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**Seal's Class Act Outreach
and Social and Pleasure Club's
22nd Annual Easter Parade**

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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

Jazz Fest Celebrates 50 Years



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Irma Thomas



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Aaron Neville

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Jazz Fest Brings 50th Anniversary to Life Beginning April 25th



Irma Thomas



Kermit Ruffins

By Data Staff Writers

After cancellations due to illnesses from The Rolling Stones' and Fleetwood Mac's lead singers Mick Jagger and Stevie Nicks, both whom were slated to be headliners at its 50th-Year Celebration, organizers of the world-renowned and beloved New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival have regrouped and will open on Thursday, April 25th, a day added this year to offer specially-priced tickets for locals. Bringing mega-watt

star power from the likes of Diana Ross, Katie Perry, Aaron Neville, Pitbull and Earth, Wind and Fire, to name a few, the 50th Celebration is expected to draw hundreds of thousands of visitors seeking to experience local cuisine, music and the effervescent culture which is globally and undeniably distinct to New Orleans. Now in its 50th Year, Jazz Fest continues its tradition of being a local and national staple for world-class food, entertainment and more.

Locals Thursday

Though back in its inaugural year Jazz Fest tickets sold for a cool \$3, as the saying goes, times change. So in honor of their 50-Year Milestone, Jazz Fest is celebrating with "Locals Thursday" an extra day of Festing, offering specially priced tickets for locals with a valid Louisiana State ID. Festival organizers are looking forward to bringing even more acts to the stages and more fun to New Orleanians, many whom have opted out of the Festival in recent years because of

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Chaka Khan



Aaron Neville



Trombone Shorty



Big Freedia



Tank and the Bangas

rising ticket costs. Headlining on the Acura Stage on Locals Thursday will be the Supergroup Earth, Wind and Fire who will close out, performing from 5:45-6:55. Thursday's line-up will also include, international Superstar Pitbull, Grammy nominated R&B Singer Ciara, long-time Megastar Tom Jones and Latino Singing/Rapping sensation J Balvin, among others.

50th Anniversary Line-Up

After experiencing two potentially devastating back-to-back blows with losing headlining acts The Rolling Stones and Fleetwood Mac, Jazz Fest organizers seemingly didn't miss a beat, recovering

phenomenally with another all-star lineup of local, regional and national artists. This year, there will also be 20 tributes to New Orleans music legends including Fats Domino & Allen Toussaint. The special 50th-Anniversary lineup includes Irma Thomas, Katy Perry, Dave Matthews Band, Van Morrison, Al Green, Aaron Neville, Gladys Knight, Tank and the Bangas, Big Freedia, Chaka Khan, Kermit Ruffins, The Ellis Marsalis Quintet, Trombone Shorty, and many more.

Festival for Foodies

Foodies hailing from near and far flank to New Orleans all-year-round to experience the vastly di-

verse restaurant scene, and with two dedicated food areas and additional vendors spread throughout the Fairgrounds, Jazz Fest is as much a food festival as it is a music festival. Fest attendees will enjoy the plethora of Cajun and international eats like, Cajun Duck Po-Boys and Couscous with yogurt sauce, in addition to staples like the signature Crawfish Monica, Mango Freeze and Crawfish Bread. Other featured delicacies include: Stuffed Beignets (lump crab, praline, chocolate), Crawfish, Spinach & Zucchini Bisque, Shrimp Yakisoba, Alligator Sauce Piquante, Pheasant, Quail and Andouille Gumbo, locally made ar-

tisan Gelato and Sorbetto, Crawfish Strudel and White Chocolate Bread Pudding and traditional Beignets and Cafe Au Lait. But this is just for starters. There are many, many more unique foods to discover. Parents will also be delighted to find a Kids Food area featuring favorites for the little ones like, Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwiches, Grilled Cheese Sandwiches, Baked Mac & Cheese, Sloppy Jaux Sandwiches, Fresh Strawberry & Yogurt Trifles, cupcakes and more.

