



Volume 83 No. 5 "And Ye Shall Know The Truth..." April 17, 2024



NANBPWC, Inc, Maumee Bay Club Honorees - Ka'Trice Perry, Malaika Bell, Trinity Nwokolo, Valerie Simmons-Walston, Valerie Thompson

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This Ain't Another Appeal! It's a DEMAND

By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, Ph.D.

The Truth Contributor

[Youth] are showing up. They're the best-educated generation in American history; they're the least prejudiced generation in American history, the most engaged generation in American history, and the most involved.
- President Joe Biden



President Biden now holds a slim lead over Donald Trump, having overcome a four-point deficit since his March 7, 2024, State of the Union address. Since October of last year, Trump has held an uninterrupted lead in the polls.

Undoubtedly, perceptions of a healthy economy, the abortion issue, and broader trends like the State of the Union have fueled Biden's swift rise. Yet, the winds of change sweeping across the political landscape may ultimately serve as a "fools' spring" or period of false prosperity if young voters' emerging voice and power have their say.

Voters aged 18-34 comprise 40 million potential voters in 2024, nearly one-fifth of the American electorate. This group will make up a significant voting bloc and potentially sway the Trump-Biden rematch substantially. This bloc also includes about 8.3 million young people who will have become newly eligible to vote since the 2022 midterm elections.

Born with technology at their fingertips, this socially and politically aware generation is organized and mobilized, using fresh approaches to introduce innovative solutions into our democracy.

Most importantly, they're most fired up and passionate about genocide and humanitarian concerns in Palestine.

Recent polls from Quinnipiac University, Economist/YouGov, and CBS/

YouGov reveal a pronounced generational divide in U.S. attitudes toward Israel and Palestine, particularly among those voters under 35. These younger Americans increasingly criticize pro-Israel U.S. policies and show more empathy towards Palestinians, contrasting with older groups who favor traditional stances.

Notably, over half of young Democrats oppose further U.S. military aid to Israel, indicating widespread disapproval of current foreign policies.

So much so that a coalition of a dozen liberal organizations and labor unions, according to the New York Times, sent a letter to the White House recently "DEMANDING" that President Biden end military aid to Israel until its government lifts restrictions on humanitarian aid to Gaza, the latest indicator of shifting mainstream Democratic opinion on the war.

The letter calls on President Biden to enforce the Foreign Assistance Act, which bars military support from going to any nation that restricts the delivery of humanitarian aid.

NextGen America, which focuses on driving voter turnout among young people, is a major player in the coalition advocating an end to military aid to Israel. Next Gen, in particular, has seen a surge of young people saying they care about foreign policy and this issue in a way we have not seen historically.

Locally, groups like the United Muslims have praised Toledo City Council and its president, Carrie Hartman, for passing a ceasefire resolution.

Presumptive Lucas County Democratic Party Chair Schuyler Beckwith, speaking for herself and not the Party, also says, "I am so proud that our Toledo City Council unanimously supported a ceasefire resolution. We are seeing how important this issue is to so many in our community, especially young folks who made their voices heard by contacting council members and attending meetings. I hope the horrifying destruction happening in Gaza ends and a peaceful resolution can be reached."

However, most alarming to the current administration is the growing risk that Mr. Biden will lose support from a critical part of the Democratic coalition if the American position toward the war in Gaza does not significantly change.

"I do believe this will be a big issue this election cycle," Beckwith points out.

Ms. Tzintzún Ramirez, the president of NextGen America, goes even further, adding: "We are concerned with the humanitarian and moral implications and the political survival of the administration."

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RAGTIME
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Community Calendar

April 20
 Toledo Lucas County Health Department Presents Black Motherhood: Tackling Postpartum Depression: In collaboration with Cribs 4 Kids and CareSource. Healthy You/Healthy Kids Saturday; 11:00am to 2:00 pm; Wayman Palmer YMCA

9th Annual "Ode to the Zip Code" Winners Announced: Main Branch Library; 2-4 pm; youth, young adult and adult categories winners announces

April 24
 Warren Sherman Area Council Community Meeting: 6 pm; Wayman Palmer YMCA; A reorganization of the council is the main agenda point

April 27
 Free Plant Exchange: Wood County Fairgrounds; 10 am; Arrive at 8:30 and drop off plant donations: 419-213-4254

May 4
 Free Plant Exchange: Lucas County Fairgrounds; 10 am; Arrive at 8:30 and drop off plant donations: 419-213-4254

Trump Fried Chicken

Just because one Black person at a fast food restaurant says nice things about Donald Trump, that doesn't mean that the rest of Black people support him

By Keith Boykin, Word In Black

Guest Column

Years ago, when I worked for President Clinton, activists would often call me to complain about the administration's policies. But when the same activists were invited to meet the President at the White House, the tone of their objections inevitably changed when they spoke to him in person.

There's something about proximity to power and celebrity that makes people much more polite when they're in the presence of powerful people than when they're not.

We need to stop grading Donald Trump on a curve.

That's the best possible explanation I can come up with for the reaction of Chick-fil-A workers and customers when Donald Trump stopped at one of the company's restaurants in Atlanta today. "I don't care what the media tells you, Mr. Trump, we support you," one Black woman told him.

It could be that the twice-impeached, quadruple-indicted presidential candidate just happened to meet the few Black people in Atlanta who support him all at the same place at the same time. Or it could be that they were just being polite. Either way, it's not representative of the Black community in Atlanta, in Georgia, or the rest of the country.

We need to stop grading Donald Trump on a curve. Just because one Black person at a fast food restaurant says nice things about him, that doesn't mean that the rest of Black people support him. But expectations are so low for Trump and Republicans that just going to a fast food spot and speaking to a handful of Black people is considered remarkable African American outreach.

The truth is that Black people are the one demographic group most opposed to Trump's presidential campaign. But in America, Black people carry an unfair burden of representation so that the actions of any one Black person, however unrepresentative, can and will be used against us.

The irony is that the comment at Chick-fil-A came from a Black woman, and Black women — notwithstanding Candace Owens — are the least supportive demographic group of Donald Trump. Ninety percent of Black women voted for Joe Biden in 2020, and 94 percent voted for Hillary Clinton in 2016. Only four percent of Black women supported Trump in his race against Clinton.

In the state of Georgia, percent of Black women voted for Biden, and only seven percent voted for Trump.

Black women's opposition to Trump is understandable. Trump, after all, appointed the three right-wing Supreme Court Justices who killed affirmative action in college admissions in 2023 and overturned *Roe v. Wade* in 2022. And when Black women created a private "Fearless Fund" to help other Black women start businesses, it was two Trump-appointed federal judges who struck it down.

After spending five and a half years spreading unfounded rumors about the first Black president's birth certificate, Trump came into office in 2017 and tried unsuccessfully to repeal Obamacare, a popular program that helped nearly three million Black Americans obtain health insurance coverage from 2011 to 2019.

When Democrats tried to expand Medicaid coverage, a state-run program that disproportionately helps Black people, Trump and the Republicans tried to block that as well, even though 15 million African Americans were enrolled in Medicaid.

