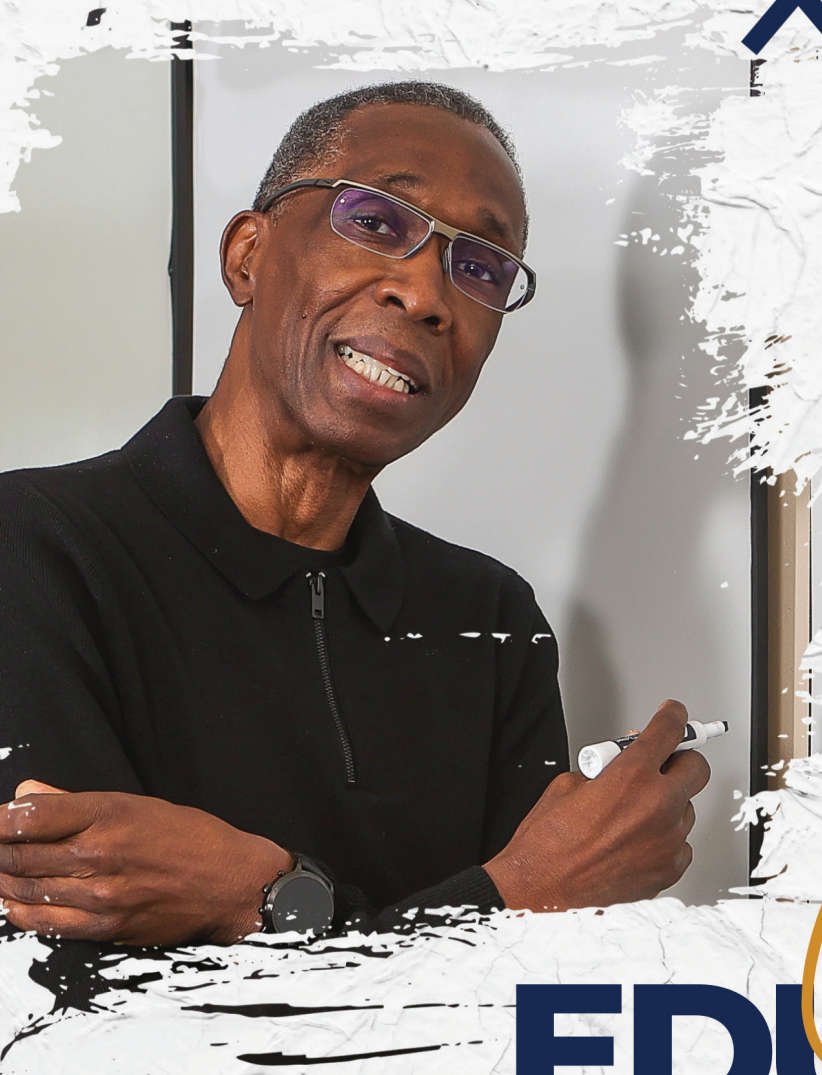

BLAC
THE
FIRST
BUT NOT THE LAST



CEDRIC **HOWIE**

Yes, he is the professor.

A student was stunned to learn that Cedric Howie was actually an economics professor, not someone who happened to wander in to entertain a class.

Celebrating EDUCATION



TIANDRA **GUNN-BENNETT**

Coping with reality.

Tiandra Gunn-Bennett is an accomplished businesswoman who stays positive despite the sting of racism, such as a cashier questioning if she could afford the designer clothes she wanted to buy.

NYIA **GEORGE**

A subtle, but unpleasant, experience.

When Nyia George was in middle school, a teacher flippantly used the word "monkey" with a group of students. And then didn't understand why that was wrong.



IN THE **FACE** OF CHALLENGES

To read the complete essays from each author, please go to ***BLACdetroit.com***. They also will be featured at ***schoolcraft.edu*** throughout February as Schoolcraft College celebrates Black History Month.

REGISTRATION STARTS MARCH 27 FOR SPRING/SUMMER 2021 SEMESTER

Schoolcraft College | 60 YEARS

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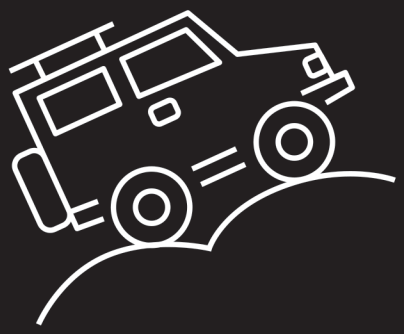
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Online in February

Visit BLACdetroit.com for web exclusives and to stay up on what's happening in Black Detroit



Heart Healthy

Former NBA player and coach Don Chaney gets candid on his rare heart condition.



Old Hollywood

Reliving the moments that made Black cinematic history.



Opinion Piece

BLAC's former editor Aaron Foley is back with another hot take.



Get BLAC Fridays

Visit BLACdetroit.com to sign up for our weekly newsletter. Your inbox will thank you.



SEEN Galleries

Check out the full digital gallery. Did we spot you?

Fb.com/BLACdetroitMagazine @BLACMagazine @BLACdetroitMag

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Join us for

Wind Down Wednesdays!

The DIA's annual Black History Month programs are going online for the first time. New this year will be celebrations of local Black chefs and mixologists with virtual demonstrations every Wednesday in February.

The festivities continue all month long with visual artist demonstrations, film, music and storytelling plus panel discussions of art and entrepreneurship.

For more information, visit dia.org/blackhistorymonth.

#BlackHistoryDIA



"Hope and fear cannot occupy the same space. Invite one to stay." – Maya Angelou

There can be no healing without reconciliation, without taking a hard look at how we got here. The feeling of shock around what happened last month in our nation's capital, that a group of people would do such a thing, did not come as a surprise. It revealed what many people of color already knew: that racism is alive and well. It has thrived in plain sight within doctors, lawyers, retired military and many others – being packaged as patriotism.

Presenting a statement as fact does not make it so. How I feel is clouded by my own bias, fear and worldview. I cannot grow if I'm closed to the idea of being wrong. In the absence of truth, we tend to create our own. My truth is not your truth, and so it goes. You do you works until it doesn't.

This country has changed. My hope is for the better. As we mourn what was, I am hopeful for what will be, seizing the opportunity to create a new way forward. A future that sees a united front against racism, and for equal justice and opportunities for everyone. As we celebrate Black History Month, our cover celebrates another first. Thank God she won't be the last.



Photo by Lauren Jeziorski



Billy Strawter Jr.
CEO and Publisher

the YMCA

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

MAKE EVERY DAY
BETTER

SHOW YOURSELF SOME LOVE

JOIN
GIVE
SERVE

YMCA OF METROPOLITAN DETROIT

African American History Month shares February with American Heart Month—by helping you maintain a healthy heart, the YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit aims to make every day better.

Did you know the Center for Disease Control (CDC) reports African Americans adults are twice as likely to die from heart disease as whites? Learn more at: bit.ly/2Y4zPfT

The good news: Heart disease can be prevented and managed with habits almost anyone can practice. The CDC recommends these four action steps:

- » Eating healthy foods & beverages
- » Maintaining a healthy weight
- » Exercising regularly
- » Not smoking

Committing to living a healthier, more active lifestyle is a noble way to honor one's heritage. The YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit can become your healthy living life partner.

When you become a YMCA member, you will have access to a community committed to supporting you and your family in living a healthier life.

The YMCA offers many in-person and virtual exercise opportunities. This winter—whatever your speed or skill—get your steps comfortably on our indoor tracks, swim laps in our pools, enjoy our group exercise classes, and workout in our fully-equipped wellness centers loaded with cardio and strength-training machines. Our afford personal trainers can help you meet your health goals.

The YMCA is open, welcoming, clean and fun. We adhere to all CDC and state health department guidelines. Learn more online about how we work to keep you as safe as possible.

- » Watch our ur Welcome Back video at: youtu.be/aM4q_8SVFOo
- » Read our Pandemic Response Plan at: bit.ly/39N8R21



This Heart Month, show yourself some love & join the YMCA. We have 3 amazing membership types available for you:

TRADITIONAL MEMBERSHIP
For all ages & families at historically low rates

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Eligible membership programs include: military, corporate, or insurance based—like Silver Sneakers, Silver and Fit, Peer Fit, and Renew Active

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Reduced memberships for families earning less than $49,000 annually

Join today & receive 50% off your first month's membership!

Mention BLAC to receive your free gift!

YMCA OF METROPOLITAN DETROIT

ymcadetroit.org/join

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(248) 644-9036

BOLL FAMILY YMCA
1401 Broadway, Detroit
(313) 309-9622

CARLS FAMILY YMCA
300 Family Drive, Milford
(248) 685-3020

DOWNRIVER FAMILY YMCA
16777 Northline Rd, Southgate
(734) 282-9622

FARMINGTON FAMILY YMCA
28100 Farmington Rd, Farm. Hls
(248) 553-4020

MACOMB FAMILY YMCA
10 North River Rd, Mt Clemens
(586) 468-1411

PLYMOUTH FAMILY YMCA
650 Church St, Plymouth
(734) 453-2904

SOUTH OAKLAND FAMILY YMCA
1016 W. 11 Mile Road, Royal Oak
(248) 547-0030

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Black Life, Arts & Culture

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CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL

Waiting to Exhale

When it was announced in November that a new president had been elected, dance parties erupted in cities across the country and champagne literally flowed in the streets – and then an angry mob stormed the Capitol building. Say what you will about us, but boring we are not. Despite the delusions of a few, in January, we swore in President Joe Biden and our first female vice president, Kamala Harris.

BLAC commissioned artist Phillip Simpson to create an illustration for the cover to commemorate the Black history happening before our eyes. What you see is actually a photograph of a door-frame-sized work he painted on canvas, and it radiates joy. We hope you'll hold on to this issue and tuck it away as a keepsake. On Page 32, we shout out just a few of the Black women that helped to usher Vice President Harris to the White House and consider what her achievement means to the women of today and tomorrow.



Photo by Lauren Jeziorski

It's true that over 74 million of our fellow Americans didn't vote for this outcome – and the problems that plague our communities remain. But, let us not be so woke that we can't relax into this historic moment. Let us err on the side of optimism. You may refuse to pretend as if America has lived up to all her promises, and that's fair – and savvy. But, hopefully, you see the potential in her complicated beauty, the gusto in her people.

During the summer protests, we printed a timeline of key moments in Black civil rights history, illuminated by powerful, historic photos. You all loved it so much that we let that inspire a similar feature, except, this time around, we're focusing on Detroit history (Page 38). We're also checking in with the Charles H. Wright Museum and finding out how they've leaned on digital programming to pivot during the pandemic (Page 44). Dr. Charles H. Wright founded the institution in 1965, resolved to preserve and archive Black history, and the institution has remained steadfast to that commitment.

Our longtime readers will remember our "Native" department, in which we profile a native Detroiter who's moved away but is still accomplishing big things and representing for the city. We've brought that department back with a profile of Hollywood-based writer and producer Carla Banks-Waddles (Page 24). Banks-Waddles is a co-writer and co-executive producer on the series *Good Girls*, and she recently inked a new deal with NBCUniversal for a new drama series which will follow a wealthy, Black real estate family in Harlem.

Chef Max Hardy introduces a new spot for pizza, burgers, chicken and more of our everyday favorites – with a twist (Page 20), and Isiah Thomas' son Zeke hosts a conversation-based series that centers Blackness and queerness (Page 22). We haven't forgotten about Valentine's Day. For all the lovers and friends, see our roundup of small gifts (Page 16) – just thoughtful local somethings to pair with your sweet little nothings.

Enjoy the issue.



