Serving New York City, Nassau & Suffolk Counties

NEW YORK TREND NYC

THE ALTERNATIVE PERSPECTIVE

$1.00

newyorktrendnyc.com

VOLUME 35 ISSUE 22

October 30th, 2025 - November 5th, 2025

Since 1989

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS!

BLANK FAMILY FOUNDATION COMMITS $60 MIL TO SUPPORT HBCU'S

THE ARTHUR M. BLANK FAMILY FOUNDATION recently announced a landmark $50 million, 10-year scholarship investment to support students at four of Atlanta's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). The funding will provide gap scholarships intended to increase the number of students graduating from **Clark Atlanta University**, **Morehouse College**, **Morris Brown College** and **Spelman College**.

For many students, **financial barriers—not academics—stand in the way of earning their diplomas.**

Eligibility rates for Pell Grants are particularly high across these four schools. A Pell Grant is a need-based form of federal financial aid that provides money to low-income undergraduate students to help pay for college, which does not have to be repaid. Pell-eligible students tend to face more unmet needs and therefore take out more loans, work more hours, face higher degrees of food and housing insecurity, and are at greater risk of forgoing higher education or leaving school without a credential.

The foundation's investment in gap scholarships is designed to overcome the financial barrier, helping more students complete their education. Beginning in 2026, the program is projected to support nearly 10,000 students, helping raise graduation rates across Atlanta's HBCUs and serve as a model for other philanthropies to expand investment in HBCU student success.

The funding is from the **Blank Foundation's** Founder Initiatives portfolio, including support of essential Atlanta institutions.

"Atlanta holds a special place in my heart and will always be an integral part of our family foundation's giving," said **Arthur M. Blank**, chairman, **Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation**. *"We know **Spelman, Morris Brown, Morehouse** and **Clark Atlanta** are vital to Atlanta's future, and we are deeply committed to supporting the students who will carry that legacy forward. We recognize that these campuses, like many across the country, are home to generations of students whose promise inspires us. Our hope is that by helping more students earn their degrees, launch successful careers and become alumni who give back, we are investing in a cycle of opportunity that benefits young people and their families in Atlanta and communities across the nation for years to come."*



Image Credit: **Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation**

INVESTING IN STUDENT SUCCESS

Gap scholarships will provide direct support to students who are closest to earning their degrees but face financial gaps that could prevent them from finishing. By bridging these gaps, the program will help ensure more students stay enrolled, graduate on time and step into their futures with a completed degree.

"Even a small financial gap can be the difference between walking across the graduation stage or walking away," said **Fay Twersky**, president, **Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation**. *"We are proud to stand with Atlanta's HBCUs and help more students achieve their dreams. These grants are a material investment in hope."*

> **We know Spelman, Morris Brown, Morehouse and Clark Atlanta are vital to Atlanta's future, and we are deeply committed to supporting the students who will carry that legacy forward.**
>
> ↳ ARTHUR M. BLANK,CHAIRMAN
> ARTHUR M. BLANK FAMILY FOUNDATION

Students who are in good academic standing and have fully exhausted other financial options, including scholarships, federal grants, state assistance and loan programs, will be eligible to receive funding at the discretion of their respective institution. The funding will largely support students in their junior and senior years, when financial stress can be most acute as family resources may be spread thin or additional siblings begin college.

CONTINUING A LEGACY OF HBCU SUPPORT

The scholarship initiative builds on the **Blank Foundation's** longstanding commitment to HBCUs, including:

- $10 million to **Spelman College** for the *Arthur M. Blank Innovation Lab*
- $6 million for athletic field refurbishments at **Clark Atlanta**, **Albany State**, **Miles College** and **Savannah State**
- $3 million to **Morris Brown College** to digitize a one-year hospitality credential
- $400,000 to **Morehouse College** Golf Program with **PGA TOUR** Superstore
- New football helmets for **Morehouse College** and **Clark Atlanta University** student-athletes

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

The scholarships are expected to fuel long-term benefits for students and the broader community:

- HBCU graduates will earn 57% more in their lifetimes than they would without a degree.

-- con't on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:



PAGE 3 A NEW MILESTONE
PAGE 6 A MEDIA PACKAGE ROLLOUT
PAGE 10 A NEW SHOW PREMIER

ATTORNEY *CHAMPIONS JUSTICE* FOR NFL PLAYERS BATTLING CTE

Attorney Byron Cuthbert's unwavering commitment to justice has positioned him at the forefront of the battle for former **NFL** players struggling with the devastating symptoms and effects of Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE) or other neurological disorders. **Cuthbert**, an attorney who specializes in sports brain injury cases, has dedicated his career to securing monetary awards and vital benefits for athletes who sustained life-altering neurological injuries during their time on the field.

Cuthbert explains his passion with the following, *"Former players gave everything to the game; I refuse to let the settlement's barriers deny them fair care and compensation."*

For former **NFL** athletes suffering from neurological disorders, the path to qualify for and obtain financial support is fraught with obstacles. Players must first undergo a rigorous medical evaluation, often by league-approved doctors, to confirm the presence and severity of brain injuries. The settlement agreement categorizes neurological disorders into five groups, and only those who meet strict criteria can apply for benefits. The process demands extensive documentation, including medical histories, neuropsychological assessments, and proof of injury sustained during **NFL** play.

Once eligibility is determined, athletes must navigate a complex web of administrative requirements. Applications for funds—such as the **NFL** concussion settlement—are frequently delayed by bureaucratic red tape and stringent review standards. The high cost of neurological treatment means that any delay, denial, or misclassification can have severe consequences for players and their families, leaving many without the assistance they need for essential medical care.

Cuthbert voices concerns with the following *"These athletes gave their bodies and futures to the game. Yet the **NFL** concussion settlement has created unnecessary barriers that deny them timely justice. The way the settlement administration delays and devalues claims is unacceptable. I'm committed to exposing these practices, demanding accountability, and fighting to ensure players receive the care, compensation, and the respect they rightfully deserve."*

Throughout his advocacy, **Byron Cuthbert** has faced formidable legal battles on behalf of his clients. He has challenged settlement administrators program in court, contesting unfair denials and fighting for reforms that would make access more equitable. His outspoken stance has led to criticism from certain judicial and administrative figures, who have sometimes resisted the transparency and accountability he demands. **Cuthbert's** efforts have exposed flaws in the system—such as burdensome qualification processes, inconsistent rulings, and a lack of empathy for injured players—drawing attention from both legal and public spheres.



Plaintiffs represented by **Byron Cuthbert & Associates, LLC** ("BCA") announced they have filed a Reply in Support of their Motion for Relief before **Judge Anita B. Brody** in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, seeking enforcement of the **NFL** Concussion Settlement under Article XXVII. The reply details alleged systemic misconduct by the Claims Administrator and associated actors, including discriminatory treatment of claimants and their counsel, unlawful *"training"* that heightens standards beyond the Settlement, and chronic violations of mandatory processing deadlines.

"Retired players were promised a fair, timely, and race-neutral process. Our filing shows that promise has been broken," said **Cuthbert**. *"We're asking the Court to enforce the Settlement as written, protect players' rights, and restore integrity to the program."*

Cuthbert's work is critically important because it extends far beyond the courtroom—it provides hope and tangible assistance to former **NFL** athletes and their loved ones. By helping players access programs like the **NFL** concussion settlement, he ensures that those suffering from CTE and related disorders are not left behind. His advocacy brings attention to the broader issues of athlete welfare and the urgent need for reform, making a lasting impact on the lives of those whose sacrifices on the field have too often been overlooked.

BLANK FAMILY FOUNDATION COMMITS $60 MIL TO SUPPORT HBCU'S

(con't from cover)

- An HBCU graduate working full-time can expect to earn $1M+ in additional income over the course of their career.
- HBCUs outperform all other institutions in moving students from the lowest 40% of household income to the top 60%.
- Atlanta's HBCUs contribute $1 billion in annual economic impact to the region.

HBCU PRESIDENTS ON THE IMPACT OF SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING

▪ Dr. F. DuBois Bowman, President, Morehouse College

"This monumental investment will empower our students to remain focused on their academic studies and ensure that their talent, ambition, hard work, and integrity, not financial hardship, will determine their futures."

