



# Our Voices

## 2023

Our Voices is the written publication from the Be-Moor Radio Institute's Summer Internship Program featuring the written voices of our students.



**THE SUMMER OF 2023 WAS, AS USUAL, A BUSY TIME FOR THE INSTITUTE. WE WERE HONORED TO SERVE NEARLY 60 STUDENTS THROUGHOUT THE DETROIT AREA THROUGH OUR ANNUAL SUMMER INSTITUTE. WE ARE A BROADCASTING-BASED PROGRAM, BUT WE PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH A WELL-ROUNDED INTRODUCTION TO THE WORLD OF BROADCASTING AND JOURNALISM. THIS IS A SAMPLE OF THE WORK OUR SUMMER INTERNS PRODUCED AS THEY EXPLORE AND CONSIDER CAREERS IN BROADCASTING AND JOURNALISM.**

A special thank you to Deputy Mayor Todd Bettison, Mrs. Misty Evans, Kai Thurman, Jennifer Wilson (Grow Detroit Young Talent), Angelique Power, Terry Whitfield (Skillman Foundation), Yusef Shakur (Mama Akua House and the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion,) Phillip Talbert and the staff of Total Access Events, Council President Mary Sheffield, Turkessa Baldrige (Marygrove Conservancy) and Dr. Alcia Rene Farris and our incredible partnership with Restaurant Opportunity Center -United (ROC). You believed in us, and we continue to deliver the next generation of influencers who believe in themselves and are setting sail to make our world a better place.

# In This Edition:

50 YEARS OF HIPHOP

SPORTS

TECH/VIDEO GAMES

FASHION

BLACK BUSINESSES

MOVIES/TV SHOWS

## Our Supporters



Grow Detroit's Young Talent



Mayor Mike Duggan

MARYGROVE  
CONSERVANCY



*Andiamo*



detroit  
**Jazz**  
FESTIVAL



## **NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR JESSICA BOWIE**

**FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS, WE'VE HAD THE PLEASURE OF USING THIS NEWSLETTER TO GIVE BUDDING WRITERS A PLATFORM TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES. IN DETROIT, THE YOUNGER GENERATION'S VOICES OFTEN GET OVERLOOKED, BUT AT BE-MOOR RADIO, WE'RE THRILLED TO HEAR OUR INTERNS SPEAK UP ABOUT THEIR PASSIONS AND PROVE THEY DESERVE TO BE HEARD. EVERY CONTRIBUTOR TO THIS NEWSLETTER DESERVES A ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR HELPING OUR YOUTH FIND THEIR VOICES AND LEARN HOW TO BE MOOR. PERSONALLY, I COULDN'T BE PROUDER OF EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THEM!**



## **NOTE FROM THE EDITOR KYRAH ROSS**

**BE-MOOR IS PASSIONATE ABOUT FOSTERING THE SUCCESS FOR OUR YOUTH!**

**IN THIS NEWSLETTER, STUDENTS HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE THEIR TALENTS, HOBBIES, AND EVEN SOME TANTALIZING CRITIQUES OF THE ENTERTAINMENT WORLD AROUND THEM. I ENCOURAGE YOU TO TAKE THE TIME TO LOOK AT EACH SECTION AND DIVE INTO THE DETAILS OF WHAT OUR YOUTH ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT TODAY.**



## **NOTE FROM THE ASSOCIATE EDITOR KAMARI CARTER**

**FOR ALL THE INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO OUR NEWSLETTER, YOU DID AN AMAZING JOB ON HOW DETAILED AND STRAIGHTFORWARD YOUR ARTICLES ARE. THEY HAD ALL THE INFORMATION YOU WANTED TO PRESENT. EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THEM HAVE SO MUCH MORE THEY HAVE TO SAY OR TYPE IN THE WORLD SO I HOPE THIS GIVES THEM THE PUSH THEY NEED TO KEEP IT UP**



# MUSIC: CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF HIP HOP



Throughout its history, hip-hop has not only been a musical genre but also a platform for social commentary, addressing issues such as racism, inequality, and urban life. It has influenced fashion, language, and popular culture on a global scale. The genre's longevity and ability to adapt to changing times have solidified its place in music history, and its impact continues to be felt across various artistic disciplines and aspects of society.



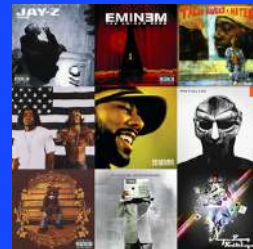
**1970s - Birth of Hip-Hop:** Hip-hop originated in the South Bronx, New York City, in the 1970s. It began as a form of expression for African American and Latinx youth, encompassing elements like DJing, MCing (rapping), graffiti art, and breakdancing.



**1980s - Rise of Rap Music:** The 1980s saw the emergence of rap music as a commercial genre. Artists like Run-DMC, Grandmaster Flash, LL Cool J, and Public Enemy gained mainstream success and helped establish rap as a global phenomenon.



**1990S - GOLDEN ERA OF HIP-HOP:** THE 1990S ARE OFTEN REGARDED AS THE GOLDEN ERA OF HIP-HOP. THIS PERIOD WITNESSED THE RISE OF ICONIC ARTISTS AND GROUPS SUCH AS TUPAC SHAKUR, THE NOTORIOUS B.I.G., WU-TANG CLAN, NAS, AND DR. DRE. THE EAST COAST-WEST COAST RIVALRY AND THE "GANGSTA RAP" SUBGENRE WERE PROMINENT THEMES.



**2000S - HIP-HOP'S EVOLUTION:** THE 2000S BROUGHT A DIVERSIFICATION OF HIP-HOP STYLES, WITH THE EMERGENCE OF SOUTHERN HIP-HOP (OUTKAST, LIL WAYNE), THE POPULARITY OF "BLING RAP," AND THE MAINSTREAM SUCCESS OF ARTISTS LIKE EMINEM AND JAY-Z. HIP-HOP CONTINUED TO INFLUENCE FASHION AND CULTURE WORLDWIDE.



**2010S - TRAP AND GLOBAL DOMINATION:** THE 2010S SAW THE RISE OF TRAP MUSIC, CHARACTERIZED BY ITS HEAVY BEATS AND TRAP DRUMS. ARTISTS LIKE FUTURE, MIGOS, AND TRAVIS SCOTT GAINED IMMENSE POPULARITY. HIP-HOP BECAME A GLOBAL PHENOMENON, WITH ARTISTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD, SUCH AS DRAKE AND KENDRICK LAMAR, ACHIEVING INTERNATIONAL ACCLAIM.





# BE-MOOR MUSIC SECTION

## Overcoming As a New Artist

By Julius Calhoun

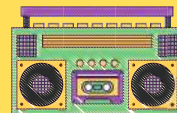
EVER SINCE I WAS LITTLE I ALWAYS WANTED TO DO MUSIC BUT I NEVER REALLY WAS TAKING IT SERIOUSLY.

ONE DAY I JUST FINALLY TOLD MYSELF IF I WAS REALLY GONE DO THIS I HAD TO DO IT FOR REAL. MAKING MUSIC STARTED OFF HARD FOR ME. I WAS TRYING TO GET PEOPLE TO LISTEN BUT THEY WOULD JUST PUSH IT TO THE SIDE SO THAT JUST MADE ME WANNA GO DO MUSIC EVEN MORE. I STARTED TO GO TO THE STUDIO WITH MY BROTHERS SO WE COULD GET BETTER AND IT PAID OFF BECAUSE WE STARTED TO SOUND BETTER AND PEOPLE STARTED LISTENING TO OUR MUSIC. NOW MY MUSIC IS WAY BETTER AND I'M LEARNING HOW TO SING SO I CAN MAKE MORE SONGS THAT PEOPLE CAN RELATE TO. PURSUING A PASSION LIKE MUSIC CAN BE CHALLENGING, ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU FACE INITIAL HURDLES AND SETBACKS. HOWEVER, YOUR DETERMINATION TO IMPROVE AND YOUR WILLINGNESS TO PUT IN THE EFFORT HAVE BROUGHT YOU TO A POINT WHERE YOUR MUSIC IS NOW RESONATING WITH PEOPLE. REMEMBER THAT THE JOURNEY IN THE MUSIC INDUSTRY CAN STILL BE FILLED WITH UPS AND DOWNS, BUT YOUR PASSION AND COMMITMENT WILL CONTINUE TO DRIVE YOU FORWARD. KEEP HONING YOUR SKILLS, EXPERIMENTING WITH DIFFERENT STYLES, AND SHARING YOUR MUSIC WITH THE WORLD. YOUR DEDICATION AND GROWTH ARE INSPIRING, AND THEY CAN SERVE AS A REMINDER TO OTHERS THAT PURSUING THEIR DREAMS IS POSSIBLE WITH HARD WORK AND PERSEVERANCE. KEEP MAKING MUSIC, AND YOU NEVER KNOW WHERE YOUR TALENT MIGHT TAKE YOU IN THE FUTURE.



