

GIVING BACK

# The Soul of Philanthropy

Reframed and Exhibited

*From a moving tribute  
toward a triumphant movement  
of conscious giving for social change*

[thesoulofphilanthropy.com](http://thesoulofphilanthropy.com)  
#philanthropyreframed  
#getyourgiveon



GIVING BACK

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**GALLERY GUIDE**



*Everybody can be great . . . because anybody can serve.  
You don't have to have a college degree to serve.  
You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve.  
You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.*

— Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Love. Give. Go. Do.



## **We Have Always Been Philanthropists**

### *Reframing, Redefining, Re-imagining Philanthropy*

No building bears their names. No boardroom displays their portraits. No foundation sustains their legacy. And yet, the philanthropists best known to me are the ones in my family, church and hometown. These are people who showed a profound love for humankind and taught me about giving. Freely sharing things of value to benefit others—the essence of philanthropy— these unassuming, everyday people had monumental influences on me and on the lives of many.

African American ancestors who have passed on and elders living today may seem unlikely philanthropists by conventional definitions, but their deeds amply prove otherwise. These way-makers exhibited an astonishing capacity for transcending circumstance to give thus earning their standing among other beacons of philanthropy. Calls for sacrifice, sometimes beyond reason, never diminished their bigheartedness or deep concern for generations to come.

Born enslaved, Harriet Tubman gave freedom. Robbed of education, Catherine Ferguson started a school. After shattering ceilings, Madam C.J. Walker opened doors. Forklift driver by trade, Matel Dawson lifted hopes. Retired from postal work, Thomas Cannon delivered assistance. Dealt hardships, Oseola McCarty granted scholarships. Grace and gratitude thread each of these stories, which are among the finest examples of philanthropy around.

The photography and stories shared in this exhibition are but a representative sample of the Black philanthropy that has shaped our communities and nation. In presenting illustrative stories about a select few, I venture to pay tribute to all African Americans whose sacrifices and gifts, whether modest or grand, honor past generations, inspire current generations and clear the way for posterity.

— Valaida Fullwood



A grayscale photograph of a hand reaching out, with a grid-like shadow cast over it, symbolizing philanthropy. The background is a light gray with a diagonal line separating a textured upper section from a smooth lower section.

**phi•lan•thro•py**

love of what it means to be human

heart

## Artists' Statement about the Exhibit

When envisioning “Giving Back: The Soul of Philanthropy Reframed and Exhibited,” we set out to repurpose content from *Giving Back: A Tribute to Generations of African American Philanthropists* and present it anew, rather than simply replicating the book on a museum wall. We published the book in 2011, and from that work provocative questions and fresh ideas have emerged. As a result, “The Soul of Philanthropy” is designed to cover new ground, to plumb beneath the surface of why and how people give and to spur generosity borne of the heart, hands, mind and soul, in concert. So while the book serves as a moving tribute, the exhibit and its programs are meant to compel us toward a triumphant movement of conscious giving for social change.

*Drawing with light* is both a literal and metaphorical description of photography. Our exhibition draws inspiration from that definition as well as from the root meaning of philanthropy: *love of what it means to be human*. Each a potent concept on its own, combined, these ideas have fueled the design and programming for our exhibition. This exhibit illuminates the human impulse to show compassion, to progress, to see fairness, to connect with others and to love. We have composed an experience where the images glow, the stories enlighten and the desire to give back is set afire. In reframing portraits of philanthropy, we want viewers to embrace and act on the fact that we each have the capacity to give more and wiser.

# We're Bringing *Giving Back*

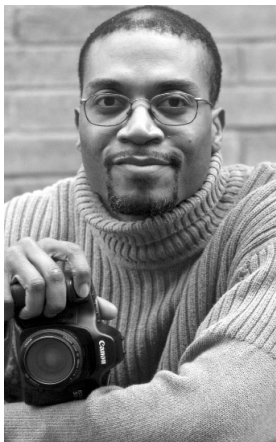
## About the Author and Photographer



### **Valaida Fullwood**

Described an *idea whisperer*, Valaida brings unbridled imagination and a gift for harnessing wild ideas to her work as a writer, public speaker and consultant. She is the award-winning author of *Giving Back: A Tribute to Generations of African American Philanthropists*, a 400-page hardcover book profiling stories of philanthropy among African Americans that was developed with photographer Charles Thomas. *Giving Back* was named one of the 10 Best Black Books of 2011 and received the prestigious 2012 McAdam Book Award, which celebrates “the most inspirational and useful new book for the nonprofit sector.” In 2014, Valaida was named Lake Distinguished Visitor at Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy. She is a founding member of New Generation of African American Philanthropists and blogs at [valaida.com](http://valaida.com).

mind







## **Charles W. Thomas Jr.**

Charles is an artist-photographer, educator and social entrepreneur. Formerly education director at The Light Factory Contemporary Museum of Photography and Film, Charles is currently the Charlotte program director for the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. He also is the owner of Sankofa Photography and the photographer of Giving Back. Collaborators on the book, Charles and Valaida Fullwood are featured in a TEDx Talk on philanthropy and have developed “The Soul of Philanthropy” exhibition. Charles currently serves on the boards of Charlotte Mecklenburg Library and East Mecklenburg High School Foundation and is a member of New Generation of African American Philanthropists. Charles is married to Micaila Milburn and is the proud father of three beautiful sons.

*When I give, I give myself*

— Walt Whitman

## Four Traditions of Philanthropy

	TRADITION	IMPULSE	PHILOSOPHY	LIMITS
	Philanthropy as <b>RELIEF</b>	Address immediate need	<i>Love thy neighbor</i>	Need is limitless
	Philanthropy as <b>IMPROVEMENT</b>	Maximize human potential	<i>Teach a man to fish</i>	What if the pond is empty and the rod is broken?
	Philanthropy as <b>SOCIAL REFORM</b>	Dismantle structures that perpetuate problems	<i>Change not charity</i>	Who decides what must be reformed?
	Philanthropy as <b>CIVIC ENGAGEMENT</b>	Build community	<i>Only connect</i>	Relationships may not lead to action

Adapted from "Four Traditions of Philanthropy" by Elizabeth Lynn and Susan Wisely

# Tell Me Something*Good*

## The Truth of the Matter

Too often, the field of philanthropy, media and others frame African Americans only on the demand side of philanthropy—Consumers, not donors. The source of problems, not a resource for solutions. In need, not influential. Beneficiaries, not benefactors.

- African Americans give 8.6 percent of their discretionary income to charity—more than any other racial group in America.
- Further, African Americans donate 25 percent more of their discretionary income than do Americans of European descent.
- Nearly two-thirds of African American households give to charity more formally, to the tune of \$11 billion each year.
- African immigrant giving overseas is estimated at \$11 billion.
- In 2015, the collective buying power of African Americans is estimated at \$1.1 trillion.

Sources: US Diaspora Giving Project (2014), The Nielsen Company (2013), W.K. Kellogg Foundation (2012) and *The Chronicle of Philanthropy* (2003)



## Relevant Resources

**Publication** | *Giving Back: A Tribute to Generations of African American Philanthropists*, by Valaida Fullwood and photography by Charles W. Thomas Jr.

