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Freret Street Festival Highlights

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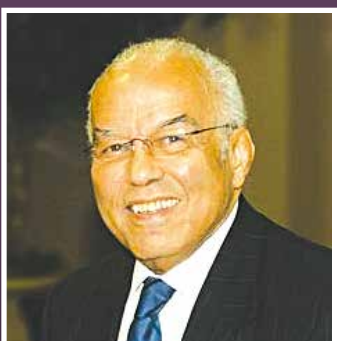
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Unity-1 on the Road to Rebuilding

Community Comes Together to Help Re-Open Iconic Business



L-R Deborah Griffin, Organizer of fundraiser, John and Beverly Smith, owners of Unity-1 Beauty Supply and Hair Salon and Bertha Bradley, owner of Bertha's Place.



Owner Beverly Smith vows to rebuild Unity-1 and says it will be even better and appreciates all the support they are getting from the community.

Edwin Buggage Editor

Fire Damages Historic Business in Broadmoor

On March 20th NOPD officers were in pursuit of what they believed was a car that was stolen. As officers became disengaged the car sped

away and tragedy arose as the car crashed into Unity-1 Beauty Salon, causing a three-alarm fire that left the iconic Broadmoor business building engulfed in flames leaving it presently inoperable. Also, three lives were lost, the two young men in the vehicle and one woman inside the salon who later succumbed to burns sustained in the fire.

After the fire an outpouring of support came from all over the city, state and nation regarding the rebuilding of what has become an institution in the African-American community. Data News Weekly spoke with Beverly Smith DPC (Doctor of Professional Cosmetology) who owns the business with her husband John Smith, who founded the business in 1981.

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Unity-1 Trailblazer in Black Haircare Industry in New Orleans

As we are known the Black Haircare Industry is a multi-billion-dollar industry and was traditionally where Black Entrepreneurs could find support from the Black community and build wealth. Today

rebuilding bigger and better," Ms. Beverly says with confidence and optimism ringing in her voice.

Speaking of their impact in the community she says, "We have helped the homeless to help transition to permanent housing. We offer training to them how to run a business and grow. We have a

Bertha's Place was also damaged by fire. But today Bertha's is in a new location and is going stronger than ever with the community continuing to support her. This is something that encourages Ms. Beverly, feeling their family business will travel down a similar path. "It touched her heart because she also had a fire to her business. It touched her heart, she said I understand your pain and if I can do anything to help. Love and prayers are phenomenal. It something to keep us motivated

and moving toward rebuilding our business. People really care."

Also closer to home in Broadmoor where their business is located neighboring business are pitching in to help, "Propeller, a business accelerator that works with small businesses is definitely reaching out. They have been very supportive and will be doing a fundraiser on April 15th I have also talked to Kathleen Rhodes of Rhodes Funeral Home and they said they are willing to help in any way possible."

The Value of Life

All Lives Matter and in this tragedy three lives were lost. With compassion and care in her voice she says, "I talked to one of the boy's mother and the other one's grandmother and I gave them my condolences. We were there to support them with their prayer vigil." Speaking of the young lady who lost her life she says, "Ms. Shawan, was one of our customers. We all went to her funeral and

Cover Story, Continued
on page 9.



New Orleans Mayor Latoya Cantrell (L) with Police Superintendent Shaun Ferguson (L) and NOFD Superintendent Timothy McConnell (far right) at the scene of Unity-1 fire.

while there are still businesses like Unity-1 that is Black Owned many have gone out of business.

But Beverly Smith is determined to continue the legacy they have built as they are on the road to rebuild their business.

"We are a family business that began in 1981 by my husband John Smith. I met him in 1982 and began working with him building our business that at one point had five locations and was the number one distributor of Black hair care products in the Southeast region," states Ms. Beverly, a name many have come to know her by in the community.

Continuing talking about the business she says, "We provide professional products to serve professionals in hair care industry the general public. We also have a salon as well. Beauty industry from all over the city gone on and started their own salon. We have been an incubator in the community for beauty professionals."