## Hip Hop & Influence

By: Aniya Turner



IN AMERICA, THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE LISTEN TO HIP HOP MUSIC. HIP HOP MUSIC ALSO KNOWN AS RAP IS ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR GENRES THERE IS IN AMERICA AND THE UK. SOME PEOPLE LIKE TO LISTEN TO HIP HOP MUSIC WHILE OTHERS THINK HIP HOP MUSIC IS ALL ABOUT VIOLENCE. SOME HIP HOP ARTISTS TODAY LIKE JAY Z, J COLE, AND KENDRICK LAMAR HAVE MADE A HUGE IMPACT ON PEOPLE'S LIVES. THEY HELP PEOPLE GET THROUGH SITUATIONS IN THEIR LIFE AND CONTINUE TO HELP OUT OTHER FAMILIES IN THEIR COMMUNITIES LIKE SOME RAPPERS HELP CHILDREN WITH BACK TO SCHOOL ACTIVITIES AND ATHLETES ACTIVITIES.

HIP HOP STARTED IN THE EARLY 1970'S IN THE BRONX OF NEW YORK CITY BY AN AFRICAN AMERICAN NAMED DJ KOOL HERC. IT STARTED WHEN HE HE CREATED A TOY SET OF DJ EQUIPMENT USING EMPTY CEREAL BOXES, CARDBOARD, AND A PLASTIC SPOON. WHEN DJ HERC WAS 18 YEARS OLD, HE PLAYED AT HIS SISTER'S BACK TO SCHOOL PARTY AND THAT'S WHEN HIP HOP WAS CREATED. HIP HOP IS A WAY OF EXPRESSING YOURSELF IN YOUR BODY. IT CAN ALSO INCLUDE DANCING BECAUSE WHEN YOU LISTEN TO HIP HOP/RAP MUSIC IT MAKES YOU WANT TO DANCE. DANCE IS ONE OF MANY WAYS YOU CAN HELP LIGHTEN UP ANY SITUATION.

HIP HOP MUSIC HAS HELPED MANY GENERATIONS OF PEOPLE GET THROUGH THEIR STRUGGLES. WITHOUT DJ HERC THERE WOULD BE NO HIP HOP MUSIC AND THERE WOULDN'T BE ANY HISTORIC ARTIST TODAY.

DJ HERC HAS MADE HISTORY BY CREATING A DJ SET WITH ONLY USING PROPS AT HIS HOME AND MAKING IT INTO A GENRE THAT WE ALL LOVE TODAY. HIP HOP/ RAP WILL FOREVER BE A GREAT GENRE OF MUSIC BECAUSE IT WILL ALWAYS PLAY A HUGE PART IN BLACK LIBERATION. ONCE YOU TAKE TIME TO LISTEN TO THE LYRICS OF VARIOUS HIP HOP ARTISTS, YOU WILL ESTABLISH A DEEPER CONNECTION TO THE MUSICAL GENRE. FOR EXAMPLE SOME RAPPERS MUSIC DOESN'T ALWAYS TALK ABOUT KILLING AND HARMING SOMETIMES THEY CAN TALK ABOUT HOW WE SHOULD HELP OTHERS IN OUR COMMUNITY.



# BE-MOOR MUSIC SECTION

## THE DARK SIDE OF HIP HOP

BY: CHRISTIAN JOHNSON

There are a lot of problems regarding how rap can influence the youth. For one thing, it can make street culture look glorified and look cool when it can actually lead you down a path that will ruin your life. You could be imprisoned, and the rapper or influencer will get paid off of you. It keeps people divided and makes others think that doing dumb stuff like flashing weapons on Instagram looks like a flex. It can also put positive good people in a bad crowd. Having wrong influences can negatively impact the way people view you and affect the way you live as well.



When drawn into a bad crowd, you are more likely to do bad things or start bad habits. People don't understand that their choices can also affect others like family members and friends. If you play around doing bad things with bad people and do something wrong, they might not even target you they could target your family or friends.



**Glorification of Street Culture:** Rap music often portrays elements of street culture, which can include violence, drug use, and criminal activities. Some argue that these portrayals glamorize these aspects of life, making them seem appealing to impressionable youth. It's important to remember that not all rap music glorifies street culture, and there are many artists who use their platform to address the realities and consequences of such lifestyles.

**Financial Gain from Negative Influences:** The concern about individuals profiting from negative influences on youth is valid. Some rappers may exploit their personal experiences with crime and violence to sell records or gain popularity. However, it's crucial to recognize that not all rap artists engage in this behavior, and many use their music to advocate for positive change in their communities.



**Division and Negative Behavior:** Rap music, like any form of art, can reflect the social and cultural dynamics of a community. Some argue that it perpetuates division and encourages negative behaviors, such as flashing weapons on social media. However, it's essential to remember that music doesn't create these issues but often reflects them. Additionally, artists and their music should not be held responsible for individuals' choices.

**Influence on Peer Groups:** It's true that being surrounded by peers who engage in negative behaviors can influence an individual's choices and actions. This is a broader issue beyond rap music, and it underscores the importance of positive role models, family support, and education.

**Impact on Families and Friends:** The choices individuals make can indeed affect their families and friends, both directly and indirectly. Engaging in criminal activities or associating with a negative crowd can have serious consequences for one's loved ones.



In addressing these concerns, it's crucial to differentiate between the art form itself and the actions of individual artists. Rap music is a diverse genre, and it includes artists who use their platform to inspire positive change, raise awareness about social issues, and provide a voice for marginalized communities. Additionally, addressing the concerns you've raised often involves a combination of factors, including education, community support, positive role models, and open communication with young people about the potential consequences of their choices.

38%

In a 2016 survey, 38% of parents were concerned about their children being exposed to violent content in rap music.



# BE-MOOR MUSIC SECTION

## THE POWER OF MUSIC: ITS INFLUENCE ON CULTURES AND EMOTIONS BY: TARON HUNTER

MUSIC PLAYS A HUGE ROLE IN MY LIFE, AND I ALWAYS BRING IT WITH ME WHEREVER I GO. IT FORMS AN IMPORTANT PART OF MANY TRADITIONAL CULTURES, SERVING AS A SOURCE OF COMFORT, HAPPINESS AND LOVE. WITH SO MANY DIFFERENT GENRES AVAILABLE, MUSIC CAN CATER TO ANY MOOD OR SETTING. FROM R&B AND HIP HOP TO JAZZ, SOUL, COUNTRY AND VOCAL, THE DIVERSITY OF THE MUSIC SCENE IS TRULY VERSATILE. I FIND MYSELF LISTENING TO MUSIC IN JUST ABOUT EVERY SCENARIO, WHETHER I'M WORKING, PLAYING SPORTS, OR SIMPLY RELAXING. MUSIC MEANS SO MUCH TO ME THAT I CHOSE TO PURSUE IT AS A CAREER.