**Programming** | The myriad of programs accompanying this exhibit aim to enlighten the public about philanthropy and to provide a springboard for education and dialogue about cultural heritage, philanthropy and civic leadership. The Center for Civic Reflection (CCR), a national leader in dialogue and reflection, is a programming partner of “The Soul of Philanthropy” exhibition. CCR uses readings, images and videos to engage people in deep, productive conversation about issues that impact their communities and work in the world—a practice called civic reflection. Civic reflection has been selected as an integral practice of this exhibit’s programming to enhance participant experiences and learning.

**civicreflection.org**

*I long to see a radical shift in philanthropy that will come to characterize the 21st century. That is, a reclaiming of the root meaning of philanthropy: love of what it means to be human.*

— Valaida Fullwood

"African Immigrant Innovations in the 21st Century Giving: A US Diaspora Giving Project," Mojubaolu Olufunke Okome, Ph.D. and Jackie Copeland Carson, Ph.D. (2014)

*Between the Silver Spoon and the Struggle: Reflections on the Intersection of Racism and Class Privilege*, by Nicole Lewis (2014)

*Engaging Diverse College Alumni: The Essential Guide to Fundraising*, by Marybeth Gasman and Nelson Bowman III (2013)

"The Next Generation of American Giving: The Charitable Habits of Generations Y, X, Boomers and Matures," Blackbaud, Inc. (2013)

"Cultures of Giving: Energizing and Expanding Philanthropy by and for Communities of Color," W.K. Kellogg Foundation (2012)

"Four Traditions of Philanthropy," by Elizabeth Lynn and Susan Wisely (2002)

*The Reckoning: What Blacks Owe Each Other*, by Randall Robinson (2002)

*Remaking America: How the Benevolent Traditions of Many Cultures Are Transforming Our National Life*, by James A. Joseph (1995)

*A Hand Up: Black Philanthropy and Self Help in America*, by Emmett Carson (1993)

"Last Will and Testament of Mary McLeod Bethune," first published in Ebony magazine (1955)

## Acknowledgments

**Giving Back: The Soul of Philanthropy Reframed and Exhibited** is made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through Museum Grants for African American History and Culture. The James B. Duke Memorial Library at Johnson C. Smith University, in partnership with author Valaida Fullwood, photographer Charles W. Thomas Jr. and New Generation of African American Philanthropists, will manage the exhibition's grant-funded national tour through June 2016.

**The Institute of Museum and Library Services** is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 35,000 museums. Its mission is to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement.

**Johnson C. Smith University**, founded April 7, 1867, is an independent urban university located in Charlotte. Under the leadership of Dr. Ronald L. Carter, the University continues to evolve into a 21st century higher education institution, building upon its long legacy of producing compassionate and forward-thinking leaders. Ranked 17th among HBCUs by U. S. News & World Report (2014), it is recognized as one of the best comprehensive colleges in the South.

**New Generation of African American Philanthropists** is a giving circle founded in 2006 that promotes philanthropy—the giving of time, talent and treasure—among African Americans in the Charlotte region, with the goal of enhancing the quality of life within our communities.

## Project Advisors

Kate Baillon van Rensburg, *Levine Museum of the New South*

Rubie Britt-Height, *The Mint Museum*

Cynthia Cole, *Johnson C. Smith University*

Dawn Fisher, *New Generation of African American Philanthropists*

Tom Hanchett, Ph.D., *Levine Museum of the New South*

Sharon Harrington, *Johnson C. Smith University*

Jerel Harvey, *New Generation of African American Philanthropists*

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Eric Law, *New Generation of African American Philanthropists*

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Ron Matthews, *Johnson C. Smith University*

Bernie Petit, *Arts & Science Council*

Dineo Seakamela, *Johnson C. Smith University*

Jerry Taliaferro, *Jerry Taliaferro Photography*

Douglas Welton, *Einstein's Legacy*

## New Generation of African American Philanthropists, 2015

Qiana Austin, Renee Bradford, Rashad Davis, Emma Allen, Dawn Fisher, Ed Franklin, Diatra Fullwood, Valaida Fullwood, Tiffany Graham, Jerel Harvey, Bernadette Johnson, Melandee Jones, Eric Law, Clarence Lyons, Kia Lyons, Patricia Martelly, Robyn Massey, Lisa Moore, Donna Murray, Steven Pearson, Cathy Peterson, Meka Sales, Jehan Shamsid-Deen, Charles W. Thomas Jr. and Keysha Walker.

## **Funders and Partners of the National Exhibit**

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## **The Johnson C. Smith University Project Team**

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Catherine McElvane, Cultural Educator

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Charles W. Thomas Jr., Project Consultant and Photographer

**Curatorial Team** – Jen Crickenberger, Valaida Fullwood and Charles W. Thomas Jr.

**Tech and Production** – Jamie Giampa, Gallery Design & Renovation • Jeremy Russell, Exhibit Fabricator • CR Rollyson, Interactive Designer • Bryan Stewart, Exhibit Fabricator • Jason Troxler, Animation Artist

# Rooted In Chicago

*We are each other's harvest, we are each other's business,  
we are each other's magnitude and bond.  
– Gwendolyn Brooks, Illinois Poet Laureate*

*Giving Back: The Soul of Philanthropy Reframed and Exhibited* national story is enhanced and augmented by a locally curated extension that relates the history of Chicago's charitable trajectory from mutual aid societies of the early 1900s to present family foundations and giving circles. The influence of Chicago-based professionals in today's corporate and foundation philanthropic institutions is also revealed.

Rooted In Chicago displays this compelling information in three segments:

- An illustrated timeline presented by era.
- Giving Black, celebrated through the presentation of vignettes highlighting 10 laudatory individuals who epitomize the spirit of giving and service, five of whom were nominated by the public.
- An interactive collective quilting experience with a series of quilting bees, where individuals can contribute a patch that conveys their representation of philanthropy.

Further exploration of the origins and evolution of philanthropy in Chicago's Black community can be explored at public community programs and events. Also, the Reinvestment Fund is an opportunity to join The Soul of Philanthropy Chicago vendors and partners by contributing to Black-led and Black-serving nonprofits.

# Chicago Giving: Legends and Legacies

## Chicago Icons and Legends

### COMMON

*"I think making a difference in the lives of others is my life's purpose."*



Photography by Brian Bowen Smith

Before he was Common, he was Common Sense, something he has plenty of that reflects his core beliefs, choices, causes and his art. His philanthropy is not something apart from his enterprise; it is intrinsic.

Lonnie Rashid Lynn (his government name) credits his parents with instilling in him the soul of a humanitarian and the heart of a champion. His father, Lonnie Lynn, was a professional basketball player and youth counselor. His mother is Dr. Mahalia Lynn Hines, a former school principal and education administrator who now helms the Common Ground Foundation. Dedication to youth development, sports, and education is in his DNA.

A multi-talented creative, Common has excelled in all his endeavors – rapper, actor, humanitarian, model, spokesperson, producer, entrepreneur and activist. He has authored two books – *One Day It Will All Make Sense* and *Let Love Have the Last Word*. The consistent thread in all these is the desire to uplift and inspire. His voice carries influence and intensity, and he exercises great care in how it is used, rapping only causes he believes in and only words of positivity and empowerment.

From his debut album, *Can I Borrow A Dollar?*, to his recent triumph, *A Beautiful Revolution – Parts I and II*, Common has blessed us with lyrical excellence and messages of hope and healing. His reward has been commercial success and worldwide recognition. He is the recipient of a host of prestigious honors – two Grammys, an Emmy, an Academy Award, a Golden

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Globe and many more. He has been heralded from the schoolhouse to the White House and consistently has defied the trend to glorify violence and sexism often associated with his genre. Common is the ultimate representative of authentic hip-hop culture.

