

AWBC
MAGAZINE©

MARCH 2022

Women's
History
Month

*"I am truly
humbled by the
extraordinary
honor of this
nomination."*

INSIDE

Business

•
Finance

•
Education

Ketanji Brown Jackson
First Black Woman Supreme Court Nominee

Publisher's Message

Just a note to say we love our readers!

Our Message Has Purpose!

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Massimo Dutti

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Tiya Sumter
Business and Careers Network

COMING IN APRIL...



Designing
Diversity... *How?*

America's Corporate

Response To
Business Inequities and
Consumer

Impacts

Buying and Selling
Inclusive Dreams!

READ

Has Corporate America
Really Become Inclusive?

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When Women Build
Businesses

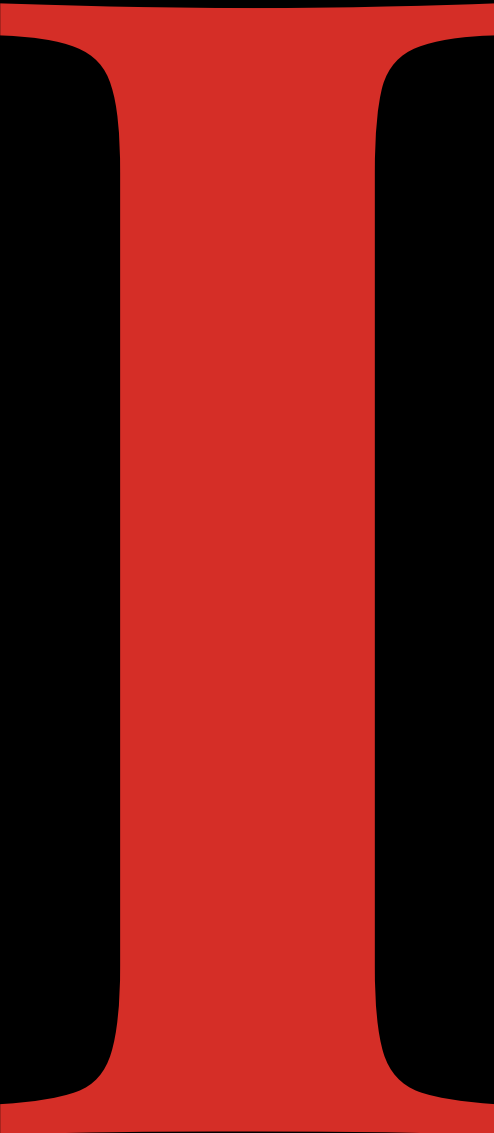
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"Health In A Handbag"

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The Remnants of
Communities Past

Cover Story

Black women account for a small fraction of the federal judges who have served to date

By John Gramlich



If confirmed by the Senate, Biden's nominee would become the first Black woman ever to serve on the nation's highest court and one of a relatively small number to serve as a federal judge at any level.

Only 70 of the 3,843 people who have ever served as federal judges in the United States – fewer than 2% – have been Black women, according to a biographical database maintained by the Federal Judicial Center, the research and education arm of the federal judiciary. That figure includes single-race, multiracial and Hispanic or Afro-Latina Black women who have served on federal courts governed by Article III of the U.S. Constitution, including the Supreme Court, 13 appeals courts and 91 district courts. It excludes appointees to non-Article III territorial courts in Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands and the Virgin Islands.



Constance Baker Motley (left) successfully represented James Meredith (center) in a 1962 case challenging the University of Mississippi's refusal to admit him. In 1966, Motley became the first Black woman ever appointed to the federal judiciary. (Bettmann via Getty Images)

The first Black woman ever to serve on the federal bench was Constance Baker Motley, who was nominated by President Lyndon Johnson and took her seat on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York in 1966. Motley was the district's chief judge from 1982 to 1986 and died in 2005.

The number of Black women appointed to the federal judiciary has grown over time, especially during Democratic administrations. In fact, after little more than a year in office, Biden has already appointed more Black women to federal judgeships (11) than all but two presidents did during their entire tenures. Democrats Barack Obama and Bill Clinton, who each served eight years in the White House, appointed 26 and 15 Black women to the federal judiciary, respectively.

Among Republican presidents, George W. Bush appointed eight Black women during his eight-year tenure. George H.W. Bush and Donald Trump each appointed two during their four years in office, while Ronald Reagan appointed one Black woman in eight years. As previous Pew Research Center analyses have found, Republican presidents have generally been less likely than Democratic presidents to appoint federal judges who are women or racial and ethnic minorities.

Biden also stands out when looking at the percentage of each president's appointed judges who have been Black women. As of Feb. 1, Black women have accounted for around a quarter (24%) of Biden's appointed judges – far higher than the percentages for any other president, including Obama (8%) and Clinton (4%).

Historically, women have accounted for a relatively small share of all Black federal judges. Fewer than a third of all Black judges ever appointed (29%, or 70 of 239) have been women.

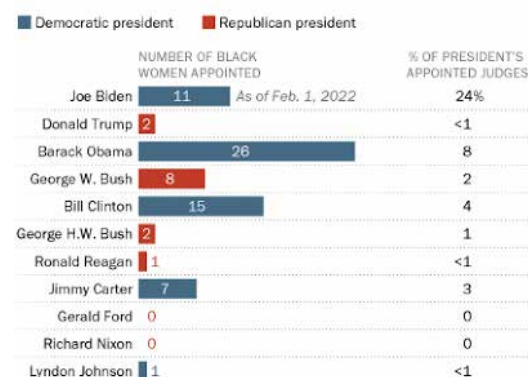
Most of the Black women who have served as federal judges to date have done so at the district court level. Only 13 have served at the appellate court level – that is, the powerful regional courts that are one step below the Supreme Court.

If Biden's nominee joins the Supreme Court, she would be its third-ever Black justice (after Thurgood Marshall and Clarence Thomas)

and its sixth-ever woman (after Sandra Day O'Connor, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan and Amy Coney Barrett). Overall, 115 justices have served on the Supreme Court.

Biden has already appointed more Black women to the federal bench than any GOP president

Black women appointed to the federal judiciary, by president



Note: As of Feb. 1, 2022. Includes single-race, multiracial and Hispanic or Afro-Latina Black women. Three judges – Ketanji Brown Jackson, Bernice Boule Donald and Ann Claire Williams – were first appointed by one president and elevated to a higher court by another president. They are counted under each president's total. Source: Pew Research Center analysis of Federal Judicial Center data.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Supreme Court

E

ven before taking office, President Joe Biden pledged to reshape the federal judiciary. In December 2020. By filling the vacancy left by the retirement of Justice Stephen Breyer. President Biden has taken his mission to diversify professional representation to the next level, by putting a former federal public defender on the highest court in the land.

If confirmed, the 51-year-old Jackson would be the first Black woman on the court and also one of the youngest justices – second only to Justice Amy Coney Barrett. She would bring a wide range of experiences not only as a public defender but also a federal district judge and a member of the U.S. Sentencing Commission. Jackson has earned high praise from the justice she would replace if nominated: When she was under consideration for her previous job as a federal trial court judge, Breyer described her as “brilliant,” a “mix of common sense” and “thoughtfulness.” And she might enjoy an edge over other candidates because of the prospect that she would have a relatively smooth path to confirmation: She was confirmed to an appellate judgeship less than a year ago with support from three Republican senators, and she is a relative by marriage of former House Speaker Paul Ryan, who ran for vice president on the Republican ticket in 2012.

Early Life and Career

A native Washingtonian, Jackson moved to Florida as a young child with her parents, graduates of historically Black colleges and universities who worked as public school teachers. Her father then went to law school, eventually becoming the chief attorney for the Miami-Dade County School Board. Her mother became an administrator and served as the principal at a public magnet school for 14 years.

Jackson attended Miami Palmetto High School, a public school whose other notable alumni include, according to the Miami Herald, Amazon founder Jeff Bezos and Vivek Murthy, the current U.S. surgeon general. While there, she was a stand-out debater and served as student body president.

She went on to Harvard College, from which she graduated magna cum laude in 1992, and Harvard Law School, graduating cum laude in 1996. She spent the year between college and law school as a reporter and researcher at Time magazine in New York.

In the 17 years following her graduation from law school, Jackson held a variety of legal jobs. She attained three federal clerkships, worked at four elite law firms, and served two stints with the Sentencing Commission. While much of that experience is typical for a Supreme Court short-lister, one line on Jackson's resume is not: her mid-career decision to spend two years as a public defender. In fact, the last justice with significant experience representing criminal defendants was Justice Thurgood Marshall, who retired in 1991.

From 1996 to 1997, Jackson served as a clerk to U.S. District Judge Patti Saris, a Massachusetts judge appointed by President Bill Clinton. She followed that clerkship with a second one, for Judge Bruce Selya, appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 1st Circuit by President Ronald Reagan, from 1997 to 1998.

Jackson then snagged a highly sought-after spot as an associate at Miller Cassidy Larroca & Lewin, a Washington litigation boutique that later merged with Baker Botts, a Texas-based firm. Other prominent alumni of the firm include Seth Waxman, who served as the solicitor general in the Clinton administration, former deputy attorney general Jamie Gorelick, and Barrett, who arrived at the firm, fresh off a clerkship with Justice Antonin Scalia, shortly after Jackson left.

Jackson left Miller Cassidy after a year for a third clerkship, this time at the Supreme Court as a clerk for Breyer. During the 1999-2000 term, the court was (much as it is now) mired in the culture wars, but often with different results. In *Stenberg v. Carhart*, for example, the court – in an opinion by Breyer – struck down a Nebraska law that banned so-called “partial birth” abortions, while in *Santa Fe Independent School District v. Doe* the court ruled that a school district's policy of allowing student-led and student-initiated prayer at football games violates the Constitution's establishment clause. But in *Boy Scouts of America v. Dale*, the court agreed with the Scouts that New Jersey could not force the group to accept a gay man as a scoutmaster.



When her clerkship ended, Jackson became an associate in the Boston office of a large law firm, Goodwin Procter. In 2001, in *McGuire v. Reilly*, she was one of the lawyers on a “friend of the court” brief supporting a Massachusetts law that created a floating “buffer zone” around pedestrians and cars approaching abortion clinics. Jackson's clients included the Women's Bar Association of Massachusetts, the League of Women Voters, the Abortion Access Project of Massachusetts, and NARAL Pro-Choice America. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 1st Circuit allowed the law to take effect, reasoning that the state legislature was “making every effort to restrict as little speech as possible while combating the deleterious secondary effects of anti-abortion protests.”

Jackson left Goodwin Procter in 2002 to become an associate at the firm then known as the Feinberg Group, now known as Feinberg Rozen. In a questionnaire for her 2021 confirmation to the D.C. Circuit, Jackson wrote that she worked on mediations and arbitrations while at the Feinberg Group but did not appear in court.

Jackson spent a year at the Feinberg Group before going to work as a staffer at the U.S. Sentencing Commission, an independent federal agency within the judiciary created by Congress in response to “widespread disparity in federal sentencing.” She spent two years there as assistant special counsel.

In 2005, Jackson became an assistant federal public defender in Washington, D.C. At her 2021 confirmation hearing, Jackson drew “a direct line” between her work as a public defender and her later work as a trial judge.

She told senators that, during her time as a public defender, she was “struck” by how little her clients understood about the legal process, despite the obviously serious implications of criminal proceedings for their lives. As a result, Jackson said, as a trial judge she took “extra care” to make sure that defendants were aware of what was happening to them and why. “I think that’s really important for our entire justice system because it’s only if people understand what they’ve done, why it’s wrong, and what will happen to them if they do it again that they can really start to rehabilitate,” she emphasized. As a public defender, Jackson argued in the D.C. Circuit, including before some of the judges who would later become her colleagues.

Jackson also has a family member who was a defendant in the criminal justice system. As Ann Marimow and Aaron Davis reported for The Washington Post, while Jackson was working as a public defender she received a request for help from her distant uncle, Thomas Brown, who was serving a life sentence on federal drug charges. Jackson referred Brown to a Washington law firm, Wilmer Hale, which filed a clemency petition on Brown’s behalf. In 2016, President Barack Obama commuted Brown’s sentence, leading to his release at age 78 after over 25 years in prison.