Community Comes Together to Support Rebuilding Effort

Speaking of their contribution and the beginning stages of their rebuilding she says, "We are reaching out for resources. We have spoken to Mayor Cantrell and our City Councilman Jay Banks for support. We are a historic business with ties in the community and we plan on

product as well. Umoja Visions we employ people to work with the product line. Learn how to become entrepreneurs."

Recently, the Bronner Brother Hair International Beauty Show came to New Orleans. There was an outpouring of support for Unity-1 and its rebuilding. Speaking of when they were presented a check for 10,000 dollars presented to them during an event Smith says, "Bronner Brother brought us on the main stage talked about our tragedy and asked everyone to support us and James and Jessica Bronner gave us a check to start restoration and renovations."

Locally, fundraisers are also being held to help. Recently, at Bertha's Place, a local bar held a fundraiser that was well attended with an outpouring of support. "We had DJ Captain Charles there, someone we have known for a long time. He lives in our neighborhood we have done many things for us. Bertha is someone we have known her for a long time. We started our business around the same time. She is just like family."

Deborah planned and organized the party to assist with us getting some things for our immediate needs."

They're both opening their businesses is not the only thing they have in common; recently,

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Norman Francis, Legendary Civil Rights and Higher Education Leader, to Receive 2019 Laetare Medal

Xavier University Norman C. Francis, longtime beloved President of Xavier University of Louisiana, will receive the University of Notre Dame's 2019 Laetare Medal — the oldest and most Prestigious Honor given to American Catholics — at Notre Dame's 174th University Commencement Ceremony on May 19th (Sunday).

"For more than 50 years, Dr. Francis has been at the center of Civil Rights advocacy by leveraging the power of Catholic higher education," said Notre Dame President Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C. "In bestowing the Laetare Medal upon him, Notre Dame recognizes his leadership in the fight for social justice through educational empowerment."

During Francis' 47-year tenure as President, Xavier's enrollment nearly tripled, the endowment grew eightfold and the university became the leading producer of African-American undergraduates who complete medical school. Xavier also ranks first nationally in the number of African-American students earning undergraduate degrees in biology and life sciences, chemistry, physics and pharmacy.

At a time when the U.S. Supreme Court — based on a legal challenge to Louisiana law regarding "separate but equal" — upheld segregation as the law of the land, St. Katharine Drexel founded Xavier, America's only Historically Black and Catholic University, in 1925. Heir to a banking fortune, Drexel also founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament and used her entire inheritance to advance racial equality for African-Americans and Native Americans, especially through education. Drexel's influence permeates Francis' achievements.

"I did not build Xavier; I was part of Katharine Drexel's mission to provide a quality education for all," Francis said. "All the people I worked with were part of this plan and mission, which was not only honorable, but was totally necessary when you look back at what the United States was at the time."

Born in Lafayette, Louisiana, in 1931, Francis was one of five children, and his early education took place in Catholic schools run by Spiritan Priests and Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament — all funded by Drexel's Philanthropy during a time when American Catholic churches were segregated.

In 1952, Francis became the first African-American admitted to Loyola University Law School in New Orleans. As he put it, "Somebody had to break the color line." Francis was not the only member of his family to push color lines. His older brother, the Most Reverend Joseph Francis, Auxiliary Bishop of Newark, became the fourth African-American to be elevated to the Bishopric in the United States.

After earning his law degree, Francis served in the U.S. Army, after which he decided to forgo a promising legal practice for a career in higher education and became Dean of Men at Xavier in 1957.

"It didn't take long for me to see that I could do more good educating young African-Americans, and when I look at the stats and where we are nationally, I never regretted it," Francis said.

Francis accepted the offer to become the first lay African-American President of Xavier on April 4, 1968 — the same day Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated.

"I am honored by Notre Dame recognizing me in this way," Francis said. "I think the fact that I have the privilege of being among the La-



Dr. Norman Francis

etare Awardees is itself a hope and an inspiration, not just for the students, but for many others as well."