Yet, for him, the greatest honor is to use his platform and resources to support causes that matter and to initiate activation that will catalyze sustainable change. Charities that Common supports include Artists for Peace and Justice, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, the United Negro College Fund, Keep A Child Alive, Save the Music Foundation, UNICEF, Jazz Foundation of America, Stand Up To Cancer, the Serena Williams Foundation and many more. That might be enough for some, but Lonnie Rashid Lynn is an overachiever when it comes to philanthropy. He has founded three major high-impact initiatives that underscore his determination to catalyze long-term systemic change:

- Common Ground Foundation – Empowers high school youth to create their future, and the Foundation helps them through character development, creative expression, financial literacy, nutrition, healthy living, social impact, technology and leadership.
- Imagine Justice – Dedicated to uplifting people currently or formerly incarcerated. It aims to bring humanity to those who society has marginalized by leveraging the power of art to inspire and spark change through the advancement of community-centered justice systems.
- Art In Motion – Perhaps the most ambitious of Common's causes is the innovative high school he opened in Chicago's South Shore community. Students are encouraged to embrace their unique identities by exploring their talents and gifts. It will, no doubt, be the gift that keeps on giving as it develops next-generation leaders who impact their peers, the community and the world.

Common's philosophy can best be summarized by a quote featured on the school's website – *“Be the kind of leader that creates other leaders.”*



# Chicago Giving: Legends and Legacies



*Photography by Tony Smith*

## DEBORAH HARRINGTON

*"If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together." – African proverb*

Deborah Harrington is a triple threat – she knows what needs to be done, she knows why it needs to be done, and she knows how to do it! Her remarkable career has been informed by her personal experiences with discrimination, as well as the collective experiences of African Americans with entrenched institutional racism.

Harrington's professional life has encompassed social advocacy and reform in both private and public sector settings. A seasoned activist and community organizer, her life's work has been dedicated to addressing social and economic disparities by tackling them at the root. Dedicated to the dismantling of old systems and the creation of new ones, her focus has been structural and policy changes that address the inequities and ever-widening economic gap in this country. Known as an innovative and principled strategist, Deborah is the person you want in the room when fearless advocacy for the marginalized is required and tough decisions have to be made. Make no mistake about it: when Deborah Harrington is in the room, she is not just at the table, she sets the table. The list of these critical engagements is long and includes: the African American Center on Global Politics and Human Rights, the Governor's Task Force on Human Services Reform, the Center for Impact Research, CHANGE Illinois and the recently established Illinois Black Advocacy Initiative.

Deborah Harrington's impact on philanthropy has been profound, as she has served on taskforces, commissions, study groups and literally has helped write the book on foundation standards and operations. She was a contributor to the GrantCraft Guide, "Grantmaking with a Racial Equity Lens." She is thoroughly versed on the intricacies of charitable

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giving and has played an integral role in re-defining the process of charitable giving and social policy at the local, state and federal levels. It was inevitable that her vast storehouse of knowledge would result in leadership roles at several Chicago foundations – President and CEO of the Eleanor Foundation, Vice President of the Board of the Donors Forum, and President and CEO of the Woods Fund of Illinois.

A key aspect of being a game changer is assuring that there is sufficient bench strength to achieve and sustain the victories that have been won. Still one more area of excellence and giving for Harrington has been the mentoring of others, particularly women and people of color, and the establishment of influential networks that can facilitate the spread of new ideas and the adoption of innovative practices. Deborah has been an advisor to Women of Color Leadership, Chicago Women in Philanthropy, Willie's Warriors – Chicago Foundation of Women, and the African American Legacy Fund at the Chicago Community Trust. Indeed, this very exhibition can be seen as one of her significant achievements as she co-founded its sponsor, Chicago African Americans in Philanthropy, with colleague Timothy Russell in 1998.

Deborah Harrington's exemplary leadership, tenacity and resolve is the gift that keeps on giving, and we are grateful for all she does to help create a just and equitable society for us all.

# Chicago Giving: Legends and Legacies



*Courtesy of Getty Images*

## JOHN H. JOHNSON

*"It's not what the dream is; it's what the dreamer does."*

On August 17, 2005, the Chicago Tribune headline read "Philanthropy lost a friend with the death of John H. Johnson," and truer words were never spoken. Indeed, the pioneering multi-millionaire business icon shared the love and set a legacy in motion that endures to this day.

John Johnson's business empire encompassed publishing, cosmetics, radio and television production and will always represent the pinnacle of entrepreneurial achievement. It has been said that he amassed a fortune of half a billion dollars, but he did much more than that. He showed Black success and achievement, to the world and to Black people, when no such stories were told in mainstream media. Johnson epitomized the title of his book, "Succeeding Against the Odds." He turned rejection into motivation repeatedly and devised innovative financing models and sales strategies that are still fodder for business school case studies.

Much has been written about Johnson launching his publishing empire with a \$500 loan his mother, Gertrude, secured by using her furniture as collateral. But only some know what he did after that. He should be credited with creating the first Go Fund Me campaign. At the time, Johnson was working at Supreme Life Insurance and had access to their mailing list. He used the money to mail out solicitations to their 20,000 policyholders, offering them a subscription to the magazine for a \$2 investment. This maneuver yielded \$6,000, which provided Johnson with the necessary seed money to launch his first magazine, Negro Digest. And it was on!

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Over four decades, John H Johnson launched at least seven magazines; bought three radio stations; started Ebony Fashion Fair, Fashion Fair Cosmetics, and Ebony-Jet Tours, a travel service; established a book division that published 42 books by Black authors; and went into television production with the Ebony/Jet Celebrity Showcase series. Through these vehicles and fueled by his passion for his people, he was the springboard for many others who benefitted from his mentorship and resources. Creating opportunity was his philanthropy because of how much he poured into emerging professionals in numerous fields. Still, he also practiced more traditional forms of giving.

Mr. Johnson provided invaluable support to civil rights organizations and political campaigns. He supported the United Negro College Fund, as well as individual educational institutions like Fisk, Howard and Atlanta University. He gave \$4 million to endow the School of Communications at Howard. The Ebony Fashion Fair, the brainchild of his equally astute wife, Eunice Johnson, raised \$58 million for African American churches, organizations and so much more.

One of his favored mentees and a media mogul in his own right, Tom Joyner, said, “He taught me how to ‘super serve’ a community, meaning to get a true understanding of what people want and need and then provide it for them and make their lives better.”

We will speak his name forever.

# Chicago Giving: Legends and Legacies



*Photography by Tony Smith*

## **WILBUR MILHOUSE III**

*"We are more than just engineers. We are advocates for improving the world around us."*

Wilbur Milhouse III is devoted to bringing more people into the "house." Indeed, even as Milhouse Engineering and Construction reverberates with the energy of exciting global projects, Milhouse is implementing programs to introduce youth to the joys and rewards of STEM – science, technology, engineering and math. He credits his love for and mastery of mathematics as central to his success.

Founded in 2001, Milhouse Engineering and Construction is a full-service engineering firm offering expertise in civil, mechanical, electrical and environmental engineering, construction, and program management. To date, the firm has completed over 300 projects. But that's not all! Giving is a core principle of the company. It extends beyond its collective corporate social responsibility to the commitment of every single team member. Last year, staff contributed over 2,000 service hours to cause-related activities.