In 2007, Jackson returned to private practice one last time. She became “of counsel” – a designation for lawyers who are neither associates nor partners – in the Washington office of Morrison & Foerster, a large San Francisco-based law firm. For three years, Jackson was part of the firm’s appellate litigation group, working on cases in the Supreme Court and in state and federal appeals courts around the country.

In 2010, she returned to the Sentencing Commission after Obama nominated her to serve as vice chair of the commission. The Senate confirmed her for the position by unanimous consent. During her tenure, the commission sought to alleviate harsh sentences for drug crimes by enacting several amendments to the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, including allowing some people with crack-cocaine convictions to seek lighter sentences.

A Federal District Judgeship

In September 2012, Obama nominated Jackson to serve as a U.S. district judge in Washington, D.C. Although the Senate held hearings in December, it did not act on her nomination before the 112th Congress adjourned at the beginning of January. Obama nominated Jackson again on Jan. 4, 2013, and the Senate confirmed her by a voice vote in March.

During her seven years as a district judge, Jackson issued several high-profile rulings on topics ranging from federal environmental law to the Americans with Disabilities Act. But none had a higher profile than her decision in *Committee on the Judiciary v. McGahn*, in which she ruled that Don McGahn, the former White House counsel to President Donald Trump, was required to testify before the House Judiciary Committee as part of its investigation into Russia’s interference in the 2016 election and Trump’s possible obstruction of justice, even after Trump had directed him not to do so. In a 118-page opinion, Jackson rejected the contention by Trump’s Department of Justice that federal courts lack the power to review disputes between the executive branch and Congress over subpoenas, as well as its argument that the president has the sole authority to decide whether he and his senior aides will comply with subpoenas to testify about possible wrongdoing in his administration.

She stressed that “the primary takeaway from the past 250 years of recorded American history is that Presidents are not kings.”

White House employees, she continued, “work for the People of the United States,” and “take an oath to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States”; the president cannot block them from appearing to testify. McGahn eventually testified before the committee in June 2021, after the DOJ (now under the Biden administration) and the committee reached an agreement for him to do so.

In April 2018, Jackson ruled against the Trump administration in a lawsuit brought by federal employee unions challenging three of the president’s executive orders on the collective bargaining rights of federal workers. The unions argued that the orders exceeded the president’s powers and conflicted with both federal labor laws and the employees’ constitutional rights.

In a 62-page opinion, Jackson ruled for the challengers. She agreed with them both that she had the power to review their claims and that Trump’s “directives undermine federal employees’ right to bargain collectively as protected by” federal law.

The D.C. Circuit reversed Jackson’s holding that she had the power to review the union’s claims. The unions, Judge Thomas Griffith reasoned, must first pursue their challenge through an administrative agency process and then, if necessary, in the courts of appeals.

Jackson ruled for the Trump administration in *Center for Biological Diversity v. McAleenan*, a challenge to a decision by the Department of Homeland Security to waive over two dozen laws in connection with the construction of a 20-mile segment in New Mexico of the border wall with Mexico. The challenger, an environmental group, argued that the waiver exceeded the agency’s power and would cause environmental damage.

Jackson dismissed the group’s complaint, ruling that federal courts do not have the power to consider the group’s non-constitutional claims. Moreover, she continued, the group had not alleged the kind of facts that would allow their constitutional claims to move forward. The group asked the Supreme Court to take up their case, but the justices denied its petition for review in June 2020.

In 2015, Jackson ruled that prison employees and contractors in the District of Columbia had discriminated against William Pierce, a deaf man serving a 51-day sentence for assault, when they never tried to determine what accommodations he would need to communicate with others and “largely ignored his repeated requests for an interpreter.”



Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson speaks in February 2020 while being honored at the University of Chicago Law School's Parsons Dinner. (Lloyd DeGrane via Wikimedia Commons)

Instead, she wrote, the employees and contractors “figuratively shrugged and effectively sat on their hands with respect to this plainly hearing-disabled person in their custody, presumably content to rely on their own uninformed beliefs about how best to handle him and certainly failing to engage in any meaningful assessment of his needs.” Jackson did not resolve, however, Pierce’s claim that prison officials had retaliated against him for his requests for an interpreter by placing him in solitary confinement, explaining that Pierce and the city disagreed on the underlying facts of the dispute. A jury later awarded Pierce \$70,000 in damages, and the city did not appeal.

In October 2018, Jackson issued an important ruling in favor of the U.S. territory of Guam in a dispute with the U.S. Navy. The Navy had created a landfill on the island that was used for the disposal of munitions and chemicals. Because pollution from the landfill was contaminating a nearby river, the government of Guam entered an agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency to shut it down and clean it up. The clean-up was expensive, so Guam went to federal court, seeking help from the Navy to recover some of the costs – which could reach as much as \$160 million.

The federal government asked Jackson to dismiss the case, arguing that Guam could only seek money from the government under one provision of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation & Liability Act, and it was too late to do so. Jackson rejected the federal government’s argument, allowing the case to go forward.

On appeal, the D.C. Circuit threw the case out, while acknowledging that such a result was “harsh.” Guam went to the Supreme Court, which granted review and in May 2021 unanimously reversed that ruling, reinstating the island’s lawsuit.

A Promotion to the Country’s “Second-Highest Court”

The D.C. Circuit is often dubbed the “second-highest court in the land” because of the many high-profile cases that it hears and because it has served as a launching pad for several Supreme Court justices.

Among the current justices, Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Clarence Thomas and Brett Kavanaugh all served on the D.C. Circuit before being nominated to the Supreme Court, as did the late Justices Antonin Scalia and Ruth Bader Ginsburg. The work is not entirely glamorous, however: The court’s docket also includes a steady diet of lower-profile (although still important) administrative-law cases, including appeals of orders issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

After Biden nominated Merrick Garland, then a judge on the D.C. Circuit, to be the attorney general, Jackson was quickly regarded as a leading contender to fill the vacancy left by Garland’s departure. And indeed, although she was not officially nominated until April 19, 2021, her responses to a questionnaire submitted before her confirmation indicated that White House Counsel Dana Remus contacted her on Jan. 26, 2021, about a possible nomination to the D.C. Circuit, and she met with the president in late February.

Jackson’s nomination for the D.C. Circuit enjoyed support from lawyers of all ideological stripes. Judge Thomas Griffith, a George W. Bush nominee who retired in 2020, wrote in a letter that although Jackson and he “have sometimes differed on the best outcome of a case,” he had “always respected her careful approach and agreeable manner.” And a letter signed by 23 lawyers who clerked at the Supreme Court at the same time as Jackson (for both liberal and conservative justices) emphasized the attorneys’ “great respect for her legal abilities, her work ethic, and her ability to work with colleagues of both like and differing views.” The letter also noted that Jackson “treated everyone who worked at the Court with respect and kindness.”

At her confirmation hearing in April 2021, Jackson faced questions about her service from 2010 to 2011 on the board of Montrose Christian School, a Maryland private school that has since closed. Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Mo., noted that the school’s statement of faith indicated that “[w]e should speak on behalf of the unborn and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death” and that marriage should be limited to a man and a woman. Hawley noted that Barrett had been “attacked” for serving on the board of a Christian school with similar positions, and he asked Jackson whether, based on her service at Montrose Christian, she believed in “the principle, and the constitutional right, of religious liberty.”

“I do believe in religious liberty,” Jackson told Hawley. It is, she said, a “foundational tenet of our entire government.” But Jackson distanced herself from the Montrose Christian statement of faith, telling Hawley that she had “served on many boards” and did not “necessarily agree with all of the statements ... that those boards might have in their materials.” And in this case, she added, she “was not aware of” the statement of beliefs.

Continued On Page 22...

Congresswoman

Eddie Bernice Johnson



Building diversity
in STEM: We are
most strong when
everyone has a
seat at the table

Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX), Chairwoman of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology in the House of Representatives

T

hroughout my time in Congress, it has been a main priority of mine to break down the barriers that are keeping women and minorities from pursuing and thriving in STEM careers. As the first woman and first African American Chair of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, I know first-hand the progress we stand to make when we expand representation in every sector of our society. We have of course made great strides in diversifying STEM and creating a more equal and equitable playing field for all, but we have a long way to go.

Without question, we cannot remain competitive and continue to lead the world in science and innovation if we do not tap into all the brain power this nation has to offer. For too long, we have gotten by with a STEM workforce that does not come close to representing the diversity of our nation. If we continue to leave behind so much of the nation's talent, we cannot succeed.

We face tremendous challenges nationally and globally—challenges like the devastating impacts of the climate crisis, failing infrastructure, supply chain issues, environmental injustice, and the COVID-19 pandemic. If we are to address these challenges head on, we must provide everyone a seat at the table. This demands a dramatic expansion of our STEM workforce—one that includes talented individuals of all races, ethnicities, and socioeconomic backgrounds. We need computer scientists and economists. Biologists and mathematicians. Engineers, chemists, and social scientists. And together, we will push the boundaries of what we know and what we can achieve.

I often refer to the Committee I Chair as the Committee of the Future. We have an opportunity to look beyond the politics of today to develop the best policies for tomorrow. And our future



prosperity depends on what we do now to nurture the STEM talent in our country.

In early February, the House of Representatives passed the America COMPETES Act. The COMPETES Act contains transformative and bipartisan legislation from the Science Committee that will build opportunities and representation for women and minorities in STEM.

COMPETES will support policy reforms to lower barriers facing women, minorities, and other underrepresented groups in STEM and address inequities faced by rural students that make it difficult for them to access STEM education. It will also expand research efforts to better understand and address challenges faced by HBCUs and other Minority Serving Institutions, and it supports efforts to combat sexual

harassment impacting individuals in the STEM workforce. I have been working on some of these provisions for 15 years. I am very proud to have joined Speaker Pelosi in leading this effort in the House, and I am looking forward to working to get this to President Biden's desk for his signature in the near future.

If we are to lead, we need a strong, welcoming, and diverse workforce. We cannot do one without the other. The global competition in science and technology continues to intensify. And the lack of diversity in our STEM workforce creates a significant drag on our own capacity to innovate.

Everyone, no matter their background, deserves the freedom to access and succeed in the career they choose. This is the legacy I hope to leave in Congress when I retire at the end of this year.

Senator Mattie Hunter



Women's
History
Month 2022

*A time to
reflect and
flourish*

W

omen's History Month is a time to reflect and acknowledge the contributions women across the globe who have made contributions to advance and develop the world. Throughout history, there are countless women that made their mark despite barriers like sexism, racism, and other structures meant to hold them down.

Specifically, I am amazed at how Black women have persevered and created their own spaces in the history of a violent and anti-Black nation.

“I know that there are many women, specifically Black women, who came before me and sacrificed so much to allow me to be in the place I am today.”

Though we have been described as the most neglected group in the nation, we have overcome the stigmas against us. Black women have the highest rate of college enrollment and are entering spaces some would have never imagined, including the White House.

I know that there are many women, specifically Black women, who came before me and sacrificed so much to allow me to be in the place I am today. I've always been passionate about the injustices I've seen going on around me, and it was because of women like Shirley Chisholm, Barbara Jordan, and Carol Mosely-Braun that I knew my voice mattered, and that it could create change.

For decades, I have used my time as a grassroots organizer to an Illinois state senator to advocate for change in our state. Affordable housing, accessible healthcare, public safety, economic opportunity, and quality education are all issues that are near and dear to my heart.

This legislative session, my focus hasn't changed. I am working to end hair discrimination in the workplace, address teacher and health care worker shortages, increase Second Chance housing and more.

I am grateful for AWBC magazine, as it has been a trusted voice in our community and a network for Black professionals in the Chicagoland region. It is important that we have a newsprint that exemplifies our success and acts as a source of empowerment.

T

hank you AWBC for being a safe space for women like me to share our accomplishments.

— Mattie Hunter is a Democratic member of the Illinois Senate and has represented the 3rd District since 2003. Hunter is also the 20th Ward Democratic Committeewoman and the Senate Majority Caucus Chair.

The Dr. Airies Report

*Should Black Women
act like Chad or
Chandra at work?*



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Listen Up SHEro's

should Black Women act like
Chad or Chandra at work?