Meanwhile, as President Biden has canceled \$146 billion of student loan debt for more than four million borrowers, Trump's Republican colleagues have gone to court to try to block this financial lifeline that disproportionately helps young Black people.

When Democrats tried to pass the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, it was Trump and his Black Republican friend, Senator Tim Scott, who killed the bill.

When Democrats tried to pass the much-needed John Lewis Voting Rights Act, it was Trump's Senate Republican co-conspirators in Congress who blocked it.

Moreover, Trump has spent the past five years attacking the nation's most prominent Black women, including former First Lady Michelle Obama, Vice President Kamala Harris, Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, New York Attorney General Letitia James, Representatives Maxine Waters and Ilhan Omar, and journalists Yamiche Alcindor and April Ryan. Not to mention, he's been launching vicious personal attacks against Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis in Atlanta.

If nothing else, Trump is a relentless salesman. The guy who's trying to hawk

\$400 gold sneakers and \$60 Bibles is now using his celebrity to sell himself to white people by pretending to be a friend of Black people so white people won't feel so guilty about supporting him after decades of racism.

But Black people can see right through his desperate strategy. Just because he said hello to some Black people at a chicken joint doesn't make him Colonel Sanders. It makes him the panderer-in-chief.

"Black Vote, Black Power," a collaboration between Keith Boykin and Word In Black, examines the issues, the candidates, and what's at stake for Black America in the 2024 presidential election.

Keith Boykin is a New York Times–bestselling author, TV and film producer, and former CNN political commentator. A graduate of Dartmouth College and Harvard Law School, Keith served in the White House, cofounded the National Black Justice Coalition, cohosted the BET talk show *My Two Cents*, and taught at the Institute for Research in African-American Studies at Columbia University in New York. He's a Lambda Literary Award–winning author and editor of seven books. He lives in Los Angeles.



Keith Boykin

Perryman... continued from page 2

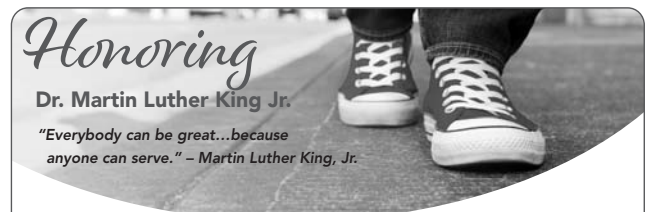
What I hear in statements by Beckwith and Ramirez, along with the nation's youth, is a clarion call for meaningful political action and a demand to turn our backs on the performative and embrace the transformative.

For decades, the U.S. has proclaimed its commitment to human rights, yet when examining the situation in Palestine, the gap between rhetoric and action becomes painfully evident. Like its predecessors, the Biden administration has been criticized for dragging its feet on this critical issue. While diplomatic statements are made condemning violence and calling for peace, the U.S. continues to provide substantial military aid to Israel, even as reports of human rights violations and restrictions on Palestinian humanitarian aid persist. This contradiction undermines the U.S.'s credibility on human rights and highlights the failure of symbolic gestures to effect real change in crisis zones.

This is a critical time for impactful political action. Our moment of reckoning has come.

For too long, we've seen resolutions passed with great fanfare only to gather dust on bureaucratic shelves. We've watched leaders post supportive messages on social media, providing the illusion of solidarity without the backbone of action. According to young voters, such measures no longer suf-

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Supplier Diversity Will Be a Key to Corporate Success

By Paul Hubbard
Guest Column

Supplier diversity is an effort by large corporations to be more inclusive in their supply chains. Affirmative action has been applied to increasing diversity in higher education and employment. The recent Supreme Court decision that holds that the affirmative action admissions programs at Harvard University and the University of North Carolina (UNC) illegal, while not addressing supplier diversity directly, represents an attack on Black and Brown communities and their businesses, says economist Frederick W. McKinney, PhD, managing director of Minority Business Programs at the Tuck School of Business.

The same forces that were successful in overturning Harvard's and UNC's programs are the same forces that would see value in overturning the benefits of corporate supplier diversity. But more than that, McKinney says, these attacks share a legal philosophy and, more important, a vision of American society that is ahistorical and fundamentally a reflection of white supremacy beliefs and attitudes.

And that is why supplier diversity professionals and corporate leaders cannot and should not assume we can continue with business as usual. In the future they are coming for supplier diversity, I believe. The Supreme Court vote was six to three with majority ruling that the University of North Carolina's and Harvard's admission policies violate the rights of white and Asian Students.

The legal history of the U.S. Supreme Court and its own reasoning in this case illustrates the direct connection between affirmation in higher education and supplier diversity says my Sigma Pi Phi Boule brother Fred McKinney.

It did not take long for the forces against compensatory minority business programs to attack. In *City of Richmond v. J.A. Croson Co.* in 1989, Croson, a white-owned contracting company, sued the city of Richmond for creating a set-aside program that requires 30 percent of contracts to be let with Black-owned and operated companies.

The US Supreme Court ruled in favor of Croson, and racial set asides on public non-federal contracts became illegal without proving a compelling state interest and specific harm. Justice Thurgood Marshall made explicit reference for the need of affirmative action in his dissent.

In 1995, in *Adarand Constructors, Inc. v. Peña*, Adarand, a white-owned contracting company, sued the federal government, which had established racial preference for federal contracts. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of Adarand, held that racial classifications must be analyzed under a standard of "strict Scrutiny" (narrowly tailored to further compelling governmental interests) and federal race-based set asides became otherwise illegal.

However, no one has been prosecuted for the mob attacking Black Wall Street in Tulsa Oklahoma that killed 300 Black Residents, burned 1,000 homes and destroyed a vibrant Black business Community.

Economist Fred W. McKinney says we need to educate corporations to anticipate an attack on supplier diversity programs. Have the corporations start putting together a strategy that makes supplier diversity a legal need for their corporation. The corporations can also start working with HBCUs and urban school districts to start developing future suppliers' networks that are Black and Brown that will compete with white suppliers.

Corporations need to start developing multigenerational strategic plans for their corporations to adopt. The auto industry in Detroit has been successful with all of the above diversity strategies.

Paul L. Hubbard MSW,



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Stronger Today, Than Yesterday: Black Women-Owned Businesses After the Pandemic

By Renata Sago

It's been four years since the pandemic upended the lives of business owners and employees across the United States. At the onset, more than 29,000

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HOPE Toledo's Annual Report Reveals Promising Progress in Early Education

By Asia Nail

The Truth Reporter

HOPE Toledo, an organization dedicated to ensuring high-quality education from birth to career, recently unveiled its annual report, shedding light on the critical need for early childhood education in Lucas County.

Recent findings regarding HOPE Toledo's Pre-K initiative have brought forth encouraging developments. With an enrollment of 300 children in the program, the organization continues to make strides in providing accessible early education opportunities to Toledo's estimated 4000 four-year-olds.

"Statistics from the 2023 academic year indicate a notable 30.2% of children demonstrating readiness for kindergarten," shared President and CEO, Rev. John C. Jones.

