



SPOTLIGHT GUIDE 2020

The Transformers

Our intention is to broaden and deepen the dimensions in which black men and boys are seen

Remodeled Citizen | Community Believer | Supporting Our Sistas | Young, Black & Excellent



“UNTIL THE LION TELLS ITS OWN TALE, THE STORY OF THE HUNT WILL ALWAYS GLORIFY THE HUNTER.”

—AFRICAN PROVERB—



Mayor's Office of
Black Male Engagement

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A composite image featuring Philadelphia City Hall on the right and a modern building with a glass and steel facade on the left. A green-bordered white box is overlaid on the right side, containing the title 'About Us' and the subtitle 'The Mayor's Office of Black Male Engagement (OBME)'.

About Us

The Mayor's Office of Black Male Engagement (OBME)

History

The Mayor's Office of Black Male Engagement (OBME) operates as the first office of its kind in the United States of America. OBME leads the City's work around closing the opportunity divide for men and boys of color in Philadelphia. OBME serves as a voice and liaison between individuals, organizations, and local government. We strive to better the communities where Black men and boys live and reduce the economic and social disparities that affect them.

OBME supports the efforts of the Mayor's Commission on African American Males. We also coordinate My Brother's Keeper Philadelphia, a program that aims to dismantle systems of inequality.



Mission

We work to align and focus resources and initiatives towards the specific goal of reducing economic and social disparities, along with improving outcomes for Black men and boys and the communities in which they live.

OBME's Focus:

Policy: Examining the negative conditions of Black males and formulating policy recommendations to the Mayor that can affect positive change for Black males and the communities in which they live.

Advocacy: Serving as a liaison between individuals, community, and organizations with City government in support of Black men and boys.

Engagement: Engaging the community through forums and content that informs and empowers individuals and their communities to take action in eliminating disparities.

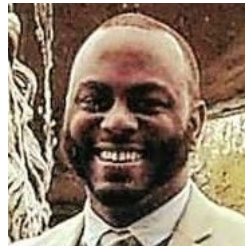
Leadership



Eric Westbrook

Director
eric.westbrook@phila.gov

Prior to becoming the Director for the Office of Black Male Engagement, Eric spent seven years of his career at the Community College of Philadelphia, where he worked to improve graduation and retention rates for male students of color. He coordinated the recruitment efforts for the Center for Male Engagement, partnering with dozens of schools, community-based organizations, businesses, and nonprofit agencies. With nearly 20 years of experience in social service, Eric understands the need of bridging individuals and communities to the necessary resources. He brings a wide range of skill in strategic planning and networking, as well as an eternal optimism from life coaching, supervising after-school programs, and direct service work.



Octavius L. Blount

Coordinator | Editor, Spotlight Guide |
Host, Spotlight Series
octavius.blount@phila.gov

As the Coordinator, Octavius is responsible for hosting the video Spotlight Series, managing the social presence of the office, supporting the policy efforts of the Mayor's Commission on African American Males, and engaging experts and providing resources to serve the Black men and boys in Philadelphia. Octavius Blount is a graduate of Arcadia University Sociology department and earned his Master's in Social Work from Bryn Mawr College GSSWSR program. Prior to his current role, Octavius engaged and developed strategic partnerships with various stakeholder groups as the Engagement and Advocacy, Intern for Mentor IR, developed and facilitated workshops as a workforce development coach at Episcopal Community Services, and designed/implemented behavioral interventions as an EducationWorks Social Worker.

About My Brother's Keeper Action Academy



My Brother's Keeper (MBK) Action Academy is the community engagement initiative of the Mayor's Office of Black Male Engagement with a focus on improving the quality of life amongst Black men in Philadelphia. The Academy hosts bi-monthly neighborhood-based community engagement workshops designed to provide the tools and resources necessary to close the opportunity gap for men and boys of color. We held three separate academies in 2019.

August 2019

Town Hall on gun violence with State Representative Morgan Cephas at Shepard Recreation Center

The Town Hall on Violence Reduction was an opportunity for community leaders and City agencies to collaborate on our efforts to lower gun violence by closing the opportunity divide for black men and boys in our City. This was a partnered event between State Representative Morgan Cephas, the Mayor's Office of Black Male Engagement, and the Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual Disability Services (DBHIDS). The City's Office of Violence Prevention also shared an update on their plan to lower gun violence—Philadelphia Roadmap to Safer Communities. The City's Office of Workforce Development helped connected youth and young adults to education programs, paid trainings, and employment opportunities.

Highlights

40 - 50 attendees

Neighborhood residents were engaged in discussions around the planning and implementation of the City's violence reduction work.

October 2019

Opportunity Forum with panelists from Power Corps and Philadelphia Future Track

The Mayor's Office of Black Male Engagement partnered with the office of Councilmember Cindy Bass to bring the MBK Action Academy: Opportunity Forum to North Philly on October 17 at the Nicetown CDC. The Opportunity Forum created a space for successful Black men and boys to extend a hand to their peers by sharing their stories of resilience, and helping others set and reach new goals. PowerCorps PHL, Philadelphia Parks & Rec, City as a Model Employer, and YouthBuild attended with Black male champions who shared their stories with their peers.

Highlights

30 attendees





December 2019

“We See You, Brother” dinner for our homeless or unsheltered men

The dinner was designed to remind our homeless men of Philadelphia they are not forgotten during the holiday season by serving them a delicious holiday meal.

Our office connected with Chosen 300 Ministries because Executive Director Brian Jenkins and his staff at Chosen 300 Ministries have the unique ability of transforming their meeting hall at 11th and Spring Garden into a cozy living room. This allowed our guests to feel welcomed, seen, heard, and comfortable. Our time together felt more like a holiday family reunion.

First Up in 2020: The Black Generational Wealth Series

The Black Generational Wealth (BGW) Series is a collection of weekly financial empowerment events held throughout the month of February. The goal is to empower Black males with the tools and resources needed to gain and maintain generational wealth.

This series features four different events covering topics like financial literacy, engaging City resources and initiatives, entrepreneurship, and transferring wealth. This series covered topics like financial literacy, engaging City resources and initiatives, entrepreneurship, and transforming wealth. Professional panelists with a wealth of experience shared their insight on these important topics.

The four program areas for the series include:

MONEY MOVES: A Workshop on Personal Financial Literacy

BUILDING BLOCKS: Opportunities to Rebuild with the City of Philadelphia

GRAND OPENING, GRAND CLOSING: Building a Business that Lasts

PLANTING THE SEEDS OF WEALTH: Transferring Knowledge to the Next Generation

Mayor's Office of Black Male Engagement Launches

Brothas Stroll:
WALK FOR BLACK
MEN'S HEALTH

Highlights

30 participants





"It is not uncommon for people—particularly Black males—to not access health and other resources simply because they do not know they exist. Brothas Stroll provides an innovative opportunity to raise awareness and connect Black men and boys to health resources in their neighborhoods."

Raynard Washington,

Chief Epidemiologist for the Department of Public Health

"Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced." - **James Baldwin**

Brothas Stroll: Walk for Black Men's Health was created by Octavius Blount, OBME Coordinator, in collaboration with the Department of Public Health and supported by Councilman Kenyatta Johnson.

Brothas Stroll is a neighborhood-based walk targeting Black men and boys to gain access to health resources and screenings, connect with neighbors, and raise awareness about the issue of Black men's health. Brothas Stroll is an opportunity for Black men to take control of their health care. These walks not only provide an opportunity to exercise and connect to medical resources, they also serve as a gathering for Black men and their families to fellowship.

This initiative was inspired by the report *Brotherly Love: Health of Black Men and Boys in Philadelphia*, issued by the City in March of 2019. This is the first-ever report that highlighted the unique challenges faced by Black men and boys in Philadelphia today

and laid the groundwork for actionable steps that can be taken to improve their health outcomes.

The *Brotherly Love* report revealed that health is largely influenced by the conditions under which individuals live their lives. Nearly one in three Black men are obese, and Black men are more likely to be hospitalized for stroke as early as 35. Too often, these serious events are a result of undiagnosed and/or untreated hypertension, which continues to be a silent killer of Black men.

After the stroll, community members had the opportunity to access health screenings. Brothas Stroll is a health initiative with the mission to raise awareness on hypertension in Black men, which affects over 40 percent of Black men in Philadelphia. Results from the doctors on sight showed that all participants who received a reading did not have high blood pressure!

Resources in the Dixon House: Big Brothers Big Sisters Independence Region, Census 2020, DBHIDS (EMOC), Philadelphia Anti-Drug Anti-Violence Network (PAAN), Dobbins Mustang Barbers, Philadelphia Public Health, Office of Black Male Engagement

"Too many Black men of my generation had their lives cut short by urban health crises like gun violence, drug abuse, cancer, and hypertension, I've lost countless family, friends, and community members to these plagues. As a father and a Councilmember, I worry about the next generation, because they face the same threats to their health. Together with the Kenney Administration and community partners, I'm energized to raise awareness of the problem and increase access to health resources."

Kenyatta Johnson,

2nd District Councilmember

OBME at-a-Glance

2 Black Male Engagement
Offices in the U.S.
(Philadelphia & Baltimore)

120,730

Total population of Black men and boys in the city of Philadelphia

40%

of the male population in the city of Philadelphia are Black men and boys

CONDUCTED

50+ 100+

Spotlight series interviews

CONNECTED WITH

Organizations who support the lives of Black men and boys

City Departments, National Organizations, City Councilmembers, State Representatives, Colleges and Universities, Community-Based Organizations, Churches, Divine 9, School District of Philadelphia, Non-Profit Organizations



Mayor's Commission on African American Males (MCAAM)

In 1991, a group of African American men met monthly, and subsequently presented Mayor W. Wilson Goode, Sr. with the recommendation to create a Commission on African American Men. The Executive Order was written (E.O. #11-90), and the MCAAM's functions were to focus on studying the negative conditions of Black men in the city of Philadelphia, and to make a yearly report of recommendations to the Mayor on how to affect positive outcomes for Black men and boys.