While solidifying Xavier's reputation of academic excellence, Francis gained renown as a Civic Leader and an exceptional statesman. He served in advisory roles to eight U.S. Presidents on Education and Civil Rights Issues and has served on 54 boards and commissions. He has been a member of the Vatican's Pontifical Council

for Justice and Peace, a member of the Board of Trustees at the Catholic University of America and a member of the Board of Directors of the National Catholic Conference for Interracial Justice. He also served as Chair of the Louisiana Recovery Authority after Hurricane Katrina. In 2006, President George W. Bush honored Francis with the Nation's Highest Civilian Award, the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Francis received an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from Notre Dame in 1988 for his commitment to Education and Civil Rights. The University also recognized him in 2006 with a rare second Honorary Doctorate for his tireless work to rebuild his own institution and serve as Chair of Louisiana Recovery Authority.

The Laetare (pronounced lay-TAH-ray) Medal is so named because its recipient is announced each year in celebration of Laetare Sunday, the fourth Sunday in Lent on the Church calendar. "Laetare," the Latin word for "rejoice," is the first word in the entrance antiphon of the Mass that Sunday, which ritually anticipates the celebration of Easter. The medal bears the Latin inscription, "Magna est veritas et praevalerebit" ("Truth is mighty, and it shall prevail").

Established at Notre Dame in 1883, the Laetare Medal was conceived as an American Counterpart of the Golden Rose, a papal honor that antedates the 11th Century. The medal has been awarded annually at Notre Dame to a Catholic "whose genius has ennobled the arts and sciences, illustrated the ideals of the Church and enriched the heritage of humanity."

Previous recipients of the Laetare Medal include Civil War Gen. William Rosecrans, Operatic Tenor John McCormack, President John F. Kennedy, Catholic Worker Founder Dorothy Day, Novelist Walker Percy, Vice President Joe Biden, Speaker of the House John Boehner, Labor Activist Monsignor George G. Higgins, Homeboy Industries Founder Rev. Gregory Boyle, S.J., Rio Grande Valley Catholic Charities Executive Director Sister Norma Pimentel, M.J., Singer Aaron Neville and Actor Martin Sheen.

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Experts Discuss how Real Estate and the Arts Go Together

Jordan Spencer
Data News Weekly
Contributor

Local artists and developers came together to continue to examine how art-based real estate can support the creative industries and prevent gentrification in New Orleans neighborhoods. The conversation was the subject of the Idea Village's New Orleans Entrepreneur Week organized by the Downtown Development District (DDD) and the Creative Alliance of New Orleans (CANO).

"Creative leadership and optimism are important," said Jeanne Nathan, the Executive Director for CANO. "Real estate is important, but not everything," said Nathan, who in 1976 co-founded the Contemporary Arts Center with her husband Robert Tannen.

Nathan participated in the panel discussion that included ideas from both developers and creative specialists from around the country such as Kelley Lindquist, Lieven Bertels, Brian Giattina, Tara Hernandez, Johnathan Jackson, and Matthew Schwartz. Kurt Weigle, the President of the Downtown Development District moderated the forum at the Contemporary Arts Center on March 26, 2019.

Nathan recalled the beginnings of the CAC, noting that the first art show she hosted displayed tattoo parlors and trucks with one exhibition gallery. Through nearly 50 years of work with the CAC, she said they have since transformed the one-gallery show to the respected arts-space it is today. The panelists shared how the use of real estate for art-spaces can also be a tool to prevent gentrification.

"We're really into historic preservation," said Kelley Lindquist, the President of the National Non-Profit Artspace, which oversees more than 300 creative spaces and 1500 live-work spaces nationwide. The El Barrio's Artspace Project in New York, Lindquist shared, transformed an abandoned school



Audience listens intently during a panel on art and preventing gentrification in New Orleans. Photo by Joshua Vairin.



Panelist tells audience about the importance of supporting the creative industry. Photo by Joshua Vairin.

building into an arts facility that houses artists and their families. Lindquist explained how the non-profit worked to preserve and restore the exterior design of the old building by "placekeeping."

"[It is] creating space for the community without the effects of gentrification," Lindquist said about the concept of "placekeeping." The building leased 50-percent of the living units back to El Barrio residents to prevent the gentrification of the El Barrio community. The project's expenses

totaled roughly \$55 million, yet it restored the intricate design that resembled its original construction in 1898.

