



She
Ready...

**SHE'S
BAAAACK!**

CELEBRITY CHAIR

**TIFFANY
HADDISH**



OCTOBER | 19

10:00AM - 7:00PM

**JOIN US AT
THE 2024
TASTE
OF SOUL
FAMILY FESTIVAL**



It's almost time!

Go Metro to *Taste of Soul* and avoid parking hassles. Stop by Metro's booth for giveaways.

Saturday, October 19, 10am – 7pm
On Crenshaw Bl between Stocker St and Obama Bl.

Admission is free.

Take the K Line to Expo/Crenshaw, Martin Luther King Jr., or Leimert Park Station.



Metro[®]



It's Here – the 19th Annual Taste of Soul Family Festival!

In addition to an array of food and music, the LAX Lounge will conduct on-site job interviews.

BY CORA JACKSON-FOSSETT
Managing Editor

The greatest Black block party on the West Coast – the 19th Annual Taste of Soul Family Festival - kicks off on Saturday, Oct. 19, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Crenshaw Blvd., from Obama Blvd. to Stocker Ave.

More than 500,000 people attended the free day-long event in 2023 and a comparable number is expected in 2024 to enjoy the array of music, food,

and shopping, along with job interviews, financial information, health screenings and more!

“For 19 years, Taste of Soul has served as the biggest and baddest celebration of Black enterprise. No event captures the collective spirit, strength and unity of the Black community quite like this one,” declared Danny J. Bakewell, Sr., TOS founder and creator.

“On this day, we come to celebrate ourselves, our families, our businesses,



Danny J. Bakewell, Sr., TOS founder and creator; Tiffany Haddish, TOS celebrity co-chair, Mayor Karen Bass, and local civic leaders invite the community to enjoy the “biggest and baddest celebration of Black enterprise!”



E. MESIAH MCGINNIS/L.A. SENTINEL

Danny J. Bakewell, Sr. dances with the band during last year's Taste of Soul.

our people and our shared journey. I want to thank the community for their love and support of Taste of Soul, year after year. This celebration of culture, unity and joy would not be possible without each and every one of you.”

The Taste of Soul experience features a wide variety of cuisines including soul food, Caribbean meals, fried and grilled dishes, vegetarian options, and tantalizing desserts. Music will also play a leading role with top entertainers and recording artists performing on three stages - Bakewell Media “Music for the Soul” Stage presented

by Chevrolet, Mothers In Action Brenda Marsh-Mitchell Gospel Stage, and the Radio Free 102.3 KJLH Music Stage presented by Amazon Access.

Also, Children’s World sponsored by First 5 California will host fun activities for young people such as face painting, inflatable

games and the slime tank. Another highlight is the LAX Lounge produced by Los Angeles World Airports where a panel discussion and job opportunities will be outlined. Los Angeles County will also

{See TASTE OF SOUL FAMILY FESTIVAL on A-6}

Bakewell Media ‘Sounds for the Soul’ Stage Presents Tony! Toni! Toné! Featuring Dwayne Wiggins at Taste of Soul

BY CORA JACKSON-FOSSETT
Managing Editor

The chart-topping hits by Tony! Toni! Toné! Featuring Dwayne Wiggins will excite the crowd at the Bakewell Media “Sounds for the Soul” Stage presented by Chevrolet during the 19th Annual Taste of Soul Family Festival on Saturday, Oct. 19.

Known for classic songs like “Feels Good” and “Whatever You Want,” Tony! Toni! Toné! Featuring Dwayne Wiggins will be among the many artists performing on the Bakewell Media Stage

{See BAKEWELL MEDIA STAGE on A-6}



Klymaxx

COURTESY PHOTO



Tony! Toni! Toné! Featuring Dwayne Wiggins

COURTESY PHOTO

Chrysalis Brings Job Opportunities to Taste of Soul Festival

BY LILA BROWN
Contributing Writer

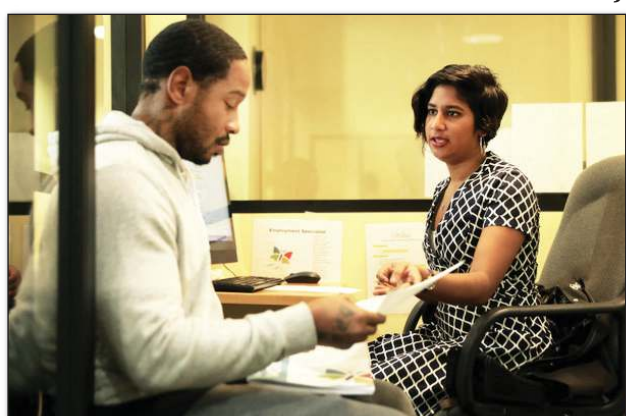
As the 19th Annual Taste of Soul Family Festival returns to the heart of Los Angeles, attracting more than 350,000 attendees with at least 150 food offerings, it brings much more than just delicious cuisine.

Among the many booths celebrating Black culture and community, Chrysalis, a nonprofit organization that empowers individuals navigating barriers to employment, will once again be present, recruiting new talent and offering vital services to

the community. Chrysalis, which has been serving Los Angeles since 1984, has participated in the Taste of Soul festival for the past three

years. This year, they aim to continue building connections with festivalgoers

{See CHRYSALIS BRINGS JOB OPPORTUNITIES TO TOS on A-6}



COURTESY PHOTO

Assistance with resume writing is one of the services offered by Chrysalis.



COURTESY PHOTO

Chrysalis team members, right, greet visitors to their booth at last year's Taste of Soul Family Festival.

Darnell Hunt Leads UCLA as Interim Chancellor

By KEITH L. UNDERWOOD
Contributing Writer

Dr. Darnell Hunt, known for his influential research on race and media, began his professional journey with aspirations in film and journalism.

Today, as UCLA's interim chancellor, Hunt leads the university through complex times, reflecting on the experiences that have shaped his path to leadership.

"I didn't start my journey thinking I was going to be an administrator, but as it turns out, my experiences working in the media and later as a sociologist have been useful in my current position," said Hunt.

Hunt's academic path began at the University of Southern California, where he studied journalism and film. He later returned to USC as a professor, chairing the sociology depart-



COURTESY PHOTO
Interim Chancellor
Darnell Hunt.

he became increasingly aware of the lack of African American representation in the media.

"I would sit in meetings with colleagues, the only African American in the room, listening to depictions of Black communities that I knew weren't accurate," said Hunt. "But these depictions were commonly accepted as fact."



COURTESY PHOTO
Dr. Hunt interacts with students during move-in weekend.

ment before transitioning to UCLA.

Hunt's early career included stints at Hill and Knowlton, a public relations firm, and NBC affiliate WRC-TV in Washington, D.C. During this time,

This realization led Hunt to sociology where he could study how race and inequality were constructed through media narratives.

At UCLA, Hunt pursued his Ph.D. in sociology, focusing on race and

media. He quickly gained recognition as a scholar for examining how the media reinforces racial stereotypes. Hunt's research, including the well-known Screening the Los Angeles 'Riots' and Channeling Blackness, solidified his reputation as an expert on race and representation in media.

Hunt's role as sociology chair at USC and his transition back to UCLA marked the beginning of his leadership roles. He became director of the Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies at UCLA where he conducted pivotal research on Black access to higher education and on racial representation in Hollywood.

"Midway through my career as a sociologist, I transitioned from academic studies exploring how the race of audience members shapes the way they perceive media, to producing annual studies on how the inclusion of people of color is actually profitable for Hollywood's bottom line," said Hunt.

While directing the Bunche Center, Hunt established and co-authored the annual Hollywood Diversity Report, a significant study that examines diversity in film and television.

"My co-author, Dr. Ana-Christina Ramon, and I spent a year visiting Hollywood studios and networks to gain a better understanding of what type of evidence would make a difference in changing the industry's long-standing practice of discounting the value of people of color," stated Hunt.

For more than a decade, the report has been a cor-

nerstone for understanding how diversity in media correlates with profitability, making a strong business case for inclusivity.

As Hunt rose to leader-

and colleagues to chart the path for this institution's next great achievements."

The plan focuses on enhancing academic excellence while ensuring inclu-

though conversations on a college campus like UCLA, where can we have them?"

Hunt remains dedicated to fostering an environment of academic excellence while



COURTESY PHOTO
Dr. Hunt sitting in the main library.

ship positions, he eventually served as the first Black chair of UCLA's sociology department and later as the first Black dean of social sciences.

While later serving as UCLA's first Black executive vice chancellor and provost, Hunt spearheaded the development of its 2023-28 strategic plan.

Hunt said this comprehensive plan, which reflects the university's mission for research, teaching, and service, was one of his "proudest achievements."

"UCLA is an amazing public research university," said Hunt. "It has been quite an honor to work with an outstanding team of scholars

and access for students from all backgrounds. Hunt described the strategic plan as essential to securing UCLA's future as a leading institution, deeply committed to its public service mission.

Now, as interim chancellor, Hunt faces the challenge of guiding UCLA through global and local issues, including managing campus climate considering the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Hunt emphasized the importance of maintaining a safe and inclusive campus where open dialogue across ideological divides can flourish.

"We're living in really difficult times," said Hunt. "But if we can't have these

ensuring that all students feel supported and valued.

Reflecting on his journey, Hunt's path from film and journalism to academia underscores his enduring commitment to challenging and reshaping narratives about race and inequality in both media and society.

As UCLA moves forward, his leadership continues to be shaped by the belief that education and diversity are fundamental to a more equitable future.

"The nation is speeding towards becoming majority-minority, and we have an obligation to prepare the next generation to effectively lead in this future," said Hunt.

CSU-LA & The Luckman Fine Arts Complex Salutes Former President James Rosser

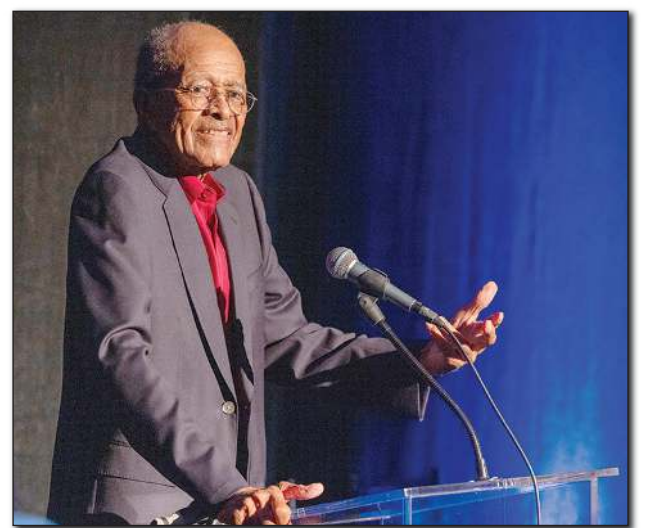
SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

The Luckman Fine Arts Complex at Cal State LA celebrated its 30th anniversary with a gala honoring the university's President Emeritus James M. Rosser and East Los Angeles achievements in fine arts on Friday, Oct. 4.

In many ways, Rosser was a trailblazing administrator in higher education. A champion of inclusion, he was the first African American to lead Cal State LA and the second Black person appointed to serve as president in the California State University, which is the largest public university system in the United States.

Attendees reflected on Rosser's many achievements, from expanding the university's cultural footprint to his leadership in increasing access to higher education for diverse communities. Rosser's presidency, from 1979 to 2013, was marked by his deep commitment to the arts, cultural diversity, and expanding access to higher education for underserved communities in East Los Angeles and beyond. During his tenure as president, Rosser championed landmark initiatives, including the establishment of The Luckman and the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts on Cal State LA's campus.

The gala program also included a moving tribute to the legacy of East L.A. arts, featuring remarks by James Ford III, a professor of music in the College of Arts and Letters, and a video retrospective highlighting 30 years of artistic achievements at The Luckman. Academy Award-winning director Taylor Hackford—whose credits include the epic crime drama Blood In Blood Out—and acclaimed Spanish guitarist Ángel



J. EMILIO FLORES/CAL STATE LA
James M. Rosser, CSU-LA President from 1979 to 2013, speaks at the anniversary gala.

Romero praised Cal State LA's role in fostering cultural engagement.

Cal State LA President Berenecea Johnson Eanes lauded Rosser's and The Luckman's profound and lasting effect on the university and its mission of inclusion and excellence.

"Thank you, Dr. Rosser, for your inspirational three decades of leadership for Cal State LA, including the founding and construction of The Luckman Fine Arts Complex," Eanes said. "The Luckman serves our mission by igniting that spark of creativity so essential for learning while also inviting the community to campus and strengthening our connection to L.A.'s diverse communities."

Following the tribute, the audience was treated to a dazzling concert by Michael Feinstein, renowned for his work as the "Ambassador of the Great American Songbook." Feinstein, accompanied by the Carnegie Hall Ensemble and the Luckman Jazz Orchestra, delivered a stirring program that paid tribute to the legendary singer and performer Tony Bennett.

Feinstein's close personal friendship with Bennett infused the perform-

ance with authenticity and emotional depth, as he brought Bennett's iconic songs to life, including classics like "I Left My Heart in San Francisco" and "Rags to Riches."

During the concert, Feinstein acknowledged the former president from the stage—and made mention of the honorary doctorate he received from Cal State LA in 1997 while Rosser was president. The longstanding relationship between Feinstein and Rosser added a meaningful dimension to the evening, making Feinstein's tribute performance at The Luckman all the more poignant.

For three decades, The Luckman has presented cutting-edge professional music, dance, theatre, and visual arts from around the world to the greater Los Angeles community. Named for noted philanthropists Harriet and Charles Luckman, The Luckman is committed to cultivating an appreciation for the arts by providing a platform for artistic expression and the discovery of different cultures. It is home to three unique spaces: The Luckman Theatre, The Intimate Theatre, and The Luckman Gallery.

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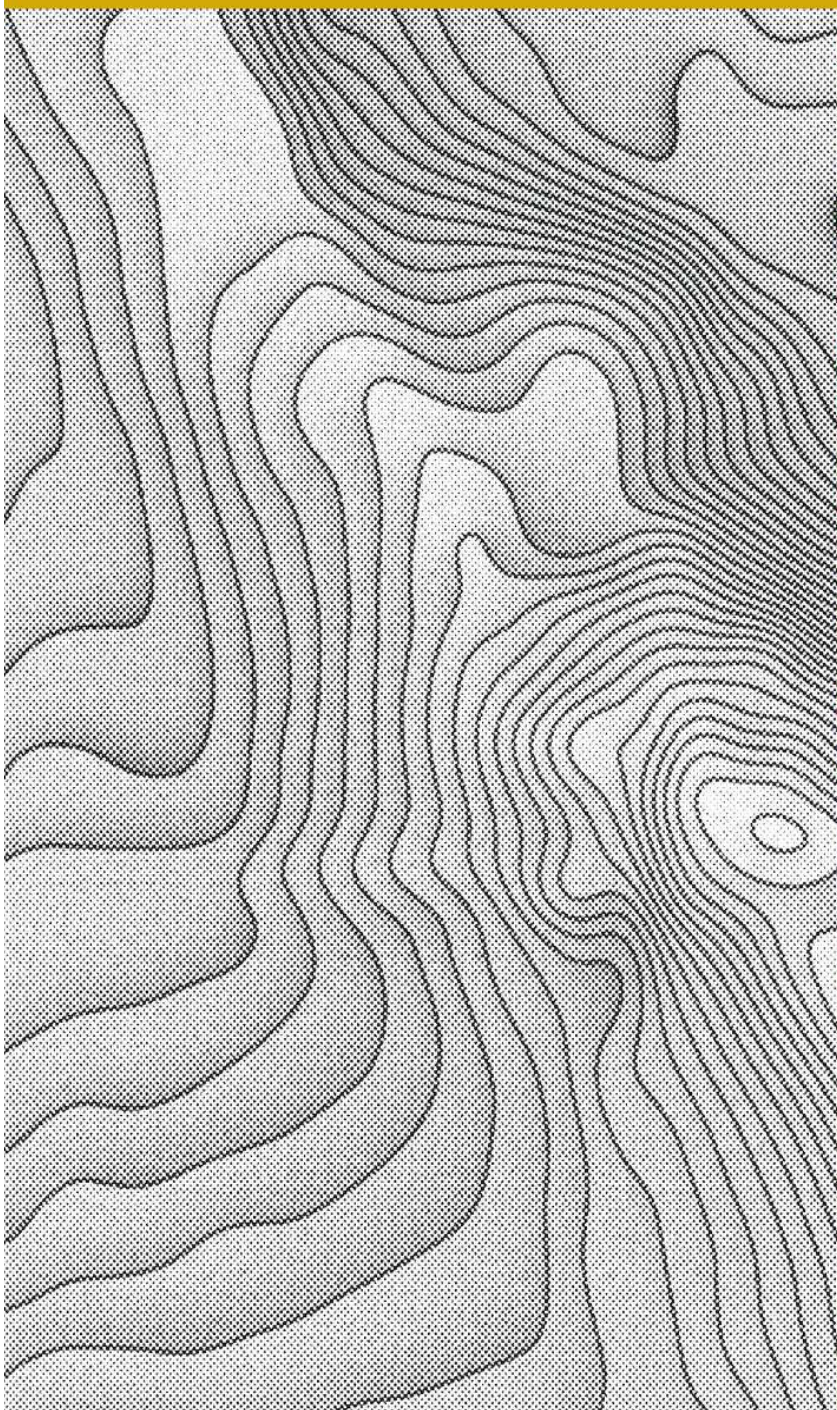
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When I quit smoking, I committed to something bigger.



Keenan grew up watching the older cowboys smoke. “I didn’t even know it was addictive,” he says, “I just thought it was cool.” At 13, he picked up his first cigarette.

As an adult, Keenan witnessed his mother grow sick from smoking. “I realized I can’t continue to treat my body like this.”

Keenan turned his focus to his community work with the Compton Cowboys, deciding to set a positive example for the next generation. “I chose a different legacy. I chose to live.”

A California without Big Tobacco isn’t just possible. It’s already happening.



Keenan · Compton, CA

TASTE OF SOUL FAMILY FESTIVAL {Continued from A-3}

conduct job interviews at their pavilion.

Actress and comedienne Tiffany Haddish returns as the Taste of Soul celebrity co-chair. The chairs are Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell, L.A. Mayor Karen Bass, Council President Marqueece Harris-Dawson, and Councilmember Heather Hutt. Co-chairs include Councilmember Curren Price, LAUSD Board Member Dr. George McKenna, CBS/KCAL News Anchor Pay Harvey, Assemblymembers Isaac Bryan, Mike Gipson, and Reggie Jones-Sawyer, and the law firm of Ivie McNeil Wyatt Purcell & Diggs.

“Taste of Soul would not be possible without the overwhelming support from our corporate sponsors, community members, small business owners and elected officials,” noted Bakewell.

The Premiere Sponsors are Chevrolet, Southern California Gas Company, Chase Bank, South Coast Air Quality Management District, City National Bank, Ivie McNeill Wyatt Purcell & Diggs, BMO, Los Angeles World Airports, Port of Los Angeles,

and Premier Sponsor and Official Transportation Partner and Premiere Sponsor Metro.

Other sponsors are Bank of America, Waymo, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, LADWP, UDW-AFSCME Local 3930 Wells Fargo, Southern California Edison, Cedars-Sinai, SEIU Local 1023, UCLA Health, Pasadena City College, MLK Community Healthcare, Brotherhood Crusade, US Bank, Kaiser Permanente, Vallarta Supermarkets, InnovAge California PACE Crenshaw Center, USC, California Teachers Association, Watts Health Care, Los Angeles Community College District, Charles R. Drew University, AT&T, Los Angeles Dodgers, Black Girl Sunscreen, Los Angeles Public Library, Habitat for Humanity LA, OneLegacy, Pantages/Centerstage Group, Black Girl Sunscreen, Cal Fire, California Conservation Corps, California Black Media, Pet Food Express, Umpqua Bank, SEIU 721, Lee Andrews Group, W. King Healthcare Group, CA Yimby, Target, Comerica Bank, California Highway

Patrol, DoorDash, Los Angeles Football Club, First 5 LA, Center for Healthcare Rights, LA Sanitation, West Basin Municipal Water District, UTLA, 97.1 KNX, K-Earth 101, KTWV, L.A. Care, Neighborhood Housing Services.

Taste of Soul partners include Bakewell Media, Los Angeles Sentinel, Mothers In Action, RADIO FREE 102.3 KJLH, CBS2/KCAL9, 94.7 The WAVE, Brotherhood Crusade, LAUSD, LA Department of Transportation, Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza, City of L.A., County of L.A., Los Angeles Bureau of Street Services, and Western States Carpenters.

“We invite you to bring your entire family to enjoy this free, first-class event in South Los Angeles,” added Bakewell.

Free public parking and shuttles to Taste of Soul are available at Crenshaw High School, 5010 11th Ave in L.A.; and Dorsey High School, 3537 Farmdale Avenue in L.A. Attendees can also take Metro to Taste of Soul.

To learn more, visit tasteofsoulla.com.



E. MESIAH MCGINNIS/L.A. SENTINEL

BAKEWELL MEDIA STAGE {Continued from A-3}

located on the corner of Crenshaw Blvd. and Stocker Ave. in South Los Angeles.

“Let the music move you and dance off your calories while enjoying the R&B, Funk, and soulful sounds of all of our dynamic entertainers and bands,” said Danny J. Bakewell, Sr., TOS founder and creator.

The lineup includes Klymaxx, the all-female

group popular for “Meeting in the Ladies Room” and other hits; and Troop, pur-

veyors of new jack swing songs like “Sweet November” and “All I Do Is Think

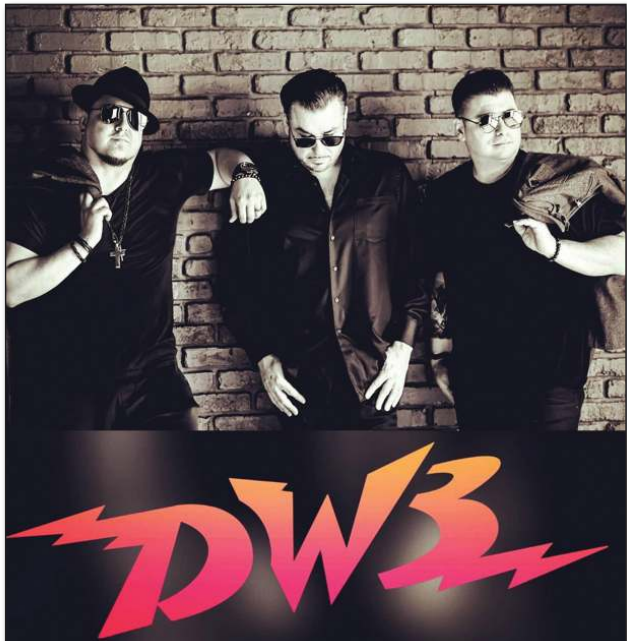
of You.” Other performers are DW3, Torrence Brannon-Reese and his Every-

thing With Soul Band, and L.Young and Friends who will present a tribute to the

legendary Marvin Gaye. To learn more, visit tasteofsoulla.com.



