EMPOWER ATLANTA

VOLUME 4 | ISSUE 1
SPRING 2024



CELEBRATING & HONORING WOMEN

FAMILY-FRIENDLY FILMS TO WATCH THIS SPRING

Autism Advocacy and Awareness

Understanding the Complex Reality of Homelessness in the United States

DOMINIQUE WILKINS

The Human Highlight Film

BEST

Vacation Spots in Georgia


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DUNE
PART TWO
ONLY IN THEATERS
03.01.24
FILMED FOR IMAX
LEGENDARY
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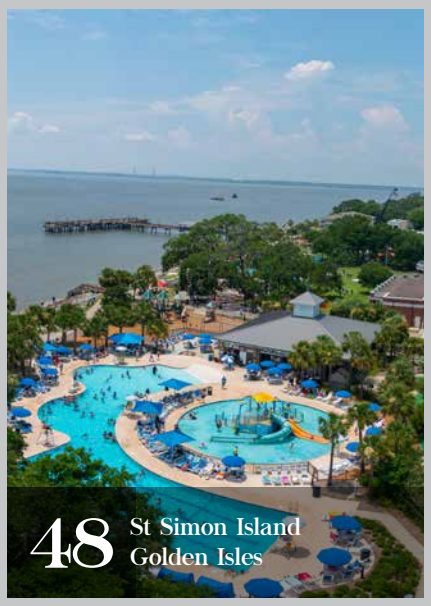

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DUNE
PART TWO
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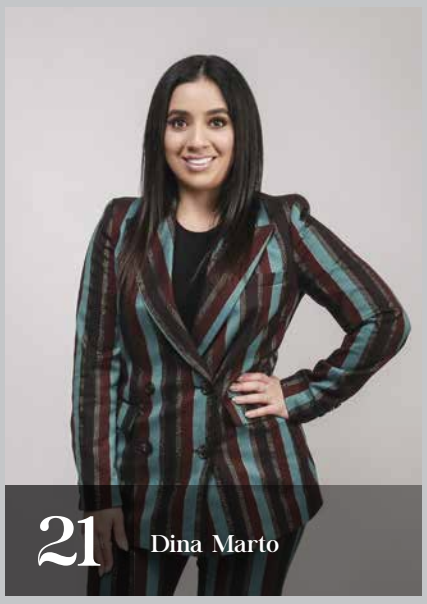
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From the Publisher

Greetings Everyone,

Welcome to the vibrant Spring 2024 issue of Empower Atlanta Magazine! We're thrilled to unveil our cover featuring basketball icon and Hall-of-Famer Dominique Wilkins, who currently serves as the Vice-President of Basketball and Special Advisor to the CEO of the Atlanta Hawks. With an illustrious career, Wilkins has not only left his mark as one of the NBA's greatest dunkers but continues to enrich the sport as a commentator, coach, and ambassador. His enshrinement in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2006 solidifies his legacy as a true legend of the game.

In this edition, we exalt, empower, commend, and pay tribute to women from all ethnic backgrounds. We illuminate the exceptional accomplishments of women across diverse fields and leadership positions, recognizing their intellect, resilience, and invaluable contributions to family, business, and community. Unfortunately, women continue to confront systemic discrimination. Persistent challenges such as the gender pay gap, restricted access to leadership roles, and underrepresentation in decision-making spheres underscore the ongoing struggle. As women, we persevere in advocating for reproductive rights, addressing healthcare disparities, combating violence against women, and more. Despite these hurdles, we persist in our resolve, rising above adversity and continuing our fight to effect meaningful change and ensure our voices are heard.

Additionally, we're committed to raising awareness about Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), a developmental condition impacting communication, behavior, and social interaction. Recognizing ASD as a spectrum disorder underscores the diverse range of symptoms and capabilities individuals may possess. It's imperative to foster acceptance, understanding, and inclusivity within society, ensuring equal opportunities for individuals with autism to thrive and contribute meaningfully to their communities. Through our advocacy and awareness initiatives, we strive to promote empathy, acceptance, and support for individuals with autism and their families.

Don't miss our curated guide to the finest vacation spots across Georgia. While Atlanta stands as a beloved destination, our state boasts an array of breathtaking locales, from serene mountain retreats to sun-kissed beaches and charming cities like Savannah, Macon, Gainesville, and the Golden Isles. Furthermore, immerse yourself in the latest family-friendly movie releases, including highly anticipated titles such as Dune, Part 2, Godzilla vs. King Kong: The New Empire, Kingdom of the Planet of Apes, and more. These cinematic treasures provide perfect opportunities for quality family bonding time.

As always, we remain dedicated to informing, inspiring, and making a positive impact with each edition of Empower Atlanta Magazine. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to our readers and advertisers for their unwavering support and belief in our mission.

Warm regards,

Towanna Hogue

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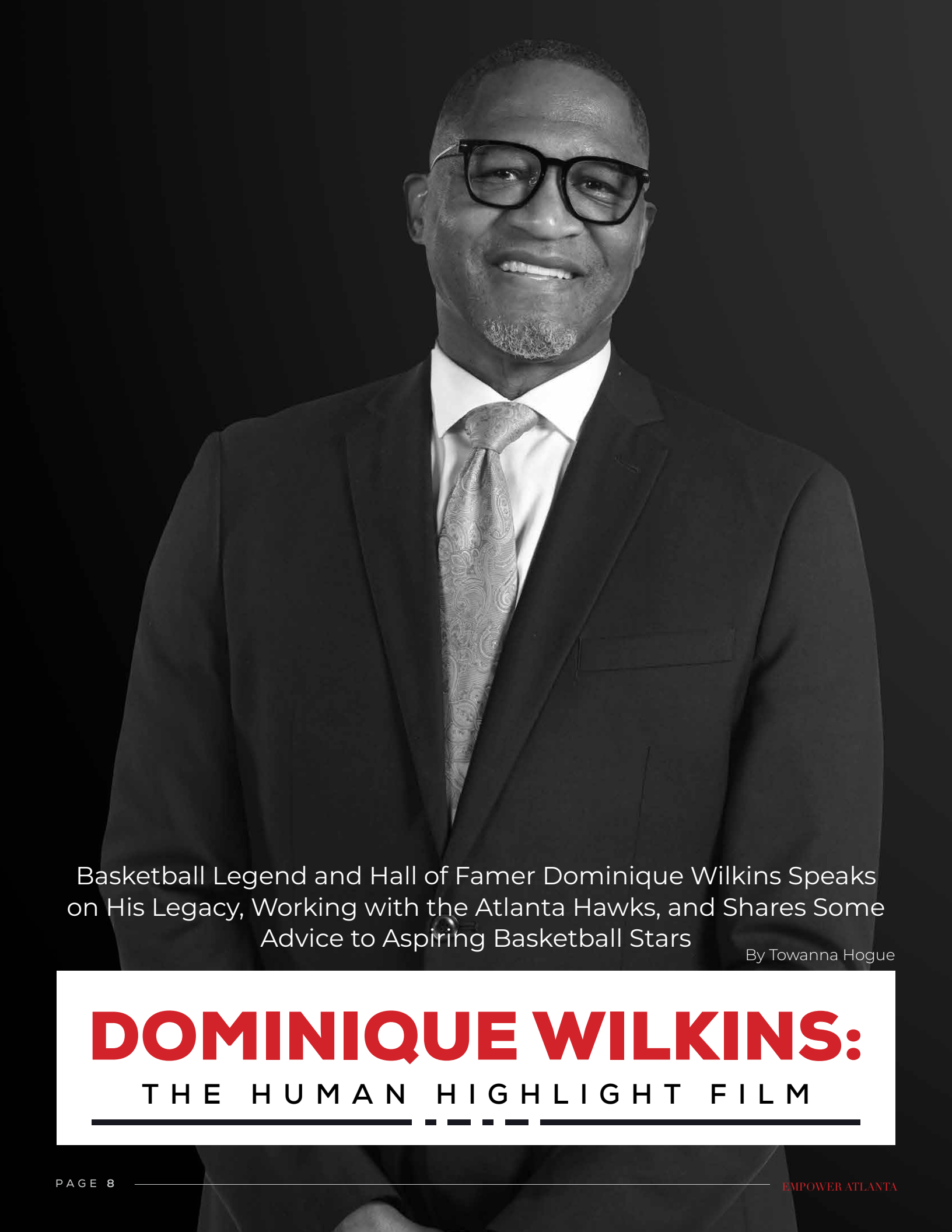
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Basketball Legend and Hall of Famer Dominique Wilkins Speaks on His Legacy, Working with the Atlanta Hawks, and Shares Some Advice to Aspiring Basketball Stars