"Each project would work as an L.L.C.," Lindquist explained. All of the properties have the chance of becoming profitable and, depending on the state, receive tax credits.

"As a Minnesota organization, it was hard getting tax credits for artists," Lindquist said. "Artspace does a lot of fundraising to get to know the community," he said. For instance, the Traffic Zone Center in

Minneapolis serves as a community-gathering center for local artists and residents of the nearby neighborhoods.

"[Art-spaces] take the perspective of the artist, without thinking real estate," said Lieven Bertels, the Director of The Momentary, an arts venue associated with the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville, Ark.

Bertels' said his work aims to move away from the style of traditional art museums to displaying art pieces in more public,

unconventional settings.

"Take this bit of industrial real estate and use it as a platform for art and creativity," he said.

Bertels said that this type of development aims to provide art experiences in more social settings, creating a deeper relationship between the artist and his or her community.

"Artists will be there whether you care or not," he said. Bertels urged developers to consider the importance of recognizing artists who create content for a living, instead of simply admiring their work as just a hobby. It is why after Hurricane Katrina, the city remains a case study on how best to revitalize communities.

"You have to believe New Orleans is going to be a different place," said Brian Giattina, a Chairperson of Create Birmingham, who said this is what drives the creative solutions he comes up with to revitalize Birmingham, Ala.

"Have basic facts," he said, as a tool to support why creative development works. Giattina said that his team's report to the Cultural Alliance of Greater Birmingham titled "Stoking Innovation in the Magic City: Birmingham's Creative Industries 2014" provides the hard figures about why creative real estate can work. The corresponding project created 22,000 jobs in the creative arts, he said, with five-percent of the Birmingham population. The report allowed him and his organization to fund more creative arts projects and provide more jobs to local artists, he explained.

"Focus on community development," said Matthew Schwartz, the Chief Executive Officer for Domain Properties, which oversees "The Shop" located in the CAC, among other projects. Like Artspace, the Domain Properties' projects provide living and working spaces for local artists. His goal of connecting with the culture of New Orleans parallels his vision of artists creating work that reflects the ideas of the community. "Most of what we do is affordable," he said.

Freret Street Festival

By Kichea S. Burt
Data News Contributor

The Freret Street Festival returned this year to give New Orleanians and visitors eight blocks of fun. The festival, which includes pet adoptions, food courts, various vendors, and a diverse music line-up across three stage, is a can't-miss event, and Data News Weekly made sure to be there.

Known for its block-party feel, the Freret Street Festival had music that ranged from rock to swamp pop, and other New Orleans sounds. The Mardi Gras Indians made an appearance, as well as dancers and other performers. There was also a second line because no good New Orleans event is complete without one. The kids area includes inflatables, a petting zoo, alligator meet and greets, arts and crafts, clowns, and stilt walkers.

In addition to entertainment, the Freret Street Festival had over 200 vendors selling food, fashion, hand-crafted jewelry and arts, and more. The food was a reflection of the street itself: from Creole dishes to pizza and seafood, the choices left the attendees with full stomachs.

This year the festival operated under the leadership of the Rotary Club of New Orleans Riverbend, a group focused on community engagement.



Unity-1 Rebuilding Fundraiser at Bertha's Place

Photos by Glenn Summers

Recently, the Iconic Unity-1 Beauty Supply and Hair Salon caught fire. While this is an unfortunate incident, members of the community are supporting their rebuild by having fundraisers all over the city and nation. On April 4, 2019 one was held at Bertha's Place to raise funds to assist in the rebuilding effort. Many people came out to support. Data News Weekly was there and supports the rebuilding of this historic Black Business. We in our role as "The People's Paper" encourage our community to support our Black Owned Businesses. There is a go fund me page for those who want to support Unity-1 listed below.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-us-bring-back-unity-1-beauty-salon>



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As the 'Face' of the #MeToo Movement, Tarana Burke is Carving Out Space for a 'Unicorn'

Harlan McCarthy
Special to The New Tri-State Defender

The face of the #MeToo Movement and one of Time Magazine's "100 Most Influential People" graced the University of Memphis Ballroom stage last Friday to share her "why" and her vision for the future of the movement.

