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**New Orleans**

# Data

**News Weekly**

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**Holiday Awards Luncheon**

December 31 - January 6, 2016 51st Year Volume 36 [www.ladatanews.com](http://www.ladatanews.com)

A Data News Weekly Exclusive

# 2016 in Review

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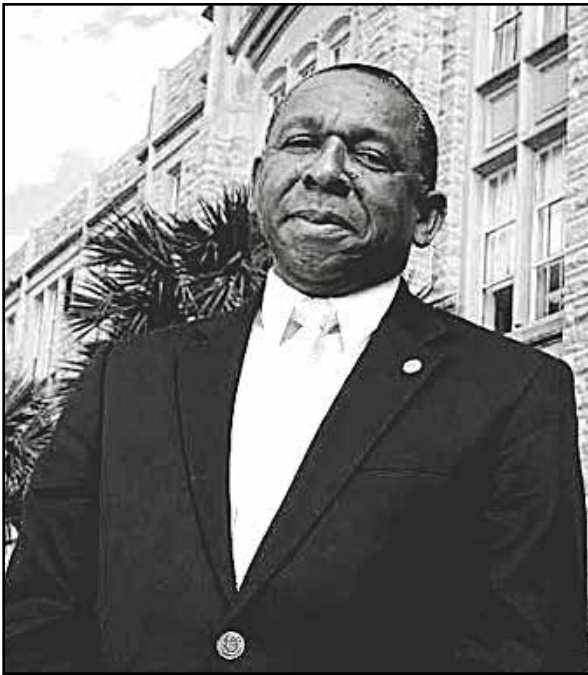
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# Eight Empowering Acts in New Orleans in 2016



## 1 Xavier Inaugurated its 6th President.

On Feb 26, 2016, Xavier University officially inaugurated its second lay President C. Reynold Verret. The new president succeeded Dr. Norman C. Francis, who served Xavier University for 47 years. While Verret has an emphasis in the sciences, of which Xavier continues to send more African-American students to medical school of any university in the country, he opens to also grow other areas of the university's liberal arts core. 2017 marks one-full year of official leadership at Xavier University.

**Eric M Craig**  
Multimedia Editor

As the year 2016 comes to a close, and the year 2017 comes to a fresh start, we are given the wonderful opportunity to reflect on the past year. The United States, the State of Louisiana and the City

## 2 Tyler Perry hosts The Passion in New Orleans,

On Easter weekend, Dick Clark Productions and Fox teamed up to air a live-action premiere of The Passion at Woldenburg Park. The live performance was adapted from the Dutch Franchise, and New Orleans was the first City to host the United States version of the The Passion. The Easter-event was hosted by Tyler Perry, and featured live performances from Yolanda Adams, Seal, and Trisha Yearwood.



## 3 In May, Leah Chase won the Lifetime Achievement

Award from the James Beard Foundation. Chase was excited to hear that she won the award. "I cannot believe this is true. It's unbelievable to me that I got this award. All I do is make a living, and for that I was recognized," Chase told Data News Weekly.

of New Orleans have experience highs and lows throughout 2016.

The year 2016 has marked the loss of many influential Black individuals, including Musical Phenomenon Prince, unmatched Athlete Muhammad Ali, PBS Broadcaster Gwen Ifill, Black Press Champion George Curry and many more.

Black Lives Matter has also been front and center this year, with the wrongful killings of Baton Rouge's Alton Sterling and Minnesota's Philando Castile.

While 2016 has had many high points for the nation and the City. Here is a list of eight empowering things that happened in the New Orleans' African-American Community in 2016.

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## DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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## SPECTACULAR SPECIALS LAST 5 DAYS! THURS, DEC. 29- MON, JAN. 2