▪ Rosalind "Roz" Brewer, Interim President, Spelman College

*"This investment affirms that every **Spelman** scholar deserves access to a world-class education. It expands our ability to bridge financial gaps and support students through to graduation."*

▪ Dr. George T. French Jr., President, Clark Atlanta University

*"This transformative gift empowers **Clark Atlanta** students to succeed and lead globally. It provides the critical resources they need to graduate and prepare for leadership in the global marketplace."*

▪ Dr. Kevin E. James, President, Morris Brown College

*"The **Blank Foundation's** commitment provides critical support for **Morris Brown** students in their educational journeys. It removes economic barriers that have historically stood in the way of achieving their aspirations."*

ABOUT THE ARTHUR M. BLANK FAMILY FOUNDATION

The **Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation** is a philanthropy founded to help transform lives and communities by uniting people across differences to find common cause. Started in 1995 by **Arthur M. Blank**, co-founder of The **Home Depot**, the foundation has granted more than $1.5 billion to charitable causes. Our collective giving areas are Atlanta's Westside, Democracy, Environment, Mental Health and Well-Being, and Youth Development. Across these areas, we take on tough challenges by uniting the courage and compassion of our communities so we can all thrive together. In addition to the priority areas of giving, the foundation oversees a large portfolio of grants including support of essential Atlanta nonprofit institutions, such as **Children's Healthcare of Atlanta** and **Shepherd Center**, and enduring founder-led initiatives, such as veterans and the military and stuttering, among others. The foundation will also continue to guide the six associate-led giving committees operating across the Blank Family of Businesses. For more information, please visit www.blankfoundation.org.

NATION'S OLDEST BLACK FRATERNITY OPENS LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE AT CORNELL U

The first Black Greek organization in the nation is celebrating a new milestone in its illustrious history.

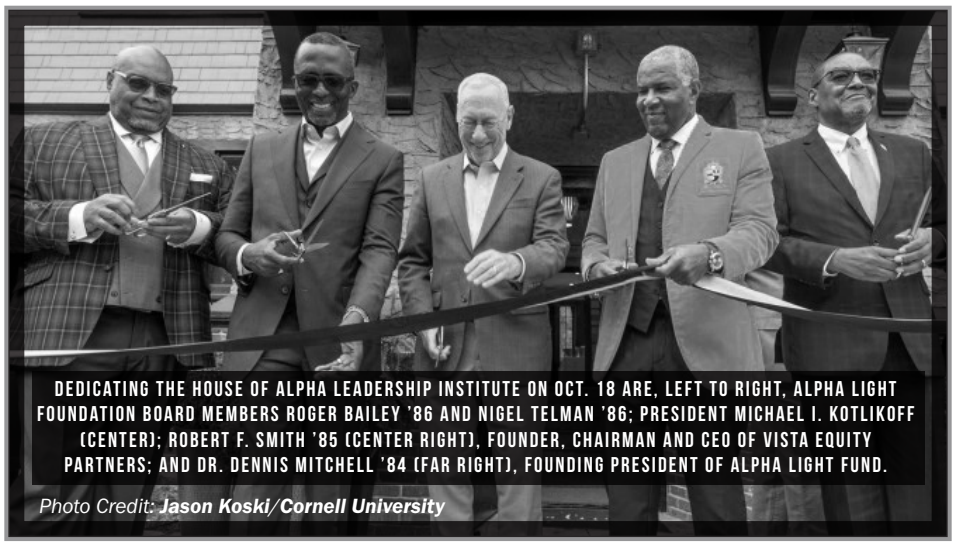
Alumni brothers of **Alpha Phi Alpha's** Alpha chapter, founded at **Cornell** in 1906, unveiled a new leadership institute and student residence, inspired by the fraternity's founding principles and honoring its 119-year legacy at **Cornell**.

A crowd of alumni fraternity brothers and the *Alpha Light Fund*, a social impact nonprofit they lead, on Oct. 18 dedicated the **House of Alpha Leadership Institute** at 105 Westbourne Lane, in Ithaca's Cornell Heights Historic District. The institute welcomes student residents from all backgrounds who are committed to leadership, justice and equity, regardless of fraternity affiliation.

President **Michael I. Kotlikoff** also spoke at the event, which alumni brothers of the Alpha chapter traveled from all over the country to attend.

The fraternity, open to all races, is the largest predominantly Black fraternity in the country. Its alumni include the **Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.**, **W.E.B. Dubois**, **Duke Ellington** and **Thurgood Marshall**, as well as **Robert F. Smith '85**, founder, chairman and CEO of **Vista Equity Partners**, who purchased the building in 2023 for $1.5 million. He donated the property to *Alpha Light Fund* and funded its renovations with an additional $9 million donation.

At the event, **Smith** spoke about how he found a community at the fraternity when he arrived at **Cornell** as a freshman, far from his home in Denver. "*These brothers welcomed me, in so many ways, to a new reality of opportunity, and that's what the **Alpha Phi Alpha**, Alpha chapter, is all about.*" The event also launched a $20-million



DEDICATING THE HOUSE OF ALPHA LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE ON OCT. 18 ARE, LEFT TO RIGHT, ALPHA LIGHT FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS ROGER BAILEY '86 AND NIGEL TELMAN '86; PRESIDENT MICHAEL I. KOTLIKOFF (CENTER); ROBERT F. SMITH '85 (CENTER RIGHT), FOUNDER, CHAIRMAN AND CEO OF VISTA EQUITY PARTNERS; AND DR. DENNIS MITCHELL '84 (FAR RIGHT), FOUNDING PRESIDENT OF ALPHA LIGHT FUND.

*Photo Credit: **Jason Koski/Cornell University***

fundraising campaign to support programming at the institute, said **Dr. Dennis Mitchell '84**, founding president of *Alpha Light Fund* and a professor of dental medicine at **Columbia University**. *"We're here to celebrate a vision of empowered leadership and active community building,"* **Mitchell** said. *"It's a vision rooted in cultural legacy, in collaboration and in sustainable impact."* Describing the institute, **Mitchell** said, *"This is a space built for growth, grounded in intention and open to all."*

Mitchell opened the celebration with a short history of the Alpha chapter. In the early 1900s, **Cornell** was one of the few major universities that welcomed Black students. But social segregation of the time prohibited them from living in campus housing. Instead, Black students lodged with local Black families. Many worked as cooks, janitors and waiters at fraternity houses that would not admit them, **Mitchell** said, where they witnessed the support and academic and social success that living in community could bring.

So they formed a literary society that became **Alpha Phi Alpha**, in 1906. *"They created something new. Out of exclusion, they built belonging. Out of invisibility, they built visibility,"* **Mitchell** said. *"... There's a reason that that spark is lit right here at **Cornell University** and not anywhere else, and more than a century later, that spark continues to burn."*

Mitchell and **Kotlikoff** noted that **Cornell** has a foundational commitment to equality and access, established with a then-radical vision of being an institution where any person could find instruction in any study. *"Over the years, it's a commitment that's been questioned and tested many times,"* **Kotlikoff** said. *"Those founding values continue to guide us and ensure that **Cornell** remains committed to building a more just and equitable society through the education of the next generation of scholars and leaders. **Alpha Phi Alpha's** founding at **Cornell** in 1906 is a critical part of that history, and its legacy is part of our identity today."*

Christian Flournoy '27, a human biology, health and society major on a pre-med track in the College of Human Ecology, said the institute represents an enormous opportunity. *"It's really been great to see the amount of impact and desire people have wanted to put into this house and to see it come to fruition,"* said **Flournoy**, who is also executive vice president of the Student Assembly, a member of **Cornell's** sprint football team and aims to become an orthopedic surgeon. And being surrounded by so many brothers of older generations was *"uplifting,"* he said. *"So many people are here to support and celebrate this house."* Attendees included ***New York State Assemblyperson Anna Kelles** (D-125th District) and **Ryan Lombardi, Cornell** vice president for student and campus life.* The 9,000 square-foot house was built in 1927 and was formerly owned by the ***Tau Kappa Epsilon** fraternity. The institute, **Smith** said, demonstrates "... that together, we can accomplish great things."*

"And I look forward to this next generation using these investments that this current generation is putting in you to change and reshape the world so it fits all that you are capable of, and America becomes the vision of what it should be, through your work ... ." He closed his remarks with a well-practiced call and response, saying *"One Nine,"* and the crowd responded with a rousing, *"Oh-six."*

*Source: **Cornell University***

JOHNSON INSTITUTE WELCOMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The **MARSHA P. JOHNSON INSTITUTE** (**MPJI**), the nation's leading organization dedicated to protecting and defending the human rights of BLACK transgender people, announces a historic leadership transition. Founder and Executive Director **Elle Moxley** passes leadership to longtime movement leader **Chastity Bowick**, advancing **MPJI** into a new phase of power-building and justice.

Since its founding in 2019, **MPJI** has protected BLACK trans lives through direct relief, advocacy, community-building, and cultural programming. **Elle Moxley's** vision and radical leadership gave life to an institute rooted in resistance, joy, and unapologetic love for Black trans people. **Chastity Bowick** now steps into this lineage of leadership, carrying **Elle's** legacy forward while advancing **MPJI** into its next phase of power-building, abolition, and self-determination. Together, their legacies form the bridge into the next chapter of **MPJI**, honoring the foundation that was laid while building a freer future for BLACK trans people.