Tarana Burke, introduced by mayoral candidate and Shelby County Commissioner Tami Sawyer, was in Memphis to close out the university's Women's History Month programming.

Burke started the #MeToo Movement in 2006 with the mission to help survivors of sexual violence find pathways to healing. Within a few years, the hashtag turned into a worldwide viral community, offering vital conversa-



Tarana Burke, the face of the 2006 #MeToo movement, stresses the importance of the movement being inclusive to men, women, and those who don't identify in a talk at the University of Memphis.

courage to tell me what happened to her," she said. "I was like 'I don't know what to do with that,' but I also decided at that moment I didn't want to be in that position again."

Distressed with similar incidents, Burke started doing the legwork for the movement to go forward. In the past few years, her work has been connected to the incidents surrounding Harvey Weinstein and R. Kelly but Burke shies away from the #MeToo reputation of taking down powerful men.

"This whole idea that #MeToo is about taking down powerful men comes from the fact that the media focuses on one small piece of this work."

Burke highlighted the PSAs which cover the stories of victims Emily Waters, Terry Crews, Daniela Contreras and an anonymous survivor. Burke said people like Crews have opened the door for men survivors.

"The first thing we have to do is engage men as survivors in this movement. The second thing is that everyone doesn't identify as a man or a woman."

Burke said the book "The Body Keeps the Score" by Bessel van der Kolk helped her learn to compartmentalize shame when dealing with survivors and her own self-care but admitted that she still has battles with finding joy.

"For those of us who don't have access, for those of us who don't have time, for those of us who are still trying to figure it out: you may have not gotten to that place yet. Think about the things that make your heart smile for a second."

"Protect it like it's the thing that will save your life. I am in the process of just trying to get back to that. I think survival is a constant battle to get back to ourselves. Honestly, I don't want to be the face of #MeToo in five years. I want some young unicorn to come take this job."

Closing out the lecture, Burke answered questions from activists, students and fans in the crowd. Questions ranged from more discussion on the movement and how to help those marginalized communities, the documentary "Surviving R. Kelly," which details the sexual assault of young girls close to R. Kelly, and confessions from a student and fan about their own sexual abuse.

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tions both online and offline.

When asked by lecture host Hai Phuong Nguyen, an Institutional Equity Specialist at the University of Memphis, what compels her to do this line of work, Burke said her focus on helping Black survivors stemmed from her grandfather's practice of Garveyism.

With a strong Black feminist mother and Pan-African roots, it is no coincidence she read books from Audre Lorde, Toni Morrison and even Alex Haley's "Roots" alongside her required Catholic school readings.

"It was fine for me to do that (enrollment in Catholic school) as long as I read a history book alongside the bible. In the seventh grade — after I finished "Roots" — he gave me a book called "Before the Mayflower" and another one called "They Came Before Columbus," so I was into a lot of heavy stuff at an early age."

Reading books by Ivan Van Sertima, who was a Professor of African studies at Rutgers University and Author of "They Came Before Columbus," and Lerone Bennett Jr., a former Executive Editor of Ebony Magazine and Author of "Before the Mayflower," as a child created a foundation that Burke called different from other children's upbringing.

"I didn't have the typical childhood where you go get ice cream with your granddaddy on Sunday. He would drive me down to Har-

lem to a record store where you used to be able to buy cassette tapes of scholars, so John Henrik Clarke and Dr. Ben-Jochannan would be on cassette. He would buy them and then we would drive around listening to them."

Burke also credited her family for giving her a strong foundation which she used to identify injustices at an early age, whether it was questioning her childhood teachers on religion and history subjects or organizing in her community as part of the 21st Century Youth Leadership Movement.

The 21st Century Youth Leadership Movement was created around the 20th Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act and the Selma to Montgomery Commemorative March, with a mission to inspire and develop young people with mentoring training from a long list of Veteran Civil Rights Leaders.

"I grew up very active in social justice ... 21C molded me," said Burke.

That activism led Burke to co-found Just Be Inc., a program that promoted the wellness of teen girls, and was the catalyst for the #MeToo Movement.