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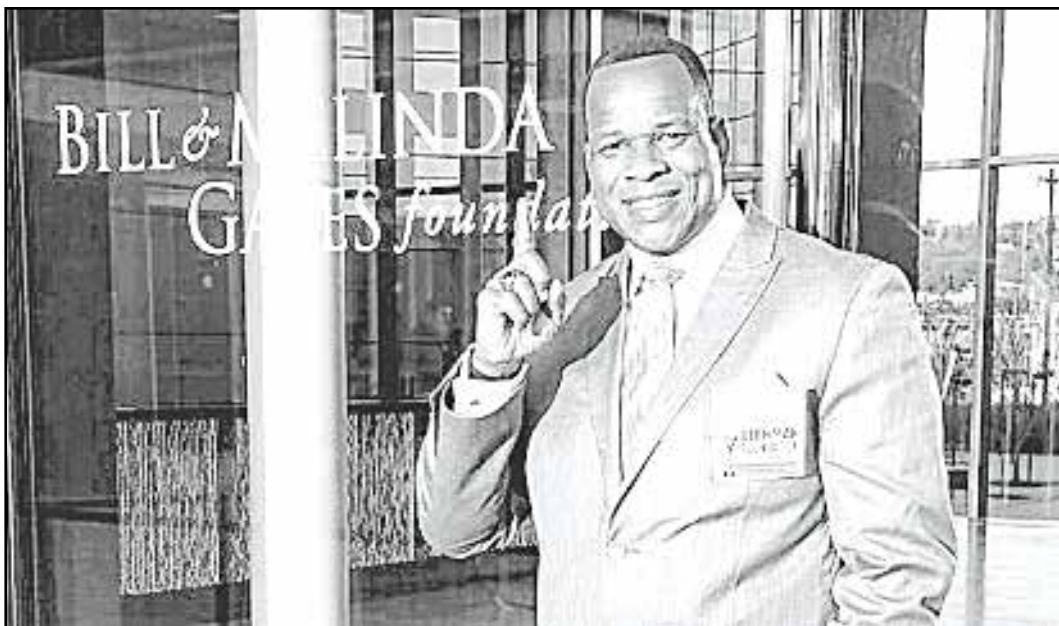


Cover Story, Continued from page 2.



#### 4 Camille Whitworth continues Entrepreneurship at Victory.

in March of 2016, Camille Whitworth departed WDSU after 13 years of service, and 24 years in the field of Journalism, to pursue her dream of becoming an entrepreneur. Whitworth now co-owns a bar and restaurant called Victory with Daniel Victory. Beyond running the restaurant Daily, Whitworth partners with Victory in holding cocktail mixing courses in her NOLA Drink Lab.



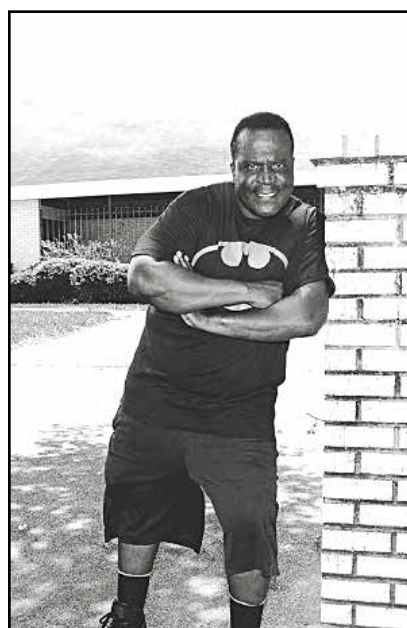
#### 5 Blue Lion Karate Academy Officially Returns to New Orleans.

In May of 2016, Grand Master Eric O'Neal officially opens the first Blue Lion Karate Academy since Hurricane Katrina. The new academy is in New Orleans East. Over the past year, O'Neal has set up several satellite campuses, including one at Arise Academy with over 500 participating students. O'Neal continues to expand his program nationwide. At his satellite campuses, O'Neal has reduced suspension rates of students by 70 percent.



#### 6 Sybil Morial Celebrates One-Year Anniversary of Witness to Change

October 6, 2016 marked the anniversary of Sybil Morial's Memoir, "Witness to Change: From Jim Crow to Political Empowerment." In Morial's Memoir, she writes about the political and social struggle she experienced growing up in Louisiana, and assisting Dutch Morial in his race for Mayor of New Orleans. Sybil Morial continues to hold discussion's and public readings about her book. "There are not enough first person stories that tell the story where its readable. There needs to be more written memoirs that tell a person's stories, letting the readers into their lives. It's easier to grasp the story in that way," Morial told Data News Weekly.



#### 7 Anthony Bean Pushes Plans for New ABC Campus.

"504," "Simply Irma" and "Jungle Kings" are just a few of the many plays that this man's theater has displayed in the New Orleans community over the last 16 years. Anthony Bean, New Orleans-Native Playwright and Artistic Director, is currently overseeing new renovations for his Anthony Bean Community Theater. This past summer, Bean held his Annual 2016 Summer Camp at a local church in Gentilly, as his student-actor team planned for its Lion King performance. "This is a 2.3-million-dollar project; mostly on loans and donations. Getting rich off of this theater is not a priority or a desire; my desire, payoff and passion comes from what I do," Bean said.