L. Young



DW3



Troop

CHRYSALIS BRINGS JOB OPPORTUNITIES TO TOS

{Continued from A-1}

by offering job opportunities and support services.

Mark Loranger, president and CEO of Chrysalis, shared his enthusiasm for their ongoing involvement in the event, saying, “We started doing the event three years ago because we understood the connection to the communities that Chrysalis serves.”

Chrysalis will have a vendor booth where attendees can learn about permanent positions available through the organization. Job seekers can even apply on the spot using a QR code that directs them to Chrysalis’ career page, www.changelives.org/careers.

In addition to recruitment, Chrysalis will be looking for new clients—individuals who need assistance breaking into or returning to the workforce. The nonprofit’s job-readiness program offers one-on-one support services at any of their five centers, where clients receive help with resume building, interview preparation, and even professional attire for interviews.

Reflecting on the festival’s importance to Chrysalis, Loranger added, “Our booth allows us to engage directly with the community, hear client suc-

cess stories, and offer our services to those who need them. It’s a special opportunity for us to connect with returning clients and encourage new ones to take

advantage of the support we offer.” Chrysalis focuses on helping those facing homelessness, those who have been involved in the justice system, and others struggling with barriers to employment. Their mission



The computer lab operated by Chrysalis aids clients seeking to job information.

aligns with the spirit of Taste of Soul, which celebrates Black culture, resilience, and community. Over the years, Chrysalis has successfully recruited

transitional employment opportunities, but we’re just as dedicated to helping individuals find permanent, long-term jobs. Our goal is to ensure that our clients

rate remains around 70%.

For Loranger, hiring from the local community is not just a business decision but a crucial way of strengthening the social fabric. “Hiring folks from your own community is a really smart business decision. They’re going to be your most hardworking, loyal employees,” he explained.

“We sometimes have to set aside the preconceived notions we might have about someone’s past. What might have been their worst day doesn’t define them for the rest of their life. If we focus on potential and the future, it’s the right thing to do and it makes smart business sense.”

Chrysalis is also deeply committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) as core principles in its mission. Loranger emphasized the importance of having an organization that reflects the community it serves.

“We’re serving probably 70% BIPOC communities, and our staff better represent that,” he said. “If not, how can we truly deliver on our mission? Whether you’re a nonprofit or a retailer, if you’re not hiring from your community, you’re not serving it

effectively. Diversity brings value to organizations by enriching perspectives and improving outcomes.”

Chrysalis’ DEI efforts are more than just a box to check—they are an essential part of the organization’s success.

“We’re not backing down from DEI, we’re doubling down on it,” Loranger stated. “It’s not just about checking a quota; it’s about tapping into the richness of human experience that comes from diverse backgrounds. For us, DEI isn’t a trend—it’s a fundamental part of who we are as an organization, and it makes us better at serving our clients.”

The Taste of Soul Family Festival is the perfect backdrop for Chrysalis to continue making an impact on the community. Whether you’re seeking a new career path or looking to support a loved one in finding work, the Chrysalis booth is ready to offer guidance, support, and the chance to change lives through jobs.

For more information about Chrysalis and the job opportunities they offer, visit <http://www.changelives.org/careers> or stop by their booth at this year’s Taste of Soul festival.



Detour Notices

Bus Operations Control

Line(s): 40, 102, 105 & 210

In effect: 7:00 p.m. Friday, October 18, 2024, until 6:00 a.m. Sunday, October 20, 2024 or when barricades are present.

Subject: Temporary Detour

Location: Crenshaw Blvd. % Vernon Ave. and Jefferson Blvd.
Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. % Leimert Blvd. & Marlton Ave.

Reason: **Taste of Soul Street Festival**

Line: 40

Northbound: Regular route to Crenshaw Blvd. and 48th St. then continue via Crenshaw Blvd. to R-Leimert Blvd. (service stop far side Vernon Ave. & Line 102 stops), R-Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. and regular route.

Southbound: Regular route to Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. and Arlington Ave. then continue via Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., L-Leimert Blvd., (service Line 102 stops), R-Vernon Ave., L-Crenshaw Blvd. and regular route.

Lines: 102

Eastbound: Regular route to Crenshaw Blvd. and 43rd St., then continue via Crenshaw Blvd. to L-Vernon Ave., L- Leimert Blvd. to 43rd St. and regular route.

Westbound: Regular route to 43rd St. and Leimert Blvd., then continue via Leimert Blvd. to R- Vernon Ave., R-Crenshaw Blvd., to 43rd St. and regular route.

Lines: 105

Southbound: Regular route to Santa Rosalia Dr. and Hillcrest Dr. then continue via Santa Rosalia Dr., L-Stocker St., R-Crenshaw Blvd., and regular route.

Northbound: Regular route to Crenshaw Blvd. and 43rd St., then continue via Crenshaw Blvd. to L- Stocker St., R-Santa Rosalia Dr. to Hillcrest Dr. and regular route.

Lines: 210

Northbound: Regular route to Crenshaw Blvd. and 48th St. then continue via Crenshaw Blvd. to R- Leimert Blvd. (service stop far side Vernon Ave. & Line 102 stops), R-Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., L- Arlington Ave., L- Jefferson Blvd., R- Crenshaw Blvd. and regular route.

Southbound: Regular route to Crenshaw Blvd. and Adams Blvd. then continue via Crenshaw Blvd. to L-Jefferson Blvd. R-Arlington Ave. **(use extra caution making a right turn)**
R-Martin Luther King Jr., L-Leimert Blvd., (service Line 102 stops),
R-Vernon Ave., L-Crenshaw Blvd. and regular route.

Detour Notices
Bus Operations Control



Rule 2.14 Turn-Around Loops & Detours – Bus Stops;
“While operating through detours or on turn-around loops,
operators must allow customers to board and alight at any intersection
where it is safe to do so”.

**SAFETY FIRST! ALWAYS BE AWARE OF UNFAMILIAR TRAFFIC CONDITIONS
WHILE OPERATING ON DETOUR ROUTES, AND MAKE PASSENGER STOPS
AT ALL INTERSECTIONS WHERE IT IS SAFE TO DO SO.**

Taste of Soul Sponsor LACCD Offers New Baccalaureate Degree Programs

BY DANA CARROLL
Contributing Writer

In a historic new direction, the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) has expanded its academic offerings to include six new baccalaureate degree programs, two of which have online options, making higher education more affordable and accessible.

Spanning five illustrious campuses, these bachelor's programs are in high-demand fields such as Biomanufacturing, Dental Hygiene, and Respiratory Therapy.

Los Angeles Valley College (LAVC) is launching its first Bachelor's Degree Program (BDP) in Respiratory Therapy, designed to prepare students for healthcare careers through coursework on managing complex respiratory cases, leadership, research, medical terminology, and more.

Similarly, Los Angeles Mission College (LAMC) is introducing its first BDP in



COURTESY PHOTO
LACCD Chancellor Francisco C. Rodriguez, Ph.D.

Biomanufacturing, which prepares students for success in the biotechnology industry. This field explores biotherapeutics, a rapidly developing method for manufacturing medicines that use proteins and antibodies to treat diseases. The program also includes classes on diagnostics, supplies and services as well as industrial products.

West Los Angeles College (WLAC) offers two BDPs. One offering is in

Aviation Maintenance Technology, a specialized field focused on maintenance, repair, inspection, and problem-solving of aircraft. The program aims to prepare students to meet "the critical demand for highly skilled technicians capable of troubleshooting complex aircraft, spacecraft, and satellite systems." WLAC also offers a robust Dental Hygiene program with various areas of focus, including teaching, public health, private industry, and more.

East Los Angeles College (ELAC) is preparing to offer its first BDP in Respiratory Therapy after receiving approval from the California Community College Chancellor's Office. Meanwhile, Los Angeles Pierce College (LAPC) will soon introduce its first BDP in Biomanufacturing, supported by a \$2 million Community Project Funding grant.

These programs reflect a growing trend in California to address workforce demands, bal-

looning tuition rates, and the student loan debt crisis. These community college bachelor's degrees will cost around \$10,560 for the entire four-year program, while state universities often charge more than that for just one year of tuition.

According to nonprofit newsroom CalMatters, as reported by Mikhail Zinshsteyn and Haydee Barahona, California State University's board of trustees voted to increase tuition by 6% annually for the next five years. With the introduction of baccalaureate degrees by LACCD and other California community colleges, affordable options will remain available to meet student needs.

Community college bachelor's degrees also advance the state's goal of having 70% of working-age Californians obtain a college degree or certificate by 2030, as outlined in "The California Blueprint." Governor Newsom states, "All families, students, and

workers deserve the freedom to succeed: to build real-life skills and pursue careers."

LACCD's commitment to offering Bachelor's Degree Programs aligns with a broader effort to reform education in California. "The California Blueprint" focuses on improving access and affordability at all educational levels. The plan includes \$1 billion for universal Pre-K by 2025 and expanded after-school programs to support early childhood education.

It also addresses the student housing crisis by allocating \$750 million for affordable student housing and expands middle-class scholarships with \$515 million to make higher education more affordable. Additionally, K-12 schools receive increased funding, particularly for low-income areas, with a focus on hiring teachers and enhancing mental health services. Investments are also made to modernize school infra-

structure and facilities. The LACCD's initiative sets a precedent that could inspire similar programs nationwide, particularly in regions facing educational and economic challenges. As the largest community college district in California and one of the largest in the nation, LACCD's commitment to innovation in higher education has the potential to transform the lives of countless students.

Representatives from all nine campuses of the LACCD will be participating in the 19th Annual Taste of Soul Family Festival on Saturday, Oct. 19, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Crenshaw Blvd., from Obama Blvd., to Stocker Ave. Attendees are encouraged to visit LACCD booths and learn more about the academic programs and resources offered by the colleges.

For more details about Taste of Soul, visit www.tasteofsoulla.com. To learn more about LACCD, visit www.laccd.edu.

Wellnest Centennial Celebration Honors Champions in Mental Health

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Wellnest (formerly the Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic), a nationally recognized leader in holistic, emotional health and wellness services for children, young adults, and families, celebrated its 100th anniversary on Sept. 27, at the Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles.

Emceed by Chris Schauble, co-anchor of the KTLA 5 Morning News, the Wellnest Centennial Celebration gala honored Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra with the Visionary Award and four

additional honorees for their significant contributions to the organization's mission of empowering mental health and wellness in the community.

In addition, it raised money to benefit the Community Wellness Center at The Nest on Jefferson, an innovative and supportive permanent housing project for young adults aged 18-25.

"We honor champions for children who have made significant impact at the local, state, and national levels, from expanding access to health care and reforming juvenile justice to reducing child poverty," said Wellnest

President and CEO Charlene Dimas-Peinado.

Besides Becerra, honorees included the Louchheim Family received the Legacy Award for 80 years of combined support for Wellnest, Jacqueline Jacobs Caster received the Impact Award for her contribution as the president and founder of Everychild Foundation, bestselling author David Ambroz received the Champion Award for his impact as a child welfare advocate, and Grammy award-winning musician Pablo Stennett received the Ambassador Award as the founder of We Are Tomorrow Foundation.

"Our journey forward requires us to be bold in our advocacy and unrelenting in our pursuit of social justice for the most vulnerable," Dimas-Peinado told 600 guests.

"It will take the dedication of our employees, board of directors, community partners, and you—our resolute supporters—to shape the next century of Wellnest's legacy. Our vision is one of continued growth, innovation and impact."

"Wellnest's commitment to the mental health and emotional strength of everyone in our community is unmatched," said Jennifer Louchheim, Wellnest Centennial Celebration gala chair, to a sold-out crowd at the gala.

"From early intervention and prevention to intensive services and crisis response, their passion for their mission of providing hope, healing and opportunity for families is infinite."

Dimas-Peinado shared Wellnest's bold vision to offer progressive mental health services for children at a time when their mental health was hardly recognized. "Our founders broke through the stigma, envisioning a world where children's emotional and psychological needs received the same attention as their physical health. Their pioneering spirit built an agency known for its compassionate care.

"Today, Wellnest is a nationally acclaimed agency offering trauma-informed mental health services; it is a community dedicated to nurturing the minds and spirits of our children. We meet families where they are—in schools, homes, and community settings—ensuring mental health care is accessible, culturally competent, and free of barriers."

The evening's sponsorships, donations, and live auction bids generated vital funds for the Community Wellness Center at The Nest on Jefferson. This transformative initiative is set to profoundly impact the lives of vulnerable young adults and families in Los Angeles. The center will not only provide essential behavioral and clinical health services within its walls but also reach out to children, youth, and families in the surrounding community, ensuring broader access to much-needed care.

Sponsors for the Centennial Celebration gala included Centennial Sponsor: the Louchheim family; Presenting Sponsor: David and Susan L. Hirsch; Platinum Sponsors: Annenberg Foun-



JORDAN RAMAY
Grammy Award winning musician Pablo Stennett and his family.



JORDAN RAMAY
KTLA News Anchor Chris Schauble served as emcee.



JORDAN RAMAY
Sandra Jackson-Dumont and Charlene Dimas-Peinado.



JORDAN RAMAY
Auriana Chisholm, singer with We Are Tomorrow Foundation.



JORDAN RAMAY
Pablo Stennett, Ambassador Award.



JORDAN RAMAY
Brandi Bakewell and Pamela Bakewell attended the Wellnest celebration.

Patrick Pan, Ronit and Ron Stone, Shelly Holmes, Sola Impact, Monica Alfaro Welling and Virginia Wilson.

Jennifer Louchheim served as the gala chair. Honorary Committee members included Sandra Jackson-Dumont of Lucas Museum of Narrative Art, Randall Martinez of Cordoba Corporation, Writer and Director, Anika Poitier, Maria S. Salinas of Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, and John H. Semcken, III of Majestic Realty, Co.

To learn more about Wellnest and donate toward its mission, visit www.wellnestla.org.

Check Before You Burn Is...

A wintertime air pollution prevention program aimed at protecting health and improving Southern California's air quality by restricting wood burning in residential fireplaces on days when air pollution levels are high.

No-Burn Days Are...

Announced when fine particulate air pollution is forecast to be unhealthy and burning wood in fireplaces is prohibited.



Burning Wood Is Harmful Because...

Wood smoke contains many harmful gases and particles so small they can travel deep into the lungs, causing serious health problems. It's even associated with premature deaths for people with chronic heart or lung conditions.

You Can Help and Stay Informed By...

Downloading South Coast Air Quality Management District's free mobile phone app for Android and iPhone or sign up to receive No-Burn Alerts via e-mail or text alerts at www.AirAlerts.org. For more information, please call (866) 966-3293.

Councilmember Curren Price, Del Richardson Price Named Democrats of the Year

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Los Angeles County.

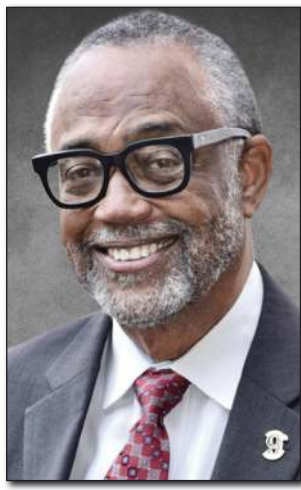
The Los Angeles County Democratic Party honored the contributions of L.A. Councilmember Curren Price and his wife, Del Richardson Price, by naming them Democrats of the Year on Oct. 6.

Selected by a delegation from Assembly District 57, the recognition took place at the Hyatt Regency LAX, honoring a total of 48 distinguished individuals from 24 Assembly Districts across

“What an honor it is to be recognized by the party that upholds the same value system that I have carried over the last three decades of service,” Price said.

“This acknowledgment isn’t just a personal achievement; it reflects the collective efforts of countless individuals who have tirelessly fought for justice, equity and opportunity in our communities.”

Price has led efforts to



COURTESY PHOTO Councilmember Curren Price



COURTESY PHOTO Del Richardson Price

raise wages for hotel workers and fought for L.A.’s historic \$15 minimum wage increase. His support for the Ban the Box ordinance assists individuals with criminal records to secure meaningful employment. In addition, he was the architect behind the nation’s largest Guaranteed Basic Income program — a first-of-its-kind \$40 million pilot that provided critical assistance to more than 3,200 families in the City of L.A.

Del Richardson Price was celebrated for her contributions to the Black and Brown community. With over 35 years of service, she has established herself as a pioneering businesswoman, dedicated philanthropist, and passionate advocate for the arts and education. Her leadership in affordable housing development has yielded innovative solutions that significantly enhance the quality of life for communities of color.

UTLA Endorses Hendy-Newbill for LAUSD Board District 1



COURTESY PHOTO

Sherlett Hendy-Newbill and her family.

BY IRVIN L. DAVIS
Contributing Writer

Sherlett Hendy-Newbill recently gained a key endorsement from United Teachers of Los Angeles (UTLA) for Los Angeles Unified School District Board District 1, adding to her backing by the L.A. Times, L.A. Sentinel and L.A. County Democratic Party.

UTLA, the is one of the most influential unions in

the country. In the March Primary, UTLA had previously endorsed Khallid Al-Alim for Board District 1. Al-Alim quickly came under fire for posting and liking material that was deemed to be anti-semitic, forcing the union to withdraw their endorsement.

Many UTLA members were outraged by his misrepresentation of the purpose and vision of UTLA after the union poured nearly \$750,000 into his

campaign. Other UTLA members were confused about how a non-educator gained the endorsement of the teachers union to begin with. Despite the perplexity at UTLA, Sherlett still finished first in the March primary despite being outspent 11 to 1.

“By finally officially endorsing Sherlett, UTLA has shown that ethics and integrity matter, and should be paramount,” said long-time UTLA member

Emily Pineda.

“Nearly every reputable political organization endorses Sherlett, and the fact that the legendary Dr. George McKenna endorses her speaks volumes. Sherlett would be replacing Dr. McKenna if she is elected. Dr. McKenna, has set a great standard and has advocated for urban students and urban communities for decades. He has been a great mentor to Sherlett and she is by far the best candidate to represent LAUSD Board District 1.”

Hendy-Newbill’s action items for District 1 include:

- Creating sustainable apprenticeship and job shadowing programs for students to obtain marketable skills in vocations such as Automotive Technology, Construction, Culinary Arts, Cosmetology, Audio Engineering and other Vocational fields
- Creating and maintaining safe and supportive school environments where schools are a safe

place for students of all ethnic backgrounds, and gender identities.

• Continuing to nurture and develop the Black Student Achievement Plan which provides additional resources and support to improve the academic engagement and attendance of Black students.

• Making education a team effort by using the community school model: Wrap-Around support for students’ academic, social and emotional needs; Strong curriculum, high quality teaching, inclusive leadership, positive behavior practices, family and community partnerships and community support services for health and wellness.

• Keeping students and schools safe by developing a task force including parents, administrators, community-based intervention personnel and law enforcement, to collaborate on school safety strategies and tailor solutions to fit the needs of the individual school communities.

Hendy-Newbill reflected, “This race has been a great journey from being selected as Dr. George McKenna’s endorsed candidate. I never imagined the transition and am humbled and grateful for all the supportive members of the Board District 1 community. I am especially grateful for my immediate family; my husband, my two sons Isaiah and Immanuel, my sister Selma, and my Dorsey family that has stood by my side through it all.

“I am looking forward to representing the people. I am working daily to serve and represent this community as we complete the race to November 5th. I encourage the people to vote for me - a coach, a teacher, a mother, and a community member - for your next school board member of Board District 1!”

To learn more and to view her entire list of endorsements, visit <https://www.sherletthen-dynewbill.com/>.

NAACP Denounces L.A. City Councilmember Kevin de León; Cites Racist Rhetoric

CALIFORNIA BLACK MEDIA

Two years after racist comments in a leaked recording of Los Angeles City Council members emerged, members of Los Angeles branches of the National Advancement Association of Color People (NAACP) on Oct. 7 gave councilmember Kevin de León’s a “failing” grade for his performance in office.

The announcement was

made on the south lawn of the Los Angeles City Hall by leaders of the NAACP branches of Los Angeles, San Fernando Valley, Watts, Beverly Hills-Hollywood, Santa Monica-Venice, and San Pedro-Wilmington.

De León was on a conference call with other council members who made racial comments about Indigenous people and one of their colleague’s son, who is Black.



COURTESY PHOTO

NAACP CA/Hi South Area Director and NAACP Santa Monica-Venice President Darrell Goode addressed the media at LA City Hall, issuing LA City Councilmember Kevin de León a fail grade on the 2nd anniversary of his hateful and racist remarks.

The leaked audio led to Council President Nury Martinez’s resignation on Oct. 12, 2022, former Councilmember Gil Cedillo’s ouster, and Ron Herrera stepping away on Oct. 11, 2022, as president of a powerful Southern California labor organization.

The branches and CA/Hi State Conference of the NAACP President Rick Callender first asked all persons involved to resign from their positions in

October 2022. The civil rights leader expressed concern that that the disparaging remarks coming from top city officials could impact hiring and other decisions of the City Council.

“We will not sit idly by and allow our elected representatives to engage in these kinds of disgusting and racist behaviors,” stated Latricia Mitchell, President of the Los Angeles Branch of the NAACP.