Jazz Fest Tickets

There are several days and ways to enjoy Jazz Fest. Fest like

a local with the bonus day, fest like a pro with weekend packages and bundles, or fest in luxury with a number of VIP options and experiences. Whichever route you take, plan to have a great time. Thursday, May 2nd will require a special ticket at a higher rate of \$185. This day will also be a limited capacity day. All tickets include access to all performance's day of validation, but food, drink and craft vendor purchases are not included in the ticket price. Discounted early-bird tickets are available, starting at \$70. For more information on the festival lineup, tickets and more, visit the website at: nojazzfest.com

New Orleans' Nailah Jefferson Wins Black Public Media's Pitchblack

National Incubator for Black Stories Picks Jefferson's Documentary on Danielle Bernard Metz's Prison Sentence Commutation

Data News Staff Edited
Report NEW YORK
(4/19/19)

New Orleans resident Nailah Jefferson's documentary has been selected as a winner of PitchBLACK, an interactive pitching session held on Friday in New York City. The event culminated Black Public Media's 13-week 360 Incubator+ for broadcast programs, web series and virtual reality projects. The National Incubator and Talent Development Program, designed to identify and pipeline quality Black content while honing the skills of brilliant makers, awarded a total of \$320,000 in funding.

"Commuted" is a lyrical documentary about New Orleanian Danielle Bernard Metz, a mother of two who, in 1993, was sentenced to triple life plus 20 years for her role in her husband's drug ring. After



360 Incubator+ Creative Consultant Sandy Rattley; one of the broadcast winners, Nailah Jefferson (Commuted); 360 Incubator+ Administrator Denise Green; and Black Public Media Executive Director Leslie Fields-Cruz PitchBLACK Awards Photo credit James Brooks

community's fight for justice after the catastrophic BP Oil Spill in 2010. Jefferson's first narrative film, "Plaquemines" (now on Cinemax) won the inaugural Create Louisiana \$50K Short Film Grant and was an American Black Film Festival HBO Shorts finalist.

The filmmaker will be awarded \$100,000 in funding and a license agreement for public media distribution. Winners were announced Friday at the Inaugural PitchBLACK Awards at Apella by Alexandria on Manhattan's East River by BPM's Denise Greene, Administrator of the 360 Incubator+, and Sandra Rattley, the program's creative consultant. Jefferson's mentor through the program is documentary filmmaker Yoruba Richen.

"Nailah's project is a very deserving one. We will continue to support her project as we facilitate the connections with the distributors and funders at the Pitch Forum and field additional interest developed," said BPM's Executive Director Leslie Fields-Cruz. Based in Harlem, BPM is the nation's only non-profit dedicated solely to media content about the Black experience.

The 360 Incubator+ is funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the MacArthur Foundation, the NEA, the New York State Council on the Arts and New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

serving 23 years in prison, Danielle was finally freed under President Obama's Clemency Initiative in 2016. "Commuted" documents her fight to reconcile her present life with past regrets.

Jefferson is a native of New Orleans, whose documentary film work reflects the community that raised her. Her first film, "Vanishing Pearls," chronicles an obscure African-American oyster-fishing



State Project Aims to Create Civil Rights Trail

Story and Photos by Mark Veals
Data News Weekly
Contributor

State officials are traveling parish to parish to unveil its plan to create a Louisiana Civil Rights Trail that will tell the story and history of Louisiana's involvement in the Civil Rights Movement. The meetings are designed to receive valuable input from citizens across the state to identify and interpret historic events, physical structures, and specific locations that helped shape Civil Rights History.

The planning stages for the trail began with the first of many meetings that occurred on April 22nd at the Small Center on 1725 Baronne St. Eight other planned meetings are scheduled to take place across the state in April and May. Current scheduled meetings across the state include stops in the cities of Hammond, Lafayette, Opelousas, Alexandria, Thibodaux, Monroe, Shreveport, and Lake Charles. These statewide meetings will provide an overview of the project, discuss the nomination process and criteria, as well as answer any questions attendees may have.

"We got the ball rolling late last year when we gathered citizens, stakeholders, civic leaders, and lawmakers in Baton Rouge to begin the initial process of sharing ideas in the development of the Louisiana Civil Rights Trail," said Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser, in a release announcing the project. "That meeting was the foundation to this next step of traveling across Louisiana in order to get a full appreciation of the potential important stories, people, and locations in our state that highlight an important time in our history," Nungesser said.