In December 1991, Mayor Goode signed the Executive Order establishing the MCAAM. The MCAAM would not be instituted again for nearly 20 years. In 2009, Mayor Nutter convened a small group of stakeholders to begin brainstorming what the focus should be to improve life for African American men and boys in Philadelphia.

In 2010, the Father's Day Rally Committee convened a group of African American men, and published a 10-year plan called The Agenda. It outlined strategies and solutions in the areas of Criminal Justice, Economic Development, Education, and Health. Presented with The Agenda and the original Executive Order for the Commission, in 2011 Mayor Nutter re-established the MCAAM, and appointed former Mayor W. Wilson Goode, Sr. (Amachi, Inc.), Bilal Qayyum (Fathers' Day Rally Committee) and Jamar "Izzo" Izzard (Radio One) to serve as Co-Chairs. Three years later, Mayor Nutter appointed Steve Vassor (AMPED Strategies) as another Co-Chair. Mayor Nutter made improving the life outcomes of Black men and boys a priority throughout his administration.

In 2015, City Councilmember Curtis Jones played a major role in The Philadelphia Home Rule Charter change to make the Mayor's Commission on African American Males a permanent fixture in City government. In 2016, Mayor Kenney established the Mayor's Office of Black Male Engagement, which supports the efforts of MCAAM. While there are many areas that we could look at improving to achieve more successful outcomes for African American men, in 2018 the Commission focused on creating and building the capacity of its four Committees: Economic Development, Education, Health & Wellness, and Social Justice. The Commission has been actively working to deepen its understanding of the state of and varying experiences of African American males in Philadelphia through gathering a body of research and data in these four areas. By connecting and regularly meeting with the Mayor and various departmental leaders, we seek to better understand current and planned priority efforts of the City.



MCAAM Mayoral Meetings

The myriad challenges faced by African American males in our city impact their viable and stable presence in families, communities, and our city overall. Because of these challenges, the Mayor's Commission on African American Males (MCAAM) was established to assist the City in addressing these and other issues. In this spirit, MCAAM encourages the development and implementation of policies, programs and practices specifically intended to improve conditions affecting the well-being of African American males residing in Philadelphia.



Rev. W. Wilson Goode Sr.

Former Mayor W. Wilson Goode, Sr. was presented with the recommendation to create a Commission on African American Men. In December 1991, Mayor Goode signed the Executive Order establishing the MCAAM.



Brotherly LOVE

Health of Black Men and Boys in Philadelphia

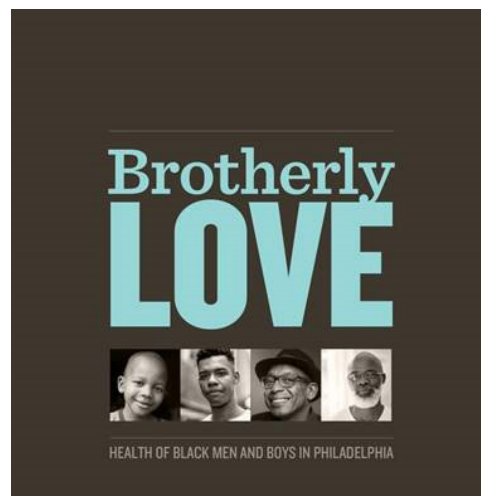
In 2019, the City of Philadelphia issued a Brotherly Love: Health of Black Men and Boys in Philadelphia. This first-ever report highlights the unique challenges faced by Black men in Philadelphia today and lays the groundwork for actionable steps we all can take to improve their health outcomes.

Key Findings from the Brotherly Love Report:

- School-aged Black male youth have the lowest rates of obesity compared to other racial/ethnic groups.
- Health insurance coverage among Black Philadelphians is at an all-time high following the implementation of ACA/Medicaid Expansion, with 90 percent of Black adults having health insurance and more than 96 percent of Black children have health insurance coverage.
- Unemployment and poverty rates are declining.
- High school, college and graduate school graduation rates are increasing among Black men.

The report points to several areas for accelerating improvements in the health of Black men and boys. Key strategies include providing quality health and education in the earliest years of life, strengthening the educational and healthcare safety nets,

promoting and reducing structural deterrents to healthy living, and combating poverty, community violence and racism. While key initiatives to address many of these areas are already underway in the city, public and private stakeholders will be convening this year to develop an action plan for improving the health of Black men and boys in the city.



The report is unique not only for its focus on the health of Black men, it also highlights notable Black men from Philadelphia who, while dealing with many of the same health-related issues afflicting men throughout the city, have worked individually or with various organizations to better both their own health and the health and circumstances of other Black men and boys.

SPOTLIGHT SERIES Overview

In the Mayor's Office of Black Male Engagement, we host and produce The Spotlight Series where we recognize promising, hardworking, and inspiring Black male leaders in the city of Philadelphia. This video series was created to highlight the work they do, how they make an impact on the lives and people they serve, and how they're transforming the narrative and image of Black men.

In 2020, for Black History Month, the spotlight series engaged and connected with a group who we're calling The Transformers. In this Spotlight Series, we amplified the voices, acknowledged the impact, and created a platform for Black males. The individuals featured are men - and women - who have either transformed their lives, their community, or the narrative of Black males.

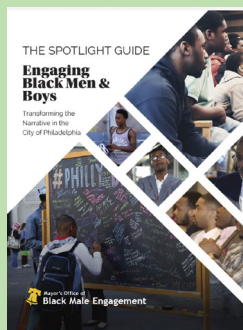
Ultimately, we want to showcase and raise the visibility of positive Black men in Philadelphia. The Mayor's Office of Black Male Engagement believes that positive representation has the power to show young Black males their own potential. Our intention is to broaden and deepen the dimensions in which Black men and boys are seen, from a one-dimensional stereotype to the full spectrum.

Since 2017, we have highlighted over 50 special guests on our show from a variety of professional backgrounds such as government, entrepreneurs, educational institutions, health care facilities, labor organizations, civic organizations, non-profit sector, and many other entities. Our Spotlight Series, for 2017 - 2019, can be seen via our PHL Gov TV YouTube channel. The Transformers: Spotlight Series will be available on our Instagram IGTV @OBMEPHL

Community Believers: In Philadelphia, a major component of improving life outcomes for Black men and boys is changing the narrative to one that lifts them up as assets in society. Black males in Philadelphia are driven to transform the narrative, build up their family, support the next generation, and recognize their need to be a change and improvements in their community.

Remodeled Citizens: Remodeled Citizens are Black men that had a past they do not want to return to. Therefore, they transformed their lives to engage their community, educate the youth, and empower those in similar situations. A remodeled citizen does not see their past as a barrier, but rather an opportunity to grow, to learn, and to inspire.

2019 SPOTLIGHT GUIDE Recap



The Spotlight Guide is a tangible resource constructed from the Mayor's Office of Black Male Engagement monthly show "The Spotlight Series"

What is a REMODELED Citizen?

Individuals with a criminal record have several barriers they face once returning to society. For Black men leaving prison and integrating back into society, the language used to describe them can often times perpetuate harmful stigmas and make their transition even more difficult. Changing our language is a small step we can take that can help us to think and act in new, redemptive ways.

“A remodeled citizen is a person that has made a transformation in their life to develop SELF.”

- **LuQman Abdullah**

It gives space for hope by acknowledging their capacity to contribute and improve communities, despite the barriers they may face. Yet, on an even deeper level it honors their humanity by reminding them that they are not defined by past actions, and establishes shared expectations that they can and will contribute as one citizen among many.

That's why we're calling the men featured in this section "Remodeled Citizens".



Shuja Moore

Recovery and Reentry Specialist

REMODELED Citizens

Shuja Moore refers to himself as a Recovery and Reentry specialist, community person, a West Philadelphia native, and a Black man who is out to improve his culture and community.

Shuja Moore remembered that "growing up in West Philadelphia was hard and made a man out of me early". At the age of 19 years old he began to sell drugs which, "opened up Pandora's box" for him, further leading him to guns, alcohol, and drug abuse.

Once, he brought a loaded gun into a club and used the gun to threaten a clubgoer with whom he had a beef with at the time. A struggle ensued and the gun went off, injuring a bouncer and killing a bystander. Shuja Moore was convicted of third-degree murder, aggravated assault, and related offenses for what he called "the worst decision I've ever made." Shuja was convicted and sentenced to a 12-to-25-year sentence, of which he did 12 years.

During the time of his incarceration, Shuja refers to his time in incarceration as an awakening. "You find out who you are and who you want to be, then make a decision and then you go about cultivating that person," he said. "I went through this process and realized who I wanted to be - a person who helps his people not hurt them."

Helping people find themselves, create an identity and define what makes them happy is Shuja's passion. Creating safe residential environments

for people in transition is his calling. "I named my company Crown Mentality because I want the people that I work with to take pride in who they are and what they've been through." Shuja's day-to-day work also consists of creating film projects to advocate for people from vulnerable populations, as well as assisting them through their recovery journey.

Since returning home from prison, Shuja has counseled countless people returning home from prison and battling substance abuse addiction. His work has led to him being recruited to helm the nonprofit Stop the Madness - Stop the Violence. In 2017, he was recognized by the Philadelphia Juvenile Justice Services Center School for his work with the youth. In 2019, he was given the "Adjusting the Crown" award, from Lockdown Love, for his dedication to self-improvement.

Shuja continues to effect change by telling stories and helping individuals in recovery. "So many people do not know me or think of returning citizens in a certain way... Well let me provide the platform so we can speak and tell our stories and that you can see what we're about."