HOWEVER, NOT EVERYTHING IN THE MUSIC INDUSTRY IS AS INNOCENT AND WHOLESOME AS IT SEEMS. THERE ARE DARKER, MORE SINISTER ASPECTS TO THE SCENE, INCLUDING THE PRESENCE OF SATANIC INFLUENCES, SUCH AS THE ILLUMINATI. SOME ARTISTS, LIKE LIL UZI VERT, ARE KNOWN TO HAVE EMBRACED THIS LIFESTYLE, SELLING THEIR SOULS FOR FAME AND WEALTH. WHILE IT CAN BE DIFFICULT TO DISCERN WHICH ARTISTS ARE INVOLVED IN THESE PRACTICES, THEIR MUSIC, FASHION CHOICES, AND SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE CAN OFFER CLUES. THE MUSIC INDUSTRY ITSELF ALSO CARRIES A CERTAIN LEVEL OF DARKNESS AND CORRUPTION.

DESPITE THESE NEGATIVE ASPECTS, MUSIC REMAINS A VITAL PART OF OUR LIVES, TOUCHING OUR SOULS AND PROVIDING COMFORT AND JOY. IT CAN BE A SOURCE OF INSPIRATION FOR ARTISTS LIKE MYSELF, WITH DIFFERENT SOUNDS, BEATS, AND RHYTHMS OFFERING LIMITLESS POSSIBILITIES FOR CREATIVITY. MUSIC IS TRULY AN ALL-ENCOMPASSING EXPERIENCE, ONE THAT BRINGS LIFE, CULTURE, AND EMOTION INTO EVERYTHING WE DO.

## The Evolution of Hip Hop: A Personal Reflection by Da'Mya Boynton

Music is my passion, particularly hip-hop and R&B. To me, old school music is more realistic, smoother, and just better. Artists like Earth Wind and Fire, Betty Wright, and The Temptations are great examples of this.

While today's music is good, it often seems like artists are portraying a certain lifestyle to look cool in the public eye. The truth is often the opposite. Our generation is too quick to create false images, which can lead to destructive consequences. If artists were true to themselves and rapped about their own experiences, I believe the music industry would be as good as it was in the old days.

I feel like music was more authentic back then because artists didn't have to hide who they were. They made music to make people feel good, especially in Black communities. People could connect with the music because it reflected their own experiences. Every artist had their own story that many could relate to. In my opinion, old school music will always be the best music ever made.

# Be-Moor Sports:

## Ausar Thompson: From High School to the NBA - Making the Dream a Reality

LET'S DISH ON THE NEWEST HOOP SENSATION, AUSAR THOMPSON! AT JUST 20 YEARS OLD, THIS BALLER BLAZED INTO THE NBA AS THE 9TH PICK, SNAGGED BY THE DETROIT PISTONS. AUSAR'S GOT SOME SERIOUS SKILLS, EARNING 5-STAR RECRUIT STATUS WHILE LEADING PINE CREST SCHOOL TO A STATE TITLE. HE'S A SHOOTING GUARD/SMALL FORWARD DYNAMO, STANDING TALL AT 6'7" AND WEIGHING IN AT 190 POUNDS. AUSAR AND HIS TWIN BROTHER AMEN SHARE THE MIDDLE NAME "XLNC" (PRONOUNCED EXCELLENCE) - A PRETTY POWERFUL NAME! AND SPEAKING OF POWER, AUSAR TOTALLY DOMINATED THE OVERTIME ELITE LEAGUE, RACKING UP TWO CHAMPIONSHIP TITLES, TWO FINALS MVPs, AND THE 2023 LEAGUE MVP. HE EVEN SKIPPED HIS SENIOR YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL TO JOIN OTE! AFTER DOMINATING IN OTE, AUSAR HIT THE COURT WITH TEAM ELITE AND THE CITY REAPERS. BUT NOW, HE'S LIVING HIS NBA DREAMS WITH THE DETROIT PISTONS. HE'S DEFINITELY A KEY PLAYER TO WATCH, AND WHO KNOWS? MAYBE HE AND CADE CUNNINGHAM WILL LEAD THE PISTONS TO A CHAMPIONSHIP RING. ALL HAIL THE B-BALL XLNC!



## Introducing the New Champion on the Block Steph Curry

By : Cameron Brown

Get ready to be schooled on the life of the legendary Wardell Stephen Curry II, aka Stephen Curry. Born and raised in Charlotte, North Carolina, he grew up around his dad's NBA career with the Charlotte Hornets, often shooting hoops with his little bro Seth before games. After studying at Charlotte Christian School, he went on to Davidson College and was later drafted by the Golden State Warriors in 2009. Stephen's not just a baller, he's also a pro golfer, and recently crushed it at the American Century Championship celebrity tournament!

But let's talk hoops. Stephen Curry's skills on the court are straight-up mesmerizing, and he's earned a ton of accolades, including three NBA championships and two Most Valuable Player awards. His signature three-point shot is next-level amazing, breaking records left and right.

Beyond basketball, Stephen's a true-blue philanthropist, advocating for education and social justice. He's also a family man, married to the brilliant Ayesha Curry, a TV personality, author, and restaurateur. Together, they're raising three amazing kiddos. Despite his staggering success, Stephen stays grounded and dedicated to his craft, inspiring basketball players everywhere.



## **RELIVE THE GLORY DAYS OF THE GOLDEN STATE BY: KAMARI CARTER**

The Golden State Warriors may be the best team in NBA history! The Golden State Warriors dynasty refers to the dominant era of the Golden State Warriors basketball team in the National Basketball Association (NBA) from 2014 to 2019. During this period, the Warriors achieved tremendous success, establishing themselves as one of the greatest teams in NBA history.

The dynasty was led by a core group of players that included Stephen Curry, Klay Thompson, Draymond Green, and coached by Steve Kerr. The journey began in the 2014-2015 season when the Warriors emerged as a force to be reckoned with. They finished the regular season with a franchise-record 67 wins and secured the top seed in the Western Conference. Stephen Curry, known for his exceptional shooting ability, became the league's Most Valuable Player (MVP) and led the team's high-octane offense.

In the playoffs, the Warriors continued their dominance, defeating various formidable opponents like the New Orleans Pelicans, Memphis Grizzlies and the Houston Rockets. They reached the NBA Finals for the first time in 40 years in the 2014-2015 NBA season and faced the Cleveland Cavaliers, led by LeBron James. The Warriors won the series in six games, clinching their first NBA championship since 1975. The team showcased their exceptional shooting, teamwork, and strong defense throughout the playoffs.

The following season, the Warriors set a new regular-season record by winning 73 games, surpassing the previous record set by the 1995-1996 Chicago Bulls. However, they fell short in the NBA Finals, losing to the Cavaliers in a thrilling seven-game series. Despite the disappointment, the Warriors' historic regular season solidified their status as one of the best teams ever.

The Warriors rebounded in the 2016-2017 season, adding former MVP Kevin Durant to their roster. With Durant's scoring prowess complementing Curry and Thompson's shooting, the team became nearly unstoppable. They dominated the regular season with 67 wins and cruised through the playoffs, meeting the Cavaliers in the NBA Finals for the third consecutive year. The Warriors avenged their previous loss, defeating the Cavaliers in five games to capture their second NBA championship in three years. Durant was named the Finals MVP.

In the 2017-2018 season, the Warriors maintained their dominance, winning 58 games in the regular season. They once again met the Cavaliers in the Finals, sweeping them in four games to claim their third NBA championship in four years. Durant was named the Finals MVP for the second consecutive year.

The Warriors reached their fifth consecutive NBA Finals in the 2018-2019 season but faced significant challenges. Injuries to key players, including Durant and Thompson, hampered their performance, and they ultimately lost to the Toronto Raptors in six games.

Since then, the Warriors have experienced a transition period, dealing with injuries and roster changes. However, the dynasty left an indelible mark on the NBA, revolutionizing the game with their "small-ball" lineup, exceptional shooting, and team-oriented play. The Warriors' success during this period elevated the franchise to an elite status and cemented the legacy of their star players as some of the greatest in NBA history. In this years NBA season the warriors placed 6th seed and lost to the Los Angeles Lakers (4-2) in the semifinals, despite the disappointing performance I wish the best for Golden State Warriors and I hope they win more Larry O'Brien's in years to come.