#### 8 Data News Turns 50!

On August 28, 2016, Data News Weekly officially celebrated its 50th Anniversary. Data News officially celebrated 12 trailblazers and six recipients of its new People's Golden Service Award. The recipients honored at the First Annual Event included: Donna Brazile, Vice-Chairwoman of the Democratic National Committee; Marc Morial, CEO of the National Urban League; Congresswoman Maxine Water, U.S. Representative for California's 43rd District; Tanya Lombard, Assistant Vice-President of AT&T; Jim Farmer, Retired Vice-President of GMAC; and Dan Packer, Former CEO and President of Energy New Orleans Inc. Terry Jones, Publisher of Data News Weekly, was proud to recognize all six recipients. He said the six-people honored served as prime examples of leadership in the African-American Community. Jones was also thankful for community support over the last 50 years.



# Mayor Highlights NOLA's 2016 Infrastructure Achievements

## Data News Staff Edited Report

In mid-December, Mayor Mitch Landrieu and officials from the New Orleans Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans (S&WB) highlighted the City's 2016 Integrated Infrastructure Accomplishments.

"Improving New Orleans aging infrastructure is a major priority, and in 2016 we had a breakthrough year," Mayor Mitch Landrieu said. "Hundreds of millions of dollars in major capital infrastructure improvements are hitting our streets that will improve our roads, water and sewer systems in neighborhoods across the City. With all of this work now fully coordinated, we are working harder than ever to build a stronger, more resilient City as we approach New Orleans' 300th Anniversary in 2018."

The City secured the final \$1.2 billion in recovery funds from FEMA to repair Hurricane Katrina-related damages to New Orleans' roadways and subsurface infrastructure, including water, sewer and drainage pipes. This brings the total to over \$2 billion secured under the Landrieu Administration for roads and subsurface infrastructure.

DPW completed a total of 25

roadway projects in 2016, with a total funding investment of over \$44 million. Included in these projects were three Paths to Progress Projects, four other roadway projects, three streetscape projects, seven bikeway projects and three FEMA-funded Recovery Roads projects. This work resulted in over 15 miles of newly paved streets and an additional 4.48 miles of bikeways.

### DPW also completed the following:

Filled over 114,876 potholes;

Cleaned over 7,000 drainage catch basins and over 76 miles of drain lines;

Inspected and assessed the condition of over 82 miles of drain lines;

Installed over 5,100 new permanent traffic signs and over 1,133 new permanent street name signs;

Repaired over 10,000 streetlight outages (over 99 percent of the City's streetlights are operational); and

Installed over 545 LED streetlights (over 42,000 of the City's streetlights are now LEDs representing 78 percent of the City's streetlight system).

The City is scheduled to start design on at least 125 projects and begin at least \$400 million worth of new construction work by May 1, 2018. Included in these projects are



New Orleans will allocate \$400 million to roadwork construction over the next couple of years. Photo by Infrogmation, via Wikimedia Commons.

Full Depth Reconstruction, Patch, Mill and Overlay, Patch Concrete, Incidental Road Repairs, Bridges, Non-Paving Incidentals and Streetscapes.

To help find solutions to the City of New Orleans' long-term infrastructure needs, Mayor Landrieu established a working group comprised of City leaders, residents and subject matter experts charged with developing recommendations about how the City can pay for interior street repairs. This group of subject matter experts have expertise in civil engineering, business, construction, finance, banking, transportation and community engagement. In 2016, the Fix My Streets Working Group met 5 times and completed an assessment of financing options to address the City's long-term infrastructure needs.

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## Delaney's Armoire

# Bring in the New Year with a Fashion Bang!



Reality TV Star Cardi B, poses in her all velvet top paired with velvet red boots.



Cardi B, Reality TV Star proudly shows her velvet off in an all velvet Fashion Nova dress. Photo Credit: Cardi B Instagram



Celebrity Trainer and Model Keyshia Ka'oir takes a daring selfie while wearing a glittered lip. Photo by Ka'oir herself



Local Stylist Syraj Hamilton and I stand side by side as I wear a long all black silk dress. Photo by Malcolm-JStudios



Delaney George  
Columnist

A New Year calls for new beginnings, new styles, and new fashion trends. With 2017 approaching, a true fashionista could ring in the New Year with a few of these up and coming trends in fashion.