The name Chad is used as a slang name synonymous with 'white male entitlement' and/or the archetypal alpha male energy. Even more telling, Chad is often considered the optimal barometer of excellence at work. The question becomes 'what would Chad do' when gaging the feasibility of an act. Chad is not afraid to ask for what he wants, makes himself a priority, and feels deserving of positive outcomes no matter the obstacles. I spent over 15 years in corporate settings being told the best way to advance professionally is to be Chad and act like a man but look like a woman. This statement is arbitrary at best because what does it mean to act like a man and look like a woman? Yet, stay in your place, as a woman, is the resounding voice heard surprisingly not just from male colleagues. I often ponder what my place is and who determines when and how I should stay in it.

As black women, how about we shift the narrative to define our own place. We can use our voices to reflect and create our preferred workplace journey. Let us start by culturally altering our name. Chandra, for the purposes of this article, represents Black Women who exude confidence, courage, and leadership brilliance in the workplace.

Ask yourself, 'what would Chandra do' when faced with the common workplace challenges:

Pay Equity: Chandra would prepare armed with data insights to ask for what she wants unapologetically "I deserve and expect comparable compensation"

Self-Promotion: Chandra would sing her own praises with statements of affirmation "I am the best and most qualified choice for the role"

Lack of Confidence: Chandra would replace any self-limiting beliefs with "I am qualified and capable"

*Put yourself first by
tapping into your inner
voice and asking -what
would Chandra do?*

About

Dr. Airies Davis is an author, educator, talent strategist, executive coach, and entrepreneur. She is the founder of WorkforceEQi, specializing in solving complex multicultural workforce challenges to deliver on emotional intelligence initiatives across industries and audiences. Her passion project is the creation of EriKID Academy providing character and career education etiquette to underserved populations. She is certified as WBE/MBE owned business. As a newly minted author, Dr. Davis proudly twirls her Wonder Woman lasso for the inaugural Mission Matters: World's Leading Entrepreneur's Reveal Their Top Tips To Success, Women in Business Edition. Her book chapter is entitled Emotionally Intelligent Wonder Women: Behold Our SHEro Leadership Powers at Work. Notably, she is an AWBC Magazine 2021 Egretha honoree and recipient of the Educational Diversity Impact Award. She is featured in a number of national print and online media publications. Dr. Davis's academic journey includes an earned doctorate from the University of Southern California and a Gies MBA from the University of Illinois in Champaign Urbana.

AWBC BIZNETWORK

KRISTINA

M.

WYNNE



Black Women The Influencers of the 21st Century

Kristina M Wynne | Owner of The Wynners Club | www.kristinamwynne.com

For centuries black women have been the most ridiculed, marginalized, and disrespected group of people in America; our voices silenced, families broken, and we are left to pick up the pieces. Black women continue to suffer, but our faith and trust in God keeps us “strong”. Strong is such a loaded word, in fact it is defined as the capacity of an object or substance (or person) to withstand great force or pressure. That word is an embodiment of the plight and platform of the Strong Black Woman.

When you take a step back and really process all black women have endured it might make you wonder, how is it possible for black women to be the most disproportionately impacted and yet become the most educated and influential group of people in America?

*I believe God allowed Black
Women to endure*

As black women, our irons have been sharpened by our experiences. It has prepared us to be the influencers and leaders of today's world! We have to continue to remember and express thanks to the black women who paved the way for us like Harriet Tubman, Madame CJ Walker, and Shirley Chisholm. Their sacrifice, long-suffering, and obedience to the vision God gave them opened doors for women like Oprah Winfrey, Michelle Obama, and Kamala Harris.

I have a t-shirt that says, “I am my ancestors wildest dreams”. Black women have finally arrived, this is our season to make change, impact the world, and excel. Our children will live differently than we did, our black girls of today will be the black women of tomorrow and what an amazing example each one of us black women are establishing for them!

Massimo Dutti





Today, there are so many opportunities and resources available for black women who are in business or want to start one.

Away with the days of bootstrapping and doing it alone!

Let's connect, I would love to support you or be able to connect you with a better suited resource for your needs.

**Kristina M. Wynne
Owner of
The Wynners Club**



@Kristina M Wynne

WWW.THEWYNNERSCLUB.ORG

**BUSINESS COACHING
GRANT WRITING
ACCESS TO CAPITAL**



*history is made
by the Wynners!*



Biden Introduces Ketanji Brown Jackson, His Supreme Court Pick
 Sarahbeth Maney/The New York Times

Continued From Page 11...

Jackson was confirmed on June 14, 2021, by a vote of 53-44. Three Republicans – Susan Collins of Maine, Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska – joined all Democrats in voting for her.

In her short tenure on the D.C. Circuit, Jackson has already been involved in one high-profile case: Trump’s efforts to block the release of documents related to the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the U.S. Capitol. The special House of Representatives committee investigating the riot asked the National Archives to turn over presidential records relating to the events of Jan. 6 and Trump’s claims of election fraud in the 2020 presidential election.

When the archivist notified Trump that he would turn over records, Trump claimed executive privilege over some of the documents, including diaries, schedules, and visitor and call logs. But Biden countered that the documents should not be shielded by executive privilege, prompting Trump to go to court. A federal district judge in Washington rejected Trump’s request to block the disclosure of the documents, and the D.C. Circuit, in an opinion by Judge Patricia Millett that Jackson joined, upheld that ruling. Trump then went to the Supreme Court, which on Jan. 19 turned down Trump’s request to stop the release of the documents. Only Justice Clarence Thomas indicated that he disagreed with the court’s decision.

Personal Life

Jackson met her husband, a surgeon at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital, while both were students at Harvard. The couple married in 1996, and they have two daughters – one a senior in high school and the other in college.

Since 2019, Jackson has served on the board of trustees at Georgetown Day School, a prestigious Washington private school that her daughter attends. She has also served on Harvard’s board of overseers since 2016. In 2016, Jackson recused herself from a case challenging the U.S. Department of Education’s sexual-assault guidelines for colleges and universities; in her Senate questionnaire for her D.C. Circuit confirmation hearing, she explained that at the time she was “serving on the board of a university that was evaluating its own potential response to those guidelines” and therefore her impartiality might be questioned. Jackson’s service on Harvard’s board raises the prospect that, if nominated and confirmed, she would also recuse herself from the challenge to Harvard’s race-conscious admissions policy, in which the court is likely to hear arguments in the fall.

Jackson was introduced at her 2012 confirmation hearing by Paul Ryan, then a member of the House of Representatives and Mitt Romney’s running mate in the 2012 presidential campaign. Ryan is a relative of Jackson by marriage: His wife’s sister, Dana, is married to William Jackson, the twin brother of Jackson’s husband, Patrick Jackson. Ryan told the Senate Judiciary Committee that, although “our politics may differ,” his “praise for Ketanji’s intellect, for her character, for her integrity, it is unequivocal.”

During Jackson’s 2012 confirmation hearing, Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, asked her whether, as a district court judge, she planned “to follow Justice Breyer’s very awesome style of questioning [at] oral argument in your court.” After the laughter subsided, Jackson responded that she did not think anyone could match Breyer’s style, and she didn’t know whether she would “even attempt to try.” Although Breyer’s unique approach to oral arguments may not have been well suited to the district court, if nominated to succeed him on the Supreme Court Jackson could decide whether to imitate him there – or, is as more likely, bring her own style, reflecting her own personality and experiences.

\$1 MILLION IN GRANTS TO EMERGING BLACK FILMMAKERS IN CELEBRATION OF ITS ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Channel Includes the Ultimate in Black Storytelling And is the Proud Home to the Largest Curated Independent Black Film Collection On Demand

Comcast NBCUniversal celebrates the one-year anniversary of Black Experience on Xfinity by announcing plans to offer \$1M in the form of ten \$100K grants to emerging Black filmmakers. Home to the largest curated collection of independent Black film collection on demand, Black Experience on Xfinity features high-quality content from many of Xfinity's existing network partners, while investing millions of dollars in emerging talent from the top Black film festivals. Curated by industry leaders, the channel is the only one of its kind endorsed by African American Film Critics Association (AAFCA), the world's largest group of Black film critics that gives annual awards for excellence in film and television.

Black Experience on Xfinity offers one-stop access to a collection of content that showcase the breadth of Black culture. Available at home on Xfinity X1 and Flex, and on-the-go with the Xfinity Stream app, the Black Experience on Xfinity will entertain, educate, and uplift, featuring Black actors, writers, producers, and directors. At home, Xfinity subscribers can visit channel 1622 or simply say "Black Experience" into the Voice Remote. And for the first time, consumers nationwide will be able to enjoy the ultimate in Black storytelling with the availability of the Black Experience collection on Comcast's new XClass TV, easily accessible through the platform's home screen and voice remote.

"The launch of Black Experience on Xfinity has been a major investment in the Black creative community and one of the many ways we are leveraging the scale and reach of our platforms to amplify voices that need to be heard," said Keesha Boyd, Executive Director, Multicultural Video & Entertainment, Xfinity Consumer Services. "In recent years, we have expanded our offering of Black programming to millions of additional Xfinity customers. The Black Experience Channel on Xfinity allows us to shine a spotlight on our existing content partners, while also investing in and distributing original programming from emerging Black content creators and talent."

Black Experience uniquely blends programming from across the Xfinity content catalog, spanning networks, free and ad-supported video streaming services, streaming music providers and more. Customers are able to choose from a selection of sample content from existing partners like TVOne, Cleo, AspireTV, REVOLT, Afro, KweliTV, The Africa Channel, BET, BET Her, Impact, Up Faith & Family and OWN, and more, which has allowed these partners to reach millions of new viewers. Xfinity subscribers also have access to all-new, premiere content by new and up-and-coming Black content creators, available only to Xfinity customers included with their service.

"The launch of Black Experience on Xfinity has been a major investment in the Black creative community and one of the many ways we are leveraging the scale and reach of our platforms to amplify voices that need to be heard,"

- said Keesha Boyd, Executive Director, Multicultural Video & Entertainment, Xfinity Consumer Services.

Since its launch, Black Experience on Xfinity has funded more than 25 Black creators and organizations on and off screen, and in 2021, more than three million viewers watched over 11 million hours of content on Black Experience.

"It was a pleasure to partner with Black Experience on Xfinity in 2021 on the exclusive premiere of the documentary film Twenty Pearls to tell the story of the founders of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., the first Black sorority, and the generations of notable women that followed in their footsteps," said award-winning filmmaker Deborah Riley Draper.

"This is an important part of history for all of us to know and understand, and our work with the Black Experience on Xfinity channel helped facilitate the discovery of this story for new audiences from diverse generations and backgrounds."

"The African American Film Critics Association is proud to partner for a second year with the Black Experience Channel on Xfinity. Black stories are very important and through our relationship with Black Experience on Xfinity, we have been able to introduce content creators and talent, both in front and behind the camera, to Xfinity's vast audience of subscribers. AAFCA looks forward to its expanded relationship with

Xfinity this year that includes the 2022 AAFCA Film Awards and the 2022 AAFCA TV Honors, plus our summer screening series and short film exhibitions centering on underrepresented creators," shared Gil Robertson IV, CEO, African American Film Critics Association.

Xfinity delivers the best entertainment to customers, including thousands of hours of diverse programming from more than 100 networks and streaming services, via its X1 and Flex devices. X1 provides the most comprehensive library of entertainment on one platform – aggregating live TV, On Demand, and popular streaming apps from a growing collection of networks and streaming services. Xfinity Flex is a 4K streaming device included with Xfinity Internet that extends the best features of X1 to customers who prefer only a

broadband experience, giving them one integrated guide to access all of their favorite streaming video and music apps, as well as a TV interface to manage their Xfinity WiFi, mobile, security and automation services – all of which is controllable with the award-winning Xfinity voice remote.

Visit <https://xfinityblackexperience.com> to learn more about the Black Experience on Xfinity and to sign up for information on applying for a grant.