According to the annual report, over 80 percent of Toledo's children begin kindergarten without essential skills for success, emphasizing the urgency for intervention. Despite this daunting statistic, HOPE Toledo's efforts have yielded tangible progress. Impressively, just over a third of these children now demonstrate readiness for kindergarten, marking a significant improvement from previous years.

Rooted in the belief that education is the cornerstone of economic empowerment, HOPE Toledo's mission extends from preschool to postsecondary and trade school, aiming to catalyze generational changes that uplift our families and community.

Originally conceived as Helping Our Population Educate (H.O.P.E.), the organization emerged from a collective desire to dismantle barriers and ensure that all students, regardless of background or zip code, have the opportunity to thrive academically. As a 501(c)3 nonprofit, they've become a driving force in providing early childhood education through HOPE Toledo Pre-K and facilitating access to postsecondary training in college or trade schools through HOPE Toledo Promise.

Rev. John C. Jones highlighted the importance of collaborative efforts in expanding access to early education sharing, "We must emphasize the need for more public-private partnerships to ensure every four-year-old in Lucas County can access vital Pre-K programs."

HOPE Toledo's annual report gathering took place at All 4 Kids, heralded as Holland, Ohio's premier 5-star rated children's center. With experts affirming that 90 percent of a child's brain is developed by age five, it is clear that investing in early education becomes paramount for lifelong success.

As one of HOPE Toledo's 21 esteemed preschool partners, All 4 Kids owner Camille Harris says, "We need to grab these children at an early age to help them develop physically, socially, emotionally and cognitively so they can be ready for kindergarten and beyond."

During the gathering Toledo community leaders also responded to a recent report from *ReadyNation*, shedding light on the escalating economic consequences of Ohio's childcare shortage. ReadyNation leverages the experience, influence and expertise of more than 2,000 business executives to promote public policies and programs that build a stronger workforce and economy. According to their report, *Insufficient Infant-Toddler Child Care Costs Ohio \$3.85 Billion Annually*, Ohio's crisis in infant and toddler childcare now imposes a staggering \$3.85

billion burden on families, businesses and taxpayers annually, marking a significant increase from just four years ago when the estimated impact was less than half this amount.

The findings underscore the profound impacts of the childcare crisis, emphasizing the urgent need for expanded state investment to address the growing challenges. Community leaders are calling on policymakers to take decisive action to alleviate this burden on families and businesses, recognizing the pivotal role of strategic interventions in mitigating the adverse effects of the crisis.

"When we can set up a family with access to early education and childcare, now mom and dad, if they so choose, can both go to work," said Rev. Jones.

Imagine a vast network of highways, each representing a neural connection. Every second during the first three years of life, over one million new lanes are constructed, paving the way for learning and growth. But what happens when these roads encounter rough terrain, lacking the proper supports like nurturing relationships and stable environments? These vital pathways become congested, hindering the journey toward language, literacy and math skills.

Ninety percent of a child's brain develops by age five. Research paints a vivid picture of the challenges facing our youngest learners, revealing significant disparities in school readiness among children from different backgrounds. For too long, children from marginalized communities, including Black and Hispanic children, and those from low-income families, have been left stranded on the sidelines, grappling with gaps in education.

The significance of accessible and high-quality childcare and early education cannot be overstated, as highlighted by HOPE Toledo leaders. When working parents struggle to secure such provisions, the repercussions extend beyond individual families to impact the broader community and economy at large. The inability to access adequate childcare not only disrupts a child's educational journey but also hampers parental workforce participation, leading to decreased productivity and economic strain.

Matt Geha, superintendent of Springfield Local Schools, underscored the long-term benefits of early education, highlighting its role in fostering competitiveness and equipping children with essential skills for the future job market.

"The world is so competitive. From a job to college or whatever it may be. When you start a child in preschool you give them every opportunity to keep pace with ...continued on page 12



Rev. John Jones



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Derrick Davis to Sing the Role of Coalhouse Walker in *Ragtime*

By Dawn Scotland

The Truth Reporter

"I would describe myself as a multifaceted storyteller," said singer Derrick Davis.

From tv, to the opera stage, film, and recording – the lyric baritone from Long Island has done it all.

He has previously graced the opera stage in the acclaimed role of Phantom in *The Phantom of the Opera* and starred as Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in the musical *I Dream*, which he played for the first time at the Toledo Opera.

Now Davis is returning to the Toledo Opera to play the role of Coalhouse Walker Jr. in Toledo Opera's *Ragtime* which will be opening April 19 at the Valentine Theatre.

"The majority of my career has been in musical theatre. I trained in opera; I grew up in the church. I was a youth pastor for quite some time. I'm also an educator: I teach privately and I also taught at Cincinnati Conservatory."

"I just love the artform of storytelling -- becoming characters, passing on stories and passing on truths," stated Davis.

Davis is a first generation Panamanian American and was born and raised in Long Island, New York where his journey began.

"[Growing up] during the week was strictly schoolwork," he reflected on his immigrant background, "but the weekends were marked very much by music."

"On Saturdays my father would play the oldies and contemporary R&B and jazz, and we would clean the entire house. Then Sundays would roll around and the mornings were marked with gospel music. In the evenings, when we would come back it was classical music. And that's where I started to find my love for obviously opera and classical repertoire but also for musical theatre.

"That music was just so complex in its orchestration that it just really held my attention. So, as I got older, I availed myself to music." He studied musical theater in high school and then went on to study opera in college at Long Island University Post in New York where he traveled the world. "And then dove headfirst into the industry," he recalled.

Davis's impressive journey has taken him to stages across the country and internationally. In his exciting theater career, in addition to the roles mentioned, he has sung the roles of Larry in Sondheim's *Company*, Archibald Craven in *The Secret Garden*, and The Mufasa on the Gazelle Tour of Disney's *The Lion King*.

Regionally, Davis starred in Dallas Theater Center's production of *Dreamgirls* as Curtis Taylor, Jr., Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Opera Carolina's production of *I Dream* and King Triton in *The Little Mermaid* at Theater Under the Stars.

He has been seen on The Hallmark Channel, the Daytime Emmy Awards, Live with Regis and Kelly, Dancing with the Stars, as well as on the big screen in such movies as "Can a Song Save Your Life" and "A Christmas Story." His concert career includes a sold-out performance of Rogers and Hammerstein works with the Las Vegas Philharmonic, as well as several solo performances in New York City featuring his original works and holiday favorites. (source:therealderrickdavis.com)

With Davis's many successes and accomplishments one of the chief highlights of his career is the role he's playing now: Coalhouse Porter Jr.

"I love him so much. He's so complex and tells such a beautiful story of Black excellence marred with Black struggle." The story of *Ragtime* centers on the complexity of life at the turn of the century for three different ethnic groups. The story depicts a centuries old mosaic of American life that strikingly echoes the struggles and divides of today.

"The way the country is right now, we're so incredibly [and] unnecessarily divided," he reflected on the unifying experience of performing theatre throughout the country, "We're so much more united and so much more connected than a lot of media would like for us to think [we are]."