Through Crown Mentality Media, he is producing "Walkies," a five part documentary series that features five returning citizens at different stages of reentry. Shuja showcases the stories of those with lived experiences with recovery from substance abuse and the criminal justice system.



LuQman Abdullah

Human Rights Activist, Social Reformer, Commissioner for the Mayor's Commission on African American Males, and Manager for Organizing for Action, developed by former U.S. President Barack Obama.

LuQman Abdullah says that he "got caught up in the ghetto of North Philly." According to LuQman, he engaged in selling drugs and gambling when he was younger. Over 30 years ago, LuQman sold drugs to a close friend of his family, whom he believed set up his brother to be robbed and murdered. LuQman was later accused and charged with taking the life of the person that murdered his little brother. And after 23 ½ years spent in prison at SCI Green, LuQman's prior conviction was reversed.

Today, LuQman's mission is to build community by developing leaders. LuQman Abdullah is the founder of Lambs Corp. (Learning Adolescents Motivated by Success Community Oriented Reform Program) in 1989. He focuses on identifying leaders and enhancing their skills, values and commitments. He also focuses on building strong communities - communities through which people can gain a new understanding of their interests as well as power to act on them.

LuQman is also the former Director of Human Services for Renaissance Community Development Corporation, assisting the President/CEO in high level planning, proposal writing, program development, grant research & soliciting, workshop facilitating and consulting services. LuQman has been involved in community-based economic development initiatives, anti-violence, nonprofit community program's organizational development and management for over fifteen years. LuQman has a record of success in proposal writing,

program development, community organizing/ planning, economic development, and commercial development/ entrepreneurial training, life-skills training, project implementation and job recreation.

LuQman was one of the founding members and Director of Forget Me Knot Youth Services. Currently, he serves as the Coordinator of Family and Community Engagement for Forget Me Knot Youth Services. He is responsible for meeting with youth, gauging where they are in life, connecting/providing resources, ensuring college & career readiness and supporting them in reuniting them with their families.

LuQman is also employed with the School District of Philadelphia as a Parent Coordinator creating a welcoming school environment for parents at 34 schools in west and southwest Philadelphia; working with the principal to address parent issues and concerns at the school; conducting outreach to engage parents in their children's education; and strengthening parent involvement in their children's education. He has also worked within correctional facilities as former contractor/facilitator for Thinking for a Change cognitive skills development program within the Philadelphia Prison System.

LuQman is an Executive Board Member for Mothers In Charge, The Frator Heru Institute, and former Advisory Board Member for Temple University's PASCEP Community Educational Program, Books Through Bars, Human Rights Coalition and MEE Productions (Motivational Educational Entertainment). He is a former Tutor for the Mayor's Commission on Literacy, grassroots activist, author of many essays, and lecturer. LuQman has received a number of Citations from City Council and the PA Senate for his community service and initiatives.

LuQman has a BA in Communicative Science and Disorders, Honorary Master Degree in Religious Theology, and a Certification in Community Economic Development.



**In the words of Carlton Williams,
City of Philadelphia Streets
Commissioner,**

“I hope I led by example because when I see Mikel, I see myself, so he will be the next commissioner one day.”

Mikel Woods is a son, father,
and Assistant to the City of Philadelphia
Streets Commissioner.

Mikel was born and raised in West Philadelphia. Being raised by a single mother, he turned to the streets as a means of helping his mother with household bills. By the age of fifteen, Mikel was adjudicated, delinquent, and sent to Vision Quest boot camp. Upon his release he enrolled in John Bartram High school evening classes. While being involved with life in the streets Mikel made sure to continue evening classes and earned his High School Diploma.

Yet, Mikel was still dealing with the challenges of the street life. In January 2013, Mikel was pulled over, arrested, and ultimately charged with drug possession. While sitting in jail following a felony conviction, he was determined to not allow that situation to hold him back from achieving his goal of becoming a better man.

Upon his release he started various programs, hoping for a second chance. However, despite successfully completing various programs, he was unable to find employment because of his criminal record. An acquaintance recommended PowerCorpsPHL, an initiative established in 2013, an AmeriCorps Governor & Mayor Initiative in partnership with EducationWorks and the Philadelphia Youth Network.

Before long, Mikel went from starting as a PowerCorps Member to becoming an Assistant Crew Leader. Along the way, he earned multiple certifications and an educational scholarship. After

completing the PowerCorpsPHL program, Mikel was awarded the opportunity to intern for Commissioner Carlton Williams at the Philadelphia Streets Department.

In 2017, Commissioner Williams was so impressed with Mikel's hard-work ethic and interest in the Mayor's zero waste efforts, he offered him a permanent position as Commissioner's Assistant. In this role he is responsible for efforts with the City's zero waste efforts, coordinating with other managers and executives in managing and monitoring the vehicle GPS system, representing the Department at neighborhood and Town Hall meetings, overseeing volunteers in the Street Department's Future Track initiative, and most recently managing efforts for the latest initiative, Philacan. Further breaking down strongholds, he also enrolled in a program at Orleans Technical College where he completed all requirements for a Degree in Building Maintenance.

Mikel continues to reside in the city of Philadelphia. He has one son, Mason, and is passionate about showing him a better lifestyle than a life on the streets. Not only is he determined to be a better man for himself, his family, and for the young people within his influence, his goal is to continue with his passion for public service and to build a business for his son's future. He has defied the odds with hard work, persistence, and determination.

What is a COMMUNITY BELIEVER?

In Philadelphia, a major component of improving life outcomes for Black men and boys is changing the current narrative of their lives, specifically from negative stereotypes to stories highlighting and uplifting Black men as assets in our communities. One way we're doing this is by featuring Black men and boys in Philadelphia that we're calling "Community Believers."

Community Believer(s) are:

Black men and boys that believe in the potential of their community, who see and want to make improvements in their community and city, and who are transforming their communities by creating social impact.



Desmond Kirton Sr.

Barbering teacher, Murrell Dobbins Career and Technical Education High School

Community Believers

Desmond Kirton Sr. is a South Philadelphia native, father, Christian, U.S. Army Veteran, college student and has been a barber since the age of 10.

He has owned his own barbershop for several years. Desmond is a family man with a devotion to God and his children. Even though he is a retired business owner turned teacher, he loves the excitement, the work, and the impact he is making as he teaches at Dobbins Career and Technical Education High School, where he is the only barbering teacher in the District.

For the past seven years, Desmond has taught barbering at Dobbins CTE, where he has found new and innovative ways to reach his students. Desmond is a graduate of Strayer University for Criminal Justice. He also acquired his Vocational I Certification and Barber Instructor License.

Desmond spends a lot of time getting his students to be invested in their own education by having them think about how they can be an asset in the future. Being a barbering teacher at Dobbins CTE is impactful because he works with the students hands on in the school's new state-of-the-art barber shop, he supports the students through character development, human relations, and self motivation.

Desmond expressed that he teaches "the art, the science, and the business of barbering" and that he loves being at Dobbins because they prepare kids for both college and career. This means that once barbering students reach 1,250 credit hours, "they can take the licensing exam, which is part theory and part practical. Besides skills such as how to cut and how to give a facial massage, students learn aspects of chemistry, anatomy, and physiology. The class integrates language arts, as students are responsible for learning barbering vocabulary and the names of techniques. Skills in mathematics are also covered, as students need to know what kind of angle will allow for what kind of cut.

Community Believers

According to Desmond, being a teacher does not mean you only worry about those students in front of you. You think about how to connect your students to job opportunities and empower the next generation of students. Desmond explained that "being in the industry is a major advantage," he has placed nearly 30 of his students into hair shops across the city each summer to work. He also spends time recruiting middle school students and pitching the program to them and their families.

Desmond has built a solid foundation for partnering with many organizations to provide barbering services to the community. His hard work, charisma, and true passion have helped him to prevent recidivism, provide financial literacy, create entrepreneurs, and make a difference in his community.



Jordan Parris-Ferrari
Founder, Trades for a Difference

Mr. Parris-Ferrari is familiar with the adversities and pressures facing many young adults who grow up in our city. He believes that positive guidance, opportunity, and educational resources can help them attain success. Jordan holds multiple trade licenses and certifications including a Construction Management Certification from Temple University, an ICC Master Electrical License, and a NAHB Carpentry Certification. He is a nationally awarded and published design build contractor having received the NKBA National 30 under 30 Award. Jordan is also an engaging public speaker at universities, national trade shows, and community engagement platforms.

Trades for a Difference focuses on at-risk youths and young adults within his community. They offer job skills training and entrepreneurial learning relevant to the construction trade industry. Their mission is to reduce the skilled trades gap through minority inclusion. Ultimately, they strive to be a resource that provides opportunities for young men and women of color to take part in career paths throughout the skilled trade industry. Their vision is to restore the community from within by educating the community on how to work together, creating positive change, and allowing them to be a part of the process to benefit the whole community. Trades for a Difference is not only a job skills training and entrepreneurial learning program, it's the vehicle that will be used to build community wealth throughout neighborhoods in Philadelphia.

Trades for a Difference Highlights

95% Program Completion Rate

70% Job Placement

63% of students move on to
higher education opportunity



Trades for a Difference Programs

Mentorship Program pairs experienced skilled tradesmen/tradeswomen and entrepreneurs with students to gain invaluable knowledge and insight for students to accomplish their goals.

Apprentice Program places students with TFAD alums and other skilled trades members to get hands on experience

TFAD Projects with Purpose

The mission of Projects with Purpose is to empower residents, promote community wealth, and revitalize neighborhoods within under-served communities.

- Chew Avenue Project
- Brick By Brick
- Mural Arts Collaboration
- Monument Labs
- 5011 Germantown Ave

What is a Project with Purpose (PWP): PWP provides educational programming and on the job training of TFAD students, as well as direct cost of the necessary materials/labor to provide free repairs for qualifying seniors and low income families living in hazardous conditions. PWP also works to complete impactful community initiatives and rebuilding our community from within.