Paris Giles
Senior Editor



INFO@ABODEDETROIT.COM

Meet Our Contributors

Each issue would be impossible without the help of our freelance writers and creative contributors.



Kaye Byrd, writer
Kaye is a heart-centered writer focused on social justice and wellness issues. An advocate for mental health, she is passionate about facilitating meaningful conversations for women that normalize therapy and cultivate a healthy mindset as the basis for self-care. She shares the passion for her soul-nourishing, empathy-driven and life-giving work on her social media platforms. Born and raised in Detroit, she is a world traveler and avid reader, and welcomes opportunities to share her wisdom to uplift others. *Find Kaye's work on Page 22.*
@heykayebyrd
girlgrow.com



Sydney Kispert-Bostick, photographer
Native to Detroit, Sydney works as an independent photographer and creative artist. She graduated from Hiram College in Ohio with a bachelor's in studio art. She's shot for varied clients such as United Way for Southeastern Michigan and the Detroit Lions – she's also been featured in the Detroit News. For nearly 16 years, Sydney has developed an artistic repertoire that includes portraiture, street and event photography, as well as mixed media. She aims to create vibrancy, showcasing the eccentricities of her subjects with a site-specific technique. *Find Sydney's work on Page 50.*
@photosbyskb
photosbyskb.com



Phillip Simpson, artist
Phillip is a proclaimed painter and muralist, practicing for over 20 years. Working primarily with acrylic, spray paint and paint marker, Simpson creates both private and public artwork with the relentless intention to make its viewers smile. Instinctively so, Simpson produces special 'smile-branded' paintings, murals and clothing. Simpson's works have been displayed in galleries, special exhibitions and public spaces across Detroit, Ann Arbor, Miami and Atlanta. Phillip currently resides in Detroit with his wife and two daughters. He lives by the motto: one world, one smile. *Find Phillip's work on the cover and Page 33.*
@thesmilebrand
thesmilebrand.com



Nick Pizana, writer
Nick Pizana is a professional artist and writer from Detroit. He studied journalism at Wayne State University and is currently pursuing a Master of Fine Arts in painting at Cranbrook Art Academy. As a painter, Nick works primarily in making colorful murals that draw from his background in street art and comic books. His work can be seen all around Detroit, from Hart Plaza to Eastern Market. In addition to his painting practice, Nick co-owns KO Studio/Gallery in Hamtramck. *Find Nick's work on Pages 28 and 44.*
@shorin_nick
nickpizana.com



Arianna Smith, writer
Arianna is a 22-year-old native Detroiter with a varied background and a love for cultural news. A graduate of Wayne State University's journalism program and BLAC's former intern, you can find her scoping out the latest restaurant, boutique, art project or gaming lounge in Detroit – when she isn't glued to the screen watching a Marvel movie. A Black-owned business is the best kind of business, in her eyes, and Detroit stories are the best kind to tell. *Find Arianna's work on Page 20.*
ariannasmithport.weebly.com

WE'RE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR TALENTED CONTRIBUTORS!
If you're an experienced writer, photographer or illustrator interested in working with BLAC, email your resume and samples of your work to editor@BLACdetroit.com.

DETROIT
DEVELOPMENT FUND
HELPING YOU GET THERE



The Entrepreneurs of Color Fund is a program that provides a source of business capital for Detroit businesses owned by entrepreneurs of color and businesses that primarily hire people of color. The loan fund is supported by several organizations such as JPMorgan Chase, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Ralph Wilson Foundation, Fifth Third Bank, Liberty Bank, and Kresge Foundation to provide small business owners greater access to capital and business assistance. The loans range from $50,000 to $150,000 and businesses can use the capital to expand, finance equipment, address short-term cash flow needs and provide contractor lines of credit.

To date, the Detroit Development Fund/EOC Fund has closed 110 loans to Entrepreneurs of Color companies in Detroit totaling $10,273,662.00. Of the 110 loans that have been closed 55 percent were made to EOC women-owned companies and three-quarters (70 percent) of loans have supported small businesses based in Detroit neighborhoods. These loans have helped create and retain 823 jobs for Detroit residents.

Detroit Development Fund is proud to support small businesses in Detroit. They acknowledge the hard work of our Entrepreneur of Color small businesses as they create jobs for Detroit residents and help stabilize neighborhoods in Detroit.

Ford Motor Company Fund

A year-long series featuring Detroiters who are driving positive change in their communities.

Driving Community

Sponsored by Ford Motor Company Fund



Amanda Alexander, Founder and Executive Director, Detroit Justice Center

This lawyer and historian heads a nonprofit law firm that works to create economic opportunities and transform the justice system – while promoting equitable and just cities.

To ensure that our legal system is just and that Detroit's communities of color are included in the city's boom, Amanda Alexander says it's not enough to defend against injustice. She says we must also go on the offensive. It's Detroit Justice Center's three-pronged approach: "defense, offense and dreaming." Alexander founded the nonprofit law firm in 2018 to work alongside communities toward economic opportunity, an equitable justice system, and a thriving and inclusive Detroit.

Around that time, Alexander says, "It was very clear that there were people who were being shut out of the future of the city, and that was really because they had been involved in the criminal legal system and were impacted by mass incarceration."

We know those people – the ones for whom a mark on their record makes it difficult to get job or, if they are employed, a suspended driver's license due to unpaid fees prevents them from getting to that job. Detroit Justice Center works in a number of ways, including providing legal services to help remove these barriers and others. They started Michigan's first revolving bail fund, which has helped to bail hundreds of people out of the Wayne County Jail.

Their economic equity practice works closely with longstanding community organizers, providing legal support for land trusts, housing and worker cooperatives, along with small businesses led by returning citizens. "Last year, we helped organizations start three community land trusts, which means that they will be able to own this land together and decide how they want development to look in their neighborhood – and keep it affordable for generations to come," Alexander says.

The third prong of their work is the Just Cities Lab. "For us, it's really

important to focus not just on what needs to end – in terms of mass incarceration or policing or jails – but what do we need to build out in order to create this safe and just city that we need?" It's here that Detroit Justice Center engages with the community, especially youths, to center strategy and solution.

How can we start to shift funds away from jails and prisons and into the communities that need them, for an approach that's proactive instead of only reactive? Through the Just Cities Lab, the center launched the Metro Detroit Restorative Justice Network, an ecosystem meant to support those dedicated to restorative justice work and help them to expand.

Alexander was born in Southfield and raised near Kalamazoo. "My family was impacted by incarceration growing up. So, I knew from a very early age what mass incarceration does to Black families. So many families are broken up because of a prison sentence." She went on to become a historian and a lawyer, earning a Bachelor of Arts from Harvard, her Ph.D. from Columbia and a Juris Doctor from Yale Law School. She's lived in South Africa and in New York and "really became an organizer," working at the intersection of racial justice and community development.

She moved back to Michigan in 2013, determined to serve families like her own. Alexander started the Prison & Family Justice Project at the University of Michigan Law School, representing incarcerated parents who were in threat of losing their children to the foster care system, but she wanted to be able to intervene before the situation reached a boiling point. That desire led to the work she's doing with Detroit Justice Center while continuing to address the deeper, systemic evils at work.

Alexander points to a "huge victory" won just days before she spoke with BLAC. In January, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed into law more than three dozen criminal justice bills, including ones that grant police officers more discretion to issue tickets in lieu of arrests and disallow driver's license suspensions for violations unrelated to dangerous driving, like, say, failing to appear in court or unpaid fines and fees.

"If we're going to build a Detroit that includes everybody, where everybody belongs, then we have to address the impacts of mass incarceration," Alexander says. "It's really important to serve individual clients and to provide these life-changing legal services to people who need it right now, but lawyers often get stuck in only doing that. The idea is that we're also going on offense, shoring up the longtime work of Detroit organizers, and also holding space for imagination."



LEGAL AID

For more information on Detroit Justice Center, to donate or get involved, visit detroitjustice.org.

"Ford Fund believes that investing in the needs of our youth is an essential step toward empowering our communities for a promising future."

Ford joins BLAC in commending Detroit Justice Center founder, Amanda Alexander, on her commitment to creating economic opportunities, transforming the justice system, and promoting equitable and just cities. Ms. Alexander's call to provide a collaboration of solutions that value and empower families of returning citizens that have been divided by the prison system is admirable.

Ford Motor Company Fund understands the importance of change and shares the commitment to building community value. Through active involvement, we strive to improve the quality of life of our residents. Our Ford Resource and Engagement Center helps strengthen our communities by partnering with organizations to offer a full range of services and programs, such as legal assistance, career development, mentoring and tutoring services, and those to encourage economic growth and success.

Ford is proud to recognize Amanda Alexander for her vision of economic solutions and actions to build a city that is just, equitable and affordable for generations to come.

– Pamela Alexander, director of community development for Ford Motor Company



DISCOVER

By Arianna Smith

FROM THE HEART

This Valentine's Day, it might be a good idea to keep celebrations and gestures low-key and tight knit. Genuine gestures are bound to be appreciated after the year we just had. Our Valentine's gift round-up highlights curated, personalized gifts that let them know you care.



For the Love of Sugar Macarons

For the Love of Sugar is a gourmet Detroit bakery located in Midtown. You can order online and the most popular gift option, by far, are the assorted macarons – it says so on the website. They're available in flavors like Crème Brûlée, Fruity Pebbles and Nutella. Pricing for custom or gift requests is determined per order.

100 Erskine St., Detroit
fortheloveofsugar.com



Beamer Smoke Candles

Just because it's legal doesn't mean everyone wants their house to smell like a dispensary. Any gift for someone who partakes should include a smoke killer candle or wax tart pack from Beamer, the largest online 420 accessory shop that was born and launched right here in Detroit. "A friend" recommends the Blueberry Pie scent. Get the candle and wax drop bundle for $21.36.

beamersmoke.com



City Bird Gift Boxes

Trendy Midtown retailer City Bird is offering a variety of adorable mini gift boxes that are cutely customized to you or your loved one's personality. Shopping for a garden bug, coffee lover or baking fiend? City Bird has you covered. Prices range from $39 to $79.

460 W. Canfield St., Detroit
citybirddetroit.com



Bags to Butterflies

Give a thoughtful gift and uplift the community all at once by supporting Bags to Butterflies this Valentine's Day. Each unique, handmade wooden bag, trinket or accessory sold helps the Detroit-based social enterprise provide assistance and occupation for formerly incarcerated women returning to society.

bagstobutterflies.com

Bring The Whitney Home

Reservations at The Whitney are out this year, but you can still set a romantic or loving mood at home by ordering either the Big Night In ($179) or Tea for Two ($79) experiences and choosing between a dainty tea date or an extravagant cooking experience – or maybe both!

thewhitney.com



Golden Grooming Co.

Fine-tuned to meet the facial hair and skin care needs of Black men, Golden Grooming Co. is a great place to keep him looking sharp for that Zoom date by the fireplace at prices that aren't murderous. Grab the four-piece Boss Beard Bundle for just $31.49.

goldengroomingco.com

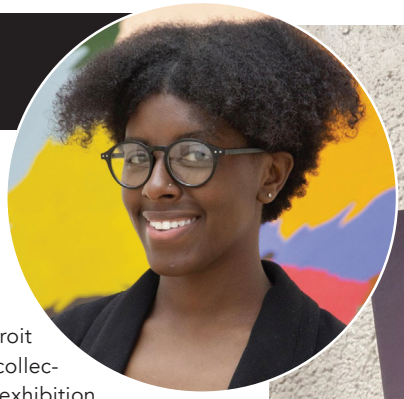


TrendyHouse Detroit- Black Love Floormat

Honestly, this one's just super cute and themed for Black love. If you're lucky enough to have someone to quarantine with, or even if you want to be reminded of the love you have for your own bad, Black self, the message is multi-seasonal. B

By Paris Giles

WORKS OF ART





One rare find led to the next and, in less than a year, Detroit native and art educator Asmaa Walton had amassed a collection of over 200 texts on Black art, from niche publications to exhibition catalogs. Walton's Black Art Library was birthed on Instagram, spurred by the desire to fill the gaps she noticed in her own education with respect to Black art. Walton earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts from Michigan State University and her master's from New York University in 2018. From there, she went on to work with the Toledo Museum of Art and as a fellow at the Saint Louis Art Museum.