The story of *Ragtime* highlights the upper-class whites, the black Harlemites and the immigrant Jewish community and the social and economic turmoil that each group faces striving for the American Dream.

"Back in the mid-seventies when E.L. Doctorow was writing about how things were back then [in the 1910s] --we're repeating it again today," commented Davis. "I hope that it's almost a shocking wake up call to the audience to do better as humans, to do better as Americans, to do better as citizens of this world."

"And to just recognize," he continued "how we're all just fighting for the same things: for love, for peace, for a chance to live and for unity. And hopefully it will make a small notch in making America the beautiful place that it has the potential to be."



Derrick Davis

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Ohio Young Democrats Elect New President

Special to The Truth

The Ohio Young Democrats announce the unanimous election of Kimberly Agyekum as the new President. The election happened at a gathering of over 135 Young Democrats at the OYD annual convention, held this year in Columbus.

In her new capacity, Kim Agyekum becomes the first black woman to lead the Ohio Young Democrats. Agyekum, a Franklin County native, brings experience and dedication to her role, having served in Young Democratic leadership for the past five years.

"Young Democrats in this state are a force to be reckoned with. Let me

be extremely clear; Ohio is not a lost cause," President Agyekum said. "It is one that has been rigged by dark money, gerrymandering, and straight up corruption. If young people want to have a future in our home state, we will have to take it back."

The Ohio Young Democrats will continue programming in key areas of the state, investing in young candidates, organizing new chapters in rural areas, supporting the re-election campaign of both Senator Sherrod Brown, and fostering Democratic ideals with their peers.



Kimberly Agyekum



Pastors of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance and members of their congregations celebrated Good Friday on March 29 at Mt. Nebo Baptist Church

Perryman... continued from page 3

face—our challenges are too significant, and the time is too short.

As voters, activists, and now visible stakeholders in our nation's future, young people are raising their voices louder than ever and the sound is clear. They are demanding that commitments be met with policy and promises kept with legislative follow-through.

They are right.

The phrase "Shining City on a Hill," once envisioned as a beacon of moral clarity, represents an ideal to be emulated. Therefore, to create a more just and unified nation, we will have to embody social justice and humanitarian principles not just in name only but in practice.

Yet, the Democratic Party, diverse and broad, must also strive for cooperation and bridge-building among its varied agendas if it is to be successful in

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Ragtime Tuesday Talk at The Truth Colours Gallery

By Dawn Scotland
The Truth Reporter

The Toledo Opera hosted a Ragtime Tuesday Talk at the Truth Colours Gallery Tuesday, April 9. The free event featured a panel discussion that explored the thematic connections between the Toledo Opera's upcoming musical production Ragtime and contemporary life in Toledo. Ragtime will be performed at the Valentine Theatre Friday, April 19 and Sunday, April 21.

The event began with an introduction to Ragtime by James M. Norman, incoming general director of the Toledo Opera. Following the introduction was a riveting preview of Toledo Opera's production of Ragtime by baritone Bernard Dotson. Dotson, a member of the original Broadway cast who is slated to perform the role of Booker T. Washington in Toledo Opera's production.

The panel discussion was moderated by Community Engagement Advisory Committee member Regina Vincent-Williams Poet, PhD, author and motivational speaker. The group engaged in discussion ranging from allyship, the nuance of the American dream and the realities of the themes explored in Ragtime today.

The multiethnic panel featured:

- Domonique Glover, choreographer of Ragtime
- Robin Sulier-Charmey, Black Barbershop Initiative/ ProMedica Oncology Liaison
- Thaddeus Washington, musician, Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Daniel Pearlman, director of the Jewish Community Relations Council at the Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo
- Meyling Ruiz, president of Latino Alliance of Northwest Ohio

Following the discussion attendees were led in a grounding exercise led by Ronald Wells, Jr., Community Engagement Chair, and a musical exercise led by Eboné Waweru, chorus member accompanied by Kevin Bylsma, accompanist, and incoming artistic director.

Tuesday Talks are a series of free public panel presentations convening scholars, artist, and Toledo community members to discuss the contemporary relevance of key themes of opera productions.

Nominated for 13 Tony Awards® including "Best Musical," and winning for "Best Original Score" and "Best Book of a Musical," Ragtime makes its premier to Toledo Opera audiences! Based on the novel by E.L. Doctorow, this musical tapestry depicts an African-American family, a Jewish family, and a wealthy white suburban family in turn-of-the-century New York. As they collide in pursuit of the American Dream, they discover the surprising interconnections of the human heart, the limitations of justice, and the unsettling consequences when dreams are permanently deferred.

Ragtime is a powerful portrait of life at the turn-of-the-20th century, exploring America's timeless contradictions of freedom and prejudice, wealth



Panelists Robin Sulier-Charmey, Thaddeus Washington, Daniel Pearlman, Domonique Glover speak with moderator Dr. Regina Vincent-Williams

and poverty, hope and despair. Ragtime stars baritone Derrick Davis (Toledo Opera's I Dream) as Coalhouse Walker, Jr., Broadway soprano Raquel Suarez Groen as Mother, and baritone Joshua Jeremiah as Tateh. J. Ernest Green returns to Toledo to conduct as James M. Norman brings this poignant musical to life. Book by Terrence McNally, music by Stephen Flaherty, and lyrics by Lynn Ahrens. Ragtime is "rated" PG-13 for language and will be sung in English with English subtitles.

Toledo Opera will perform Ragtime at the Valentine Theatre on Friday, April 19 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, April 21 at 2 p.m. To learn more about Ragtime cast and production team and to buy tickets, visit: toledoopera.org. Ragtime is made possible by Owens Corning.



Guests listen to panelist discuss the themes of Ragtime and the relevance to today's society



Baritone Bernard Dotson sings selection from Toledo Opera's upcoming musical Ragtime



Attendees engage in a grounding exercise following the engaging panel discussion provided by the Toledo Opera



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TONY PORTER: HEALTHY MASCULINITY LEADERSHIP

Workshop Overview
Author and CEO of A Call to Men, Tony Porter, will speak on leadership through the lens of healthy masculinity and men's responsibility to be allies and advocates to women, girls, and other marginalized communities.



THURSDAY, MAY 2
3:00 - 5:00 PM



MAIN LIBRARY
325 N MICHIGAN ST.
TOLEDO, OH 43604





TO REGISTER ONLINE

To Register Please Visit
www.toledoilibrary.org/bettertoledo
Or, Scan the QR Code.

Tony Porter has served as an advisor to the National Football League, National Basketball Association, National Hockey League, Major League Soccer, and Major League Baseball and has worked with the United States Military Academy and the United States Naval Academy.

A Conference at Warren AME Provides Information and Resources for Families

By Angie Hayes

The Truth Reporter

Explorers Academy of Science & Technology hosted their inaugural Family Conference on Saturday April 13, 2024 at Warren AME Church, with support for Saving Toledo Families. The event featured keynote speaker Hill Harper, actor, author and congressional candidate.