In 2012, Wilbur and his wife, Dawn, formalized their extensive community outreach and engagement and established Milhouse Charities to advance educational and mentoring opportunities for minorities and underrepresented youth. They are committed to supporting educational and community service programs everywhere they have engineering and construction projects, in the United States and worldwide. Presently in Africa, their efforts include digging wells to building a power plant at the University of Nigeria, at Nsukka. This effort will create sufficient power for the school, the surrounding community, and, eventually, the entire country.

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Informed by his lived experiences, Milhouse credits his Uncle B and the father of a close childhood friend with giving him a sense of direction and the courage and fortitude to step into his purpose. Milhouse Charities does not stop at exposing students to careers in STEM; the organization enables their pursuits through mentorship and scholarships. Further, they offer a robust paid internship program that provides invaluable access and exposure to all aspects of the industry and the chance to work with top experts in their fields. The goal is to pave the way for these future leaders to build better places in the world.

Milhouse Engineering and Construction and Milhouse Charities are forces to be reckoned with, and their impact is felt in multiple charitable spaces. Beyond their primary focus on STEM and career development, they also support organizations working on affordable housing, food insecurity, cancer and youth development. Beneficiaries of their largesse include Polished Pebbles, Project Hood, Girls 4 Science, Special Olympics, Aero Star Aviation Institute, and the American Cancer Society.

The Milhouses like to pay it forward and say the give back is really to them, and they are energized by the results of their philanthropy and the joy of giving.

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## DERRICK ROSE

*"You've got one job, and that is to get better."*



*Courtesy of Derrick Rose*

Chicagoans have mad love for their native son, Derrick Rose. Even if he's playing for an opposing team, when he's introduced, the crowd goes wild, giving him a more boisterous welcome than anyone else on the floor. This Simeon Career Academy grad and former Chicago Bull loves his city right back.

Rose's basketball career has taken him from Englewood to the world, and he has excelled at every turn. He led his high school team to back-to-back state titles. He led the University of Memphis Tigers to an NCAA championship. Derrick was NBA Rookie of the Year in 2009, was a three-time NBA All-Star, and was the youngest MVP ever in the league. His awards and honors are many, but not enough is known about the other ways in which he has set the standard for excellence.

Indeed, the basketball court isn't the only place where Derrick has proven himself to be an MVP. He has quietly supported many causes that speak to his values – love for his neighborhood and the people who live there, education, sports and youth development. Like many professional basketball players, Rose's charity began with NBA Cares-style programs, visiting hospitals and schools and granting wishes for ailing children through programs like the Make A Wish Foundation and Kids Wish Network. Soon they took on a more personal tone, particularly in his beloved Englewood, where he did everything from paying for funerals for victims of gun violence to sponsoring prevention programs designed to steer youth away from gangs and drugs. He sponsored a holiday party for youth from the Chicago Housing Authority, restored the gym floor at Murray Park where he got his start, built a food pantry, and donated to agencies working with at-risk youth.

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Derrick sponsored The Safety Net Works late-night basketball league in Englewood. Designed for the 18- to 24-year-old demographic to keep young men in the gym and off the street, it included life skills training, mentoring and job readiness. The Englewood contingent had 10 teams with 10 players each, and the gyms became a safe haven for players and spectators. He also established the non-profit organization Team Rose, an AAU youth basketball program on Chicago's West side. The program used the principles of sports – discipline, cooperation, conditioning and team building – to arm the participants with life skills and direction.

The philanthropic output of Derrick Rose has continued to grow through the establishment of the Derrick Rose Foundation, and giving back has been a consistent theme throughout his career. Rose gave a \$1 million contribution to After School Matters, a citywide youth employment program that provides paid opportunities for participants to explore their interests while participating in world-class arts and education programs.

A longtime supporter of education and a funder of various scholarship programs, Derrick has recently fashioned a groundbreaking program designed to support promising students in need of financial assistance. Called Rose Scholars, he has seeded it with \$400,000, intending to help high school students who are civic-minded and who already are practicing civic engagement. Although there are smaller awards, there is a grand prize of \$200,000 for someone who has already demonstrated advanced leadership skills and great potential.

Derrick Rose wants youth to know that they are citizens of the world and that there are boundless opportunities before them to explore and achieve. Having been strongly impacted by his travel to Africa and always on the lookout for ways to create opportunities for Englewood youth, Rose decided to take 14 Simeon Career Academy basketball team members to Senegal. Enlisting two of his Bulls buddies, Joakim Noah and Luol Deng, to join the party, they embarked on this life-changing experience with the youth, who were able to learn and be inspired by their history and culture – something they will never forget.



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Throughout his career, Derrick Rose has demonstrated that he is unstoppable. His career exemplifies what it means to overcome obstacles and stay in the race. Many have benefitted from his powerful example. Poverty did not stop him; injuries and physical setbacks have not stopped him. While some have characterized his recent basketball triumphs as a resurgence, they represent the other 'R' word: resilience.

We look forward to his continued successes, and he has told us what to expect from him moving forward— “The things I’m going to do after basketball are going to be bigger than what I do in basketball!”

Let’s hope we have season tickets.

# Chicago Giving: Legends and Legacies

## Community Honorees

### Legacy Philanthropist

#### **LESLIE ANDERSON RUTLAND**

*"My giving is rooted in my heritage."*



*Photography by Tony Smith*

Leslie Anderson Rutland is the National Head of U.S. Wealth Management Customer and Employee Strategy for BMO US. The position is the latest in a long list of achievements that have characterized her stellar career in financial management. It also reflects her determination to do well in every aspect of her life, both personal and professional.

Anderson-Rutland received her bachelor's degree in finance from the venerated Hampton University, an HBCU (Historically Black College and University) with a reputation for its progressive education in the field of Business. She earned her MBA degree from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management.

Most of Leslie's stellar career has been at BMO Financial Group, where she has enjoyed a series of progressively responsible positions. She has advanced from local sales leader role to global technology accountabilities and now holds a leadership role within the U.S. wealth management group, which makes her somewhat of a unicorn in the financial services industry.

Underpinning Leslie's rise professionally has been her deep commitment to values-based leadership and her strong responsibility to her community. Her philosophy shines like a beacon in every aspect of her career, and it is clear that she is intentional about moving from "success to significance." From her emergent days as a fellow with Leadership Greater Chicago to her selection as a Chicago United Business Leader of Color and her fellow selection with the highly esteemed Aspen Global Leadership Network, she has distinguished herself by her competence and character. She has been lauded

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for bringing integrity, intention and innovation to the workplace, and that intentional approach is experienced by every organization she supports.

Leslie has used every major event and circumstance in her life as the impetus to give to others. Even her wedding became a vehicle for charitable expression. On that happy occasion, she requested in lieu of gifts that her celebrants donate to a nonprofit she was supporting – The Cleveland Area Foundation for Education (CAFÉ). Founded by friends and fellow philanthropists Liz and Don Thompson, The CAFÉ Group helps young people discover the greatness within and mentors youth and adults to drive impact and achieve success.

When Leslie was diagnosed with breast cancer, she turned a trial into a triumph. It was quite a blow, seemingly coming out of nowhere when everything was going so well. Furthermore, it struck during the throes of the COVID pandemic and the racial tensions from the murder of George Floyd. But Leslie had a storehouse of assets to bring her through, the top of which was her abiding faith and her church family, and she was well anchored to fight the good fight. Warrior Queen that she is, she is now an outspoken advocate for women who are battling with the disease and a contributor to organizations that support the cause.