#### Versatile Velvet:

This retro chic fabric has been a choice of many celebrities and locals as of late. The texture is very versatile yet cozy. Velvet is not too warm also, which is great for the everyday clothing items: pants, dresses, shoes.

#### All That Glitters:

In normal New Year's fashion, glitter & anything sparkling is worn to bring in a New Year. However, glitter has been the style of choice this year more than any other. From new glitter lipsticks & shadows, to the glistening handbags and shoes; Glitter is your new "it" factor for any occasion.

#### Silky Smooth:

A once frowned upon fabric, deemed to only be worn in more private settings is making a comeback. From silk dresses to silk chokers, silk is the new "comfy but stylish" go to style. It can be worn classy and chic, or sexy and daring. Silk is definitely a style to add your own personal flare to.

With these three trends, a fashionista will step into the New Year with her fashion foot forward. For more information on these trends and where to shop them locally contact Delinkey@yahoo.com

## The Curly Corner

# 3 Reasons Why Shrinkage Can Be Beautiful



Destiny Johnson  
Natural Hair Columnist

Many naturals all over the world try their hardest to find just the right product to reduce their shrinkage. Some people's hair shrinks

50% of its length and others have hair that shrinks well over 75% of its true length. Shrinkage may not show how long your hair has grown but it does show the true texture and definition of your curls. Here are three reasons why shrinkage is not all that bad.

1. It shows the beautiful, natural definition of your own hair. When your hair is stretched, it can't show all your natural curls

and coils. The way your hair springs and curls is unique to you and can only be shown with fully shrunken hair.

2. It allows you to wear cute protective styles that reveal your true texture. The protective styles that you can wear are endless and it can show your hair's perfect definition as well.

3. Depending on the length, it can keep your hair from touching your shoulders

and/or clothing which could potentially damage the hair. Although stretched out hair is gorgeous, wearing your hair out and down too often may damage your hair and dry it out. Wearing your hair with its natural shrinkage can keep it closer to your scalp and allow you to protect it with the oils and styles that are familiar to you.





# 4th Annual Holiday Awards Luncheon

## ALY Media Relations

On Wednesday, December 28th Marc H. Morial and Erika McConduit hosted the Annual Holiday Awards Luncheon to recognize and shine the spotlight on the following honorees: The Honorable John Bel Edwards, Louisiana State Governor, Representative Cedric Richmond (D-LA 2nd District) and Congressional Black Caucus Chairman-Elect, The Honorable Sharon Weston Broome, East Baton Rouge Parish Mayor-Elect, and Dr. C. Reynold Verret, Xavier University of New Orleans President.

"I'm extremely proud to recognize four very accomplished leaders in the State," National Urban League President and CEO Marc H. Morial said. "Our honorees drive home the values of the National Urban League at the local level."

The event was well attended with political and local community leaders past and present and Data was there!



Visit [www.ladatanews.com](http://www.ladatanews.com) for more photos from these events

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# Blackonomics

*The Real Reason We Should Celebrate Kwanza This Year*



**By James Clingman**  
NNPA News Wire  
Columnist

For 50 years, Black people in the United States have celebrated the seven principles of Kwanzaa. Established by Dr. Maulana Karenga in 1966, Kwanzaa is an African American and Pan-African holiday celebrated by millions throughout the world African community. Kwanzaa brings a cultural message, which speaks to the best of what it means to be African and human in the fullest sense. Our obvious support and celebration of this occasion suggests our commitment, not only to the principles of the Nguzo Saba, but also to their fruition. Thus, we ask you: What Kwanzaa success will you celebrate this year? What have you done during the year that qualifies as a celebratory event during Kwanzaa?

Have you achieved Umoja (Unity) among Black folks in your locale? Are you unified to the point that you love one another more and support one another more? Do you have proof that you have unified around some pertinent issue or cause? If so, then let the celebration begin. If not, let the lamentation begin.

How about Kujichagulia (Self-Determination)? What have you done in your city to demonstrate your commitment to determining the future of your children? Are others still controlling your destiny? Or have you taken it upon yourself to build and support your own institutions, open and grow new business, and create your own jobs?