How Do We Serve The Community with Projects with Purpose

- 1. Mentorship:** Over 60 percent of family households in Northwest Philadelphia are fatherless. Through PWP, our youth are exposed to male role models that provide much needed guidance and support.
- 2. Blight Removal:** Restores beauty, reduces crime, improves health, and builds pride within the community.
- 3. Homelessness:** When residents and local businesses maintain ownership of the property in the community, there are more opportunities to reduce homelessness through resident programs and affordable housing.
- 4. Local Economic Stimulus:** PWP serves as a catalyst for economic development by restoring blighted commercial properties therefore attracting businesses and creating jobs.



Community Believers

Elijah J. Wilson

Debate Coordinator for After School Activities Partnership (ASAP)



Elijah J. Wilson is the Debate Coordinator for ASAP After School Activities Partnership located in Philadelphia, PA, where he provides schools within the Philadelphia School District the opportunity to have a rigorous, but educational rewarding debate program. He is a soon to be graduate of Arcadia University, with a bachelor's degree in Political Science and Africana Studies. He also holds a certification of completion by the NAACP for completing a training designed to help "Get Out the Vote" effort. He also holds a certification of completion for his time spent at American University with their Washington Semester Program. During his undergraduate years he was a founding member of Melanin in Action – an activist club that addressed the campus wide issues of race.

He is a justice advocate and this was established when he looks out into the world "I see there is injustice and I practice empathy... which will help others notice the plight of many."

Through ASAP's debate program, over 400 youth in 45 middle and high school clubs explore important issues while building critical reading and public speaking skills relevant to post-secondary education and employment opportunities.

The Philadelphia Scholastic Debate League (PSDL) is the competitive organization for traditional public and charter school debate teams in Philadelphia, and is one of the largest urban debate leagues in the country. Students compete in teams of two, following the National Speech and Debate Association (NSDA) rules for Public Forum Debate. High school debate teams use national topics that change monthly, based on current news stories and issues facing the United States and the wider world. Middle school teams study one previous high school topic each semester, allowing the younger students more time to build their understanding and debate skills. Past topics have included for-profit prisons, genetically modified foods, and whether or not students in the U.S. should be guaranteed two free years of post-secondary education at a community or technical college.

ASAP organizes a six-month high school debate season consisting of weekly after school matches held at Central High School, as well as monthly middle school tournaments held at various locations throughout Philadelphia. Participation on a debate team helps students develop and sharpen their research, oral presentation, writing and strategic thinking skills.



2019 SPOTLIGHT Guest Speaker

Dr. William R. Hite
Superintendent of the School District of Philadelphia

Black Men Making **AN IMPACT IN THEIR Field of Work**

With a focus on equity, innovation, and quality, Dr. William R. Hite serves as Superintendent of the School District of Philadelphia, the largest public school system in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Since joining the School District in June 2012, Dr. Hite has worked to create a system of great schools in every neighborhood. Under his leadership, the School District has opened new innovative high schools, expanded successful school models, launched in-district turnarounds, and redesigned schools in partnership with communities. His overall focus remains on strengthening all elementary and secondary school offerings.

Dr. Hite's professional experience includes serving at every level – teacher, principal, central office administrator, and Superintendent. He was previously Superintendent of Prince George's County Public Schools in Maryland where his central work focused on enhanced access and rigor to ensure college- and career-readiness. Prince George's County schools, one of the 25 largest systems in the United States, received national recognition for expanding access to Advanced Placement courses during his tenure.

Dr. Hite also served as an Assistant Superintendent in Georgia's Cobb County School District. In addition, as an administrator in Henrico County, Virginia, he led Highland Springs High School to "Best Practices" honors from the state's General Assembly.

Dr. Hite has been an adjunct faculty member at the University of Richmond School of Continuous Learning and taught school leadership courses at Virginia State University, Bowie State University and the University of Maryland. A member of numerous national, state, and local boards, he has participated with national agencies and associations to reform K-12 education.

Dr. Hite holds a bachelor's degree in education from Virginia Tech, master's degree in educational leadership from the University of Virginia and a doctorate in education specializing in educational leadership from Virginia Tech. His interests include music, travel, sports and reading. He and his wife Deirdre have two daughters and a grandson.

2019 SPOTLIGHT Guest Speaker

Lloyd A. Freeman

Partner and Chief Diversity Officer at ARCHER
Attorneys at Law



Lloyd A. Freeman is a Partner and Chief Diversity Officer at Archer Attorneys at Law. Lloyd concentrates his practice in the area of commercial and complex civil litigation in state and federal courts in both New Jersey and Pennsylvania. He has represented clients in trials, arbitration, and mediation in both states.


As Chief Diversity Officer, Lloyd carries out the firm's vision to grow diversity and inclusion in the legal profession, as well as implements policies and procedures, and fosters programs to promote diversity throughout the firm. In addition, he develops and nurtures key partnerships to drive strategic diversity and inclusion marketing, as well as business development initiatives.

A longtime champion of diversity and inclusion in the profession and at Archer, Freeman created Archer's affinity group, L.E.A.D. (Lawyers Encouraging Archer's Diversity) in 2012 and has coordinated the firm's summer associate program for the past two years, resulting in the most diverse summer associate classes in the firm's history. Freeman himself was a summer associate at Archer and also received an Archer diversity scholarship while in law school. He is the first person of color to rise through the ranks from summer associate to partnership status.

Most admirable though, is Lloyd's commitment to the community. He is an executive board member and past board chairman of Big Brothers Big Sisters Independence Region ("BBBS")—the third largest agency in the nation, providing mentors to nearly 4,000 children in the Philadelphia and South Jersey area. Lloyd has inspired dozens of Black men to volunteer as mentors, a demographic that is in dire need. Further, Lloyd has donated hundreds of pro bono hours in legal services over the years to the agency. In recognition of his board service, Lloyd was recently named Young Professional of the Year by the Non Profit Development Center of Southern New Jersey, and received the Outstanding Director Award from the Philadelphia Business Journal.

He also founded his own nonprofit, the Burlington Camden Achievement Foundation, designed to prepare high school males of color for college and subsequent life. Participants in the Foundation's Beautillion program are exposed to etiquette training, public speaking workshops, community service, and cultural activities. Through the beautillion, Lloyd has assisted 99 young men with gaining college acceptances and awarded over \$125,000 in scholarships.

2019 SPOTLIGHT Guest Speaker

A portrait of Miles H. Wilson, a Black man with a goatee, wearing a blue suit jacket over a white shirt. He is smiling and has his arms crossed. A watch is visible on his left wrist. The background is a blurred green outdoor setting.

Miles H. Wilson
President/CEO, EducationWorks

Miles Wilson has served as President and CEO of EducationWorks since September 2015. Immediately preceding his post at EducationWorks, Miles served as the Director of Talent & Collaboration and convener of the Great Schools Compact for the Philadelphia School Partnership, a nonprofit organization working to create and expand great schools in Philadelphia. He managed the facilitation and advancement of the Great Schools Compact, to ensure that policies, strategies and resources align to a common goal of providing a high-performing school option for every child. Great Schools Compact was created through a joint commitment of Philadelphia's education leaders and school providers – including Mayor Michael Nutter, PA's state Secretary of Education, the School Reform Commission, Superintendent William Hite, and charter school leadership. In collaboration with Compact members, he led the development, launch and growth of PhillyPLUS, a nationally recognized selective principal residency program. Since 2013, the program has trained over 100 leaders for district,

charter, and private schools and was recognized by the U.S. Conference of Mayors as a best practice to increase school leader effectiveness and diversity.

Prior to PSP, Miles served as Regional Director for the Mid-Atlantic for the Nonprofit Finance Fund (NFF). A leading community development financial institution (CDFI) with over \$80 million in assets, NFF has provided over \$287 million in loans and access to additional financing via grants, tax credits, and capital in support of over \$1.4 billion in projects for thousands of organizations nationwide.

Previously, Miles served as Executive Vice President of People's Emergency Center and Regional Vice President at Community Education Partners, an education organization that operates grade 6-12 schools that provide academic and behavioral support programming for students to improve academic outcomes and reduce dropout rates.

Currently, Miles serves as a founding Board member of the Fellowship (Black Males in Education Convening) and advisory committees for Bryn Mawr College's Nonprofit Executive Leadership Institute and Jounce. Miles also serves on the board of the Children's Scholarship Fund and Inner Explorer. He has also recently joined the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce's Roadmap for Growth Action Team. Miles is a fellow of The Pahara-Aspen Fellowship (Summer 2018 cohort) which seeks to strengthen and sustain diverse, high potential leaders who are reimagining public education. He is a graduate of Lincoln University and holds a Master's in Education Leadership from Arcadia University.



Michael Harding

J.D. Candidate Public Interest Scholar, Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law

Michael Harding is from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He graduated summa cum laude from Fairfield University, where he obtained his Bachelor of Arts in International Studies and Politics and became the first African-American valedictorian in school history. His service and scholarship have taken him abroad to nearly 20 countries including places such as Spain, Ghana, and Tanzania. He is fluent in Spanish and served in the Philadelphia City Year AmeriCorps providing academic support to Spanish-speaking students at Thurgood Marshall School in Olney.

Michael was featured in the Mayor's Office of Black Male Engagement "Spotlight Series" discussing his work with Black youth and the effectiveness of black male mentorship in youth development. He has local political experience having served in the respective offices of Pennsylvania State Representative Stephen Kinsey and State Senator Art Haywood. As a site coordinator for EducationWorks, Michael

2019 SPOTLIGHT Guest Speaker

led a service learning program for high school students who conducted a social action project on criminal justice reform consisting of independent research, investigative journalism, and community engagement.