Both of Leslie's Caribbean-born parents were educators and have been a driving force in her life. She is active on several boards, many of which are dedicated to educational access and achievement, bridging the racial equity divide, and building wealth – 1871, The CAFE (Cleveland Avenue Foundation for Education) Group, One Goal and Chicago State University.

Chicago State University pushes all the buttons for Leslie – education, African American generational wealth building, and strong, principled leadership. She pours her talent, resources and network into supporting transformational change that is occurring at what she calls “Chicago's HBCU.”

Her dedication and her amazing resilience are an inspiration to us all.

# Chicago Giving: Legends and Legacies



*Photography by Tony Smith*

## **Emerging Philanthropist**

### **DION DAWSON**

*"I only answer to the people."*

When Dion Dawson sees a need, he doesn't just shake his head and lament; he makes moves and does something about it. He is compelled by his love for his people and his community, and he is informed by his lived experiences growing up in impoverished circumstances.

When you have stood in the rain with your family for hours waiting for food, and by the time you get to the head of the line, all that's left is a few expired cans of food and a box of raisins, you know first-hand the disappointment, anger and frustration of the hungry.

If you have invited your friends to your house after school and when you get there, the sheriff is evicting your family, no one has to tell you how it feels to be homeless; you still remember.

No doubt, Dion is not the only person to have survived homelessness, hunger, the trauma of familial drug addiction, gangs and violence. But he has used those memories to create new service delivery models and stimulate policy changes that will reinvent how social services are delivered from this point on.

Dion's Chicago Dream started with a bold idea to cultivate financial, physical and emotional stability for Chicagoland residents by stabilizing community access to fresh produce and combating food apartheid. Within this framework, three objectives emerged:

1. Feed families with fresh, quality produce delivered directly to their door.
2. Create community by establishing a network of volunteers, partners and residents organized to maintain well-stocked Dream Fridges with 24-hour access to food when needed, no questions asked.

## *Chicago Giving: Legends and Legacies*

3. Fuel hope by demonstrating that help is available whenever needed, relieving people of the burden of not knowing where their next meal is coming from, and connecting them to other vital resources.

The essential ingredient to the Dream's approach is to treat people with dignity and loving care – no standing in long lines, no out-of-date spoiled food and unlabeled cans, no paperwork, and no endless questions.

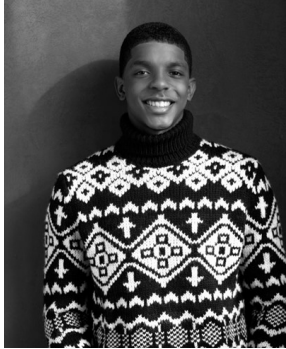
Dion's Chicago Dream has the audacity to focus on the user experience. Customer satisfaction is key, and the receiver is encouraged to give feedback, express preferences and provide input. In Dion's world, the people are the barometer by which success is measured. Further, the Dream Team doesn't deliver just anything; they deliver the right thing. The food is healthy, nutritious, non-processed, fresh and plentiful. Each delivery provides enough food for an entire week.

Dion's is definitely not a dream deferred, and is wide awake! The impact of this innovative response to pervasive food insecurity in Chicago has been swift and robust. Nearly 90,000 family servings have been provided in just over two years, and over 300,000 pounds of food have been distributed. Families are being served all over the city, and new partners are coming on board. Most recently, socially conscious Chicago artist G Herbo became a collaborator and promised to put his influence and resources to work to keep the Dream alive.

Just as he served his country with dedication and honor for six years in the U.S. Navy, Dion Dawson brings that warrior spirit to neighborhoods all over Chicago, fighting for equity and justice on the urban battlefield. His corps of committed volunteers intend to leave no resident behind. Aware that disparities and deprivation lead to despair and depression, Dion's Dream Team is now preparing to address PTSD that inflicts the battle-scarred residents of embattled communities by providing therapy and related mental health services.

He intends to feed the mind, body and soul.

# Chicago Giving: Legends and Legacies



*Photography by Tony Smith*

## Youth Philanthropist **JAHKIL NAAEM JACKSON**

*"Don't wait to be great!"*

The origin of Jahkil Jackson's passion for giving is accompanying family members to feed the homeless. Witnessing the many other things people needed inspired the 8-year-old to create "Blessing Bags." These bags are filled with essentials, such as wipes, socks, deodorant, hand sanitizer, toothbrushes, toothpaste, granola bars and more. They are distributed throughout the year, not just during the holiday season.

Since the start of this endeavor, Jahkil has touched the lives of over 60,000 men, women and children worldwide and has established a non-profit organization, Project I Am, whose mission is to raise awareness about homelessness. From an initial team of family and friends, his network has expanded to include like-minded youth and adults worldwide who want to follow his powerful example and tackle this major societal challenge. His reach has grown to support orphans in Swaziland and Ghana, volcano victims in Guatemala, and hurricane victims in the Bahamas and Puerto Rico.

Jahkil has been cited and received awards from numerous organizations for his outstanding achievements: Youth Ambassador; Heartland Alliance; WE International Youth Board; BET's 15 Under 15; and KidBox Youth Board. In 2017, he was recognized by President Barack Obama as one of the three most influential people of the year. Citing him as the kind of young role model they wanted to be associated with their company, GAP selected him to be part of their 2021 NexGenGap advertising campaign. Other companies have followed suit, opening up career paths for Jahkil as a model, spokesperson, motivational speaker and social entrepreneur.

## *Chicago Giving: Legends and Legacies*

Despite the attention he has earned and the demand for his time and talent, Jahkil is equally dedicated to being an excellent student, role model and basketball player at the famed De La Salle High School on Chicago's South Side. His message to his peers is one of engagement and immediacy, encouraging them to be active agents of change and positivity in his latest book, *Don't Wait To Be Great* – and he is taking his own advice. He is poised to take his fight for the homeless to the next level as he explores the Tiny Homes Movement, where he will, undoubtedly, break new ground.

Good work, Jahkil – we can't wait to see what you do next!

# Chicago Giving: Legends and Legacies

## Hidden Philanthropist **JANELL NELSON**

*"We can change the perception of what constitutes a 'good' neighborhood with communal creative interactions – using tools like graphic design, murals and just art in general to spotlight the beauty of areas and people who've historically been undervalued."*



*Photography by Tony Smith*

Janell Nelson makes things happen. A graphic designer, strategist and thought leader, she doesn't just dream a world but creates one. A co-founder of the Englewood Arts Collective (EAC), her activations are transformative for Chicago neighborhoods caught in the act of reinvention.

Born in Englewood, Janell's interest in the arts was amplified by arts programs at Whitney Young High School, Marwen and Chicago's celebrated Gallery 37. Subsequently, she earned a degree in design graphics from the University of Illinois. During her matriculation, she secured an internship at an educational publishing house, and that exposure paved the way for her career development. Excelling in the industry, Nelson established her successful firm – JNJ Creative – providing graphic design and visual communications consulting services for various non-profit clients and public-serving entities.

A creative force who devotes her talent, skill and heart toward enacting equitable change, her mission is to "design for good." Her award-winning graphic design has been the not-so-secret sauce behind many philanthropic and equity-focused initiatives in Chicago and nationwide. Janell is a mentor to design students and a consultant to many, with years of experience going above and beyond for non-profits and changemakers to deliver their public-serving missions in beautiful ways.