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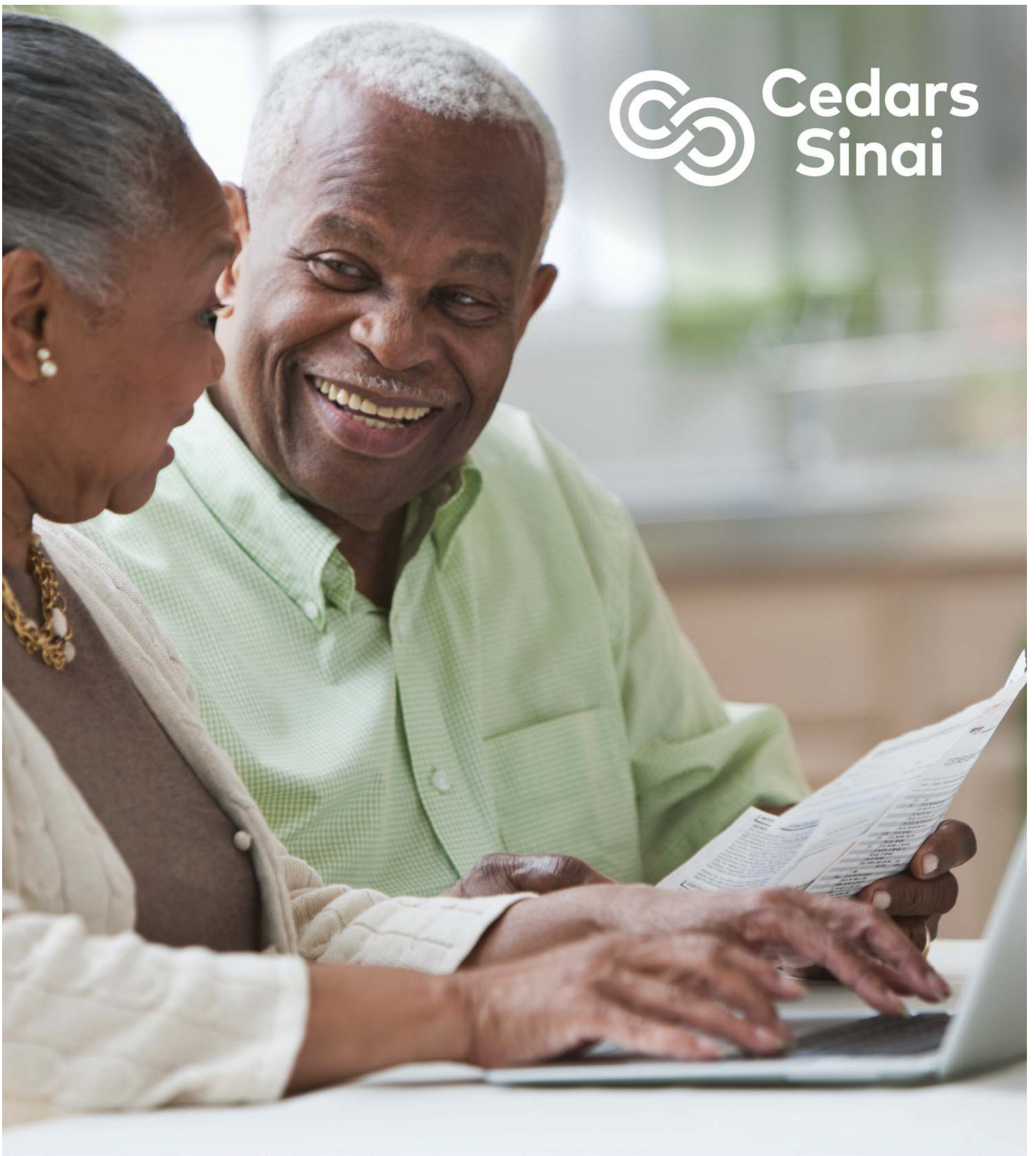
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Community Conversations

Navigating Medicare Enrollment

Tuesday, Oct. 29, 2024

5–6 p.m. PT | 7–8 p.m. CT | 8–9 p.m. ET

Registration is not required. This is a free online event.

Presented in English with simultaneous Spanish interpretation available.

Many people have a hard time understanding their options when choosing a Medicare plan. Cedars-Sinai and BlackDoctor.org have partnered to provide information about the process and demystify enrollment. Join us to get answers to your questions and mark important deadlines that may affect your coverage.



To join the conversation,
scan the QR code or visit
ceda.rs/community-conversations



Protest Condemns Governor Newsom's Formal Apology for Chattel Slavery

By LILA BROWN
Contributing Writer

The Reparations Over Everything Coalition (ROEC) held a powerful press conference outside Governor Gavin Newsom's Los Angeles office downtown on Oct. 3.

Representatives from major grassroots organizations, including the Coalition for a Just and Equitable California (CJEC), Black Lives Matter LA, the National Assembly of American Slavery Descendants (NAASD), and others, voiced their deep dissatisfaction with Newsom's recent formal apology for chattel slavery.

While Newsom's apology was framed as a step toward racial justice, the coalition characterized it as an insincere gesture that failed to address the urgent material needs of Black Americans descended from U.S. chattel slavery. Instead



Kamilah Moore speaks during the press conference.

speakers, highlighting the need for real reparations that extend beyond mere words.

"We laid out a clear plan for reparations, including recommendations to create a reparations agency and a reparations fund for descendants of enslaved people. Yet, the California Legislative Black Caucus worked with Newsom to undermine these efforts by blocking crucial reparations bills," she stated.

law, an apology without material reparations not only fails but exacerbates harm," she emphasized, demanding a public apology that follows the enactment of real reparations.

Jan Williams from Black Lives Matter LA expressed frustration over the lack of genuine communication from legislative leaders.

"On August 31, the California Legislative Black Caucus conspired to kill bills

Nita Watson, representing the National Volunteer Council on Freedmen Affairs, affirmed that while the apology acknowledges

while still committing the crime. Real reparations begin with the non-repetition of such crimes," he urged.

Community members also expressed the need for accessible genealogy resources for those applying for reparations, ensuring equitable access for all affected individuals.

"The process must be equitable, with funding available to help those who cannot afford genealogical services," said Yvette Porter Moore, a genealogist.

The coalition collectively called for the reintroduction and passage of SB 1403 and SB 1331, vital

Americans in California.

Kamilah Moore further articulated the coalition's demands, stressing the urgency for actionable measures.

"We are not merely seeking an apology; we are calling for the establishment of a reparations agency dedicated to addressing the historical injustices faced by Black Americans in California. Our demands include the immediate reintroduction of transformative legislation that ensures direct financial compensation to descendants of enslaved individuals, as well as funding for community-led initiatives that promote edu-



Jan Williams of Black Lives Matter expresses her frustration with legislative leaders.



Friday Jones also criticized the governor's apology.

of offering concrete reparative actions, the apology was seen as a symbolic act that does not lead to genuine restitution or justice.

Kamilah Moore, chair of the California Reparations Task Force, was among the

Moore also criticized the allocation of \$6 million from the \$12 million designated for reparations implementation to a non-profit without a clear plan, calling it a betrayal.

"Under international

on the very day we planned to celebrate progress," she said. "The apology was insincere because they refused to engage with us. It does nothing to stop the systemic issues our community faces."

California's historical role in slavery, it lacks substance.

"An apology does not provide legal or financial compensation. True reparations involve concrete measures like direct payments, tax relief, and investment in community infrastructure," she stated.

Kevin Warden Price from the Africa Town Coalition condemned the ongoing injustices within California's prison system, highlighting the need for true reparations to prevent the continuation of slavery-like conditions.

"You cannot apologize

legislation for creating a reparations fund and agency. They emphasized the necessity for ongoing public engagement and accountability from the California Legislative Black Caucus regarding reparations implementation.

As the press conference concluded, the coalition reaffirmed their commitment to pushing for actionable policies that address the economic, political, and social consequences of chattel slavery. The event served as a powerful reminder of the ongoing fight for justice and reparations for Black

education, health, and economic equity.

"It is imperative that these measures are implemented without delay, as they are essential for beginning the healing process. We urge Governor Newsom and the California Legislative Black Caucus to take our demands seriously, engage meaningfully with our communities, and commit to dismantling the systemic barriers that have persisted for generations."

For more information, email Kamilah Moore at reparationsovereverything@gmail.com.



Come feel the love at Taste of Soul

Kaiser Permanente is proud to support the 19th Annual Taste of Soul Family Festival as the returning lead medical provider on Saturday, October 19. Visit our health education booth to receive complimentary health resources & giveaways.

Celebrating 50 years
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19th Annual Taste of Soul | October 19, 2024

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SoCalGas Donates \$75,000 to Brotherhood Crusade for Danny J. Bakewell, Sr. Community Garden

The community garden aims to serve 200 families, giving South L.A. residents access to fresh produce and more.

BY BRIAN W. CARTER
Contributing Writer

“It’s an honor, I’m humbled, I’m grateful that the community recognized me for things that I just normally do,” said Danny J. Bakewell, Sr., executive publisher of the L.A. Sentinel Newspaper and chairman of the board of the Brotherhood Crusade.

Recently, Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) presented a \$75,000 donation to Brotherhood Crusade towards the creation of the new Danny J. Bakewell, Sr. Community Garden at the organization’s headquarters in South Los Angeles. Local officials such as Los Angeles City Council President Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Councilwoman Heather Hutt, representatives for L.A. Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell and Councilman Curren D. Price, family, friends and colleagues attended the event.

“We at Brotherhood Crusade have been on the front lines for 56 years,” said Brotherhood Crusade CEO Charisse Bremond Weaver.

“More importantly, when you have a visionary leader named Danny J. Bakewell, who built this institution, you understand what love and care means every day of the year and so, this garden will be named the Danny J. Bakewell, Sr. Community Garden for his legacy, for his love, but more importantly, building this institution.”

Weaver continued, “This building is paid for so, do you understand what that means? That we don’t have a mortgage. Do you understand that this community garden will never go anywhere because



Southern California Gas Company and the Brotherhood Crusade cut the ribbon on the site of the new Danny J. Bakewell, Sr. Community Garden.

we own the land? “That only happens when you have exceptional leadership.”

“On smog alert days, I couldn’t go out and play with everybody else because I’d get so sick and a big part of that was because all of South L.A. was under greened,” said Harris-Dawson.

“We didn’t have the gardens, and we didn’t have the kind of plants, so putting this here makes a much bigger difference than any can count. The kids that will be able to come out of their house and play because this is here, that couldn’t otherwise and so, it’s a big deal to us.”

He continued, “We’ll be able to have parties here and events here and hang out here and just build the kind of community that we all deserve here.”

According to a study from the University of Southern California Dornsife, 1.4 million Angelenos lack access to sufficient and healthy food due to barriers like limited grocery stores or lack of public transportation creating food deserts, which are areas with severely limited access to affordable and good-quality fresh food.

This community garden aims to serve 200 families, giving South L.A. residents access to fresh produce, a safe space and communal ground.

Bakewell’s leadership has made the Brotherhood Crusade a premier institution in the country. He served 35 years as president and chief executive officer of the grassroots organization, which is dedicated to improving the lives of low-income, underserved, under-represented and disenfranchised individuals.

He currently serves as chairman of the board of Brotherhood Crusade and was named one of Los Angeles’ Most Influential Leaders by the Los Angeles Times with a long history of social justice activism. Bakewell co-founded the National Black United Fund and has been a key figure in the Los Angeles Sentinel’s growth since his family purchased the paper in 2004.

He also founded the Taste of Soul Family Festival, which will be celebrating its 19th year having attracted over 500,000 people and hundreds of local businesses to Crenshaw Boulevard. The Danny J. Bakewell Sr. Primary Center in South L.A. is

also named in his honor.

“In my role, I have the good fortune of building on communities and really leading and focusing on our partners at SoCalGas,” said Andy Carrasco, SoCalGas vice president of communications, local government and community affairs.

“We really are do the right thing, champion people and

neighbors and everyone in between and it’s our privilege to have really come together here and really plant the seed no pun intended to really make this project possible.”

SoCalGas’ collaboration with Brotherhood Crusade is part of the company’s ASPIRE 2045 sustainability goals, which includes a plan to invest \$50 million to drive

president and their goal is to nourish our community—that’s what it’s always been.

“I want to say thank you for everything that you’ve done for our community, and this is an offering of giving you your flowers in the act of plants, in food that nourishes the community and healing that nourishes the children and adults that are walking in this community.”

It will also help Brotherhood Crusade to expand its existing Teaching Gardens program, educating students on the importance of fresh produce and the healing power of natural plants like herbs and aloe vera. The garden will also be used for education programs, community receptions, and movie nights. The Danny J. Bakewell, Sr. Community Garden is anticipated to open in Spring 2025.



Councilmembers Heather Hutt, left, and Marqueece Harris-Dawson, 3rd from left, attended the check presentation.

shape the future that really brings us to great partnerships like Brotherhood Crusade, which we’ve had the great fortune of having a great relationship for over 25 years.

“We’re going to continue to maintain commitments and partnerships to better the health of our community, our

positive change in diverse and underserved communities across five years.

“Brotherhood Crusade will always be my home,” said Hutt. “I early on volunteered for the Brotherhood Crusade under Danny Bakewell, Sr. as the president and then, many years with Charisse as the

“It’s just important to me to serve the community,” said Bakewell. “This is all about service and the fact that you’re acknowledged for it is a plus.

“It’s not anything you’re looking for, but the fact that the community decides that you’re worthy, that is what makes my heart smile.”



Tell the L.A. City Council to

REJECT

the Costly Restaurant Ordinance

JOIN US IN OPPOSING
The Costly Restaurant Ordinance






- ✗ **UNFAIRLY** singles out minority-owned small businesses
- ✗ **INCREASES** food costs for struggling families
- ✗ **THREATENS** to shut down local restaurants



“With the Costly Restaurant Ordinance, many local restaurants like mine may not survive.”

~ Rob K. | Local Restaurant Owner

Sign the Petition Today!

Tell the L.A. City Council to **REJECT** the Costly Restaurant Ordinance



ProtectLARestaurants.com

Bank of America Women & Minority Business Owner Spotlight Has Good News

The recent report shows Black and African American business owners' economic outlooks are optimistic for the year ahead.

BY BRIAN W. CARTER
Contributing Writer

In May 2024, the Sentinel shared information from the Bank of America Business Owner Report, conducted in partnership with Bank of America Institute, which released information on small and mid-size business owners. The report included input from more than 1,400 small and mid-sized business owners looking at viewpoints, goals and concerns nationwide having an optimistic outlook on their future.

According to the 2024 Bank of America Women & Minority Business Owner Spotlight, published in partnership with Bank of America Institute, the optimism continues. In this recent report, more than 2,000 small and mid-size business owners across the country, nearly four out of five (78%) small and mid-sized business owners anticipate revenue growth in the next 12 months.

"This is research that we publish two times a year, once in the spring and then once in the fall," said Raul Anaya, Los Angeles president & co-head of Business Banking for Bank of America during a virtual briefing with media outlets.

"We also like to incorporate information and insights that the Bank of America institute also publishes, where we are leveraging our own proprietary data to really to understand consumer behavior, the economy and overall business practices."

"This Fall, we did find that business owners were optimistic about their revenue growth and just the aspects for their business to increase over the next 12 months," said Sharon Miller, Los Angeles president & co-head of Business Banking for Bank of America.

The report shows most business owners including 76% of women, 82% of Hispanic-Latino, 84% of Black/African American and



COURTESY PHOTO
Tracy Grey, co-founder of The 22 Fund.

83% of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) entrepreneurs anticipating revenue growth in the year ahead.

Business owners across all surveyed cohorts are cautiously optimistic that economies will improve over the next 12 months. Nationwide, 66% believe the local economy will improve, 60% believe the national economy will improve, and 57% believe the global economy will improve.

Black and African American business owners' economic outlooks are optimistic for the year ahead. According to the report, over the coming year, 77%

plan to expand, and 94% plan to obtain funding for their businesses.

"They have a very strong business and economic outlook and they're confident about the economy will improve and they do expect their business and revenue to increase in the year ahead," said Miller.

She continued, "Inflation is one of the things that they have told us is one of the biggest issues for Black business owners and they have raised prices.

"They've had to increase wages and certainly they're reevaluating their cash flow and spending, but when you look at over the next 12 months in spite of all of this, they still do plan to grow their business, and they plan to expand.

"We also found that 60% of Black African American owners say labor shortages are currently impacting their business."

Out of Black and African American entrepreneurs, 70% are prioritizing personalized customer interactions to attract and retain customers. Ninety-two percent of a survey are adjusting their marketing strategies and approaches with social media (54%), offering personalized deals and discounts to individual customers (45%).

In the May 2024 article, the Sentinel spoke to a Black-owned business, Thirteen Lune, a beauty and retail platform that carries products made by Black and Brown businesses. Founded in December 2020, Thirteen

Lume was looking to make more hires as well as expand their business and brands. Tracy Grey, co-founder of The 22 Fund is helping companies maintain an optimistic outlook.

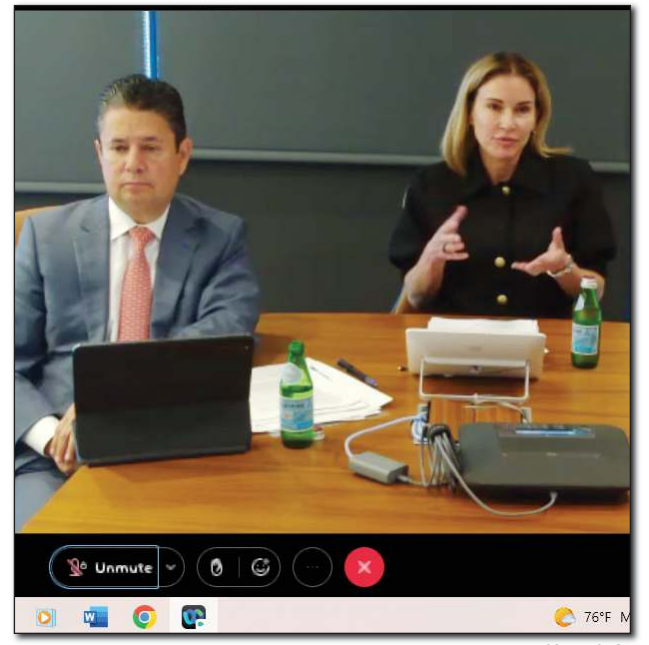
"We invest, we're a mission-aligned fund and we invest in climate tech manufacturing to create what we call the clean, quality job of the future in lower moderate-income communities," said Grey. "We do this by helping them to export their product around the world."

Grey continued, "We have a very broad and deep network and we're the first venture capital fund to have a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Commerce and their international trade agency.

"So, our companies get concierge services and then, in our network of other financial providers from grants, we hired a firm to dig into all the available non-dilutive capital for companies."

The 22 Fund helps companies reach their goals and meet their expectations. Grey shared that they're invested in the well-being of their women and BIPOC owned companies.

"We help, we spend more time with our companies than other venture funds do," said Grey. "We always know where they are in their journey, we



Los Angeles President & Co-Heads of Business Banking for Bank of America Raul Anaya and Sharon Miller share information about Bank of America Women & Minority Business Owner Spotlight during a virtual briefing with media outlets.

help them before they get into trouble.

"We keep an eye on their cash flow, their manufacturing, their employees and we help them find other investors."

Grey shared despite the good news in the recent Bank of America report, Black business owners of color still face challenges.

"Well, with any Black-owned business especially, women of color, it's always accessing capital," said Grey. "It's difficult for women of color to raise funds anecdotally, we're finding it takes people of color, women of color, 3 to 5 times longer to raise a fund, men of color 2 times longer than White men."

Grey continued, "Women of color have it the hardest raising a fund, then it trickles down to their actual company for investing and it's just hard-

er to be a woman of color in business.

"Black women are always in the least of the least."

Grey shared that Bank of America has been a supportive element to The 22 Fund as they support their businesses.

"Bank of America is an investor in our fund and is very supportive of us and our companies," said Grey. "I just returned from their innovation summit in San Francisco.

"They really support Black-owned and Latino owned firms, especially the women who need the most support.

"I'm not surprised by the findings in the report."

For more information on the 2024 Bank of America Women & Minority Business Owner Spotlight, visit <https://institute.bankofamerica.com/>

Annual Lifer and Family Picnic Celebrates Importance of Freedom



Many formerly incarcerated men and their families attended the picnic.

BY CORA JACKSON-FOSSETT
Managing Editor

More than 200 formerly incarcerated men and their families attended the 7th Annual Lifer and Family Picnic sponsored by Ten Toes In (TTI) on Sept. 21, at Don Knabe Park in Cerritos.

TTI, a grassroots non-profit that teaches incarcerated men to be in healthy relationships with romantic partners, provided games, refreshments, and music, which was enjoyed by both adults and children. Activities included a Kid's Korner offering arts and crafts, musical chairs and a three-legged race for youngsters.

According to TTI Founder Darlene Burke, the organization offers a case management offering support and resources and holds a monthly Mentorship Support Meeting for men in the program.

"The majority of these men are serving life sen-

tences in prison, but once they're released from prison, TTI supports them in adjusting to this new phase of life. Ten Toes In is proud of its 97% success rate of the men not returning to jail or prison," Burke said.

"This picnic is designed to celebrate the freedom and accomplishments. Ten Toes In believes that a healthy family creates a safe and productive community," she added.

To learn more, visit



From left are Case Manager Danielle Holloway and TTI Founder Darlene Burke.

www.tentoessin.org or call (310) 612-3977 or email darlene@tentoessin.org.



The Kid's Korner included arts and crafts activities for youngsters.



Children enjoy the three-legged sack race during the picnic.