Still, she says, most of what she's learned about Black art she taught herself – with the help of Google. "I had an interest, but I couldn't figure out a way to find that information. And, even in the academic setting, it just wasn't available," Walton says. "I wanted to create a resource that other people could use if they were interested in learning a little bit more about Black art."

Most of the books in Walton's collection were purchased online from digital bookstores or resell platforms like eBay, and, initially, with her own money. She didn't have a solid plan, just that if she bought them, something big was bound to take shape. A lot of the curating process felt like a blind exploration, with Walton discovering lost little treasures so obscure she hadn't even known they existed. A couple months in, she'd gained a noticeable following on social media, and people started to donate books to the collection. She also launched a GoFundMe campaign in July which raised $10,000 to help buy more books, because, "Art books are extremely expensive," Walton says.

The Black Art Library also caught the attention of the folks at the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, inspiring them to greenlight a new exhibition of the same name that will display Walton's works in an interactive, reading room setup. Maceo Keeling, curatorial fellow at MOCAD, says the collaboration was an organic one. "It just felt right," Keeling says. "In a time when there's so much conversation about the future of Americans' cultural framework, it's often lost on people how rich and robust the history is." Exhibition guests will be able to browse the texts in a space reminiscent of a library or reference section, having the opportunity to flip through the obvious and the unexpected, with the books themselves being framed as art.

Walton says to also expect virtual panel discussions and other digital programming throughout the exhibition's run. Many of the Black Art Library's followers aren't in Detroit, and so she wants to take care to include them as well. And keep an eye out for the 100 Books, 100 Homes initiative, which will aim to donate art books to Black homes with children and teens.

If visitors to the exhibition leave knowing just one more name of a Black artist, then Walton says she's satisfied. "That's all I can really ask for. I'm not asking people to become artists or decide they want to major in art history or become a professor – none of that. I just want to put the information and the knowledge out there, and people can do with it what they want."





Open through April 18
@blackartlibrary
mocadetroit.org

Ask the Expert

HEALTH ADVICE FROM ASCENSION MICHIGAN

Why is Early Detection Key in the Fight Against Lung Cancer?



Zewditu Asfaw, M.D.

Someone doing research on health care trends in the Black community should notice something pretty quickly. We tend to have high rates of late detection and misdiagnoses when it comes to major diseases that also tend to afflict us in greater numbers. This can be observed with most cancers, where African Americans have the highest death rate and lowest survival rate of any group, according to the National Library of Medicine.

"You get tired of hearing over and over that, we as a people, are more affected because we don't trust the system – but it's true," says Dr. Zewditu Asfaw, cardiothoracic surgeon with Ascension Medical Group. "That's a big issue because early screening and detection are really the best ways to catch things like lung and throat cancers."

Dr. Asfaw says lung cancer is particularly difficult to diagnosis without screening because the symptoms often show up late and slowly. By the time you feel that something is wrong, the issue may have progressed further than you think. "When symptoms like severe coughing and chest pain show up, that's usually the point when the cancer becomes inoperable because it may have spread or invaded something crucial," she says.

Smoking is still a major contributor to lung cancer rates even though the number of smokers has dropped for all races. Though, older people may still struggle to shake their nicotine habits. People aged 55 to 80 are the primary group for which annual lung cancer screenings are recommended. "Smokers are obviously at the most risk, but things like exposure during childhood to secondhand smoke can lead to development of cancer later on," Dr. Asfaw says.

"Smoking sometimes complicates treatment because it also affects blood vessels throughout the body as well as the heart, making surgery more complicated. The best thing you can do to actively prevent and protect would be to not smoke – or at least not around your family. This includes vaping." Also, we don't know much about the connection between smoking marijuana and the risk of lung cancer. "I wish we knew more because there are lots of different intersections there in terms of medical implications," she says.

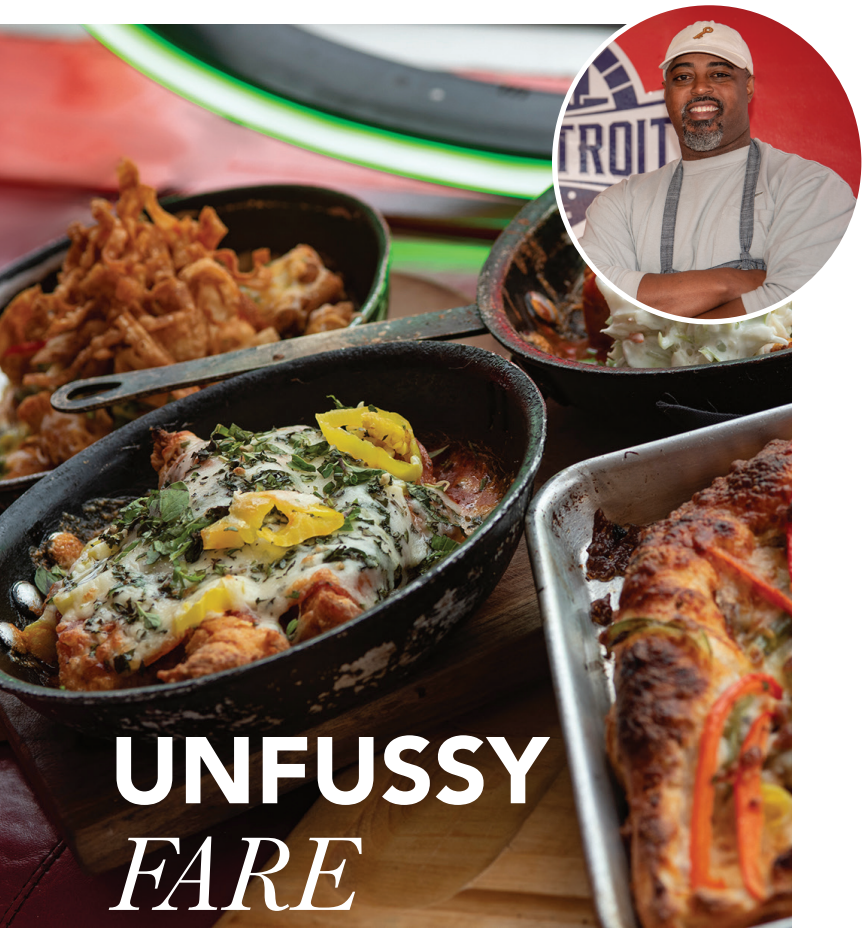
Screenings are still important even if you aren't a smoker. Lung cancer has its own bad habit of turning up in people who've never touched a cigarette, particularly in women. Dr. Asfaw says, "We see patients come in who don't smoke or have an apparent history with lung cancer, but they're developing it all the same. A lot of these new cases have been younger women, too. I had one lady come in to get her chest X-rayed after a fall, and we discovered tumors. It's a scary thing."

In most cases, detection involves injecting problem areas with a special glucose dye and seeing if the tumor "lights up," which almost always indicates cancer. "When we catch them early, we can follow the growth of masses and abnormalities until you're ready to biopsy or operate. There's an entire team of doctors, in most cases, who act as support during someone's cancer journey."

GET MORE HEALTH INFORMATION AND FIND A DOCTOR NEAR YOU BY VISITING ASCENSION.ORG/MICHIGAN OR CALLING 866-501-DOCS (3627)

SPONSORED CONTENT

By Arianna Smith



UNFUSSY *FARE*

There's no shame in indulging in comfort food every now and then. Chef Max Hardy hopes his new restaurant will become a favorite for Detroiters whenever they give in to the urge. Jed's Detroit – not to be confused with Jet's, thank you very much – opened in December. It's a fast-causal takeout setup serving artisanal pizzas, burgers and entrees with Hardy's twist. A special feature are the Fireballs, boneless chicken tender bowls smothered in a variety of toppings.

He'd planned to open in May but couldn't for obvious reasons. "I really wanted to open up a place that focused on making food people eat every day and doing that the right way. That's the kind of food I like to eat, too, so putting my own small spins on the recipes is really enjoyable," he says. Hardy – named one of the 16 Black chefs changing food in America by the New York Times in 2019 – is a Detroit native who spent time working in New York and Miami before coming back home. His other successful restaurant, Coop Caribbean Fusion, is housed inside Detroit Shipping Company.

"I grew up on the west side, but I didn't discover I loved cooking until we moved to Tampa. My high school had a chef come talk to us about culinary arts and that was it," Hardy says. Jed's is actually a franchise transplant from Toledo, the first in Detroit and the 16th between Ohio and Michigan. Hardy says, "Securing everything during the pandemic was hard, but it gave me time to fine-tune the personal touches I get to add. I had a lot of fun spicing up the Fireball combinations, adding a little bit of Detroit authenticity."

@jedsdetroit
1648 E. Seven Mile, Detroit
jedsdetroit.com

HIGH *SOCIETY*

The city of Detroit is slowly but surely figuring out what it wants to do in terms of legalizing recreational marijuana licenses. While we wait, budding entrepreneurs in the simmering cannabis scene are coming up with new ideas and ventures for when weed is fair game.

Marjorie Harvey, CEO of D'Mirage LLC, says she wanted something a bit more stable and unique than yet another dispensary or grow operation. Once they secure a facility, D'Mirage will be an exclusive, members-based cannabis club and consumption lounge, hopefully within Detroit city limits.

"It can be seriously difficult trying to get a business started in this industry. Competition can be fierce. It's very saturated, and investors and realtors tend to get skittish when cannabis gets involved. But the attitude and stigmas are changing, I think," Harvey says. Harvey plans to open D'Mirage with a 25-plus age limit and monthly membership tiers. Visitors will be able to purchase a day pass to enjoy the lounge and the "concession stands" for both food and cannabis.

Harvey's other cannabis business, Divine Epicurean, will be providing the infused samples for guests.

"The vibe I want to create at D'Mirage is one that I'd want to relax at with my friends. It's going to be a place where you don't have to worry about drama or mess. You can come and smoke safely around like-minded people." She says now is the time for anyone interested in the cannabis industry to get involved, especially legacy Detroiters. Harvey says, "Part of the reason the city took so long is because they were trying to make it fair. If a bunch of Black folks or women got into the industry right when it opens up, that would do wonders for us and for people who need the benefits of marijuana."

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By Kaye Byrd



During the national reckoning around race and injustice last year, we were bombarded with recommendations for films about racism and civil unrest. As these recommendations were circulating, Kacie Willis, a native Detroiter, was asking a question: Should white filmmakers be telling stories of Black trauma? To explore that question she created *White-Angle*, a three-part podcast focused on exploring race and documentary filmmaking.

The series brought together a white filmmaker and a Black filmmaker to engage in dialogue. Each episode was purposed with dissecting how perspective and privilege factor into storytelling. "I wanted to do something to show people that having conversations with someone who has a different perspective from you, different life experience from you, (and) coming from a different background demographic does not have to be a scary thing," Willis says. "I just want people to see that as hard as it is to have these discussions, not having them ultimately isn't going to make the situation any easier."