Michael is set to embark on a life-changing opportunity as a Fulbright Scholar, receiving the most prestigious international scholarship awarded in the United States. In 2020, he will spend the year at Universidad Diego Portales and El Museo de La Memoria y Los Derechos Humanos in Santiago, Chile researching the challenges of achieving transitional justice and social healing after overcoming political injustice. Currently, Michael is pursuing his J.D. at Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law as a Public Interest Scholar. After receiving his law degree, Michael intends to earn his PhD in Criminal Justice. He hopes to leverage his education and international experiences in order to pursue a lifetime of work committed to social justice.

A life is not important
except in the impact it
has on other lives.

- Jackie Robinson



2019 SPOTLIGHT Guest Speaker

Amber Hikes

Chief Diversity Officer for the
American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)

Supporting **OUR Sistas**

Amber Hikes is currently in the position of Chief Diversity Officer for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). Before her position with ACLU, she was the Executive Director of the Office of LGBT Affairs for the City of Philadelphia, where she developed policy and served as the principal advisor to Mayor Kenney on issues that affect the LGBTQ community. Amber Hikes joined the Office of LGBT Affairs after eight years of college access work for low-income students of color in West Philadelphia and Long Beach, California.

Amber believes in employing an intersectional lens in all aspects of community work and leans daily on the words of activist and artist Audre Lorde: "There is no such thing as a single-issue struggle because we do not live single-issue lives."

At the City, Amber has set her sights on fighting and advocating for the most vulnerable populations within the LGBTQ community – specifically youth, elders, transgender people, and people of color. In her first year leading the office, Amber advocated

for anti-discrimination legislation at the municipal level, launched a citywide LGBTQ Community Conversations initiative, and helped facilitate an international conversation about race and discrimination in the LGBTQ community with the addition of black and brown stripes to the rainbow flag. Amber has been recognized nationally by OUT Magazine as one of the 2018 OUT100 and by Business Equality Pride as one of the 40 LGBTQ Leaders Under 40. Locally, she was named one of Philly's 20 Biggest Winners of 2018 by Philadelphia Magazine and named Philadelphia Gay News' 2017 Person of the Year.

Amber is a graduate of the University of Delaware and the University of Pennsylvania.

A portrait of Jovida Hill, a Black woman with long, dark dreadlocks, smiling. She is wearing a black ribbed cardigan over a red top and a pearl necklace. The background is a solid dark blue-grey color.

Supporting Our Sistas

2019 SPOTLIGHT Guest Speaker

Jovida Hill

Executive Director of the
Office of Engagement for
Women

Jovida Hill joined the Administration of Mayor Kenney in February 2016 as the Administrator in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. In June 2016 Mayor Kenney appointed her to serve as Executive Director of the Philadelphia Commission for Women, a post created by a ballot initiative put to Philadelphia voters in the May 2015 Primary Election. The following year, the Mayor appointed her to serve as Executive Director of the Office of Engagement for Women.

Jovida Hill has made a huge impact for women and girls in the city of Philadelphia. From her Annual Women and Girls Summit, which displays the power of women and provides a look into the quality of life for the women and girls that live in Philadelphia, producing a snapshot of national and local data focused on Women and reentry, which amplifies the realities that women in the criminal justice system face to her advocacy work in economic empowerment and maternal mortality work.

Jovida has been an award-winning writer and producer of more than 200 films and videos for the education, broadcast, and training markets for Kinocraft Media, Inc. for 25 years. Her work has included the civil rights

series *In the Land of Jim Crow* which documents poignant first person accounts of the African American struggle for justice and equality, the series *Reinventing Democracy*, which celebrates the role of civic engagement in expanding civil rights and social justice, and the series *Celebrate* which introduces children in grades K-5 to multicultural celebrations that herald our differences to amplify our similarities.

As a journalist, Jovida served as Arts & Entertainment Editor of the Philadelphia Tribune, a post she also held with WDAS AM/FM radio; she was a columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News and was an Associate Producer for the PBS public affairs television program *Black Perspective on the News*.

Jovida has served as the Chair of the Philadelphia Black Women's Health Project and Scenic Philadelphia and was a founding member of the African Sisterhood and the Women Gather Conference. She is the former Vice President of the Logan Square Neighborhood Association where she continues to serve on the Board of Directors. Jovida also serves on the Board of Directors of the Black Women's Health Alliance.

Supporting Our Sistas



Chekemma Fulmore-Townsend

President/CEO, PYN

Chekemma is an energetic thought-leader focused on driving transformation in poverty and inequity for youth and young adults. As President and CEO of Philadelphia Youth Network (PYN), she draws on her experience in research, social work, and systems change to lead the creation of coordinated systems that promote academic achievement, economic opportunity, and personal success. In 2017, she was featured in The Chronicle of Philanthropy's special report, *The Influencers: People Quietly Changing the Nonprofit World*. In 2016, the Obama Administration honored her as a White House Champion of Change. Chekemma has shared her insight and expertise with a range of international audiences, including recent appearances at the United Nations and statewide and national summits across the country.

Before her appointment as President and CEO, Chekemma served in various capacities throughout the organization. Most recently, as PYN's Vice President of Program Services, she led a team accountable for program design, implementation, evaluation, compliance, and continuous improvement. Prior to her work at PYN, Chekemma served at the Philadelphia Workforce Development Corporation as the Senior Director of the Emerging Workforce, fusing data-driven decision-making with solid project management to implement and improve adult and youth workforce programs.

Chekemma holds her B.A. in Psychology and Master of Social Work from the University of Pennsylvania.



Dr. Doreen Loury

Assistant Professor of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice and Director of the Pan African Studies Program at Arcadia University

Dr. Doreen Loury, is an expert in the areas of race, class and gender equity, culture and media, multicultural and pluralism educational competencies, and organizational research and evaluation. She was recently appointed to the Defenders Association of Philadelphia board, and has received numerous awards for her work, including the 2019 Black History in the Making (BHIM) Legacy Award by One Village Alliance. She is founder and executive director of the Black Male Development Symposium (BMDS). Dr. Loury earned her doctorate in African American Studies from Temple University.

BMDS is a place for transformative action and communication, where young men, older men, and women can share intellectual, emotional, spiritual and cultural opportunities for growth and development that will improve the quality of live for black males, their families, and their communities.

Supporting Our Sistas



Dr. Brenda A. Allen

14th president of her alma mater, Lincoln University in Pennsylvania since May 2017

From July, 2009 through June, 2017 she served as Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at Winston Salem State University (WSSU). Dr. Allen was also a tenured member of the faculty there, holding the title of Professor in the Department of Psychological Sciences.

Dr. Allen departed WSSU with a legacy of achievement. Her many accomplishments include leading the revision of the curriculum, overseeing the establishment of WSSU's first two doctoral programs, expanding undergraduate research funding, restructuring academic support to strengthen advising, creating an Office of Faculty Affairs, strengthening standards for tenure and promotion, and helping raise more than \$ 10 million for capital projects, scholarships and other student support.

Dr. Allen served as Associate Provost and Director of Institutional Diversity at Brown University. There she was credited with helping to raise nearly \$15 million to support diversity goals, co-authoring a successful \$3.3 million NSF ADVANCE Grant, and leading efforts that culminated in 36% and 45% increases in the number of women and minority faculty members, respectively.

Dr. Allen held a number of academic and administrative positions at Smith College and Yale University. Dr. Allen holds a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Lincoln University, a master's degree in Experimental Psychology and a doctorate in Developmental Psychology, both from Howard University in Washington, DC.



Jeanette Bawwidinsi

Director, Mayor's Office of Youth Engagement

After graduating from Howard University in 2013 with a Bachelor's Degree in Public Relations, she began a career in retail management which taught her essential public engagement and leadership skills. Her experience as a field organizer for Hillary for America in 2016 changed her indefinitely and she decided to fully dedicate her life to public service

Jeanette served as the Volunteer Engagement Manager in the Mayor's Office of Civic Engagement and Volunteer Service, where she spent her time doing exactly what she loves: harnessing the moral good of Philadelphians into tangible and sustainable results that move the needle on our city's most pressing issues - with a specific lens on youth involvement.

In 2019, she was appointed as the Director of the Mayor's Office of Youth Engagement - a role in which she hopes to continue to develop leaders, provide access to resources, create innovative programming, and elevate the voices of Philadelphia's youth within the Administration.

She is the recipient of the New Era Tip of the Cap Award from the Philadelphia 76ers for her outstanding service to the community, and a proud member of the Delta Sigma Theta, Sorority Inc.

Jeanette spends most of her time volunteering, mentoring young people, and engaging her peers on the civic health and political efficacy of their communities.



Young Black entrepreneurs in Philadelphia between the ages of 12 and 26 who are changing the landscape of business ownership in Philadelphia, building up communities, and transforming the narrative of Black entrepreneurship.

YOUNG, BLACK & Excellent Entrepreneurs

Features:

1. Xavi Row Bespoke
2. SPERGO
3. Black and Mobile



Leroy Xavier West & Kelly Xavier Vargas

Co-Founders/CEOs

Xavi Row Bespoke


Xavi Row was founded on creating a brand that will offer the experience of getting a custom, bespoke suit, in the convenience of your home. Founded in 2018 by both Leroy X. West & Kelly X. Vargas, they design and create fully customizable suits, tuxedos, sports coats, vests, shirts, and overcoats.

"We want to engage with our customers directly. We want to create an experience for our customer that is simple and enjoyable, by offering to get measured for a custom suit in the comfort of your home or office. Getting a custom suit should be fun. Most importantly, you should look good and feel good." - Xavi Row

Leroy Xavier West, a North Philadelphia native, was born with his nose in fashion. Throughout his adolescence, he always let his creativity run free and expressed it through his wardrobe. Leroy dove into the fashion world about seven years ago and loves it. He started with fashion blogging, which quickly turned into modeling. His true calling did not reside in modeling and he soon went into styling. Leroy's styling catalog ranges from street wear to

formal wear. A choice was made to master his art of styling of custom formal wear and high end apparel. Through his many years of his craft, he realized his true calling was not only styling, but also designing.