The qualifications for sites to be placed on the trail must have the following criterion. Firstly, the site must be associated with events that made a significant contribution to the Louisiana Civil Rights




State officials meet to devise plans for the creation of a Louisiana Civil Rights Trail aimed at telling the history of Louisiana's involvement in the Civil Rights Movement.

Movement. Secondly, the site should be associated with the life of a person/s who was significant in the Louisiana Civil Rights Movement. Thirdly, it must be open to the public or public view as a tourist attraction, providing guided or self-guided experiences, or displaying a series of commemorative markers that communicate context for the Louisiana Civil Rights Movement. Fourthly, it must have regular hours, and fifth, officials prefer that sites have associated websites and/or promotional materials. Lastly, it should be supported with a website or some type of staff on site.

The time period selected for the trail is the 1950s to the 1960s and examples of potential sites that were mentioned at the meeting included Dooky Chase Restaurant, Ruby Bridges' Statue, Southern University at New Orleans, and multiple city churches, among others. A suggestion that each parish in the state should have its own trail was also brought up at the meeting. Some participants had concerns with the trail, stating that a similar project was researched in the 1980s under

the name of the African-American Trail. Another similar trail was said to be completed in 2006 but was only meant to be web-based. Attendants at the meeting also raised questions concerning the parameters surrounding the project, as some said they felt the guidelines were too vague.

"We are literally starting from ground zero and are in the information gathering stage. This project is tangible, and we may have another trail, or the time period selected may change" said Sharon Calcote, the Director for Louisiana Byways, who spoke on the significance of Louisiana's impact in the Civil Rights Movement. "This is the story Montgomery doesn't have, if it wasn't for Louisiana, they wouldn't have theirs," Calcote said of the importance of the state's civil rights activities for the rest of the South.




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Seal's Class Act Easter Parade 2019

Photos by Glenn Summers

Seal's Class Act Outreach and Social and Pleasure Club's 22nd Annual Majestic Kids Easter Parade rolled through the 6th and 7th wards on a beautiful Sunday afternoon, April 21, 2019.

The Royal Court threw candy, plush toys and beads to onlookers along the parade route, bringing smiles and joy to everyone.

Seal's Class Act Outreach and Social and Pleasure Club is a nonprofit organization dedicated to introducing culture and tradition to a younger generation.



Data Zone, Continued on next page .

Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from these events

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Oscar H. Blayton
Attorney At Law, Inc.

No person in his or her right mind will deny that America is a thicket of racism, misogyny, entitlement for the wealthy, dishonesty, and a fictitious veneer of meritocracy. So, it is befitting that we have an occupant in the White House who exemplifies all these things. Donald Trump clearly displayed his many loathsome traits before being elected to the highest office

in the land. He also proved that he had neither the knowledge nor the understanding necessary to competently lead a nuclear power. The only believable aptitude that his campaign presented to the American electorate was his abiding belief in white supremacy. And he rode that one trick pony all the way to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

After occupying the Oval Office for more than two years, Trump has had his corrupt and illegal practices laid out in more than 400 pages of a government report produced by a team of investigators and lawyers led by Special Counsel, Robert Mueller. Political pundits have expressed their shock and surprise at the depth of Trump's

immorality. The legion of lies, his schemes to overthrow the rule of law and his constant efforts to obstruct justice were revealed in page after page of Mueller's report. But the most surprising thing about this episode of America's history is not Trump's immortality, but the sense of surprise – real or pretended – expressed by members of the major media outlets. When you climb into a pigpen to kiss a hog, you should not be surprised by what winds up on your lips. And many Americans have been French kissing this swine for more than two years. The question now should not be "How did things come to this?" The answer is clear. We elected a villain to the White House. The question we must now answer is: "How do we rid the American body politic of this cancer?"