## *Chicago Giving: Legends and Legacies*

However, Janell Nelson's true passion is reflected in the title of a recent pop-up she organized on the South side when invited as guests of a Chamber there – “Home Is Where the ART Lives.” Recognizing the power of art as a tool for neighborhood revitalization, and inspired to make a tangible contribution to the arts community, she organized individual and collective action to do just that. The result is a collaboration of homegrown talent intent on using innovation and creativity to shift misperceptions.

The Englewood Arts Collective is on a mission “to reflect the beauty of, enrich the community within, and help produce events and interactions that positively reflect the community where they grew up and those like it – reframing the mainstream narrative from the inside, out.” Co-founder Janell sees the arts as a conduit for change, and artists as leaders to influence healing and showcase authentic positivity.

This empowerment movement was boosted by a \$35,000 peer philanthropy regrantee initiative spearheaded by Janell through EAC and the city's Artist Response Program, titled United Still, which was redistributed to 10 artists, who received \$3,500 each to implement projects in the South Side. United Still originally existed as a mutual-aid campaign, and still happens today through EAC as part of their artist-to-artist mutual-aid efforts.

Englewood is vibrating with the energy of colorful public art catalyzed by the work of Janell Nelson, director of activations for EAC. Indeed, nowhere is it more evident than on the neighborhood's gateway mural – “Our Englewood” – designed by the Janell with images from the Collective, painted by community volunteers, and embellished with three words that aptly describe Janell – vibrant, proud, strong!

# Chicago Giving: Legends and Legacies



Photography by Tony Smith

Young Adult Philanthropist

**ESSENCE SMITH**

*"My life looks nothing like I ever imagined or planned for. If I had stuck to my own vision, I would be nowhere near where I am today."*

Essence Smith is a woman of many interests and talents who trusts both her head and her heart as she pursues her goals in life. A Chicago native, she is devoted to the city and its people, especially the youth. Her major influences are family and faith. Watching her grandfather, a well-known attorney, gave her a sense of who she was. Growing up with her parents gave her a sense of what she could do. They made sure she had access to vital resources, no matter where she had to go to get them, as disparities and disinvestment in her own neighborhood limited her choices. No doubt, those exemplars and experiences informed her zeal to fight for social justice and equity.

Essence studied sociology and pre-law at the University of Illinois, and upon graduation utilized her knowledge of culture and social behavior to embark upon a successful career in marketing. Her work with major brands includes Wilson Sporting Goods, Ketel One Botanical, The DuSable Museum and Lululemon. With those experiences under her belt, and a mindset that supports her ability to go with the spirit, Smith was more than willing to join the SocialWorks team when the opportunity presented itself.

Founded by Grammy-award winner Chance The Rapper, her friend and fellow You-Media alum, SocialWorks is a non-profit that aims to empower youth through the arts, education and civic engagement. The youth are taught to see their beauty and pursue their goals with confidence and vigor. They are NOT taught to be recipients who must rely on someone else to make their world. In fact, they learn to be givers, as well, participating in community service.

## *Chicago Giving: Legends and Legacies*

It is the creativity and organizational acumen of Essence Smith that shapes and implements many of the programs and special events that makes SocialWorks so impactful. During the height of the pandemic, she developed a campaign called “SocialWorks for Social Distancing.” Other key initiatives include: “Open Mike,” a space for high schoolers to share, express and network; “Warmest Winter,” relief for the homeless; and “My State of Mind,” a digital tool to help youth access mental wellness information and services.

One might think that after all that, Essence would have no energy for anything else. On the contrary, she finds a way to use all her gifts. An accomplished tennis player, she’s started a tennis club, powered by Wilson Sporting Goods, to help diversify the sport, with plans to reclaim all those abandoned tennis courts in inner-city parks. She’s entrepreneurial and an advocate for Black women. So, what does she do – she starts a clothing brand called “Black Women Are Essential” (BWAE). Gaining a reputation as a producer of innovative and successful events, Smith branched out and founded ELMS Event Planning and Production. What do all these things have in common? Empowerment and advocacy for Black women and youth.

Essence Lauren Smith has been described as a multi-hyphenate creative entrepreneur whose focus is “to fuse brand partnerships with cultural moments through the lens of event production, project management, consumer engagement and community programming.” From the look of things, she’s going to need a lot more hyphens!

# Community Programs

For a complete listing, please visit [www.tsopchicago.com](http://www.tsopchicago.com). New programs are added monthly.

## **Developing Global Leaders: A Case Study**

**3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Feb. 17, 2023**

**Chicago Cultural Center, Learning Lab, 1st Floor South; 78 E. Washington St., Chicago, IL 60602**

**Free and open to the public**

*Speakers: Village Leadership Academy World Scholars*

Join this panel of youth leaders for a discussion on how they are developing leadership skills to positively transform and advance their community, nation, and world. Students who have participated in culturally responsive high-quality education grounded in real world experiences offered by Village Leadership Academy will share the impact of their travel exchanges with other children from a different country and how they are giving through volunteerism.

## **Community Quilting Bee**

**11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 18, 2023**

**Chicago Cultural Center, Learning Lab, 1st Floor South, 78 E. Washington St., Chicago, IL 60602**

**Free and open to the public**

In the tradition of African American ancestry, a community quilt will be created. The Needles and Threads Quilters Guild members will assist participants in creating a block that represents their giving. All materials

needed to create a block will be provided. Blocks become the property of Chicago African Americans in Philanthropy (CAAIP). CAAIP reserves the right to include and/or display your block in the final philanthropic quilt.

### **TSOP Premier Reception**

**5:30 p.m. Feb. 21, 2023**

**Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St., Chicago, IL 60602**

**Tickets: \$75-\$100**

The Soul of Philanthropy – Reframed and Exhibited is a groundbreaking exhibition that has captivated visitors across the country with its comprehensive, multimedia presentation of stories of centuries-old generosity among Americans of African descent. Join us for our opening event, where guests will enjoy hors d'oeuvres, entertainment, a program featuring local civic, corporate and philanthropy leaders, and the first opportunity to view The Soul of Philanthropy Chicago exhibit

### **Groundings: Funding Black Visual Arts in Chicago**

**5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Feb. 23, 2023**

**Central Standard Building Conference Center, 231 S. LaSalle St., Chicago, IL 60604**

**Free and open to the public**

*This program is sponsored by Threewalls.*

Black visual art in Chicago helps to shape the local and global cultural landscape. Even with the importance of Black visual artists and visual arts organizations, each of these parts of the ecosystem are deeply underfunded.

Yet, Chicago-based organizations are moving from a place of surviving to thriving with a current shift in philanthropic funding. Please join Chiblie Coleman, Board President, Threewalls; Monique Brinkman-Hill, Executive Director, South Side Community Art Center; and Gwendolyn Perry Davis, Senior Director of Development, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, in convection about what inspires visual art philanthropists to give to visual art organizations and offer direct support to visual artists and why is continuing the legacy of Black art spaces crucial.