"I had an experience a few years before with a young girl who had disclosed to me and I didn't know what to do with it. That's actually where I got the words 'me too' from because I couldn't say it to her. I was 22 and this baby was 13 and had the

Knock Knock. Don't Open That Door



James A. Washington
NNPA News Wire
Columnist

It's been some time ago, but I heard one of the most powerful sayings a friend of mine used to often say right before he was about to be installed as the new pastor of his own church. "When Satan knocks at the door, let Jesus answer it."

Maybe you had to be there, but

I still find the thought behind this saying absolutely awesome. I try to imagine actually being able to do this. Can you imagine if you really could? I mean what the sinful suggestions would be, the weaknesses of flesh and spirit.

The reality would be that you would see the devil coming from miles away and no matter how slick or innocent the approach, you could never be fooled again. Would you really do as Jesus did in the desert? Would you renounce the promise of riches, fame and power? For you, would it be as easy as, "Away from me Satan!" Matthew 4:10

According to scripture, after three times, the devil left and

the angels came to attend to Jesus and soon thereafter He began to preach.

In today's world, I'm simply asking if you knew where damnation was coming from, would you still live a damned life? The real question I'm asking is, do you know Jesus well enough to ask Him to answer your front door?

When life and the devil deal you a bad hand, can you get the Lord to sit at the table and play it for you? Is your relationship to the Almighty current enough, casual enough, familiar and habitual enough to take His presence in your life for granted? In times of great anxiety, do you need to whisper to God to take over or, are you

screaming at the top of your lungs hoping He'll hear your plight?

I don't get the impression that Jesus was screaming at the devil in the desert trying to keep His courage up in the face of temptation — the likes of which most of us will never see, let alone experience firsthand. At every turn, it was the devil who was way out of his league because when he came calling, Jesus merely let His father answer the door.

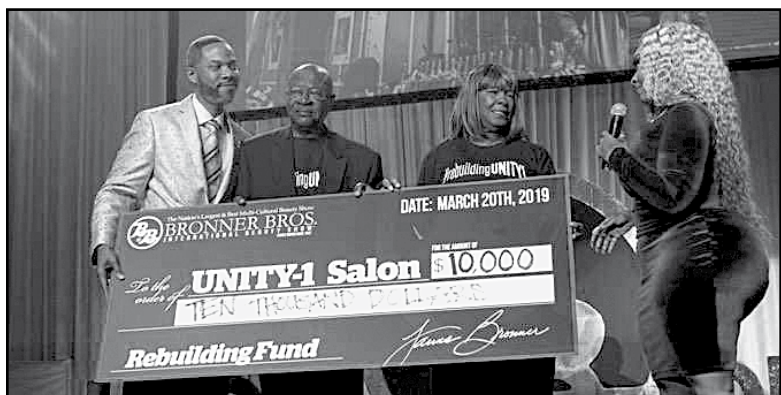
"Man does not live by bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord...Do not put the Lord your God to the test...Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only." Matthew 4:4-11.

I can only imagine, because I'm not there yet (I'm working on it), what it's like to be able to call upon Jesus so regularly that His presence in my daily life is second nature. I must admit that there are times when I recognize that the turmoil in my life has been or is being manufactured by pure evil. That recognition allows me the privilege to simply tell the devil to back up because I don't really have time.

If you get my perspective, it's okay to ask Jesus to handle the situation because your time is better spent trying to do the work He would be proud of. When you're that busy, I truly believe Jesus doesn't mind getting the door.

May God bless and keep you always.

Cover Story, Continued from page 3.



Recently, the Bronner Brother Hair International Beauty Show came to New Orleans where there was an outpouring of support where John and Beverly Smith, owners of Unity-1 were presented a check from check for 10,000 dollars towards rebuilding.

supported them. I remember seeing her coming in the salon. She was a very quiet lady; she didn't say much. Monica Scott would do her hair who is one of the salon managers. I remember her just loving being in the environment and my heart goes out to her family and her son Anthony who also use to come and get his haircuts and line ups."