Several area organizations attended and set up to provide information and resources to the attendees and communicate for anyone's needs or desires.

The Family Conference held multiple sessions and panel discussions with a large variety of information for family members and supportive methods.

The first session focused on understanding personal self-value and set goals for the future and also to be able to cope with stress and pressure. Information was provided to create and maintain a positive self-image and understand the importance of education. Strategies that are beneficial for stress management were also provided.

The next session provided information to unlock your personal purpose and innovator in you. The best ways to recognize your purpose was the main point and also acknowledgement of the 'inner' innovator!

The third session process was to understand the effective parenting tools to support the next generation for positive movement. The main goals and information was the positivity of parenting and the strategies to support the strength in family. Strengthening the family, the attendees learned, has a great impact and is beneficial for fu-

...continued on page 11



Hill Harper with Lisa Culp and Bishop Robert Culp



Rev. Mark Williams and Rev. John Jones



Conference panelists - Rev. Mark Williams, Rhonda Sewell, Darryl Woods, Hill Harper, Christina Rodriguez, Tina Williams, Shane Logan

Homeownership.

Make it Part of Your Future.



The Ohio Housing Finance Agency provides down payment and closing costs assistance for eligible homebuyers as well as affordable loan options.

Find out if you qualify at myohiohome.org.



Toledo Small Business Opportunities - April 2024

By Aziah Süd, | Word in Black | San Diego Voice and Viewpoint
Special to The Truth

Dear Small Business Owners,

Have you missed us? It's been a while, but we hope to share more resources more often! To kick this off, check out these upcoming opportunities to enhance your knowledge and grow your market!

SBA T.H.R.I.V.E Program:

The Small Business Administration (SBA) is excited to bring their T.H.R.I.V.E program to the city of Toledo. SBA T.H.R.I.V.E. Emerging Leaders Reimagined is an executive-level training series intended to give ambitious small business leaders a challenging opportunity to accelerate their growth through targeted training led by motivating leaders in small business development. This FREE training feature engaging peer-to-peer interaction that fosters networking opportunities and connections with experienced subject matter experts.

This training is not for start-ups or people who are thinking about starting a business. SBA's T.H.R.I.V.E. Emerging Leaders Reimagined advanced training series is open to small business owners and executives that:

- Have annual revenues of at least \$250,000
- Have been in business for at least three years
- Have at least one employee, other than self

Interested applicants can apply at <https://sbathrive.com/start>

ECDI Small Business Resource Fair

ECDI is hosting their annual resource fair on Thursday, May 2nd from 3:00 - 7:00 PM. You don't want to miss this opportunity to network with

other small business owners and connect with entrepreneurial service providers. This event will be hosted at Erie Street Market, 201 S Erie St, Toledo, OH 43604. Some event highlights include:

- Expo vendor fair with entrepreneurial support organizations and government agencies
- Short, energizing workshops from local organizations
- Local food trucks

MTM Vendor Application Now Live!

The third annual Multicultural Twilight Market is taking place on Saturday, June 8th from 3:00 - 9:00 PM at the Farmers Market in downtown Toledo. With activities and businesses for all ages, this opportunity is a great chance for small businesses to sell their products and promote their goods to the Toledo community. This event is also free for small businesses to participate. From 3:00 - 4:00 PM, business services providers will also be present to connect with entrepreneurs to connect and promote services that could be of interest to you!

Interested in connecting your business with the greater community at the MTM? Please complete the following form! <https://forms.gle/1bv39u6zH9HN6eMs9>

To learn more information regarding this event please visit Women of Toledo's website - Women of Toledo | Multicultural Market

We will pass along other opportunities as we learn about them. Stay well!

Sincerely,
The LISC Toledo Team

Warren AME... continued from page 10

ture accomplishments.

The fourth session involved the details of implementing trauma-informed potential. Recognition of trauma for children and a family is important to provide resources to resolve the trauma. To respond to the trauma experienced, the main goals should be to support healing and recovery from the trauma issues. Trauma isn't gone until addressed so it's important for awareness.

The final session was significant and amazing resources and information provided by the keynote speaker, Hill Harper. He explained the goals and methods to create positivity and support in the family, community and atmosphere.

"We need to know some of them having challenges," said Rhonda Sewell, the event moderator. "We can step in and help them! I'm tired of seeing young people in Toledo die at the hands of other kids in Toledo. Our kids listen, they're watching us so we must be in good mode. Trauma... identify what is trauma and what you can do to resolve the trauma."

"From the ages zero to five, brains are developed, and brain development is critical," shared panelist Christina Rodriguez, executive director of Mom's House. "We (parents and adults) have to put the work in. At the age of two years old, your child is learning for self. It's our responsibility to make sure our kids are stable! Children need to feel safe and loved! For effective parenting, there are four C's that can be broken down and put a plan together":

Choices- for children, help them and guide them to let our children's voices be heard.

Consequences-teach the children what they can do differently for better results.

Consistency-sticking to the correct process.

Compassion-not just for your own children, but compassion for all chil-

dren.

"Honor, respect and honor the kids! Create an environment or engagement in the home, so they feel safe. When we honor and respect children, it is critical for the children to see the humanity."

"I'm here for solutions," said panelist Tina Williams, EdD, director of community engagement at the Area Office on Aging. "Also, a City Council woman is here and very thankful for her to be here, she's fair. She's a fair woman and I like that. Also, we have a State Representative here, Josh Williams. Trauma is an experience that devastates them. And how to deal with trauma, we have to have it addressed! Educators need to know how to deal with kids who deal with trauma. Fight for your families! We all should fight for our mother, our kids, uncle, father, and our God Father We live in a battleground, not a playground."

"The best thing that brought me is prayer. Prayer is the key," added Rev. Mark Williams

...continued on page 12

Perryman... continued from page 8

November 2024.

Furthermore, our nation's strength and evolution are maximized when the enthusiasm and innovation of young people are combined with the experience and influence of established leaders. Together, these strategies can foster a more harmonious and progressive society.

So, borrowing loosely from scholar April Baker-Bell, let there be no misunderstanding: this ain't another request, suggestion, or offer. It is not an ask for better times or a plea for gradual improvement.

And, "This is not an appeal! This is a DEMAND for Social Justice."

Contact Rev. Donald Perryman, PhD, at drdperryman@centerofhope-baptist.org

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HOPE Toledo... continued from page 5

their peers and also be successful providing all the opportunities that come with education.”

Amanda Goldsmith, vice president, Client and Community Relations Director at PNC, also holds a position on the board of Toledo Day Nursery. Reflecting on her own experiences, she recalled the challenges of balancing childcare costs while raising small children at the age of 27, underscoring the enduring struggle faced by many mothers today.

Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz echoed these sentiments, highlighting the disparity between Toledo and other major urban areas in Ohio, such as Columbus, Akron, Dayton, Cleveland and Cincinnati. While these cities already offer pre-K programs to four-year-olds, Toledo is striving to achieve similar access, emphasizing HOPE Toledo's dedication to addressing this crucial need.