### **The Ida B. Wells Story**

**4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Feb. 28, 2023**

**Chicago Cultural Center, Claudia Cassidy Theater, 78 E. Washington St., Chicago, IL 60602**

**Free and open to the public**

**Presented in partnership with WTTW**

In celebration of Black History Month, you are invited to an in-person event with WTTW and Chicago African Americans in Philanthropy (CAAIP) for a discussion of “Ida B. Wells,” the award-winning documentary and website in WTTW’s “Chicago Stories” series. The documentary brings to life the Chicago investigative journalist, racial justice and equity activist, and suffragist as never before. During this exclusive interactive event, Tim Russell, Vice President of Community Engagement and Diversity, Equity & Inclusion at WTTW-WFMT, will moderate a panel conversation with the film’s Emmy Award-winning producer and writer Stacy Robinson, in which the panel will discuss the trailblazer’s life and legacy in the context of voting, civil rights, policing in the Black Community, and the role of Black women in the electoral process.

## **Everyday Philanthropy: Standing in Our Truth**

**5 p.m. to 7 p.m. March 10, 2023**

**Quinn Chapel AME Church, 2401 S. Wabash Ave., Chicago, IL 60616**

**Free and open to the public**

*Panelists: Akira Barclay (moderator), Pastor Troy Venning, Allison Sutton*

*“We’re rooted here, and they can’t pull us up.” – Harriet Tubman*

As aptly noted in a Tides Foundation perspective on Black philanthropy, Black giving has been around for centuries and is rooted in traditional African communal systems that existed long before colonization. The same report also references the W.K. Kellogg Foundation’s report: “Black households give 25% more of their income annually than white households, and nearly two-thirds of African American households donate to organizations and causes, totaling \$11 billion each year.” The richness of Black philanthropy is particularly important to us because many of the untold stories of extraordinary Black people who have singularly and collectively banded together to support Black people and Black communities are Black Chicagoans. Join us for an evening of celebration and storytelling about the everyday acts of philanthropy (giving circles, tithing, federated campaigns, volunteerism, trunk and rent parties) that kept us as a community and city moving forward during good and rough times.

## **An Evening With Congo Square Theatre**

**7:00 p.m. March 15, 2023**

**Steppenwolf 1700 Theatre**

**Limited space available**

From Tuskegee to today, Congo Square Theatre Company proudly presents the World Premiere of *How Blood Go* by Cleveland-based playwright Lisa Langford, a provocative – and wholly topical – story of two family members who are subject to medical experiments without their consent, 50 years apart. Infused with Afrofuturism, *How Blood Go* premieres at Steppenwolf's 1700 Theater (1700 N. Halsted Street) as part of its LookOut series. Join us for an evening of performance and conversation with Congo Square Theatre, Lisa Langford (playwright), Tiffany Fulson (director), and the cast of *How Blood Go*.

## **Community Quilting Bee**

**12 p.m. to 2 p.m. March 18, 2023**

**Chicago Cultural Center, Learning Lab, 1st Floor South, 78 E. Washington St., Chicago, IL 60602**

**Free and open to the public**

In the tradition of African American ancestry, a community quilt will be created. The Needles and Threads Quilters Guild members will assist participants in creating a block that represents their giving. All materials needed to create a block will be provided. Blocks become the property of Chicago African Americans in Philanthropy (CAAIP). CAAIP reserves the right to include and/or display your block in the final philanthropic quilt.



### **New School Grassroots Philanthropy: Yeah Youth**

**3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. March 24, 2023**

**Chicago Cultural Center, Millennium Park Room, Fifth Floor, 78 E. Washington St., Chicago, IL 60602**

**Free and open to the public**

*Panelists: Village Leadership Academy Students, Jahkil Jackson, Project I Am*

It all starts with a spark of an idea to solve a societal problem. Through the power of sharing and collective giving our youth are creating the change they want to see in our city. They are empowered to make decisions on projects of importance to them and secure funding to support the programs/initiatives. The brilliance of our young people is showcased through triumphant efforts.

### **A Conversation on Black Wealth Building and Extraction with Tonika Johnson,**

**Britney Robbins and Tracie D. Hall**

**5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. March 30, 2023**

**Woodson Library Auditorium, 9525 S. Halsted St., Chicago, IL 60628**

**Free and open to the public**

*This event is presented in partnership with the Chicago Public Library.*

We are unable to talk about our giving and generosity without also having a deep understanding of the forces at play that limit our ability to do even more for our communities and each other. Today, many are discussing the racial wealth gap, which is a product of economic systems, institutions, and policies designed to extract wealth from Black people. We'll learn about that through the lens of Tonika Johnson, a

photographer and social justice artist currently focusing on a living history project that illuminates how wealth has been stolen from Black communities: *Inequity for Sale*. She will be joined by Britney Robbins, Founder and CEO of The Gray Matter Experience, and Tracie D. Hall, who currently leads the American Library Association (ALA). This program will connect past harms to our current experiences, including promise and possibility.

### **The Birth of Gospel Screening and Discussion**

**7 p.m. to 9 p.m. March 30, 2023**

**Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary, 2121 Sheridan Rd., Evanston, IL 60201**

**Free and open to the public**

*Presented in partnership with WTTW and Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary*

The documentary traces the rich lineage of gospel music, and how it began in earnest when a young man named Thomas Dorsey came to Chicago during the Great Migration. His own spiritual rebirth at the city's Pilgrim Baptist Church created a form of music that married blues influences with religious themes.

Tim Russell, Vice President of Community Engagement and Diversity, Equity & Inclusion at WTTW and WFMT, will moderate a discussion with the film's Emmy Award-winning producer and writer Stacy Robinson; Dr. Cynthia Wilson, Director of The Junius B. Dotson Institute for Music and Worship in the Black Church and Beyond at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary; and Rev. Dr. Reginald Blount, the Murray H. Leiffer Chair in Formation, Leadership, and Culture, as well as the Director of the Center for the Church and the Black Experience at Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary.

## **Community Quilting Bee**

**11 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 1, 2023**

**Africa International House, Chicago Park District, Harris Center,**

**6200 S. Drexel Ave., Chicago, IL 60637**

**Free and open to the public**

In the tradition of African American ancestry, a community quilt will be created. The Needles and Threads Quilters Guild members will assist participants in creating a block that represents their giving. All materials needed to create a block will be provided. Blocks become the property of Chicago African Americans in Philanthropy (CAAIP). CAAIP reserves the right to include and/or display your block in the final philanthropic quilt.

## **Chicago Council on Planned Giving: Celebrating the Soul of Philanthropy**

**12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. April 13, 2023**

**Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St., Chicago, IL 60602**

**Free and open to the public; pre-registration is required. Deadline to register: April 6.**

Please join the Chicago Council on Planned Giving for an in-person networking event to celebrate Giving Back: The Soul of Philanthropy Reframed and Exhibited, a groundbreaking national exhibition exploring the African-American philanthropy experience and giving traditions grounded in faith, mutuality, responsibility and social justice hosted by Chicago African Americans in Philanthropy (CAAIP). The exhibit was recently highlighted on NBC5 Chicago [here](#). Attendees will have an opportunity to tour the exhibit and network with nonprofit development and charitable estate planning colleagues from the Chicagoland area. Light refreshments will be served.

## **TSOP Chicago Exhibit Community Celebration**

**11 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 15, 2023**

**Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St., Chicago, IL 60602**

**Free and open to the public**

Join us for our closing event, where guests will enjoy live music from the Chicago Sinfonietta as we prepare to close the event's Chicago run.

## **Community Quilting Bee**

**11 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 15, 2023**

**Chicago Cultural Center, Randolph Square, 78 E. Washington St., Chicago, IL 60602**

**Free and open to the public**

In the tradition of African American ancestry, a community quilt will be created. The Needles and Threads Quilters Guild members will assist participants in creating a block that represents their giving. All materials needed to create a block will be provided. Blocks become the property of Chicago African Americans in Philanthropy (CAAIP). CAAIP reserves the right to include and/or display your block in the final philanthropic quilt.