Some Democratic leaders in the U.S. House of Representatives are counseling against impeaching Trump. Instead, they call for the American voters to turn him out of office in 2020. Fearful of losing their seats by angering conservatives, these shameful Congress members are asking voters to do the job they were elected to do. Cowering before small but vocal segments of their constituencies, these self-serving politicians are willing, for the sake of their own re-elections, to surrender the public good to the worst elements of our society. When these politicians make their next predictable pilgrimages to Black churches and neighborhoods seeking what they believe are "guaranteed" Democratic votes, they should be pressed on why they did not see fit

to protect the American people and move to impeach No. 45.

Every day Trump remains in office is a threat to the well-being of people of color. His policies diminish our quality of life and the tone he sets in the White House gives license to those in America whose hateful, racist inner demons have waited decades for a chance to wreak havoc on their victims. For months, Robert Mueller was hailed as the hero who had ridden in on his white horse to make everything right in Washington. But his report disappoints by failing to call out Trump's illegal actions for what they are. Anecdotes in the Mueller Report confirming already well-founded suspicions and widely

**Commentary, Continued
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Spiritually Speaking

COMMENTARY: Selfish Versus Selfless. Know the Difference.



James A. Washington
NNPA News Wire
Columnist

There are a lot of things in our Christian belief system that require a leap of faith, including faith itself. The whole notion of blessings is like that. I think I'm beginning to understand blessings a little more clearly from a spiritual perspective.

Haven't we all been taught at one time or another to give rather than receive?

Christian or not, kindness and goodwill are thought to be wonder-

ful attributes of all people. Forgiveness and mercy are considered staples of the Christian diet. The result, we believe, in life now and in the next is God gives rewards for a life spent giving with no hidden expectation of receiving in return.

Now all that sounds good until, somewhere in your world, life happens.

Unfortunately, at a very early age we learn that life is cruel, unpredictable and the only religious factoid we experience is that our kindness is generally taken as weakness and our generosity viewed as foolish. Life and the people in it will use you if you allow it.

Pain often comes from an attempt to help somebody who doesn't give a damn about you. It is the reason many a good person goes bad. People will protect them-

selves against this kind of personal anguish. We learn how to survive in spite of disappointment.

We all eventually learn how to navigate a world in which we've come to believe nice guys do finish last, takers succeed and cheaters, well, they cheat.

Now, here comes scripture with the edict that giving is always better than receiving. As a matter of fact, it is a Christian prerequisite. I thought about this and came to the following conclusions: You don't know what kind of mother you'll be until you have children. You don't know what kind of friend you'll be until you become one. You cannot know the depth of your ability to love someone until you are head over heels caught up in it.

The point is you can't really know yourself as a human being until you

share your life with others, without fear, without restrictions, without conditions. It's that being a blessing thing.

For many, including me, this is tough duty because life is so cruel. However, only by being a friend can you know true friendship. Only by giving love unconditionally can you understand unconditional love. Only by being a blessing can you know being blessed. It doesn't appear to work any other way.

If you go through life just existing with a self-imposed set of criteria, then guess what? That's what you'll get in return; love and friendship with strings attached.

You can't expect your prayers to be answered if your prayer life starts and stops with "I." I believe you block countless blessings if your prayers include no one but you

and they echo the trials and tribulations of your life only.

This is evident by knowing the difference between praying in faith or praying out of fear. God really shouldn't have to ask what you have done for Him lately; when He asks so little of you.

Just act like you know who He is and who you are in relation to Him. "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord." John 12:13.

Like I said, being a blessing is the only road to being blessed. Now take a look at the nonsense of this world. It should give you clarity.

May you be a blessing to someone, and may God bless and keep you always.

James A. Washington is a father, husband, Christian, writer, entrepreneur and the owner/publisher of the Dallas Weekly.

Commentary, Continued from page 8.

known violations of law that had been reported in the media for months did little to further inform the public of Trump's wrongdoings. And in its present form, the report is subject to manipulation by Trump allies to normalize his behavior and anesthetize the American people to the abuse heaped upon us daily by this administration.