The Village Rules

By Dr. Jacqueline Samuel PhD

W

omen's History Month is a time of celebration and there is plenty to celebrate. However, for Black Women our triumphs often seem to be overshadowed with microaggressions or actions that contribute to harm. One of the most oppressive actions is the silencing of Black Women. I remember in college I wanted to direct a play by a Black female playwright. I will never forget my professor saying that it would not be a "good idea" without any other explanation. Well, that didn't stop me from directing the sold out play. Here I was in college, strengthening my creative skills and my professor was trying to silence me. He was basically telling me to "stay in your place". This is no different than Whoopi Goldberg being suspended on the talk show, "The View". She is on a television show about women expressing their views. Clearly the message to Whoopi was to "stay in your place". I cannot help thinking about how someone is always trying to silence Black Women and we are expected to "stay in your place". Can you imagine Oprah without her "OWN" television station? Or Issa Rae being told she cannot produce "Awkward Black Girl" on YouTube? Where would we be if Black Women were successfully silenced? I cannot help but see the humor in a Black Woman being asked to, "stay in your place". Sounds like a loaded request to me. That is why I had to write this poem about being told to "stay in your place". Enjoy.

Happy Women's History Month

Dr. Jacqueline Samuel PhD

*Happy Women's History Month
and it comes with a punch,
actually daily for Black Women and such.
Did I hear someone say "Stay in your place"?
It is not even in our DNA to sit and wait for the demise of our fate.
Missing Black girls,
fired for our nappy curls,
Pleeeeeeeaze, I dare you to state that again.
"Stay in your place",
Are you kidding me?
Oh you don't want to see what we can do,
and it will definitely create sparks and totally annoy you.
Of course, when you go low, we will go high,
but beware, our real response to you will be subtle and fly.
We'll use the Critical Race Theory to dispel your lie.
"Stay in your place",
No need to take it any further.
We will whip Black Girl Magic on you because it is sweeter than Werther's,
How much longer do we have to go through this?
Invisible when you want us to be, as we live at risk.
Stuck living in this colonial construct,
while your arrogance and dissonance runs amuck.
"Stay in your place",
Why don't you stay in yours?
I'll tell you what we will do.
Calling all my Sista's living with hue.
Let's strengthen our muscles and tell what is historically true.
That will give them something hard to chew.
Let's continue to inspire each other from our Ancestral cues.
We will show our Black Excellence and live by the Village Rules.*

Tiya Sumter

|
*Business
and Careers
Network*



Hello Bold Career Tips

9 Ways to Strengthen Your Reputation at Work

1. Write down all the reasons your current employer hired you for that position. What do you feel they noticed most during your interview that further convinced them you were the perfect fit for the position? What was your sales pitch in the interview? What did you promise to deliver if hired? Did that employer think you would bring new energy, new ideas, etc.?

2. Think about your personal strengths and qualifications. Write them down and think about why those matter in your current work. Could your previous jobs get done without you? How did you perform in comparison to the other employees? What is it about the way you performed each task that had the greatest impact?

3. Write down your greatest accomplishments, either in your current position or with a past employer. Think about when you conquered fear in the past. We all usually have at least one example. Remember that time you had that huge project you didn't think you could finish, but somehow you made it happen in time? Or what about that time you were in charge of the presentation and you were able to use that bold girl magic and rock that thing? Think about what strengths you had to tap into to successfully complete your goals and find ways to use it again. Looking back on how you overcame fear in the past will also support you in the future.

4. Ask for feedback. Sometimes we fear what others are thinking. If you don't know exactly what your manager is thinking about your performance, ask like the professional you are. Receiving feedback is helpful to your growth and development. So many of the fears you concern yourself with on the job adds so much pressure causing you to underperform instead of power perform.

5. Take some breathing breaks and give yourself the pep talk you need. For me, whenever I was nervous about presenting in a staff meeting, I would look at myself in the mirror and give myself a pep talk: "You can do it, you can do it, you can do it!" It immediately reminded me that I'm in this specific position for a reason. Someone else trusted me enough to give me this opportunity. Create your own personal pep talk and use it whenever you need it most.

6. Apply the "So what" method whenever you're nervous about speaking up at work. When you begin to question your abilities ask yourself, so what? "What if they don't use my idea?" So what, will the world end? So what, will that stop you from

having any future ideas? So what, will that mean they don't respect you? Typically, none of those "so what" responses are as likely to happen as you think.

7. Consider who you want to be and start becoming her. The reputation you build on your job is important. You don't ever want to be the person they forget is in the room. You want them to know your voice and that you aren't afraid to use it. Don't be so tied to the results as much as you're tied to the fact you accomplished something.

8. Find a work mentor. The best choice is someone you admire who has been successful in the type of work you'd like to do. Schedule a time to chat with her and ask how she's been able to be successful in her career. Ask if she has had fears along the way and how she was able to navigate through them.

9. Again, think about what you want for your work reputation. Make two columns. One column is your ideal work reputation, the other is your current work reputation. Use the chart below to help you with this exercise.

Tiya Cunningham-Sumter
Certified Relationship Coach & Blogger
Author of A Conversation Piece: 32 Bold Relationship Lessons for Discussing Marriage, Sex, and Conflict (Amazon) and Hello BOLD! The Confidence Guide for Conquering Shyness and Overcoming Fear (Amazon)
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www.theboldersister.com



Still I Rise

Maya Angelou - 1928-2014

You may write me down in history
With your bitter, twisted lies,
You may trod me in the very dirt
But still, like dust, I'll rise.

Does my sassiness upset you?
Why are you beset with gloom?
'Cause I walk like I've got oil wells
Pumping in my living room.
Just like moons and like suns,
With the certainty of tides,
Just like hopes springing high,
Still I'll rise.

Did you want to see me broken?
Bowed head and lowered eyes?
Shoulders falling down like teardrops,
Weakened by my soulful cries?

Does my haughtiness offend you?
Don't you take it awful hard
'Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines
Diggin' in my own backyard.

You may shoot me with your words,
You may cut me with your eyes,
You may kill me with your hatefulness,
But still, like air, I'll rise.

Does my sexiness upset you?
Does it come as a surprise
That I dance like I've got diamonds
At the meeting of my thighs?

Out of the huts of history's shame
I rise
Up from a past that's rooted in pain
I rise
I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,
Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.

Leaving behind nights of terror and fear
I rise
Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear
I rise
Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,
I am the dream and the hope of the slave.
I rise
I rise
I rise.



“New Day’s Lyric” Amanda Gorman 2022

May this be the day
We come together.
Mourning, we come to mend,
Withered, we come to weather,
Torn, we come to tend,
Battered, we come to better.
Tethered by this year of yearning,
We are learning
That though we weren’t ready for this,
We have been readied by it.
We steadily vow that no matter
How we are weighed down,
We must always pave a way forward.

This hope is our door, our portal.
Even if we never get back to normal,
Someday we can venture beyond it,
To leave the known and take the first steps.
So let us not return to what was normal,
But reach toward what is next.

What was cursed, we will cure.
What was plagued, we will prove pure.
Where we tend to argue, we will try to agree,

Those fortunes we forswore, now the future we foresee,
Where we weren’t aware, we’re now awake;
Those moments we missed
Are now these moments we make,
The moments we meet,
And our hearts, once all together beaten,
Now all together beat.

Come, look up with kindness yet,
For even solace can be sourced from sorrow.
We remember, not just for the sake of yesterday,
But to take on tomorrow.

We heed this old spirit,
In a new day’s lyric,
In our hearts, we hear it:
For auld lang syne, my dear,
For auld lang syne.
Be bold, sang Time this year,
Be bold, sang Time,
For when you honor yesterday,
Tomorrow ye will find.
Know what we’ve fought
Need not be forgot nor for none.
It defines us, binds us as one,
Come over, join this day just begun.
For wherever we come together,
We will forever overcome.

AWBC BIZNETWORK MARCH PROFILE

**History-Making
Young Black Hotel Owner,**

**Jessica
Myers**



Jessica Myers wears a lot of hats. Entrepreneur. House flipper. Real estate investor. Even a history-making hotel owner is an accurate distinction. But the 34-year-old, says she prefers to be known simply as “the dealmaker” (a.k.a. #TheDealMkr).

And looking at her professional track record the moniker is fitting. Since 2015, she has renovated more than \$20 million dollars in real estate assets and manages a seven-plus figure portfolio. Just more than a year ago she made history when she partnered with a college buddy, also a 33-year-old African American woman, to acquire the Home2 Suites by Hilton El Reno, Oklahoma, located about 30 miles from Oklahoma City. Their investment into the \$8.3 million deal with fellow members of the Nassau Investments group is believed to have earned them the notable distinction of being the youngest African American woman to ever co-own a major hotel chain property. In December 2021 she worked with Nassau Investments and Jack Thomas of Jetway Financial, to acquire two more hotel properties; a Staybridge Suites in Fishers, Indiana, and a Hampton Inn & Suites in Scottsburg, Indiana.

Even before the groundbreaking deal, the former corporate communications and radio advertising professional managed to turn a hankering for HGTV into a lucrative residential house-flipping business, one home at a time. That led to investing in a diverse mix of residential and commercial properties, including renovations and luxury-modern build developments, and eventually a residential redevelopment project last year in Brunswick, Georgia. The latter project in her husband's hometown, she says, was her way of helping revitalize and rejuvenate the coastal community that in recent years has been overwhelmed with media attention and division following a controversial racial killing that snagged national and international attention.

“Jessica knows real estate in and out; she knows her stuff, period,” gushes collaborator Thomas.

“She’s a developer who knows what makes a property valuable, how to read the market, and how to reduce risk. She combines that with a strong work ethic and a humble desire to help other investors become more successful. She’s motivated, determined to win, and wants to empower others to do the same. I’m excited to work with her and to be a part of her amazing real estate journey!”

Myers believes the diversity of her properties portfolio is her strength and biggest asset. She says it’s evidence that she’s got the chops to do anything she puts her mind to, including helping others, especially those from diverse and underrepresented backgrounds in the real estate industry, looking to invest and grow their money. She says she can help anyone committed to the process win in the real estate game – even if it’s just to help build up capital for another big goal.

“You could be a hairdresser or a barber, it doesn’t matter to me, it’s not about volume or having trillions of dollars to put into a project for me,” says Myers, a Georgia State University graduate who

grew up in a working-class family in Atlanta. “I’m looking to reach people beyond those already in the real estate industry, because I realize there’s a magic in turning non-real estate people into real estate investors – if not for the long-haul, just long enough for them to build up their money for another big dream.”

In light of that, Myers is kicking off 2022 with more ways to help others gain access to the knowledge that she’s acquired over the past seven years to become fellow “dealmakers” too. Along with her Lawn Chair Learning Circle series and her All Things Entrepreneur Podcast, she’s got a full schedule of real estate training courses available and open to the public, as well as appointment slots for personal consulting services and her debut book is slated for release in March. She insists that it is an easy-to-understand read that can help walk even the most modest and conservative of investors through the process of making money and enjoying real estate success.

In 2022 plans, she’s also pressing on in her major professional and personal goal of helping others own and acquire “over ‘1,000 doors’ in the commercial and residential real estate space.” She says it’s an effective and gratifying way to build generational wealth and feel empowered both personally and professionally.

“My overall vision is to help people gain more economic independence and to do so through real estate ownership,” she says.

“I want to empower others, especially women, people of color, and those who, like me, didn’t come from money, but who want to leave a legacy for their family and loved ones. It’s time we take back our communities and reclaim what is rightfully ours. I took the same simple steps to become a deal maker in the real estate space and I believe you can too!”

Leslie Ekpe

Texas Christian University

|

Black Women Leading



In 2020, vast changes in higher education due to racial justice movements and the impact of Covid-19, resulted in colleges and universities clamoring to respond with diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) efforts. One aspect of this response came in the form of newly elected African American student body presidents and student leaders. Whereas the majority of these posts had been held by White students for decades, the “interlocking” of Covid-19 and racial justice turmoil prompted Black students to create platforms for change on their campuses, and as a result their classmates elected them to leadership positions.

Leslie Ekpe, a doctoral student at Texas Christian University (TCU), is one of these students. She serves as the president of the Graduate Student Senate (GSS) at the Fort Worth, Texas-based institution. Although Ekpe had been active in student government in the past as the Chair of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee for the GSS, she didn’t envision herself as the president — mainly due to a historical lack of diversity in student leadership at TCU. In 2020, she was nominated by the board members of the GSS to serve as president and she accepted the nomination, feeling it was the right time for her to lead.

According to Ekpe, “Being the first Black woman to serve as the GSS president is truly an honor. I do not take it lightly.” However, as she explained, “It took over 140+ years for this change to occur. While I may serve as the first Black GSS president, I am surely not the first who has wanted to be in the position. I am the first that has been afforded the opportunity to do so.”