## **Forward Looking: Black Visual Artists in Conversation**

**5:30 pm. to 7:30 p.m. April 20, 2023**

**Woodson Library Auditorium, 9525 S. Halsted St., Chicago, IL 60628**

**Free and open to the public**

*Guest speakers: Shonna Pryor, Brenda Torres Figueroa, Juarez Hawkins*

Black visual artists in Chicago contribute to the way we understand the world we are in and the world around us. Black contemporary artists working today continue within a long lineage of Black visual artists who have engaged with and built relationships in their communities. Some of these engagements and giving forward include mentorship, developing community or neighborhood projects, and creating art that reflects our culture. There will be a conversation with Chicago-based artists who will discuss the various ways they give forward.

## **Black Joy: Blacks in Nature and the Environment**

**10 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 21, 2023**

**North Lawndale Employment Network, 1111 S. Homan Ave., Chicago IL 60624**

**Free and open to the public. [Register here.](#)**

*Guest speakers: Veronica Kyle, Credell Walls, Mignon Stewart, Consuella Brown (moderator)*

In honor of Earth Day, we invite you to journey with us as we explore ways in which nature and the environment can be life giving and places of joy for Black people. We will start with a tour of the new North Lawndale Employment Network campus, which includes an apiary and garden. We will then hear from Veronica Kyle as she shares how the Ecowomanist Institute works to heal minds, bodies, and spirits from the social, economic, and environmental injustices that African American women face in their daily lives. She will be joined by Credell Walls, who will share how the Forest Preserves of Cook County is helping to get more youth of color out into nature;

and Mignon Stewart of Prince Charitable Trusts who will bring us back to how philanthropy can play a role in supporting Black joy and Black organizations that are committed to this work. We will end our time together with an invitation to pick up a bagged lunch and meet us at the Garfield Park Conservatory for a chance to find a little peace and quiet while being surrounded by plants.

## **Black Wealth Building and Extraction, Part 2**

**3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. April 26, 2023**

**Bethel New Life, 1150 N. Lamon Ave., Chicago, IL 60651**

**Free and open to the public. [Register here.](#)**

*Guest speakers: Corliss Garner (moderator), Tracy Meeks, Marguerite Griffin, Sol Anderson*

*This program is presented in partnership with Old National Bank*

Part one of our conversation took a deep dive in understanding the forces at play that limit our ability to do even more for our communities and each other. Specifically, the racial wealth gap, which is a product of economic systems, institutions and policies designed to extract wealth from Black people. With this second conversation, we will take a look at what institutions are doing to work toward eliminating the racial wealth gap. In conversation, led by Corliss Garner, Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer at Old National Bank, we will learn about financial empowerment and wellness as well as the ongoing movement for reparations for Black people as an often discussed, but not yet realized, way to truly level the playing field. Corliss will be joined by Tracy Meeks, Vice President of Community Lending at Old National Bank; Marguerite Griffin, who leads philanthropic advising and wealth management at Northern Trust; and Sol Anderson, President & CEO of the Evanston Community Foundation, where the Evanston Reparations Community Fund is held.

## **Symposium on Philanthropy and the Black Church**

**8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. April 27, 2023**

**8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. April 28, 2023**

**Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, 2121 Sheridan Rd., Evanston, IL 60201**

**Free and open to the public. [Register here.](#)**

*This event is sponsored by Lake Institute on Faith & Giving and Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary Center for the Church and the Black Experience.*

This special two-day event will bring together scholars and practitioners from both philanthropy and the Black church, allowing us to learn from past chapters of engagement across the faith-philanthropy divide and to dig into the challenges and opportunities for our own time. Speakers include Dr. Robert Franklin of Emory University, Rev. Debra Haggins of Hampton Ministers Conference, author and philanthropic leader Valaida Fullwood, Jeanné Lewis of Faith in Public Life, Devin Murphy of Bridgespan Group, and others.

# *Giving You The Best That We Got*

## **Chicago Project Team**



Jessyca Dudley  
Chair  
The Soul of Philanthropy  
Chicago



Claudette Baker and Brandi Paynes  
Project Management  
Claudette B. Baker and Associates





# *Giving You The Best That We Got*

## **Chicago Project Team**



Eric Hotchkiss  
Exhibit Design  
Eric Hotchkiss Designs LLC



Dr. Carol Adams  
Exhibit Curation  
Urban Prescriptives  
Consulting, Inc.



Wynona Redmond  
Public Relations and Marketing  
Wyn-Win Communications

# *In Good Company*

## **About the Host**

The local host of The Soul of Philanthropy is Chicago African Americans in Philanthropy (CAAIP), a membership organization committed to achieving racial equity in philanthropy by advocating for investments in Black communities and expanding Black leadership opportunities in the social sector. Its membership is comprised of over 40 philanthropic, corporate, and civic institutions represented by more than 500 individuals working in the social sector. CAAIP's members are influential leaders in Chicago who are sitting at tables where critical decisions are being made regarding philanthropic efforts impacting the Black community.

By challenging the current assumptions, practices, and policies that inhibit restoration, growth, and prosperity within Black communities, CAAIP develops strategies that influence how philanthropic resources are allocated and advances the work of racial equity in our sector.

CAAIP fosters community among Black people in Chicago and across the Midwest by serving as a communal space for learning and development. By increasing the visibility of Black leaders in philanthropy, advancing racial equity, and building a cohesive and vital community, CAAIP aims to redirect philanthropic resources and decision-making to Black communities.



# Acknowledgments

Thank you to our sponsors and supporters of The Soul of Philanthropy.

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*Don and Liz Thompson*



**POLK BROS FOUNDATION**

# Acknowledgments

## Contributors



## Individuals

Akira Barclay  
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Collin Mays  
Consuella Brown  
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Deborah Harrington

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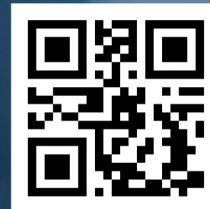
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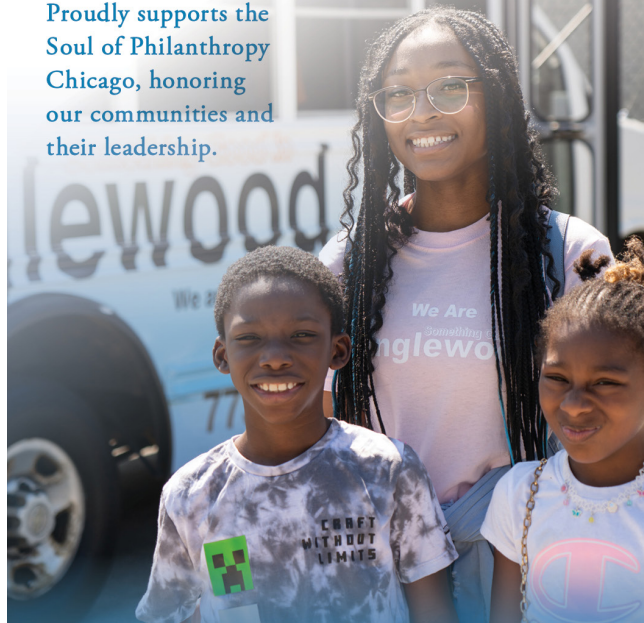
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