*"The **Marsha P. Johnson Institute** was never mine alone; it has always belonged to the community. **Marsha** inspired this institute through her unapologetic fight for freedom and her human rights, and I carried that legacy forward by building an organization rooted in those same values,"* **Elle Moxley**, Founder and outgoing Executive Director of **MPJI**, said. *"This transition is a revolutionary act, moving from foundation-building to power-building, from survival to freedom and joy. **MPJI** will continue to rise in resistance and joy under **Chastity's** leadership. After years of building our foundation, we are passing the brick to a new generation of leadership to accelerate our fight for the dignity and future of BLACK trans people."*

This leadership transition signals the next phase in the fight for BLACK trans liberation.

THE Marsha P. Johnson INSTITUTE

By intentionally cultivating new leadership, **MPJI** ensures that its mission grows stronger, deeper, and more determined in the face of escalating attacks on transgender people nationwide.

"Marsha lit the path, and Elle carried that fire by building an institute rooted in truth, survival, and joy. I step into this role not to replace that legacy, but to carry it forward as part of one continuous story," says **Chastity Bowick**, incoming Executive Director of **MPJI**. *"My vision is unity in community, breaking down the walls that divide us and standing stronger together, because unity is survival and unity is power. To the extremists and lawmakers who legislate against our humanity: we are still here, our voices will not be silenced, and we are not going anywhere. Together, we will honor the foundation and build higher."*

MPJI seeks to eradicate systemic, community, and physical violence that silences our community from actualizing freedom, joy, and safety. In part, this mission is addressed through locating culturally competent resources for basic necessities like housing, food security, legal and financial support, health/wellness, employment, social support, and more. Learn more at marshap.org.

OCTOBER IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among American women, as well as among Black women. Although breast cancer is the most common cancer, it remains the second leading cause of cancer-related death among women, behind cancer of the lungs.

Very disturbing disparities exist between Black women and white women when it comes to breast cancer, which we detail in this survival guide.



WHAT IS BREAST CANCER?

Breast cancer is a malignant growth or tumor that frequently begins to manifest in the milk ducts or lobules of either breast. Breast cancer can be divided into two groups: invasive and non-invasive cancers. Non-invasive breast cancers are also called *"carcinoma in situ"* and are generally confined to the duct areas without affecting the surrounding tissue.

Non-invasive breast cancers can be subcategorized as *"ductal carcinoma in situ"* (DCIS) and *"lobular carcinoma in situ"* (LCIS). LCIS is actually not considered cancer, per se. Rather, it is seen as a warning sign that can potentially lead to invasive cancer when undetected. Invasive breast cancers may develop in the lobules or ducts but then spread into surrounding breast tissue, and can often further metastasize to the lungs, brain, liver, bones, and other major organs.

Approximately 80 percent of invasive breast cancers fall into the category of invasive ductal carcinoma.

STAGES OF BREAST CANCER

- **Stage 0**. Breast cancer is known as carcinoma in situ, the most common being DCIS, as described above.
- **Stage 1**. Breast cancer signifies early invasive cancer in which the tumor has not spread beyond the breast tissue and is no more than ¾ of an inch in diameter.
- **Stage 2.** Breast cancer involves a tumor between ¾ of an inch and 2 inches in diameter, with some involvement of the local lymph nodes under the arm.
- **Stage 3**. Breast cancer can involve a combination of various factors, including a larger tumor mass, involvement of lymph nodes behind the breast bone, tumor spread into the chest wall or skin of the breast, or under or above the collarbone. Stage 3 also may manifest as inflammatory breast cancer, a rare form of breast cancer wherein the breast becomes red and swollen due to the blockage of lymph vessels in the breast tissue and skin.
- **Stage 4**. Breast cancer involves the spreading of the disease to other parts of the body and distant organs, a process often referred to as metastasis.

SCREENING

Breast self-exam (BSE) is an important part of self-screening for women of all ages, although studies show that the percentage of women who practice regular monthly BSE is relatively low.

Mammograms are a very crucial aspect of breast cancer screening and are still considered the best method of early detection. Starting at the age of 40, annual mammograms are recommended for all women, as well as an annual clinical breast exam by a qualified medical professional. MRIs of the breast are also utilized for special magnification views, yet mammograms remain the gold standard for early detection.

TREATMENT

Breast cancer is generally treated with a combination of chemotherapy, hormonal therapy, radiation, and surgery.

Chemotherapy and hormonal treatments are systemic therapies that target cancer cells that have traveled to areas of the body beyond the breast. Surgery and radiation are localized treatments focusing specifically on the breast tissue itself. Breast cancer surgeries may be *"breast-conserving,"* wherein *"lumpectomies"* and other localized surgeries endeavor to conserve as much viable non-cancerous breast tissue as possible. Mastectomies can involve the removal of a portion of the breast tissue and local lymph nodes, as well as radical surgery that encompasses the entire breast and portions of the chest wall, when necessary.

MALE BREAST CANCER

Only one percent of all breast cancer cases occur in males, and usually between the ages of 60 and 70.

Due to the fact that men have little breast tissue in comparison to women and are often diagnosed with cancer much later in the disease process, male breast cancer frequently involves the chest wall and other surrounding tissue. Men are generally unaware that they are susceptible to breast cancer and thus will ignore the symptoms until the disease has progressed significantly.

BREAST CANCER AND BLACK WOMEN: DISTURBING STATISTICS

Although Black women have a lower incidence of breast cancer than their white counterparts, they actually have a higher risk of death from breast cancer, a statistic that scientists are still endeavoring to fully understand.

Some studies have indicated that breast cancers grow more rapidly in Black women and are less responsive to hormone-based therapies. Other studies have also demonstrated that Black women tend to be diagnosed at later stages of the disease than white women, and various factors have been considered to explain this racial difference in diagnosis, including the fact that Black women undergo fewer mammograms.

According to an article on the website of the **Black Women's Health Imperative**, both insured Black women and uninsured white women wait twice as long to receive *"a definitive breast cancer diagnosis"* than white women who are insured, and Black women *"waited twice as long as white patients to begin treatment after breast cancer diagnosis."*

Additionally, a study by the **American Journal of Public Health** found that Black women are less likely to receive appropriate cancer treatment, a conclusion that calls for greater advocacy and racial parity in screening, diagnosis and treatment. This is underscored by the fact that the five-year survival rate from breast cancer among Black women is 69 percent, whereas the five-year survival rate for white women is 84 percent, another disturbing racial differential.

BREAST CANCER: ACTION IS STILL NEEDED

Breast cancer is still a very serious public health issue for American women, and racial disparities regarding screening, diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer have a significant negative impact on Black women and are indeed a cause for alarm, action and advocacy.

Breast self-exam, annual mammograms, and annual clinical breast exams are all important aspects of early detection that all women should undertake and advocate for on their own behalf.

NEW YORK TREND

Owner/Publisher
Executive Editor
Editor-In-Chief
Dr. Teresa Taylor Williams

Assistant to Publisher, Administrative
Zoie Williams

International Correspondent
Ann Brown

Travel Editor
Jim Weaver

Contributing Editor
Justin Williams

Circulation Manager
Robert L. Taylor

Online Editorial Director
Jessica R. Doughty

Art Director
Jessica R. Doughty

Emeritus Office & Subscription Manager
Sophie Taylor

Social Media
Zoie A. Williams

Writers
Ezra Mechaber
Jim Weaver
Anastasia Williams
Justin Williams
Teresa Williams

NewYork**Trend**NYC
Catalogued and displayed in the U.S. Library Congress.

New York Trend welcomes letters to the editor.

14 Bond Street, Suite 176, Great Neck, N.Y. 11021
Tel (347) 551-1545 Fax (516) 626-3966 ISSN#1083-58

Email: NYTrend@aol.com
Website: www.newyorktrendnyc.com
"Like Us" on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/newyorktrendnyc

New York Trend is published by TTW Associated, Inc. which holds copyright to the content of this publication. ISSN: 1083-5822
Mail inquiries to: New York Trend NYC, 14 Bond Street, Suite 176, Great Neck, N.Y. 11021.
New York Trend NYC is not responsible for the content of letters to the editor or opinions expressed by individual writers.
New York Trend reserves the right to edit all letters to the editor. Photographs and manuscripts will not be returned.

VOLUME 35 ISSUE 22

Due to federal and state regulations concerning the operations of non-essential businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic and deliveries, please be advised that regularly scheduled deliveries may be delayed or adjusted to meet these regulations at the discretion of the distributors and publisher requires to adhere to the mandates. @2020

UNCOMMON HEIGHT AWARD GALA *CELEBRATING* LEADERSHIP

Recently, the **National Council of Negro Women** (**NCNW**) announced the ***Uncommon Height Award Gala*** will return on Dec. 6 for the 19th year, marking 90 years of dedication to leading, advocating for, and empowering women of African descent, their families and communities. The biennial event will take place at the Marriott Marquis in Washington, D.C., with a new name, U***ncommon Height Honors Gala***, and structure.