Anyone who cannot see an attempted conspiracy between the Trump campaign and the Russian government is simply choosing not to look. Anyone who is not convinced that Trump clearly obstructed – and attempted to obstruct – justice is choosing to abandon the rule of law. Trump committed his many crimes in full view of the American public, so the facts laid out in the Mueller report should come as no surprise. Right-thinking Americans should not allow politicians to be surprised at the contents of the Mueller report. Any politician who expresses such surprise is either too dishonest or too stupid to be returned to office. Right-thinking Americans should not allow politicians to shirk from legitimate efforts to impeach Donald Trump. If they are too cowardly to weather the turmoil of an impeachment process, they should pack their bags, leave Washington and look for another line of work.

Oscar H. Blayton is a former Marine Corps Combat Pilot and Human Rights Activist who practices law in Virginia.



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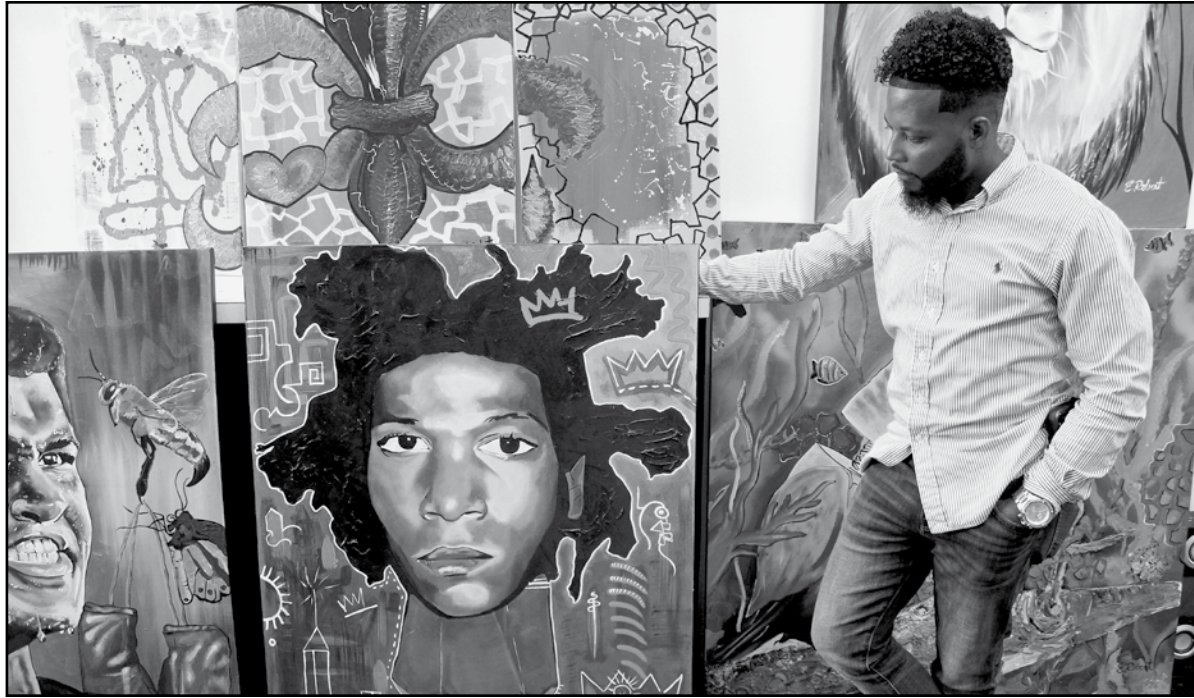
A Look into the E. Robert Art Gallery

Story and Photos by Avane Ervin
Data News Weekly Contributor

In celebration of the recent opening of his new art gallery, New Orleans native, Ernest Robert hosted a welcoming event on April 9, 2019, where the community was able to see his newest additions as a professional artist. The E. Robert Gallery is one of two Black-owned art galleries located in the Lower Garden District of New Orleans and has made its debut on 1912 Magazine Street.

"I opened the shop because painting is a part of my life, painting is like breathing to me... I opened the shop to share my life with the world," Robert said as he spoke to several of his guests. Art has been a part of Robert's life since he was five years old, he explained.

"Everything I saw around me I wanted to draw, everything was art... That's when I knew art was for me," he said. Growing up in Algiers, Robert said he found a love for recreating his world through the art presented to him through his city. He also attended Oliver Walker Perry High School in Algiers, where he continued practicing drawing and painting.