In the second episode Nakia Stephens, a Black screenwriter and producer, is paired with Roee Messinger, a white filmmaker and the director of *American Trial: The Eric Garner Story*, which gained new attention during the racial uprising. Stephens inquires about Messinger's intention behind the film, stressing the responsibility that comes with white men covering communities with which they are unfamiliar. Messinger's response: "I think that we should be careful when we are limiting artists to what kind of story they should tell and what kind of art they should make."

White-Angle was launched with the support of the Alumni Atelier program at Savannah College of Art and Design, Willis' alma mater. In 2019, she was selected as one of 10 participants of the Spotify Sound Up program, an initiative to amplify underrepresented voices in podcasting.

whiteanglepod.com

LIFT *EVERY* VOICE



Joshua "Zeke" Thomas, an award-winning activist, is continuing his work to uplift the community with his latest project, *Amplify Voices*. Created last summer at the intersection of the anti-racism movement and the annual LGBTQ+ Pride celebrations, *Amplify Voices* is a conversational streaming show focused on elevating the queer and BIPOC communities. Thomas, who is also a DJ and son of NBA legend Isiah Thomas, is the show's creator, host and co-executive producer. He says the series grew out of conversations around pushing for equal rights and equal representation for people traditionally marginalized.

The 11-episode season was released in December on Revry, an LGBTQ+ digital cable network, as a series of Zoom panels and fireside chats with some of the brightest thought leaders, politicians, celebrities, activists, artists, athletes and entrepreneurs. Guests included political pundit Donna Brazile; Thomas' father Isiah; entrepreneur, activist, and son of The Notorious B.I.G. CJ Wallace; celebrity makeup artist Yolonda Frederick; and trans activist and performer Mila Jam.

"I feel so blessed that a lot of my friends that appear on the episodes gave their real perspective and real point of view," Thomas says. "The response has been powerful. I've gotten a lot of feedback from people who say that they have learned something, and I think there is no greater compliment when you are putting together a panel-based conversation for somebody to say that they have learned something."

The first season of *Amplify Voices* brought important topics to the fore, including ones on race and the LGBTQ+ experience, transphobia and queer politics.

On whether there will be more seasons, Thomas says, "I definitely hope and plan to do more. The hope is to be able to do them in person. Undoubtedly, there will be more episodes."

@revrytv
Watch Season 1 at revry.tv



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By Paris Giles

Black Lenses Matter

Detroit native Carla Banks-Waddles builds upon her relationship with NBCUniversal.



If the '50s were the golden age of television, then call where we are now the platinum period. Once upon a time, "proper" actors would poo-poo the idea of doing TV. Cut to today and some of the best art is being created for television, and right now, along with entertainment and escapism, we're looking to culture-conscious people who can center Black stories. Detroit native Carla Banks-Waddles has been working in Hollywood for over two decades, and she recently inked a deal with NBCUniversal to be the co-writer and showrunner of a new drama series, *At That Age*.

The pilot was greenlighted in March 2020 and is set to be directed by *Girls Trip* director Malcolm D. Lee. *At That Age* will follow a wealthy Black family from Harlem who've built a real estate empire. In the vibe of HBO's *Succession*, we'll see complicated sibling dynamics around legacy and control play out, while also dealing with the issues of gentrification and community. "For me, for this project – and any project, really – it's just about the characters," Banks-Waddles says. "It starts with: Who are they? What is their relationship to each other? What makes them fun to watch? It's about understanding the characters and their depths and being able to connect with it."

Banks-Waddles has already forged a bond with NBC, acting as a consultant on Season 2 of the series *Good Girls* and then moving into the role of writer and co-executive producer in Season 3, which is where she'll be with the upcoming season which is in production when we speak in early January. Fans of the outrageous show starring Christina Hendricks, Retta and Mae Whitman will remember that Season 3 ended rather abruptly – blame it on COVID. Banks-Waddles promises that they'll wrap up that plot line a little tidier and that we'll get a better glimpse into the inner workings of sexy bad boy Rio, played by Manny Montana. "This season, now, people can look forward to learning a *little* bit more about what makes him tick and more into who he is," she says.

Writing and telling stories was always her thing. Banks-Waddles graduated from Cass Tech and went on to Northwestern University where she majored in journalism, "Because the creative thing was always scary

"I want to tell stories that capture all of our humanity and all of who we are, and the Black joy that we also experience."

to me. I really didn't know what to do with it." Journalism felt like the safer, more respectable bet, but, she says, "While I was there, I was able to take all these classes in radio, television and film and really sort of see what that was like." What she learned was that she could make a career out of the creative side of storytelling. She recalls a class taught by the Black woman writer Delle Chatman, who had written on an episode of *Quantum Leap* in which white time traveler Sam Beckett jumps into the body of a Black cowboy.

"I was just fascinated by that, how she was able to bring herself into that show, and how that episode would not have existed if not for a Black woman being there and saying, 'This is what I think we should do,'" Banks-Waddles says. "It really sort of opened up the world to me." She says she needs structure, and so, having a job where she can write creatively but do so in a contained environment with a team who forces accountability, and then go home at the end of the day, strikes the perfect balance.

She settled in Los Angeles with her husband after completing the University of Southern California's graduate screenwriting program in 2000. "I feel like a Californian now." About the lessons on storytelling she brought with her from Detroit, Banks-Waddles says it's how to center one's own experiences and self. "I don't think I valued that at first, you know? I didn't see how much bringing me into the room, that gave me stories to tell. I grew up in the inner city; I didn't grow up privileged at all – that's a story. My mom is still in the house I grew up in. I'm a product of Detroit Public Schools. That's a part of my story, too."

She says, "There's not one Black story, but, for me, I always want to tell stories that feel authentic and real to who I am as a Black person in America." The tales of tragedy and brutality have their space in the ethos, but, Banks-Waddles says, "They aren't our only stories. I want to tell stories that capture all of our humanity and all of who we are, and the Black joy that we also experience." B

PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES

OPPORTUNITIES

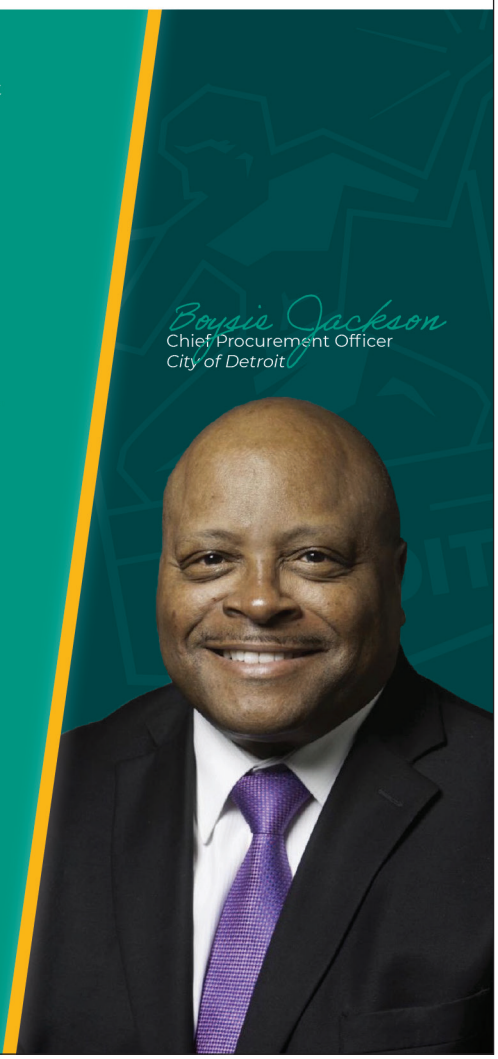
in the City of Detroit

The City of Detroit Office of Contracting and Procurement Department is seeking companies prepared to assist the City in an exciting opportunity for growth and success.

Mr. Jackson is currently leading the Procurement Equity initiative to assist Detroiters with contract opportunities within the City of Detroit. If you are interested in learning about upcoming opportunities to providing COVID-19 PPE (mask, gloves, hand sanitizer, etc...), Proposal N Demolitions and Trash Out opportunities, or becoming a Summer Host Site Recreation Facility, visit:

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Mr. Boysie Jackson is the Chief Procurement Officer that oversees all City of Detroit Contracts. Mr. Jackson is one of the few Procurement Purchasing Leaders, in the United States with practical experience helping the Largest Public Municipality and Largest Corporation successfully emerge from Bankruptcy. He earned his BBA degree with honors from University of North Carolina – Fayetteville State University and completed several Corporate Chairman Sponsored Executive MBA Leadership Programs nationally at University of Virginia Darden School of Business, Carnegie Mellon University, Yale University and University of Michigan. Under Mr. Jackson's leadership he has restructured the Office of Contracting and Procurement, implemented standard operating procedures and implemented a new Oracle Procurement System to allow bids and contracts to be in one operating system. During the beginning of COVID-19, Mr. Jackson worked with local companies to make hand sanitizers, gowns, test kits, masks and other PPE's items. He has led the successful implementation of the COVID-19 Testing and Vaccine site procurements for the City of Detroit. Currently he is leading the procurement of Demolition and Rehabilitation Contracts for Proposal N--$250 Million. He is the current Leader of the City's Procurement Equity Council as they are looking at new ways to provide Equity Inclusion in Detroit Contracting.



THE PERFECT WINTER DAY IN DOWNTOWN DETROIT

Michigan Winter is upon us, but there are still plenty of opportunities to mask up, get outside and safely enjoy downtown Detroit!

Spend the day with friends and family in the heart of the City while supporting local businesses and partaking in unique experiences. The opportunities are endless, but Decked Out Detroit has put together an itinerary below for the whole family to enjoy!

Arrivals

When you arrive downtown, head for one of Bedrock's many parking garages such as One Campus Martius, Greektown or 1001 Woodward Garage to get a parking spot right next to the action. Every Bedrock garage is offering eight hours of free parking with validations that are available at dozens of downtown stores and restaurants.

You can also head into and out of Detroit with Lyft! Bedrock is offering $10 off your Lyft ride to and from Detroit every Saturday between 10 am – 8 pm. Enter the code BedrockDetroit in your Lyft app to receive the discount.

As you emerge onto bustling Campus Martius, stay warm with a hot beverage from Roasting Plant or take a short walk to Capitol Park and head to Cannelle for some caffeine and a pastry in preparation for a packed day!

Shopping

While your hands stay toasty on your cup, head north along Woodward Avenue, Detroit's historic shopping district. Here you will find a curated mix of dozens of local and national retailers, including pop-up shops like DOSE Collective, industry-leading apparel from Nike and H&M, and designer brands such as Detroit is the New Black.

If you're ready to shop until you drop, take a detour off of Woodward to Parker's Alley, which has been decorated from head to toe for the Winter season and provides a great photo opp for the Gram. Here, you'll find even more locally owned brands such as Three Thirteen, Lip Bar and Good Neighbor.

Outdoor Dining

All that shopping will likely leave you hungry and you may have noticed a number of restaurants have outdoor dining options available. Through Decked Out Detroit, eateries are offering open-air pergolas with custom space heaters where guests can safely dine outside. Take your pick from Avalon Bakery, Besa, Buddy's Pizza, Calexico, Cannelle, Cornerstone, Eatori, Hudson Café, Maru, Mootz and San Morello!

As you wrap up dinner and maybe a drink, don't forget to ask for that parking validation!



MONROE STREET Drive-In
Powered by EMAGINE

Experience Downtown Movie Magic

Monroe Street Drive-In
The night is still young! Hop into your car and drive to the Monroe Street Drive-In to catch a film.

In partnership with Emagine, the Monroe Street Drive-In is playing blockbuster hits through March 2021, including Jurassic Park, Shrek and Back to the Future. Located in the heart of downtown, movies will play every Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 7 p.m. Tickets can be reserved can be reserved online at DetroitDrivein.com or purchased in-person at the Drive-In, located at 32 Monroe Street (entrance at 1046 Farmer St.).