# Step Up to the Plate with Women's Softball

By: DaNyilia Bibb

Sports



For those of you who don't know, the first "women's" softball team was created by a man named George Hancock in 1887 where it later became a sport in 1895. Softball is a sport that welcomes anyone from any age or any size. It has been proven that this sport keeps you in shape and it has a lot of mental and physical benefits.

My name is DaNyilia Bibb. I am a senior at Harper Woods High School and I've always been the odd one in school that never played sports until March 2023. I didn't have any hobbies, so my friend sent me a picture of the softball conditioning flier. I was conditioned for about 2 weeks and grew a passion for the sport after a week of practice. My first game at school I felt like this wave of stress and sadness, because I didn't really know what I was doing. It was just one of those moments where it was "go with the flow", but I had to keep going if I wanted to be better. I'm glad I had a team that made sure I stayed motivated no matter what! As time went on my confidence and comfortability grew with the team and the sport. What most don't know is that playing softball brings a lot of emotions and roller coasters!

Every good teacher has a great student. My teacher /inspiration is my coach, Carl Whitlow who was a former baseball player and he is a true ball player. Since the season has ended he's the only person that's been on me about the sport and I feel as though he believes I can be better than good. Although it hasn't been long, I've had a great experience so far and plan to take this further and become a professional ball player!





## When Mind Games Meet Sports: The Link Between Mental Health and Athletics

Within the category of sports, I would like to write about the impact of sports on physical and mental well-being. Sports play a significant role in promoting a healthy lifestyle and overall well-being for individuals of all ages. Engaging in sports activities offers numerous physical benefits, such as improved cardiovascular health, increased strength and endurance, enhanced flexibility and coordination, and weight management.

Regular participation in sports also contributes to mental well-being. Physical activity stimulates the release of endorphins, which are natural mood boosters, leading to reduced stress, anxiety, and depression. Sports provide opportunities for social interaction, teamwork, and camaraderie, fostering a sense of belonging and community. Moreover, participating in sports promotes discipline, goal-setting, and resilience, which can translate into other aspects of life, such as academics, career, and personal relationships.

Sports can be enjoyed at various levels, ranging from recreational activities to competitive sports. Regardless of the level of intensity, sports offer individuals a chance to challenge themselves, set personal goals, and experience the joy of achievement. Additionally, sports can teach valuable life skills, including sportsmanship, fair play, and respect for rules and opponents.

In summary, sports have a profound impact on both physical and mental well-being. They provide a platform for individuals to improve their fitness levels, develop essential life skills, and foster a positive mindset. Whether playing for leisure or competing professionally, engaging in sports can lead to a healthier, happier, and more fulfilling life.

**Mental health matters**



Sports

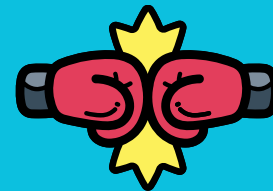
Sports

Sports

Sports

# KNOCKING DOWN BOUNDARIES WITH BOXING

BY: DEON HORTON



In ancient Greece, boxing was a popular amateur competitive sport and was included in the first Olympic Games. In ancient Rome boxers often wore the cestus, a metal-studded leather hand covering with which they maimed and even killed their opponents, sometimes as part of gladiatorial spectacles. The sport declined in popularity after the fall of the Roman Empire.

The first boxer to be recognised as a Heavyweight Champion was James Figg in 1719. In 1743 a later Champion, John Broughton Boxing, is one of the oldest known sports today. Some of the greatest heavyweights in boxing are Tyson Fury, Mike Tyson, Sugar Ray Lewis and Goerge Foreman, with 2,000 year old depictions on the walls of tombs in Egypt and stone carvings indicating Sumerians who lived in what is now Iraq. boxed at least 5,000 years ago.

Though boxing was popular in Ancient Greece the earliest appearance of boxing in history comes from Sumerian artifacts found in Iraq, originating from the 3rd millennium BCE. The oldest surviving example of boxing gloves date to around AD 120, coming in the form of two non-matching leather bands that were recovered from excavations at the Roman fort of Vindolanda. The brutality of the sport caused boxing to be banned in AD 393.

Boxing experienced a revival in Britain around the 17th century. Many bouts were fought with bare knuckles and with no standard rules until Jack Broughton introduced boxing rules known as Broughton's Law in the 18th century, where the gloves were used for practice purposes only. However, many boxers still chose to fight with bare knuckles until 1867 when gloves were mandated by the Marquess of Queensberry Rules. The rules consisted of being a fair stand-up boxing match in a 24-foot ring or as near that size as practicable, No wrestling allowed, The rounds to be of three minutes' duration and one minute's time between rounds and If either man falls through weakness or otherwise, he must get up unassisted.

The boxer has 10 seconds to allow him to do so, while the other man meanwhile returns to his corner, and when the fallen man is on his legs the round is to be resumed and continued until the three minutes have expired. If one man fails to come to the scratch in the 10 count allowed, it shall be in the power of the referee to give his award in favor of the other man.

Through the year's boxing has changed over time in multiple ways. For the younger generation of fighters one of the most glaring changes (and some would say greatest advantage) that today's fighters have is their immense size advantage. In today's heavyweight landscape, the average heavyweight stands at approximately 6'6 in height with an average weight of 245 lbs. That is huge leap from the days of the 1940s, 50s, 60s and 70s, where the average heavyweight was 6'2 215 lbs, Today's fighters are not only accompanied by their head trainer, cut-man, and second corner-man; they are also joined by a nutritionist who oversees the fighter's diet with customized diets as well as strict eating schedules and Fighters today also bring in a strength and conditioning to coach, to ensure the fighter is recovering from his/her workouts so they can be in optimal fighting shape.

As for the older fighters The old legends used tactics that are all but gone now, they were masters at fighting from all distances, especially the lost art of in-fighting.

This is a crucial advantage because this factor is what helps close the size gap the modern fighters have over the old timers. It was skill that allowed Max Baer at 6'1 200lbs to beat 6'6 275 lbs Primo Carnera. It was skill that enabled a 6'3 Muhammad Ali to beat 6'6 Duke Sabedong. The old school fighters fought often, and that allowed them to stay skillful, fit and sharp. But someone had to teach them the craft, someone had to mold, guide and help them hone their craft. That someone was the boxing teacher.

The old legends didn't have trainers...they had teachers.

Teachers who imparted such vast knowledge that it bordered on religion. These teachers forged relationships that built skill in and out of the ring.

As a result this shows how the sport boxing has evolved over the years for both generations of fighters , some people who have dominated in boxing and how boxing originated, It also teaches you the fundamentals of the sport for amateur boxers and the advanced techniques for professional boxers and how more rules have been introduced for the safety of the boxers, such as being compulsory to wear boxing gloves and mouthpieces. Rules such as the standing eight count were also introduced to give the referees agency if they thought a boxer was unfit to fight.



# DISCOVERING MY TRUE SELF THROUGH SPORTS



Hey there, sports fans! Today's hot topic is all about my two favorite sports: football and track. Let me tell you, football is my jam! The adrenaline rush, the thrill of the game, it's like a bolt of lightning shooting through my veins. Now don't get me wrong, basketball is cool too, but for me, football is where it's at. I'm all about the competition, the thrill of the win, and the glory of the game and when you add track into the mix, it's like a winning combo. I'm a speed demon, and track lets me show off my skills in a whole new way. The competition is fierce, and that's just the way I like it. So, in my humble opinion, football and track are the ultimate sports, and nothing else comes close.

When it comes to football, the energy is contagious. There's nothing quite like being in a stadium surrounded by thousands of cheering fans, all united in their love of the game. And then there's the physicality of it all- the tackles, the sprints, the sheer strength and endurance required to play at the highest level. It's a true test of athleticism and mental toughness, and only the strongest survive.