Can you celebrate an accomplishment during 2016 vis-à-vis collective work and responsibility toward one another? Are you celebrating Ujima this year, or are you lamenting about what we have not done? If you have worked collectively on community projects such as neighborhood clean-up, elderly assistance, or tutoring, then your Kwanzaa celebration is in order.

Now, here's my favorite: Ujamaa

(Cooperative Economics). Have you done anything cooperatively this year to increase the economic viability and stability of your community? Have you pooled any of your money to finance a project or to form an investment group to assist micro businesses? Have you purchased Black manufactured products on a consistent basis?

What have you done to build and develop your community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness? In other words, what is your Nia (Purpose) and have you actualized that purpose? If you have, then you definitely have something to celebrate.

Have you created anything lately? What has been the level of your Kuumba (Creativity) this past year? Is there anything, not necessarily something material, that you created to benefit your community? Maybe, it was a new financial institution, a volunteer food service program for those in need, or maybe it was a new resolve and commitment to do better than you did the previous year. Creativity covers a multitude of endeavors.

Finally, how much Imani (Faith),

do you have in the things you are celebrating? How much faith do you have in yourself? How much faith do you have in your brothers and sisters? How much faith do you have in the Creator's ability to carry you through in times of struggle? Are you one of "little faith," or is your faith sufficient to support you in your quest to fulfill the other six principles of Kwanzaa?

Aren't you tired of mere spoken words? Aren't you just a little weary of empty rhetoric, events based on words followed by little or no subsequent action? Wouldn't you like to see us, after fifty years of celebrating Kwanzaa, be able to point to something we built and sustained because of our celebration of values we hold so dear?

On December 26th of every year, after fifty years of celebrating, we should be able to look back and revel in the things we have accomplished through our celebration of Kwanzaa. What will you see when you look back this year? If nothing is there except a mere celebration of principles rather than progress, then you have some work to do. Use this year's Kwanzaa to act upon

the seven principles so that this time next year you will have some tangible accomplishment to celebrate.

Again, my favorite principle is Ujamaa, so I'd like to offer something you can do to celebrate it. Go to [www.iamoneofthemillion.com](http://www.iamoneofthemillion.com) and purchase a few bags of Sweet Unity Coffee for yourself and for Kwanzaa gifts for a few friends. Then celebrate by toasting "sweet unity" among our people.

The founder of Kwanzaa, Maulana Karenga, did more than just come up with some nice words and principles for us to recognize and follow during this season. He has shared many words with us on how we must conduct ourselves at all times—not just during Kwanzaa. One thing he warned against was Black folks getting stuck in a place where most of what we do is lament "litanies of lost battles." Kwanzaa must be a true celebration of production and progress, not just another lamentation of having lost.

## Trump Staffers Target EPA and State Department for the Purge



**Bill Fletcher, Jr.**  
NNPA Columnist

There have been several disturbing developments over the last several weeks that give us a clue to the approach of the incoming administration. Trump transition team asked the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the names of staffers involved in global climate

negotiations. It did not appear that they were getting ready to offer them awards. On December 21, 2016, "The Washington Post" reported that the transition team was asking the State Department about grants it provides to global environmental groups.

With former Texas Governor Rick Perry as the nominee for Secretary of Energy and with Scott Pruitt the nominee to head up EPA, it is as clear as day that the incoming Trump Administration seeks to take the country, if not the world, back about 50 years when it comes to addressing climate change and other environmental catastrophes currently unfolding.

The disingenuousness of Trump and his allies when it comes to climate change is outstanding. Trump would like to play agnostic on whether climate change is unfolding and suggests that there is actually a debate in scientific circles regarding this matter. I hate to break it to the President-elect, but there is no more debate in scientific circles about the validity of climate change (and the human role in it) than there was about the connection between smoking and lung cancer.

It is worth noting that the long delay in getting recognition of the connection of smoking to lung cancer was directly related to the

obstruction emanating from the tobacco industry. Much the same is the case when it comes to climate change. The fossil fuel industry fronts supposed scientists to confuse the debate, despite the fact that they KNOW of the human connection to climate change.

The Trump Administration appears to be prepared to throw science to the wind and reject facts, as Trump-the-candidate did throughout his presidential campaign. But what is worse is that it appears that they want to take action against those who have rung the bell about the danger of human-induced climate change. This would be the equivalent of

the tobacco industry taking over what is now the Department of Health and Human Services at the height of the debate on the connection between smoking and lung cancer.