*"This year marks our 90th Anniversary of the founding of **NCNW**, which makes this 19th biennial **Uncommon Height** event special. The vision of our Founder, **Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune**, is undisputedly relevant now,"* said **NCNW** President & CEO **Shavon Arline-Bradley**. *"**Dr. Dorothy Irene Height**, for whom the event is named, carried out the vision of **Dr. Bethune** and was dedicated to acknowledging and lifting others who have made a difference in our world as to how we got to this great event. We are looking forward to a wonderful celebration that should not be missed."*

The second gala, under the leadership of **NCNW** Chair **Dr. A. Lois Keith** and **Rev. Arline-Bradley**, named **Dr. Johnnetta Betsch Cole** and **Carla Harris** as co-chairs of this year's event, with **Toyota Motor Company of North America** returning as presenting sponsors. **Dr. Cole**, a renowned anthropologist and educator, served as the seventh board chair and national president of **NCNW**, and is responsible for the new governance structure based on her experience serving simultaneously as the chair of the board and president, and wanting to move the organization into the 21st century while championing intergenerational leadership to ensure the work continues. A corporate titan, **Harris** is the Senior Client Advisor at **Morgan Stanley**, having completed a 30-plus-year career as a Vice Chairman and Managing Director.

NCNW Board Chair, **Dr. A. Lois Keith**, said, *"We have two dynamic women who will be chairing the event this year. Celebrating our 90th Anniversary; we would not have it any other way. Their leadership, poise, and grace are second to none. Their dedication to the mission of **NCNW** and to the success of this event assures our guests that they will have an evening to remember as we pave the way for 10 years from now, marking our centennial celebration. **Dr. Cole** and **Carla** would have set a very high bar. We are excited for our new format, which allows us to honor the positive contributions of well-deserving recipients."*

Under the new event name, ***Uncommon Height Honors***, it remains the organization's signature fundraising event, with proceeds used to fund programs of critical concern known as *"Four for the Future"* – health, education, economics, and social justice. For the 19th installation, in addition to the *Crystal Stair Award*, the original award given to an individual who demonstrates a lifetime devoted to the protection of freedom and pursuit of excellence in career and personal dedication to humanity as did **Dr. Height**, five honoree categories were added:

- *Uncommon Journalist* will be presented to a Black journalist who is dedicated to reporting the facts to foster critical thinking and action for the betterment of Black women, their families and communities.
- *Uncommon Changemaker* will be presented to a changemaker under the age of 40.
- *Uncommon Athlete* will be presented to a Black woman athlete who has excelled to the top of her chosen sport.
- *The Alexis M. Herman Achievement in Public and Community Service Award* is named for **The Honorable Alexis Herman**, the first Black U.S. Secretary of Labor who served in the Clinton Administration and passed away earlier this year. This award will be presented to a Black public servant who is dedicated to the advancement of Black women, their families and communities.
- *The Charles L. Franklin Associate Award*, named for the late **Charles L. Franklin**, the husband of the late former S. Secretary of Labor *Alexis Herman*, will be awarded to a Black man who actively supports Black women and their causes.

The **NCNW** executive committee chooses honorees based on their positive and bold contributions, as well as their commitment to unity and self-reliance for Black women, their families, and communities. The honorees will be announced at a later date.

If you accepted or processed Discover credit cards between 2007–2023, you could be eligible to get a payment from a class action settlement.

****YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO A SETTLEMENT PAYMENT****

To receive a payment, file a claim by **May 18, 2026**.

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

A proposed class action settlement has been reached in three related lawsuits. The lawsuits allege that, beginning in 2007, Discover misclassified certain Discover-issued consumer credit cards as commercial credit cards, which in turn caused merchants and others to incur excessive interchange fees. The misclassification did not impact cardholders. Discover denies the claims in the lawsuits, and the Court has not decided who is right or wrong. Instead, the proposed settlement, if approved, will resolve the lawsuits and provide benefits to Settlement Class Members.

WHO IS INCLUDED?

The Settlement Class includes all End Merchants, Merchant Acquirers, and Payment Intermediaries involved in processing or accepting a Misclassified Card Transaction during the period from January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2023. To view the full Settlement Class definition, including defined terms and excluded entities, go to www.DiscoverMerchantSettlement.com.

WHAT CAN I GET?

To receive a settlement payment, with very limited exceptions, you will need to file a claim by **May 18, 2026** and/or provide additional information to the Settlement Administrator. Under the proposed settlement, Discover will make payments to eligible Settlement Class Members who submit valid claims. Discover has agreed to pay between $540 million and $1.225 billion plus interest in connection with this settlement. Your settlement payment amount will be calculated based on a variety of factors.

YOUR OTHER OPTIONS.

You can file a claim for a payment by **May 18, 2026** and/or provide additional information. Alternatively, you can exclude yourself from the settlement by opting out, in which case you will receive no payment under this settlement and retain any right you may have to sue Discover about the claims in these lawsuits or related to the Misclassified Card Transactions. If you do not exclude yourself, and the Court approves the settlement, you will be bound by the Court's orders and judgments and will release any claims against Discover in these lawsuits or related to the Misclassified Card Transactions. If you do not exclude yourself, you can object to or comment on any part of the settlement. The deadline to either exclude yourself or object to the settlement is **March 25, 2026**. Visit the website for information on how to exercise these options.

Submit your claim online:

Scan the QR code to file a claim online via your phone, computer, tablet, or other smart device.

Do you have questions or need additional information?

Visit Online: www.DiscoverMerchantSettlement.com

Email: info@DiscoverMerchantSettlement.com

Call: 888-655-3176

MICHELLE OBAMA'S BOOK RELEASE TO SUBJECT OF PODCAST LAUNCH

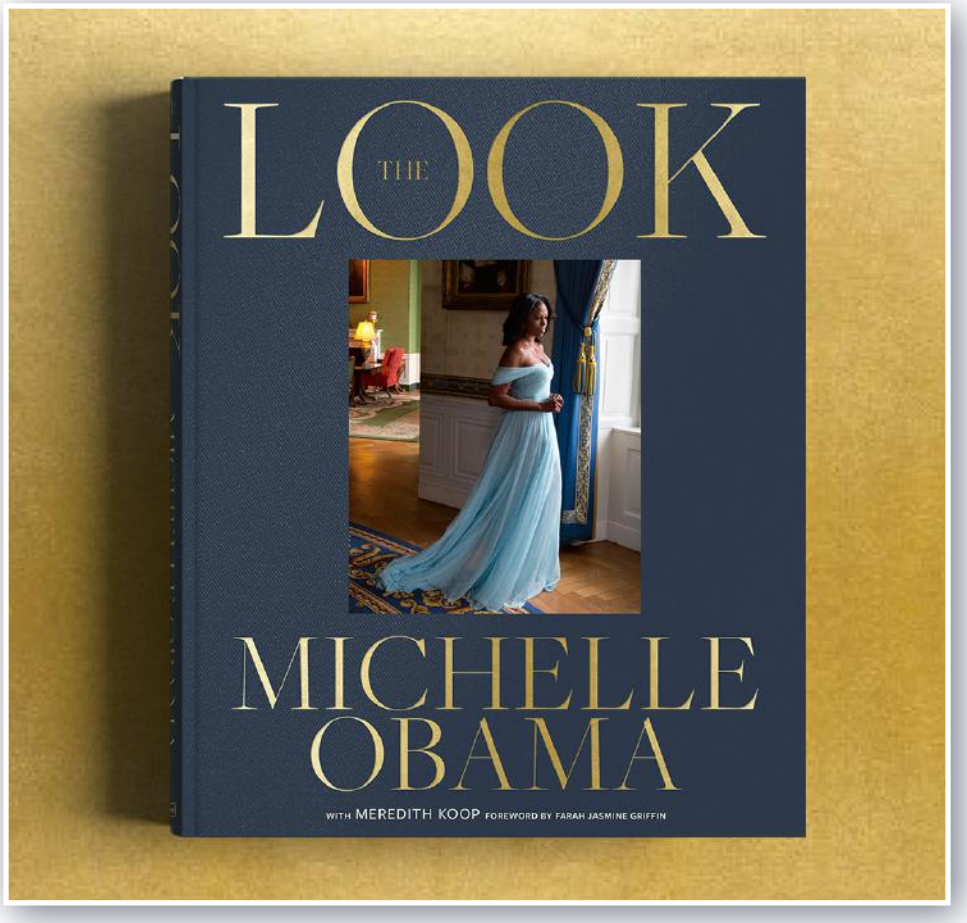
Higher Ground, the media company founded by **President Barack Obama** and **Michelle Obama**, has announced a special six-part limited companion series to its hit podcast ***IMO with Michelle Obama & Craig Robinson***. The new series is an extension of the former First Lady's forthcoming book, ***THE LOOK***, from **Crown Publishing Group**, on sale November 4, 2025.