Kelly X. Vargas is co-founder of Xavi Row Bespoke LLC, a custom suiting company for men and women. Kelly attended The Art Institute of Philadelphia, in which he obtained his Fashion Marketing degree. While working for other companies and Kelly noticed the individuals put in position of power, did not look like him. In 2018, Kelly and Leroy were colleagues the same suit company. Kelly had the idea of starting a custom suit business, but only if Leroy would join, since both had the same love of creating meaningful pieces. Kelly took his eight-plus years of working as a wardrobe and marketing consultant, and devoted his time in creating a custom suit business. As Kelly always says, "The moment someone sees you, they're sizing you up. Why not look and feel good, while that's being done?"



SPERGO - Power, Strength, and Courageousness, SPERGO is a comfortable approach to designer fashion. Under the vision of CEO Trey Brown and creative director Sherell Peterson, SPERGO products represents the combination of comfortable luxury clothing and empowering greater possibilities! 13-Year Old CEO Trey Brown is showing people all-over the world that you can be successful doing positive things! "SPERGO was started in January 2018 with my birthday money of \$178. I wanted to empower youth and show them that you can do great things at any age, and I wanted to combine that with a luxury urban activewear!"

Trey Brown

Founder and CEO of SPERGO®, a trendsetting streetwear and lifestyle brand

At 12 years old, Trey became increasingly aware of the violence that plagued his community. He wanted to do something to encourage his peers to stay out of trouble and follow their dreams instead. That year, he used his leftover birthday money to purchase 16 t-shirts. He sold out in one week.

Trey quickly realized that he could use his love of design and passion for the community to create a clothing brand that not only looked good but one that would inspire youth all over the world. SPERGO officially launched on Martin Luther King Day in 2018.

Trey's message of courage and strength caught on like wildfire. His signature affirmation and motivational videos reached more than 20K people in just one year and now national brands and media outlets are taking notice.

In just 18 months, Trey has sold almost 6,000 units of merchandise, secured several wholesale deals and has grossed more than \$10,000 in sales for several months in a row. Celebrities like Meek Mill, Tierra

Whack, Da Baby, Sean Combs, Eric Thomas, and Ed Mylett can be found sporting SPERGO gear or encouraging the young mogul on social media.

Trey has become a sought after youth speaker having spoken to dozens of kids at The Boys and Girls Club of Philadelphia, Rowan University, Mastery Charter School, Delaware Youth Summit, Holland Elementary School, and the Forget Me Knot Youth Shelter. In August 2019, Trey was taped to be part of investment management firm Invesco's latest advertising campaign which airs on CNN and was featured on a billboard in Times Square. He was also recently recognized by Philadelphia Councilman Kenyatta Johnson for his community work.

In his free time, Trey is completing the 8th grade and giving back to his community in many ways. Trey's future plans include expanding SPERGO internationally, completing his first book, and launching SPERGO's first full collection in the Fall of 2019.



Aaron & David Cabello

Twin 24-year-old brothers, Aaron and David Cabello, are using their entrepreneurial endeavor as a platform to spread awareness about Black-owned businesses in their city. Recognizing the lack of support for restaurants owned by African Americans in Philadelphia, they were determined to develop a platform that would aid the establishments in growing their digital presence and connect them to more customers. The duo wanted to create a tool that would empower consumers to put action behind talking about the importance of supporting Black-owned businesses.

At the age of 22, David withdrew from Shippensburg University's College of Business and began working for delivery services like Postmates and UberEats. It was during that time when he noticed how lucrative delivery services were. His experience also revealed that there was a huge gap between local Black-owned businesses and consumers.

Thus, he and his brother created Philly's first Black-owned delivery service: Black and Mobile. Black and Mobile is the first delivery service based in Philadelphia to partner with and highlight Black-owned businesses. Their focus is to help anyone locate and support Black-owned businesses instantly and conveniently.

Young, Black & Excellent Entrepreneurs

The Cabello brothers hope not only to grow their business and the businesses they work with, but also to teach young people in their community that there is a path to success - from brainstorming an idea, creating opportunities to keep young people off the streets, giving young people jobs and all while being role models and showing they can transform the narrative while building up their community.

The Future for Black and Mobile is to focus on building a concrete base in Philly and establishing the blueprint for expansion in large cities like Atlanta and New York.



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B(u)Y BLACK:

List of Black-owned businesses in Philadelphia

We know Philadelphia is rich in Black culture, heritage and history. Our office throughout 2017 - 2019 have connected with an array of Philly's Black owned and operated shops, restaurants, galleries and bars. Therefore, we wanted to gather resources you could engage, support, and contact.

Disclaimer: This resource guide is not an endorsement of any business or organization listed, nor is it an exhaustive list. This may not be all of the Black-owned businesses in the city of Philadelphia. If you would like to share your business information with the office.

Email: OBME@phila.gov

Philadelphia is rich in Black culture, heritage, and history. The tradition carries on in Philly's array of Black-owned and -operated shops, restaurants, galleries, and bars.

ShopeBlack - The founders of Shoppe Black Tony Oluwatoyin Lawson and Shantrelle P. Lewis are working on creating the first global Black business directory. Shantrelle P. Lewis, a native of New Orleans, and her husband Tony Oluwatoyin Lawson, a native of Nigeria, embarked on a mission to make it easily accessible for Black people to find and support Black businesses across the globe. SHOPPE BLACK boasts itself as a one stop shop for all things black-owned across the globe. The site features extensive lists of Black-owned nail salons, farms and gardens, clothing stores, yoga studios, and those are just the ones on the home site.

<https://shoppeblack.us/>

Bookstores:

Black and Nobel - Hakim Hopkins, owner. This independently owned store, formerly on Germantown Avenue, has popped up on South Street. African American books and DVDs, Black and Nobel's original art and live music make for a creative atmosphere, while delivery—on electric bikes—make this spot more convenient than any online bookseller.

410 South Street | (215) 965-1559 | blackandnobel.com

Hakim's Bookstore & Gift Shop - Yvonne Blake, owner. One of the country's oldest Black-owned bookstores resides at the same West Philly address where Dawud Hakim founded it nearly 60 years ago. Rich in history, proudly activist and entirely family-friendly, the bright shop belongs to Hakim's daughter now and feels just like a neighborhood shop should: welcoming, old-school and on point.

210 S. 52nd Street | (215) 474-9495 | hakimsbookstore.com

Uncle Bobbie's Coffee & Books - Marc Lamont Hill, owner. The columnist and Temple prof's thoughtful hangout is a bookstore that features both works for children and by ancient philosophers, a living room, a La Colombe coffee bar and a cozy restaurant. The spot takes its name from Lamont Hill's favorite uncle, who nurtured his love of reading. Inspired by Hakim's and Black and Nobel, the shop resides next door to the Germantown Historical Society in the heart of the neighborhood.

5445 Germantown Avenue | (215) 403-7058 | unclebobbies.com

Boutiques & Shops:

Amazulu Collections - Charita Powell, owner. Seven days a week and for nearly 30 years, this popular Reading Terminal Market stand has represented artists from all over the world and lived the motto, "where cultures meet." For sale: handmade folk dolls, original paintings, body care, cultural clothing—including Urban Karma, Powell's pattern-rich clothing collection for women and men—and her signature sterling silver jewelry of her own design, made by Indonesian artisans.

12th & Arch Streets | (215) 627-8667 | [@amazulucollections](http://amazulucollections)

Blue Sole Shoes - Steve Jamison, owner. A specialist in fine Italian footwear, Jamison established his sunny Rittenhouse boutique in 2007 to cater to high-end tastes in men's shoes, socks, accessories—and customer service. Among the designers in stock: Harris, John Richmond, Jo Ghost and Tateossian.

1805 Chestnut Street | (215) 496-9244 | bluesoleshoes.com

Charlie's Jeans - Sebastian McCall, owner. This Old City spot is known and loved for its staff of fit experts. Slim, distressed, dark, flare, pencil, straight, bootcut, styles for work or for play are all on the menu, so is the store's American-made denim brand, Sebastian McCall Jeans, named for its owner.

233 Market Street | (215) 923-9681 | charliesjeans.net

Common Ground - Phillip Moore, owner. This Midtown sneaker consignment shop is home to some of the most exclusive sneakers in the city and features rare, sold out items from prominent sportswear brands like Supreme. Footwear ranging from Pharrell Williams' Adidas to Air Jordan sneakers exclusively released overseas make this store a must-see for any visitor.

1205 Walnut Street | commonground12.com

Cultured Couture Vintage - Erik Honesty, owner. This Mount Airy bastion of quality style is best known for its stock of designer vintage menswear—well-priced Hermes scarves, ties, coats and shirts, Louis Vuitton and Gucci luggage, select women's pieces and Honesty's own line of royalty-inspired, sui generis capes. The ensembles here mesh the sophistication of Idris Elba with the rawness of Michael B. Jordan. The destination-worthy boutique also hosts art shows and panel discussions.

6379 Germantown Avenue | culturedcouturegallery.com

Damari Savile - Malcolm Jenkins and Jay Amin, owners. Eagles captain Malcolm Jenkins and business partner Jay Amin opened up their menswear shop along Jewelers' Row. When the two-time NFL champion safety, named "Best Suit Style" in Sports Illustrated's "Fashionable 50," isn't at practice or working toward social justice, he chills among his boutique's bespoke, made-to-measure and off-the-rack suits, each one named for a Philly street, and priced from \$500. Also in stock: bowties galore.