Key elements of the Republican Party have made it clear that they wish to overturn the 20th century. In other words, they seek to reverse the myriad gains won throughout the last century and return us to the reality of the late 19th century, with all that that involved.

We simply cannot let that happen. The fights we are about to engage with the new administration will decide everything.



# Leroy Crawford Jr.

## *Creating Change from the Inside Out*

by: Edwin Buggage

Leroy Crawford Jr. is a passionate and committed advocate in helping young people out of the darkness of hopelessness and strife giving them the tools to envision and navigate their way to brighter futures for themselves. A New Orleans native and St. Augustine graduate he is one of the nation's most sought after motivational speakers; specializing in cultural competency and working with at-risk youth. He has two decades of experience working with at-risk youth and is founder/owner of "InsideOut Behavior Consulting Services." Crawford believes that change begins from within and that we all must frequently or as needed do a self-checkup/triage about changing our lives from the "InsideOut."

Speaking on the origins of his commitment to service he says, "Basically, it comes from my humble beginnings growing up in the St. Bernard Housing Development where we didn't have a lot of money but the people around me were rich in their service to their community," says Crawford. Continuing he says of the person who influenced him the most in the spirit of giving is his late father Leroy Crawford Sr., who taught him and his brother Wayne Crawford valuable life lessons. "We were in church and he was an usher and an altar boy and anything he did

we did. In doing these and so many other things my father did was that we learned if you do right by people that you will be rewarded in the end. He was also a man who was the true definition of love, selflessness and compassion. I remember watching my dad take care of my mom Diana Crawford, who had an aneurysm for 18 years; I watched a man wash, clean and feed her for 18 years."

He believes that exposing young people to a world beyond their immediate environment is important in them dreaming big dreams for their lives and then taking the steps to make them a reality. "I've coached AAU Basketball and every summer we raised money and took 36 kids to several states and we did it because it was the right thing to do so kids could see that the world is bigger than New Orleans. I've taken kids to the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis. I have also taken them to Florida, where we would get a condo on the beach. I feel it is important to expose them to things like my father did for me planting the seeds that you can be anything you want to be if you work hard to achieve it."

While he is an eternal optimist, Crawford says he is disheartened by the violence he sees in the African-American commu-



nity. But as opposed to the problems he is focused on solutions. "I've spoken at kids' funerals that were unfortunately killed. I would work with families to help them through these tough times. I was featured in a documentary on Fusion TV's Prison Kids: Juvenile Justice in America. I also started a program called the Human Side. I got them to look at less of our differences and focus on what we had in common. I learned this in college and in traveling that if you keep people away from each other they would never believe they could make it together. My goal is if kids can talk it over its

less bloodshed and kids getting incarcerated."

Crawford says he loves to see kids he's worked with doing well. Speaking of one of these times he says, "I use to work at the Associated Marine Institute a program in the Lower 9th Ward with kids that were on probation and had

problems in school. There was a young man named Sim Wilson, a lot of kids looked up to him and they were afraid of him. I tried to help him but he wound up going to jail. Years later I was in a store and I heard this guy talking about how he sold cars and was with his daughter and who was it? Sim Wilson, he looked me in my eyes and said, 'Mr. Crawford I saw you on Facebook. I love you for everything you ever told me and he told me about all the other kids.' He listened and it gave me the fuel to stay the course. Gregory Johnson is another kid I worked with and now he is a fireman and there are many kids I worked with who are doing well. And they said what made an impact was the words I shared that you could be somebody. When I see, them doing well it is a joy because some of them did not fare as well and sitting in prisons like Angola."

When not delivering upbeat motivating programs for audiences across the country, Leroy enjoys sharing insight through

his impromptu Facebook and podcast show called "2nd- First. This title is based on Mr. Crawford life motto "2nd-First" because he believes that when you put others before you God will always take care of you. In offering advice to others who want to serve he says, "If you are in New Orleans, volunteer with your local schools, go to your recreation centers and your churches; don't accept no, if no one is going to do it you must find a way to do it yourself. Do something and say something."

In closing, he ends on the same notes as he began our interview in saying that the work he does is in the spirit of his father blazing the trail for him. "Today I am everything my dad molded me to be. I realize his legacy is me and it is my duty to pass those life lessons on to someone else. From this blazed trail left by his father; Leroy Crawford Jr., is creating change from the inside out and Data News Weekly is honored in naming him our December 2016 Trailblazer.