Enjoy one of your favorite classics in one of the over 67 parking spaces, or utilize the outdoor seating, pedestrian paths, concession pavilions and lighting and warming areas to stretch your legs.

As your day heads towards its close, reminisce on the memories you made with friends and family before making plans to do it all again next weekend!

Decked out Detroit will enforce all social distancing and mask wearing guidelines as set by the CDC to encourage a safe environment for all.

Get Tickets At DetroitDrivein.com

By Nick Pizana



IN THE **ABSTRACT**

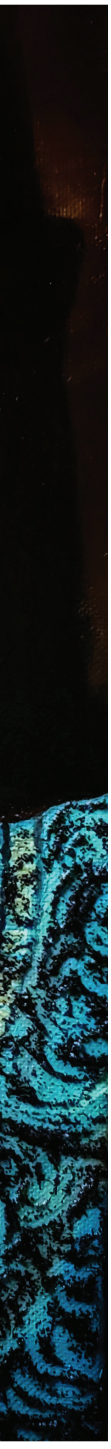
The vivid and expressive portraits of Detroit native Sharryl Cross are a testament to her colorful and varied creative background. Cross' artistic career began as a fashion designer. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in apparel and textile design from Michigan State University before spending 12 years in New York City designing women's fashion. "The way most artists approach their art was the same as my approach to fashion," Cross says. "You come up with a concept and pick a color palette." Cross worked with brands like J.Crew and Juicy Couture before deciding to create art on her own.

She credits her grandfather and his oil paintings with her first introduction to art. While honing her own style, Cross was drawn to the works of Wassily Kandinsky and Picasso, and to cubism. They all embrace abstraction instead of painting "realistically."

Cross says, "I like to do things that are not typical. In my art, I'm attracted to what I call the abnormal. I see a face and I want to put the nose somewhere else." While advancing in her art career, Cross remains active in other modes of expression. She hasn't abandoned her fashion background, planning to release a line of dresses with original prints. Cross also plans to release a collection of portraits in a coffee-table book titled *Confidence of a Dreamer*. She thinks the works in the book are her strongest take on the cubist style so far. "Once you see it, you will understand my point of view and who I am as an artist." B



@crosscreatesart
crosscreatesart.com







COVID-19 Therapy Collaborative Offers Free Behavioral Health Help to Youth & Families

DETROIT, MI - The Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network (DWIHN) with support from the Ethel and James Flinn Foundation, Skillman Foundation, Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, and Michigan Health Endowment Fund launched the first of its kind, the Detroit COVID-19 Therapy Collaborative, which provides free behavioral health supports and counseling to those who need help. This virtual platform provides access to a safe and private network of behavioral health resources and therapy supports by trained counselors for children and families ages 14 years and older.

"This is a remarkable partnership," said DWIHN President and CEO, Willie E. Brooks, Jr. "I am grateful that other organizations share our passion to reach out to young people and families during these unprecedented times as we try and get a handle on the impact COVID-19 is having on our young people."

The Detroit COVID-19 Therapy Collaborative launched May 21, 2020 and is available to teens and adults ages 14 years and up through the rest of the year. Individuals are able to receive up to 12 therapy sessions via phone, tablet or computer. These sessions are with professional counselors to provide screenings, brief interventions and treatment. This is available for youth and adults who are approaching a crisis related to or triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We've never experienced this before, we're facing so much uncertainty, and we shouldn't have to do it alone. African Americans have been hit particularly hard" said Executive Director & CEO of the James and Ethel Flinn Foundation Andrea Cole. "This is a trying time for all of us, but especially for young people who may already be struggling with mental health issues such as anxiety, depression, suicidal thoughts, hopelessness or substance use disorder."



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REACH US DETROIT

DETROIT VIRTUAL THERAPY COLLABORATIVE



An array of comprehensive, culturally responsive supports and counseling services will be available to individuals who live, work or worship in Detroit/Wayne County.

Due to the pandemic, there has been an increase in individuals feeling anxious, depressed, and hopeless. Several individuals reaching out for support are concerned about school, work, and social and emotional well-being. Often school or work is the place of gathering and provides a sense of connectedness. A lot of people are missing the face-to-face interaction and just don't know what to do. Services are available, don't suffer in silence, Reach Us Detroit. (or something like that).

Reach Us Detroit is spearheaded by Andrea L Smith, MSW, Director of Workforce Training & Program Development.

To access services, call or text 313-488-HOPE or visit www.ReachUsDetroit.org

The Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network (DWIHN) is the largest and most diverse Community Mental Health system offering integrated health care in Michigan. Through programs and services that utilize promising best practices we promote a community that is supportive and embraces people with mental illness, intellectual and developmental disabilities and substance use disorder. We offer help with Infant Mental Health, Supportive Housing, and Recovery to support self- determination and improve the health, safety and quality of life for nearly 75, 000 people and their families.

SPONSORED CONTENT



History in the Making

Black history, women's history and political history were all made with one "so help me God." Madam Vice President Kamala Harris was sworn in on the steps of the Capitol on Jan. 20 to become the highest-ranking female elected official in U.S. history. Like our nation, Harris is many things all at once: a stepmother, an aunt, a woman, Asian, Black, the child of immigrants, a sorority sister. Identities backburnered, she's educated and she's experienced – and we're ready. No matter your party affiliation or whether you agree with all of her political moves, there's no denying the magnitude of this moment, for our people and for our country.



By Paris Giles

Art by Phillip Simpson



History in the Making

A strange thing happened the night Joe Biden and Kamala Harris were finally declared victors and Harris walked out to Mary J. Blige and took the stage in Delaware. As Harris began to talk, I started to cry. I've always been a sensitive, empathetic spirit, but sentimental? Hardly ever. It's like I'd understood the significance of what was happening in a matter-of-fact way, but, in that moment, I actually *felt* it in a way I hadn't expected. I, like all of us, had been wrapped up in the mail-in ballot, too-close-to-call drama, waking up dazed and terrified in the wee hours to check for updates.

But as Harris addressed the nation, adorned in suffragette white, I was able to pause, take a breath and soak in the incredible moment. The then-vice president-elect spoke of the action of democracy, the soul of America, and of the women before her who came and conquered. She spoke to the Black women, "who are too often overlooked, but so often prove they are the backbone of our democracy." The lump in my throat formed again when she took to the Capitol steps on Jan. 20 to be sworn in as vice president. I knew that Harris would raise her right hand and swear to defend the Constitution against all enemies foreign and domestic, but to watch her gestures and hear her speak those words, the ones only ever spoken in that capacity by white men, her hair flowing against her brown skin, was something entirely different.

The Backbone

If Black women making things happen was a person, it'd be Stacey Abrams. The Yale-educated lawyer, voting rights activist and romance novelist's name first started peppering national conversation when she challenged Republican Brian Kemp in the 2018 gubernatorial race. Abrams had served in the Georgia House of Representatives and was the first Black woman to earn a major party's nomination for governor of Georgia. The race was hotly contested with Abrams, of course, fending sexist and racist attacks along the way.

She lost that election by nearly 55,000 votes, but many, including Abrams, accused Kemp – who was then secretary of state – of voter suppression and stealing the election. The U.S. House of Representatives oversight committee opened an investigation, and, in February 2020, wrote that they'd found "new, concerning information," but, ultimately, not enough evidence to say definitely that Abrams was cheated. No matter. She took it on the chin, registering something like 800,000 new voters in Georgia in the months before the November election though her organizations Fair Fight and New Georgia Project.

We all remember the nail-biter that was Georgia, right? As those CNN and MSNBC interactive maps illuminated, as votes from majority Black counties were counted, the Trump lead started to dwindle until Biden and Harris were up and pulling away. After a recount by hand, The Peach State went to Biden by less than 12,000 votes, flipping the historically red state blue and helping to secure the win. Georgia Democrats Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock also picked up senate seats in January in a run-off election. Abrams did that. We did that. Here at home, Trump was leading early in Michigan – until Detroit stepped into the ring.

After he got the Democratic nomination, Biden committed early to choosing a woman as his running mate, and some opined that it needed to be a Black woman. Our dear Stacey Abrams was mentioned, along with former national security advisor Susan Rice, California congresswoman Karen Bass and Florida congresswoman Val Demings. And an honorable mention for our very own Gretchen Whitmer, who, of course, isn't Black, but is invited to the cookout all the same.

Representation in the spaces that matter most, especially in light of last year's uprising, was key, but let's also be frank: If Biden was going to win this election he needed to enthuse Black women, who were less than giddy in 2016 when Hillary Clinton ran. The overall Black voter turnout dropped in 2016 for the first time in 20 years from 66.6% in 2012 to 59.6%, according to the Pew Research Center. And while the turnout rate for white women increased from 2012 to 2016, it decreased among Black women from 70.7% in 2012 to 64.1% in 2016. We can't underestimate the Obama effect – but still. Whether we showed in 2020 would be crucial, and, as is the nature of a Black woman, we would make sure our men and sons followed suit.

Sojourner Truth asked, "Ain't I a Woman?" … "If the first woman God ever made was strong enough to turn the world upside down all alone, these women together ought to be able to turn it back, and get it right side up again! And now they is asking to do it, the men better let them." From Truth fighting against slavery and segregation to the Black women fighting for the vote in the early part of the 20th century – shadowed as they may have been by white feminism – to the sisters patching wounds during the civil rights movement to the modern-day changemakers, we've never abandoned our post.

But Black women are bonded by more than just atrocity. We organize in the name of joy and sisterhood, too.

UP NEXT...



Rep. Lauren Underwood

Congresswoman Underwood serves in the U.S. House of Representatives for Illinois' 14th district. She was elected in 2018 and is the first woman, the first person of color and the first millennial to represent her community. And, at 34 years old, she's the youngest Black woman to serve in Congress. Underwood cofounded and co-chairs the Black Maternal Health Caucus, which spotlights the Black maternal health crisis and advances solutions to improve mental health and end disparities.

Along with a blue wave – sort of – we witnessed a river of pink and green. Vice President Harris is a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, the oldest Black sorority in America, founded in 1908 on the campus of Howard University in Washington D.C., Harris' alma mater. So, for the organization's near 300,000 members, her appointment is just that much skee wee-ter.

"The energy is still at an all-time high, and it's building," says Carrie Clark, AKA's Great Lakes regional director. We speak post-election, pre-inauguration. It's the 113th anniversary of the sorority's founding, coincidentally. "It just feels like it's full circle." Clark reminds that the org is nonpartisan and doesn't endorse any political party; "However, any member that achieves anything – even if it's a small significance – it's a win for all. We're still celebrating, and we're very proud of her."

AKA member and Farmington Hills resident Rebekah Sharpe was on the campus of the University of Michigan when Barack Obama was elected in 2008. In fact, she successfully spearheaded a campaign to invite the former president to speak during her class commencement ceremony. When Obama was elected, Sharpe says, "Our campus just erupted in celebration, and there was just this overzealous spirit. We all were just so excited that we finally had representation in a greater way in the highest level of government." Her Beta Eta chapter got busy creating programs to educate students on the ins and outs of government and the role citizens play in affecting change.

Cut to 2020 and Sharpe is in Pittsburgh when it's announced that Harris has been chosen as Biden's running mate. "I remember it just feeling so overwhelming and really similar to how it felt with President Barack Obama, but it became so much more personal to me," she says. "First of all, well, she's a woman. And, secondly, she's my sorority sister, and that is something she's talked about very publicly. It's not like, oh yeah, this is a kind of back-of-my-mind affiliation. She has really given AKAs an entirely new platform."