In a city where nearly 40 percent of young children live below the poverty line, the need for equitable access to preschool has never been more urgent.

With approximately 90 percent of Toledo Public School students and over half

Stronger Today... continued from page 4

small businesses in Georgia were forced to close. Shauniece Wallace, who owns The Elleven, an event space near Atlantic station in metro Atlanta, remembers feeling terrified. Her team of tattooists, makeup artists, nail technicians, and hair stylists were deemed non-essential. “We had to shut down for two months,” says Wallace. “In that period of time, it was devastating. We had to figure out a way to continue to survive and provide for our families.”

Wallace was able to secure funding through the Open for Business Fund, a \$420 million initiative designed to sustain small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. The fund helped maintain and create an estimated 255,000 jobs in the midst of the recovery. “It allowed me to get caught up on some rent and utilities,” says Wallace. “It also allowed me to get extra security. I did some renovations. I was able to buy some inventory for my event space, which actually helped me increase my hourly rate, which increased my overall income in this business.”

The pandemic unearthed systemic disparities that Black women-owned businesses have been facing for decades. One challenge has been gender equality. “When you think about income earning potential, they earn about 70 percent as much as a white man, and white women earn about 83 percent of what a white man earns,” says Angela Dingle, President of Women Im-

of those from Washington Local Schools qualifying for free or reduced-price lunch, the gap in school readiness due to socio-economic factors is often apparent. By expanding affordable options, Toledo can empower kids to learn, parents to return to work, revitalize the economy, and pave the way for a brighter future for all.

HOPE Toledo's annual report serves as a testament to the transformative power of early education and underscores a collective responsibility to ensure every child receives the foundation they need to thrive academically, socially, and economically.

Through partnerships with public schools, community providers, local agencies and community stakeholders, HOPE Toledo continues to level the playing field, offering tuition assistance, small classes, and family engagement opportunities to all children. They are poised to revolutionize school readiness outcomes and subsequent academic performance here in our Glass City. May this collective work remind us that education is the great equalizer; the key to unlocking a world of possibilities for every child.

Click here to read the full 2023 annual report: <https://www.hope-toledo.org>

pacting Public Policy. “If I have a smaller amount in savings, that means I don't have the same amount of money available to me to bootstrap or start or grow and expand my business.” Dingle has observed the difficulties that Black women have faced in getting capital with ease. They are more likely to apply for outside financing to cover operating expenses and less likely to receive full or partial financing.

Yet, there's been a shift. The newly-released 2024 Impact of Women-Owned Businesses report finds that Black/African American women's small businesses grew to 2.1 million between 2019 and 2023, generating \$98.3 billion in revenue for the U.S. economy. Average revenues for these businesses increased 32.7 percent to \$47,300 between 2019 and 2023. “There's heartening data there,” says Dingle. But we also know that there's some work that needs to be done so that we can continue that trend.”

The research purports that Black/African American women-owned businesses would bring \$361.2 billion in revenue if earnings were equal to white women and \$1.5 trillion if on pace with men. Despite average revenue percentage growth between 2019 and 2023 for Black/African American women, the average revenue between 2019 and 2023 for all women-owned businesses was \$192,600.

Partnerships have been one way for small businesses to sustain themselves in recent years. Local non-profit organizations and local community development financial institutions (CDFIs) have disbursed grants across markets for essential and non-essential needs.

For Shauniece Wallace, research has been the most powerful tool in guiding how she approaches her business and the market.

“Really dive deep into the type of business that you're doing. Be innovative. Be creative,” says Wallace. “Pay attention to your expenses, your income. I would also advise that you have a proper business plan. If you don't plan anything, you plan to fail.”

The Financial Journey is a unique series focused on financial education and opportunities. These stories have been created through a strategic partnership between Wells Fargo and Word In Black.

Warren AME... continued from page 11

“Family structure has broken down,” said State Rep. Josh Williams. “Family structure puts a family in church. We've got to get back to set the tone for what our family structure is. Highlight the solutions and make sure we teach our kids. Family is the essential bedrock of our community. We got to make sure we understand the importance of family, church and faith. And we have to put those views into our children. Once we do that, we have solutions.”

“I educated myself and became a man with purpose,” said Darryl Woods, Detroit police commissioner. “It is not how you started life; it's how you finish. I serve, bring help and heal the community. The solution is to wrap your arms around your children. Also make sure children have food to eat, a good bed and a faith-based atmosphere. Make sure the schools in the area are properly resourced. We are the change we've been looking for, so we can see the difference now.”

“This is about family. Family is what creates safety,” explained Keynote Speaker Harper. “We are connected, the quality of the education in Toledo. So, we have to understand the connection of family. And understand the impact for the community. Figure out how to help you all. To create a meaningful change. To move something that is not moving, energy will move it. For example, if we want to take on big issues, big energy will make it work so we must work together, for the big energy to resolve issues! To make meaningful changes. If we make a commitment to make a

... continued on page 13



The Truth Colours Gallery

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For upcoming events

LOVE

The Black Box: Writing the Race by Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Truth Contributor

These days, everybody's got a label maker.

The color of your skin? Punch out a label. The texture of your hair? Punch out a label. The way you walk, talk or the things you like? No, you know who you are, no labels necessary. Still, as you'll see in the new book *The Black Box* by Henry Louis Gates, Jr., there was a time when the issue wasn't quite as clear.

Nearly 10 years ago, when his granddaughter was born, Henry Louis Gates, Jr. asked his son-in-law about "the box." The child, Gates, Jr. says, is "87.5 percent European" and looks white, but her parents checked a box on her birth certificate to indicate that she is "Black."

"Such is the absurdity of the history of race and racial designations in the United States of America..." he says.

And it's been that way since the beginning.

Purchased by a Boston merchant upon her arrival in 1761, Phillis Wheatley was taught to read and later, she learned to write poetry. In 1772, her owners endeavored to publish a book of her words but most white people refused to believe that a Black person could write at all, let alone such moving poetry.

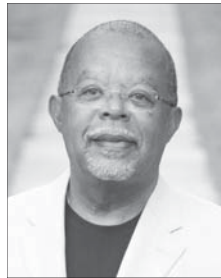
One of those white people was Thomas Jefferson, who believed that skin tone mattered in "character, intelligence, and culture."

Says Gates, Jr., "Black people fought back...by creating their own genre of literature..." and more than a hundred of them wrote "book-length slave narratives." Some even went on to lecture about ending slavery. Later, "Black intellectuals" wrote about and discussed the ideas of colonization and emigration. Others wondered publicly what to "call the race" – Black, Afro-American, Negroes, "colored," or something else?

By the early 1900s, Gates, Jr. says, "art forms were classed" and Black culture had taken a turn toward "politics of disrespectability" that white people weren't supposed to hear or see. This later led to hip-hop, and the works of Alice Walker, Toni Morrison, and "the pioneers of the Black women's literary movement..."

Sit down with *The Black Box*, and you're going to be there awhile. This isn't, in other words, a meaningless novel that you're going to forget in two weeks; no, it's something that you'll need time to digest, that'll make

c. 2024
Penguin Press
\$30.00
262 pages



Henry Louis Gates, Jr

guage and writing created today's various genres in literature and music.