There are systems that have kept individuals like Ekpe out of positions of student leadership. Now that she is in this leadership position, she sees it as her “duty to continue to open doors for marginalized students across campus and dismantle barriers that are keeping these students out of leadership roles.” She added,

“I am Black and a Woman. These identities have shaped me into who I am today. I bring these identities into every room I occupy and I hold true to these identities.”

Although some African American leaders have not felt supported in their leadership roles at Predominantly White Institutions (PWIs) across the nation, Ekpe feels a great deal of support. TCU is 68% White in terms of the student population and only 5% African American, but Ekpe says that “the graduate student body has been receptive to [her] new role” and “alumni have also reached out asking how they can be supportive.”

Despite the warm reception, Ekpe, says that she is continually grappling with issues of racial injustice happening throughout the nation and how they play out on her campus, noting that she won’t be able to fix everything at her institution. She is optimistic about the change to come. She warns, however, that TCU and other colleges and universities have to stay focused on DEI issues. As she explained, “Being that TCU is a PWI, for years, many of the policies and procedures were ones that benefited the dominant race. As the world continues to change demographically, so will the world of higher education.”

In order to be successful as a college student leader, it helps to have the support of the administration, especially at the highest level. According to Ekpe, “The Chancellor — Victor Boschini Jr., who has been an integral part of my growth, has an open-door policy and has truly made it his duty to establish a relationship with me as the president, in order to understand the needs of graduate students.” She added, “What I value is that our relationship is reciprocal.” Ekpe and Boschini are working towards a more inclusive environment for graduate students but also for the community as a whole.

As Ekpe explained, “We ask questions such as who is benefiting from our decisions? Who is being left out? What are the practices and policies that enable privilege while preventing justice?” Ekpe stressed that there is a lot of work to be done at TCU and that she is appreciative that Boschini supports the efforts in “organizing true inclusivity.”

Of note, Boschini is known for his student-focused outlook, having served as a Vice President of Student Affairs earlier in his career. Of Ekpe, he said, “I think she has virtually limitless potential as an educational leader.” Boschini believes that having Ekpe in the position is important for multiple reasons. He shared, “First, as a woman of color she provides an amazing role model to all of our other graduate students and the undergrads as well. Second, as an individual of enormous talent she also serves as an inspiration for our other students on campus. Finally, her high innate intelligence gives her the ability to quickly assess new situations and construct a plan of attack when needed to get the job done.”

Many student government leaders become prominent national leaders once they graduate. For example, voting rights activist Stacey Abrams was the president of Students for African American Empowerment while a student at Spelman College and is now running for Governor of Georgia. From Boschini’s perspective, Ekpe “will definitely one day – and maybe not too far from now – be the president of a college or university. Her amazing skill set is just perfect for that role. She connects with people at such a genuine level in such a short period of time. She works well with others and is wise enough to solicit their ideas and thoughts as each new project evolves.”

In her role as president, Ekpe has been focused on the mental health and financial support of graduate students. As she shared, “The pandemic has exacerbated inequities for us (graduate students) in ways that we could never imagine. This has increased mental health issues across the board. We want to ensure that resources that meet the mental health needs of graduate students are available at little or no cost. Financial issues are also important and we have established resources (grants) that graduate students can apply for to support them throughout their academic journey.”

As president of the GSS, Ekpe, has the ability and capacity to make changes and as she noted,

“she’ll do just that.”

Creating a working economy for all, with Black women at the center

By Fanta Traore



Fanta Traore is co-founder of the Sadie Collective.

When it became clear to me as the term ‘essential

worker’ was being coined, that most of the people who are being appreciated as such, are women of color and especially Black women, it dawned on me immediately, that they certainly are not treated as such. The disconnect between this language and what economic policy actually is, is peculiar to me. After all, if they are absolutely necessary for the governing of our economy during a global pandemic, should it not be easier for them to do so through offering paid sick leave, and paying them a livable wage?

The COVID-19 pandemic has only further exacerbated the reality of American societal inequities, pushing to the forefront just how important it is for Black women and marginalized groups are to our recovery as decision makers.

Suddenly, the work of the Sadie Collective, which I co-founded in 2018, upon the start of my own journey as I sought to become a trained economist, purpose was further illuminated. Rising joblessness for women of color, a national reckoning about systemic racism, as Breonna Taylor’s killers and countless of Black women remain unscathed for their crimes, was clarifying. It revealed how critical it is for Black women, and women of color which find themselves at the bottom of America’s caste system to have the ability to shape the economy from a seat of power.

Power, to influence and shape policy so institutions which seek to serve

EVERYONE and be world class, which can truly be done by employing diverse talent who provide critical perspective that white men simply cannot offer for the entirety of the US population because their lived experiences do not allow them to. As noted by economist, Janelle Jones, America’s first Chief Economist for the Department of Labor, who coined #BlackWomenBest which means centering economic policy to serve Black women, so the economy works for everyone. (Because when was the last time the economy worked for Black women but not everyone else?)

To get to an economy, that works for everyone, Black women and women of color need a seat at new tables that center their humanity.

Recent data from the 2020 CSMGEP report, shows that less than 1% of people in the United States who graduate with a PhD in Economics as of 2019, are Black women, specifically 4 and the numbers are similar for indigenous women (0) and for Hispanic/Latino (8). As the Sadie Collective continues to grow and expand in its mission to reach more young women of color, and support Black women across critical nodes at their career journey (securing a first job or internship, research opportunities, and so forth), I’m hopeful because in response to the Sadie Collective open letter, new partnerships are being brokered to empower Black women to positions of power and influence. Additionally, appointments of the likes of Dr. Lisa D. Cook to the Biden Transition team, Joelle Gamble as the special assistant to the secretary and Dr. Cecilia Rouse, the first Black woman to chair the Council of Economic Advisors, are women who are excellent

with a track record of research and commitment to centering women and other marginalized groups and their conditions in their research.

I’m fortunate to work with an incredible team at the Sadie Collective who are making a shift in the quality of opportunities for Black women, as young Black women who are also evolving in their own personal career journeys. For an organization that is just 2.5 years old, a ‘collective’ mindset and commitment is why we’ve been able to accomplish so much from being reaching a growing membership of 1,000 members, hosting successful conferences with the likes of Chair Janet Yellen, and Dambisa Moyo, and featured in Fortune, Forbes, and several other publications, and with plenty of success to be shared out during this month of February, where we celebrate 100 years of Black economists thanks to the wonderful woman we named the organization for: Dr. Sadie T.M. Alexander. Learn more about our work on our website: www.sadiecollective.org, join our community as a member of ally at www.sadiecollective.org/join and on instagram and twitter @SadieCollective.

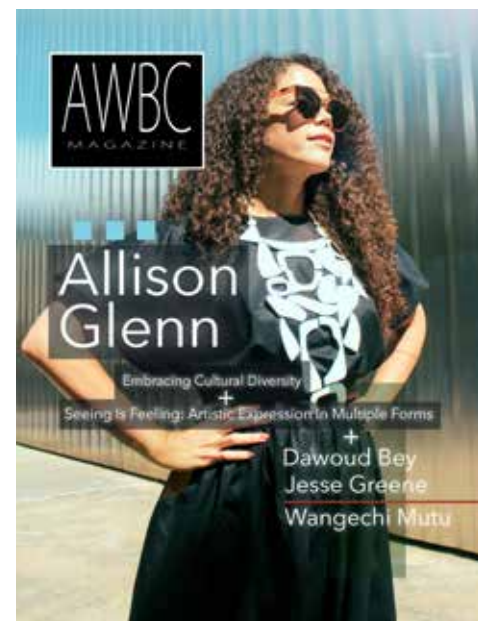
MA/MBA dual degree student Fanta Traore is co-founder of the Sadie Collective, the first and only organization focused on Black women’s advancement in economics and related fields. Fanta, lives at intersections and embraces the unique perspective that provides her as a social entrepreneur, data oriented researcher, who enjoys running and being a mentor.



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HIGHER EDUCATION COMMUNITY CALLS ON CONGRESS TO ADDRESS THREATS TO HBCUS



ACE and 63 other organizations today requested that Congress immediately take steps to support and protect historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) following the recent wave of bomb threats made against HBCUs around the country.

The investigations by the FBI and other law enforcement authorities currently underway have identified multiple suspects, but no arrests have been made.

In the letter to House and Senate leadership, the signers ask that Congress work with the administration to ensure that the threats “be fully and aggressively investigated and the offenders prosecuted in accordance with the grievous harm they have caused.”

“These acts of terror deliberately strike at institutions that have a unique significance to Black Americans and to American higher education,” the associations wrote. “HBCUs are targeted precisely because they serve as powerful symbols of Black Americans’ strength and achievement.”

The groups are calling for the prompt passage of H.Con. Res. 70, which condemns threats of violence against HBCUs and reaffirms support for the institutions and their students, to put Congress on record on this matter of national importance.

Because of “the egregious nature” of these crimes and the racist motivations behind them, the associations also ask Congress to “hold congressional hearings on an expedited basis, with a focus on the persistent issues underlying these crimes and an effort to identify ways to prevent future occurrences.”

As ACE President Ted Mitchell noted earlier this month in a statement, “An attack on any of us is an attack on all of us. We must redouble our efforts to work as a higher education community and as a nation to defeat hatred and injustice once and for all.”

In First, Four Harvard Schools to be Led by Black Women

By Kelly Field



Portraits of Harvard's former deans line the halls they once walked — at some schools, stretching back decades. The features change, as do the poses and the visibility of brush strokes. But the subjects of the portraits bear certain resemblances: most are white, and most are male.

That will soon change. Come August 15, for the first time in Harvard's history, four of the University's schools will be led by African-American women.

Professor Claudine Gay is the latest addition to the list, and colleagues said her appointment to the deanship of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences — Harvard's flagship faculty — last week marks a turning point at the University.

Gay will become the first woman and the first African American to occupy the post. In an interview last week, she said she recognized the potential of her selection to inspire other women and people of color, and likened the impact of her promotion to that of former University President Drew G. Faust when she became Harvard's first female president.



Michelle A. Williams, an epidemiologist and professor at the School of Public Health, became the first black person to head a faculty at Harvard and the first female dean of the school. By Courtesy of the Harvard Gazette



Former University President Drew G. Faust named Bridget Terry-Long the next dean of the Graduate School of Education in May. By Courtesy of Harvard Public Affairs and Communications

“If my presence in this role affirms someone’s sense of belonging and ownership, the same way Drew’s appointment affirmed my own sense of belonging, then I think that’s great,” Gay said. “And for people who are sort of beyond our gates, if this prompts them to look again and look anew at Harvard and imagine new possibilities for themselves, I think that’s great as well.”

A little over two years ago, none of the University’s 14 schools had a black woman at the helm. After her appointment in 2016, Michelle A. Williams became the first black woman to lead the Longwood-based School of Public Health — and the first black person to head a faculty at Harvard.

Tomiko Brown-Nagin and Bridget Terry-Long have become the first female African-American deans at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study and the Graduate School of Education. Faust appointed Brown-Nagin and Terry-Long in April and May, respectively.

Before Brown-Nagin, Terry-Long, and Williams, History of Science professor Evelyn M. Hammonds served as the first female and African-American dean of the College for five years until 2013.

John S. Wilson, a senior adviser and strategist on Harvard’s president on diversity and inclusion initiatives, called the appointments of Brown-Nagin, Gay, and Terry-Long “obviously significant” in the University’s long history as a predominantly white institution.

“To now be moving into a phase of Harvard’s life where people who don’t meet that profile are now empowered to advance Harvard, it just signals that Harvard is getting ready for a new future for itself and for the country and for the world,” Wilson said.

The most recent signal — Gay’s appointment — sparked excitement outside University Hall last week. Hammonds described the selection as “absolutely great.”

African American Studies professor Elizabeth K. Hinton took to Twitter to celebrate the news, reflecting on the more prominent presence of black women among the University’s leadership ranks.

“What an inspiring, historic time to be a Black woman @Harvard w/ Gay as FAS Dean, @TBrownNagin as Radcliffe Dean, & @bterrylong as @hgse Dean,” Hinton wrote, also noting that African American Studies professor Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham had just begun her first term as department chair of History with the hashtag “#CiteBlackWomen.”