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The Port of Los Angeles is a proud sponsor of the Taste of Soul Family Festival

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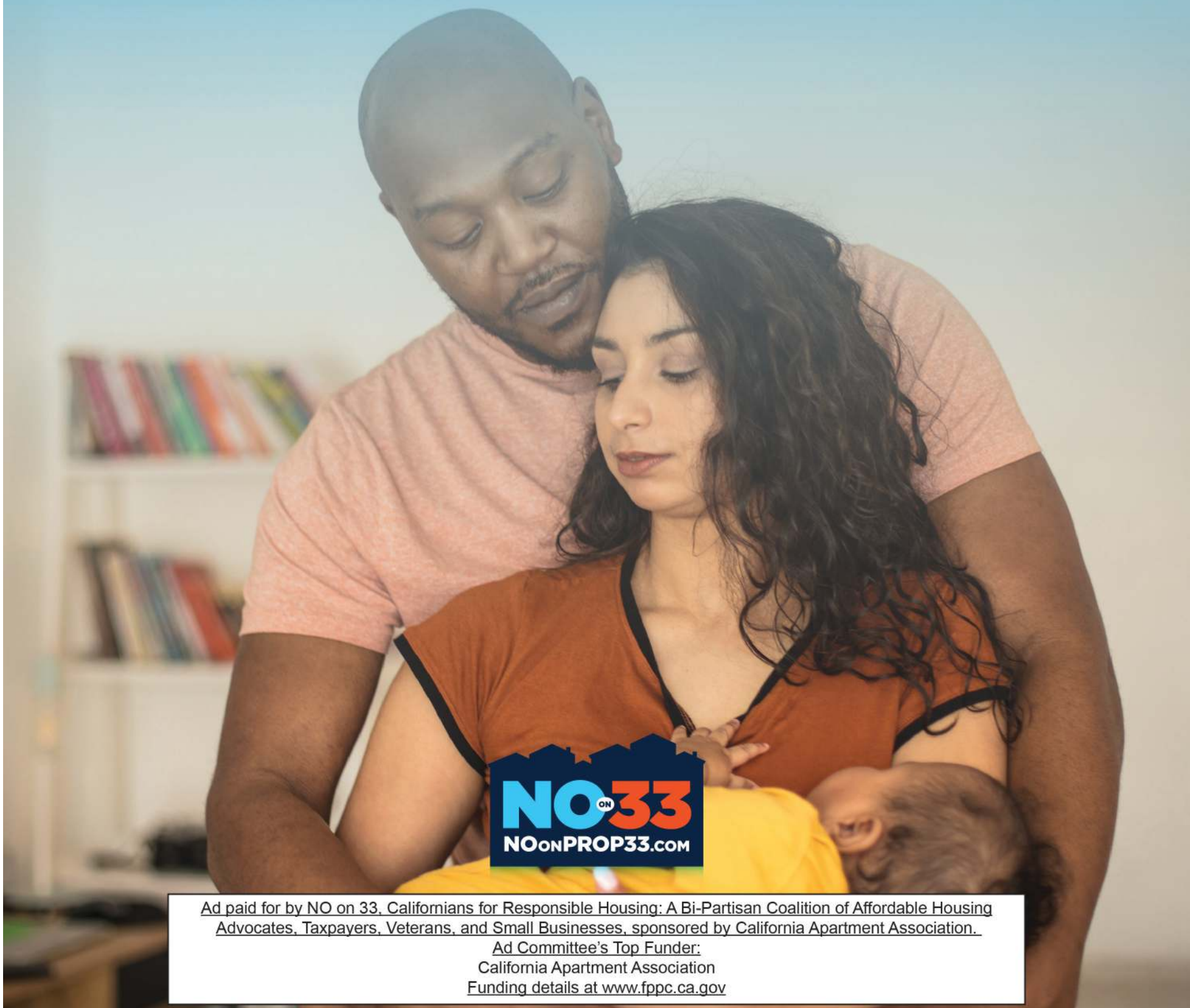
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Hefflin Legacy Foundation Celebrates 12th Anniversary of Black Wings Museum

The museum located at Windsor Hills Math, Science, and Aerospace Magnet campus continues to inspire young minds to fly.

By BRIAN W. CARTER
Contributing Writer

The Hefflin Legacy Foundation recently celebrated the 12th anniversary of the Black Wings Children’s Museum at the Windsor Hills Math, Science, and Aerospace Magnet campus. The museum opened on the same day the Space Shuttle was brought to Los Angeles, and the foundation has been supporting its development ever since.

“I woke up this morning in tears realizing, 12 years, this museum is still standing,” said Deborah Swan, administrator and president of the Hefflin Legacy Foundation, and founder of the Black Wings Museum at the Windsor Hills campus.

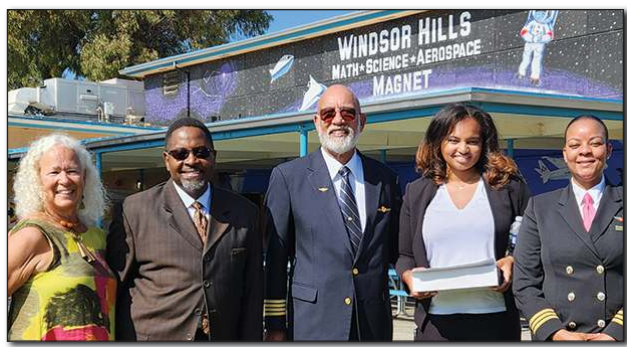


PHOTO BY BRIAN W. CARTER/LASENTINEL

(Left-to-Right): Administrator and President of the Hefflin Legacy Foundation, and founder of the Black Wings Museum, Deborah Swan, Windsor Hills Math, Science, and Aerospace Magnet Principal, Christopher Keith Heim, United Airlines Captain, Mario Ecung (retired), Commercial Pilot, Kennedy McIntosh and First Officer for Delta Airlines, Tanesha Wallace.

included, where she saw an exhibit for Black Wings, but she remains partial to the Windsor Hill’s museum.

“This is more impressive than what they have at the Smithsonian,” said Swan.

“This is what we live to do, to inspire the next generation because we all stood on someone’s shoulders to get to where we are. We always look to pass it forward.”

“I really enjoy talking to the kids and inspiring them to be the next generation of pilots because we need them,” said Tanesha Wallace, first officer for Delta Airlines. “We need them to fill those roles, fill those spots because so many pilots are retiring at this point.”

“It was a lot of fun,” said Kennedy McIntosh, a commercial pilot, currently in general aviation. “They were all so interested in aviation.”

Kennedy continued, “I feel like it was something that wasn’t as talked about, the opportunity of being a pilot so it was really exciting to see how many questions they had and to know how many are really interested in going into aviation whether that is as a pilot or as an aerospace engineer or just in the field.

“It kind of gives me hope especially because the industry is less than 3% African American or people of color

so, it’s really nice to see all those interested individuals wanting to be pilots.”

The Black Wings Children’s Museum features information on Black astronauts and pilots, artwork and two flight simulators. The Hefflin Legacy Foundation aims to raise \$20,000 to sustain their theme, “Take Flight, Soar High,” and organize events for students of all grades focused

al Science Teaching Association, and they hope to foster more meaningful relationships with other organizations.

The following week, students will participate in Kite Days on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, where they will all fly kites in the continued celebration of the museum. Christopher Keith Heim is the principal at the

letting them know that they too could become pilots no matter what their gender,” said Heim.

“As a child, I wanted to be a pilot growing up in the South, but unfortunately, at the time, they were saying you needed perfect vision and I had an unfortunate incident that I now wear glasses.

“That dream was taken



PHOTO BY BRIAN W. CARTER/LASENTINEL

First Officer Tanesha Wallace answers questions from students.

on science, math, and aerospace activities.

The activities will lead up to their annual celebration, which is open to the public. The funds raised last year helped to establish a partnership with the Nation-

Windsor Hills Magnet and loves how these events inspire his students.

“It just lets me know that my vision is being capitalized on and that we’re slowly but surely changing the mindset of our students and

away, but that passion still is there and so, why not just create that passion for my students?”

For more information on the Hefflin Legacy Foundation, please visit HefflinLegacyFoundation.com



PHOTO BY BRIAN W. CARTER/LASENTINEL

Captain Mario Ecung tries flight simulator in the Black Wings Children’s Museum.

“That’s quite an achievement and I’m very, very proud of that achievement.”

Swan got the idea from African American pilot, engineer, and entrepreneur William J. Powell’s book “Black Wings.”

“He was really instrumental in trying to encourage young people to want to fly,” said Swan, who shared that she has also received the highest award in the nation from the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. A trip to Washington D.C. for a gala and tour at the Smithsonian were

“I’m very, very proud of this museum.”

She continued, “I just love it, I just love it, to me, this is important, that’s why I give back.”

The event in the last two years has welcomed African American pilots as guest speakers. This year, they had two female African American pilots and a captain speak to the students. They shared what it was like talking to the youth about becoming pilots.

“It was outstanding,” said Mario Ecung, a retired United Airlines captain.

Marley Rae is ‘Walking Good’

By MYKO LYRIC
Contributing Writer

Marley Rae is a multi-hyphenate figure in the creative wellness space, merging her passions for mental health, yoga, acting and global connection. Born in mid-city Los Angeles, Marley grew up in the Park La Brea garden apartments, where her neighbors represented Black, Indian, Korean, and German.

“We would go to each other’s houses, try their foods, and learn their traditions. It showed me how diverse the world is,” Marley recalled in an interview with the Sentinel.

However, when her parents divorced and she moved to the Palm Desert, she remembers she was “suddenly one of the only Black kids in my school.” The juxtaposition of these two markers in her upbringing fueled her passion for social justice and awareness.

Yoga came into Marley’s life as a crucial turning point. During a study abroad program at the University of Cape Town, she encountered the practice for the first time. “A guy on my trip was doing ‘happy baby,’ [a yoga pose] and I thought he looked crazy,” she laughed. Yet, curiosity got the best of her, and she got right down on the mat and joined: “I got down on that floor and I couldn’t get up!”

Upon her return to the U.S., Marley attended her first yoga class—synchronously taught by an instructor of African descent—at Corepower Yoga. It was then she discovered the transformative power of yoga, especially when compounded by the tutelage of a Black instructor. This is how a deeper form of wellness became a crucial part of her mental health routine.

“Yoga originally wasn’t about relaxation or stress; it was about focusing the mind and coming to a place of complete stillness and oneness with yourself,” explains Marley.

Now studying Yogi Studies at Loyola Marymount University (LMU), Marley is gaining deeper insights into the ancient roots of the practice. “It’s made me so much more critical,” she reflects. “People often think of yoga as a 60-minute class, but it’s so much more. It starts with the individual, but it’s about the



COURTESY PHOTO

Marley Rae

collective. What good are we doing if we’re not helping others?”

In 2020, Marley’s cousin, Etienne Maurice, founded WalkGood LA, an organization born during the social unrest in the pandemic. Originally a one-time event combining running and stretching at L.A. High’s Memorial Park, WalkGood LA has since evolved into a community wellness hub with multiple programs.

This includes the free “BreatheGood” monthly outdoor yoga class in Kenneth Hahn State Park, “FilmGood,” and “ActGood,” which spotlight filmmakers and actors of color, mental health support through, “YouGood?” and “YouGoodGal?,” and “RunGood,” which is now one of the largest run clubs in the city.

Each of these initiatives are wordplay from the original phrase “Walk Good,” which is a Jamaican proverb that Marley’s grandmother, “Grandy” would tell her, Etienne, and cousin/Vice President of WalkGood Ivy CoCo, to encourage them to be well and travel safe.

Apart from her wellness journey, Marley has also followed in her family’s footsteps as a voiceover actress, crediting her father, an actor, for paving the way. Her creative and wellness pursuits are leading to a dream she works toward daily.

“I want to be my own version of Oprah, speaking on panels, at the U.N., and leading deeper spiritual conversations on T.V.,” Marley said with a smile.

Looking to the future, Marley and her partners Christina Scavuzzo and Aysha Preston-Bonnick are preparing to continue their international wellness retreats, set for Greece, Portugal, and Morocco in 2025.

Marley’s philosophy, rooted in mindfulness and self-compassion, is encapsulated in her favorite quote: “Wherever you go, there you are.” This is the essence of her work—guiding people to be fully present and at peace, no matter where life takes them.



COURTESY PHOTO

Marley teaches her Candlelight Flow class at WalkGood LA.



COURTESY PHOTO

L.A. High Memorial park, the birthplace of WalkGood.



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Michelle Chambers for State Senate

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Michelle has over 30 years of public service experience, from working for then Congress-members Janice Hahn and Diane Watson, serving on the Compton City Council and most recently for the Department of Justice.



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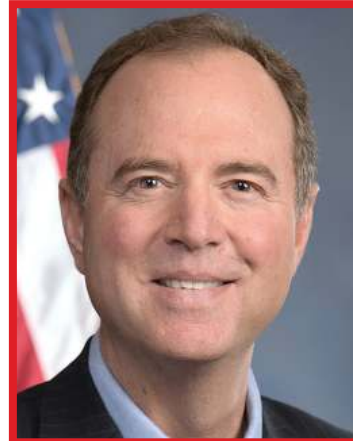


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Measures & Propositions

STATEWIDE

PROPOSITION 2.....YES	PROPOSITION 5.....YES	PROPOSITION 33NO
PROPOSITION 3.....YES	PROPOSITION 6.....YES	PROPOSITION 34NO
PROPOSITION 4.....YES	PROPOSITION 32.....YES	PROPOSITION 35.....YES
		PROPOSITION 36NO

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

MEASURE AYES	MEASURE GYES	MEASURE E.....YES
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LOCAL INITIATIVES

CITY OF LOS ANGELES	MEASURE DD	YES
CITY OF LOS ANGELES	MEASURE LL	YES
LONG ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT.....	MEASURE US	YES
LONG BEACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE	MEASURE AC	YES
CITY OF LONG BEACH.....	MEASURE LB.....	YES
CITY OF LONG BEACH.....	MEASURE JB.....	YES
CITY OF LONG BEACH.....	MEASURE HC	YES
CITY OF PASADENA	MEASURE PC	YES
CITY OF PASADENA	MEASURE PL.....	YES
PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT	MEASURE EE.....	YES
PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT	MEASURE R	YES



Tetona Jackson Talks Growth, Motherhood, and New Role on CBS's 'Poppa's House'



BY KEITH L. UNDERWOOD
Entertainment Writer

Tetona Jackson is set to join the spotlight in the upcoming CBS sitcom "Poppa's House," alongside Damon Wayans Sr., Damon Wayans Jr., and Essence Atkins.

As the October 21 premiere approaches, Jackson reflected on how this role marks a significant moment in her evolving career. As both an actress and the mother of a daughter, she sees the project as a perfect opportunity to grow both personally and professionally.

Balancing a growing career with motherhood is another task Jackson is embracing. "It is the most challenging job I've ever done, but it's the most rewarding," she said. "It sounds so cliché, but it's so true."

"I'm still learning, and I'm still growing — there are always challenges and obstacles thrown my way," Jackson continued. "But for me, it's very important to try to find that balance as much as possible."

"Poppa's House" centers on Poppa, a legendary radio host played by Wayans Sr., who faces challenges both at work and at home. Jackson portrays Nina, the wife of Damon Wayans Jr.'s character.

Before stepping into this sitcom, Jackson made her mark in BET's "Boomerang," a series adaptation of the 1992 film. She described her experience on that show as essential to her growth, saying it taught her the importance of ensemble work and timing.

"'Boomerang' was a huge part of my life," said Jackson. "Simone [her leading character on 'Boomerang'] has a very special place in my heart. That show was so much fun to do."

Although "Boomerang" was a single-camera show, Jackson said it prepared her for the multi-camera sitcom environment she is now navigating.

"One of the things that helped me with 'Poppa's House,'" said Jackson, "is that in a multicamera sitcom, when they yell cut, the writers will come in and pitch different jokes, so you learn not to be completely locked into certain things because it's constantly changing."



Tetona Jackson

COURTESY PHOTO

"You have to learn to go with the flow and be open to those changes," Jackson added.

Jackson thought back to the audition process, feeling that everything aligned perfectly for her to land the role. From her initial Zoom audition with casting director Leah Daniels-Butler to the chemistry read with Damon Wayans Jr., each step reinforced her belief that she was on the right

path for the role.

"Once I was there and reading with Damon Jr., it just kind of started to flow," said Jackson. "I think our chemistry was very authentic, it was fun, and being on set, a lot of my scenes are with Damon Jr., but it's constantly fun."

"We're constantly getting in trouble for laughing and being loud," Jackson added. "From the audition process to now, I couldn't

ask for anything more."

One of the standout aspects of her experience on "Poppa's House" has been the bond she has formed with Essence Atkins. Jackson shared that Atkins has been a mentor and a friend throughout filming, and she believes their off-screen connection has only strengthened their on-screen chemistry.

"We've quickly become like family," Jackson remarked. "She's like my big sister on set... She's been by my side every step of the way, and we've grown to become like family. I'm very blessed and fortunate to have her in my life."

Jackson also expressed gratitude for working on a set that supports working parents, saying she is fortunate to bring her child to work with her. She reflected that this flexibility allows her to stay connected with her family while still focusing on her performance.

She said the production's understanding of her dual roles as an actress and a mother has made this project especially meaningful.

"We have an amazing schedule on a multi-cam, where I work for three weeks and I'm off for one week — it's a hiatus week," said Jackson. "It's very

important to me during that hiatus week to spend as much time with her [Jackson's daughter] as possible."

Although Jackson is currently immersed in comedy, she said she is eager to explore other genres in the future. She thought about her deep interest in psychological thrillers, mystery, and suspense and expressed a desire to take on roles that challenge her in new ways.

"I've always wanted to do some sort of psychological thriller, which is so far from what I'm doing now," Jackson said. "I would love to do something along those lines, whether it be a TV series or a feature — I'm manifesting that and putting it into the universe."

Looking back on her journey from "Boomerang" to "Poppa's House," Jackson said she is proud of how far she has come. "I'm so excited for everyone to see it because so much love and passion has gone into this show," said Jackson.

Keith L. Underwood is a show biz insider, former entertainment publicist, and the creator, producer, and host of *Black in the Green Room*, an entertainment radio show on KBLA Talk 1580, a YouTube channel show, and a multi-platform podcast.

Veronica Nichols – Director, Producer, Visionary

BY ZON D'AMOUR
Contributing Writer

For more than a decade, Veronica Nichols honed her craft as a producer prior to earning her current title as a director. Nichols' credits include producing and directing an episode of Carl Weber's BET series, "The Black Hamptons" as well as several episodes in season 5 of Weber's hit series, "The Family Business."

Nichols was also tapped to direct an episode of the forthcoming spin-off, "The Family Business New Orleans," all of which were adapted from Weber's immensely popular books.

Growing up, Nichols always loved writing and wanted to pursue a career in entertainment; however, with her mother being a college president and her father a college professor, she was encouraged to do something more "practical." Upon graduating from FAMU with a degree in business, Nichols worked as an assistant buyer at Neiman Marcus, but it wasn't what she expected.

"I thought, this is cute, I'll be shopping for a living but it definitely wasn't that," she told the Sentinel.

"You're actually doing calculations for a living. The buyer goes to fashion shows,



MATT JONG

Director Veronica Nichols, center, on set with cast members of "The Family Business."

but the assistant buyer is mostly crunching numbers, which wasn't my jam. I'm more of a words' girl than a numbers girl. So, I knew right away that I wasn't going to stay there long."

Upon learning that her former college classmates were working on a film, Nichols got to shadow the director by becoming the production coordinator which allowed her to segue into entertainment. Nichols would go on to work on over 20 independent films as a producer for Tri Destined Studios.

Amid the pandemic, Nichols wrote and directed her first short film, a romantic

comedy entitled "Perspective."

"Some amazing actors came out to work on it with me. We had a great time and it's a film I'm really proud of. We did the festival circuit for a while, and I wanted to show my team at Tri Destined that I'm passionate about storytelling and they loved it. They showed it to the powers that be, and I got approved to be folded into the system as a director," said Nichols.

In a day and age when many series are canceled within their first season, "The Family Business" reaching five seasons is an incredible feat and a testa-

ment to the series' loyal fanbase. The show follows the Duncan family, owners of a luxury car dealership who are also entangled within a seedy underworld.

The BET series has been a launching pad for many up-and-coming actors as well as a haven for industry legends including lead actors Ernie Hudson and Valarie Pettiford. Nichols, who has been a producer on "The Family Business" since its inception, gives insight into its longevity.

"It's multi-generational, so it has something for everyone, which makes people connect to it. It draws people from all walks of life and socioeconomic backgrounds. It's also multicultural, even though the central family is African American, and we love to live in that blackness, there's a lot of other cultures involved and it's a really interesting vista of the world and everyone can feel seen within this show," she said.

"From the casting perspective, what's cool is that a lot of actors get to do something that the rest of the industry might not see them doing. We get to counter-cast and allow talent to grow, stretch, and show what they can do without constantly being typecast.

"Actors run into that a lot

because, across the industry, people want to take the most calculated and mitigated risk possible. So, if they know a certain actor is good at playing a villain, then they want to cast them as a villain. But on 'The Family Business,' maybe they'll be cast as the hero or a compassionate lover," noted Nichols.

"Actors like working with us because we allow them to show off their range. And oftentimes after being on 'The Family Business' they're seen in a different light and different doors of opportunity open up for them."

When asked what advice she would share with up-and-coming creatives Nichols emphasized the importance of being multifaceted. "You're stronger when you're proficient in multiple areas. The things that I learned dur-

ing the time when I was exclusively producing helped me so much when I directed my short because I knew the steps I needed to take to build the framework to direct the story I wanted to tell."

She continued, "A lot of times people think you need to pick one thing but oftentimes, several things work together and it makes you stronger as an artist to be able to shift and step into multiple lanes and get things done."

Nichols leaves readers with the following takeaway, "Don't be afraid to try it all. If you have a passion and desire for something, go for it. Life is all about growing and continuing to evolve. I'm proud of what I've been able to achieve and accomplish thus far but I feel like I'm just getting started and I'm excited to keep working."



COURTESY PHOTO

Mars Storm Rucker

BY KEITH L. UNDERWOOD
Contributing Writer

Mars Storm Rucker is a nonbinary performer cur-

Mars Storm Rucker Brings Bold Identity to 'Green Day's American Idiot'

rently starring as Whatsername in the Mark Taper Forum's reimaged production of "Green Day's American Idiot." This collaboration between the Center Theatre Group and Deaf West Theatre features both Deaf and hearing talent, integrating American Sign Language (ASL), and spoken English.

Described as a high-

energy rock musical, "American Idiot" follows three young men who leave behind their mundane suburban lives to confront addiction and seek purpose. The story, set to the music of Green Day's seventh studio album, unfolds in the aftermath of 9/11.

Although Rucker was not familiar with American Idiot beyond its title track,

they were aware of the single "Jesus of Suburbia."

"For me, I love Green Day through my love of rock. I love rock music, and I feel—I know—Black people created rock," said Rucker. "As with most genres, we've created it, and I see strong parallels between gospel music and rock. **{See MARS STORM RUCKER on C-3}**

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BILLY MONTGOMERY/L.A. SENTINEL

Screenwriting workshop leader Kristina Sullivan stands with event co-founders Syd Stewart and Johna Rivers as they engage supporters and pose on the red carpet during the event.

By BILLY MONTGOMERY
Contributing Writer

The Real to Reel Global Youth Film Festival illuminated the Los Angeles Film School with its annual event on Saturday, Oct. 5, uniting emerging young filmmakers

and seasoned industry professionals.