By Towanna Hogue

DOMINIQUE WILKINS:

THE HUMAN HIGHLIGHT FILM

For 15 seasons, Dominique Wilkins, famously known as "The Human Highlight Film," graced the basketball court with unparalleled athleticism and relentless determination. With gravity-defying hops and an arsenal of moves that left defenders in his wake, Wilkins was more than just a player; he was a spectacle, captivating audiences with every possession.

His journey to basketball stardom began in North Carolina, where Wilkins honed his skills under the guidance of his high school coach, Coach Smith. It was here that he learned the values of self-confidence, perseverance, and discipline, qualities that would define his illustrious career. He burst onto the national scene at the University of Georgia, earning the "Human Highlight Film" moniker for his jaw-dropping plays and dominant performances. Despite leaving college after his junior year, Wilkins left an indelible mark, still holding the single-season scoring record for the Bulldogs.

Selected third overall by the Utah Jazz in the 1982 NBA draft, Wilkins found his true home with the Atlanta Hawks after a trade that would go down in history as one of the most lopsided deals in NBA history. It was in Atlanta where Wilkins became a legend, captivating fans with his high-flying dunks and acrobatic scoring. Wilkins amassed an impressive list of accolades throughout his career, including nine NBA All-Star appearances and two NBA Slam Dunk contest victories. His scoring prowess was unmatched, as evidenced by his ten consecutive seasons averaging over 25 points per game and a scoring title in 1985–86. However, Wilkins' journey was not without adversity. In 1992, a ruptured Achilles tendon threatened to derail his career, but through sheer determination and resilience, Wilkins made a triumphant comeback, proving his critics wrong and showcasing his unwavering love for the game.

Off the court, Wilkins' impact extended beyond basketball, as he became a symbol of perseverance and inspiration for generations to come. His commitment to hard work, dedication, and integrity served as a beacon of hope for aspiring athletes worldwide. Today, Dominique Wilkins stands as one of the greatest basketball players of all time, and his legacy is immortalized in the annals of NBA history. From his iconic dunks to his unmatched scoring ability, Wilkins' impact on the game will forever be etched in the hearts and minds of basketball fans everywhere.

Q. What motivated you to pursue basketball, and how did you develop your skills during your youth?

A. Growing up in Baltimore, basketball and track were the two most popular sports. I started out in track and field, but a playground legend in my neighborhood saw something in me. He said, 'I want you to come to the Boys Club every day, and I'm going to teach you to play the game of basketball. That's how it all started for me.

Q. Do you believe it is necessary for a young basketball player to join an AAU team? Does it increase their chances of being recruited by a college coach? Or should the focus be on gaining as much playing time and exposure as possible on a high school basketball team?

A. I'm not a big fan of AAU. A lot of times, it teaches individualism instead of team concepts. Being a part of a school system, particularly high school, you can learn those skills even before you get to high school. I think high school is a very important time to learn the fundamentals instead of what you see all the time, which is the showmanship of the game. So, I think you become more fundamentally sound in a basketball high school system.

Q. What can a young player who wants to play college basketball but has limited playing time at his high school do to be recruited?

A. One thing that AAU does is get recognition for kids who don't get the opportunity at that next level. You have to find some kind of opportunity and outlet that will give you a chance to get exposed.

Q. How did your college basketball career shape your path to the NBA?

A. My high school coach started my path to the NBA. Then, I was fortunate to have a great coach in college, too, Hugh Durham, who prepared me for the pros after my first year. Mentally, I wasn't ready for the pros. I wanted to stay in college and play for a few more years. He said to me, "Hey, there's nothing more you can do here."

Q. In your career, you were known for your acrobatic slam dunks. How do you think the art of dunking has evolved in today's NBA?

A. I don't know that it has evolved, but it's always going to be a part of the game, and it's always going to give you an edge to motivate the crowd and your team. It's always going to be a motivator. That will always be one constant in this league.

Q. Your entry into the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame in 2016 acknowledges your collegiate contributions. How does this recognition complement your NBA legacy?

A. It shows you your impact in college. To be recognized in the College Basketball Hall of Fame is unbelievable. You're talking about 300-some colleges in this country, and to be recognized as one of the greatest college players ever speaks for itself. I'm very proud of that.

Q. Speaking of legacy, your son, Jacob Wilkins, committed to playing at your alma mater, the University of Georgia Bulldogs. How does it feel to see the next generation following in your basketball footsteps?

A. I'm probably more excited than he is. It was all his choice. It was nothing I pushed on him. I wanted my son to make his own decisions and to be happy with that decision. He said, "Dad, I just want to go to school where my dad went. I went to Virginia and other schools for a visit, but I want to


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represent the name Wilkins." I was like, "Wow," so that's how that happened.

Q. What impact do you hope to have on the Atlanta Hawks' future and the development of young talents like Trae Young?

A. I love this organization. Everyone knows how I feel about this organization. And I love the players. I get giddy when guys like Trae, Dejounte, Onyeka, Hunter, Johnson, and Capela connect with me. I have a relationship with these guys and money can't buy that.

Q. Your philanthropic efforts are well-known, particularly being named the Diabetes Ambassador for the state of Georgia in 2010. How do you use your platform to raise awareness and advocate for diabetes-related causes?