The tweet garnered over 500 likes and 130 retweets, including one from Government professor Danielle S. Allen, who had chaired the Task Force on Inclusion and Belonging, a group that called for increased faculty diversification at the University in its final report released in March.

In an emailed statement Friday, Allen wrote that the recent appointments of three African-American women to deanships was “terrific.”

“It’s great to see such wonderful, talented individuals in leadership posts and to see the University diversifying its leadership ranks,” Allen wrote.

Like Gay, Brown-Nagin noted in an emailed statement that she is “thrilled whenever any organization recognizes talent in women and people of color, just the same of other groups.” She noted that at Radcliffe — a historically female institution — her experience is not “anomalous,” but that she has experienced her entire career in education often as the only woman of color or one of a handful in “elite spaces.”

“In all those contexts, I have managed to avoid being reduced to my ascribed race or gender. That said, I’ve been gratified by the congratulations that I’ve received from people from all walks of life, men and women, seasoned professionals and students,” Brown-Nagin wrote.

And, she added, she has been pleased to see women of color experience her appointment to dean of Radcliffe as a “validation of their own abilities.”

‘No Bounds of Race or Gender’

Gay’s appointment marks one of the first administrative decisions of University President Lawrence S. Bacow’s tenure, which some — like African and African American Studies Department Chair Lawrence D. Bobo — say indicates the new president’s commitment to inclusion and belonging at a high level.

“Claudine Gay’s appointment as the first African American Dean of FAS sends a strong signal about the reach of President Bacow’s and of Harvard University’s commitment to living into its values of diversity, inclusion, and belongingness; of being an institution where judgments about quality of mind and commitment to truth know no bounds of race or gender,” Bobo wrote in an emailed statement.

The diversification of the Harvard’s leadership ranks and faculty has sparked conversation across the University in recent months — particularly after the University-wide Task Force on Inclusion and Belonging called faculty diversification and growth across Harvard’s schools “frustratingly uneven.”

The group published a series of recommendations intended to bolster the recruitment of minority and female faculty. In the early stages of their report’s implementation, Faust pledged \$10 million in presidential funds to new faculty hires and required deans and administrators to produce plans to advance inclusion and belonging in their schools or units. It’s a commitment Bacow seems to share.

During his decade-long tenure as president of Tufts University, Bacow worked to diversify Tufts’s faculty and student body, appointing the school’s first Chief Diversity



Tomiko Brown-Nagin is the Dean of Harvard’s Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study. By Courtesy of Harvard Public Affairs and Communications

Officer to oversee inclusion work. At the Feb. 11 press conference announcing his selection as the 29th president of Harvard, Bacow spoke about his efforts to improve inclusion and belonging among traditionally underrepresented groups in his prior role. “We need to look for the very best and during my time at Tufts I’m proud of the record of bringing women and minorities and people of color into the senior leadership, into the faculty, and also into the student body, and I hope to do the same thing here,” Bacow said during his remarks.

Bacow’s own selection as Harvard’s 29th president didn’t exactly break barriers; Bacow became the University’s 28th white and male leader, following Faust’s tenure as Harvard’s first female president.

Students, faculty, and alumni who had called for a president from an underrepresented background said they were disappointed in the selection and expressed worry that another white president would not accurately reflect the changing demographics of Harvard’s campus.

Wilson, who will take point on inclusion and belonging initiatives in the Bacow era, said Bacow has demonstrated a commitment to championing diversity and inclusion even before officially taking office in July.



Former Dean of the College Evelyn M. Hammonds.

“President Bacow, even before he officially started his role, made a commitment to maintain and enhance the momentum we have in this space,” Wilson said.

Wilson credited Faust for fostering a “trajectory for Harvard” through establishing the task force in May 2016 and following through with some of the group’s recommendations at the end of her tenure. Wilson said it is clear that Bacow is “quite serious” about continuing this course of action.

“I’m encouraged and excited,” Wilson said.

Asked about the three successive appointments of African-American women to deanships, Bacow noted each of the new deans’ accomplishments prior to their promotions in an emailed statement. He cited Terry-Long’s tenure as the academic dean of the Ed School, Gay’s current role as the FAS dean of Social Science, and Brown-Nagin’s leadership of the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice at the Law School.

“Each of these exceptional individuals was selected because they enjoy reputations as distinguished scholars and educators, and because they are widely admired by their colleagues as extremely effective academic leaders,” Bacow wrote. “They were selected not because of their race or gender but because they each rose to the top of a rigorous search process.

I could not be more pleased to have the opportunity to work with each of them.”

Wilson echoed Bacow’s praise of the accomplishments of each of the appointees, but added that the consecutive selections of three black women signals that Harvard is recognizing “intelligence and leadership and expertise come in a variety of shapes and forms.” He added that the changing demographics of Harvard’s campus indicate that “it’s time to think beyond convention.”

Williams, who called Gay a “superb choice” and praised her work with the Inequality in America Initiative, wrote that she found it “gratifying” to witness the diversification of Harvard’s leadership.

“It is gratifying to see the complexion of Harvard’s academic leadership beginning to change in recognition of the invaluable contributions people of color make to the intellectual and cultural life of this great university,” Williams wrote in an emailed statement.

In reflecting on the historic nature of her appointment, Gay noted that those familiar with the changing demographics of Harvard’s campus may not necessarily find her appointment surprising. “This is Harvard, this is who we are, this is what we look like,” Gay said.

‘A Very Vital Presence’

Even with four African-American female deans, the leaders of Harvard’s 14 schools are still predominantly male and white — as they have been for years.

The Medical School, for example, has seen neither a female nor a person of color in its top post.

Hammonds said Harvard’s traditions made her initially believe the appointment of an African-American dean to one Harvard’s schools was “an impossibility.” “When I first came to Harvard as a graduate student in the 1980s, I think the idea of an African-American dean was really an impossibility,” Hammonds said. “And I think in the long tenure of President Faust, she has made that clear: she transformed that long tradition of absence into a very vital presence.”

In recent years, during Faust’s tenure as president, the University has seen the historic appointments of several women and people of color. Dean of the College Rakesh Khurana became the first Asian American to assume the deanship in 2013, succeeding another person of color, Hammonds.

Likewise, Business School Dean Nitin Nohria, the runner-up in the most recent presidential search, became the first Asian-American to take the reins of the school after a long line of white, male predecessors.

At the Law School, there have been just two female deans: current Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan, who served from 2003 to 2009 and, her successor, University Professor Martha L. Minow, who served until 2017. All of the Law School’s deans — including incumbent John F. Manning ’82 — have been white.

At the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, previous Dean Xiao-Li Meng was the first person of the color to lead GSAS.

Despite the numbers, the appointments of Brown-Nagin, Gay, and Terry-Long mark what Hammonds dubbed a “turning point” for Harvard.

“It sends a tremendous signal to both internally at Harvard and to higher education in general that Harvard is truly committed to appointing the best people to leadership positions,” Hammonds said. “And that fact that it turns out to be four women who are African-American is I think really, really important.”





Simply Beautiful

The Art and Words of Debra Hand

B

lack pride & culture are being celebrated across the globe on levels never before seen. Non-Black museums are scurrying to resurrect and re-examine Black history, and our art is being hoisted to the forefront for a more nuanced interpretation of its meaning and context. Good for us, but...

The DuSable Museum and the South Side Community Art Center have been doing this work all along.

From the start, the DuSable Museum and the South Side Community Art Center (SSCAC) have been right there fighting for an acknowledgement of our relevance. They were there to continuously correct the untruths in our history, and to confirm and assert our beauty despite a world that would ridicule it. They were there to tell our stories and to keep our self-esteem afloat in a society that sought daily to tell us we were nothing. They were there to honor our humanity and art when non-Black institutions considered our point of view to be mediocre and unworthy.



Sculptor Debra Hand

The DuSable Museum and the SSCAC -- both principally founded by the great Dr. Margaret Burroughs -- have without a doubt been there for Black people. The question is, will we be there for them?

If you knew that a commitment of less than \$2.10 a month would assure the continued existence of these vital institutions founded specifically to tell your stories, and to build dignity in you and your children -- long before any American institution thought of your culture as worthy of attention or discussion, what would you do?

If you knew that, in this critical day of social change that non-Black institutions are scrambling to try to tell your story as best they can through an outside-looking-in perspective, would you then seek to protect two of the few authentic institutional voices that can speak in first-person about who we are and how we came to be us?

Would you choose to help ensure that Black history is reflected and narrated by two of our most trusted institutions, or would you only leave it to others to examine and declare who we are as a cultural group?

The DuSable Museum and the SSCAC need us to step up. In the quiet of your conscience, confronted by upheaval and cries for change, a simple question is being asked of us all: What will we do to preserve these important institutions?

Unless we follow-up with actions that can result in change, shouting slogans Black pride slogans is only symbolic.

Hopefully you are willing to play a part in that change and are willing to protect these institutions, not just for us, but for every generation that follows! Please let your voice be heard by going to www.dusablemuseum.org and www.sscartcenter.org

About

Debra Hand is an artist and writer. Her work is in the collections of the Smithsonian Anacostia Museum and the DuSable Museum. She was recently chosen by Clientele Luxury Global Magazine as one of their "Awe Inspiring Creative Artists" of 2021. She is a self-taught artist and writer who began her journey in the arts with the very basics: a writing pad, watercolor set, and a paintbrush. Through years of determined self-instruction, she worked her way into a prestigious career filled with accomplishments. She has won numerous awards including "Best of Show" at the Museum of Science and Industry's Black Creativity Exhibit, and was the Chicago winner of the Bombay Sapphire and Rush Philanthropist's "Next Greatest Artists" contest. She was honored with a "Black Excellence" Award by the African American Arts Alliance, and named one of the Chicago Defender's Top 50 Women of Excellence. In 2016, she was presented with an Egretta Cultural Icon Award.



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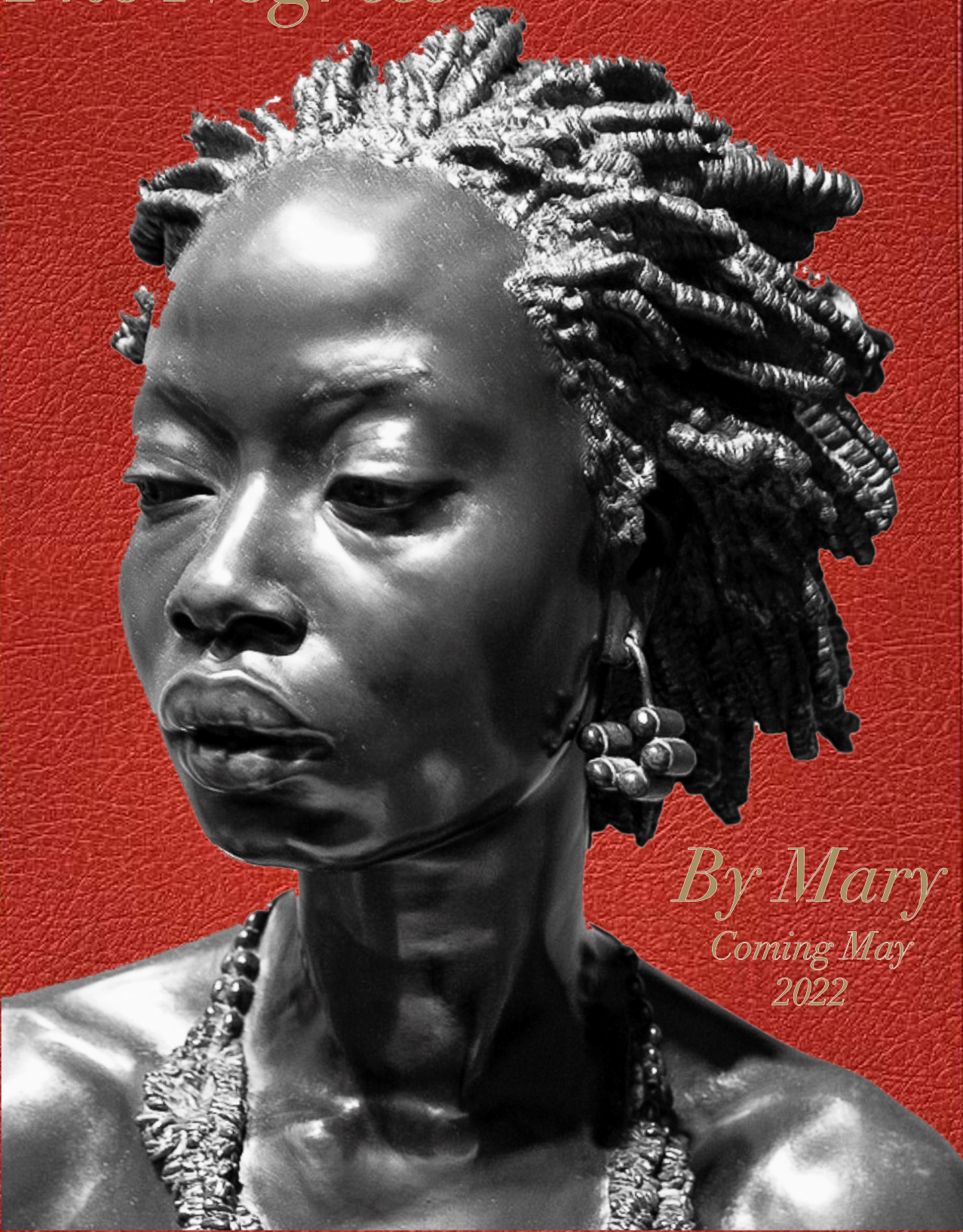
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Terence Blanchard on Lyric Opera of Chicago's Fire Shut Up in My Bones