709 Walnut Street | (267) 218-5760 | damarisavile.com

De'Vilage - Joycelyn and Watson Parks, owners. Natural stone and wooden jewelry, shea butter, natural soaps and body washes from Kenya, Ghana and Nigeria are for sale at this Reading Terminal Market standout.

12th & Filbert Streets | (215) 923-9860 | readingterminalmarket.org

Marsh + Mane - Jenea Robinson, owner. Philadelphia's first upscale boutique specializing in natural products for Black hair and skin has a vibe—and name—inspired by the Carolina wetlands around Robinson's grandparents' homes. The store stocks products from makers such as Zuresh, Bask & Bloom, Anita Grant, Angie Watts and Scotch Porter, along with candles, hair accessories, brushes and shower caps.

529 S. 4th Street | marshandmane.com

Perfectly Flawless Boutique - Crystal Jackson, owner. More than jumpsuits, rompers, bodysuits and going-out wear, this personal stylist boutique is a one-stop shop for beauty. The airy, welcoming Germantown space offers onsite manicures and makeup by esthetician Sade Jennine.

5312 Germantown Avenue
(814) 232-0805 | perfectlyflawlessboutique.com

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Philadelphia Diamond Company – Kenyatta Black, owner. Visitors and locals can create custom engagement and wedding rings and get appraisals at this much-respected jeweler, located in the heart of the Historic District, just steps from the Liberty Bell.

111 S. Independence Mall East, Suite 612 | (215) 607-6700 | philadelphiadiamondco.com

The Pink Lapel - In 2014, April Burks - founder - created The Pink Lapel which is a handmade men's accessory line. Our accessories are one of a kind and unique just like a suit with a pink lapel. Handmade in Philly by April with distinctive and uncommon prints and fabrics for ties, bowties and pocket squares.

<https://thepinklapel.com/>

The Sable Collective (TSC) – Shanti Mayers, owner. More than a shop, this North Philly spot is a resource for women of color. The warm, chic storefront sells holistic body care, new and used books, Ankara-print socks, eclectic housewares, affirmation flag pennants (“I Am Brave” and “I Am Magic”), South African jewelry and Cuban leather bags. TSC also holds book clubs and yoga workshops—and serves as the hangout for clients from next-door neighbor Duafe Holistic Hair Care, which belongs to Syreeta Scott, stylist to Jill Scott, Ava DuVernay, Questlove, Janet Jackson and others. In September 2019, TSC is opening a satellite shop in Fashion District Philadelphia.

3133 N. 22nd Street | (267) 666-0126 | hesablecollective.com

Snapdragon Flowers & Gifts – Tolani Lightfoot, owner. Eco-conscious Baltimore Avenue gem features a range of hard-to-find botanicals, candles and Insta-worthy arrangements for homes and events. Lightfoot and company are known for their terrariums and vertical gardens and have a way with succulents and herbs.

5015 Baltimore Avenue | (267) 209-6066 | snapdragonphilly.com

SPERGO, Inc. - Power, Strength and Courageousness, SPERGO is a comfortable approach to designer fashion. Under the vision of CEO Trey Brown and creative director Sherell Peterson. SPERGO products represents the combination of comfortable luxury clothing and empowering greater possibilities! 13-Year Old CEO Trey Brown is showing people all-over the world that you can be successful doing positive things! “SPERGO was started in January 2018 with my birthday money of \$178 and I wanted to empower youth that you can do great things at any age and I wanted to combine that with a luxury urban activewear!

<https://spergo.com/>

Yowie – Shannon Maldonado, owner and curator. At this gallery-like shop along Queen Village's Fabric Row, a historic garment district and on-trend retail corridor, the former fashion designer assures each piece in the minimalist space is made independently and feels like the work of art that it is. This rule applies to Yowie's limited-edition stock of Ashley Hardy mugs, Doucement throw pillows and Cold Picnic bathmats. Maldonado has directed the interior redesign of The Deacon, a circa-1906, Watson & Huckel-designed church enjoying a second life as a gathering space and Airbnb.

716 S. 4th Street | shopyowie.com

Xavi Row Bespoke – Founded in 2018 by both Leroy X. West & Kelly X. Vargas. They design and create fully customizable suits, tuxedos, sports coats, vest, shirts and overcoats. Xavi Row was founded on creating a brand that will offer the experience of getting a custom, bespoke suit, in the convenience of your home. We want to engage with our customers directly. We want to create an experience for our customer that is simple and enjoyable, by offering to get measured for a custom suit in the comfort of your home or office. Getting a custom suit should be fun. Most importantly, you should look good and feel good.

<https://www.xavirow.com/>

Spas/Beauty/Wellness:

3rd Element Spa – Tomika Branch and Chyvonne Shackelford, owners. Proving sisters make the best small business partners, this nail specialist and esthetician established their busy, full-service day spa in the West Oak Lane community where they grew up. Popular here: Oxygen facials, gel manicures, detox pedicures, plush waxing, lash and brow enhancements, massages and 3rd Element lip balm and body butter and wash.

7175 Ogontz Avenue | (215) 276-2633 | @3rdelements spa

BeautifitStrong – Audra Anusionwu, owner. Anusionwu, a wellness coach and health advocate, helps bodybuilders and all her clients achieve their ideal physique. Her intimate East Falls studio offers small group and personal training.

3510 Scotts Lane, Suite 3018 | (215) 432-0414 | beautifitstrong.com

HolNest – Shannan Reese, owner. This co-op of licensed bodywork therapists offers holistic relaxation and rejuvenation inside a private fitness center in the busiest part of Center City. Reasonably priced Swedish, deep tissue, sports and hot stone massages are the specialty here, and an aromatherapist and esthetician are available too—for those who book ahead.

1835 Market Street, 2nd Floor | (215) 668-5403 | holnestcoop.com

Push Universal “Push U” Training – Troy Hayward and Justin Taylor, owners. This industrial-cool studio specializes in customized cross training to improve muscle tone, decrease fat, build endurance—and keep clients healthy after their workouts. Each affordable group and personal training session—including \$5 classes on Saturdays—is “always a fresh workout,” says Hayward.

930 N. 8th Street | (215) 995-3815 | pushutraining.com

Ursula's About Phace Rittenhouse Studio – Ursula Augustine, owner. This by-appointment-only spot belongs to an industry vet whose 25-plus years in the business include stints with Bobbi Brown, François Nars, Aveda and Jeanine Lobell of Stila. Devoted clients swear by her lash lifts, Sensei Peel, sugaring—but especially her note-perfect makeup applications.

1700 Sansom Street, Suite 201 | (215) 557-1562 | aboutphace201.com

Cafes/Hangouts:

Amalgam Comics & Coffeehouse – Ariell R. Johnson, owner. Johnson is the first African American woman on the East Coast to own a comic book shop. The venue, on Frankford Avenue, stocks Marvel, DC, big-time and self-published books for grown-ups, kids and everyone in-between—and serves up coffee drinks and locally made pastries, including comic-book-hero-themed cupcakes.

2578 Frankford Avenue | (215) 427-3300 | @amalgamphilly

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Atomic City Comics – Darryl Jones, owner. Classic comic book store known for dollar comics, manga, back issues, horror, sci-fi and old-school arcade games such as Street Fighter has been a South Street mainstay since 2001.

638 South Street | (215) 625-9613 | @atomiccitycomics

Bower Cafe – Thane Wright, owner. Named for the Australian bowerbird, whose males build bright nests to attract mates, this colorful Washington Square West spot introduces a new element to the coffee-pastry-sandwich trifecta: by-the-pound or on-toasts cured meats. Wright, a coffee consultant who's worked for La Colombe and others, participates in Quaker City Coffee's reentry by hiring employees who have experienced incarceration.

263 S. 10th Street | (267) 758-5535

Franny Lou's Porch – Blew Kind, owner. This cozy, plant-filled Kensington cafe offers a menu of espresso drinks named for and inspired by locals' orders, plus teas, smoothies, focaccia sandwiches, biscuits and muffins with a side of activism, readings and drum class—effectively transforming the spot into both a literal and a figurative source of community sustenance.

2400 Coral Street | (215) 739-2357 | frannylousporch.org

Rose Petals Cafe & Lounge – Jania and Desmin Daniels, owners. Rose petals- and whipped cream-topped strawberry waffles? Yes, please, in this cozy refuge, serving breakfast and lunch six days a week. Rose Petals also offers free Wi-Fi, a child-centered entertainment room, croque monsieurs, salads and tropical smoothies.

8120 Old York Road, Elkins Park | (267) 388-1150 | rosepetsalcafe.com

Stripp'd Juice – Khoran Horn, owner. Locally sourced, non-GMO ingredients combine for organic, fresh-pressed juices and acai bowls at this Old City spot. There's also a breakfast sandwich on the menu.

263 N. 3rd Street | strippdjuice.com

Bakeries:

4 Every Occasion – Antria Odum enjoys the challenge of designing customized creations as the owner of 4 Every Occasion Cakes and Cupcakes. We customly design Cakes & Cupcakes 4 Every Occasion imaginable. We can recreate cakes from pictures and drawings as well. Bakery focused on custom cakes for special occasions, plus colorful cupcakes & cookies.

1821 Cottman Ave | (215) 722-2250 | www.4everyoccasioncakes.com

Denise's Bakery – Denise Gause, owner. After a fire closed her 25-year-old North Philly homage to sugar, eggs and flour, she did what any strong baker would do: She rebuilt it. Today, lines once again form out the door and the phone rings off the hook for pound cake, pies, brownies, donuts, cookies and wedding cakes.

2916 N. 22nd Street | (215) 225-5425 | cakesbydenises.com

Sweet Nectar Dessert Kitchen – Robin Broughton-Smith, owner. She's gone from Jay-Z's accountant to the creator of cookies, cakes, baked donuts, cupcakes and all manner of seasonal specialties in the Art Museum neighborhood. The shop also offers classes and private parties.