A. I'm very involved in health care, period. I've gotten even more locally involved with Wellstar Hospital on diet, exercise, and medication. Not just diabetes but also heart disease, lung disease, and asthma—all these different things that people are affected by. I've been involved in that for many, many years. It was kind of a calling for me.

Q. As a member of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America Alumni Hall of Fame, how important is it for you to contribute to the community and youth development?

A. I grew up in a Boys and Girls Club, though back then it was called Boys Club. For me, it's just an obligation for what I learned at the Boys and Girls Club I grew up going to in Baltimore. It gives me a platform where I can motivate and push others to be a part of it. First of all, it's a safe haven for our children.

Q. You have a documentary aimed at being released in time for the 2024 NBA season. What significance does this timing hold for you, and what do you hope the audience gains from the film?

A. The documentary will heat up this summer as we start more interviews and the history of my life from Baltimore to now. It's going to be really exciting. The company Versus, which I partner with, has done a nice job putting all of this together. I'm excited about what the outcome will look like.

What I hope to get out of it is that people will see the man more so than the basketball player. I tell people all the time, "I feel like I won a championship." The life I've been able to live was my championship. That's what I want people to see.



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Judge Phinia Aten

Chief Magistrate Judge of the Magistrate Court of Rockdale County, Georgia

Judge Phinia Aten serves as the Chief Magistrate Judge of the Magistrate Court of Rockdale County in the State of Georgia. Notably, she made history as the first African American woman to hold a judicial position in Rockdale County when elected in 2012. Re-elected with significant voter support in 2016 and 2020, Judge Aten has garnered national recognition for her judicial leadership.

Her commitment to the legal community extends beyond the local level. Judge Aten holds positions in various prestigious legal organizations, including the American Bar Association and the National Association of Women Judges, where she serves on executive committees and in directorial roles. Additionally, she is actively involved in the Georgia Council of Magistrate Court Judges and several other legal associations.

Judge Aten's community involvement reflects her dedication to improving the lives of Rockdale County residents. She has chaired committees related to important issues, such as the 2020 Census Count, and has contributed significantly to initiatives addressing jail diversion, re-entry programs, child abuse protocols, and more. Her efforts aim to bridge the gap between the court system and the community it serves.

Innovative programs developed under Judge Aten's leadership demonstrate her commitment to increasing court accessibility and engagement. These include the Smart Justice Series, an educational program broadcasted to inform the public about the Magistrate Court's jurisdiction, youth law camps, and art competitions promoting civic discourse on justice issues.

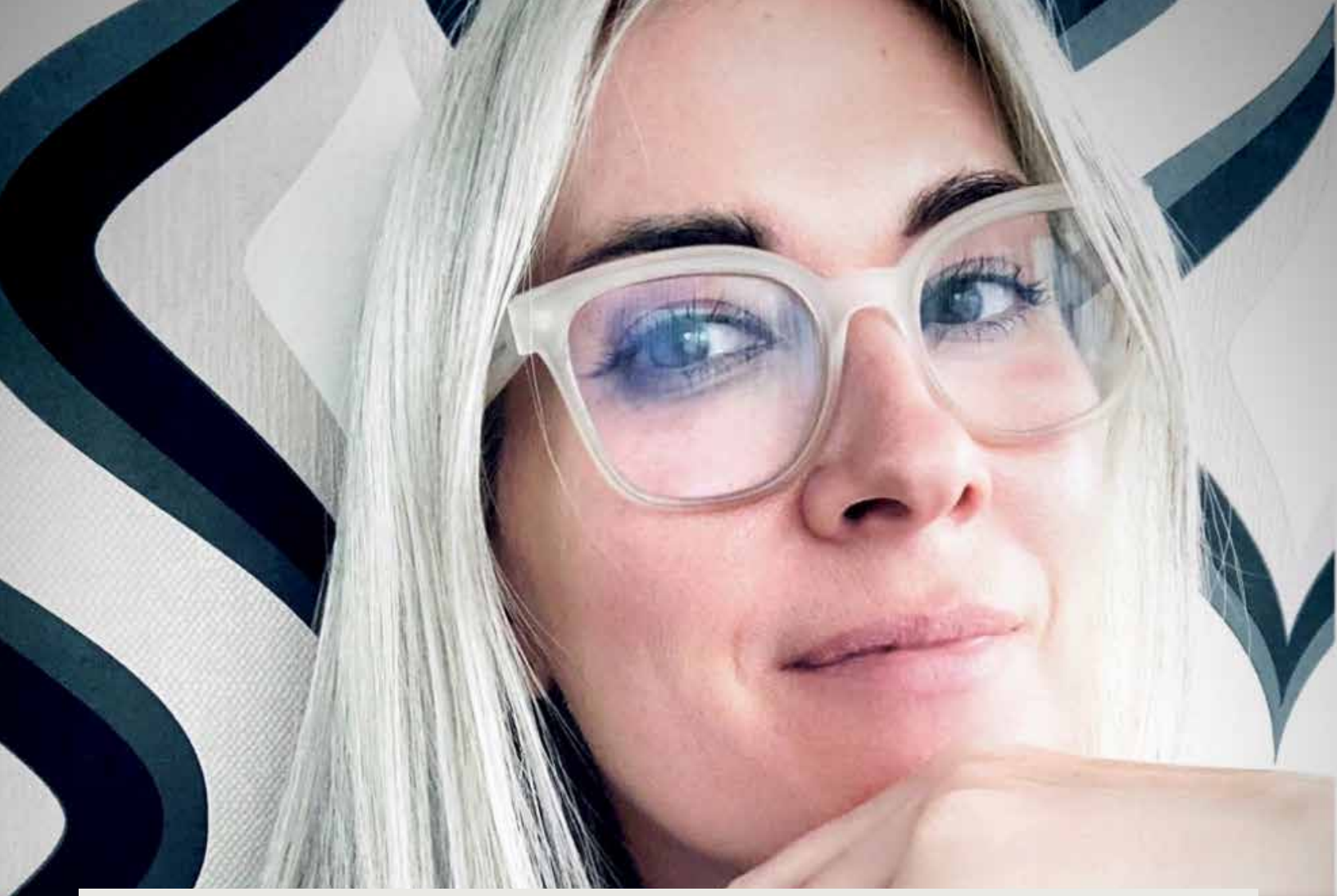
Judge Aten's focus on best practices in court management has yielded tangible results, including a significant reduction in recidivism rates and recognition from the Judicial Council of Georgia for outstanding caseload management. Beyond her judicial duties, she is deeply involved in mentoring and empowering youth through various programs and initiatives. She offers internships at the Magistrate Court, providing valuable experiences for students interested in law-related professions.