Artist E. Robert gazes at one of his original pieces. His gallery recently opened at 1912 Magazine Street.

There have been many challenges being an African-American Artist in a world that he believes does not appreciate the value of art in the same way it used to. He mentioned that his biggest challenge is the desire to have the majority of his works be Black ordinary people and public figures.

"I paint so many Black people and they want me to mix my art up

for other people," Robert said, "but as a Black man, that's all I know how to be," he added. Robert said he understands that it is important to be versatile, but that he has a specific vision of the kinds of works he wants to create. "I paint what comes to mind, I don't see Black or White. I paint what makes me feel good," he added.

His art is unique, he said, be-

cause of the messages he delivers. Robert said he strives to paint images that reflect situations he is going through that may be valuable to others. "Most things that I paint are not people that we all know the stories about, but they are creations of stories I am trying to tell," he said. His art ranges from portraits of friends that have impacted his life to celebrities that have influenced

many communities.

As his art is a reflection of who he is, Robert said he is most inspired by his children as they are the motivation he needs to keep going. "They give me a reason to do what I love," he said. "I do it for them so that they know anything they desire to have is attainable through hard work, dedication, and commitment," he added.

Robert said he has found a lot of inspiration through the words of others that keep him going, especially from his mother. His mother Annette Robert said she is proud of her son and appreciates how he has been eager and unafraid to go against the status quo.

"I have not always understood it, but I have grown to respect it," she said, laughing. "There is one aspect of his art I have always found to be the most intriguing, it is the arrangement of brilliant colors in each picture," she added.

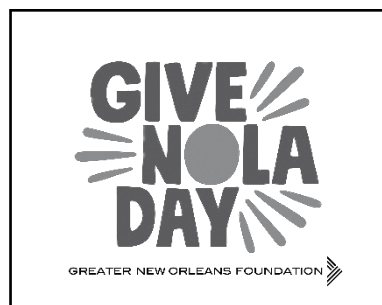
Through trial and error, Robert learned what makes his art successful and what makes it worth looking at. "Part of good art is creating images that remain pure to yourself, and reconceiving your world," Robert said.

Give Nola Day 2019 Benefits Orleans Parish Non-Profits

Data Staff Writers

GiveNOLA Day, an initiative of the Greater New Orleans Foundation (GNOF), is a one-day online giving event for the 13-Parish Greater New Orleans region. Those living in Orleans Parish can show their support for the community by participating in the day-long donation campaign that kicks off at 12:01 a.m. on Tuesday, May 7, and ends at Midnight, 24-hours later.

GNOF has released the non-profits taking part in the 2019 Campaign. For a full list of non-profits, visit www.GiveNOLA.org. Local non-profits in Orleans Parish include: New Orleans Police and Justice Foundation, New Orleans Women and Children's Shelter, Ogden Museum of Southern Art, Propeller: A Force for Social Innovation, Team Gleason, Trinity



Church, Uptown Arts, Vietnamese Initiatives in Economic Training, WBRH Reading Room, YMCA of Greater New Orleans, Youth Audiences of Louisiana, Inc. and Zeus' Rescues.

Local non-profits in Orleans Parish include: Ashé Cultural Arts Center, Café Reconcile, Children's Bureau of New Orleans, Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana, Committee for a Better New Orleans, Friends of Lafitte Greenway, Girls on the Run New Orleans, Girl

Scouts Louisiana East, Grow Dat Youth Farm, Longue Vue House and Gardens, Louisiana Children's Museum and New Orleans Mission.

"Let's all get ready to give! On May 7th, we will have the opportunity to come together as a community to support our incredible non-profits who work to improve the quality of life for us all," said Greater New Orleans Foundation President and CEO Andy Kopplin. "We have a culture of giving in the Greater New Orleans Region and the generosity of our people is astounding. Last year's GiveNOLA Day raised \$5.6 million from nearly 49,000 donations across the world. This year's goal is to raise \$6 million."