547 N. 20th Street | (267) 318-7143 | sweetnectardk.com

Restaurants & Bars:

48th Street Grille – Carl Lewis, Sr., owner. Customers with a taste for the perfect combo of soul, Caribbean and American cuisines—at low prices—meet up to chow down at this beloved destination. Hearty portions of blackened wings, jerk turkey with stuffing, baby back ribs and more are worth the trip to West Philly.

310 S. 48th Street | (267) 244-4764 | 48thstreetgrille.com

Aksum Cafe – Saba Tedla, owner. This Mediterranean bring-your-own-bottle (BYOB) spot is known along the Baltimore Avenue corridor for its vegetable tajines, Lebanese lemon chicken and shrimp, Greek lamb chops and tapas. Also on offer: a kids' menu and weekend brunches of sweet corn griddlecakes, Turkish scrambled eggs, shakshuka and Monte Cristo sandwiches.

4630 Baltimore Avenue | (267) 275-8195 | aksumcafe.com

Barkley's BBQ – Tank and Nicole Barkley, owners. Heaping platters of comfort soul food and barbecue come made daily—and never from a can. The menu includes hickory-smoked, sauce-slathered slabs of ribs; apple-studded yams; five-cheese mac; garlicky collards; grandma's recipe potato salad; fried fresh fish; green beans and, on occasion, pig's trotters.

2017 N. 29th Street | (215) 763-7427 | @tankbarkleysbbq

Black and Mobile – Twin brothers, 24-year-olds Aaron and David Cabello, from Philadelphia are using their entrepreneurial endeavor as a platform to spread awareness about Black-owned businesses in their city. They are the creators of Philly's first Black-owned delivery service: Black and Mobile. Black and Mobile is the first delivery service based in Philadelphia to partner with and highlight Black-Owned Businesses. Our focus is to help anyone locate and support Black-Owned Businesses instantly and conveniently. This organization primarily operates in the Eating Places business / industry within the Eating and Drinking Places sector.

www.blackandmobile.com

Booker's Restaurant and Bar – Saba Tedla, owner (also owns Aksum). Serving up comfort food, yummy coconut rice, pan-seared salmon and some amazing Buffalo cauliflower, this fun West Philly restaurant—with both a kids' menu and a cool bar scene—is named for Booker Wright, a server who risked—and later lost—his life for voicing what it was like to be a black waiter in the 1960s in an all-white restaurant in Mississippi.

5021 Baltimore Avenue | (215) 883-0960 | bookersrestaurantandbar.com

Butter's Soul Food – Kevin Bell, owner. This charming Brewerytown soul food eatery got its name from the idea that their food is so good it melts in your mouth (like butter). Traditional items include fried wings and sides that sell out fast. Home-baked cakes and pies come directly from Bell's mother's oven.

2730 W. Girard Avenue | (215) 235-4724 | buttersoulfood.com

Country Cookin' Restaurant & Catering – Saudia "Saud" Shuler, owner. With an Instagram following bigger than her North Philly restaurant—almost 250,000 followers—Shuler serves up down-home takeout. Featuring some of the tastiest soul food around, the spot draws in-person fans from far and wide for jerk chicken, buffalo shrimp, mac and cheese, fried fish, banana pudding and oxtail.

2836 N. 22nd Street | (267) 625-3664 | @countrycookin1

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Dos Tacos – Sylva Senat, owner. Former “Top Chef” contestant Senat is the genius behind this shoebox-sized Center City eatery’s five-chili pastrami, queso- and chipotle-cream-topped yucca fries, and the most loaded nachos ever.

120 S. 15th Street | (215) 567-8226 | dostacosphilly.com

Green Soul, Paris Bistro, Relish, South Kitchen & Jazz Bar, & Warmdaddy’s – Robert and Benjamin Bynum, owners. Two prolific brothers own not one but five popular venues. North Broad Street’s Green Soul serves healthful, soulful comfort food such as mango jerk salmon, black bean veggie burgers and North African chicken. In Chestnut Hill, Paris Bistro has an elegant dinner menu that offers escargot and French onion soup—and live jazz sets four evenings a week. West Oak Lane’s Relish offers modern Southern cuisine, live jazz Thursday through Saturday and a 40-foot brunch buffet on Saturday and Sunday. Just north of City Hall, spare and chic South dishes up Lowcountry fare (chicken-fried oysters, lobster and grits, hush puppies), old-fashioned hospitality, live jazz six nights a week and a 50-bottle bourbon and whiskey program. Warmdaddy’s is the spot for New Orleans jazz, acoustic soul—Urban Guerilla Orchestra, Jeff Bradshaw, Zeek, Point Blank or Amazin Grace Little perform here—and the food to go with it—a massive menu of barbecue short ribs, skillet mac and cheese, gumbo Ya Ya and more.

Green Soul | 1410 Mt. Vernon Street | (215) 660-9600 | greensoulliving.com

Paris Bistro | 8229 Germantown Avenue | (215) 242-6200, parisbistro.net

Relish | 7152 Ogontz Avenue | (215) 276-0170 | relishphiladelphia.com

South | 600 N. Broad Street | (215) 600-0220 | southrestaurant.net

Warmdaddy’s | Riverview Plaza, 1400 S. Columbus Boulevard | (215) 462-2000 | warmdaddys.com

IMunch Café – Roger Powe, owner. Chef Nicquan Church has created the good-for-you menu at this popular morning-through-afternoon Brewerytown spot. On the menu: stuffed omelets, French toast, breakfast sandwiches, salmon patties, avocado or turkey BLTs, fruit smoothies, big salads and panini.

1233 N. 31st Street | (215) 236-8624 | imunchcafe.com

Jamaican Jerk Hut – Lisa Wilson, owner. One of the city’s favorite casual BYOBs has been serving up famous jerk chicken, oxtail, curry shrimp with sides of roti, cornbread and johnny cakes since 1994.

1436 South Street | (215) 545-8644 | jajerkhut.com

Keven Parker Soul Food Cafe – Owner, Keven Parker. Fried chicken, mac and cheese, candied yams, collard greens, Southern-fried chicken wings, smothered turkey wings and other soul food comes from this simmering stall in the Reading Terminal Market. Ms. Tootsie’s, Parker’s sit-down restaurant and lounge, is a few blocks South.

Soul Food Café, 12th & Arch Streets | (215) 625-0650

Ms. Tootsie’s

1312 South Street | (215) 731-9045 | kevenparker.net

New Barber’s Hall Restaurant & Lounge – Jake Adams, owner. The New Barber’s Hall operates in a building that housed a 19th-century cycling clubhouse and then a 20th-century music hotspot where legends John Coltrane, Grover Washington, Jr. and The Temptations performed. Today, the Cecil B. Moore landmark is a diverse bar and event space that serves lunch, dinner and drink specials daily.

1402 W. Oxford Street | (215) 763-0369 | @Barbers-Hall

Reggae Reggae Vibes – Denice Moore, owner. This Kensington find serves Jamaican and American fusion in the form of flaky chicken patties, homebrewed ginger beer and even a jerk chicken cheesesteak.

517 W. Girard Avenue | (267) 457-2970 | reggaereggaevibes.com

Shrimp Express II – Tom Smart, owner. This small, family-owned spot preps all kinds of seafood favorites—crabs, steamed combos, pasta and, of course, shrimp—platter or sandwich style.

2205 W. Indiana Avenue | (215) 228-3336

Tasties – Barbara Dewan, chef and owner. West Philly has known for a while that Dewan has a way with casual, soul food takeout. Now, diners can experience her down-home wings, candied yams and 7Up cake in an upscale, stylish setting where she also offers seafood pasta and custom cocktails.

1214 N. 52nd Street | (215) 447-0281 | tastiesoulfood.com

TECH field:

JCW Computer Consulting, LLC – TechCORE2 – TechCORE2’s mission is to empower urban youth, kindergarten to college, through tech industry training to build confidence to pursue a computer career path.

7478 Rhoads St, Suite B | <http://jcwcc.com/techcore2>

Coded By Kids – In 2013 Sylvester Mobley (CEO) founded Coded by Kids because of his frustration with the lack of diversity, equity, and inclusion that he saw in the tech industry. Coded By Kids provides young people between the ages of 8 and 18, from underrepresented groups with software development, digital design, computer science, and tech startup-focused entrepreneurship education programs.

3675 Market St, Suite 200 | <https://codedbykids.com>

Inn:

Akwaaba Philadelphia – Monique Greenwood & Glenn Pogue, owners. Prominent innkeepers transformed a lovely 1879 mansion in Powelton Village into an intimate, elegant bed-and-breakfast aimed at African American travelers. Each of Akwaaba’s six suites is inspired by a Philly musician: Harold Melvin, Jill Scott, Patti La Belle, The Roots, Teddy Pendergrass or Musiq Soulchild.

3709 Powelton Avenue | (866) 466-3855 | akwaaba.com

Art Galleries:

October Gallery – Mercer Redcross, owner. “African American art is good for everyone” is the motto of this longstanding repository of mostly contemporary black art. This elder statesman of creativity has shared its mission from its Germantown flagships through kiosks and shows across town, long before pop-ups were cool.

6353 Greene Street | (215) 352-3114 | octobergallery.com

Rush Arts Philly (RAP) – Danny Simmons, owner. The elder brother of the Reverend Run and Russell Simmons established an outpost of his famed Brooklyn art gallery and community space at the very top of Broad Street. RAP (for short) opened with the acclaimed show Guerillas In The Midst and continues to put on top-notch shows.

4954 Old York Road | rushphilanthropic.org



Education
is the most
powerful
weapon
which you
can use to
change the
world.


- **Nelson Mandela**


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 <https://bit.ly/2BdruMd>



Mayor's Office of
Black Male Engagement

phila.gov