Known for providing a platform to showcase the next generation of creative talent, the festival delivered an engaging, up-close experience, demonstrating the undeniable power of creativ-

ity in motion.

Presented by Better Youth, a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering foster and system-impacted youth aged 16-24 through media arts programming, the festival celebrated its tenth year. Over the years, Better Youth has produced numerous award-winning films, amplifying the voices of youth whose stories often go unheard.

“It’s all about giving young people a chance to tell their stories,” said Festival Co-Founder Johna Rivers. “when you put a person in a situation that they’ve never been in before, you give them opportunities to grow and develop. What happens next is limitless.”

A former foster care resi-

dent and native of Watts, Rivers credits the program with profoundly altering her life trajectory.

“I grew up where we didn’t have a lot of opportunities,” Rivers said. “But when I became a part of the program, it allowed me to see a unique perspective, and now, I get a chance to help others like me see their perspective.”

The festival’s other co-founder, Syd Stewart, a veteran television writer and filmmaker, echoed the sentiment and added how she would like to expand the program.

“We are grateful for where we are and I see the festival expanding each year,” Stewart said. “We hope to become a model for other clubs in other cities.”

One of the day’s standout features was the panel discussions, which included a diverse lineup of entertainment industry professionals. The panelists reminded the audience that their voices matter, their stories are essential, and their creativity has the potential to shape the future of film.

Actors Zay Domo, Montana Jacobowitz, and Merrick McCartha were among the panelists who shared their insights on navigating the entertainment industry as Black actors.

“We (foster youth) don’t have a very big voice in the industry, especially where some influencers push the wrong things out to the youth,” Domo said. “We should be pushing out more

things than chasing material things.”

McCartha, a Detroit native who is known for his work on CW’s “All American,” said equal representation is still a challenge that he works to overcome.

“As an actor, I see how performing can have an impact on others,” McCartha said. “I’d like to use it as a tool to bring people together.”

Jacobowitz shared how the industry is slowly recognizing the necessity to break away from tradition, but acknowledged how old habits are hard to break.

“For a while, we have been stuck on things have to stay the same, but slowly things are evolving to expand upon those old ways of doing things,” Jacobowitz said.

Andre 3000 Performs at The Greek Theater

By MYKO LYRIC
Contributing Writer

Atlanta-bred rapper, songwriter, singer, and actor Andre 3000 graced the stage of The Greek Theater in Los Angeles on Oct 2. Andre surprised longtime fans nearly one year ago with the release of his debut solo album, “New Blue Sun.” Andre had previously experienced worldwide acclaim for hip-hop songs including “Ms. Jackson,” “Hey Ya!,” and “I Like The Way You Move.” As such, it came as a shock when he released his highly experimental solo album, deeply influenced by his study of the flute.

Throughout this tour featuring more than 120 shows, Andre and his self-proclaimed “brothers and sisters” in music did not merely replay New Blue Sun note-by-note; they composed entirely new music

live. This type of improvisation was based upon the premise of being present -



PHOTO BY ARIEL GOLDBERG

Andre 3000 playing the flute.

“We make this all right here. We just start, and we keep going. I don’t even know notes like that...it’s just about the energy [the audience] brings to the building,” Andre explained to the

audience.

Presence was a theme throughout the night. Singer, songwriter and violinist Sudan Archives opened the night with an instrument-focused, meditative song. In the transition between Sudan Archives and Andre, the audience was instructed to respect a rule: no phones.

When Andre came onstage, an eruption of cheering could be heard around Griffith Park. However, there was an unusual absence of videography; almost no one took out their phones to capture his entrance, which is unconventional in today’s time. Throughout the concert, people intermittently snagged a video or two, before respectfully putting their phone away.

It made a difference. Many audience members closed their eyes, seemingly entering a meditative state

while they listened to the band. Acknowledging that everything is music, Andre joked that his drummer was also playing the “rainstick, wind, grass, rocks, bag of peas...anything that makes noise.”

Mid-show, he brought thirteen additional players, including Native American musicians performing a drum circle. The entire band onstage was composed of people from different areas of the world, which was emblematic of Andre’s love for learning about different places, cultures, and languages. He began speaking in what sounded like tongues, then let the audience in on a joke: “I know y’all think what I just said was so deep. I was just making [stuff] up. That had, like, Swahili, Japanese, Thai, even some Atlanta in there.”

It was also unconventional that he held no spot-



PHOTO BY ARIEL GOLDBERG

The full band onstage.

light, physically or musically. The entire stage was evenly lit to showcase all the performers, and, in the spirit of live composition, there was space for each artist to shine.

“These people on stage...I didn’t discover them, they discovered me. They each jammed with me, they let me play with them, so thank you,” he said while looking at the band. “[One of them] found me in an Erewhon...he knew I was playing the flute in Venice, he saw me in Erewhon, and he asked me to come jam,”

Andre recalled.

It is a crisp and deeply refreshing glass of water to find a world-renowned artist so humble and eager to learn more about the world through other people. At the end of the night, he subtly mentioned that more music is on the way. Whether it’s ATL-esc hip-hop or of a similar ilk as his New Blue Sun opener, “I swear, I Really Wanted To Make A ‘Rap Album But This Is Literally The Way The Wind Blew Me This Time’”, there’s no telling. But, we will press play nonetheless.

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Amoori Bey: A Beautiful Light Wave

BY NATHAN J. LEE
Contributing Writer

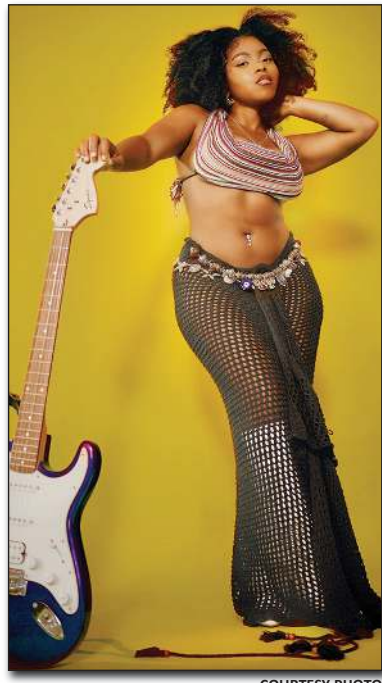
In a city overflowing with voices, Amoori Bey, a 27-year-old Southern California native, resonates on a deeper frequency. Rooted in spirituality, soul, and raw vulnerability, her music is more than sound; it's a channel for connection, healing, and self-discovery.

"I am a very spiritual person," she shares. "Music to me is my heart, everything I feel. I'm able to transmute that through the music." Inspired by artists like India Arie and Bob Marley, she creates with a similar depth, channeling her emotions and experiences into every song.

Her latest release, "Hades," is a raw fusion of soul and introspection, evoking the warmth of a Caribbean night or the intensity of a Jamaican dance floor, alive with sweat and passion. The song captures her emotional honesty as she sings, each lyric steeped in vulnerability. "I put all my emotions on my sleeve," she declares, baring her soul in a music video styled with a nostalgic

90s camcorder aesthetic.

Her debut EP, "The Light Wave," set for release



Amoori Bey

in early 2025, reflects Amoori Bey's journey through life's frequencies and energies, much like the undulating motion of ocean waves.

"I feel like I am traveling through on my own light wave," Amoori explains, capturing the EP's essence

as more than music, it's the soundtrack of her life. Through "The Light Wave," she invites listeners to experience this journey, tuning into the natural flow and rhythm that define her artistry.

At the heart of Amoori Bey's journey is an unwavering commitment to authenticity. Her mentor, Moses Davis, a Columbia Records executive, offered her advice that has become a guiding principle: "Do not change. Do not dilute your music. Just be yourself... it's way more powerful, way more potent."

This message deeply resonates with Bey, who believes that the true power of art lies in its honesty. She shares this wisdom with others, reminding them, "If it's in your heart, it's possible."

Reflecting on her own experiences, she adds, "The hardest times I went through made the best music." For

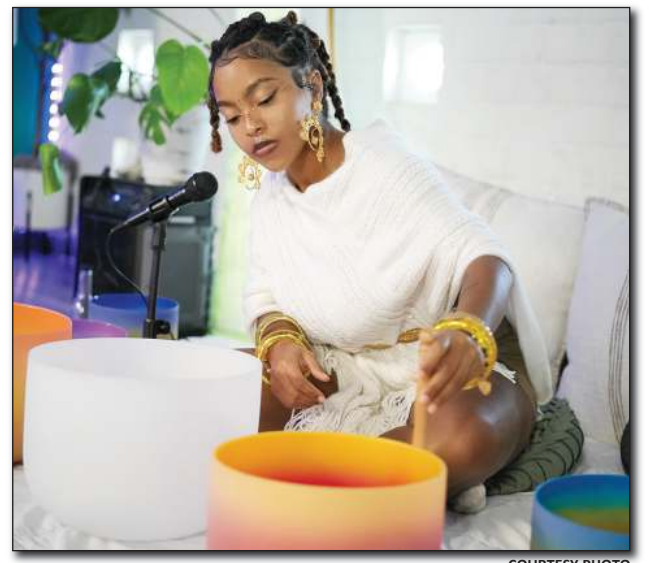
Bey, embracing challenges isn't just part of the process; it's essential, as these moments bring the wisdom that shapes both life and art.

Amoori Bey's life and artistry are intertwined with her dedication to wellness, spirituality, and community. She is a wellness coach, an alkaline plant-based chef, a yoga instructor, and a hairstylist, a combination of roles that reflects her holistic approach to life.

As a wellness coach and yoga instructor, Amoori draws on her spiritual practices to help others find balance and strength, which in turn fuels her music with authenticity and depth. Her hairstyling practice, often regarded as a space for intimacy and conversation, allows her to connect with people in a more personal, therapeutic way.

Through each of these roles, Amoori cultivates the energy that she ultimately pours into her music, making her artistry a true reflection of her journey toward self-discovery and collective upliftment.

Currently, Amoori Bey



Amoori Bey with her sound bowls.

is honing her craft at the Los Angeles Film School, where she studies music production surrounded by like-minded creatives. In this nurturing environment, she's thriving, embracing her artistry without compromise. She's gearing up for her performance on October 23 at The Los Angeles Recording School (LARS) Live, a student-run show for emerging entertainment professionals, where she will debut two unreleased tracks.

"Come out if you want to enjoy some high frequencies and have a good time," she invites, with her characteristic passion. "They said neo-soul is dead, but I say it's not—so definitely come

check me out." Amoori's energy promises an unforgettable experience that redefines and revives neo-soul for her audience.

This is Amoori Bey's moment, perfectly aligned with her dreams and journey as an artist. With "The Light Wave" and her LARS Live debut, Bey not only redefines neo-soul, but also invites listeners to join her on a transformative journey, proving that true art does not just resonate—it inspires and uplifts.

For behind-the-scenes moments, insights, new music, and the latest updates, follow Amoori Bey on Instagram @amooribey and find her work on all major music platforms.

MARS STORM RUCKER *(Continued from C-1)*

That's part of my enjoyment in how I sing rock."

Raised in Houston, Texas, Rucker shared, "That's a huge part of who I am. I am very, very Southern." They later studied at the University of Oklahoma and, eventually, at the Manhattan School of Music, focusing on musical theatre.

Rucker explained that their name was inspired by the character Mars Blackmon in Spike Lee's "She's

Gotta Have It," which was also a family nickname.

"When I was younger, I was paralyzed at the age of six, and I recovered from that miraculously," said Rucker. "I feel like a lot of my life has been about persevering through trauma and oppression... I feel like my name perfectly represents who I am."

Rucker identifies as a proud Black, queer, nonbinary person, adding that their queerness aligns with

their Blackness.

"That goes back to African and Indigenous practices of not aligning with gender," they explained. "That was Eurocentric and placed on Black bodies."

Rucker described their character Whatsername as complicated. Whatsername, who is also nonbinary, is in a codependent relationship with a man struggling with drug addiction.

"There's no name for the

character, so it's hard to bring autonomy to a character that has no name. But in this show, we're trying to tell the story of a partner holding space for someone going through [drug] abuse," said Rucker.

"Oftentimes, when you're in that space, you're trying to save them, but at some point, you [realize], 'This is the work you have to do on your own, and I can't make you take care of yourself and heal yourself.'"

Rucker believes that Whatsername ultimately learns to prioritize self-care.

"I think, as Black people, we've just been taught to do that all the time, and so that's kind of how I approach the character," said Rucker.

"I've been raised and taught to take care of everybody else... but sometimes you forget to take care of yourself."

Rucker is excited to work with deaf artists in the

Center Theatre Group production of "American Idiot," especially Black deaf individuals represented in the show. They are also eager to shed light on the unique challenges faced by Black deaf people.

"I think that's something we're beautifully highlighting," said Rucker. "The oppressions and stereotypes about deaf people and breaking those perceptions—I feel like I can be an ally in that space."

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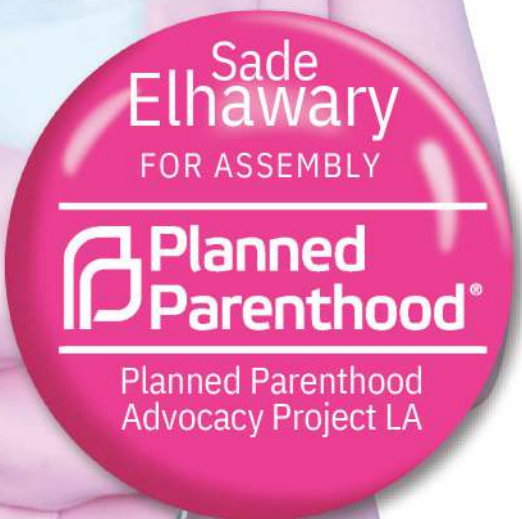
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FAMILY • Lifestyle • HEALTH

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2024

www.lasentinel.net

D-1

'What in the Wellness' Prioritizes Black Mental Health on World Mental Health Day

BY SHELBY STEPHENS
Contributing Writer

For decades Black communities have been disproportionately affected by mental health issues that have led to barriers in accessing decent and comprehensive healthcare.

According to McLean Hospital, nearly 10% of Black Americans do not have health insurance, 65% of Black youth report traumatic experiences, but only 25% of the population seek mental health treatment.

The annual What in the Wellness event is combating these statistics. For their third installation of unlocking wellness for the culture, on Oct. 10, mental health expert and life coach Aaron Bernard moderated a conversation in celebration of World Mental Health Day with an esteemed panel.

In partnership with Love, Peace & Spades, and powered by Lululemon, the discussion highlighted the



Aaron Bernard, Dexter Darden, Durand Bernarr, Dr. Jamila Young.

importance of mental health check-ins, therapy, the effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic, rest, and how to stay motivated in tough seasons, followed by a Q&A session from the audience.

With over 20 years of experience, Bernard invited some of his friends to share their experiences with mental health. Actor, singer, and dancer Dexter Darden, singer, songwriter, and performer Durand Bernarr, and Clinical Psychologist Dr. Jamila Young, were in

attendance to elaborate on how they care for self, their advice to others, and why prioritizing mental health can lead to a better quality of life.

McLean Hospital explains that because of the history of psychotherapy, as well as the unique challenges faced by members of the Black community, Black patients may prefer seeing Black therapists. Dr. Jamila Young is an educator and psychologist specializing in trauma and couples therapy, emphasized the

quality of your "toolbox", positive tools that assist in difficult or triggering situations, and the power of rest.

During the panel she expressed, "We are better people when we rest." Darden shared her sentiments as he reflected on his routines of wellness, "find where you can fill your cup," and Bernarr said, "rest in work, as rest is in the work."

Then briefly mentioning how both religion and therapy can remedy some blank spots in mental

health, Bernarr offered a mantra "amen and unpack." These reflections resonated and captivated the audience, as all these key points proved familiar yet foreign.

What in the Wellness ultimately provided a haven and a safe space for young Black residents to explore options in mental health, as well as an outlet through their partnership with Love, Peace & Spades. The most frequent comment about Love, Peace & Spades is that people feel seen and heard and in honor of World Mental Health Awareness Day, the monthly game night series executed the importance of consistently finding comfortable spaces to play and positively express yourself.

After the panel discussion, guests were invited to play, learn, and laugh through the traditional and honorable game that is Spades. Bid Whist is also a star game and known as the parent of Spades. Their

team's award-winning coaching groups were also in attendance to help guests feel more comfortable in with these games.

Love, Peace & Spades has grown immensely in the past year. Expanding their reach in Los Angeles and more recently the New Mexico, has been a testament to their positive presence in the Black community.

Keeping good company, finding support through family, community, and spirituality, can refresh your mental health, in addition to professional mental health care.

"When you're going through something, take your time," said Aaron Bernard. To learn more about What in the Wellness, visit their Instagram page @whatinthewellness.

Stay up to date with Love, Peace & Spades and their upcoming events online at lovepeaceandspades.com.

West Adams Leimert Park Family Source Center Uplifts and Supports Communities



Councilwoman Heather Hutt and community partners promote free tax preparation services and other resources available at the center.

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

The West Adams Leimert Park Family Source Center, a vital community resource dedicated to uplifting and supporting families in the Los Angeles area, has been serving the community since Feb. 1, 2024.

The Center is located at 4305 Degnan Blvd-Suite 105, in Los Angeles and open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. On Tuesday and Thursday, the facility is open until 8 p.m., and on two Saturdays a month, the center is open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"As a single mother and a Councilwoman, it's very important that my office ensures our community has equal access to opportunities that help them succeed. The West Adams Leimert Park Family Source Center has been a beacon of hope for the people of Council District 10, providing our families with incredible services such as tax preparedness programs, food distributions, tutoring, and employment programs that empower our neighbors to build a brighter future for themselves and their loved ones," said L.A. Councilmember Heather Hutt.

Family Source Centers are funded by the City of Los Angeles Community Investment for Families Department with the vision to close the widening economic and educational gap that exists in Los Angeles. The mission is to move low-income city residents onto a pathway out of poverty; prepare low-income children and youth to graduate from high school and qualify for

post-secondary education; provide safe, stable, and affordable housing services for those at risk of displacement; and financially empower low to moderate income City resident through asset building.

The West Adams Leimert Park Family Source Center (FSC) is a one-stop center that provides a wide array of services totally free of charge.

In just a few short months, the FSC has launched the following significant programs:

Volunteer Tax Preparation Assistance (VITA)

The West Adams Leimert Park FSC assists low-income tax filers with filing their taxes and accessing tax credits such as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the California EITC and Young Child Tax Credit. VITA tax preparation is totally free, and our preparers have been successful in getting significantly larger tax returns for our participants. For the 2024 tax season, we completed almost 300 tax returns for LA residents!

Emergency Financial Assistance

We provide emergency financial assistance and supportive services to meet the emergency and supportive needs of households in danger of becoming homeless. Our services include payment of rental assistance/arrears, utilities/utilities arrears, fees associated with rental applications and credit checks, security deposits, relocation services, children's bed/crib, appliances...etc. We also provide supportive services such as

diapers, baby formula, school supplies...etc. Since our opening in February, we have distributed over \$122,000 to help our clients pay rent and avoid eviction.

Food Program

We provide a weekly on-site food program to address food insecurity in our community. Our food boxes include a variety of non-perishable items. We also strive to provide fresh fruit, vegetables and meat as much as possible. Food distribution dates are every Thursday and every other Friday. Exact dates are listed on our calendar. Please note: any resident can come to the FSC on any day that we are open to pick up a food box.

Immigration Workshops

We coordinate and provide immigration workshops that provide information on citizenship, Deferred Action for childhood arrivals (DACA), and general immigrations services.

Pre-Employment/ Employment Support Services for Adults and Youth

We screen FSC clients to determine if they are eligible for referral to the City's WorkSource or YouthSource Center for job training and placement. We also provide job readiness workshops in resume building, job search, interviewing and we provide links to resources for those who would like to obtain their high school diploma, HiSET or GED.

Youth Services include: Parent Promise

This program supports a parent's commitment to their child to offer guidance and continuous support along every step of their

child's educational journey through college and beyond. Our staff will meet one-on-one with families to design a plan that meets their individual needs.

Additionally, a LAUSD staff member is on-site at our office daily to assist families with any needs from the school district. Monthly workshops will be hosted by LAUSD Pupil Services and Attendance Counselors to help parents better understand their rights, roles and responsibilities and to help their child succeed and be college ready.

Tutoring

Tutoring activities are focused on math and language arts/reading and include one-on-one instruction and homework assis-

tance. We also include writing activities, cognitive skill activities and reading comprehension.

Summer Learning Program

This past summer we hosted an 8-week free Summer Learning Program for children in our community. The camp was filled with engaging STEM, art and enrichment activities, as well as exciting field trips to various locations around Los Angeles, including a visit to museums and Medieval Times.

College Corner

College Prep Information and Resources are provided to help youth achieve their dreams of attending and graduating from college. The center provides trainings on financial

empowerment for middle and high school students, college and university admission requirement, college application preparation, personal statement preparation, the cost of tuition, fees and living expenses, financial aid, SAT/ACT preparation and campus tours. Also, staff provides access to fee waivers for SAT, ACT, AP tests and college applications. LAUSD provides up to four waivers for each student's college applications.

In addition, the center offers line dancing, self-defense and exercise classes, cooking demonstrations and art classes. It is our goal to become a community hub for resources.

To learn more, call (323) 991-5850.

Simon Burris: Africana Diaspora Black History Month II Crossword

AFRICANA 101

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Across

- **World's largest desert
- **South African comedian Trevor
- **Like Maya Angelou or Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, so to speak
- **World's longest river
- **African patriot Nelson ___
- **Tennis great Ashe's monogram
- Single
- **Land of Pharaohs and pyramids
- Nebraska (abbr.)
- Locale
- **Africa, biblically
- "___ from evil and do good" (Psalm 34:14)
- **Activist R___a Parks
- **Makeda: Queen of ___ (gifted King Solomon over 9,000 pounds of gold (1 Kings 10:6)
- **King of Egypt at age nine
- **"___, myself and I" (Beyonce song)
- Keepsake
- **Queen Cleopatra's pets, perhaps
- **East African, old-style
- **Chief Shaka's tribe
- New Testament book

Down

- **African traveler who carried the cross of Jesus (Mark 15:21)
- **Egypt's Suez, is one (2 wds.)
- Improve
- **Folk opera "Porgy ___ Bess"
- Cooked in oil (F ___ D)
- Access Control List, for short
- Between MM and OO
- Old Issue (abbr.)
- "Take ___ (coach's order; 2 wds.)