**JMJ**  
Joseph M. Jones  
Continuing Education Fund





# Mayor Highlights 2016 Job Creation in NOLA

## Data News Staff Edited Report

On December 20th Mayor Mitch Landrieu applauded the successes of the City's Economic Development Efforts throughout 2016. The Mayor's Office of Economic Development and the New Orleans Business Alliance (NOLABA) continued to celebrate the attraction and retention of nationally-recognized retailers and the continued distinction of New Orleans as an incubator for economic innovation and growth.

"When I took office in 2010, we had a clear goal— cultivate job growth and create opportunities for all New Orleans residents," said Mayor Mitch Landrieu. "Since then, we have added more than 15,000 new jobs by attracting and retaining businesses that are committed



Mayor Mitch Landrieu holds a press conference to highlight New Orleans 2016 Job Creations.

to hiring across New Orleans. We are showing the world that New Orleans can support nationally-recognized retailers and serve as a hub for innovation."

Rebecca Conwell, Senior Advisor to the Mayor for Economic Development, said, "In 2016, we continued our focus on both national and local business retention while also putting a concerted emphasis on small business support. Through our efforts, the word is out that New Orleans is the place to be."

In 2016, a number of local and national retailers opened their doors in New Orleans, giving residents greater access to fresh food, high-end shopping and health resources. The new installments include: Dryades Public Market, Nordstrom Rack, True Religion Jeans, Marshalls, Petco, New Orleans Hamburger and Seafood, CVS Lower 9th Ward, Part and Parcel, Higher Power Fitness.

Since May 2010, the Landrieu Administration has created more than 15,000 new jobs. As of October 2016, the City's unemployment rate dropped from 6.7 percent to 5.8 percent. Unemployment of African-American men also decreased from 52 percent to 44 percent.

## Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport Continues to Grow

The City began the year by breaking ground on the \$807 million North Terminal Project, scheduled to be complete by Oct. 1, 2018, in time for the 300th Anniversary of the City of New Orleans. The Louis Armstrong New Orleans Airport now provides service via 17 airlines to 59 non-stop destinations, including seven international destinations. Two new non-stop services, British Airways and Condor, are reconnecting New Orleans with Europe for the first time in 30 years. Additionally, today we added a new international direct flight to Honduras.



As of October 2016, the City's unemployment rate dropped from 6.7 percent to 5.8 percent, according to Landrieu.



Mayor Landrieu takes a tour of new businesses created in New Orleans

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# I Am Not Your Negro

By Dwight Brown  
NNPA Newswire Film Critic

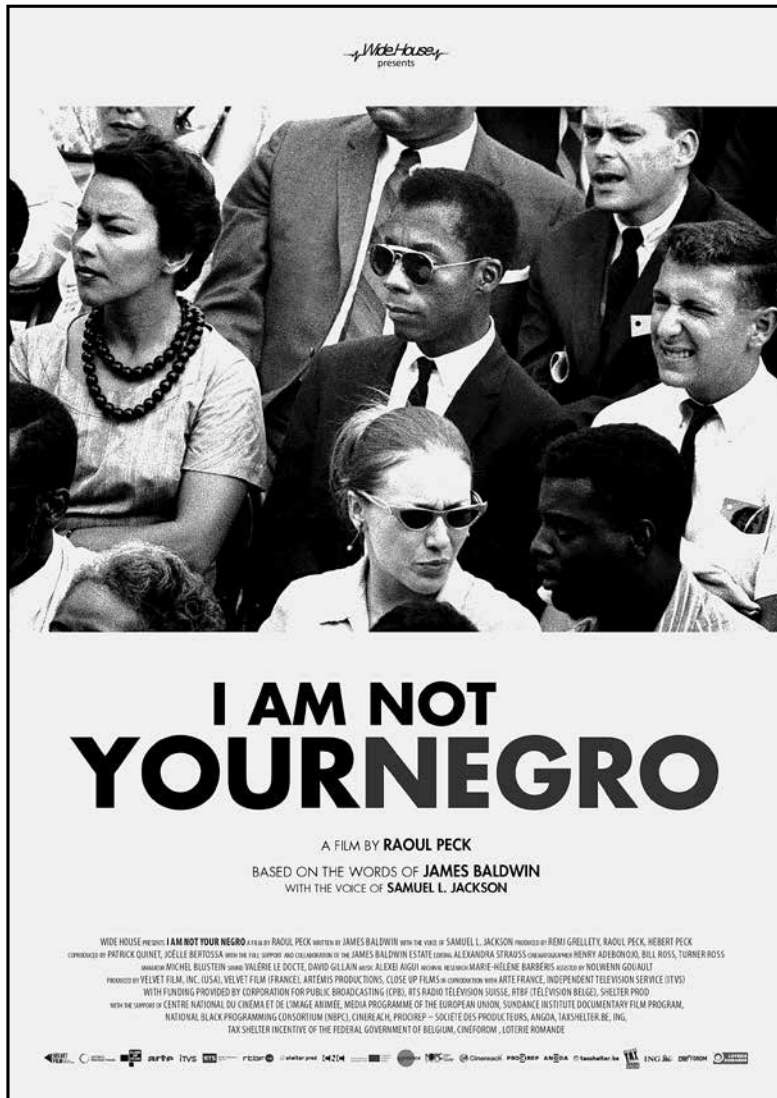
James Baldwin, the intellectual, civil rights activist and renowned author, left behind some biting and enlightening words about racism and the status of the Black community that are just as relevant today in this age of the Black Lives Matter movement.