Premiering weekly, beginning on November 5, ***IMO: The Look*** podcast takes a deeper look into **Michelle Obama's** journey as a defining force in style—both within and beyond the White House. Through candid, intimate conversations with the creative minds behind her hair, makeup, and wardrobe, along with fashion insiders and influential voices such as **Jane Fonda**, **Nina Garcia**, **Bethann Hardison**, **Elaine Welteroth** and **Jenna Lyons**, she reveals how she and her team transformed the scrutiny of her public image into a celebration of self-expression, inclusion, and impact. A companion to her book ***THE LOOK***, the series celebrates how her authenticity and legacy not only defined her approach to style but continues shaping the social and political conversation about who gets to be seen—and how. This series explores the importance of representation and inclusivity—particularly in a moment when many perspectives and cultures are at threat of being silenced or erased.

In two live podcast tapings, **Mrs. Obama** will be joined on stage in conversation by **Tracee Ellis Ross** on Wednesday, November 5, at 8 p.m. at Brooklyn Academy of Music and by **Wesley Morris** on Wednesday, November 12, at 7:30 pm at Sixth & I in Washington, DC. Fans were able to purchase tickets on Monday, October 20, at 1 p.m. EST via *michelleobamabooks.com*.

Mrs. Obama's forthcoming book, ***THE LOOK***, is a stunning journey through her style evolution, from the moment she entered the public eye during her husband's U.S. Senate campaign through her time as the first Black First Lady and to today as one of this country's most influential figures. Featuring the voices of **Meredith Koop**, **Mrs. Obama's** trusted stylist, as well as makeup artist **Carl Ray** and hairstylists **Yene Damtew** and **Njeri Radway**, ***THE LOOK*** brings readers behind the scenes not only to reveal how her most memorable looks came together but also to tell a powerful story about how we present ourselves.

Higher Ground's hit podcasts include ***IMO with Michelle Obama & Craig Robinson***, which features the former First Lady and her older brother giving their opinions and candid perspectives on the everyday questions shaping our lives, relationships, and world around us; ***The Wonder of Stevie***, a seven-episode series that covers **Stevie Wonder's** iconic legacy, featuring exclusive conversations with **Wonder** and a wide range of A-list fans; ***Fela Kuti: Fear No Man***, a twelve-episode **Audible Original** exploring the extraordinary story of Nigerian musician **Fela Kuti**, hosted by **Radiolab's Jad Abumrad**; ***Your Mama's Kitchen***, where award-winning journalist **Michele Norris** and her guests explore the



complexities of family life and how their earliest culinary experiences helped shape their personal and professional lives; ***Michelle Obama: The Light Podcast***, an **Audible Original** that features **Michelle Obama's** inspiring conversations with esteemed friends like **Ellen DeGeneres**, **Tyler Perry**, **Conan O'Brien**, and **Oprah Winfrey**; ***The Big Hit Show***, a series of audio documentaries hosted by **Alex Pappademas** focused on pieces of popular culture that have defined and changed our culture; ***Tell Them, I Am***, a collection of universal stories from Muslim voices; ***Renegades: Born in the USA***, a series of conversations between **President Barack Obama** and **Bruce Springsteen**; ***The Michelle Obama Podcast***; and ***The Sum of Us***, based on **Heather McGhee's** bestselling book.

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONUMENT DEDICATION

On Saturday, October 25, 2025, Fort Bend County will dedicate the **African American Heritage Monument + Park** at **Historic Bates Allen Park** in Kendleton, Texas. Rising 40 feet and situated on a 236-acre historic site, the monument is the tallest African American monument in the United States and one of the most culturally significant memorials of its kind in the world.

The **African American Heritage Monument + Park** honors the legacy of formerly enslaved families, celebrates generations of resilience, and creates a space where history, cultural pride, and economic empowerment intersect. The project was spearheaded by **Commissioner Dexter L. McCoy**, Fort Bend County Precinct 4, community stakeholders in partnership with the **African American Memorial Conservancy** and design visionary **Daimian Hines** of **Hines Architecture + Design.**

The project consists of two phases: Phase one, for which $10 million has already been invested, will deliver



a 3-story precast memorial with 95 faceted concrete panels that centers a verdant park dubbed *"Juneteenth Plaza."* This element also includes a Community Garden that will provide fresh produce to underserved communities and a reflective pond that will symbolize unity and connection. Phase two will deliver the **African American Learning Center** at Bates Allen Park that will acknowledge the hands that helped to build much of Fort Bend County.

"What sets this memorial apart is how design and history come together. The monument's scale, materials, and gathering spaces embody resilience and beauty, creating a place where visitors don't just see history, they feel it," **Hines** Principal, **Daimian Hines stated**.

The site on which **Monument + Park** sits carries much historical significance – as the location of the first African American settlement in Texas. In addition, **Benjamin Franklin Williams**, recognized as the first Black legislator in Texas, is buried in the **Newman Chapel Cemetery** on the site. *"The **Conservancy** was created to preserve history, uplift voices, and inspire communities. With this monument and park, we are standing on the shoulders of giants, planting seeds of education, pride, and empowerment that will grow for generations to come,"* stated **Lucy J. Bremond**, Founding Chairman, **African American Memorial Conservancy**.

*"The **African American Heritage Monument and Park** is more than a landmark—it is a living legacy and a testimony to the resilience and contributions of African Americans. I want every visitor to leave inspired—understanding the history that shaped us and envisioning the unity and progress we must continue to build together,"* said **Commissioner McCoy**.

PEPSI NATIONAL BATTLE OF BANDS EXPANDS

The **PEPSI NATIONAL BATTLE OF THE BANDS** (**NBOTB**) is officially expanding its footprint to South Florida, bringing its iconic celebration of HBCU excellence, music, and culture to **The Palm Beaches** during MLK Weekend 2026. The inaugural **Palm Beaches** edition will take place over the event weekend, January 15–18, 2026, with the main event set for Saturday, January 17, at Flagler Credit Union Stadium in Boca Raton, Florida. This expansion marks a dynamic new chapter in the 12-year history of **NBOTB**, one of the largest showcases of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in the nation. Since its inception, it has featured 29 different HBCU marching bands and awarded over $2.1 million in scholarships.

*"We're proud to bring the **Pepsi National Battle of the Bands** to a new audience in **The Palm Beaches**,"* said **Derek Webber**, CEO of Webber Marketing and Executive Producer of **NBOTB**. *"This expansion is a milestone moment in the event's legacy, allowing us to amplify the music, pride, and excellence of HBCUs on an even larger scale."*



2026 Participating Bands

This year's participating bands will perform facing East (Away Side) and West (Home Side) as follows:

Playing to the East Side *(Away)*:

- **Bethune-Cookman University** – ***Marching Wildcats*** (Daytona Beach, FL)
- **Florida Memorial University** – ***ROAR*** (Miami, FL)
- **North Carolina A&T State University** – ***Blue & Gold Marching Machine*** (Greensboro, NC)

Playing to the West Side (Home):

- **South Carolina State University** – ***Marching 101*** (Orangeburg, SC)
- **Southern University and A&M College** – ***Human Jukebox*** (Baton Rouge, LA)

*"**The National Battle of the Bands** is an incredible addition to our calendar of major events,"* said **George Linley**, Executive Director of the **Palm Beach County Sports Commission**. *"This event brings immense cultural and economic value, and we're thrilled to welcome HBCU fans and families to experience **The Palm Beaches**."*

Official Events & Fan Engagement

In addition to the signature band showcase, the event weekend will include a lineup of official activities and community engagement opportunities:

- **NBOTB Cares Initiative** – Thursday, January 15 | The Palm Beaches
- **HBCU College & Career Fair** – Friday, January 16, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. | Palm Beach State College Gym – Lake Worth Campus
- **Emerging Experience Entrepreneurship Conference** – Friday, January 16, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. | Palm Beach State College Public Safety Conference Center – Lake Worth Campus (PSD 108)
- **Fan Experience & Stroll-Off Competition** – Saturday, January 17, 12 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. | Flagler Credit Union Stadium – Boca Raton, FL - Featuring an arts fair, local and national talent, Greek Stroll Off competition, and more.

All official events are free and open to the public, with registration required for select activities.

"This is a true destination event that allows us to spotlight local culture, support small businesses, and welcome new visitors during a meaningful time of year," said **Emanuel J. Perry**, Executive Director of the **Palm Beach County Tourist Development Council**.



CAMPAIGN TO FOCUS ON GUM HEALTH

NATIONAL GUM CARE AWARENESS MONTH, was a time to raise awareness about the importance of gum health. **Jessie Trice Community Health System** (**JTCHS**) encouraged the community to take proactive steps to maintain healthy gums.