The Continuing Importance of Black Owned Businesses and Unity in the Community

In post Katrina New Orleans with its many changes; the importance of Black Institutions, business and cultural footprint is essential. Speak of the future of her business and other Black Businesses she says, "Being a Black owned business is sometimes a challenge; oftentimes we do not get the funding and support we need. But I feel there has



been an upside to it as well, being a role model for the community," Smith says proudly.

"We have young people who are now adults say they watched us and because of our example wanted to become a business owner. We give a lot of hope and encouragement that you can become a business owner. The community is proud of what we've become, and we've inspired them."


For those who know of all they have given back, it is now time for them to be on the receiving end as an outpouring of love and support is there as Unity-1 is on the road to rebuild. "Unity means coming together as one. We need to unite and be on one accord. Whenever there is someone in need. The community can come together to help; together we can stand but divided we will fall. Together we can accomplish more. The whole city, not just Broadmoor."



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Patti LaBelle to Headline Dillard University Founding Anniversary Celebration

Mark Veals
Data News Contributor

To mark its 150th Founding Anniversary, Dillard University will welcome Singer Patti LaBelle as its featured performer for its Gala Event on May 11th. The Grammy-Award Winning Artist, Actress, and Entrepreneur will perform at the event, which also serves as a fundraiser for students attending this Historically Black University. The gala at the Hyatt Regency downtown will recognize the university's contribution to the city, and work to sustain its legacy.

"For me, Dillard is an integral part of the history of New Orleans. It was built by a diverse coalition of local and out of state citizens," said Walter Kimbrough, Dillard's President.

"It has been supported by two religious' denominations. It provided the state's first nursing program. It has a unique location in a residential community important in building the Black middle-class of the city. So, all of those factors help build the legacy," Kimbrough said.

It is not the first time LaBelle has brought her philanthropy to help the local university. A decade ago, she headlined their 140th Anniversary Fundraiser. LaBelle will be joined by Hip-Hop Artist Lana Michelle Moorer, also known as MC Lyte, who serves as a Dillard Board Trustee Member, and will also be the host of the event. The proceeds of the gala fundraiser support the university's Student Assistance for Financial Emergencies (SAFE) Fund that helps retain students most at-risk of not completing their



Patti LaBelle

degrees because they could not pay their outstanding balances. Since its inception, the SAFE Fund has so far helped 300 students to remain enrolled at Dillard and over 100 students have graduated.

"While there is federal, state and institutional aid available, some-

times a [financial] gap still exists because funding runs out. SAFE is used to help make up that difference so that students can persist and ultimately graduate from Fair Dillard," said David D. Page, Dillard's Vice-President of Enrollment Management. "The support of our

alumni, family/friends, and donors is critical and ultimately makes this happen."

The gala will also pay tribute to past university presidents, campus life, and more. Additionally, distinguished alumni will be honored at the gala. The honorees include:

Dr. Millie Charles, recipient of the Dave Dennis Lifetime Achievement Award which is presented to an alumnus who has exhibited significant achievement in their career or community. Michael Griffin, the recipient of the Henry 'Plook' Lucas Service Award, which is awarded to an alumnus who has exhibited significant leadership through service to his/her Alma Mater. Warren Jones, the recipient of the Justice Revis O. Ortique Professional Excellence Award, which honors an alumnus who has attained high achievement in his/her career field. Crystal McDonald, the recipient of the Young Alumni Award, which recognizes established and future leaders among Dillard's young alumni or those who have demonstrated such during their first 15 years as an alumnus. Lastly, Dorothy Perrault, the recipient of the Frank Mason Leadership Award, which honors an alumnus who has been a momentous supporter of Dillard University.

"Today we are focused on ensuring that we contribute not just locally but globally in a range of areas. This means continuing to be a leading producer of physics graduates, to continue to develop a hands-on film program, as well as address the dearth of people of color in the legal community." "We definitely aren't simply interested in celebrating 150 phenomenal years; we are essentially launching a new era of creative innovation," Kimbrough said.

Both Hyatt Regency and WDSU Channel 6 will sponsor the event and the public can find out my information at <http://bit.ly/du150gala>

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Prince

Three Years Later Fans say their 'Guitar still Weeps'

Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire
Correspondent

Three years ago, the world lost another icon: Prince.