But what about track? Well, for me, it's all about speed. I live for that rush of adrenaline as I sprint around the track, pushing myself to go faster and faster with every stride. And the competition? It's intense, but it only makes me want to work harder. Whether I'm running the 100m dash or the 400m relay, I always give it my all and leave everything on the track.

So there you have it- my love for football and track knows no bounds. I may be biased, but I truly believe that these two sports are the cream of the crop. They require skill, determination, and a whole lot of heart. And when you combine them? Well, let's just say it's a winning combination that can't be beat.

Aside from the physical and mental challenges, football and track also teach important life lessons. They teach us the importance of teamwork, communication, and perseverance. In football, you have to work closely with your teammates to achieve a common goal. It's not just about individual performance, but also about supporting and lifting each other up. The same goes for track, where you may be competing as an individual, but you still need the support and encouragement of your team to succeed.

Furthermore, these sports also teach us how to handle failure. Losing a game or race can be tough, but it's important to learn from our mistakes and come back stronger. It's about having the resilience to keep going, even when things get tough.

Overall, football and track are more than just sports. They are a way of life- a way to push ourselves to be the best we can be, both on and off the field. And for me, there's nothing more exhilarating than that feeling of pushing myself to my limits and achieving my goals.



# TECH/VIDEO GAMES SECTION

## Tech and Video Games: The Perfect Playmates for Kids?

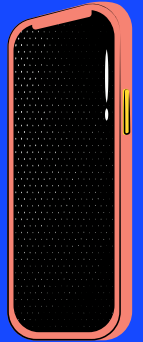
by Ramaul Jones

I believe we all have a hobby of enjoying tech or video games. The most essential pieces of tech in our lives are a cell phone, a computer for work, or an entertainment system. These are daily norms for us to connect with one another. I personally use my phone for everything like shopping online, social media, and to keep up with news.

Video games have always been exciting to me. From watching my older brothers play intensely, to sneaking in their room and having my own world of fun. I had no idea that I would eventually get a gaming system myself, until my mom bought me an Xbox for Christmas. My desire to have every new game sparked then.

Pediatricians generally recommend keeping children under 18 months from viewing screens. Even after that, until the age of 5, parents should monitor their child's TV screen time to limit early strain to the brain cells. As an infant, the brain has a very hard time arranging pictures and color sequencing.

Most parents or childcare workers would play an educational song or video to engage with kids. Even educational games have different learning skill formats. All of these things help build social skills and interaction. Tech and video games at an early age could have a positive impact on a child with the right amount of adult supervision.





# **Embark on a journey of wonder: Unravel the Secrets of the Enchanting Realm of SIMS4.**

**By Marco Allen**

The Sims 4 is a social simulation game, similar to preceding titles in the series. The original Sims was released on February 4, 2000 and The Sims 4 was released on November 16, 2017 and at the moment The Sims 4 is the oldest game in the Sims series. There is no primary objective or goal to achieve, and instead of fulfilling objectives, the player is encouraged to make choices and engage fully in an interactive environment. The focus of the game is on the simulated lives of virtual people called "Sims", and the player is responsible for directing their actions, attending to their "needs", and helping them attain their desires. Though not mandatory, objective-based gameplay is available if the player desires, with each Sim having lifelong aspirations, and "wants and fears" personal goals that are generated based on current gameplay.

Simoleons are the unit of currency used in the game, and Sims communicate in a fictional language called Simlish. Sims have six needs: hunger, bladder, hygiene, social, fun, and energy — these needs are drained as the Sim progresses through an in-game day, and are refilled by various household items and furniture.

Sims primarily make money by getting a job, or selling crafted items such as paintings and garden produce, and Sims need to develop skills for jobs and crafting items; for example, Sims in the Culinary career track need to be proficient in the Cooking skill. The game includes a comprehensive list of cheats, such as infinite money and hidden gameplay options. Paid downloadable content (DLC) packs expand the number of features, objects, worlds, and gameplay options available to play with.

The OS X and Windows versions of The Sims 4 include extensive modding support, as in previous main The Sims games. There are two types of player-developed mod content: script mods and custom content — script mods typically modify gameplay behavior or add gameplay mechanics, custom content encompasses cosmetic items including custom hairstyles, makeup, clothing, and furniture.

Some people can play The Sims 4 on Xbox or PC. The beta version of the game is free, but the add-ons for the game can cost between \$30 to \$9 or \$4. If you want to buy the mini packs, for example, you can have real clothes for your character, hair, shoes, makeup, mechanics for your sim, and cars! The Sims 2 and Sims 3 cars were introduced in the game until The Sims 4, but thanks to modders, they put it in the game for everyone to enjoy. And what is funny to me is that they speak Simlish. But what would I rate the game? 10/10, will play again!

The Sims 4 is back for more fun, letting you whip up your own pint-sized pals called "Sims", whip up dreamy abodes, and live vicariously through them. But this time, the game's creators have brewed up a brand new game engine. Say hello to a snazzy character creator and house-building toolkit! And that's not all: watch your Sims get all the feels with a shiny new emotion and personality system, making for a more in-depth gameplay experience.



## **Sims 4 Continued....**



**Development of The Sims 4 began as an online multiplayer title, but plans were shifted to a single-player experience following the negative launch reception of Maxis' SimCity in 2013. In the months leading up to the game's release, Maxis revealed that several features present in prior The Sims main titles would be omitted at launch, citing insufficient development time and technical complexity; this was received negatively by players. The Sims 4 received mixed reviews from critics upon its initial release, who praised the game's visual design, improved AI simulation for Sims, and the simplified building tools, but criticized the lack of content compared to prior The Sims titles, frequent loading screens, and missing features.**

**The Sims 4 has been commercially successful, topping the all-format video game chart in 2014, and has received over 70 million players worldwide as of 2023, making it the most popular game in the franchise. Development of the game has been supported with numerous paid downloadable content packs, namely thirteen expansion packs, twelve game packs, and several stuff packs and kits. The most recent expansion pack, The Sims 4: Growing Together, was released on March 16, 2023. Free content updates introducing and expanding major features have also been released, such as swimming pools, more character customization options, more building tools, and gameplay scenarios. A new mainline The Sims title, under the working title "Project Rene", is currently in development. Some people can play The Sims 4 on Xbox or PC or through the beta version of the game which is free with add-ons.**

**You may ask me why The Sims 4 is my favorite game. Well, it makes me feel like I have a second life in a video game that I can control. There are so many opportunities in things that I can do like make myself famous, you can make a baby or adopt a child, but what makes it more fun and exciting is the mods for it! Mods are custom downloads you can put in your game, for example, a variety of hairstyles or custom name brand clothes that are not found on the game are available through downloads. There are so many cool little details and features. I can do whatever I want and I can have a fun experience with The Sims.**

## Summon Your Inner Swag

**By: Antwon Hamilton**



What do you think is fashion? Fashion is a way that people wear their clothes or put certain pieces of clothing together. In some fashion scenarios, people tend to wear one brand or multiple brands of clothing to create an outfit. On social media platforms, the hip-hop group Migos is known for creating this fashion brand named Young Rich Nation (YRN). They also wear other brands and style them pretty well to make a top-notch outfit. The styles the Migos have are very unique in their own way.

What brands are more known in the fashion world and why? Normal budget-friendly brands such as Nike, Jordan, Adidas, and New Balance are good options to choose from because they are easier to find in retail stores for stock prices. These prices range from \$110-\$300 which in some households are not so expensive but more so affordable. Designer brands such as Gucci, Louis Vuitton, Balenciaga, and Amari are some higher up expensive brands. These brands range from \$500-\$2,000 depending on the item. This is due to quality and demand.



What outfits can you make with these brands? You can make tons of outfits with these brands. Some of these brands you can mix and match to make a good outfit. You can mix Adidas, Jordan, and New Balance with some of the designer brands and Nike with Jordan. The main thing about fashion is that it's your flavor and options of clothing and whatever brands you like.