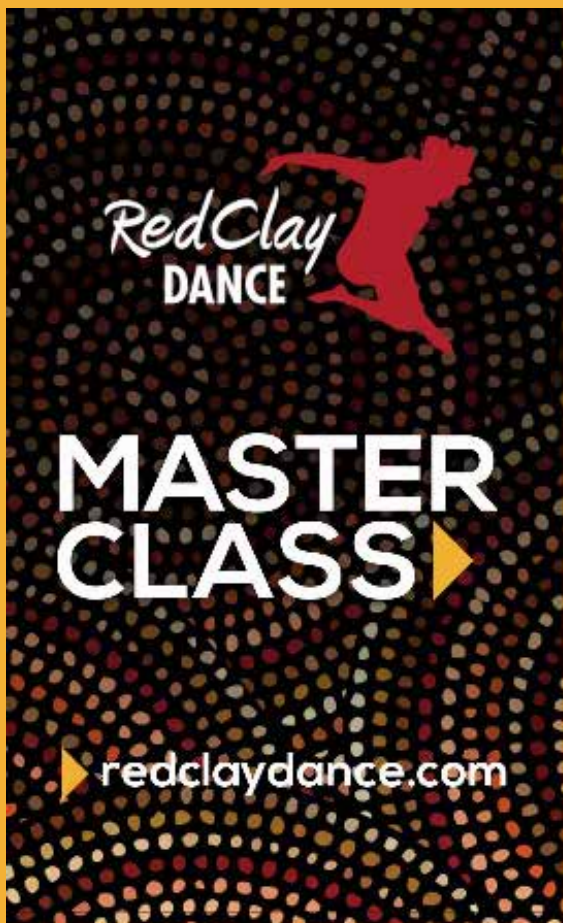
Friday, Mar 25, 2022 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm CT
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AT THE
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The groundbreaking opera *Fire Shut Up in My Bones* comes to Chicago, and with it a behind the scenes look hosted by Chicago Humanities Festival and the Lyric Opera of Chicago.

This intimate evening features a conversation with famed jazz musician and composer Terence Blanchard and conductor Daniela Candillari. These two artists will explore the process of adapting New York Times columnist Charles M. Blow's acclaimed memoir about his childhood in the South into an opera that sounds like America, centering on the Black experience in this country as few operas have done before.

This program is presented as part of the Stanek Endowed Music Series and in partnership with Lyric Opera of Chicago.

Terence Blanchard stands tall as one of jazz's most-esteemed trumpeters and defies expectations by creating a spectrum of artistic pursuits. A twice Oscar-nominated film score writer/arranger (most recently for his Spike Lee collaboration on *Da 5 Bloods*), he's also championed as a two-time opera composer whose *Fire Shut Up in My Bones* opens New York's Metropolitan Opera 2021-2022 season—the first African American to have an opera at the Met. In addition, Blanchard teaches as the Kenny Burrell Chair in Jazz Studies at the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music. But there's a center of gravity. It's Blanchard's beautiful, provocative, inspiring jazz recordings that undergird all these projects. The same holds true now as it did early in his career in 1994 when he told *DownBeat*: "Writing for film is fun, but nothing can beat being a jazz musician, playing a club, playing a concert." In his thirtieth year as a recording leader, the six-time GRAMMY winner delivers *Absence*, a masterwork of sonic zest in collaboration with his longtime E-Collective band and the acclaimed Turtle Island Quartet.



VERSHAWN SANDERS-WARD

Saturdays March 5, 12, 19, 26
10:30am-12pm
INTERMEDIATE LEVEL DUNHAM WORKSHOP



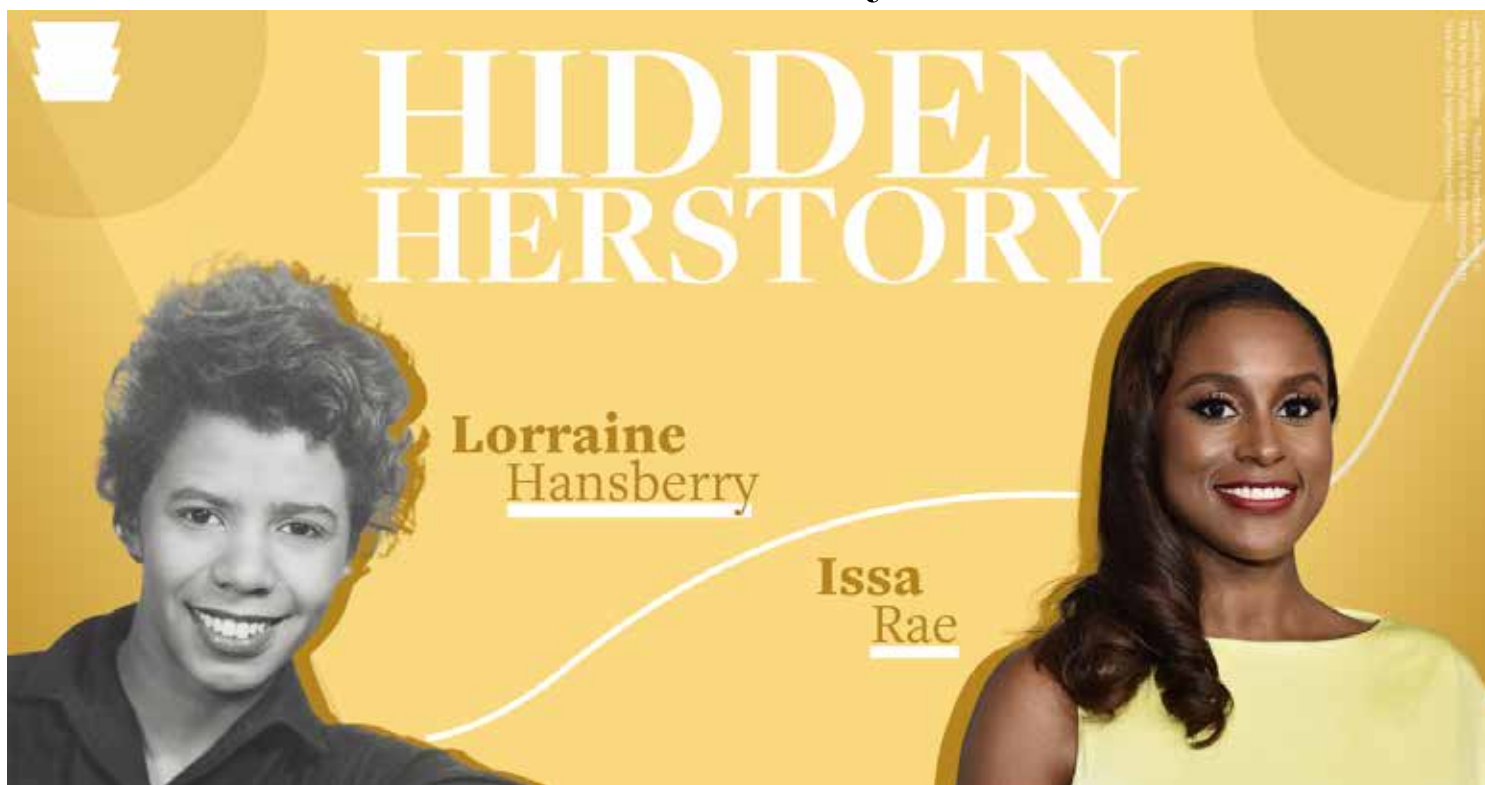
Join our Artistic Director Vershawn Sanders-Ward in a workshop series honoring the legacy of Katherine Dunham during Women's History Month. Dunham Technique is a vibrant African American dance form that engages the body, mind, and spirit! Created by dance pioneer Katherine Dunham, the technique is informed by the traditional dances of the African Diaspora, as well as by modern and ballet.

Class Description: Dancers will explore the intersection of Dunham technique and folkloric-inspired movement. Dancers will learn the foundational movement of the Dunham Technique. Class includes breathing, isolations, floor work, barre work, and progressions across the floor. This is an intermediate level workshop for ages 15 and older.

Cost: \$15/per class or \$50 for the entire series.

Katherine Dunham was a world-famous dancer, choreographer, author, anthropologist, social activist, and humanitarian. Born in 1909 during the turn of the century Victorian era in the small town of Glen Ellyn, Illinois, she became one of the first dance anthropologists, started the first internationally-touring pre-dominantly black dance company with its own codified dance technique, became one of Hollywood's first African-American choreographers, and authored many scholarly books and journalistic articles on dance and in the Caribbean.

National Museum of African American History and Culture Features Special Programming for Women's History Month



In celebration of Women's History Month, the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) is offering virtual programs for all ages centered on women's history and influence. The museum will feature a book discussion with author Tomiko Brown-Nagin focused on Civil Rights Queen, the first major biography of Constance Baker Motley, an activist lawyer who became the first Black woman appointed to the federal judiciary and one of the nation's most influential judges.

The museum will also host a film discussion featuring Unapologetic, a POV documentary directed by Ashley O'Shay that follows abolitionists Janaé Bonsu and Bella BAHHS into the world of queer feminist activism, beginning with efforts to seek justice for the murder of Rekia Boyd in 2012.

This month marks the bicentennial birth of Harriet Tubman, abolitionist and Underground Railroad conductor. Tubman's story, impact and influence in American life can be seen across several exhibitions in the museum. Beginning in the "Slavery and Freedom" exhibition, the public can view her handkerchief and hymnal and see her apron in the museum's "Make Good the Promises: Reconstruction and Its Legacies" exhibition. They can conclude their journey with a contemporary piece in the museum's latest exhibition "Reckoning: Protest. Defiance. Resilience.," which displays Bisa Butler's quilted portrait of a young Harriet Tubman titled "I Go to Prepare a Place for You."

From home, the public can view several newly digitized objects and stories on the museum's website and learn more about Tubman's legacy through its Searchable Museum website.

Other programming during March includes a book conversation with Michelle Coles on her debut book, *Black Was the Ink*, which follows a present-day teen who is transported back in time and learns firsthand through the eyes of his ancestor about African American political leaders who fought for change during the Reconstruction period.

During Women's History Month, NMAAHC's social media channels will begin their award-winning social campaign #HiddenHerstory, which highlights the lesser-known stories and impact of African American women. This year, the campaign spotlights women in the arts, particularly those from the past and across different disciplines of art juxtaposed with their contemporaries, connecting the past to the present. The public can follow @NMAAHC on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook to view this year's #HiddenHerstory campaign.

March Virtual Programming Schedule

NMAAHC's Award-winning #HiddenHerstory Campaign: Women in the Arts

During Women's History Month, the public can follow the museum on social media with the hashtag #HiddenHerstory. The museum will focus on women in the arts, highlighting women from the past across different disciplines of art juxtaposed with their contemporaries, connecting the past to the present. The public can view this year's #HiddenHerstory social media campaign by following @NMAAHC on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook.