Furthermore, Judge Aten has played a pivotal role in establishing free legal services for self-represented litigants in Georgia, enhancing access to justice for all citizens. Her contributions extend to developing educational materials to support the comprehension and enforcement of legal protections for military personnel and their families. Throughout her career, Judge Aten has received numerous awards and honors for her exemplary leadership and community service. Her litigation and legal scholarship expertise has made her a sought-after speaker and lecturer at national, state, and local legal institutions.

Judge Aten's educational background includes a law degree and certificate in sports law from Tulane University and a bachelor's degree in public relations from Wayne State University. With 25 years of litigation experience, she brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to her role as Chief Magistrate Judge. Her distinguished career is marked by her groundbreaking achievements, unwavering commitment to justice, and dedication to serving her community. Her leadership continues to profoundly impact the legal profession and the lives of those she serves in Rockdale County and beyond.



ROCKDALE COUNTY
GEORGIA



Kathryn Frazier

CEO and Founder of Biz 3

Kathryn Frazier, affectionately known as 'The Rockstar Whisperer,' serves as both the CEO and the visionary founder of the esteemed music PR company Biz 3. With an illustrious career spanning over three decades, she embarked on the Biz 3 journey in 1996, starting from the confines of a closet within a Chicago club and subsequently guiding its growth into a formidable presence nationwide. Frazier's discerning approach has garnered acclaim, as evidenced by her collaborations with over 200 distinguished clients, including industry giants such as The Weeknd, Lil Baby, and Lauryn Hill, along with sports, tech, and restaurant clients.

Kathryn's expertise extends beyond her role at Biz 3. She holds certifications as an ICF-certified life and career Coach, Reiki Master, and soon-to-be author on Co-Parenting. She offers coaching services steeped in decades of invaluable business acumen. Her clientele ranges from CEOs to musicians, reflecting her commitment to mental wellness and her adeptness in navigating various aspects of personal and professional development, including relationship and family dynamics.

In 2011, Kathryn co-founded OWSLA alongside Skrillex, broadening her influence to encompass independent record labels. Actively engaged as a board member for impactful non-profits like the Black Music Action Coalition (BMAC) and A Place Called Home (APCH), she demonstrates her dedication to causes beyond the music industry. Notably, as of 2024, Kathryn shares her wealth of knowledge as a lecturer at UCLA, where she offers her own distinctive course.

Beyond her professional achievements, Kathryn serves as a catalyst for personal growth, offering counseling to clients worldwide. From Biz 3's modest beginnings in 1996 to navigating the industry's ever-evolving landscape, she is celebrated for her unwavering creative vigor and determination. Under Kathryn's innovative leadership, Biz 3's future vision entails a bold expansion beyond traditional PR boundaries into consulting and coaching services.



Fawn Weaver

CEO and Founder of Uncle Nearest Premium Whiskey

Fawn Weaver, an accomplished entrepreneur with over 25 years of experience, serves as the visionary CEO and founder of Grant Sidney, Inc., an influential investment firm. Renowned for her magnetic presence in the media, Weaver is a bestselling author acknowledged by The New York Times and a sought-after guest on prestigious global platforms such as FOX Business, CNBC, Good Morning America, and CBS This Morning. Her insightful contributions also grace the pages of Inc. Magazine, while her inspiring story has been showcased in numerous national and international publications.

Weaver's remarkable achievements include establishing Uncle Nearest, Inc., where she guided Uncle Nearest Premium Whiskey to unprecedented success. Recognized as the fastest-growing American whiskey in history, this brand has amassed an impressive collection of over 850 awards and holds the distinction of being the highest-selling African-American-founded spirit of all time. Weaver's transformative leadership lies at the core of this extraordinary accomplishment.

Beyond her entrepreneurial pursuits, Weaver's legacy shines through the Nearest Green Foundation, a nonprofit she founded in 2016 focused on celebrating African-American heritage and fostering community upliftment. Initiatives such as Operation Brother's Keeper and the Nearest and Jack Advancement Initiative embody her dedication to driving positive change and promoting inclusivity. Weaver's educational background, including an undergraduate degree from the University of Alabama and Corporate Director certification from Harvard Business School, underscores her versatile expertise.

In a historic milestone, Weaver becomes the first non-celebrity Black American woman to establish and lead a billion-dollar enterprise. Her board role at Endeavor Group Holdings, a multi-billion-dollar entertainment conglomerate, highlights her unmatched influence and business acumen. Weaver's journey, characterized by significant accomplishments, continues to redefine success, uplift communities, and shape industries for a brighter future.

Sojourner Marable Grimmett

Vice President of Marketing, Communications, & Community Outreach at
Peach State Health Plan



Sojourner Marable Grimmett was nurtured by parents who ingrained in her the principles of love, education, and serving others. She takes pride in her namesake, Sojourner Truth, an African American abolitionist and advocate for women's rights who vocally opposed slavery in the 19th century.

Her father, the esteemed Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Dr. Manning Marable, and her mother, Hazel Ann Harris, a champion for social change and HIV/AIDS advocacy, profoundly influenced her upbringing. Sojourner pursued her Bachelor of Arts degree in Mass Media Arts with a minor in African American Studies at Clark Atlanta University. She then pursued graduate studies at Pennsylvania State University, where she earned a Master of Arts degree in Media Studies.

Currently, Sojourner holds the position of Vice President of Marketing, Communications, and Community Outreach at Peach State Health Plan, a Care Management Organization and subsidiary of Centene Corporation. This organization, among the largest Georgia Medicaid providers, extends accessible health insurance plans to Georgia residents enrolled in Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids® through its expansive provider network.

Sojourner's commitment to servant leadership spans across various domains including community outreach, public relations, communications, marketing, public policy, fundraising, government affairs, employee engagement, and diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives. Her recent recognitions include being honored as one of Atlanta Business League's "Top 100 Black Women of Influence," Georgia Trend Magazine, and Atlanta Business Chronicle's "40 Under 40," recipient of the Outstanding Atlanta Class of 2018, and the City of Atlanta's Phoenix Award.

She has previously served on the boards of the Andrew and Walter Young Family YMCA, The Family Health Centers of Georgia (FHCGA), and the Fulton-Atlanta Community Action Authority (FACAA). Sojourner is an active charter member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated Alpha Beta Omega Omega Chapter, and Jack and Jill of America, Incorporated Greater Metropolitan Atlanta chapter.

Married to her college sweetheart, Roland Grimmett, Sojourner is the proud parent of two sons, Roland and Joshua, both deeply engaged in community service. The Grimmett family resides in the picturesque South Fulton, Georgia.

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Taydra Mitchell Jackson

Chief Marketing Officer at SheaMoisture



Taydra Mitchell Jackson is a distinguished, award-winning senior marketer renowned for her unwavering passion for the beauty industry, business, and multicultural marketing. With over 25 years of experience, she has left an indelible mark on the beauty landscape, driving positive change for underserved consumers and communities. Throughout her career, Taydra has held influential executive positions at industry giants such as Procter & Gamble (P&G), L'Oreal USA, and Revlon. Additionally, she has lent her expertise as a consultant and advisor to emerging beauty brands, contributing significantly to their success in the ever-evolving market.