The Black Box takes a deep dive into its subject, so be prepared to ponder. Casual truly doesn't describe it; in fact, involved would be a more proper label.

Warren AME... continued from page 12

change and connect together, we make a great impact for the world. Together we thrive."

In addition to the main sessions of the Family Conference, other sessions were established and provided for children in attendance. All the attending children joined the sessions and shared an experience learning personal supportive information. The following statements from the elementary students were voiced after completing their activities and learning experiences:

- "We acknowledge that our actions impact ourselves."
- "We consistently line up our words and actions."
- "Curiosity, we are eager to learn and explore."
- "We put our best effort into everything we do."
- "We know our effort is important for the community to thrive."
- "Just like moons and sun, still I rise!"
- "You may cut me with your eyes, but still like air, I rise!"
- "Up front the past and pain, I rise!"
- "I rise, I rise, I rise!"

"This was powerful," noted Sewell at the conclusion of the Family Conference. "We saw your care and it takes people like you! This panel...you have been so amazing! We're capable of healing our community."

Local Business... continued from page 16

Young in 1934 with the objective to create an organization for professional business women. In 1983, the Maumee Bay Club was established. The club provides various workshops, trainings and programs, but their most notable is the Black College tour for high school students.

Current Maumee Bay Club leadership: Crystal Taylor, president; Birdena Martin, first vice president; Linda Collins, financial secretary; Pattie Poston, recording secretary; Trevor Black, treasurer; Tracy Huff, membership chair; Jenai Hicklin, second vice president; Deborah Sims, corresponding secretary and Natalie Edwards, life membership chair.

"Thank you to everyone that attended, my club sisters, our guest speaker, everyone," said Crystal Taylor. "We awarded \$3,000 in scholarships today. Our scholarships are different, once they are enrolled and we see a class schedule then a check is mailed. They can use the scholarships for books, a computer or whatever is needed."



you think, and that you'll want to discuss.

With a quick reminder of how the struggle to read and write began with the denial of both, author Henry Louis Gates, Jr. takes readers on a journey to show how the written word was crucial in the resistance to slavery and the formation of culture. This leads to a fascinating discovery of how Black community historically diverged from white America, especially in the Victorian Age, and how identity figured into it. Readers will also delight in seeing how quietly-created (and quietly public) early-twentieth-century lan-

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CLASSIFIEDS

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April 17, 2024

Public Bid Advertisement (Electronic Bidding) State of Ohio Standard Forms and Documents

1130-23-317
Accessibility/ADA Improvements
The University of Toledo
Lucas County, OH

Bids Due: April 16, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. through the State's electronic bidding system at <https://bidexpress.com>

EDGE Participation Goal: 5.0% of contract of the contract sum with EDGE-certified business(es) AND additional 10% EDGE-certified OR Diverse Supplier vendors including MBE, WBE, VBE, BSVI, SDVOB, and LGBTBE.

Domestic steel use is required per ORC 153.011.

Contract	Estimated Cost
General Trades	\$450,000.00
Total General Trades (Deduct) Alternates	\$-12,000.00

Pre-bid Meeting: April 02, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. – Main Campus, Plant Operations Building - Room 1000, The University of Toledo, 2925 East Rocket Drive, Toledo, OH 43606

Walk-Through: Immediately following Pre-Bid.

Bid Documents: Available electronically at <https://bidexpress.com>

More Info: Questions submitted at <https://bidexpress.com>

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH), located in Toledo, OH is seeking experienced applicants for the following position(s): **Property Manager, Landlord Liaison/Housing Navigator**. For complete details, visit <https://www.lucasmha.org> and click on Careers. **Deadline: 04/26/24**. This is a Section 3 covered position. HUD recipients are encouraged to apply and are to indicate on the application if you are a LMHA Public Housing client or Housing Choice Voucher Program participant. Persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply. **NO PHONE CALLS**. Equal employment opportunity shall be afforded to all qualified persons without regard to age, race, color, religion, religious creed, gender, military status, ancestry, disability, handicap, sexual orientation, genetic information or national origin.



NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Electronic proposals will be received by the Board of County Commissioners of Lucas County, Ohio, by the Purchasing Department, One Government Center, Suite 480, Toledo, Ohio 43604-2247 until 4:00 P.M. (local time), May 16, 2024 and opened immediately thereafter for **#2142-TANF Program Services to Youth & Families** for the Lucas County Department of Job & Family Services, according to specifications available for examination, or download the proposal by going to the site, <http://www.co.lucas.oh.us/bids.asp>. Suppliers interested in doing business with Lucas County must register in the Supplier Portal.

To access the Lucas County Oracle Supplier Portal, please visit:

https://eicb.fa.us6.oraclecloud.com/fscm/UI/faces/NegotiationAbstracts?_afrcBuild=300000007278812&_afrcCtrlstate=15ps8sau3_1&_afrcLoop=7126760101772357&_afrcWindowMode=0&_afrcWindowId=avudlxmca&_afrcFS=16&_afrcMT=screen&_afrcMFW=1920&_afrcMEH=932&_afrcMEDW=1920&_afrcMEDH=1080&_afrcMFC=8&_afrcMFCI=0&_afrcMFM=0&_afrcMFR=96&_afrcMFG=0&_afrcMFS=0&_afrcMFO=0

Prior to 4:00 P.M. (local time), May 16, 2024 each proposal shall contain the full name of each person submitting the proposal and the name of every person or company interested in same.

The right is reserved to reject any and all bids.

By order of the Board of County Commissioners, Lucas County, Ohio.

Pete Gerken – President
Lisa A. Sobecki – Commissioner
Anita Lopez – Commissioner

#2142-TANF Program Services to Youth & Families – Lucas County
Publish: April 7, 2024

LAWNCARE SERVICES 2024 FOR PREFERRED PROPERTIES

Preferred Properties is seeking written proposals from qualified, licensed, and bonded entities to provide professional lawn care services for their properties; a total of 69 sites including multi-family housing and single-family homes.

Contractors will submit proposals to enter into a one-year contractual agreement with P2 with an option made by P2 to extend the contract for two subsequent, one-year agreements.

Please submit a request for the proposal packet via p2financeportal@preferred-properties.org.

FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT GRANT

The City of Toledo's Facade Improvement Grant and White Box Grant will be accepting applications until April 17. For more information, visit toledo.oh.gov/vibrancy.

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR AVIATION CONSULTING SERVICES FOR THE TOLEDO-LUCAS COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY

The Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority (TLCPA) is seeking qualified aviation consulting firm(s) to provide professional Architectural, Engineering, and Planning services for the Eugene F. Kranz Toledo Express Airport, Toledo Executive Airport, and Seagate Heliport Heliport.