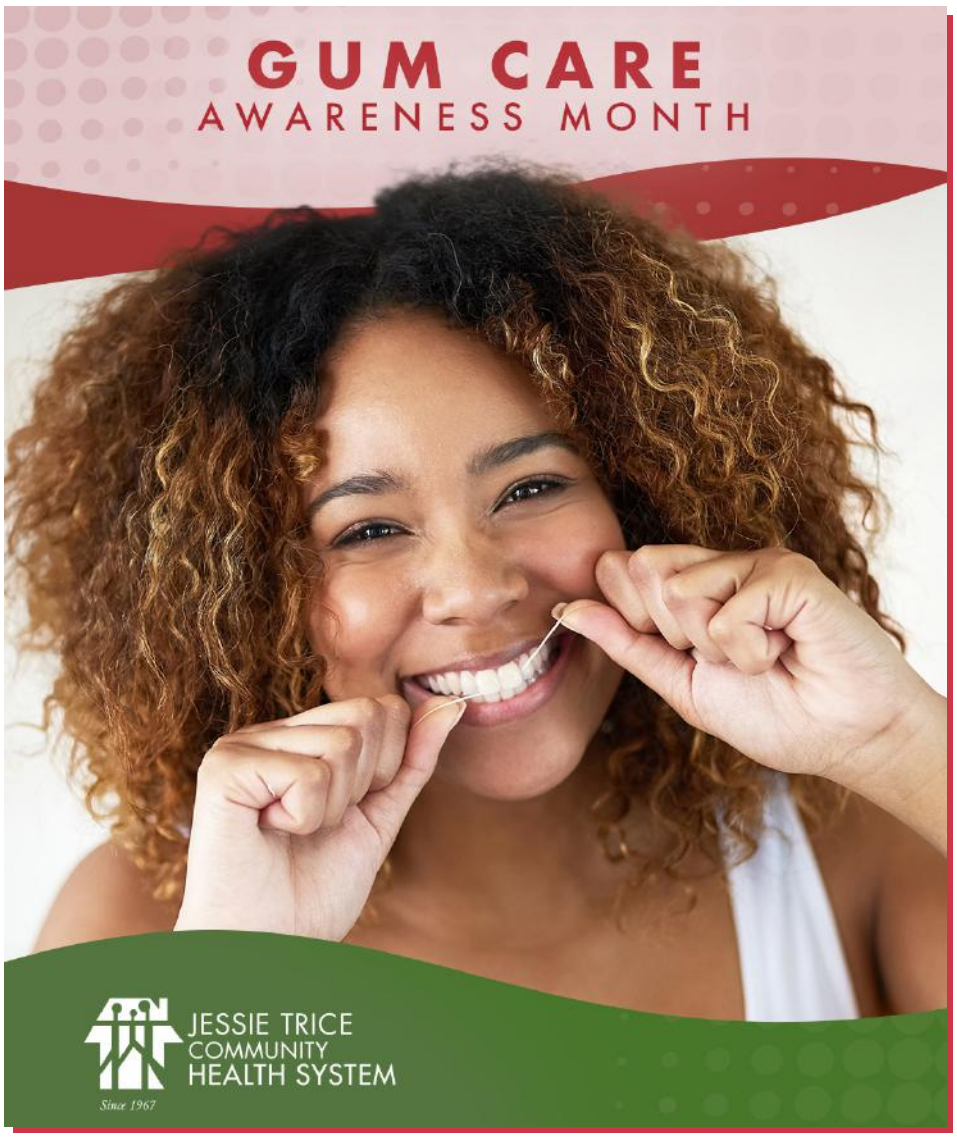
Gums are the soft tissue in the mouth that surrounds and protects the teeth and their roots. They act as a barrier, keeping bacteria away from the roots of the teeth and the underlaying bone. Gum disease is caused by plaque buildup along the gumline, which can harden into tartar and lead to inflammation, infection, and damage to the tissues that support the teeth. Gum disease is one of the leading causes of tooth loss. *"Gum disease can have serious effects if ignored or left untreated,"* said **Dr. Deborah George**, EVP/Chief Dental Officer at **JTCHS**.*"Knowing the warning signs, maintaing a good oral care routine and keeping up with regular dental exams makes all the difference."*

Here are some warning signs that may indicate unhealthy gums:

- Red or swollen gums
- Tender gums when brushing
- Bleeding gums
- Gums that have pulled away from the teeth
- Persistent bad brath or bad taste
- Changes in the way teeth fit together
- Changes in the fit of partial dentures

A consistent dental hygiene routine can make taking care of the gums easy. For more information about **JTCHS Dental Services** or to schedule a dental exam, please call 305-637-6400.

The **Jessie Trice Community Health System, Inc.** is one of Miami-Dade County's preeminent federally qualified community health care centers, governed by a remarkably dedicated Board of Directors (51% of which are users of the medical and dental services) and an incredibly talented, committed family of providers and staff. **JTCHS** knows and specializes in comprehensive health, offering a myriad of services to improve the health of the community. This includes: dentistry, family medicine, nutrition, behavioral health, transportation, pharmacy, healthy start, obstetric & gynecological care, school-based health, community health promotions, health & wellness center, pediatrics, and ancillary services.



COMMUNITY LEADER *CHAMPIONS* SICKLE CELL AWARENESS

In honor of *Sickle Cell Awareness Month*, **Black PR Wire's *Thrivin' in Color*** podcast welcomes a powerful voice in advocacy and community health, **Kemba Gosier**, president of the **Advancing Sickle Cell Project, Inc.** (**ASAP**). **Kemba** has dedicated her life to advancing awareness, education, and support for individuals and families affected by sickle cell disease. In this inspiring episode, she joins host **Camry Brown** to share her personal journey, the mission of **ASAP**, and the impact the organization is making across South Florida.



Kemba opens up about her experience as a young mother navigating her daughter's sickle cell diagnosis, a life-changing moment that pushed her toward advocacy and leadership. She also sheds light on some of the biggest misconceptions about sickle cell disease, the urgent need for improved medical education, and the importance of community support systems for families. *"**Kemba** is a mother who turned her family's experience into advocacy, and her honesty and strength shine through. It's one of those episodes that stays with you, our listeners won't want to miss it,"* said **Camry**.

Established in 2015, the **Advancing Sickle Cell Advocacy Project, Inc.** (**ASAP**) is a nonprofit organization with a mission to *"change the narrative"* surrounding the challenges of sickle cell disease (SCD). **ASAP** works to raise awareness, educate the community, and advocate on behalf of sickle cell warriors living with this debilitating condition. The organization serves as a bridge between the medical community and those directly impacted, ensuring that the voices of individuals and families are heard, represented, and supported. By speaking up for a disease often left in silence, **ASAP** continues to empower communities and stand as a strong voice for the voiceless.

Black PR Wire's *Thrivin' in Color* podcast celebrates the voices, stories, and experiences of people of color while fostering a sense of community and connection among listeners.

Thrivin' In Color is a podcast produced by **Black PR Wire**, featuring interviews with remarkable sistas and brothas from across the country who are doing extraordinary things in today's society. ***Thrivin' In Color*** takes us behind the scenes of their world, where we meet with them and pick up some golden nuggets for success. ***Thrivin' In Color*** podcast is available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and all of your favorite podcast services.

Black PR Wire is the nation's first and largest online Black newswire distribution company and is a powerful leader in effective news delivery services. With a comprehensive database and listing of over 1,200 Black (African American, Caribbean and Haitian) organizations and media, **Black PR Wire** posts and distributes print, audio, video, and creative news and information to Black media, influencers, faith-based groups and prominent community organizations throughout the U.S. and the Caribbean. Services can be purchased online anytime, anywhere 24/7; or by simply calling our newsroom at 1-877-BLACKPR. Have some news to share? Or want to know what's happening in your community? Then connect with **Black PR Wire**, like, share and visit us ***@BlackPRWire***, and make **Black PR Wire** your online source for Black News! For more information on **Black PR Wire** and ***Thrivin' in Color***, call 1-877-BLACKPR or visit the website at *blackprwire.com*.

NEW PRESIDENT OF BLACKS IN LAW ENFORCEMENT NAMED

The **NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF BLACK LAW ENFORCEMENT EXECUTIVES** (**NOBLE**) has installed **Chief Reneé Hall**, former chief of police for the **Dallas Police Department**, as its 48th national president.

Hall, who previously served the organization as its first vice president, says she will continue to focus on the organization's mission, which includes equity in the administration of justice.