Powered by Entergy, GiveNOLA Day launched six years ago by GNOF for those in the region to do-

nate to their favorite causes. Since its inception in 2014, GiveNOLA Day has raised more than \$20 million for non-profit organizations. Because the minimum donation is \$10, it's a day when everyone can be a philanthropist and together collectively raise millions of dollars to help communities. To make a donation on May 7, donors can visit to GiveNOLA.org and give to any of the more than 700 participating non-profits.

For more information about GiveNOLA Day, powered by Entergy, visit www.GiveNOLA.org, email GiveNOLA@gnof.org or call (504) 598-4663. Connect with GNOF on Facebook (@greaterneworleansfoundation), Twitter (@GNOFoundation) and Instagram (@GNOFoundation). You can also help by sharing your GiveNOLA Day posts by using #giveNOLADay.



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Hennessy Makes Multi-Million Dollar Commitment To Support African-Americans In Leadership Positions

World's Best-Selling Cognac Unveils "Hennessy Fellows," Thurgood Marshall College Fund's First Ever Corporate HBCU Graduate Program

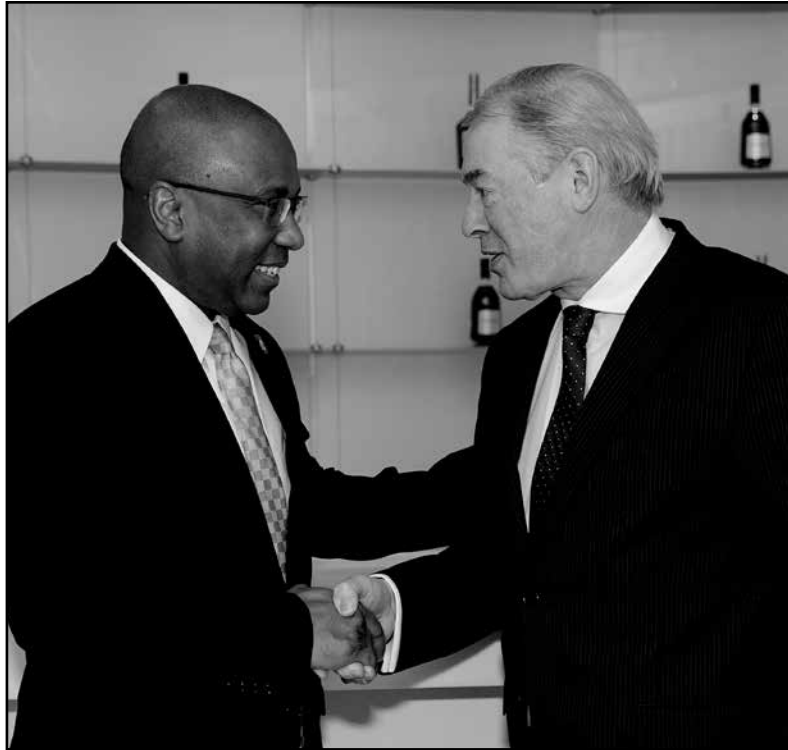
NEW YORK, April 18, 2019 / PRNewswire/ – Hennessy's commitment to drive more diversity in corporate leadership just got a major boost with the announcement of the Hennessy Fellows graduate program. Hennessy has committed \$10 million dollars over the next 10 years to the Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCf) – the pre-eminent national organization dedicated to promoting educational excellence among students attending Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU). Now accepting applicants for Fall 2019 at tmcf.org/HFP through May 5, Hennessy Fellows is a groundbreaking graduate scholarship initiative designed to equip the next generation of African American leaders through financial assistance, access to training and professional development experiences, and real-world skill application.

Experience the interactive Multi-channel News Release here:

<https://www.multivu.com/players/English/8529851-hennessy-fellows-scholarship-thurgood-marshall-college-fund/>

TMCf's vision of "Changing the World... One Leader at a Time" aligns with Hennessy's "Never stop. Never settle." mantra, which reflects what one can achieve by pushing the limits of potential. Born of these shared values, Hennessy Fellows was created for those graduate students who want to blaze their own trails and pursue their dreams, regardless of challenges faced along the way.