During her career, Taydra managed TMJ Omni Enterprises, LLC, her boutique marketing consultancy. She offered strategic guidance to founder-led beauty brands, with a focus on direct-to-consumer and omnichannel approaches. Notably, she served as Head of Marketing for The Lip Bar, a groundbreaking vegan and cruelty-free cosmetics startup founded by Melissa Butler.

A dedicated advocate for the underserved, Taydra currently serves as Chief Marketing Officer at SheaMoisture, the largest multicultural beauty care brand globally. In this role, she leads innovation, product development, equity initiatives, and overall marketing strategy across diverse product categories.

Taydra is a proud second-generation college graduate of Florida A&M University, where she earned both her undergraduate (BS in Business Administration) and graduate (MBA in Marketing) degrees. She has also completed executive management training at Insead through the L'Oreal Global Executive Management program. Beyond her professional achievements, Taydra actively supports organizations such as the Healing of the Heart Ministries, dedicated to survivors of sexual abuse, and NYC/Atlanta-based Harlem Zen, a Medi-spa that targets multicultural skin care. She is passionate about mentoring women in both business and personal growth.

In her personal life, Taydra and her husband Tony have three daughters, Gabrielle and twins Hallel and Hannah, who are currently pursuing their education at Howard University and North Carolina Central University.

SheaMoisture®

Candace Holyfield Parker

CEO of Spa Boss Tribe

Candace Holyfield-Parker, also known as The Six Figure Spa Chick, is a powerhouse in the business world. Originating from Memphis, her journey is a testament to unwavering determination and an unbridled passion for marketing. As the CEO of Spa Boss Tribe, Candace has personally mentored thousands of spa professionals, equipping them with the necessary tools and knowledge to thrive in their businesses. Under her visionary leadership, an astounding 23 spa professionals have reached their first million dollars, a clear demonstration of her exceptional guidance and mentorship.

Her innovative spirit is evident in her groundbreaking initiatives, including the authorship of 'Six Figure Secrets' and the creation of the acclaimed events Black Spa Expo and Black Spa Awards. Beyond her marketing prowess, Candace's influence extends to the spa industry, where she has served as the executive producer of Spa Tank, fostering the growth of innovative spa concepts.

In addition to her professional achievements, Candace is a devoted mother with a heart of gold, embodying resilience and ambition. Her tireless dedication was acknowledged with the prestigious Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award in October 2023, underscoring her lasting impact. With a remarkable legacy already established, Candace's influence as a speaker, mentor, and visionary continues to inspire aspiring entrepreneurs worldwide.

Candace has made a substantial impact on the spa industry by mentoring and assisting over 15,000 professionals in their career growth. She is the Executive Producer of Spa Tank, a groundbreaking initiative that provides a platform for innovative spa concepts to gain recognition. Her contributions to Atlanta have been recognized with three proclamations, highlighting her positive impact on the community.

In 2023, Candace was honored as Mentor of the Year, reflecting





her commitment to guiding and inspiring others in their professional journeys. She shares her expertise with entrepreneurs, teaching them how to leverage platforms like Groupon to grow their businesses. Additionally, Candace empowers women to diversify their income portfolios through speaking engagements and courses like "Chicks with Trucks," which teaches women how to achieve success in the trucking industry.

Candace's influence extends globally, resonating with international audiences in countries such as Mexico, India, Dubai, and the Dominican Republic. Her profound impact on the industry and beyond solidifies her as a trailblazer and visionary leader.

Maliaka Manning

Global Brand Manager at Fenty Beauty by Rihanna

Maliaka Manning, the Global Brand Manager at Fenty Beauty by Rihanna, embodies the epitome of success in the ever-evolving realm of beauty. As a pioneering force within LVMH's esteemed brand, Maliaka orchestrates innovative strategies that redefine industry standards and captivate audiences worldwide.

Her remarkable journey commenced with influential roles at cosmetics giants Estée Lauder and L'Oréal, leaving an indelible mark on the cosmetics landscape. At L'Oréal, she spearheaded the launch of groundbreaking products tailored to diverse consumer demographics, honing her skills in market trend analysis and paving the way for her rapid ascent. Transitioning to Estée Lauder, Maliaka continued to make waves, crafting compelling brand narratives and leading transformative marketing campaigns that resonated globally.

In a realm where beauty transcends boundaries, Maliaka Manning serves as a beacon of creativity, inclusivity, and excellence, blazing trails that illuminate the path forward for future generations. Maliaka's career is synonymous with a steadfast commitment to innovation and inclusivity, reshaping industry norms and ushering in a new era of beauty that celebrates individuality and authenticity. With her unparalleled ability to navigate global markets and a visionary approach to brand management and product marketing, Maliaka continually shapes the future of beauty with each strategic move. Her leadership inspires passion and drives teams to surpass expectations, resulting in unparalleled success and unwavering consumer loyalty.

Moreover, Maliaka's academic background sets her apart, boasting a master's degree in digital marketing and studies in psychology. This unique blend of expertise enables her to approach decision-making with a profound understanding of consumer behavior, ensuring that every strategy resonates deeply with consumers. By leveraging insights from both disciplines, Maliaka solidifies her position as a true pioneer in the beauty industry.



FENTY BEAUTY
BY RIHANNA

Beyond her professional pursuits, Maliaka actively engages in activities that enrich her personal and professional life. A fervent advocate for mentorship and knowledge-sharing, she dedicates her time to public speaking engagements aimed at empowering individuals within the beauty industry. When not inspiring others or shaping the future of beauty, Maliaka indulges in a good book or cherishes precious moments with her family, anchoring herself in the values that propel her forward.

Tiara Chesmer-Williams

Vice President and Head of Inclusion, Diversity & Equity at Moët Hennessy



Tiara Chesmer-Williams serves as the Vice President and Head of Inclusion, Diversity & Equity at Moët Hennessy. In this capacity, Tiara actively reinforces Moët Hennessy's dedication to fostering a deeply inclusive, diverse, and equitable workplace. She collaborates across the organization to craft and implement strategies that resonate with the company's objectives, amplifying actions, and outcomes in the realm of inclusion, diversity, and equity (IDE). Tiara works closely with LVMH to ensure alignment between Moët Hennessy North America's (MHNA) principles and those of the broader LVMH Group. Additionally, she plays a pivotal role as a member of the MH Global DE&I Leadership Committee, spearheading MHNA's efforts in executing a Global Action Plan.

Tiara's educational background includes studies at New York University and City College, culminating in a degree in Finance and Business Management with honors. She furthered her expertise by obtaining a Diversity & Inclusion Certificate from Cornell University. Actively engaged in various professional associations, Tiara is a committed member of the Association of Black and Hispanic Business Students and serves on the Council for Inclusive Excellence.