Additionally, **Hall's** pillars will include restoring trust in law enforcement; strengthening leadership development; advancing partnerships; re-imagining justice through policy advocacy; reinforcing organization excellence and global influence; and wellness, resilience, and mental health for law officers. *"It is an incredible honor to serve as President of **NOBLE**, an organization that has long stood at the forefront of equity, justice, and leadership in law enforcement,"* said **Hall**. *"At this pivotal moment in our nation's history, I am committed to advancing innovative, community-centered strategies that build trust, promote accountability, and prepare the next generation of Black law enforcement leaders."*

Hall is a nationally recognized thought leader in 21st century policing. She is the founder and CEO of **TUU Enterprises, LLC**, a consultancy focused on modernizing law enforcement practices and strengthening community-police relations. **Hall** also serves as executive director of the **Community Solidarity and Safety Coalition**, a nonpartisan alliance addressing public safety challenges and domestic threats through cross-sector partnerships.

Hall brings decades of law enforcement experience, most notably as Chief of Police for the **Dallas Police Department**, where she led a 4,000-member, $500 million agency. She was the first woman to hold that role and became known for implementing innovative technology, data-driven strategies, officer wellness initiatives, and reforms aimed at transparency and community trust.

A **Harvard University** Advanced Leadership Initiative Fellow and Senior Fellow with the **Draper Richards Kaplan Foundation**, **Hall** is committed to social impact and community transformation. She holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from **Grambling State University** and two master's degrees from the **University of Detroit Mercy**. **Hall** is a graduate of the **FBI National Academy** and holds leadership roles in several professional and civic organizations, including the **International Association of Chiefs of Police**, the **International Women's Forum**, and **Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.**

NOBLE also congratulates the following members on their election to the 2025-2026 executive board:

◆ National First Vice President Mitchell R. Davis III, Chief of Police, Hazel Crest Police Department

◆ National Second Vice President Kevin Granville, Deputy Chief of Police, Lauderhill Police Department

◆ Immediate Past President **Jeffrey Glover**, Director, **Arizona Department of Public Safety**

◆ Treasurer **Estella J. Thomas**, Supervisor (Retired), **Transportation Security Administration**

◆ Financial Secretary **Tina Laguna**, Assistant Chief, **City of Alexandria Police Department**

◆ Recording Secretary **Judith Harrison**, Assistant Chief, **Metropolitan Transportation Authority Police Department**

◆ Parliamentarian **John Nedd**, Investigation & Intelligence, Director of Internal Affairs, **Delaware County Prison, George W. Hill Correctional Facility**

◆ Sergeant-At-Arms- **Stacy Lloyd**, Chief, **University of Massachusetts Police Department**

◆ Associate Member Representative **Michelle Tégé**, Detective 1st Grade (Retired), **New York City Police Department**

◆ Federal Assistant to the President **William B. Borden, III**, Assistant Inspector General for Investigations (Retired) Defense Intelligence Agency, **Office of the Inspector General** (**OIG**)

◆ Special Assistant to the President **Shon Barnes**, Chief of Police, **Seattle Police Department**

◆ Special Assistant to the President **Pam Smith**, Chief of Police, **Washington Metropolitan Police Department**

◆ Special Assistant to the President for the 50th Anniversary **Andre Anderson**, Chief of Police, **Ann Arbor Police Department**

◆ Special Assistant to the President for the 50th Anniversary **Yogananda Pittman**, Chief of Police, **University of California, Berkeley**

◆ Special Assistant to the President for International Affairs **Trebor Randle**, Special Agent in Charge (Retired), **Georgia Bureau of Investigation**

◆ Region One Vice President Quovella Maeweather, Public Safety Director/OEM Coordinator, Franklin Police Department

◆ Region Two Vice President **Easton McDonald**, City of Assistant Chief of Police (Retired), **Alexandria Police Department**

◆ Region Three Vice President **Robert Ford**, Special Agent in Charge (Retired), **Georgia Bureau of Investigation**

◆ Region Four Vice President **Dr. Tiffany Inskeep**, Director of Safety & Security, **Columbus Metropolitan Library**

◆ Region Five Vice President **Dr. E. Jacob Rieux**, PhD, Special Agent/ASSA, **LADPS&C Division of Probation and Parole**

◆ Region Six Vice President **Anisa McNack**, Lieutenant (Retired), **Bart Police Department**

◆ National Chaplain **Solomon Kinloch, Jr.**, Pastor, **Triumph Church**

◆ General Counsel to the National President **Sean Smoot**, Chairman, **Illinois Law Enforcement Training & Standards Bd**.

Since 1976, The **National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives** (**NOBLE**) has served as the conscience of law enforcement by being committed to justice by action. **NOBLE** represents over 4,600 members internationally, who are primarily African American chief executive officers of law enforcement agencies at federal, state, county, and municipal levels, other law enforcement administrators, and criminal justice practitioners.

106 & SPORTS SET TO *PREMIERE* NEW SERIES

BET has announced recently that its new original series ***106 & Sports***, a re-imagining of the legendary ***106 & Park*** brand, produced by **Fulwell Entertainment's SpringHill** and hosted by **Cam Newton** and **Ashley Nicole Moss**, premieres Wednesday, October 15, on **BET** with episodes streaming the next day on **BET+**. Marking the 25th anniversary of the legacy show and capturing the energy of the iconic brand, ***106 & Sports*** delivers a fresh countdown highlighting sports, music, and entertainment like never before. ***106 & Sports*** is the definitive home for culturally-driven sports commentary.



CAM NEWTON
Photo Credit: ***BET Media Group***

Hosted by **NFL** icon **Cam Newton** and **Ashley Nicole Moss**, the show is an unfiltered celebration where fandom, fun, and fearless opinions intersect. Each episode delivers a vibrant blend of authentic athlete insights and unfiltered fan energy, making it the most culturally resonant sports talk show on television. This is not just a show about sports, it's a show about the culture that makes the game.

"When I think about ***106 & Park****, I remember how it was a voice for the culture. It gave artists and fans a place to connect. Now, we're doing the same thing for sports.* ***106 & Sports*** *is where you'll get the real talk, the authentic insights, and the kind of conversations you won't find anywhere else. I'm excited to team up with* ***Ashley*** *and* ***BET*** *to build something special, something that honors that legacy while creating a new one,"* said **Cam Newton**.

"I know how much this iconic brand means to so many people, including myself. I want everyone to know how much of an honor it is to be part of this amazing culture, and my goal is to resonate that with every show. My hope is for people to feel a connection with ***106 & Sports*** *in the same way they did with* ***106 & Park****,"* said **Ashley Nicole Moss**.

Produced by **SpringHill**, the award-winning studio within **Fulwell Entertainment**, ***106 & Sports*** is executive produced by **LeBron James**, **Maverick Carter**, **Jamal Henderson**, and **Philip Byron**, with **Courtney Whitaker** serving as Co-Executive Producer. The series is executive-produced for **BET** by **Tiffany Lea Williams**.

"As sports and entertainment continue to intersect, ***106 & Sports*** *represents an exciting evolution of* ***BET's*** *legacy, reimagining the cultural heartbeat of* ***106 & Park*** *through the lens of sports,"* said **Tiffany Lea Williams**, Executive Vice President of Unscripted Programming and Development, **BET Media Group**. *"With Cam and Ashley at the helm, this will be a space where conversation feels like community, and where fans, athletes, and culture collide in every episode."*

The 10-episode run kicks off the first half of Season 1, dropping new episodes every Wednesday through December 17—then streaming the very next day on **BET+**, so fans never miss a moment.

The **BET Media Group**, a unit of **Paramount**, a **Skydance Corporation** (Nasdaq: PSKY), is the world's largest media company dedicated to entertaining, engaging, and empowering the Black community and championing Black culture. Connecting Black audiences through a portfolio of brands including **BET**, **BET+**, **BET Gospel**, **BET HER**, **BET International**, **BETJams**, **BET Soul**, **BET Studios**, and **VH1**, the **BET Media Group** is a thriving media ecosystem of leading interconnected platforms across cable TV, streaming, digital, studios, live events, and international. For more information about **BET**, visit *www.bet.com* and follow ***@BET*** on social platforms. For more **BET** news announcements, visit *betpressroom.com*.

Fulwell Entertainment is a global entertainment group that champions stories and moments at the intersection of sports, music, entertainment and technology. The company provides global capabilities in production and provides strategic and creative partnerships for some of the most well-respected and culture-shifting brands in the world.

Fulwell Entertainment's portfolio includes consumer brands **UNINTERRUPTED**, **SpringHill** and **The Shop**; production label **Bitachon365** and bespoke brand consultancy **Robot**. The entertainment group gives fans some of popular culture's biggest hits including, ***The Grammys***, ***The Kardashians***, ***The Shop***, ***Top Boy***, A***dele: One Night Only***, ***Rez Ball***, ***Starting 5***, ***Gavin and Stacey***, ***Sunderland 'Til I Die***, **Disney's** ***Encanto at the Hollywood Bowl*** and the **Olympics** closing ceremony handover from host city Paris to Los Angeles, as a prelude to the ***2028 Summer Olympics***.