Both Clark and Sharpe say the excitement within the organization has been palpable, starting back when Harris announced her own bid for the presidency, and then resuscitated with the news that she'd be vying for the White House again with Biden in the first chair. Sharpe says, "Obviously, all of the group chats of the sorors are erupting and everybody's trying to find ways now to serve in the campaign. How do we fundraise? How do we grassroots organize? It just gave a revitalization. We were in such a dark time, and there was a lot of division and vitriol happening in our nation, and when she got that nomination I just saw a dawn of a new day, even before we knew what the outcome would be. It just gave women – my sorority sisters, in particular – something to be hopeful about again."

Also noticeable was what Harris seemed to do for the conversation around historically Black colleges and universities. As aforementioned, as an undergraduate, Harris attended Howard University, a storied HBCU founded in 1867. She attended the University of California for law school. From talks of funding to sports to the significance of a culturally considerate education, many in the community have been strategically nudging HBCUs toward the spotlight as of late, especially. More broadly, we've been reminded of where a great, full-bodied education can lead, particularly if you're Black – especially if you're a Black woman.

"Credentials really do matter," says Glenda Price, Ph.D. Price has dedicated most of her adult life to education. She was president of Marygrove College from 1998 to 2006, also serving as president of the Detroit Public Schools Foundation from 2012 until she retired in 2016. "We haven't gotten to the point in our society where we can simply say, 'Oh, that person is really smart, they're really bright, they have potential they have capability.' All that may be true, but without the credential, you really have a very, very difficult time proving your abilities."

Price was born in 1939, and so she's lived through the resistance that defined the second half of the 20th century: the civil rights movement, Stonewall and LGBTQ rights, the fight for women's liberation. And she remembers what life was like before. "We were growing up in an environment of not only racial disparities but gender disparities, as well. The women of my generation are the ones who fought hard, but we fought differently. When I was growing up, the notion was that you really needed to prove that you were not only equal to, but better than those individuals with whom you were competing, particularly the white women in our environments," Price says. "So, when you look at the election of Kamala Harris today, you see that all of the efforts to bring about that change has resulted in *the change* that we knew had to happen."

Clark has to choke back tears when she talks of her grandmother, who she says couldn't have imagined seeing a Black president and then a Black woman vice president take office. Surely her grandmother would've recalled the work of Rosa Parks, Angela Davis, Shirley Chisholm, Audre Lorde and all the other bad-behaving women getting into good trouble. ▸

UP NEXT...



Abby Phillip

Phillip is a journalist, political correspondent and anchor with CNN. She caught our attention in the dizzying days leading up to and following the 2020 election with her poise and thoughtful analysis. Network executives took notice, too, because in early January, it was announced that Phillip had been promoted to senior political correspondent and would be stepping into the role as host of her own show, *Inside Politics Sunday*.

History in the Making

Call to Action

It hasn't been all jubilance and well wishes for Harris. When she was one of the sea of candidates wrestling for the Democratic Party's nomination for president, especially, she was criticized fairly harshly for her perceived privilege and record as district attorney of San Francisco and, later, attorney general of California. It was suggested that she was an ice queen who had it out for Black men, in particular, locking them up in gaggles on petty weed charges and the like. In reality, where she landed on the progressive scale is much more nuanced and harder to pin down.

As NPR highlighted in an October 2020 Q&A with Bay Area reporter Jamilah King, who has written on Harris' early career, her ideologies seemed to be all over the place – still not great. She refused to pursue the death penalty when an officer was killed in San Francisco as district attorney, but supported the state's use of it as attorney general. She supported gay marriage and a "Back on Track" program in lieu of jail time, but was slower to back the legalization of marijuana. More recently, as senator, Harris co-authored the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, along with Black Caucus Chair Rep. Karen Bass, Sen. Cory Booker and House Judiciary Committee Chair Rep. Jerrold Nadler. Most notably, the bill, if signed into law, would lower the criminal intent standard, limit qualified immunity and authorize the Department of Justice to issue subpoenas to police departments to determine patterns of discrimination.

Conversations around temperature and policy are warranted and rightful, and should continue even more fervently now that Harris and Biden are in control – but more unusual was that her identity as a Black woman has also been questioned. Harris is the child of immigrant parents, her late mother from Chennai, India, her father from Jamaica. "She's not even Black!" inevitably shows up in the comment section of any social media or web post that mentions Harris being "the first Black …". It feels uncomfortably close to the war so-called birthers raged against Obama during his campaign and after being elected president – except this time, it's mostly coming from within. It's true that, as far as we know, she's not a descendant of American slavery, which does make for a unique trauma bond to this nation that one could argue is important when creating policy that could affect said descendants. But Harris absolutely exists in a white world as brown-skinned woman of the African diaspora – and that's a badge that deserves honor.

Then, on Jan. 6, while the Senate was certifying the Electoral College votes to officially certify Biden as the next president of the United States of America, a mob of Trump supporters, aroused by the former president, stormed the Capitol. Windows were smashed, tear gas was unleashed, and, in the end, five people died. On its surface, the attack on the Capitol as a whole wasn't overtly racist. But we see it, don't we? The desperate reaction to the prospect that whiteness may no longer reign supreme and that the people in positions of power may actually start to reflect our America? The conversation during and after the insurrection was around how things would've been handled differently had the mob been Black. They would've been gunned down before their soles touched the first steps, some said. Objectively, we can't know whether that's true, but what we do know is that white privilege is real and measurable, and that Black bodies are often met with fear and a presumption of evil intent.

And that's why we're here, resolved to go to work. Turnout may have slumped in 2016, but, in 2020, Black voters handed Biden and Harris the White House on a silver platter. A debt is owed. But, for right now, let us bask in the magnificence of it all. Price says, "Harris' election says loud and clear: Anything is possible. Women particularly, but young people of color, both genders, need to see that as an indication that there are no absolute barriers to their success."

Poet laureate Amanda Gorman delivered the inauguration poem, the youngest to ever do it at just 22. Gorman captured our attention first with her stunning beauty – the type that seems to radiate from within – but held us in her grasp with her poignant words: "We've braved the belly of the beast. We've learned that quiet isn't always peace. … Somehow we've weathered and witnessed a nation that isn't broken, but, simply, unfinished. … Being American is more than a pride we inherit, it's the past we step into and how we repair it. … While democracy can be periodically delayed, it can never be permanently defeated. … If we merge mercy with might, and might with right, then love becomes our legacy and change our children's birthright. … For there is always light if only we're brave enough to see it, if only we're brave enough to be it."

Eugene Goodman, the Black Capitol officer crowned a hero for leading the mob away from the Senate chamber, escorted Harris to the swearing-in ceremony. As it's been said, Harris standing on the Capitol dressed in purple and pearls, her left hand on the Bible, taking the oath of office to become the vice president of the United States of America is a manifestation of our ancestors' wildest dreams. For the brown-skinned little girls who sat cross-legged in front of their TVs watching her be sworn in, their dreams feel less fantastical now. Poised in front of the first Latina to serve on the Supreme Court, Justice Sonia Sotomayor, as Michelle Obama looked on, Harris unfuzzied an abstraction and turned a dream touchable. B

PARIS GILE IS BLAC DETROIT'S SENIOR EDITOR.

UP NEXT...



Tamika Mallory

Mallory has been on the front lines of the Black Lives Matter movement. The activist was one of the lead organizers in the 2017 Women's March, being named one of Time magazine's 100 most influential people that year. She has been extremely vocal in calling for justice for Breonna Taylor, spending months in Louisville with Taylor's family and calling out Attorney General Daniel Cameron in an impromptu speech that made waves and went viral. Her first, book, *State of Emergency: How to Win in the Country We Built*, is scheduled for release in May.

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BLAC

BLACK LIFE, ARTS & CULTURE



A TALE IN A TIMELINE

This Black History Month, recall some of the moments, movements and people central to the story of Black Detroit.

BY **PARIS GILES**

SEPTEMBER
1807:
SLAVERY OUTLAWED

The first chief justice of the Michigan territory Judge Augustus Woodward rules that all enslaved persons (except those owned by British subjects) are to be freed. He also later rules that the enslaved who could establish their freedom in Canada couldn't be taken back to the United States.

JUNE 14-15,
1833:
BLACKBURN RIOTS

Detroit's first racial uprising occurs at what's now the Detroit Public Library's Skillman branch, once the city's jailhouse. Couple Thornton and Rutha Blackburn are jailed here after escaping slavery in Louisville two years prior. The city's Black residents band together – led by Caroline French and Tabitha Lightfoot – to free the Blackburns and help them flee to Canada.

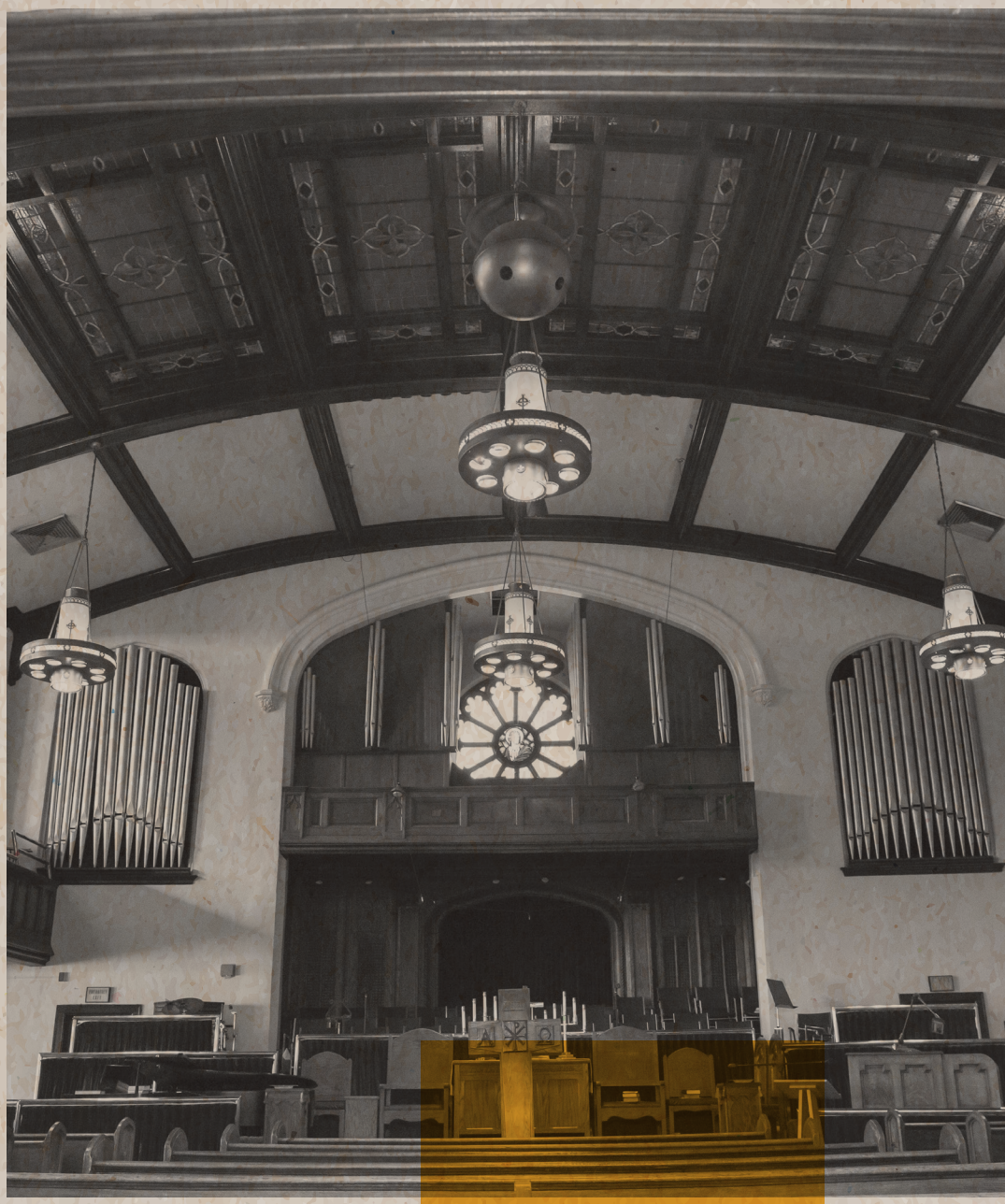


Photo by Lauren Jeziorski

MARCH
1836:
SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH

The Territorial Legislature of Michigan grants 13 former slaves permission to own and operate their own church. It becomes only the seventh major church in Detroit and a pivotal player in the underground railroad. Second Baptist is the oldest Black-owned religious institution in the Midwest and is still in operation in Greektown today.