Hailing from modest beginnings, Tiara has traversed a trajectory from serving ultra-high net worth to luxury clients, imbuing her with a diverse array of perspectives and experiences that fuel her fervent commitment to IDE. Her most recent role was as Vice President and Diversity Officer at Morgan Stanley – Wealth Management, where she provided internal leadership on systemic DEI matters, driving accountability for inclusive excellence through strategic initiatives and programs. With a knack for strategic collaboration, Tiara leveraged her networks to strategize, recruit, and cultivate a diverse leadership pipeline.

Beyond her professional endeavors, Tiara is deeply passionate about mentorship, dedicating time to nurturing talent across all levels. At Morgan Stanley, she prioritized the recruitment and advancement of diverse senior executives and spearheaded several groundbreaking partnerships. Prior to her tenure at Morgan Stanley, Tiara accumulated over eight years of experience at Blackstone, a premier global investment firm based in New York City.

In her leisure time, Tiara remains engaged with initiatives such as Politiscope, a non-partisan app aimed at democratizing the political landscape. She also channels her creativity into True Dwellings, LLC, an interior design business focused on beautifying homes and spaces. A connoisseur of cuisine and an avid sports enthusiast, Tiara finds joy in exploring culinary delights and cheering on her favorite basketball and football teams. Above all, she cherishes moments spent with her close-knit family.

Moët Hennessy
USA

Dina Marto

Executive in the Music Division at UTA

Dina Marto has recently taken on a new role as an executive in the Music division at UTA, a leading global company specializing in talent, entertainment, sports, and advisory services with an extensive roster that encompasses a wide range of genres and includes artists such as 21 Savage, Anitta, Christina Aguilera, Ari Lennox, Bad Bunny, Burna Boy, Common, Guns N' Roses, Halsey, J Cole, Latto, Lil Nas X, Lil Wayne, Lizzo, LL Cool J, Machine Gun Kelly, Offset, Pitbull, The Jonas Brothers, and many others. With over two decades of entrepreneurial and music industry experience, Marto brings a wealth of expertise and enthusiasm and is committed to continuing to amplify the voices of creatives in Atlanta.

Before joining UTA, Marto founded and led Twelve Music & Studios in Atlanta, a renowned creative hub where she fostered talent and produced chart-topping hits for over ten years. Notable clients included Grammy award-winning "Songwriter of the Year" Theron Thomas and super producer Polow Da Don, as well as major record labels like Atlantic Records, Epic Records, Maybach Music Group, and Empire Distribution. Marto also made significant contributions to Island Def Jam's A&R team, working on projects for acclaimed artists such as Young Jeezy, Nas, Rick Ross, Janet Jackson, and LL Cool J.



Photo Credit: Quadir Thomas

Her impressive career also includes management roles with superstar Tip "T.I." Harris, where she played a pivotal role in the success of his popular podcast "expediTIously." In addition, Marto co-founded C & D The Agency, a marketing agency focused on empowering minority women and facilitating collaborations with multicultural brands.

Marto is actively involved in industry initiatives, having served in leadership roles with the Women In Music Atlanta Chapter and the Creative Industries Board for Invest Atlanta. She currently serves as Vice-Chair of Events for the Women In Music Atlanta Chapter and continues her involvement with the Creative Industries Board for Invest Atlanta. Marto's dedication to community support extends to her philanthropic efforts, particularly in inspiring minority women and entrepreneurs and promoting mental health awareness.

Born in Amman, Jordan, and raised in Marietta, Georgia, Marto holds a Bachelor of Arts in Communications from Oglethorpe University. Her contributions have been recognized with awards such as the $10,000 grant from the Wells Fargo Works for Small Businesses Neighborhood Renovation Program in 2017.



Simone Mitchell

President of Quality Control Music

Simone Mitchell's journey with Quality Control began in 2014, where she played a pivotal role in shaping the careers of prominent artists like Migos, City Girls, Layton Greene, and Lakeyah while also driving the company's growth. Her dedication led to her appointment as President in 2022, overseeing both the music and management divisions. In her leadership role at Quality Control Music and Solid Foundation Management, Mitchell witnessed the expansion of QC's artists into various spheres beyond music, such as sports, film, and technology.

Reflecting on her presidency, Mitchell expressed profound gratitude, recognizing the honor it brought and the empire's evolution, especially as the company approached its 10-year anniversary in 2023. Notable events in 2022 included Yung Miami's groundbreaking REVOLT podcast, "Caresha Please," which turned the spotlight on her peers, and Lil Baby's collaboration with Amazon to produce the documentary "Untrapped: The Story of Lil Baby," alongside releasing his album "It's Only Me."

Looking ahead into 2024, Simone Mitchell eagerly anticipates guiding the Quality Control and Solid Foundation Management team through the recent merger with Hybe America.

QC
QUALITY CONTROL MUSIC



Jocelin Clayton

Global Product Marketing Manager at The Estée Lauder Companies

Originally from Birmingham, Alabama, Jocelin Clayton describes herself as a beauty enthusiast deeply passionate about product innovation and strategic planning. In her current role as the Global Product Marketing Manager, she leads the Color Cosmetics category at TOM FORD BEAUTY within The Estée Lauder Companies.

In this capacity, she focuses on developing the company's product pipeline over the next 3-5 years and fostering connections between the beauty and fashion industries, particularly following The Estée Lauder Companies' acquisition of TOM FORD for $2.25 billion in 2023. With a wealth of experience in global marketing and product development, Jocelin has held key positions at industry leaders such as Laura Mercier and Revlon. Notably, she contributed to the success of iconic product lines like the Caviar Collection and Super Lustrous, significantly boosting sales and market share gains.

Jocelin earned her Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies and Corporate Strategy from Vanderbilt University, followed by a Master's degree in Marketing from Vanderbilt University Owen Graduate School of Management. Currently residing in Manhattan, she enjoys spending her leisure time immersed in books at Central Park and participating in Pilates classes.

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Atlanta City Council Members Declared March 10th "RuPaul Day"



Members of the Atlanta City Council, including Matt Westmoreland, Liliana Bakhtiari, and Alex Wan, alongside the City of Atlanta and Mayor's Division of LGBTQ Affairs director Malik Brown, gathered to pay tribute to the legendary entertainer RuPaul. They officially designated Sunday, March 10, 2024, as "RuPaul Day" during a ceremony at the Tabernacle on 152 Luckie St. NW in Atlanta.

RuPaul, known for his transformative influence and pioneering role in drag culture, as well as his Emmy-award-winning reality TV show "RuPaul's Drag Race," has been instrumental in promoting diversity and inclusion. Alex Wan expressed, "We proudly honor RuPaul, an icon whose influence transcends boundaries of culture, gender, and entertainment," acknowledging RuPaul's immense impact on empowering individuals.