Black Was the Ink with author Michelle Coles: Using Fiction to Investigate Reconstruction and Its Legacies. Tuesday, March 1; 6 p.m. ET

In this virtual conversation, author Michelle Coles discusses her debut release, *Black Was the Ink*. *Black Was the Ink* is a story about a present-day teen who learns a very important lesson about the era of Reconstruction and applies it to his contemporary life. During this conversation, Coles will dialogue with educator Sarah Elwell on representation in student-age literature and why the history of Reconstruction is important in people's understanding of the present. Registration is required. This book talk is presented in support of the NMAAHC exhibition "Make Good the Promises: Reconstruction and Its Legacies." Registration is required.

STEM Workshop: Inside the Mind of Margaret Collins, 'The Termite Lady' Tuesday, March 8; 4 p.m.–6 p.m. ET

During this free virtual workshop, participants will use the research notebook of Margaret Collins to examine termites' ecological relationships both inside and outside of their bodies. Known as the 'Termite Lady,' Collins received her doctorate in entomology and was the first African American woman entomologist. During her career, she traveled the globe to study termites, identified a new species of termite and served as an instructor and researcher at multiple organizations in Washington, D.C. Through all her research and travel, she remained committed to the civil rights movement in the 1950s and '60s.

Workshop participants will use Smithsonian digital resources such as the SI Transcription Center and Collins' research experiences to learn how scientists gather and interpret data and investigate ecological connections. This workshop will be held virtually and will have a prerecorded and live component. Participants who complete the workshop live will be eligible to receive four hours of teacher professional development credit. Registration is required.

NMAAHC Kids: Classroom Connections March 8, 10, 22 and 24; 11 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. and 1:30 to 2:15 p.m. ET

Classroom Connections experiences are live virtual school programs designed for kindergarten, first- and second-grade classes. Led by a NMAAHC educator, each 45-minute session per school class includes engaging conversations about history and objects from the museum collection, an interactive story time and an art project. Each class will receive a list of accessible supplies needed for the session. The programs are free; however, registration is required.

Digital Docent Roundtable: "Reckoning: Protest. Defiance. Resilience."

Monday, March 14; 1 p.m.–2:15 p.m. ET

A panel of museum docents discuss their favorite works of art in one of the museum's latest exhibitions, "Reckoning: Protest. Defiance. Resilience.," and share reflections that range from defiance to resilience, grief to mourning and hope to change. The exhibition is a testament to how artists and photographers use their voices to pay tribute to those lost, lifting up names such as Eric Garner, George Floyd and Breonna Taylor at demonstrations and in communities online. The program can be viewed on the museum's UStream page.

Through the African American Lens: Attica Tuesday, March 15; 7 p.m.–8 p.m. ET

In this dynamic panel discussion, the public can learn about the history and creation of *ATTICA*, a powerful film by Emmy Award-winning director Stanley Nelson and co-director Traci A. Curry about the largest prison riot in American history. In 1971, a prison rebellion erupted at Attica Correctional Facility, with inmates taking 39 guards hostage and presenting a list of demands. Though most of their demands were met, New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller ordered state police to regain control of the facility in what would become one of the most violent acts of citizen conflict since the Civil War. Offered by Showtime, the documentary includes archival footage from media coverage, closed-circuit video from inside the prison and firsthand accounts from those present during the riot. Nelson, Curry and James Asbury, who was an inmate at Attica Correctional Facility when the riot occurred, will convene to discuss the film as a call for prison reform and the responsibilities of justice. Nominated for an Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature, *ATTICA* is available to view courtesy of Showtime. Registration is recommended.

Sharing Your Story: Navigating the Community Curation Platform with Maya Rhodan Wednesday, March 16; 12 p.m.–1 p.m. ET

In this program, Maya Rhodan of the museum's Robert F. Smith Center discusses the Community Curation Platform, where museum visitors (in-person or online) can share their personal and community stories, images, videos and reflections. This interactive conversation will introduce the platform and show how to use it to collect and share family memories. Rhodan serves as the digital content producer for the museum's Center for the Digitization and Curation of African American History. Registration is recommended.

Through the African American Lens: Unapologetic

Monday, March 21; 7 p.m.–8 p.m. ET

The museum will host a panel discussion of *Unapologetic*, a POV documentary directed by Ashley O'Shay and produced by O'Shay and Morgan Elise Johnson that gives voice to the dynamism and impact of women activists

charging the Movement for Black Lives. Based in Chicago, the film follows abolitionists Janaé Bonsu and Bella BAHHS into the world of queer feminist activism, beginning with efforts to seek justice for the murder of Rekia Boyd in 2012. The film also spotlights the work of Mayor Lori Lightfoot, a flagship figure in the modern civil rights movement. Panelists will include O'Shay, Johnson, Bonsu and BAHHS. *Unapologetic* is free to stream on PBS through the end of February. Registration is recommended.

Historically Speaking: Civil Rights Queen by Tomiko Brown-Nagin

Tuesday, March 29; 7 p.m.–8 p.m. ET

The public can listen to a virtual conversation between NPR's Michel Martin; Tomiko Brown-Nagin, dean of Harvard Radcliffe Institute; and Daniel P.S. Paul, professor of constitutional law at Harvard Law School, about her acclaimed biography of Constance Baker Motley, *Civil Rights Queen*. This book is the first major profile of Motley, an activist lawyer who became the first Black woman appointed to the federal judiciary and one of the United States' most influential judges. Brown-Nagin's text offers an insightful account of the twin struggles for gender equality and civil rights in the 20th century. Books will be available for purchase via Smithsonian Enterprises. Registration is recommended.

2022 NEA Jazz Masters Tribute Concert

Thursday, March 31; 10:30 p.m. ET

The National Endowment for the Arts will honor the 2022 NEA Jazz Masters including Stanley Clarke, Billy Hart, Cassandra Wilson and Donald Harrison Jr.—in a tribute concert, held in collaboration with SFJAZZ. The concert will be live streamed at arts.gov and sfjazz.org and will also be available to view on the National Museum of African American History and Culture's website. Registration is recommended.

About the National Museum of African American History and Culture

Since opening Sept. 24, 2016, the National Museum of African American History and Culture has welcomed more than 7.5 million in-person visitors and millions more through its digital presence. Occupying a prominent location next to the Washington Monument on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., the nearly 400,000-square-foot museum is the nation's largest and most comprehensive cultural destination devoted exclusively to exploring, documenting and showcasing the African American story and its impact on American and world history. For more information about the museum, visit nmaahc.si.edu and follow @NMAAHC on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram or call Smithsonian information at (202) 633-1000.



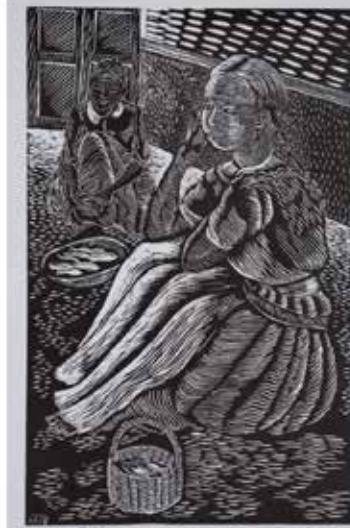
SOUTH SIDE COMMUNITY ART CENTER

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CREATED BY NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY PH.D. CANDIDATES RIKKI BYRD AND BETHANY HILL, THIS VIRTUAL PROJECT AIMS TO AMPLIFY, PRESERVE, AND FURTHER CELEBRATE THE LEGACY OF OUR BELOVED DR. MARGARET T. BURROUGHS.



This in-depth site allows viewers to take a deeper look into Dr. Burroughs' Mother and Child work (featured above), in addition to some of her other works located in the permanent collection at the Block Museum at Northwestern University.



Rikki Byrd is a writer, educator and curator, with research interests in Black studies, performance studies, fashion studies and art history. She is currently a Ph.D. candidate in African American

Studies at Northwestern University, where her research focuses on the way clothing and textiles are used in performances of mourning across the Black diaspora. She is also a curatorial research assistant at Baltimore Museum of Art.



Bethany is a Ph.D. candidate in Art History at Northwestern University, where her research brings together architectural history, Black feminist theory, and the analysis of visual culture. She was the 2020-21 Art History Curatorial Fellow at

the Block Museum of Art and is currently an Engagement and Research Fellow at the South Side Community Art Center. Her research has been published in several academic journals and books, and exhibition catalogs, including: Companion of African American Theatre and Performance, QED: A Journal of GLBTQ Worldmaking, and Who Says, Who Shows, What Counts: Thinking about History with the Block's Collection (2021).



SOUTH SIDE COMMUNITY ART CENTER

WE ARE ALSO THRILLED TO ANNOUNCE THAT MULTIDISCIPLINARY ARTIST ANDREA YARBROUGH HAS BEEN SELECTED AS OUR 2ND ARTIST CATALYST!

SSCAC is one of 3 host institutions selected to participate in the 30-month program. The Capacity Building Initiative aims to support socially-engaged public art in communities around the United States, and strengthen a national network of socially-engaged public artists. It includes workshops, a symposium and financial support for the participating organizations and selected Artist Catalysts.

SSCAC received the Public Art & Civic Engagement (PACE) Capacity Building Initiative grant early last year from Mural Arts Philadelphia, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The grant includes the 'Artist Catalyst' program where participating organizations will select artists to create two collaborative works of public art. Artist Cecil McDonald, Jr. was selected as South Side Community Art Center's first Artist Catalyst.

Muralist Dorian Sylvain will continue to manage the project for the South Side Community Art Center. Yarbrough was selected via a competitive process by a jury of artists and administrators to bring her conceptual and interdisciplinary practice to mural-making, and to the evolving South Side Community Art Center.

MORE ABOUT ANDREA YARBROUGH

Andrea Yarbrough is a multi-disciplinary maker, curator, and educator based on the South Side of Chicago nurturing sites of care through a blend of urban agriculture, civic engagement, and art praxis. Her praxis is embodied through the collaborative placekeeping initiative in %: Black women (in care of Black

women), bringing together writers, curators, farmers, mamas, dancers, organizers, teachers, cultural producers, youth, and visual artists, to collectively exhume the (in)visibility of care for Black women. Andrea's process transforms quotidian materials, slated for waste streams, into designed and utilitarian objects that serve as community resources, and incorporates the impact of solidarity and circular economies at the material, individual, and communal scales. By constructing functionally designed objects, cultivating land, archiving and documenting

histories of Black women, and curating exhibitions and public programs, her socially-engaged practice exemplifies how communities can reclaim and reconstruct their surroundings while navigating agency and ownership over underutilized space.

"As an Artist Catalyst recipient, my learning and collaborative work will further explore Black women's histories connected to artistic practices, movements, and art objects in service to our grander communities. I am committed to cultivating a world in which art engenders new forms of care and truly impacts our social and political sensibilities. I believe that the Artist Catalyst Program will aid me on my path as I seek to expand the histories and engagement of art within the city of Chicago and beyond as an educator, curator,

and artist. My urgency to work with others to re-imagine social praxis art with art and cultural institutions has reached a critical point, and now is the time to merge my work and world-view with this passion. I firmly believe that my time as an Artist Catalyst recipient will generate new schemes of reparations and reconciliation, centering Black women in urban environments, and produce enduring engagements, rewriting the narratives of our future."



STEPPENWOLF



DEFINITION THEATRE PRESENTS:

WHITE BY JAMES IJAMES

AUDACIOUS AND BITINGLY FUNNY: ON SALE NOW!

We're thrilled to welcome Definition Theatre back to Steppenwolf for their production of *WHITE*, on stage from March 10 – April 10, 2022. Join us for the first show in Steppenwolf's 1700 Theater in two years! Tickets start at just \$20.

Written by James Ijames and directed by Ericka Ratcliff, *WHITE* tells the story of Gus, a painter expecting his big break with a prestigious contemporary art museum in The New America exhibition. However, when he's told that "white dudes" aren't a part of New America, he enlists the help of Vanessa, a black actress. Together, they create Balkonae Townsend: a bold, young, radical artist to serve as the face of his work. *WHITE* explores white privilege, racial politics and the fine line between opportunity and appropriation.

Don't miss your chance to see this important work.



Networking and Careers for African American Professionals
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