A TALE IN A TIMELINE

1869: DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Detroit begins admitting African American students to its public schools. The Black community commissions the school board to admit its students, and when this fails, they take their fight to the Michigan Supreme Court, which rules that Black students have the right to admission.

1934: BAKER'S KEYBOARD LOUNGE

The jazz club – purported as the "world's oldest" – is erected on Livernois Avenue as a sandwich shop, first, in 1933, and then becomes a piano lounge. It was designated a historic site by the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office in 1986. Today, it still holds steady as a favorite among Black Detroit's grown and sexy.

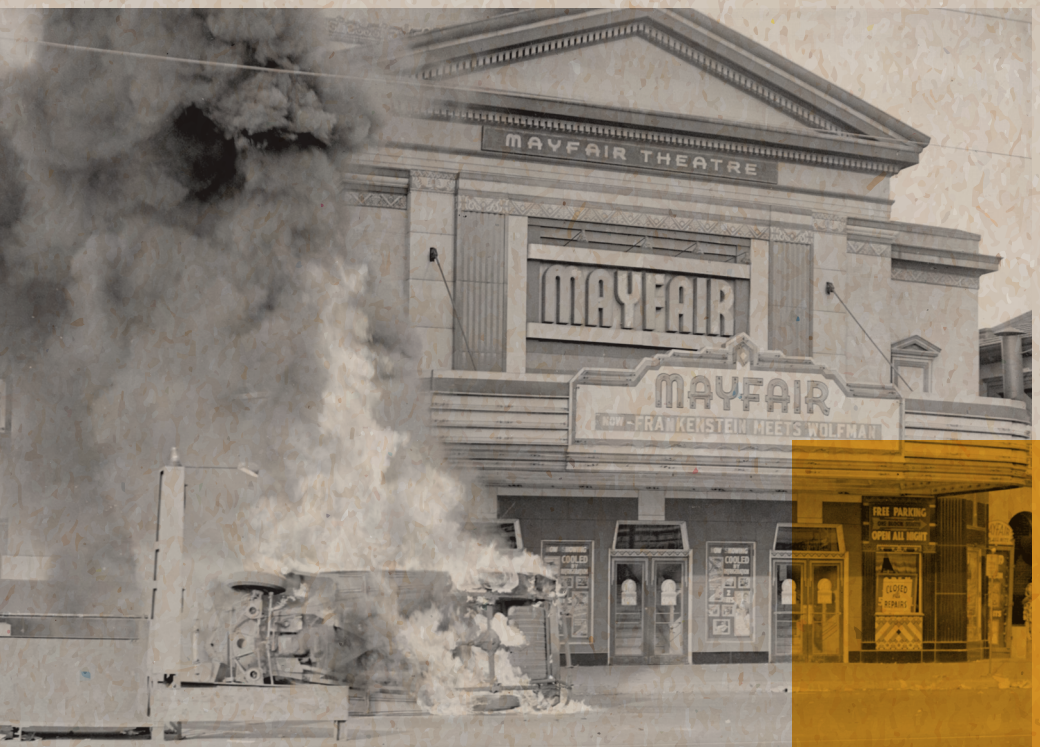


Photo Courtesy of Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University

JUNE 20-22, 1943: THE DETROIT RACE RIOT

Racism, poor living conditions and unequal access to jobs and housing during wartime leads to race riots in the summer of 1943. When the city tries to construct a Black housing project in an otherwise white neighborhood, an armed white mob gathers, lights a cross on fire and pickets. Tensions boil over into a fight between the races on Belle Isle that spills over into the city, lasts three days and leaves nine whites and 25 Blacks dead.

History Makers

JACOB YOUNG

In 1793, Young purchases land from a French settler to become the first Black landowner in Detroit.

1940s AND 1950s: BLACK BOTTOM

Once a center for Eastern European Jewish settlement, by the 1950s, Black Bottom – named for its dark and rich topsoil – had become a bustling African American neighborhood, chock-full of Black-owned businesses, social institutions and social clubs. It garners national attention for its music scene, attracting Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald and others. The neighborhood is demolished in the early 1960s in the name of "urban renewal."

FEB. 2, 1948: BOB-LO EXCURSION CO. V. MICHIGAN

In 1945, 24-year-old Black secretary Sarah Elizabeth Ray is barred passage on the Bob-Lo boat, traveling from Detroit to the amusement park on Bois Blanc Island. The NAACP and Thurgood Marshall take up the case and the Bob-Lo Excursion Co. is convicted in a criminal prosecution under the Michigan Civil Rights Act, affirmed on appeal by the Supreme Court. Legal historians say this set a precedent for the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education decision. Ray has since been dubbed "the other Rosa Parks."

JAN. 12, 1959: MOTOWN RECORDS

With an $800 loan, young songwriter Berry Gordy Jr. founds Tamla Records, later incorporated as Motown Records Corporation on April 14, 1960. Motown Sound soon takes over the world, turning out hit after hit and making stars out of Diana Ross, Marvin Gaye, Michael Jackson and more. In 1985, Gordy's sister Esther Gordy Edwards founds the Motown Museum.



WILLIAM LAMBERT

Lambert owned a successful dry cleaning and tailoring business during his early days in Detroit but soon became a key player in the abolitionist movement in the 1840s and beyond, publicly helping fugitive slaves escape to Windsor. He founded the Colored Vigilant Committee, the first civil rights organization in Detroit.

ELIJAH MCCOY

An inventor and engineer born in 1844, McCoy held nearly 60 U.S. patents in his lifetime. Most notably, while working for the Michigan Central Railroad, he invented a lubricating cup that distributed oil evenly over the steam engine's moving parts, allowing trains to run for long periods without needing to stop for maintenance.

GEORGE DEBAPTISTE

The prominent entrepreneur was a key conductor on the underground railroad in Detroit and in Madison, Indiana, helping over 180 of the formerly enslaved cross the river from Kentucky to Indiana. In Detroit, having moved from Madison in 1846, DeBaptiste used his boat the T. Whitney to ferry those seeking freedom across the Detroit River to Canada.

A TALE IN A
TIMELINE

JUNE 23, 1963:
DETROIT WALK TO FREEDOM

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. leads this march to commemorate the Detroit Race Riot 20 years earlier, and highlight segregation and brutality against civil rights activists in the South and Black concerns in the urban North, like hiring practices and housing. On this afternoon, 125,000 people fill Woodward and move in relative silence as 15,000 others look on from sidewalks, windows and roofs.

JULY 23-28, 1967:
THE DETROIT REBELLION

Because of deindustrialization, widespread joblessness and white flight, between 1950 and 1960, Detroit loses 20% of its population. A culmination of decades of institutional racism, segregation and tensions between Detroit police and the Black community results in the largest civil disturbance in 20th century America that only relaxes when federal troops are called in. In the end, 43 people die, hundreds more are injured, and at least 7,000 are arrested. B



FANNIE RICHARDS

Educated herself in Toronto and Germany, Richards was Detroit's first Black school teacher, opening a private school for Black children in 1863 and later developing Michigan's first kindergarten class. She was also one of the founders of the Michigan State Association of Colored Women.

C.L. FRANKLIN

The Baptist minister with the "million-dollar voice" was a civil rights activist and civic leader, helping to organize the 1963 Detroit Walk to Freedom. Franklin served as pastor of New Bethel Baptist Church in Detroit from 1946 to 1979, where his daughter, Aretha, found her voice.

COLEMAN A. YOUNG

Elected in 1974, he became Detroit's first Black mayor, serving for 20 years. A veteran of the U.S. Army and a navigator with the Tuskegee Airmen, as mayor, Young created coalitions among corporate leaders and secured funding for major Detroit projects including the Renaissance Center and the Joe Louis Arena.



Photo Courtesy of Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University

PARIS GILES IS BLAC DETROIT'S SENIOR EDITOR

Sources: C-SPAN, biography.com, Detroit Historical Society, detroitmi.gov, detroitsotherrosaparks.com, Historic Elmwood Cemetery & Foundation, Motown Museum, supreme.justia.com, Walter P. Reuther Library

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CHARLES H. WRIGHT MUSEUM
OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY



Curating CULTURE

By Nick Pizana

Photos by Lauren Jeziorski

During this celebration of the African diaspora, what better way to honor what Black history means to the city of Detroit than to check in with the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History? From a philosophy about preservation and humble beginnings more than half a century ago to amassing a collection of more than 35,000 artifacts, the museum has carved out its own place in history and secured a spot in the heart of the city.



Curating CULTURE

Last year will be remembered more than anything for the COVID pandemic and the summer's protests for racial justice. While the virus is new, the protests and the issues surrounding them are old as America itself. The demonstrations across the country brought many questions to light. Can the system be changed? Does my vote even matter? In the wake of calls for confederate statues to be labeled "historic monuments," who gets to decide what history is? How does that shape our modern day – and future?

The Charles H. Wright Museum is dealing with these issues and many more. One of the shining gems of Detroit's Cultural Center Historic District, the museum's exhibitions are centered around telling the story of the African American experience in culture, politics and art. Dr. Charles Wright, an obstetrician and gynecologist from Detroit, founded the museum with these issues already in mind. "The significance of a museum is to document our history for our children, over time. That was one of his main goals," says Patrina Chatman, the Wright Museum's director of collections and exhibitions.

Chatman – who's been with the institution for 31 years – says she first became involved with the museum when Wright invited her to help out with a project, "and I never left." Chatman describes Wright as a worldly man who often traveled abroad. She says the idea for the museum came to him as he began to take note of African countries taking independence from European colonizers during the mid-20th century. He recognized the struggle to retain their culture and archive their history. After seeing a memorial to WWII soldiers in Denmark, Wright decided the idea could wait no longer. If Black history was to be remembered, it would need a steward to record it. When he returned to Detroit, he set after his goal to preserve African American history for future generations.

ERECTING A MONUMENT

Today, the Wright is home to the world's largest collection of African American art, but it began much more humbly. The original site, founded in 1965, was started in Wright's own office on West Grand Boulevard. Known then as the the International Afro-American Museum, it was already a testament to Black legacy. The small museum's collections held artifacts like African masks and inventions by Elijah McCoy. "It wasn't as big. You'd look up and there would be someone right there beside you looking over your shoulder," Chatman says, jokingly. "But we felt like it was OK."

It wasn't long before the museum's collection outgrew the space, and Wright began looking for a larger space with the help of volunteers. "He pulled together the community, all walks of life, all ethnicities," Chatman says. Getting money for the new location required a number of fundraising efforts, including allowing sponsors to buy bricks. Students from surrounding schools raised almost $20,000 with a penny drive. The city of Detroit granted land for the new museum that was several times larger than the previous location.