ASHLEY NICOLE MOSS
Photo Credit: ***BET Media Group***

me too. LAUNCHES COUNCIL TO ADDRESS SEXUAL VIOLENCE CRISIS

Recently, **'me too.'** International co-founder **Tarana Burke** announced the launch of the **Disruptors Council**, bringing together **Academy Award** winner **Viola Davis**, **Congresswoman Ayanna Presley**, **New York Times** best-selling author and actress **Gabrielle Union** and other influential voices to drive the next decade of systemic transformation in how society prevents and responds to sexual violence.

The **Disruptors Council** represents a significant evolution in collective action against sexual violence, uniting diverse change-makers who understand that ending this global crisis requires challenging the systems, policies, and cultural norms that allow it to flourish. With 1 in 3 women experiencing gender-based violence during their lifetime, the council aims to continue and elevate the work of **'me too.'** International by shifting the narrative around sexual violence from being seen as an intractable problem to a solvable public health crisis.

"We're at a pivotal moment. Recent high-profile cases have once again made clear just how prevalent sexual violence still is," said **Tarana Burke**, co-founder of **'me too.' International**. *"The **Disruptors Council** represents what we've always believed: that real change happens when we work together to address the systems that allow sexual violence to persist, not just respond to its effects. Sexual violence is solvable when we bring this conversation into mainstream culture and treat prevention as a shared responsibility."*

Disruptors Council members include:

- **Ai-jen Poo** – Executive Director, **Caring Across Generations** + President, **National Domestic Workers Alliance**
- **Ayanna Pressley** – U.S. Representative of Massachusetts
- **Bevy Smith** – Media Personality, Author & Actress
- **Breanna Stewart** – Forward, **New York Liberty** (**WNBA**)
- **Cliff Albright** – Co-founder and Executive Director, **Black Voters Matter Fund**
- **Gabrielle Union** – Actress, producer, and **NYT** best-selling author
- **India Arie** – Singer and Artist
- **Jessie Woo** – TV Host, Actress, Singer, Creator
- **Kier Gaines** – Licensed Therapist and Professional Speaker
- **Marley Dias** – Activist, Author, Producer, Creator of ***#1000BlackGirlBooks***
- **Michelle Buteau** – Actress, producer and writer
- **Padma Lakshmi** – **Emmy**-nominated producer, television host, and a **New York Times** best-selling author
- **Samantha Barry** – Global Editorial Director + Editor-in-Chief, **Glamour**
- **Viola Davis** – Artist and activist

These council members will serve as public-facing champions who elevate messages through their personal platforms and drive thought leadership within their networks, bringing conversations about prevention and solutions into mainstream popular culture. By assembling influential change-makers into a unified council, **'me too.'** International is scaling its impact to address this urgent but solvable crisis affecting millions globally. *"I raise my hand as a survivor and the daughter of a survivor,"* said **Viola Davis**, artist and activist. *"I raise my hand to be seen and to break the silence and invisibility of sexual assault…to destroy the stigma, the shame and reclaim our worth. I'm proud to be a disruptor."*

"I speak up because change starts with raising our voices and standing for what's right," said **Gabrielle Union**, actress, producer, and **NYT** best-selling author. *"I disrupt by challenging the status quo in ways that create opportunity, understanding, and progress for everyone."*

"As a mother and survivor, I am compelled to improve how girls and women are treated in our society, and to eradicate sexual harassment and assault, and to make it easier – not only for others to speak out and be duly supported, but also for our communities to work together to end sexual violence," said **Padma Lakshmi**, **Emmy**-nominated TV host and **New York Times** best-selling author.

As **'me too.'** International approaches its 10th anniversary in 2027 and continues to expand internationally, the organization will work to reach new audiences and shift cultural conversations beyond traditional advocacy circles, leveraging the collective influence of the **Disruptors Council** to drive systemic change.

To learn more about the **Disruptors Council**, please visit *metoomvmt.org/disruptorscouncil*.

BLACK HARVEST FILM FESTIVAL *OFFERS* FULL FALL FESTIVAL LINEUP

The **Gene Siskel Film Center** of the **School of the Art Institute of Chicago** proudly announces the full lineup for the ***31st Annual Black Harvest Film Festival***, Chicago's annual showcase for Black cinema from across the diaspora. Spotlighting eight feature films, nine shorts programs, and more than 50 guests, this year's Festival will take place at the **Siskel Film Center** Friday, November 7, through Sunday, November 16, with support from presenting sponsor **Gilead Sciences**.

Throughout the Festival, audiences will enjoy exclusive screenings, thought-provoking dialogues, and celebratory receptions as they come together to honor more than three decades of the ***Black Harvest Film Festival***. From the Block returns this year, featuring short works from Chicago filmmakers—homegrown talent, Festival alumni, and first-time voices. A theme this year is homelands: films that trace memory, longing and return, reflecting how the idea of home reverberates across the diaspora. Among the highlights is ***BLKNWS: TERMS AND CONDITIONS***, a bold new theatrical release that journeys through the Black Atlantic—formally daring, expansive and visionary, a work destined to shape the canon. Curation for this year's Festival affirms cinema as a force that continues to transform community and culture.

"Black storytelling has always been a ceremony—calling forth what must be seen, felt and remembered," said **Black Harvest Film Festival** Curator **jada-amina**. *"When we gather in the dark before the big screen, a covenant forms—film and filmmaker, film and the faithful—each breathing life into the other. **Black Harvest** extends that lineage, reminding us that to see is sacred, to listen is to learn—and to keep the light even after the screens go dark."*

KEY FESTIVAL EVENTS:

O ***Opening Night***—Friday, November 7: **NBC Chicago** entertainment reporter **LeeAnn Trotter** will emcee, presiding over a showcase of vibrant short films. The Festival will present the **Richard** and **Ellen Sandor Family Black Harvest Film Festival** Prizes to **Black Harvest** filmmakers chosen by a panel of distinguished jury members—**Jheanelle Brown**, **David Fortune**, and **Darol Olu Kae**. This is the eighth year a $1,000 prize will be awarded to a short film, and the fifth year a $2,500 prize will honor a feature film. Each winning film will be shown during the Festival. Following the program, attendees are cordially invited to a reception in the lobby.

O ***MOVE YA BODY: THE BIRTH OF HOUSE:*** **Elegance Bratton's** electrifying chronicle of Chicago's house music celebrates the city's role in shaping a cultural revolution that reverberates across waters, carrying the ancestral memory that unites the African diaspora through sound, movement, and joy.

O ***PAW PAW & DAYJA***: A family comedy where a Bigfoot-obsessed 10-year-old and her grandfather rediscover wonder through loss and laughter.

O ***Closing Night***—Sunday, November 16: ***BLACK GIRL*** (1972, dir. **Ossie Davis**)—A tender coming-of-age portrait of a young dancer (**Peggy Pettitt**) torn between the weight of the world and her dreams, adapted from **J.e Franklin's** acclaimed play. Newly restored in 4K by the **UCLA Film & Television Archive** and **The Film Foundation**, this screening brings one of **Davis's** most personal works vividly back to the big screen. Funding provided by the **Hobson/Lucas Family Foundation**. Tickets include one free beer, wine, or non-alcoholic beverage.

O ***Special Guests***: The Festival proudly welcomes more than 50 filmmakers for insightful, compelling dialogues following Festival films, including:

- Chicago Premiere of ***BLKNWS: TERMS AND CONDITIONS*** with **Kahlil Joseph**: Visionary artist and filmmaker **Kahlil Joseph** (***Lemonade***) re-imagines his celebrated Venice Biennale work in ***BLKNWS***—a dazzling cinematic experience that defies categorization, exploring Black history, imagination, and media across centuries. Followed by an on-stage conversation with **Joseph** and the Visionary Award presentation.
- Chicago Premiere of ***THE INQUISITOR***: **Barbara Jordan's** extraordinary life of "firsts"—from Texas senator to congressional powerhouse—comes alive in this portrait narrated by **Alfre Woodard**. Includes Q&A with director **Angela Lynn Tucker**. Additionally, join Festival-goers from 7:00–8:15 p.m. on Thursday, November 13, for The Big Picture Reception, hosted by the **Black Harvest Community Council**. Admission is free with your ticket to the November 13 screenings of ***THE INQUISITOR*** or ***ALL ABOUT LOVE***.

For more than 50 years, the **Gene Siskel Film Center** has welcomed cinephiles and curious newcomers alike to experience a curated collection of the world's most compelling films. The **Siskel Film Center** is a nonprofit public program of the **School of the Art Institute of Chicago**.

Source: **Gene Siskel Film Center**

SMALL DONATIONS
MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE



help where it's needed most.

SupportDisasterRelief.org

ad COUNCIL