A graduate of Atlanta Public Schools and a global LGBTQ+ icon, RuPaul fondly recalled his formative years in Atlanta's nightclub scene during the 1980s, including venues like 688, Tokyo Beach, Colorbox, and Weekends. RuPaul expressed gratitude for the city's support, stating, "Atlanta cradled me in its loving arms during my formative years, so it is with great honor that I return to accept even more love from the city that made me who I am today."

Liliana Bakhtiari emphasized RuPaul's fearless advocacy for self-expression and authenticity, recognizing his contributions to the arts and LGBTQ+ rights. Similarly, Matt Westmoreland praised RuPaul's trailblazing presence in entertainment and activism, highlighting his role in fostering a culture of self-love and acceptance.

The Atlanta City Council, the city's principal policy-making body, oversees laws, budgets, land use, and zoning matters. Comprising 12 districts and three at-large posts, the Council includes notable figures such as Council President Doug Shipman, Liliana Bakhtiari, Alex Wan, and others.

To learn more about the Atlanta City Council, please visit https://citycouncil.atlantaga.gov or follow on all social media platforms @Atlcouncil for updates.





The 17th Annual ESSENCE Black Women in Hollywood® Awards

The 17th annual ESSENCE Black Women in Hollywood® Awards, held on Thursday, March 7, 2024, at the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures in Los Angeles and hosted by the celebrated actor, Grammy Award-winning rapper, and entrepreneur Cliff "Method Man" Smith, was an extraordinary celebration of Black excellence. The event honored outstanding individuals such as Academy Award-nominated actress and Grammy Award winner Danielle Brooks, six-time Grammy-nominated singer and leading actress Halle Bailey, acclaimed screenwriter and showrunner Nkechi Okoro Carroll, and industry powerhouse Kathryn Busby, President of Original Programming for STARZ.

Among the memorable moments from this year's ESSENCE Black Women in Hollywood® Awards:

- Emmy Award-winning actress Zendaya and Fashion Legend Law Roach graced the red carpet together, with Zendaya showcasing a stunning new bob haircut.
- Displays of Black love were evident as couples, such as actor and rapper Joey Bada$$ with singer and actress Serayah and BET's Sistas actor Devale Ellis and his wife Khadeen Ellis, shared intimate moments on the carpet.
- American Fiction star Erika Alexander reminisced about 'Living Single' 's 30-year milestone alongside fellow actress Kim Cole and renowned TV writer and producer Yvette Lee Bowser.
- Twin sisters and TV personalities Tia Mowry and Tamera Mowry-Housley took attendees on a nostalgic journey down memory lane.
- Halle Bailey, along with her sister Chole Bailey, delivered a heartfelt speech reflecting on motherhood as her greatest achievement.
- Honoree Danielle Brooks received a standing ovation as she performed the gospel melody "I Won't Complain" while accepting her award.
- Grammy-winning artist Muni Long closed the show with her hit song "Made for Me," igniting the audience with energy.

The event attracted a constellation of notable celebrities, including Normani, Tina Knowles, Erika Alexander, Leslie Jones, Letitia Wright, Da'Vinci, Teyonah Parris, Skai Jackson, Aldis Hodge, Marsai Martin, Anthony Anderson, Gabourey Sidibe, Lance Gross, and many more!













For those who missed it, the 17th Annual ESSENCE Black Women in Hollywood® Red Carpet and Awards Ceremony is available for streaming on Max.



Black Music Action Coalition and Live Nation Join Forces to Create Equity and Opportunity in Music Through a Live Music Business Career Course and Paid Internship Program

In a move to foster inclusivity in the music industry, the Black Music Action Coalition (BMAC) and Live Nation, a global live entertainment giant, are teaming up to launch a comprehensive music business intensive course and a paid internship initiative. The collaborative effort aims to provide newcomers to the industry with crucial insights and technical skills essential for orchestrating live shows.

Set to kick off this Summer, the program is designed for aspiring music business professionals who may not be taking the traditional college route. Participants from across the country will embark on an all-expense-paid experience in Los Angeles, undergoing a week-long intensive course delving into various roles within the live music sector. The curriculum will feature keynote talks by industry figures, including musicians and Live Nation executives.

The initiative's highlight is the 4-month paid internship offered by Live Nation to each participant, ensuring real-world application of the knowledge gained during the program. Furthermore, a select group of participants will have the opportunity to join Live Nation's innovative 'School of Live Apprenticeship Program,' which provides extended training, a 6-month paid apprenticeship, and the potential for long-term job placement.

"BMAC is proud to partner with Live Nation to launch this program and help create opportunities and access for Black professionals interested in pursuing a career in the live music industry," said **BMAC Co-Founder, President, and CEO, Willie "Prophet" Stiggers**. "BMAC is in this mission towards equity for the long haul and we are honored to have the support from Live Nation to allow key staff and operations to continue this important work."

This collaborative effort between BMAC and Live Nation marks a significant step toward creating a more inclusive and accessible pathway for individuals seeking a career in the live music business. Aspiring professionals are encouraged to explore this unique opportunity that combines education, hands-on experience, and the support needed to thrive in the dynamic world of live music.

"Our School of Live learning center uniquely positions us to offer aspiring live music talent with valuable hands-on training and insights from some of the most notable professionals in our industry," said **Omar Al-joulani, Co-President, Live Nation Concerts**. "Creating this one-of-a-kind program with BMAC helps us reach often overlooked talent, giving them tools and opportunities that will prepare and shape them into the future leaders of our industry." The 2024 BMAC x Live Nation Program will open applications in March 2024, offering interested individuals a chance to participate in this groundbreaking initiative.

To stay informed about the program and receive application notifications, visit https://www.bmacoalition.org/bmaclivenation.

BLACK MUSIC ACTION COALITION

LIVE NATION

Neiman Marcus Unveils "Quest for the Best" Spring Campaign



Ulla Johnson_Credit_ Arnaud Lajeunie



Moncler_Credit_ Arnaud Lajeunie

Blending luxury fashion with the dynamic world of sports, Neiman Marcus proudly announces the launch of its spring campaign, "Quest for the Best." This initiative aims to guide customers in pursuit of extraordinary style through the lens of athletics, offering unique activations and a stellar product assortment.

Nabil Aliffi, Chief Brand Officer at Neiman Marcus, highlights the intertwined history of fashion and sports, noting the emergence of athletes as influential style icons in contemporary pop culture. "Quest for the Best" aims to bring this intersection to customers through multi-tier events across all retail touchpoints, showcasing this season's Achievers—a diverse group of modern sports stars who embody American excellence and inspire customers.

The campaign seamlessly merges exceptional achievements with style, presenting customers with an opportunity to discover their best looks from Neiman Marcus' carefully curated collection. Emphasizing the rising demand for American Sportswear, the featured fashion pieces from iconic brands are complemented by luxury services like tailoring and personal styling assistance from Neiman's talented selling associates.