Last year, only 8.6% of Fortune 500 board seats were held by African American executives*; further, most scholarships focus on undergraduate education, making post-grad level degrees less attainable to those who rely on scholarships and financial assistance. "The issue of financial aid is not only limited to undergraduate students on our HBCU campuses. Limited resources for graduate students also lead to student drop off," said Dr. David Wilson, President, Morgan



Dr. Harry L. Williams, President and CEO, TMCf and Jim Clerkin, President and CEO North America, Moët Hennessy, USA, celebrate the announcement of "Hennessy Fellows."

State University, one of the HBCUs eligible for participation in the Hennessy Fellows program. "Hennessy's initiative will be a lifeline of support providing more opportunities for graduate students that are often forgotten."

"Continuing a heritage of support and celebration of the African American community that began over one hundred years ago, Hennessy is excited to partner with TMCf to help ensure more diversity in leadership roles," said Giles Woodyer, Senior Vice President, Hennessy US. "The immediate goal of the Hennessy Fellows program is to create a pipeline of highly qualified talent over the next 10 years and help prepare these future leaders for success."

"We are honored to announce a ten-year partnership with Thurgood Marshall College Fund," said Jim Clerkin, President and CEO of Moët Hennessy North America. "As a charter corporate sponsor of the fund, we continue to support the work of this organization in developing a pipeline of talent and future leaders from historically Black colleges and universities. I am proud of the work we have done together to date and look forward to continuing our efforts to build a broader, more inclusive talent base for corporate America."

Following a thorough application process, the Hennessy Fellows program selects ten high-achieving,

high-potential graduate students per year and offers them a one-of-a-kind opportunity. Recipients will be awarded financial assistance towards collegiate graduate level education programs, as well as curated corporate development experiences, including training forums and networking to enhance the exchange of ideas, and provide direct exposure to the inter-relatedness of corporate, social and economic systems.

The program is open to students enrolled in accredited HBCU or PBI Graduate programs, and offers the following:

- 1:1 executive coaching
- Up to \$20,000 per academic year
- \$10,000 annual stipend for other educational expenses
- Opportunity to compete for a community-related project grant up to \$10,000
- Access to online training forums, boot camps, networking events and professional development experiences

"When such a tremendously successful global brand like Hennessy invests in a higher education non-profit like ours, it tells the world that HBCUs and PBIs have value and are worth investing in, and TMCf is the best steward to carry out such a monumental investment," said Dr. Harry L. Williams, President & CEO, TMCf. "This is major, and it can't be overlooked as just a financial contribution, it

is a real partnership that is a game changer for the students and our community."

Hennessy Fellows is now accepting applications. The 10 selected Fellows will be announced in June to receive benefits ahead of the Fall 2019 term. For more information, including eligibility requirements and how to apply, please visit tmcf.org/HFP. To learn more about Hennessy, visit Hennessy.com/US, YouTube.com/HennessyUS, Facebook.com/Hennessy or Instagram.com/HennessyUS.

*Source: Missing Pieces Report: The 2018 Board Diversity Census of Women and Minorities on Fortune 500 Boards; Deloitte and The Alliance for Board Diversity

About Hennessy

The leader in Cognac, the Maison Hennessy has shined around the world with its exceptional blends for more than 250 years. Built on founder Richard Hennessy's spirit of conquest, the brand is present in more than 130 countries. Based in the heart of the Charente region, Hennessy is also a steadfast pillar of the regional economy, the standard-bearer for a sector rich in expertise. The House's success and longevity are rooted in the excellence of its cognacs, each of which is born of a unique process of transmission from generation to generation.

About The Thurgood Marshall College Fund (Tmcf)

Established in 1987, the Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCf) is the nation's largest organization exclusively representing the Black College Community. TMCf member-schools include the publicly-supported Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Predominantly Black Institutions, enrolling nearly 80% of all students attending black colleges and universities. Through scholarships, capacity building and research initiatives, innovative programs, and strategic partnerships, TMCf is a vital resource in the K-12 and higher education space. The organization is also the source of top employers seeking top talent for competitive internships and good jobs.

TMCf is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, charitable organization. For more information about TMCf, visit: www.tmcf.org.

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