Fashion is a very personal expression of oneself and can come in many different forms. Some people prefer to dress in a more casual style, while others like to dress up in designer clothing. Whatever your preference may be, it's important to choose brands that suit your style and budget. If you're looking for something more affordable, budget-friendly brands such as Nike, Jordan, Adidas, and New Balance are great options. On the other hand, if you're looking to splurge, designer brands such as Gucci, Louis Vuitton, Balenciaga, and Amari are some of the most popular and highly sought-after brands in the fashion world. Regardless of the brands you choose, the key is to create an outfit that is unique and reflects your own personal style. So go ahead and mix and match to your heart's desire!



# MY FUN & FURIOUS FASHIONS

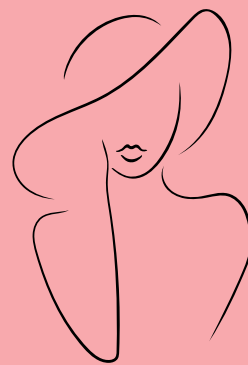
## BY: QUEJA BROWN

I am a fashion runway model, social media influencer, and YouTuber. I have a passion for all of those career paths. I love fashion and style. My fashion style is both girly/ dressed up and tomboy dressed down. I am a shoe collector but I can pull off heels and style them with jeans and a cute girly top. As a runway model I wear the designer garments and as a social media influencer I put outfits together and give out, outfit inspo an influence positive energy throughout all platforms. My YouTube deals with fashion when I do hauls but vlogs is my common content posted.

My passion for modeling started in October 2022 which was the month I had my first show. I went to modeling school at the time and I met a girl who had a open casting call on her phone. I noticed it was right up the street so why not try it out. I went to the Taylor Lang casting for a runway battle. A runway battle is about confidence and out walking someone. It be a lot of tension because of how strong your energy comes off as you walk. I went and the girl who showed me didn't show but I was glad I did because I made it. Modeling school was for 6 months which wasn't worth it because I learned more on my own when I tried the field than the school taught me. I learned how to walk when the school was teaching about basic networking, communication, makeup, and more. I don't have any specific reasons as to why I became a runway model but it was fun when I started and I was good at it so I continued. The things that make it fun is how intense it is, the nervous feeling and adrenaline pumping before walking on be the best because you go out on stage and release that feeling and show how creative and how confident you are. I like the part before the show getting dolled up in makeup and wearing nice garments but modeling has it's ups and downs but the outcome of how confident you feel after always out ways the downs. I was body shamed during my second show by a very popular brand and she said how my chest is too small and was looking in disgust while asking "who put you in that shi\*" it made me stronger and more confident. I knew what I was getting myself into, the industry is real mean and nasty depending on who you come across and Nothing makes me feel more happier than knowing how beautiful I look walking on the runway. Modeling garments boosted my confidence and introduced me into networking/ making connections. I have met so many talented men and women just from participating in a show modeling fashion pieces. Since Oct I've been in shows every month even up to 4 in one month. I've then gotten opportunity to model in L.A. as well which was an amazing experience where I modeled a piece of cloth and made it look worth wearing. I have modeled non appealing garments but fashion is whatever you make it. So if you think a simple piece of itchy cloth is fashionable then that's what it is.

While being a social media influencer I style myself and help people figure out their own type of style. While people scroll on social media they look for all types of things and when they come across my page they see a woman who is fly and a leader. I influence fashion, spirituality, and share my real life experiences that aren't spoken upon/ ignored and give ways to move forward and grow from those situations. I enjoy putting outfits together and taking pictures. People who follow my Instagram @\_.quaaay2x like to stay intuned with what I wear to modeling, photoshoots, and on a daily.

My YouTube Channel @feelinglikequeja consist of try on hauls and regular hauls. Which are me showing trending outfit pieces and trying them on. I embrace my sense of style on social media and it plays a huge part in my lifestyle.



# EMBRACE YOUR BODY: UNLEASH THE POWER OF SELF-LOVE

## BY: DAKOTA DIXON

The notion of body positivity can be daunting and unfeasible for many individuals. The idea of having to love every aspect of your body every single day is unrealistic and toxic. It's hypocritical to preach about embracing one's insecurities while not accepting one's own. Although I cannot guarantee that reciting mantras or undertaking a workout routine will improve your self-esteem or body dysmorphia, it could be a great starting point. The shift towards body neutrality involves altering your perspective on how you view yourself. It entails avoiding self-hatred and instead replacing negativity with self-respect and self-appreciation. Unlike body positivity, body neutrality does not require you to love your body entirely, but rather to accept it. It is more focused on your abilities rather than on your physical appearance. Here are some suggestions to help you disregard the media's brainwashing about how your body should look:

1. Avoid buying or keeping clothes that do not fit well or make you feel uncomfortable. It's unnecessary to hold onto clothes that don't make you feel good about yourself and can lead to negative self-talk.
2. Resist the urge to hyper-fixate on every calorie or diet trend you come across online. Instead, focus on building a healthy relationship with food and exercise that works for you.
3. Be realistic about what clothes fit your body type and make you feel comfortable and confident instead of trying to fit into clothing that doesn't work for you.
4. Remember that wanting to be attractive to a partner is natural, but you don't have to change yourself to be loved or deemed attractive.

In conclusion, if you decide to undergo a makeover, make sure it's a personal decision that you make without external pressure.



THE  
BEST  
project  
(YOU WILL EVER)  
WORK ON  
is your  
Self

I am  
enough

# BOOSTING BLACK-OWNED BUSINESSES

## Shining the Spotlight on Black Excellence: World Wide Technology

by Apryl Seawright

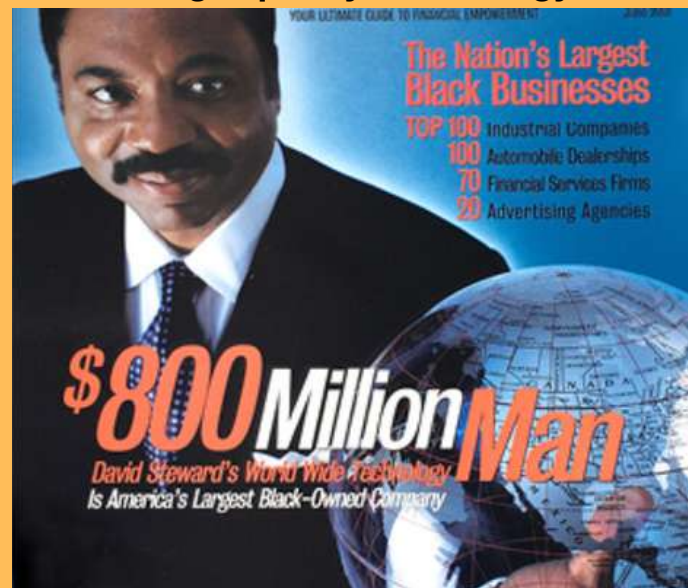
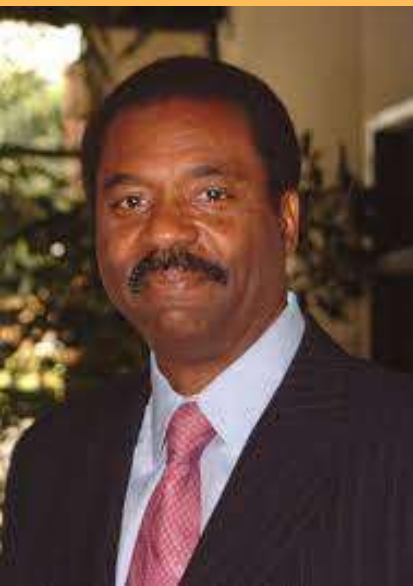


### Black-Owned Business WWT Leads the Way in Technology and Innovation

Did you know that there are over two million black-owned businesses in the United States? As of 2023, the largest among them is World Wide Technology (WWT), which was founded by David Steward in 1990. WWT has been recognized for 12 consecutive years by Fortune and Great Place, and is currently valued at \$14.5 billion. Steward, who is a well-known black American billionaire businessman, philanthropist, and author, has written two books on inspiring others to create success in their own businesses.

