala

SPECIAL TO THE SENTINEL

The Los Angeles Urban League (LAUL) recently hosted its 49th Annual Whitney M. Young, Jr. Awards Gala at the Fairmont Hotel in Century City. The event brought together a diverse group of attendees, including community leaders, business executives, philanthropists and celebrities.

Among the many high-

lights was a historic hologram of John Mack, LAUL's iconic former president and CEO, which urged the attendees to press on and support the mission of the organization.

The evening began with a glamorous red-carpet event where attendees showcased their fashion-forward attire. President and CEO Cynthia Mitchell-Heard, the first woman in almost 100 years to lead

LAUL, greeted the sponsors, partners, honorees and guests.

The awards ceremony honored individuals and organizations who have made significant contributions to the community. This year's honorees included:

- Noel Massie, chairman emeritus of the Los Angeles Urban League, received the Whitney M. Young, Jr Award.
- Robert Simonds,



COURTESY PHOTO

CEO of LAUL Cynthia Heard



COURTESY PHOTO

Kathy Ireland, Cynthia Heard



COURTESY PHOTO

Congressman Steven Horsford, Ella Horsford, Cynthia Heard, Anne Biondi Simonds, and Robert Simonds



COURTESY PHOTO

Cynthia Heard with WMY Honorees: Honorees - Robert Simonds, Anne Biondi Simonds, Noel Massie, Sandra Jackson, Ron Frierson

mentioned that LAUL is "fueled by passion, resilience, innovation and economic empowerment as we embark upon a new era of the Los Angeles Urban League. We will do so with a renewed focused and excellence."

L.A. Mayor Karen Bass, who presented the John Mack Legacy Award to Robert and Anne Biondi Simonds, remarked, "The Los Angeles Urban League is a premier organization fighting for civil rights, fighting for economic empowerment and I am especially glad to be here tonight, especially with the new President and CEO, Cynthia Mitchell-Heard."

Elected officials in the audience included Congresswoman Maxine Waters, Congressman Steven Horsford, Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus; Congresswoman Sydney Kamlager-Dove, State Senator Steve Bradford, L.A. Councilman Curren Price, Judge David S. Cunningham III, former Congresswoman Diane Watson, and former L.A. Councilman Mark Ridley-Thomas. Celebrities included philanthropist Kathy Ireland, ESPN NBA Today host Malika Andrews, and ESPN NBA analyst Chiney Ogwumike.



COURTESY PHOTO

Honoree Sandra Jackson

The keynote address was delivered by Dr. David A. Thomas, president of Morehouse College, a renowned expert on organizational behavior and academic administration, who spoke passionately about the

{See LAUL GALA on D-5}



COURTESY PHOTO

LAUL WMY 2024

founder and chairman of STX Entertainment, and Anne Biondi Simonds, founder and CEO of Muse Systems Enterprises, garnered the John Mack Legacy Award.

• Sandra Jackson-Dumont, director and CEO of the Lucas Museum of Narrative Art, was presented the Trailblazer Award.

• Ron Frierson, Amazon director of Economic Empowerment of the Western U.S., was the recipient of the Visionary Award.

Media Torchbearer Awards were presented to KCBS, KNBC, KTLA, KABC, KTTV, Spectrum News One, Los Angeles Sentinel and KJLH.

Each awardee delivered heartfelt acceptance speeches, reflecting on their journeys and the importance of the Los Angeles Urban League's work in fostering economic empowerment and social justice. President/CEO Mitchell-Heard's remarks to the more than 870 guests



COURTESY PHOTO

LAUL WMY Media Salute



Marilyn McCoo, Cynthia Heard, Billy Davis Jr.



Rachel Lindsay and Judge Kevin Ross



Ron Frierson, Marilyn McCoo, and Billy Davis Jr.

LAUL GALA {Continued from D-4}

present state of the United States of America. He emphasized that despite "the challenges and adversities, we are still winning."

Entertainment included performances by Durti-Ryce featuring Deron, a Frankie Beverly and Maze Tribute

Band, and a special presentation by artist Extra Ancestral.

The Whitney M. Young, Jr. Awards Gala also served as a significant fundraising event for the Los Angeles Urban League. Through sponsorships, ticket sales and donations, the organiza-

tion raised substantial funds to support its various programs including job training, youth development, and business support services.

Attendees expressed their admiration for the event and the work of LAUL. Los Angeles Public Works Com-

missioner Mike Davis stated, "This gala is a testament to the incredible impact that the Los Angeles Urban League has on our community. It's an honor to be here and support such a vital cause."

The Whitney M. Young,

Jr. Awards Gala was a memorable evening, celebrating the achievements of those dedicated to making a difference in the community. It highlighted the continued need for support and collaboration to drive positive change and underscored the

Los Angeles Urban League's pivotal role in empowering individuals and businesses across Los Angeles.

For more information about the Los Angeles Urban League and how you can get involved, visit [www.laul.org](http://www.laul.org).



LAUL Board of Directors



Honorees - Robert Simonds, Anne Biondi Simonds, Noel Massie, Sandra Jackson, Ron Frierson



CEO of LAUL Cynthia Heard



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LAUL WMY 2024



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Kathy Ireland, Cynthia Heard, Billy Davis Jr., Marilyn McCoo

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