The new space was completed in 1987 and renamed the Museum of African American History. They soon outgrew that space, as well, and moved on to the current location in 1997, where the name of the founder was added. The modern Wright Museum has come a long way from its modest but aspirational start in Wright's office. The current building is a sight to behold, with its sleek concrete pillars and bright, welcoming rotunda. Its glass dome ceiling is adorned with flags of African nations, a complement to the colorful tile mosaic installation *Ring of Genealogy*, by Hubert Massey, laid into the floor.

The museum's permanent collection of artwork also includes *Stories in Stained Glass* by Samuel A. Hodge. Hodge's colorful, illuminated stained glass depictions of musicians, dancers and activists have to be seen in person. Also worth mentioning is *United We Stand*, the monumental 25-foot-tall black and white Charles McGee sculpture outside. The building also holds the Louise Lovett Wright Library and Robert L. Hurst Research Center, the General Motors Theater and a shop. Its collections house over 35,000 artifacts and documents pertaining to the Black experience – from the underground railroad to Detroit's labor movement.

The centerpiece of the museum, *And Still We Rise: Our Journey through African American History and Culture*, is a 22,000-square-foot, interactive exhibit that tells the experiences of African Americans through seven different exhibition spaces. The immersive display chronicles the emergence and cultural beginnings in Africa, the anguish of the transatlantic slave trade and the fight for freedom in America. Guests are taken on a journey through time and space to experience the open plains of sub-Saharan Africa, the cramped lower decks of slave ships and a walk through the once-vibrant Black Bottom neighborhood. It's an unforgettable testament to the African American experience.



THROUGH A PANDEMIC

The rotunda – normally bustling with movement – is quieter due to the reduced building capacity, one of the measures the museum is taking as a precaution to protect against COVID. Last year's pandemic and the resulting global economic downturn took museums everywhere for a loop. As cultural institutions around the world tried to figure out how to operate in the midst of lockdowns, the Wright partnered with a handful of other museums for a series of online presentations and performances centered around Juneteenth.

The experience revealed another avenue by which the museum could continue its mission. The Wright was soon flooded with an outpouring from classrooms asking for more digital lessons on topics ranging from why voting matters to the history of jazz. The institution plans to take this a step further this year by forging ongoing partnerships with schools and educators. The museum will be working with Muskegon Heights Public Schools, providing materials and training for teachers leading African American history and social studies classes. They are also working with Wayne Regional Educational Services Agency (RESA) to create an instructional series for them.

"We're excited to be partnering with people who see the museum as an alternative learning site," says Reggie Woolery, director of education and public programs at the Wright. "We're not a school, but we can do cool, incredible things that open teachers up." Working digitally has also helped the Wright reach new potential visitors by putting events and performances online. One event is the Martin Luther King Day breakfast, normally an action-packed social event. Woolery says, "Last year, we had between 3,500 and 5,000 people here." It was one of the last major in-person events before the COVID virus emerged in Michigan and lockdowns and social distancing became the norm. Last month, the breakfast was held mostly online. "To make it a virtual event has obvious downsides, but we want to be safe and, at the same time, we have people who will be logging on nationally – and that's really amazing," he says.

Woolery has a background in digital media and says that, before the pandemic, the museum had been looking to improve its virtual profile. "We have incredible architecture and also a national stature, and we're really only accessible to Detroiters. That's good because Detroiters feel ownership over the space, but things like the health disparities that came out of COVID, the protests in the streets, these are all national conversations. We're not able to have those national conversations if we're not in a virtual space."

The museum successfully tapped into the national conversation with its current exhibition, *Voting Matters*, which illustrates the role of Black Americans in securing the right to vote, from Reconstruction through present day. The exhibition shows the role African Americans played in paving the road for all demographics, more than only white, land-owning men. "We hit it on the nose that this would be an important election," Woolery says. "Even though we may vote, most people don't know about the history of those things and how voter suppression in the past has been reflected in voter suppression in the present."

They intend for the exhibition to be a starting point for an ongoing conversation about the importance of voting that lasts beyond Inauguration Day. There are plans for part of the exhibition to travel to other museums after it ends in Detroit in May. "Two years from now, if we don't go out and vote, we'll be right back in the same place." Woolery says. "Even though it can be a 'geeky' subject, getting people to think about participation and how that shapes economics is something that we as an education department want to take on more."

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

The Wright Museum has plans for several exciting new exhibitions and collaborations with other institutions this year. In February, the museum will release a book in collaboration with the Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills analyzing and comparing white supremacy and the creation of monuments in post-Civil War America and post-WWII Germany. Continuing their progress with virtual materials, the Wright is planning a special six-week series focused on reparations, covering local and national attempts to address the age-old question of disparity. The series will also look at contemporary examples of where reparations are being put into practice.

Also on its way to the Wright is *Men of Change*, a traveling exhibition from the Smithsonian that documents exceptional African American men from history and contemporary culture in relation to themes like community, fathering, myth-breaking and storytelling. The exhibit combines narrative and art, featuring eye-catching portraits of the men by contemporary artists.

In a tribute to her grandmother, the curator Dell Pryor, Malika Pryor is organizing *To Whom Much is Given*. Dell established several art galleries in Detroit and has been involved in the city's art scene for over 50 years. This show is a testament to her outstanding career and the long-standing history of Black arts in Detroit. "It's incredible, the things that she's done, introducing African American artists to the city and to the world by providing a gallery space for them to exhibit, and that's sometimes really difficult, even today," director Chatman says of Dell.

The museum is also planning an exhibition with Detroit-based painter and sculptor Mario Moore, a survey show looking back at his work from 2009 to present day. Moore, who curated his first show with the Wright, is now looking forward to his first retrospective show here. "It's amazing. I was born and raised in Detroit," says Moore, who grew up not far from the museum's second location. "I remember going there when I was younger. My mom would take me before the building that's there now had been built."

The staff at the Wright Museum are keeping Charles Wright's vision alive and finding new ways to preserve and present African American history. Detroit is lucky to have this ever-growing, one-of-a-kind place for Black culture. B

NICK PIZANA IS A DETROIT-BASED FREELANCE WRITER AND ARTIST.

access

DETROIT | FEBRUARY 2021

Celebrate Black History Month safely with these virtual museum-sponsored events.

MUSIC OF FLORENCE PRICE • DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS
The Noah Jackson String Quartet and pianist Michelle Cann offer their recently recorded performance of the music of Florence Price, the first Black woman to have a symphony performed by a major American orchestra.

Jan. 20-March 1
dia.org

WIND DOWN WEDNESDAYS • DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS
Celebrate Black chefs and mixologists with weekly live tutorials followed by a Q&A.

Wednesdays in February, 6:30 p.m.
dia.org

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE! CHANTAE CANN • DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS
Join a recorded performance of the Chicago-raised jazz, soul and R&B vocalist.

Fridays in February
dia.org

BLACK ART LIBRARY WITH ASMAA WALTON • MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART
The founder of a library of texts on Black art – the focus of a current exhibition – discusses the project and the importance of creating access to Black art and Black art history.

Feb. 5, 4 p.m.
mocadetroit.org

READ MORE ABOUT BLACK ART LIBRARY ON PAGE 18.







ABOVE: Chantae Cann
LEFT: Florernce Price
BELOW: Installation by Ibrahim Mahama

I ♥ MY BLACKNESS & YOURS • DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

Wee the People – a Boston-based social justice project for kids – invites you to discover new Black photographers and their work that affirms and celebrates Blackness.

Feb. 6 and Feb. 13, 11 a.m.
dia.org

CONVERSATION WITH GHANAIAN ARTIST IBRAHIM MAHAMA • THE WRIGHT MUSEUM

This artist responsible for a current installation of recycled burlap sugar sacks discusses capitalism, globalization and African independence.

Feb. 15, 6 p.m.
dia.org

HUGHIE LEE-SMITH: A DETROIT STORY • DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

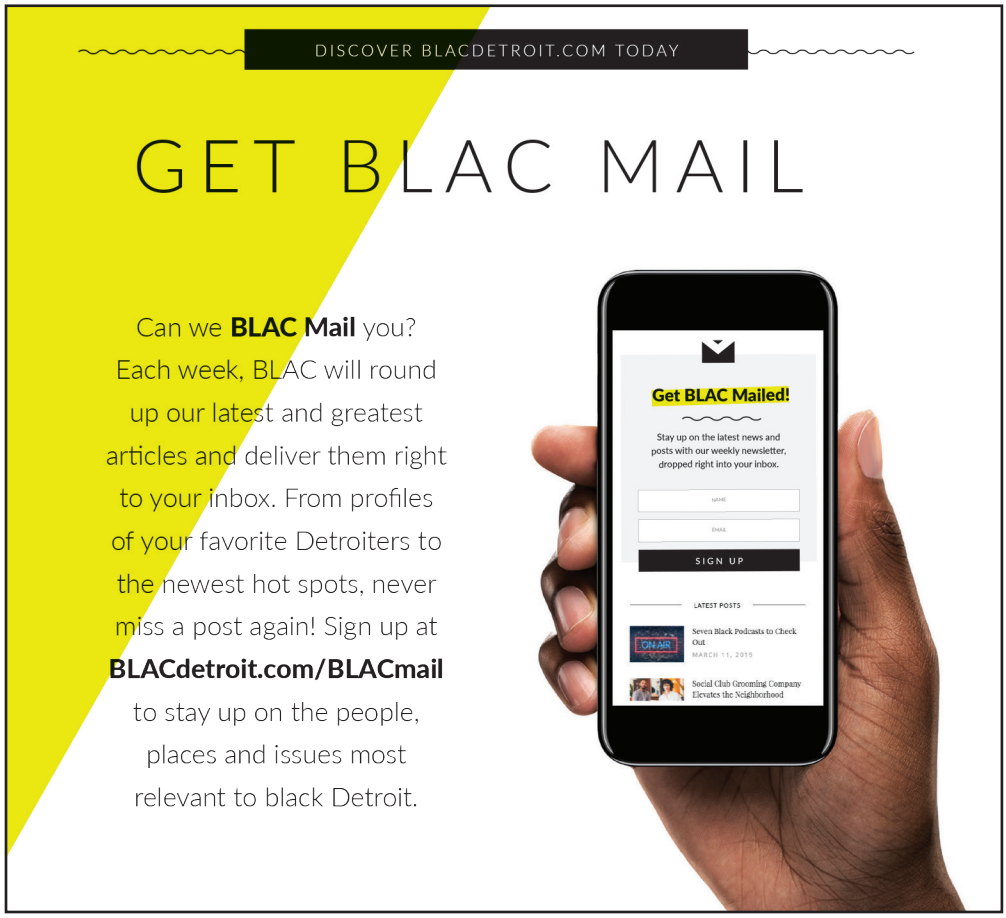
This lecture, delivered by art historian Alona Cooper Wilson, Ph.D., will examine a select group of paintings completed in Detroit in the 1950s, during the Cold War.

Feb. 16, 6:30 p.m.
dia.org

BLACdetroit.com

For a complete list of events, visit our online calendar.





Photos by Sydney Kispert-Bostick

Soaking in Black History at the Wright Museum

Families and friends get out of the house and into some culture at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit.



Briana Mcintosh, Carmen Brantley, Brooklynn Johnson



Kinzley McGhee, Ashley Wright-McGhee, Corey McGhee, Karter McGhee



Molly Mckenzie, Stephen Rowley



Tracey Williams



Lauren Washington, Jermaine Hopkins



Nevaeh McQueen, Sanaa Cann, Teana Jones, Nita Thompson, LaShawnna Joshua



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