- Miami basketball team
- Acronym: "An eagle in flight"
- Distance (LEN ___)
- Okay!
- **"Native ___" Richard Wright novel
- Dined
- Core
- Tiny bit
- Sheepskin
- Halts
- South Mesa, Arizona (initials)
- **"Island In T___ _N" (Belafonte 1957 film)
- Tennessee/Iowa (2 states' initials)
- Always, in verse
- Minor Turn Over (initials)
- Abbr. for East Harlem Mission
- **Singer LaBelle's monogram
- ** ___DAN (African nation)

(ANSWERS ON F-1)

Top Ladies Host HBCU Pride Day

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

The Ladera Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. sponsored HBCU Pride Day for students and their parents on Sept. 28 at Dorsey High School in South L.A.

This event shared immeasurable information about HBCUs and Darius Gray, a Morehouse College graduate gave a brief history of HBCU institutions.

“Historically Black Colleges and Universities have long been an impor-



Marissa Bowman, left, tells about her experience at Hampton University.

tion,” he said.

“On June 29, 2023, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a decision, striking down race-based affirmative action in college admissions. The most recent ruling has prompted what I believe to be an unintended spike in applications and admissions to HBCUs. Fewer opportunities at PWIs is bringing HBCUs back into our purview on a grand scale. I am very excited and confident that our institutions will step up to the occasion,” concluded Gray.

The students asked questions about schools that they are interested in attending. Many of the students had heard of Howard University, Spelman, Clark Atlanta and others, but they were enlightened to hear graduates share information about the HBCU school that they attended.

The HBCU graduates included Makresha Monik Reneau – Paine College, Clayton Everett – Prairie View University, Marissa Bowman – Hampton University, Kia Smith – Southern University, Darius Gray – Morehouse College, Sandra Brown – FVSU, and Roy Thomas – Grambling University. Also,

Marissa Bowman presented the Ladera Chapter will a certificate from Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass.

Top Ladies participants included Brenda Dodd, Patricia Bizzell, Bennie Beckwith, and Merelean Wilson, the chapter’s HBCU chair and graduate of Prairie View A&M University.



Graduates of several HBCUs shared information about the schools they attended.

tant part of our history on American soil. Immediately following the Emancipation Proclamation, these institutions were many times the only opportunities available to Descendants of Slaves in America, for pursuing higher education,” Gray explained.

“While many HBCUs were initially founded and funded by non-black abolitionists, our continued attendance at these institutions for more than 150 years underlies the importance of their existence. The Supreme Court’s previous decision allowing

for affirmative action in the college admissions process, gave way for PWIs (primarily White institutions) to establish recruiting models that considered socioeconomic standing and ultimately race in providing opportunities in higher educa-



Students and parents participated in HBCU Pride Day at Dorsey High School.



The Ladera Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction sponsored the event.

The Plant Chica Opens In Leimert Park

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

New life is blooming in Leimert Park Village. The Plant Chica, located at 4311 Degnan Blvd., officially opened its doors on Saturday, Oct. 5.

The 1200 square foot outdoor space specializes in plants that are normally only found in warm climates and not commonly available in stores.

At the ribbon-cutting ceremony, Councilmember Heather Hutt emphasized the importance of The Plant Chica’s presence in the community.

“Plant businesses promote environmental awareness and sustainability, encouraging residents to appreciate and care for their natural surroundings,” Hutt said.

“The Plant Chica will contribute to the local economy by providing jobs and supporting local suppliers and artisans.”

The road to The Plant Chica location in Leimert Park Village was not a straight one. In 2018, Sandra Majia and her husband, Bantalem Adis, began setting up plant tables in various locations on the week-



Community Build, Inc. CEO Robert Saucedo, left, stands with The Plant Chica owners Sandra Majia and Bantalem Adis at the opening of their plant shop in Leimert Park Village.

and Walked showed Majia was a vacant space owned by the nonprofit Community Build, Inc. in Leimert Park Village. The two introduced Majia to Community Build, Inc. CEO Robert Saucedo. Saucedo had visited The Plant Chica’s previous location in Jefferson Park and thought it would be a perfect use for open space.

“The entire Leimert Park area is undergoing a major shift. We can either get on board and be a part of the change, or we can get left behind at the station and that’s not an option,” Saucedo said.

“The Plant Chica brand, what they bring, and how they will activate the space, fits perfectly with our vision. It’s really going to be a game changer.”

Majia sees the relocation to Leimert Part as part of God’s plan that anything is possible.

The Plant Chica is proof of just giving in and trusting God because I couldn’t imagine anything as great as what we had before, and this is so much better.” Majia said.

“God had a plan for me. I just couldn’t see it at the time.”

ends. When they started selling out of plants, they created an Esty account, which grew exponentially overnight.

Next came a home-based greenhouse and eventually leased a space in Jefferson Park. The Plant Chica’s location in Jefferson Park thrived and developed a loyal clientele.

“It became a staple in the community,” Majia said. “The neighborhood kids thought Santa Claus lived at The Plant Chica.”

A developer’s purchase of land in Jefferson Park by led to the closure of The

Plant Chica. Black Owned and Operated Community Land Trust, Inc. executives Robbie Lee and Prophet Walker read an article about The Plant Chica’s displacement and approached Majia about opening a space in Leimert Park Village.

Founded in 2017, Black Owned and Operated Community Land Trust is a community-based initiative to stabilize neighborhoods in Black and Under-served communities, where increased property values and rents have pushed out many long-term residents. One of the locations Lee



The Plant Chica owners Sandra Majia thanks loyal clientele at the ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the opening of the shop in Leimert Park Village.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2024

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D-3

Pastor Foster Uses \$500,000 Initiative to Assist Students in SoCal and Africa

BY XENNIA HAMILTON
Contributing Writer

Pastor John-Paul C. Foster has a tremendous vision for SoCal youth and youth beyond. He wants to see children grow and thrive.

To that end, Pastor Foster is reaching out to the community for assistance in raising \$500,000 to help local youth and struggling kids in Kenya. In doing so, he feels this dream, along with community support and efforts, will allow it to become a reality.

As the pastor of Faithful Central Bible Church, Pastor Foster is no stranger to assisting young people to guidance and to a better life.

"Locally, I think it's important for the church to serve their people," he said.

"It's the family community engagement and outreach and when you look at the community that there are churches who do local missions and global missions."

He has held backpack giveaways for over 6,000 children and even held summer camps for kids in the community.

Globally, his missions include working with I Can Fly, an organization



Pastor John-Paul C. Foster

to assist young girls in Kenya with various things such as funding for school.

"We work with an organization, who's a sister of the church, who I say is the daughter of the church, but one of my sisters," Foster said.

"Those young girls, 10 of them, were graduating. So, we gave them scholarships to help them to go to a university after graduating."

Currently, he is still a big help to the Kenyan organization to bring an important resource of life to villages in East Watini as well.

"So right now we're still working with them. They're doing some things in the village areas to assess the village to bring clean water there."

The pastor feels it is

not only his mission that compels him to take on such a large task but the fact that Americans have an advantage that we don't think about everyday.

"Sometimes I think we take for granted the things that we have here. We take for granted running water," Pastor Foster explained.

"We let water run and we just run away from it, it's just running. We'll go do something and come back and it's just running and there's areas in the world that they want water."

Pastor Foster noted that in some of these areas, the only access to water is walking far and filling up at a local pond. Yet, he also feels that students here at home need help as well. The water also helps them to be financially able on their own also.

"Bringing clean water to them changes everything. It changed their economy drastically," said the pastor.

"To have clean water, they're able to grow healthy crops, they grow crops, they can sell them. They have clean water, they can also have cattle and then, they can eat their own food and they can sell cattle."

The pastor talks about how in the past, he and his



Faithful Central Bible Church members gave more than 6,000 backpacks to children.

church has also given some local students a new opportunity to obtain the education he feels they deserve.

"For us, being able to pour into the next generation, their education, that changes our community. They change their lives immediately. And so we came up with an initiative to give away scholarship money."

Although Pastor Foster says the idea is fairly new, he does plan to keep the program going as it helps students to branch out to colleges they love.

"Last year, I think was our first year doing this, but we've done it for a year. Last year and this year we gave over \$200,000 of scholarship money for our youth to go to school. That's from HBCUs, that's Ivy League schools, trade schools. We want to make education accessible to everybody," he said.

The pastor truly believes that the future of the children inspires him to help the next generation. "We have to invest in our children. As the community

we have to, you want to pour into a generation. If you want to impact the community it starts with the children," Pastor Foster said.

He also feels the Word of God is a main factor in what he does and what we all should do.

"When God blesses us, we need to be a blessing to other people," Pastor Foster said. "That's the hands and the feet of the gospel."

To learn more, visit faithfulcentral.com or call (310) 330-8000

Pastor Nisan C. Stewart Merges Music and Ministry

BY NATHAN J. LEE
Contributing Writer

Pastor Nisan C. Stewart, lead pastor of Greater Emmanuel Temple Church in Lynwood, has an extraordinary story that unites the worlds of music and ministry.

A two-time Grammy-nominated record producer, songwriter, and musician, Stewart's journey is a testament to the power of faith, family, and a calling that would transform his life.

Born and raised in Inglewood, California, Stewart grew up immersed in music and spirituality. His father was a saxophonist, his mother a pianist, and his siblings played various instruments.

"I grew up playing the drums since I was five years old," Stewart recalls, a passion that would follow him throughout his life.

His parents, who founded Greater Emmanuel Temple (G.E.T.) in 1965, were the earliest influencers in his dual passions. Despite his love for music, Stewart never saw himself as a pastor. Instead, he pursued a career in music.

As a young musician, Stewart helped shape the soundtracks of the late 1990s and early 2000s by collaborating with iconic names in the industry. From working with Timbaland on Nelly Furtado's "No Hay Igual" to producing tracks for Missy Elliott's "Under Construction" album and co-writing

Fantasia's "Free Yourself," to serving as musical director for Jamie Foxx, Stewart became a highly respected figure in R&B and hip hop. His work spanned touring, producing records, and mentoring young artists.

"It was all about creativity," he explains of his work with Timbaland and Missy.

"Let's do something that nobody else is doing, and a sound that nobody else had." These collaborations cemented his career and instilled a commitment to originality, a principle he would carry into his ministry.

After years of touring, producing, and songwriting, Stewart experienced a pivotal shift in 2004. "My mother was transitioning,"

he explains, "and I felt the tug of the call

to ministry before I had even considered or thought about pas-



Pastor Nisan C. Stewart

toring."

Reflecting on that moment, he shares, "I tell this story of how I was on a plane, leaving from working in the studio in Miami with Missy." His siblings had urged him, "You need to get home. Mom is sick. We can't get her to go to the hospital."

During the flight, Stewart grappled with the weight of the situation. "I was crying, thinking, my mom's probably going to transition because we knew

something was wrong," he recalls.

"On that plane ride, I prayed to the Lord, saying, 'If you heal her, I'll commit. I'll preach the gospel.' And the Holy Spirit said to me, 'I'm going to heal her my way, and you're still going to preach the gospel.'" This marked the beginning of his path to ministry.

When his father, Bishop Carl W. Stewart, was preparing for retirement,

he spoke to Nisan

about his future with the church, saying, "I'm thinking about you as pastor." Initially hesitant, Nisan eventually accepted the role and was officially ordained as the successor to lead Greater Emmanuel Temple in 2012.

Since his ordination, Pastor Nisan C. Stewart has transformed G.E.T. into a vital community hub, focusing on holistic support for local residents. Every Tuesday the church provides families with free

groceries, highlighting the church's efforts to address food insecurity.

Stewart is launching a mental health initiative called "Healing Tables," which will offer free group counseling sessions every Thursday. G.E.T. also runs a business advisory group, providing guidance and resources to individuals looking to launch or grow their own businesses.

Today, Pastor Stewart continues to inspire both in and beyond the church walls, embodying a rare blend of faith and artistry. As a "semi-retired" musician, Stellar Gospel Music Award-winning pastor, husband, and father of three, he remains devoted to guiding younger generations and fostering a safe haven for artists and worshippers alike at Greater Emmanuel Temple.

Join Pastor Nisan C. Stewart and the Greater Emmanuel Temple Church for Sunday worship at 10 a.m. at 3740 E. Imperial Highway in Lynwood.

Stay connected by visiting my-get.org or following @getfamilynow on Instagram and Facebook.

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Greater New Unity Baptist Church Plans Two Special Services

BY CORA JACKSON FOSSETT
Religion Editor

The members of the Greater New Unity Baptist Church are planning two very special services in the sanctuary located at 9719 S. Avalon Blvd., in Los Angeles.

On Sunday, Oct. 20, Annual Women's Day will be held at the 10:45 a.m. worship. According to Mother Dorothy Monroe, program chair, the theme is "Christian Women Walking By Faith" based on 2 Corinthians 5:7. The guest



COURTESY PHOTO
Minister Eric Andrus

preacher will be Minister Redelia Fowler of Life Ministries Church in Fullerton.

An Ordination Service takes place for Minister Eric Andrus on Saturday, Oct. 26, at 10 a.m., at Greater New Unity. The ordination ceremony will be conducted and sponsored by the Providence District Baptist Association of Los Angeles where the Rev. William Dandridge, pastor of Holy Light Baptist Church, serves as moderator and will be the officiating minister.

The service also includes the Rev. Dr. J.W. Brown, pastor of Welcome Baptist Church, as the chief catechizer.

"We are truly excited at Greater New Unity because our church has not ordained a minister in over 25 years, since the late Pastor Randy Allison Jr. was ordained," said Community Engagement Director Arlene Andrews Andrus, the wife of Minister Andrus.

"Pastor Allison faithfully served for 17 years until God called him home on April 21, 2024. Minister

Andrus was baptized by Pastor Allison and has served on the ministerial staff for the last four years."

Described by parishioners as a humble young man, Minister Andrus has served in several capacities since unity with the church. In addition to being an associate minister, he serves as Sunday School teacher, Bible School teacher and as a member of the Bereavement Committee, King's Men as well as co-sponsor and spiritual advisor of Teens for Christ. "Minister Andrus loves

the Word of God and exemplifies and represents Christ in his daily life. He also serves as a group facilitator for God's Property Sober Living Foundation, which assists ministers challenged by drug addiction, homelessness and other life-altering issues," added Mrs. Andrus.

"His greatest joys however are praying, studying and sharing the Word of God, and gathering with the saints at the House of God!"

The public is invited to attend both services.

Will Smith Performs New Inspirational Music at Grammy Museum

BY CHERYL ECKFORD
Contributing writer

Fans of Will Smith were treated to a brilliant and electrifying performance on Oct. 3 at the Grammy Museum in Downtown Los Angeles.

In addition to performing his popular hip-hop hits including "The Fresh Prince of Bel Air," "Getting Jiggy With It," and "Miami," Smith revealed two new inspirational songs, "You Can Make It" and "Work of Art."

Lecrae, a Christian rapper, songwriter, record producer and actor, moderated the Q&A session following Smith's performance. Attendees were able to write down questions for Smith, which Lecrae posed to the film and TV star.

Noting that Smith's music has been a great contributor to hip hop, Lecrae asked, "What keeps you excited as a creator in the industry for decades?" Smith replied, "The opportunity to learn and grow."

Discussing his new song, "You Can Make It," Smith said he recorded it with

The Sunday Service Choir.

"The song has spiritual themes. I made a song that resonates with the experience I had in church, but I wasn't looking to make a gospel single," said the artist.

Smith said of his writing process, "I was trying to find what I wanted to say. I'm just a well of authenticity, the most honest space within me." He added that he wasn't trying to make a hit, but instead desired to be authentic.

"The song 'You Can Make It' was what was on my heart. Every single person is going through something. For me, the song is the most in tune thing you can say to someone," noted Smith.

"It's only by the grace of God that I would have to be in someone else's shoes and have to make the decision an individual would have to make. I'm learning not to judge others," he added.

Recalling another aspect of his music, Smith said, "I was 12 years old, and I had written rap songs in a composition book and

my grandmother found the book. It was then my grandmother wrote me a

music." In 1989, Smith won a Best Rap Performance



COURTESY PHOTO
Will Smith

letter telling me intelligent people don't have to use profanity to express themselves," said Smith. "It was then I made the decision not to use profanity in my

Grammy for the hit with DJ Jazzy Jeff titled "Parents Just Don't Understand." Smith said that despite the award, he and other rappers boycotted the Grammys

that year because the show did not broadcast the Rap category.

The musician and actor help bring rap to mainstream when he starred in NBC's "Fresh Prince of Bel Air." In 1992, Smith and DJ Jazzy Jeff won a Grammy for Best Rap Performance by a duo or group for the song, "Summertime."

Six years later, Smith won another Grammy for Best Rap Solo Performance for "Men in Black." Also, the "Summertime" video premiered on NBC after the "Fresh Prince of Bel Air" and Smith recalled, "This was unheard of at the time."

Reflecting on his career, he said, "I never got the opportunity to hone my talent in music as my records usually were related to the movies I acted in. The last 20 years, I have been acting and now I am hoping to find my way as a rapper, and I want to be able to touch human hearts in the way I have been able to do in acting."

One of Smith's fans, Fercho Perez, remarked,

"When I was 13 years old, I used to watch 'Fresh Prince of Bel Air.' Will Smith saved my childhood when I was having troubles at home. Smith made me smile. I am a big fan."

The evening closed at one of Smith's most vulnerable moments as Smith shed tears reflecting on one of his songs he wrote when his first son, Trey, was born.

"It was one of the most terrifying moments knowing I would be responsible for another person," Smith said. The song he wrote was "Just the Two of Us," which was inspired by the song of the same name by Bill Withers.

As Smith gave a shout out to his son, Trey, he acknowledged that he didn't always have the answer when it comes to raising his children.

"I am discovering that as I am working on myself, my children are gravitating towards me more," Smith said.

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

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• DR. MAULANA KARENGA •

The Million Man March and Day of Absence: Radical Solidarity in Life, Love and Struggle

Although clearly the Million Man March was the central event on October 16, 1995, it is important that we remember and always pay rightful homage to its parallel support project, the Day of Absence. Indeed, the Mission Statement is titled "The Million Man March/Day of Absence Mission Statement."

Moving to foreground the challenges faced by Black men and yet rightly placing them in the context of community and partnership with Black women, after deep discussion we expanded the arc of inclusion, not only to involve women in the organizing committee, but also to support the building of a parallel initiative lead by Black women. Thus, we called on those who did not come to Washington, especially, Black women, to mobilize and organize the community in support of the March and the goals of the Black liberation struggle.

We stated in the Mission Statement that the "The Day of Absence is a parallel activity to the Million Man March and a component part of one joint and cooperative project: the standing up and assumption of a new and expanded responsibility by the Black man in particular and the Black community in general. Women are in the leadership of the Day of Absence without exclusion of men as men are in the leadership of the Million Man March without exclusion of women. And both activities are equally essential."

Those actively involved were to stay away from work, school, businesses, and from places of entertainment and sports and focus on the themes of atonement, reconciliation and responsibility in our lives and struggle.

We called for teach-ins at homes and in community gatherings on the meaning of the Million Man March, the Day of Absence, the goals of this joint project and the importance and requirements of our struggle

for liberation and justice; the indispensability of spiritual and ethical grounding in our families, communities and struggle; the central lessons of our history; and finally for "a massive voter registration as an essential act of responsibility for being politically active and morally engaged persons, profoundly committed to the improvement of the quality of life in the community and larger society."

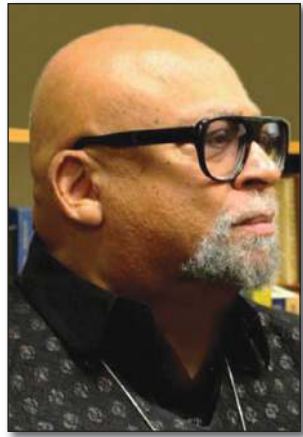
Below is a position paper by the sisters of the Senut Society: A Sisterhood of the World African Community, the women of our organization, the African American Cultural Center (Us), who with other Black women in Los Angeles and around the country, organized and led the Day of Absence.

"We, the women of the Senut Society and the Organization Us, stand in ongoing solidarity with Black men in life and struggle and are supporters, participants and partners in the joint project of the Million Man March in Washington, D.C. and the Day of Absence throughout the country on this day, October 16, 1995.

"The Day of Absence is a holy day, a sacred day, a day of atonement, reconciliation and responsibility. We see the March and Day of Absence as a necessary challenge to ourselves and the country at a critical point in history in which this country has embraced the negative and we must struggle to achieve the positive. As our philosophy Kawaida says, we must resist and struggle against all forms of oppression and establish a model of the best of what it means to be both African and human.

We maintain that to put forth this model of excellence, we must mobilize, organize and direct in positive ways the collective energies of our people, that we must build family and community, and that we must stand together as one against the regressive forces

of this country. And we see the March and Day of Absence as a historic opportunity to lay groundwork for the harnessing of our collective energies. From the



DR. MAULANA KARENGA

inception of the call for the March, we along with other women and men across the country have carried on discussions about the meaning of the March, the form it should take and how it fit in our struggle to build family and community and end our oppression as a people. We were concerned that the March and the activities and discussions surrounding it represented the best of our tradition as a people in struggle.

"Therefore, we along with other women and men across the country worked hard to expand the original conception of the March so that: a) the priority focus on men in no way suggested the exclusion or lack of concern for women; b) that women at all times were viewed and treated as equals and partners in the efforts to strengthen family and community and wage a success-

ful struggle for liberation of our people; c) and that a joint project be created in which this equality and cooperative partnership were expressed.

"From the extensive exchange at the local level and in national meetings, we of Us and other women and men with similar concerns expanded the idea of the Day of Absence so that it became an essential part of the overall project of standing up and assuming a new and expanded responsibility by Black men in particular and the Black community in general.

"We made a significant input into the formulation of the mission statement which summarizes the best of our thoughts as a people concerned about the state of the world in which we live and the impact of this on the quality of our lives. We especially stressed the need for a moral vision of society and Black male-female relations which upholds the equal rights, role and responsibility of Black women and men in the life and struggle of our people.