Prince Rogers Nelson, the Minneapolis-born, Rock and Roll Hall of Fame honoree and multi-Grammy-winning artist collapsed in an elevator and died of an accidental prescription drug overdose at his Paisley Park home and studios on April 21, 2016.

He was 57.

Standing at just 5 feet 2 inches, the legendary Purple Rain singer was proof that physical stature is no indication of the impact an individual can have on the entire world. "No other single album influenced me as a teenager and into my adult years more than Purple Rain," said Michael Stover, President of MTS Management Group and MTS Records.

"The album is sheer perfection, and Prince was a once in a lifetime. I've always told people that Prince is the 20th and 21st Century equivalent to Mozart or Beethoven," Stover said.

Prince's groundbreaking 1984 album Purple Rain sold more than 20 million copies worldwide and produced such era-defining hits as "When Doves Cry," "Let's Go Crazy," and the title track, "Purple Rain." The album earned three Grammy Awards and three American Music Awards while the film earned an Oscar for Best Original Song Score, the last to receive the award.

Just two years prior, in 1982, Prince released, "1999," his fifth studio album which sold more than 6 million copies and was his first to reach the top 10 on the Billboard music charts.

It proved that the crossover star was just getting started.

Born on June 7, 1958 Prince was named after his father, whose stage name was Prince Rogers



Prince

and who performed with a jazz group called the Prince Rogers Trio, according to the website PrinceVault.com. In a 1991 interview, Prince's father, John L. Nelson, said he named his son Prince because "I wanted him to do everything I wanted to do." With albums like "Prince," "Controversy," "1999," "Purple Rain," "Sign O' the Times," and "Musicology," Prince released nearly 1,000 songs over his career.

He has won multiple Grammy Awards, American Music Awards, a Golden Globe and an Academy Award. In 2004, Prince was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. That same year, he was named the top male pop artist of the past 25 years and Rolling Stone ranked Prince No. 27 on their list of

the 100 Greatest Artists of All Time.

"The highlights of Prince's life are so many – how to pick one? From the first time I watched Purple Rain in the theater – where the girls in Boston screamed at the screen every time Prince was in a scene – to the Rock n'Roll Hall of Fame solo on While My Guitar Gently Weeps; to the most amazing Super Bowl halftime performance ever where Prince said 'Can you make it rain harder?' when a concerned producer checked in with him before he was supposed to go on; his life was one of brilliance that inspires us to this day," recalled Terence O'Toole Murnin, a Prince fan who lives in Arizona.

Another fan, Nicholas Wolaver, attended what would be Prince's final concert series in Atlanta in

2016. It was following that show that a plane carrying the superstar was forced into an emergency landing because Prince needed immediate medical attention for an apparent overdose.

Doctors revived Prince and less than a week later as a private doctor was arriving at Paisley Park to help the singer with addiction, he was dead.

"I started listening to Prince in the fourth grade with Little Red Corvette and other pre-Purple Rain hits on the radio," Wolaver said.

"Later my college journey took me to Minnesota where the local scene was much more informative about Prince's impact there. I attended three of his concerts in Atlanta, including an arena show, an intimate performance with only a few hundred people and finally that penultimate concert at The Fox Theatre," Wolaver said.

"For the arena and intimate show, he was all about the guitar, while the piano was the centerpiece for the final events – he rocked any instrument he touched. I still have a recording from that penultimate concert on my phone and play it often and reflect on the life he led and music he created. He's greatly missed," he said.

For Ginna Currie of New York, she said she's thankful that famed director Spike Lee throws an annual block party in Brooklyn in memory of Prince.

"I have been a Prince fan since 1979's 'I Wanna Be Your Lover,'" Currie said.

"It is still hard to comprehend that there will be no more Prince concerts to attend. Every couple of years Prince was in the New York metro area on tour," Currie said.

"He was the consummate entertainer with singing, dancing and playing guitar, piano, drums. I listen to his music almost every day and I just wish [Prince's] family would release the music inside the vault," she said.

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