These services are to be provided in connection with the capital improvement plan (CIP) for both airports, as well as assist in the development of a potential CIP for the heliport. This Request for Qualifications (RFQ) will result in a multi-year agreement with a consultant or consultants for a period of five (5) years. The selected consultant(s) will then negotiate and enter into sub-agreements for services, based on the scope of work, with the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority on a project/assignment basis during the term of the five (5) year period.

The selection process of consultant(s) is being done in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Advisory Circular 150/5100-14E, and applicable Ohio statutes and laws.

The required format for the proposal to be submitted to the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority is described in detail in the full copy of the Request for Qualifications, and is available by either (1) emailing Tina Perkins at Tperkins@Toledoport.org or (2) visiting the Port Authority's website at <https://www.toledoport.org/public-notice>. Proposals are due no later than 10:00 a.m. (local time), Wednesday, April 17, 2024.

Thomas Winston, President and CEO
Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority

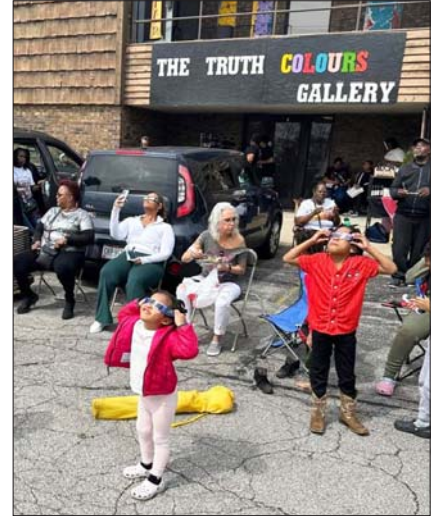
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS ARCHITECTURAL & ENGINEERING SERVICES (A&E) QUALIFICATIONS RFQ24-Q001

Lucas Metropolitan Housing (LMH) will receive qualifications for **Architectural & Engineering (A&E) Services in accordance with RFQ24-Q001**. Received in accordance with law until **May 1, 2024 at 3:00 PM EST**. For documents: www.lucasmha.org; 424 Jackson Street., Toledo, OH 43604; or 419-259-9438 (TRS: Dial 711). Bidders are required to meet Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity requirements as described in Executive Order #11246. This contract opportunity is a Section 3 Covered Contract, and any Section 3 Business Concerns are encouraged to apply.



A Solar Eclipse Here in Toledo

Monday, April 8, was certainly an unusual day in much of the eastern United States and certainly here in Toledo. People gathered in numerous places to view the solar eclipse – and did so also at The Truth Colours Gallery.



The Clarence Smith Community Chorus & Mercy Health
Annual Spring Concert
 Featuring
 The Clarence Smith Community Chorus



Special Guest
 The University of Toledo Chamber Singers

Saturday, April 27, 2024 at 6:00 PM
 Monroe St. United Methodist Church | 3613 Monroe St. Toledo, OH 43606

Tickets: \$18/Adults; \$10/Children under 12
 Purchase: Online at <https://www.CSCChorus.com>
 In Person from: Community Chorus Members or Henry's Jewelers: 4909 Dorr St. Toledo, OH 43615

For More Information Contact: 419-283-1434 or 419-508-0984
 Facebook: Clarence Smith Community Chorus | <https://www.CSCChorus.com>

"Embracing the Future While Preserving the Past"



Derrick Davis... continued from page 6

While the show is presented by the Toledo Opera, Ragtime is in fact a musical. "It slants a little more classical in its expression but it's a mixture of so many different influences [from the different ethnic groups]... and because it involves such a large orchestra and a large chorus and is of the golden age of musical theatre style an opera company can put it on be incredibly successful with it," he explained.

Davis's message to our community: "Come out and see it and bring your family! It will be a great conversation starter on so many different levels and it's going to be wildly entertaining!"

You don't want to miss Ragtime! Toledo Opera will perform Ragtime at the Valentine Theatre on Friday, April 19 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, April 21 at 2 p.m. To learn more about the upcoming shows or to buy tickets visit ToledoOpera.org.

To learn more about performer Derrick Davis visit therealderrickdavis.com or on social media.

A Local Business and Professional Organization Honors Women

Tricia Hall

The Truth Reporter

The Maumee Bay Club of National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club (NANBPWC) held their annual program on Saturday, April 13, 2024 at Arthur Hills Golf Club in Ottawa Lake, Michigan. The occasion and 2024 theme, "Women who Advocate for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion," celebrated Women's History Month and the organization's founders, awarded scholarships, included a featured speaker and acknowledged local women.

Maumee Bay member Patricia Poston opened the program with a warm welcome and Crystal Taylor delivered heartfelt greetings. Program mistress of ceremonies Candice Harrison completed a special presentation, Birdena Martin presented history and occasion, Tonu Epperson and Patricia Snelling conducted Tribute to Founders and Jenai Hicklin delivered the innovation.

Crystal Harris Darnell, the current director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for the Lucas County Board of Commissioners, delivered the keynote address. Harris Darnell oversees the coordination and guidance of the county's initiatives to define, assess, promote and foster diversity and inclusion across all aspects of service delivery and employment within the Lucas County Commissioner's departments.

"I just want to take in this room," began Harris Darnell during the speech introduction. "There was a time that I didn't believe that I should be in this space. Thank you ladies for the invitation to inspire you this morning. I get to speak to an audience of Black women."

She went on to talk about the history of racism and colorism, share personal experiences and inspire the audience to support each other. "What does DEI mean? What does it mean when I'm the only Black women and I feel unseen. What does it mean. This has become my passion. I've experienced colorism, we used to tease ourselves. It wasn't until I got older that I realized it was wrong when I first heard 'Black is Beautiful.'" I had never heard that in the schools or even in the church."

Several individuals were acknowledged:

- KaTrice Perry, founder and executive director of Gateway Youth Development, received Achievement Award.
- Valerie Simmons-Walston, special advisor to the University of Toledo president for Community Engagement and Strategic Partnerships, received Community Service Award.
- Valerie Thompson, president of AAF-Toledo (American Advertising Federation), Volunteer Award.
- Trinity Nwokolo, Toledo Early College High School senior, received Youth Character Award.
- Malaika Bell, director of the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at The University of Toledo, received Women who advocates for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Award.
- Myiah Welborn of Toledo Christian, Vonaija Harris of Gibsonburg High School, Carnel Smith Jr of Scott High School, Jalen Brown of Emmanuel Christian School, Jaden Bridgette of Rogers High School all earned scholarships.

"Honored to be here. I let my work speak for myself and I'm grateful for this honor. There are so many women that I admire and aspire to be like, now I'm in the same room with you," shared Perry.

"Thank you to this organization. This is the first award," began Bell. "There are people in this room that I have known for years and have worked with me for years. These individuals recognize the importance of this work. I was destined to do this work, I was lucky for landing in the field of DEI."

NANBPWC was established under the leadership of Emma Odessa

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Award recipients



Vonda Williams presenting KaTrice Perry with award



Youth Award recipients with scholarship recipients



Maumee Bay NANBPWC, Inc, Members



Speaker, Crystal Harris Darnell



Maumee Bay Club president Crystal Taylor presenting Tracy Huff with president's award