WWT is committed to innovation and providing people with access to technology. In 1994, the company partnered with Cisco Systems to resell hardware and software, and has since gone on to establish partnerships with several other technology companies, including Dell, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Intel, and Microsoft. WWT opened its first warehouse in 1996 and currently operates over 20 facilities with two million square feet of warehousing, distribution, and integration space.

WWT's service offerings are aligned with its core technology disciplines. Its seasoned professionals, who have years of field experience and hold top certifications from major OEMs, use proprietary tools and methodologies to deliver high-quality technology solutions.



# The Best Kind of Cheating

My name is Layla Biggens, I'm twenty years old, and I'm the owner and CEO of Honest Treats. Honest Treats is a clean, black owned, web based bakery that specializes in making gourmet desserts for all occasions. I began baking, at the age of twelve, specializing in cupcakes and brownies, becoming known by those around me as "Mama Cupcake" AKA "The Brownie Pimp." I can make anything from cobbler to cookies. My love of baking was born from many years of watching baking shows with my mother, like "Cupcake Wars" and "Cake Boss." I've always said I am meant to change the world, I can feel it! and I'm hoping I can do so through my business, Honest Treats.



Honest Treats takes pride in the fact that we are a *clean*, from-scratch bakery. This means that everything in our "Southern Style Peach Cobbler" is made in house, therefore, we don't use dyes, such as red 40 which is an artificial dye commonly found in "Red Velvet" flavored treats, that are known to be harmful especially to young children. You won't find preservatives in any of our treats, and the ingredients list for our sweets is simple. My "Chocolate Chunk Cookies" only use ten, all natural, all *real* ingredients. All of **my** recipes are handcrafted, tested, and perfected before the products hit the website; The newest addition to my collection of recipes is my "Double Crusted Strawberry Cheesecake", which is a house-made strawberry compote, swirled into a creamy, light,

rich, cheesecake filling that is sandwiched between two layers of thick, buttery graham cracker crust (oreo crust available upon request). Because quality takes time, all orders must be placed at least 24-48 hours ahead of time, and I offer pick-up and, or drop-off services (for a fee) all around metro Detroit. Our long, and varied list of flavor options, as well as a variety of treats for patrons to choose from like our refreshing "Lemon Sugar Cookies" or even our "Cookies N' Cream Stuffed Cupcake" is sure to provide the perfect treat for any special occasion, holiday, or simple weekend craving.



I'm doing my best to promote good quality, tasteful, ingredient conscious desserts around my community. Despite being web-based currently, I would like to, eventually, have a storefront in downtown Detroit. And so, on your next cheat day, if you would like to support, or even just check out Honest Treats you may do so via Instagram @Honest.Treats or place an order by phone at (313)888-3629.

# CHAMPIONING BLACK-OWNED BUSINESSES IN OUR COMMUNITY

BY TARON HUNTER

Many people want to start a business but lack resources like promoting, marketing, supplies and even sometimes motivation. Most businesses fail because of simple things that wouldn't be too hard to fix if you were aware of them such as not having a website or even reviews. Studies from the Small Business Administration or the sba shows that about 33% of businesses fail in the first 2 years. My goal is to open up avenues to highlight black businesses by giving out business tips and visiting Black-Owned businesses in Detroit. I plan to help support and spread the word whether it's good or bad and be honest and open about how I feel from a consumer's point of view.

It starts with a plan and of course everything doesn't happen overnight but promoting and marketing before you start your business can build a great following. Learning the best ways to get your business out there is by doing interviews or posting newsletters. If you keep talking about your business and bringing it up it would be hard for the public to ignore or avoid it. Remember all attention is good attention and when all eyes and ears are on you, you should have your gameplan ready.

Another piece of advice is to have a good drive and always be open to feedback. You may feel like you have the perfect plan, but there is always something that could be tighter or bring a better change so keep an ear open! It should be easy for your customers to find what they are looking for and to leave advice or suggestions if they chose to. You don't have to follow and listen to everything but at least hearing it out can and will help you. Listen to your customers or clients because they are the consumers and will be the main source if not the only source keeping you open and your business ahead.

Give deals believe it or not everyone loves a deal but don't make anyone feel like they've been cheated. You promise a service a certain way and you should always deliver it the best way possible and try to reward those who leave or give reviews and advice, customer satisfaction is key as well and always be honest.

Communication is key. Make sure everything is known about what your business does or offers and update them with any new info. Make everything fun and simple for your audience and make sure you hold their attention. Also, know how to connect and adapt to your environment. You may not always be in a position or situation you want to be in but since you're there make the best out of it.

If you have a business idea but don't have money look into state or federal grants, as well as investors. There are a lot of people ready to put money into the next big thing rather it's a shop or restaurant so if your idea is good and well planned out it shouldn't be too hard finding funds just stay consistent. A loan should be your last option mainly because you have to pay back the loan usually with interest and how much interest you have to pay will depend on your personal and business credit. A grant is a better option because they help you get started and all of them are free so there will be no interest applied or credited to you or your business.

With all businesses you need a few things: a EIN number which would be your business number for the IRS, a business bank account, a business name address and number, proper licensing, a crowd to target, and a business credit card after you open your account.



# **THE JOURNEY OF BLACK-OWNED BUSINESSES: OVERCOMING OBSTACLES ON A CHALLENGING PATH**

**BY: JAEA BRANTLEY**

Black owned businesses have a long and rich history in the United States. Today minority owned businesses have a harder time getting access to capital and therefore have higher rates of failure compared to white owned businesses. To put things in perspective, Black-owned businesses have been twice as likely to shut down because of the pandemic.

From about 1900 to 1930, there was a golden age of Black-owned businesses in the US. Jim Crow laws forced African-Americans to form more restricted communities separate from whites; it led to a boom in entrepreneurship. All across the country in urban areas where the majority of Black people lived, small businesses were popping up at record speed.

Black owned businesses face many obstacles. In particular, black owned businesses have lower sales, hire fewer employees, and have smaller payrolls than white-owned businesses. It is harder for black owned business owners because lower personal wealth inhibits Black business creation. This is due in part to barriers to bank loans and other sources of institutional capital, but is also the result of staggering inequalities that impact how much wealth is held by Americans of different racial groups.

However, despite the challenges, there are many organizations and initiatives that aim to support and uplift Black-owned businesses. These include mentorship programs, grants and loans specifically for minority entrepreneurs, and networking opportunities. Consumers can also play a role in supporting these businesses by intentionally seeking them out and choosing to spend their money with them. By doing so, we can help to create a more equitable and inclusive economy that benefits everyone.



**BLACK  
BUSINESSES  
MATTER**



# MOVIES/TV SHOW SECTION

## Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (2005): Why It's Better Than You Remember!

By Naeema Abdulwali



One of my favorite movies of all time (maybe except *Rise of the Guardians*) is the Roald Dahl Adaptation, of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Let me make it clear we are not talking about the 1971 movie starring Gene Wilder and directed by Mel Stewart. We're talking about the 2005 *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* starring Johnny Depp. I want to focus on how underrated this movie is to its predecessor. First, the movie people remember the most, starring Gene Wilder is called *Willy Wonka & The Chocolate Factory*- NOT *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Most people seem to confuse the two since the book is called *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, they think the movie with Gene Wilder is called the same name. Secondly, *Charlie and The Chocolate Factory* (2005) is a RETELLING NOT A REMAKE which is a retelling of a story differently but keeping the story somewhat the same, while a remake is just telling the same story but updated. For example, *Romeo and Juliet* is a popular remake( the one with Leonardo Dicaprio and Gromeo and Juliet comes to mind) that was remade multiple times or even any Fairy Tale(Like *Cinderella*).