"Therefore, we accept the 'Million Man March/Day of Absence Mission Statement' and the challenges, goals, and ongoing projects which it puts forth as representative of our views and concerns, our input and the collective process in which the document was created. As the Mission Statement says, 'unless and until Black men stand up, Black men and women cannot stand together

and accomplish the awesome tasks before us.'

"We applaud the gathering of men in Washington for standing up, making commitments to be better persons, build stronger families and struggle to bring into being a just society and a better world. We applaud the assembling of women in the community to mobilize, organize and conduct teachings around the larger meaning of the March and Day of Absence. And we share the common commitment of Black women and men to strengthen ourselves, our families and community and move as one in life and struggle for the greater good.

"Our support of our brothers comes from our need to see them responsible, principled, active, committed and strong enough to make and keep commitments, to live full and meaningful lives and build equal, loving and mutually respectful relations with Black women. It is also based on our sense of mutual obligation to be sensitive to each other's needs, to share each other's dreams and aspirations and work together to create and maintain all good things.

"We support male projects for the same reason we support female projects: it is a positive practice of our culture and tradition to create structures and processes for women and men to bond with other women and men, to speak to the challenges and aspirations of their particular gender and to

address issues together in sisterhood and brotherhood.

"In this regard, the Million Man March is led by men, but women are not excluded, and the Day of Absence is led by women, but men are not excluded. And as the Mission Statement says both activities are equally essential.

"In conclusion, we embrace and support the brotherhood that gathers at the March as the brothers embrace and support the sisterhood that mobilizes, organizes and conducts the teach-ins on the Day of Absence. We take the position that the well-being of our people and their capacity for successful struggle depend on our working together as sisters and brothers as equals and partners.

"As our Mission Statement says, our task is "to build an empowered community, a just society and a better world" together as mutually supportive partners in love and struggle. And we take up this task, fully aware that our very future depends on it."

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 Introduction to Black Studies, 4th Edition, www.OfficialKwanzaaWebsite.org; www.MaulanaKarenga.org.

• TONY WAFFORD •

Why Are They Afraid to Say 'White Boys?'

Did anyone other than me read the article or hear on the news a story about this group of crazy white boys getting arrested? You may not have heard anything about it because the L.A. Times sold the story in the softest way possible.

The headlines of the story read, "68 people with alleged ties to supremacist gang indicted." More accurately it should have read like this, "68 Wild Hate-Filled White Boys were arrested on charges of drug trafficking and fraud." You can bet your ass if it had been a group of Black or Brown men there would have been no ambiguity of the culture of these criminals.

This group of fine upstanding White Boys refer to themselves and their White colleagues as "Peckerwoods" (I like the word cracker myself). These white boys the media often refers to as White supremacist, well I just see them as crackers in coveralls.

In the spirit of historical accuracy, it is not me calling these gentlemen Peckerwoods. I read an article that the Peckerwoods took their name from a derogatory term for white inmates in the California prison system, embraced Nazi iconography and traded racist comments in a private Facebook group, according to an indictment that was unsealed.

Isn't it interesting that when America talks about her crime problem, when addressing issues of drug dealing, human trafficking, theft, bank fraud, robbery, stolen merchandise, smash-and-grab and every other heinous crime you could think of; she always seems to frame the worst of American society in Black and Brown and Jesus in White.

Is it just me or have you noticed that whenever one of these crazy white boys goes off and decides he's not hav-

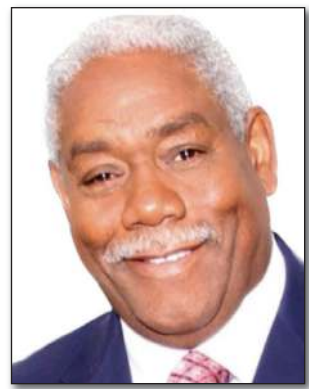
ing a good day and chooses to shoot up a school and kill innocent children, why is it they (the media and law enforcement) first start looking for rationale for the shooters insanity before addressing the culture of the shooter.

But let a nonwhite innocent person of color get killed by law enforcement, it was something that he did that triggered the officer that got him killed, something like breathing. You know me, once again I digress.

Did you know that the Peckerwoods are financing their MAGA movement by selling methamphetamine, heroin, fentanyl, and young white girls? I guess you get a better return on your investment when you frighten and convince white people that it's those people of color that's the root of all evil and that they are the cause of their problems in this country and by extension the world, can you say Trump.

Oh, and by the way I would be derelict if I didn't mention that most of their criminal activity is happening in the San Fernando Valley not Watts, East L.A., or Compton. This is a movement under the auspices of imprisoned members of the

Aryan Brotherhood. These same white boys (crackers) have orchestrated murders



Tony Wafford

both inside and outside the California prison system.

Check this out, U.S. Atty. Martin Estrada said in a statement, "The Peckerwoods' violent white-supremacist ideology and wide-ranging criminal activity pose a grave menace to our community by engaging in everything from drug-trafficking, firearms offenses, identity theft, COVID fraud and through their alliance with a Neo-Nazi prison gang, the Peckerwoods are a destructive force." Let me see if I got this right, so, we are supposed to be outraged and sounding the alarm about Black Lives Matter

who are only fighting for justice for all people?

So where am I going with all of this; I'm so glad you asked. Crime is an American problem, not a Black, Brown or even White issue, it is an American issue.

First, for all my friends that think I'm talking about all white people you can relax; I'm not talking about your wife, husband, relatives, or friends. They know better than you, if you throw a brick in a pack of dogs, the one that hollers is the one that you hit.

Drugs, violence, and crime is not Black, Brown, or White, its Red, White, and Blue and we must face that. You think I'm lying; well, here is a quote you won't hear this January, "The greatest purveyor of violence in the world today is my own government," stated the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

We must have the courage to call out wrongdoing no matter who is doing it. If we want to heal America, we must first recognize she's sick, then and only then can we work at making her GREAT for the first time.

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2024
Family Festival

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Coach Wendy

Life Strategist / Consultant
Author / Speaker

Are You Wearing Purple Today?

According to Google, the color purple is generally associated with royalty, luxury, nobility, and power. Purple has also been associated with dignity, grandeur, independence, pride, and peace. Some even associate it with power.

However, for victims of domestic violence, all these definitions would not describe how they feel about themselves. October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and the organizers of DVA are ask-

ing everyone to wear purple on Oct. 17 for "Go Purple Day," and National Day of Action.

The purpose is to shine a bright light on the ongoing problem that is dimming the lives of so many people. We want to empower those who have felt powerless to reclaim their dignity and pride.

Domestic violence or abuse shows up in many ways and does not discriminate against anyone. Male, female, rich, poor, young, old, educated, or



uneducated can all become victims of abuse. What is sad is when our children and elders become victimized at the hands of someone who should be protecting them.

Before we can help victims become victorious and heal from the wounds and acts that have been done against them, we must help them get out of the situation as soon as possible. Sometimes people feel trapped, and they do not know what to do or where to go.

The National Domestic Violence Hotline Number

is (800) 799-7233, and several local organizations are willing to help when contacted. Depending on the situation, there are two that come to my mind immediately, Positive Results Center and Jenesse Center, both headquartered in the greater Los Angeles area.

Domestic violence is a pattern of behavior that someone uses to gain or keep control over another individual. Abuse can be mental, physical, emotional, sexual, or even economic. Any time someone feels threatened if they do not grant the person who is doing the abuse what they are demanding, it is abuse. The offender often will use threatening tactics and intimidation to stay in control and if they must, they will also inflict pain and violence.

The sad thing is sometimes we think we know someone, but they may not show their true colors regarding their personality or demeanor until we are

deep in a relationship with them, and we feel trapped and cannot get out.

As we become acquainted with an individual there are a few things that we can look for that could be considered red flags such as:

* Do they put you down or make you feel bad about yourself?

* Do they blame you for things that are not your fault?

* Do they pressure you for things like sex or money when you do not want to give or do it?

* Do they use drugs or alcohol excessively?

* Do they check your phone or follow up on your whereabouts to make sure you are where you say you will be?

* Do they pick fights with you and then say they are sorry and that it will not happen again?

Remember, they are the problem, not you.

Sadly, I have experienced domestic and sexual violence over the years

starting as a child. I understand the pain and shame that it can bring, but we do not have to be ashamed especially when something has happened to us that was beyond our control. We also need to teach our young girls and young men to value themselves and to be aware of the signs that can keep them out of harm's way.

Finally, always trust your gut and if you feel you are in a bad situation get out before it is too late. Do not worry about what that person or others may think, self-preservation is key. When people show you who they are believe them and do not second guess your intuition protect yourself. Join me in wearing purple on Oct. 17.

Healing Without Hate: It's a choice. It's a lifestyle. Pass it on.

Visit www.WendyGladney.com and www.forgivingforliving.org to learn more. Wendy is a life strategist, coach, consultant, author, and speaker.

Success On "The Way"

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"Rape of Tamar" "The Crime" Part 3

She was 15 years old and exceptionally beautiful to look upon. You might say her beauty was a fatal flaw (if I may call it a flaw); the daughter of King David. That alone carried with it great prestige.

She, along with other virgins, was kept secure to avoid the foolish ones of Israel from taking her over. Israel's high standards of morals did not excuse immoral behavior.

In the book of Deuteronomy, it describes what happens to those who trespass on moral principles related to rape. If a man seizes an unengaged virgin

and lies with her and it becomes known, the man must pay money to the virgin's father.

The raped girl and the man are forced into marriage because he has violated her, and they must stay married without the choice of divorce. No such law nowadays. Imagine if you can be forced to be forever married to someone who has raped you.

Tamar's situation is different but devastating. Her day-to-day companions are friends who are also virgins. They are protected. Tamar has three brothers, Amnon, 22 years old, Absalom, 20



years old, and Solomon (that's right, the writer of wisdom scriptures-who we know) is two years old.

Amnon's friend, Jonadab is mischievous-minded and sways Amnon's mind on how to perpetrate this horrible crime on Tamar. Amnon is weak and subject to his weak nature because he doesn't resist temptations. Amnon is in his quarters and receives permission to be a part of the plot he and Jonadab have calculated. David has permitted Tamar to visit Amnon, make the cakes, and feed them to him by her own hands.

When Tamar comes close to feeding him, he seizes her and says, "Come lie with me." She rejects him! He forces her. She tries to reason with him. He won't be reasonable and come to what little sense of morality he has. He was set to violate her regardless of the consequences. She tells him, "Nay, my brother. Where will I be able to go and explain this away?" "Tell the king, he will give me to you. That will avoid the severe consequences which will come upon both of us."

She further protests, "Where can I go with this shame, and you will have consequences too like other fools in Israel who go against the laws." He replies, "I pray thee. Go to the king, he will not withhold me from you."

But Amnon was a strong young buck. She could not match his strength. He forced her and lay with her against her will. She fought and tried to persuade him of his evil lust.

One of the Old Testament scriptures speaks

about the consequences of death for him. After the commission of the crime, he hates her more than the love he had for her. She said, "You can't do anything with this kind of trespass you have done! What will happen to me? You know I will be desolate and excluded with no place to go. I will have no income."

In one law in such a case, the man and his family must pay for her upkeep. It is according to the time during which the crime is committed. Amnon further expresses his disdain for her by ordering his attendants to put her out and bolt the door behind her.

She's devastated in grief. She puts ashes on her head and rents (tears) her garment of royal attire that now identifies her that she is no longer a virgin.

Being a virgin comes from high marks and value. There were consequences if the virgin married and found not to be a virgin. If found to be true, the meeting of elders is held the guilty or not guilty will be

made known. Tamar goes away screaming in grief after the commission of the crime. She knows her life will be "hell" after this. Continued next week, Part 4: What happens next!

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, (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. References: The Holy Bible - II Samuel 13 & 14, Cyclopedia of Biblical Theological and Ecclesiastical Literature, Jewish Study Bible, Companion Bible. Don't stop praying and hoping. "Today is another great day to do good and be successful."

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LOS ANGELES SENTINEL CLASSIFIED

10 Rooms for Rent	50 Apartments - Unfurnished	50 Apartments - Unfurnished	50 Apartments - Unfurnished	90 Houses - Unfurnished	250 Sales
<p>Rooms for Rent in Los Angeles and Long Beach NEW HOMES, shared \$750/Mo. Private \$1,000/Mo. Master Bedroom w/bathroom \$1,400/Mo. All utilities paid, Washer/Dryer, Internet, SSI, SSA, and Pilot Program welcome. Call 310-766-0501.</p> <p>ROOM FOR RENT Room for rent for a man. No drugs. / No smoking. \$750 a month Contact Annie / (323) 455-0799</p> <p>Single/Shared Room for Rent PICO/CRENSHAW WASHER & DRYER HOOK UP ALMOST FULL, COME SEE WHY! 323-841-2485 or 323-309-1054</p> <p>FURNISHED ROOMS FOR RENT Nice quiet Rooms / Utilities included microwave, stove, refrig. Call Candy @ 424-757-2713 \$715.00 monthly</p> <p>ROOM FOR RENT REMODELED HOME Nice area King size bed, flat screen, washer/dryer, Wifi Top of the line kitchen. \$1100.00/monthly \$1100.00 security deposit. (323) 385-7203</p> <p>Furnished Room for Rent Senior Preferred Back house room for rent. \$1000 per month. Cash only first and last! room has its own key entry, a Fridge & TV Shares living space, huge backyard. 4?'s call me No pets no Kids... Mr Duboise 661-674-8626/209-684-5696</p>	<p>1 bedr 1 bath, 2 Bedrs 1bath, 3bedrs 1 bath / SECTION 8 OK 727 W.82nd st. LA AND 4510 s.vermont IA 1bedr voucher for 2bedrs apt New carpet / Fresh paint parking spot / Washer/dryer hook MIKE / 310-433-8800</p> <p>Great deal for Good tenants - Spacious 2bd - \$1875 2bd for price of 1bd. Quiet, Well maintained and looking for good tenant. Call to schedule appt to view. 310 876 2071</p> <p>Upper Remodeled 2 Bedroom 1 bath Mid city, hardwood floors.GORGEOUS 323-804-7042</p> <p>2 Bedroom/2Bath Newly remodeled Section 8 welcome Redecorated 2 bedroom 2 bathroom apartment hardwood floors and carport. / SECTION 8 WELCOMED! Located near Fairfax and Washington Blvd. 90016 Please contact Ms. Brown at 323-637-0303</p> <p>3 bedroom 1 bath unfurnished apt. Completely remodeled bathroom,new hardwood floors recessed lighting and ceiling fans. Gated complex with 2 parking spaces. Located in Vermont Knolls. \$3,000 month Call for appointment 225-449-1219 or 310-631-9574</p> <p>3 bedroom 1 bath Duplex \$3150 month South LA Barbara 323-636-3679</p>	<p>For Rent 2 bedroom/1bath 1 car parking, upstairs. 60th Place and Vermont. \$2,400 month Call Darryl 323-633-2079</p> <p>Duplex for Rent Large 2 bedroom 1 bath. Formal Dining room & large backyard. Section 8 welcome \$3050 monthly 6022 8th Ave LA 90043 Contact Marie 323-628-2544</p> <p>Apartment for rent 1 BR 1 Bath fenced, gated, 1 parking space (no exceptions) and 1 garage. Ready now, stove & fridge, owner pays water, sewer & trash only. No laundry hook up. All programs accept- ed. 1116 W. 102nd St. LA 90044 \$1976 month (negotiable) Call or text AC 951-313-8107</p> <p>FULLY SECURED COMPLETELY REMODELED 1BD/ UNITS IN MID- CITY New kit, bath, vinyl floors, unit with parking in a clean, safe, quiet environment. Close to Shopping & transportation From \$2,200 - \$2,400 month Sec 8 welcome 310-990-5524</p> <p>2 Bedroom Apartment All gated security bldg. Section 8/Senior Citizens welcomed 2605 S. La Salle Ave Los Angeles, CA 90018 upstairs \$2200 Contact Gloria at 213-718-4725</p> <p>1 bedroom 1 bath / Nice size Newly Painted / New Carpets 1623 1/2 W 39th Place, Los Angeles Contact Jerome 213-220-2510</p>	<p>Use 1 bd Section 8 for this 2bd 1 ba Duplex. Only \$2,375. New blinds & carpet plus ac. Recently remodeled kit & ba. Tile floor in kit & ba. New win- dows & doors are soundproof. Extra room for office & storage. Gated yard. CALL CAESAR 310-704-6784</p> <p>Apartment for Rent Unfurnished. All appliances included; laundry room on site. Close to pub. trans & shops. Located in West Adams Contact (323) 935-5267</p> <p>60 Apartments - Furnished</p> <p>Beautiful 1 Bedroom Furnished Section 8 welcome. Extremely quite. 2nd floor. All utilities TV, plates, bed and appliances included 213-952-4281</p> <p>Lovely 3 bedroom Large 1 bath SECTION 8 WELCOME. EVERYTHING BRAND NEW, OPEN FLOOR PLAN, ALL APPLIANCES INCLUDED EXTRA LARGE TV PATIO FURNITURE MUST SEE!! 213-952-4281</p> <p>90 Houses - Unfurnished</p> <p>For Rent 2 bedroom 1 bath house 3 bedroom 2 bath house Section 8 accepted 1127 and 1125 E 88th Place LA, CA 90002 Joyce 7145046142 Jturner@myyahoo.com</p>	<p>House for Rent 3 bedroom, 1 and 1/4 bath. Fenced yard, attached garage. USC students welcome. \$2600 323-388-6284</p> <p>2 Bedroom for the Price of a 1 Bed- room Recently refurbished 2 bedroom. Sec- tion 8, Non Section 8, Veterans wel- come. Call for details, 310-642-1952</p> <p>230 Employment Opportunities</p> <p>Food Production/Customer Service/Shipping Must be well rounded and able to lift 50#, good with customer service and understand shipping needs cheryl@owlvenice.com</p> <p>Church Musician Needed Contact Pastor Richardson at 310-347-2378 or 323-418-8739</p> <p>Litigation Associates Worksite: Los Angeles, CA. Primary responsibility involves representing criminal defendants in matters pend- ing in LA Superior Court, CA Court of Appeals and US District Court. Salary: \$272,771 to \$320,000. Please send resumes to Larson LLP at careers@larsonllp.com.</p>	<p>Sales Help Wanted (Commission Based) Sales Help Wanted Health/Self Defense Prods & Services Roi Bates 2133922146 ichingtao@yahoo.com 4316 S. Western ave</p> <p>310 Business Services</p> <p>Burger Stand for Rent Burger stand with equipment ready for operations. Located at: 2725 N. Wilmington Ave Compton, 90222 Call 323-899-3003</p> <p>320 Professional Services</p> <p>Cameron's Library Celebrating 30 years of Literacy I salute Maxine Waters + Karen Bass + Kamala Harris From Maxine Jackson original founder, Executive Director + CEO of the Cameron Eugene Jackson Children's Library Call 323-841-Book (2665) Help Me Help Kids!</p>

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2024192437 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: SOVEREIGN CHEF, 1438 N GOWER ST #31, LOS ANGELES, CA 90028 County of LOS ANGELES Registered owner(s): HOW TO FEED LLC, 1438 N GOWER ST #31, LOS ANGELES, CA 90028; State of Incorporation: CA This business is conducted by a limited liability company. The registrant(s) started doing business on 09/2024. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)). HOW TO FEED LLC S/ WILLIAM M HINES JR, MANAGER This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 09/13/2024. NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. Effective January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the Affidavit of Identity form. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). 9/26, 10/3, 10/10, 10/17/24 CNS-3856009# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

GOVERNMENT

LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (LACMTA) REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL LACMTA will receive Proposals for PS125995 - Mosaic Artwork Fabrication for Wilshire/Rodeo and Century City Stations at the 9th Floor Receptionist Desk, Vendor/Contract Management Department, One Gateway Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90012. All Proposals must be submitted to LACMTA, and be filed at the reception desk, 9th floor, V/CM Department, on or before 2:00 p.m. Pacific Time on Tuesday, November 26, 2024. Proposals received after the above date and time may be rejected and returned unopened. Each proposal must be sealed and marked Proposal No. PS125995. For a copy of the Proposal/Bid specification visit our Solicitation Page on our Vendor Portal at https://business.metro.net or for further information email Marc Margoni at margonim@metro.net. 10/17/24 CNS-3861473# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING The Los Angeles County Regional Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing to consider the project described below. A presentation and overview of the project will be given, and any interested person or authorized agent may appear and comment on the project at the hearing. The Regional Planning Commission will then consider a vote to approve or deny the project or continue the hearing if it deems necessary. Should you attend, you will have an opportunity to testify, or you can submit written comments to the planner below or at the public hearing. If the final decision on this proposal is challenged in court, testimony may be limited to issues raised before or at the public hearing. Hearing Date and Time: Wednesday, November 13, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. Hearing Location: Hall of Records, 320 W. Temple Street, Room 150, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Virtual (Online) at bit.ly/ZOOM-RPC. By phone at (669) 444-9171 or (719) 359-4580 (ID: 858 6032 6429). Project No.: PRJ2021-003767-2 Project Location: 5322 West 119th Place, within the South Bay Planning Area CEQA Categorical Exemption: Statutorily exempt under CEQA Guideline 15270 (Projects which are disapproved) Project Description: Yard Modification request to authorize the continued maintenance of a wall with varying height (nine to 11 feet) in the side yard setback that exceeds the maximum allowable height (six feet) in the R-1 Zone. More information: Sean Donnelly, AICP 320 W. Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. (213) 974-6411. sdonnelly@planning.lacounty.gov.planning.lacounty.gov. Case Material: https://bit.ly/PRJ2021-003767 If you need reasonable accommodations or auxiliary aids, contact the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator at (213) 974-6488 (Voice) or (213) 617-2292 (TDD) with at least 3 business days advanced notice. 10/17/24 CNS-3861284# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (LACMTA) INVITATION FOR BID LACMTA will receive bids for IFB No. C127284 - Regional Connector Safety, Security, and Architectural Enhancements electronically via bids@metro.net. A virtual Pre-Bid conference will be held on Monday, October 28, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. This project is a Small Business Enterprise (SBE) Set-Aside contract. To participate in this IFB, bidders must be SBE certified with LACMTA prior to proposal due date. For information on the Set-Aside program, visit: https://business.metro.net/webcenter/portal/VendorPortal/pages_home_smallbusiness/tools/smallbusinessprimeprogram LACMTA will only receive bids for the above-identified solicitation electronically via bids@metro.net at or before 2:00 p.m. Pacific Time on Wednesday, November 20, 2024. Bids received after that time will be rejected and returned to the bidder unopened. Bids will be opened and publicly read via MS Teams at 3:00 p.m.