Baldwin was born in Harlem in 1924. He moved to Paris around 1950, eventually taking up residence in the south of France. At some point in his self-imposed exile, he came to the conclusion that he had to turn his attention back to his home country. "I could no longer sit around Paris discussing America. I had to come and pay my dues," said Baldwin.

In 1979, Baldwin started working on his book, "Remember This House." The manuscript focused on the lives, views and assassinations of his three friends and colleagues: Medgar Evers, Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr. Unfortunately, at the time of his death he had only completed 30 pages.

Director Raoul Peck ("Lumumba") took those few, initial pieces of Baldwin's non-fiction tome and developed them into a searing documentary that examines the struggles of the 1950s and 1960s in a way that makes his thoughts on race incredibly poignant given today's sociopolitical landscape in the United States.

Peck assembles archival foot-



age, photographs and contentious TV clips (particularly the fledgling "The Dick Cavett Show" where discussions of the state of the "Negro" got heated). He adds in modern day camera feeds of demonstrators angry over police shootings. The results are a blis-

tering indictment of race relations both old and new.

Voiceovers by Samuel L. Jackson verbalize passages from Baldwin notes. You hear the author chide oppressors, confront Hollywood and challenge the American government. His words recount the

intimate relationships and mutual respect he had with the iconic civil rights legends Medgar, Malcolm and Martin, effectively humanizing these political/social deities. He candidly explores their differences and similarities. He reveals the absolute despair he felt each time he heard that one of them had been killed. His ruminations glow with a truth that is timeless.

Raoul Peck and editor Alexandra Strauss have masterfully fulfilled the arduous and artful task of pulling all the pieces of Baldwin's contemplations together and forming a fiery narrative that makes audiences recalibrate their feelings about race in America. The musical score by Aleksey Aygi adds a piqued sense of urgency and gravitas.

Medgar Evers was killed on June 12, 1963. Malcolm X was assassinated on February 21, 1965. Martin Luther King Jr. was murdered on April 4, 1968. James Baldwin died of stomach cancer on December 1, 1987. Together, collectively, they left behind a tremendous sociopolitical legacy that finds its due respect in this very powerful and enlightening documentary.

In 93 thought-provoking minutes, I Am Not Your Negro poignantly connects the past to the present with no apologies.

Dwight Brown is a film critic and travel writer. As a film critic, he regularly attends international film festivals including Cannes, Sundance, Toronto and the American Black Film Festival. Read more movie reviews by Dwight Brown here and at DwightBrownink

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### Job Opportunity

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Data News Weekly, "The People's Paper," is looking for freelance writers to join our team print and digital team. We want to hear from you if you are a working journalist, or an aspiring journalist who has 2 years or more of newspaper or PR writing experience. We need writers who can cover New Orleans news stories, ranging from local high school sports, community events, City Hall and entertainment. Experience in print is necessary, experience in digital and social media are encouraged.

Compensation is competitive and great story ideas will be appreciated.

If you are interested, please email your resume and 3 writing samples to: [terrybjones@bellsouth.net](mailto:terrybjones@bellsouth.net) and [datanewseditor@bellsouth.net](mailto:datanewseditor@bellsouth.net).

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