**Part One style:** A director's vision for a movie can change how the audience engages in the movie, so tone, colors, costumes, makeup, backgrounds, visuals, and even the music make up a big part of how people will feel about a movie. *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* was directed by Tim Burton. As a director known for his gothic style, Tim Burton's influence is evident throughout the film. For those unfamiliar with his work, his Netflix show "*Wednesday*" offers an excellent showcase of his grim style and captivating storytelling. Some of his other works, such as "*Edward Scissorhands*," "*The Corpse Bride*," and "*Sweeney Todd*," further demonstrate his distinctive approach to filmmaking. His style is what I love about this movie, and the color is a huge part of his style and it's a huge part of this movie. When it comes to characters and colors, the background is very important. The use of color helps to distinguish between Charlie's drab and colorless world outside the factory and the fantastical, colorful world inside.

This stark contrast emphasizes the magical nature of Willy Wonka's chocolate factory. This also goes with how the Characters are dressed, because of the lack of color in the outside world the colors on our main characters, like Violet, Charlie, and Willy Wonka Pop out more, not only that but color also associates with each of the children visiting the factory with a specific color that represents their personality.



For example, Violet Beauregarde wears shades of blue to represent her obsession with gum, while Augustus Gloop's outfits are often brown, symbolizing his love for food (or Chocolate). Color is also used symbolically, with golden shades representing the allure and temptation of the golden tickets and the opportunity to visit the chocolate factory. Tim Burton's meticulous use of color extends to even the smallest elements, such as the color of candies, wallpapers, and props, enhancing the overall visual experience.

***Part Two the differences in Characters:*** When we talk about a story there are Characters that we might love, hate, or even care for and they are a big part of making a story whole and interesting. Without them, there would be no story, to begin with, the two movies' characters are both very different but they do not stray from the book. I won't be able to go over all of them, but i will go over the two most important characters Willy Wonka and Charlie Bucket.

#### ***Willy Wonka:***

***The 1971 Willy Wonka*** (played by Gene Wilder) is a charming, whimsical, but also enigmatic person, he has a childlike wonder about him which makes sense since he is known for his imaginative mind when it comes to his candy. He has a sense he is up to something, but he hides it very well. This version of Wonka is most liked by gen x and millennials this is why the 1971 version of Willy Wonka is so iconic, but this Willy Wonka is not very close to the book, which is something Roald Dalh had an issue with. ***The 2005 Willy Wonka*** (Played by Johnny Depp) is eccentric, reclusive, socially awkward, and detached from reality which makes sense since he has been in isolation for many years with no human contact except for his oompa loompas. He also has the sense that he is hiding something, and the other characters, take notice of this, but he never caves in. He is also the one that my generation likes the most, due to his weridness and so-called sass. He is also very flamboyant and takes his candy-making down like he was a food scientist, with his invention room being something out of a science fiction movie. He also has a child-like wonder to him, for example on their way to the invention room they pass a room named whipped cream, and some oompa loompas whipping a cow, that is something only a child would think that's how whip cream is made. This version of Willy Wonka is most close to how Roald Dalh wrote him.

# Marvel's Smash New Hit:



## Secret Invasion

By: Sha'Nyia West



With the noticeable doubt from fans regarding the shows the company produces, Marvel had one chance to win over the crowd. With no room for error, Kevin Feige enlisted the help of the show's director, Ali Selim, and the reprising role of Nick Fury played by Samuel L. Jackson to bring this show to life. With only six (a number Marvel fans have grown to hate) episodes that air weekly and an adaptation that comes from a beloved comic that ends much differently than the show will, the odds seemed stacked against Marvel. When faith seemed lost, the first episode of Secret Invasion hit Disney+ on June 21st and shocked fans to their core.

This action-packed spy-thriller received the praises of fans worldwide, especially towards Samuel L. Jackson for his phenomenal acting as Nick Fury throughout. The subtle hints of comedy throughout came at the right time, even when it was the classic Marvel humor we know all too well. The themes the show touched when it came to POCs (people of color), especially African-Americans, hit well and tied neatly into the story of the show. Samuel L. Jackson talked about having much input regarding Nick Fury's experience as a Black man in America, significantly impacting how we see Fury. Humanizing Fury in a way we haven't seen since Captain Marvel brought a new depth to the character, especially as we're brought even more into his personal life. Other POCs worldwide identified with the Skrulls and their conflict in the series (without the violent tendencies), which grew the demographic even more than intended. The idea of a found family, wanting somewhere to belong, and testing the limits of what one would do for their own got viewers to connect even further with the show, questioning what one would do in these dire situations. The writing of the show continued to remain stellar, with watchers begging for more as each week passed.

The only questions many seem to have now: What's next? With the dreaded finale of the series finally being released, viewers now have high expectations for what's to come next. Did Marvel anticipate Secret Invasion's success and how their next project would have to follow up? Many believe the recent phases the company brought haven't been stellar, with the movies and shows heavily dividing fans. Is Feige digging a hole for himself that he might not be able to escape, or is Secret Invasion the turning point that Marvel (and fans alike) have been hoping for? Only time will tell, but for now, one final question: Do you trust those around you, or have the Skrulls already infiltrated?



# Swing into Action with Spider-Man: Across The

## Spider-Verse – Making Tough Choices!

By: Kamari Carter



Shows and movies have the potential to give so much information to the audience through the time it is playing on screen. Shows can convey messages over several episodes giving people time to understand what is said in a shorter time frame while movies can convey it all at once. Movies are made in a quality that is higher in cost and more detailed as opposed to shows that focus more on how many episodes are made. The better a show or movie is, the more attention and traction it garners with an audience leading to better expectations of the show or movie. The movie I will cover is Spiderman: Across The Spider Verse. A movie that is currently in theaters and will be available on streaming platforms in the future. This movie has been widely talked about for its cast of spider people from different comics and shows. The movie is a sequel in the trilogy they are currently working on, It takes place months after the first movie's conclusion. Miles Morales is the newest spiderman of his dimension due to events regarding the first spiderman that was around. Miles has grown used to his days being spiderman while also missing the people he had gotten to know through the ordeal of the first movie. Miles knows of the responsibility he has now that he has gained his powers and continues to keep his secret, that is until he learns that there is a group of spider people traveling through dimensions. Learning this gives him hope that he could see the friends he has missed so much but there are always problems to deal with when dealing with everyday life. Miles is reunited with one of the people he had met during the events of the first movie, Gwen Stacy. After Miles caught wind of Gwen's way of traveling across dimensions he decides to tag along to see what is out there. Miles travels through these dimensions meeting different spider men and learning that there is so much more out there and that people deal with different things. After heading to the headquarters of the group of spider people, Miles is faced with a harsh truth about himself and a difficult choice to make. He is told the actions he takes could save one person or save many but Miles decides to go down his own path and save everyone even if it means he has to go against everyone else. Miles made his choices that he knows he has to go through with. Miles' decision on who to save decides the fate of everyone important to him. The movie's tone gives the feeling that you should follow life the way you want to as long as you know it is the right thing to do. As of currently the movie is available to watch in theaters and will be available on movie streaming apps in the future. There are more tones displayed by characters throughout the movie but Miles' choices influence how the rest of the characters might act in the following film. Overall the movie does great at showing the emotions every character feels and intentions they have through their actions. What this entails for the audience is that everyday your choices will be questioned and you will deal with difficulties but they are your choices and if you want to see them through then DON'T STOP.



# Introducing our New "Docu-casts"!

Welcome to our world with a new word, "docu-cast." Be-Moor Radio is moving into streaming. Below is the listing of five new "docu-casts" developed and produced by our be-moor radio institute interns and staff.



## 1619 in Our Voice

*Pictured: team Be-Moor with Nicole Hannah - Jones, author 1619*



## SISTAS



What did Kwame do?

## What Did Kwame Do?



## Black Super Heroes



## HIV/AIDS 41 Years Later



## Up to the Minute (a podcast)



## 50 Years of Positive Hip-Hop

## The Great Debut and Preview Party.

Mark your calendars for Monday, January 15, 2024, MLK Day! Parents, supporters, students, and civic and community leaders are invited to the official debut/premier of Be-Moor Radio Streaming Service.