Each bid must be sealed and marked Bid No. C127284. For a copy of the Proposal/Bid specification, visit our Solicitation Page on our Vendor Portal at https://business.metro.net or for further information email Roi Khanna at khannar@metro.net. 10/17/24 CNS-3860606# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (LACMTA) INVITATION FOR BID LACMTA will receive Bids/Proposals for OP1270688370 - FITNESS CENTER ATTENDANT SERVICES at the 9th Floor Receptionist Desk, Vendor/Contract Management Department, One Gateway Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90012. A Pre-Bid conference will be held on Thursday, October 17, 2024, 2:00 p.m., at One Gateway Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90012, Virtual Meeting: Online. All Bids must be submitted to LACMTA, and be filed at the reception desk, 9th floor, V/CM Department, on or before 10:00 a.m. Pacific Time on Wednesday, November 6, 2024, at which time bids will be opened and publicly read. Bids received after the above date and time may be rejected and returned unopened. Each Bid must be sealed and marked Bid No. OP1270688370. For a copy of the Proposal/Bid specification visit our Solicitation Page on our Vendor Portal at https://business.metro.net or for further information email Ricardo Narvaez at narvaezr@metro.net. 10/17/24 CNS-3860588# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

Bidding Opportunity with LACCD For future bidding opportunities please visit the Online Vendor Portal which can be accessed by visiting the website www.build-laccd.org under "Contractors and Bidders" then clicking the PlanetBids link. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Los Angeles Community College District ("District") invites A or B Licensed General Contractors to submit Statements of Qualification (SOQ) for the following procurement: Request for Qualifications (RFQ) from Contractors for Los Angeles City College, Demolition of Old Cafeteria, Construction Services. This project will fully abate and demolish the existing Old Cafeteria 1-story building of approximately 23,000 SF in its entirety including removal of related site stairs, ramps, utilities, landscape, hardscape, and site elements within the limit of work. This project is to also prepare the site for future New Theater Arts building by capping, relocating, and re-routing of existing utilities, patching and protecting the site and existing adjacent buildings. How the Procurement Process for this Project will take place: This procurement process will take place in two steps: (1) the instant Request for Qualifications step (i.e., a project specific pre-qualification) ("RFQ"); and (2) a subsequent Invitation for Bid step ("IFB") (i.e., lowest competitive bid). Upon receipt and evaluation of the Statements of Qualifications ("SOQ's") submitted in response to this RFQ, the SOQ's will be scored, evaluated and the Pre-qualified Contractors for the

Project identified. Thereafter, the District will publish and issue an Invitation for Bids only to the Contractors who have pre-qualified. Only Pre-qualified Contractors are permitted to submit a bid (Public Contract Code section 20651.5). Award of the Construction Services Agreement will be made to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder. The award of the Construction Services Agreement will be made pursuant to, without limitation, the authority provided to the District under Public Contract Code section 20651, and other applicable law(s). All Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) must be submitted through the Online Vendor Portal https://vendors.planetbids.com/portal/21372/bo-bo-detail/122609 no later than: October 25, 2024 before 02:00 PM Local Time. The Applicant assumes full and sole responsibility for timely receipt of its SOQ and any other documents required to be submitted with the SOQ, by the District. The District will have no responsibility for SOQ's not submitted in a timely manner, no matter the reason. RFQ Documents, including instructions to Applicants, will be available to Applicants on and after October 04, 2024, at the Online Vendor Portal. The Online Vendor Portal can be accessed by visiting the website www.build-laccd.org under "Contractors and Bidders" then clicking the PlanetBids link. Non-Mandatory Pre SOQ Meeting will be held on October 09, 2024 at 11:00 AM via Zoom. All questions shall be directed to the Online Vendor Portal. 10/10, 10/17/24 CNS-3859694# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS Notice is given that statement of qualifications for Leadership Academy Training Services Program (BRC0000556) will be received by the Los Angeles County Public Works, Cashier Office, 900 S. Fremont Ave., Alhambra, CA 91803. There will be an optional online Proposers' Conference on Wednesday, October 16, 2024, at 10:00 am. 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. There is no hard deadline for submission to this program, however it is imperative that proposers return all statement of qualifications no later than November 4, 2024, for a service commencement date in March 2025, as anticipated to be authorized by the Board. Instructions for accessing the RFSQ document are available at the following link: http://pw.lacounty.gov/brcd/servicecontracts or may be mailed to you upon request by calling (626) 458-7334 or TDD at (626) 282-7829. 10/17/24 CNS-3858947# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Notice is given that proposals for Los Angeles County Advanced Traffic Management System Phase III (BRC0000494) will be received by the Los Angeles County Public Works, per instructions listed on the RFP until 5:30 pm, Wednesday, October 30, 2024. There will be an Optional online Proposers' Conference on Wednesday, October 16, 2024, at 10:00 am. 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. Instructions for accessing the RFP document are available at the following link: http://pw.lacounty.gov/brcd/servicecontracts or may be emailed, or mailed to you upon request by calling (626) 458-4069 or TDD at (626) 282-7829. 10/17/24 CNS-3857852# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

PROBATE

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: MILDRED L. MORGAN CASE NO. 24STPB11448 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of MILDRED L. MORGAN. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by ETHEL M. HARDWICK in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that ETHEL M. HARDWICK 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: 11/13/24 at 8:30AM in Dept. 67 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 ETHEL M. HARDWICK 3950 W. 226 ST. #113 TORRANCE CA 90505 10/17, 10/24, 10/31/24 CNS-3862325# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: BERNARD HART JR CASE NO. 24STPB08789 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of BERNARD HART JR. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by LA SANDRA HAMLIN in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that LA SANDRA HAMLIN 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: 01/16/25 at 8:30AM in Dept. 67 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.

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 LA SANDRA HAMLIN 1858 W 74TH ST LOS ANGELES CA 90012 10/17, 10/24, 10/31/24 CNS-3861832# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: DUCHANE LARKIN CASE NO. 24STPB08597 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of DUCHANE LARKIN. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by BARBARA OWENS in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that BARBARA OWENS be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 11/14/24 at 8:30AM in Dept. 79 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 BARBARA OWENS 9523 S. NORMANDIE AVE. #3 LOS ANGELES CA 90044 10/10, 10/17, 10/24/24 CNS-3860459# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

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• JASMYNE A. CANNICK, JOURNALIST, DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL STRATEGIST, AND ADVOCATE •

Politics and Friendship: How I'm Balancing It All This Election Season

I was recently thinking about how campaign season has a way of testing everything—your patience, your endurance, and sometimes even your friendships. It's easy to get caught up in the whirlwind of politics, where every issue feels personal and every opinion is louder than the last. But what happens when you and a close friend find yourselves on opposite sides of the ballot? Does it mean the end of a friendship?

I've been struggling with that question lately because, to be honest, a few of my close friends have revealed themselves to be supporters of candidates who are known racists. And worse, some have even thrown their weight behind Donald Trump. It's been a tough pill

to swallow. I never expected to find myself on opposite sides of the political spectrum from people I care about. I thought our values were aligned. So, what now?

For a while, I wondered if those friendships were over. How could I maintain a bond with someone who backs a person whose platform actively harms people like me and those I advocate for? But then I had to take a step back and ask myself some hard questions: Is it possible to hold on to the people you love, even when their political choices seem to go against your very identity? Is there room for disagreement on issues that hit so close to home.

The truth is, I'm still working through that. I've had to set boundaries with

some friends because the weight of their political choices is too much to carry



COURTESY PHOTO

Jasmyne A. Cannick

into every conversation. Plus, I am at that age where I will cut a fill-in-the-blank off in the blink of an eye. But I've also realized that cutting people off won't change the fact that we live in a country where these divides exist. It won't make the issues go

away, and it won't create a path toward understanding.

Instead, I'm trying (and it's getting harder and harder) to focus on open dialogue, though it's far from easy. I've learned to prioritize my mental health and protect my energy while still trying to have honest conversations.

Sometimes that means taking a break from political discussions altogether with certain people, especially when it starts to feel like we're not hearing each other. Friendship, like anything worth having, takes work. It requires mutual respect, even in the face of stark disagreements.

Here's the thing: disagreements are inevitable, but respect is non-negotiable. Maybe my friends support a candidate I can't stand or believe in policies I think are

harmful, causing me to give them the side eye. That doesn't make them any less of a friend—it just makes them human, with their own experiences and viewpoints. Maintaining a friendship during campaign season is about knowing when to have those heated debates and when to set them aside for something more important—like the shared memories, laughs, and loyalty that brought us together in the first place.

My friendships aren't just built on politics—they're built on shared experiences, history, and trust. It's tough to reconcile all of that with the reality of today's political climate, but I'm learning that holding on to a friendship doesn't mean compromising my values. It means knowing when to stand firm and when to let

the conversation rest so that we don't lose each other completely after Election Day.

Friendship doesn't have to end on Election Day. The key is understanding that what's on the ballot is temporary, but the people I care about are not. So, this election season, I'm choosing to keep the conversation civil, to listen without needing to agree, and to remind myself that the friendship I've built with someone matters more than any political argument. Because when the yard signs come down and the votes are counted, I'd rather still have my friends standing next to me.

Jasmyne A. Cannick is an award-winning journalist, Democratic political strategist, and advocate. Find her at iamjasmyne.com.

• BRANDON "STIX" SALAAM-BAILEY •

Empowering Communities Through Clean Energy: Hydrogen's Role in California's Future

Representing often-overlooked communities is no easy task, especially when new technologies, infrastructure, and opportunities meant to move California toward a clean energy future are in diverse and historically under-resourced communities.

That's why THINK-WATTS Foundation, a non-profit organization focused on providing resources and opportunities to the less inclined and less privileged was thrilled to be included in an exciting project in our backyard.

In late 2023, we began collaborating with an exciting, new project aimed at empowering, protecting, and including disadvantaged and underrepresented com-

munities in life-changing projects.

That project, the Alliance for Renewable Clean Hydrogen Energy Systems (ARCHES), a statewide public-private partnership designed to accelerate renewable hydrogen's contribution to decarbonizing California's economy, is set to bring significant opportunities to our community. Benefits like cleaner air, higher-paying jobs, and lower levels of cardiac and respiratory illness are just a few of the many ways that ARCHES seeks to disrupt the status quo and put underserved communities first.

ARCHES signed a \$12.6B cooperative agreement, including \$1.2B of federal funds, to build and

expand clean energy infrastructure across California, with a requirement that a minimum of 40 percent of the benefits from ARCHES projects go toward California's disadvantaged neighborhoods. This funding is a game changer for communities like ours, where big trucks, buses, trains, and ships have long contributed to the air pollution that harms our health. The hydrogen economy ARCHES is pioneering aims to reduce emissions in the very sectors that impact us most.

Educational institutions like El Camino College, Compton College, and LA Trade Tech are developing critical workforce training programs in hydrogen and fuel cell technology. These

initiatives create pathways for diverse individuals to enter sectors previously out



COURTESY PHOTO

Brandon "Stix" Salaam-Bailey

of reach. Once funded, these programs will prepare residents for family-sustaining careers as pipefitters, electricians, and plumbers—jobs that don't require a college degree but offer competitive salaries and upward economic mobility.

Not only are economic and educational benefits accessible to those who are career-ready, but they are also inspiring the younger generation to get involved

and contribute to the hydrogen ecosystem.

I was honored to wave the green flag, signaling the start of the race at the Hydrogen Grand Prix (H2GP) Series in Anaheim, sponsored by ARCHES, which had dozens of young student engineers participating in an annual car race with 100% fuel cell-powered remote-controlled cars that they designed, engineered, and built themselves.

Studies show that kids who are exposed to real-world examples of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and art (STEAM) projects at a young age are more likely to pursue STEAM college majors or competitive, well-paying jobs. Public and private partnerships like ARCHES serve as a green flag for our kids that the path to opportunity is open, ready, and theirs to pursue.

For too long, regions like ours have been left

behind in the state's transition away from traditional energy industries. But now, with the expansion of the hydrogen economy, new doors and educational opportunities are opening. Manufacturing, construction, maintenance, and technology development jobs are on the horizon, ready to be filled by the hardworking people in our community. This potential for economic growth is a reason for hope and optimism, and the best part is that people are curious and excited about what this means for themselves and their families.

With the Department of Energy and other agencies already committed to funding hydrogen projects, the onus is on everyone, including policymakers and community leaders, to seize this future-forward opportunity and ensure equity is at the forefront of decision-making and deployment of these resources. We're excited to be a part of this journey.

• ROBYN WILLIAMS, DIGNITY AND POWER NOW •

Prop 36 Threatens Funding for the Rehab Programs That Saved My Life

I first entered the criminal justice system as a young adult. I grew up with complex trauma but without resources to process it, so I turned to substances to cope. This led to years of cycling in and out of jail, worsened by abusive relationships. My relationships with my children suffered, and the support I needed to leave the system for good felt entirely out of reach.

In 2020, I hit rock bottom. Facing a possible 25-year prison sentence, I was offered an alternative: the Alcoholism Center for Women. Through six months of in-patient care and 12 months of outpatient services, I dealt with the PTSD and depression that had driven my cycle of incarceration and began to heal. I overcame my addiction, mended my relationships with my family, and now have a fulfilling career in homelessness services.

For those of us who struggle with addiction, it's clear that treatment—not prison—offers the only real chance at recovery. Supportive programs changed my life and thousands of others. Yet this November, Californians will be asked to cut their funding.

Prop 36 is a ballot initiative that claims to make our communities safer by instituting longer prison terms for low-level non-violent crimes. In reality, it would remove \$100 million in funding from successful programs that actually

invest in our communities—like drug treatment, transitional housing, K-12 vio-



COURTESY PHOTO

Robyn Williams

lence prevention programs and even victim services. More than 90% of programs at risk offer drug treatment.

In 2022, California's Department of Health found that nearly one in 10 Californians has a substance use disorder. It also found that 70% of the state's 58 counties reported urgently needing residential drug treatment services, the type of program I participated in. Despite this pressing need, 22 counties didn't have a single residential treatment facility.

Prop 36 won't build out these services. If it passes, money that currently funds these critical resources will instead be used to incarcerate more people for longer—costing taxpayers \$5 billion on top of the \$27 billion California already spends on incarceration each year. This will likely lead to a rise in overdoses and homelessness when people like me can no longer find resources to overcome addiction, secure housing, and find

stable employment.

Rather than address the underlying trauma and addiction that fuel destructive behaviors, incarceration often made things worse for me. Research bears this out: people leaving jail or prison today are many times more likely to overdose than if they had never been incarcerated. Meanwhile, people who are connected with housing and supportive services have lower rates of substance use.

In Los Angeles County, the programs at risk are urgently needed and very effective: they include Project imPACT, which provides employment, behavioral health, and legal services to formerly incarcerated men of color at high risk for reoffending. The results speak for themselves: 92% of participants have avoided new convictions, 52% found employment, and 86% exited the program with stable housing.

Had I been sent to prison four years ago—instead of receiving the care I desperately needed, I would still be stuck in the same destructive cycle. I want all Californians to have the same care and opportunity I received. It's critical that we vote against Prop 36 to protect essential treatment programs and prioritize care over incarceration. That's the path forward for our communities, our families, and our future.

Robyn Williams is a community organizer with Dignity and Power Now.

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Black Lightning Runners Dominate in National Meets

By AMANDA SCURLOCK
Sports Editor

The youth in the Black Lightning track club continue to dominate at the biggest stages. Mila Woolforde is ranked second in the nation in the girls 9-10 400m. Jas-



COURTESY PHOTO
Woolforde has the second fastest 400m record in the U.S.

mine Wilson has added hurdling to her events and has found success.

Wilson has won the National Championship in the 80m hurdles and the 100m. She shared how hurdling was challenging to work on during practice.

"I would have my off days and my on days," Wilson said. "As soon as it was the track meets, I knew I had to do it and I knew to just put all our training together."

Woolforde won the USATF Junior Olympics national championship in the 9-10 200m and 400m. When practicing the 400m, she ran the distance a myriad of ways before finding her personal strategy for the race. She noted how it can



AMANDA SCURLOCK/L.A. SENTINEL
Wilson won national titles in both indoor and outdoor hurdle events.

be easier than the 200m in some ways.

"It feels different because you get a part to relax," Woolforde said. "In the 200m, you have to

sprint all out."

Watching film on other hurdlers, especially Olympians, helped Wilson craft her skills. Perfecting her technique did not come without challenges.

"Between each hurdle, you need to have three steps and I have a shorter stride, especially since I'm a sprinter," Wilson said. "It's hard to get between each hurdle in just three steps."

Woolforde has the fourth fastest 200m time in the United States. She also plays soccer.

"Soccer helps me with track because it helps me with my speed," Woolforde said. "It also helps me with coordination while I'm running."

Competing in hurdles



COURTESY PHOTO
Mila Woolforde (left) poses with Jasmine Wilson.

gave Wilson a new approach on how she runs sprints.

"In hurdles, you really have to get a good start. It's in the sprints too but especially in hurdles because everybody is worried about who's going to get to the hurdle first," Wilson said. "That helps me with my start in the open 100m."

For next year, Woolforde hopes to run the 400m in 58 seconds, run the 100m in 13 seconds or less and get a 25-second record in the 200m.

Wilson also became the national champion in the 60m and the 60m hurdles in the AAU Indoor Championships this year.



BILLY MONTGOMERY/L.A. SENTINEL
Dorsey player Duece Johnson breaks away from a Crenshaw defender during Friday night's homecoming showdown.

By AMANDA SCURLOCK
Sports Editor

The Dorsey Dons used their rushing game to defeat the Crenshaw Cougars 28-3. Both teams now have a 4-3 overall record. The Dons are now 2-0 in the Coliseum League, tied at first with the King/Drew Golden Eagles.

"It's a legacy here at Dorsey, it's history," said Dorsey senior quarterback Brandon Tolson. "We're just building our team, only thing we can do is get better."

Cougars sophomore Samuel Richard forced a turnover on Dorsey on their first possession. His return placed Crenshaw in a first-and-goal situation but the Dons implemented a defense that forced the Cougars to kick a field goal.

The Cougars picked off the Dons early in the second quarter but were unable to convert the possession into points. Dorsey found their offensive footing on the ground. Junior running back Makhli McCluster committed a 40-yard touchdown

rush. This was the first of three touchdowns McCluster made in the matchup.

"Our running game, we get it going with the guys up front," Tolson said. "Our front five are the biggest guys in the City Section; we run the ball behind those guys."

McCluster made his next touchdown late in the second quarter, giving the Dons a 12-3 lead going into halftime. He then returned the second-half kickoff to score.

Another strong rusher on the team is senior running back Ja'Marion Broughton. A challenge for him was going from a safety to a running back.

"I just started playing running back," Broughton said. "I feel like this game gave me a little confidence, but I could have did better."

It was a game of complementary football for the Dons as they rarely allowed

Dorsey Defeats Rival Crenshaw 28-3



BILLY MONTGOMERY/L.A. SENTINEL
Crenshaw player Sir rey Tyler-Matthews breaks away for a short gain during Friday night's homecoming game against Dorsey.

the Cougars entry to their red zone.

"We have a good defense, we just need to work on tackling in the secondary," said senior defensive back Kayshon Lee. "We can play zone very well."

Through the adversity, Crenshaw senior signal

caller Sir rey Tyler-Matthews advanced on scrambles. However, the Cougars struggled to create long drives and convert on third and fourth downs.

Early in the fourth quarter, Tolson connected with junior Donovan Elzein for a 68-yard touchdown play. A successful two-point con-

version stamped the Dons at 28 points.

Crenshaw and Dorsey will have away games on October 18 at 7:30P.M. The Cougars will battle the Washington Prep Generals and the Dons will clash against the Dymally Challengers.



BILLY MONTGOMERY/L.A. SENTINEL
Dorsey's Brandon Tolson surveys the field to find a receiver during Friday night's homecoming showdown against Crenshaw.

LeBron: Teaming up with Steph in Paris was 'everything and more,' but 'no idea' if it happens again

By GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

LeBron James finally teamed up with Stephen Curry during the Paris



AP PHOTO/MARK J. TERRILL
United States' LeBron James (6) and United States' Stephen Curry (4) celebrates after scoring a basket against France during a men's gold medal basketball game at Bercy Arena at the 2024 Summer Olympics, Saturday, Aug. 10, 2024, in Paris, France.

Something that I'll remember from my basketball career for the rest of my life, for sure."

And when James was asked whether he could ever

imagine himself being teammates with Curry again, James did not dismiss

it out of hand. "I have no idea," he said. James and Curry are arguably the best players of their era and have a history competing against one another. They met in four consecutive NBA Finals from 2015-18, and the Warriors won three of four over the Cleveland Cavaliers.

They had never been teammates outside of NBA All-Star games until the Paris Olympics, when both veterans played major roles in the U.S. triumph. James recorded a triple-double against Nikola Jokic in the U.S. victory over Serbia in the semifinal, while Curry implemented a barrage of late 3-pointers that finished off France to win gold.

The 39-year-old James said this summer that the Paris Games would be his last, so any chance of play-

ing alongside Curry again would probably have to happen in the NBA. That seems highly unlikely; LeBron is committed to the Lakers for two more seasons alongside his son, Bronny, while the 36-year-old Curry is signed with Golden State for three more seasons.

James said last season that he hopes to finish his career with the Lakers,

while Curry has said he wants to spend his entire career with the team that drafted him in 2009. Even if they never wear the same uniform again outside of an All-Star Game, James reiterated his respect for Curry.

"I understand what Steph has done for this game," James said. "I understand what he's done for his organization, what he's done

for the community, people all over the world, just by his approach to the game and how he is as a man. ...

When you have that type of respect for somebody and then you get to be around them every day and you see the way they work and how they treat their craft, it's a pretty cool thing. You're able to just respect that and not take it for granted."

Olympics, and the top scorer in NBA history got more than a gold medal out of the experience.

"It was everything and more," James said Monday before Los Angeles departed for two preseason games this week against Curry and the Golden State Warriors.

"I was super excited to be able to finally team up with him in a win-or-die type atmosphere," James added. "That's what it was, being a part of the Olympics. It was everything that I dreamed of and aspired to want, to be a part of that team, along with Steph. Great memories.

envision himself being teammates with Curry again, James did not dismiss

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