"Quest for the Best" introduces the latest installment of The Achievers, a profile series spotlighting five standout athletes. These individuals, donning medal-worthy looks from the spring collections of top brands, represent excellence in the sporting world. Among them are Ralph Lauren Olympic brand ambassador and renowned rock climber Brooke Raboutou, NBA point guard Kelly Oubre Jr., Olympic breakdancer Victor Montalvo, Dallas Cowboys' Executive Vice President and Chief Brand Officer Charlotte Jones, and record-setting runner Athing Mu.

Captured by photographer Arnaud Lajeunie and styled by Katie Burnett,



The Book Cover (left to right) Anatol Modzelewski in Amiri, Puck Schrover in Simon Rocha, Kelly Oubre Jr. in Givenchy and Christian Louboutin, Meng Zheng in Zimmerman, Brooke Raboutou in Ralph Lauren_Credit_ Arnaud Lajeun-1

the campaign employs a digitally driven 360-degree marketing approach, featuring multimedia, window displays, and a new edition of The Book—a storytelling guide across all marketing channels. The campaign visuals exude athleticism, self-expression, and personal style against dynamic backgrounds, showcasing the retailer's seasonal favorites.

Neiman Marcus, known for providing access to unique activations and exclusive products from premier luxury brands, continues its successful engagement with customers through partnerships with notable figures in the sports world. Recent collaborations, including the Ultimate Olympic Experience in Paris with Ralph Lauren, have driven customer foot traffic and revenue growth.

Customers are invited to experience exclusive access, world-class service, and unforgettable moments this season at Neiman Marcus, whether online, in-stores, or through remote assistance from dedicated selling associates.

visit neimanmarcus.com or follow on Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube @ neimanmarcus.



CANTU BEAUTY WELCOMES SKAI JACKSON AS ITS NEWEST BRAND AMBASSADOR

cantu
SHEA BUTTER

Cantu Beauty proudly welcomes Skai Jackson, an esteemed actress and bestselling author, as its newest brand ambassador. Known for her genuine spirit and dedication to empowering young women, Jackson will represent the brand, endorsing its revamped classics featuring fair-trade organic shea butter and a B vitamin complex. These enhancements aim to boost moisture, fortify hair, and promote healthy growth.

Included in the exciting range of new products are Cantu's beloved best sellers: Sulfate-Free Cleansing Cream Shampoo, Hydrating Cream Conditioner, Curl Activator Cream, Coconut Curling Cream, Shea Butter Leave-in Conditioning Repair Cream, and Argan Oil Leave-In Conditioning Repair Cream. Each item is meticulously formulated to address the unique requirements of textured hair worldwide.

Expressing her enthusiasm for the partnership, Skai Jackson remarks, "Joining forces with Cantu, a brand I've cherished since childhood, is a dream come true. I'm thrilled to advocate for products that embrace authenticity and look forward to inspiring young women globally to embrace their natural beauty and confidence."

In a significant step toward sustainability and ethical ingredient sourcing, Cantu has partnered with the Global Shea Alliance, a non-profit organization promoting industry sustainability, quality standards, and shea demand in various sectors. This collaboration aims to enhance transparency in the brand's supply chain, support parkland restoration, provide training for women, and modernize collection practices.

Nikia Bowman, Global Marketing Director at Cantu Beauty, explains, "Our commitment to innovation, authenticity, and positive change in the industry is evident through our partnership with Skai Jackson. We're dedicated to empowering women worldwide and are excited to unveil our enhanced formulas that cater to diverse consumer needs."

Furthermore, Cantu continues its collaboration with Women Empowering Nations (WEN), a non-profit fostering the development and mentorship of girls on their journey to leadership roles. Through initiatives like the Girls Leading Our World (GLOW) Global Network, Cantu focuses on leadership development and personal branding to instill confidence and empower young women.

To celebrate this partnership, Skai Jackson will be featured in a digital ad spot showcasing the benefits of the reformulated products.

For more information on Cantu Beauty's partnership with Skai Jackson and community initiatives, or to join the Cantu Crew, follow @cantubeauty on Instagram, Facebook, and TikTok or visit cantubeauty.com.







LUVME HAIR WIG RENEWAL SYSTEM COLLECTION

Luvme Hair is a renowned brand in the hair industry, celebrated for its premium human hair, glue-less wigs, HD lace wigs, and PartingMax Glueless Wigs, which empower individuals to transform their appearance effortlessly. A prominent player in the human hair wig sector, Luvme Hair unveils its latest innovation: the Wig Renewal System, marking a significant advancement in wig maintenance and care. Comprising the Wig Renewal Shampoo and The Wig Renewal Conditioner, this groundbreaking system is tailored exclusively for wig care, aiming to redefine industry standards.

For wig wearers, washing has always posed challenges, including concerns about preserving the original curl pattern, lace integrity, and texture. Unlike natural hair, wig strands lack nourishment from the scalp, making them susceptible to dryness and dullness over time. Conventional shampoos and conditioners formulated for natural hair fail to address the unique needs of wigs. Leveraging three years of meticulous planning and two decades of unrivaled expertise in wig craftsmanship, the Wig Renewal System emerges as a comprehensive solution designed to maintain the longevity and vibrancy of premium human hair wigs.

Enriched with the revitalizing properties of coconut essence, these products offer a bespoke moisture treatment and rejuvenating wig strands for a luxurious feel and appearance. The sulfate-free formula ensures gentle yet effective cleansing, effortlessly eliminating buildup from hair, lace, and wig caps in a single wash. With a color-safe formula proven to enhance shine by 104%, the Wig Renewal Shampoo and Conditioner softens, moisturizes, and nourishes, breathing new life into your wig. Helena Lee, CEO of Luvme Hair, emphasizes, “Our Wig Renewal System transcends mere cleansing; it’s a revitalization for your wigs, delivering tangible results that you can both see and feel.”

For further details about Luvme Hair and its product offerings, please visit their official website at shop.luvmehair.com.

LUVME



Keds Taps a Fashion Icon for Its "Classic for Generations" Campaign, that features Christy Turlington Burns and Grace Burns.

KEDS

"Classic For Generations Campaign"

Keds

The latest campaign by Keds spotlights Christy Turlington Burns and Grace Burns, unveiled today in New York City. Renowned sneaker brand Keds introduces its fresh Spring/Summer campaign, starring global advocate for maternal health and model Christy Turlington Burns alongside her daughter, Grace Burns, a writer, and model studying at NYU. Captured by acclaimed fashion photographer Cass Bird, the campaign celebrates Keds as a timeless fashion staple that transcends generations.



Featuring the iconic Keds Champion worn by both Christy and Grace, the campaign highlights the versatility of this classic style, reinforcing Keds' identity as a quintessential American brand imbued with a playful and optimistic ethos. Keds, originally the pioneering sneaker tailored for women, fearlessly champions its core belief in promoting the vibrant, unstoppable power of self-expression.

Over the years, Keds has served as a steadfast canvas for self-expression, embraced by trendsetters, icons, and everyday rebels alike. Each era breathes new life into its timeless appeal, a tradition that Keds proudly upholds. Jennifer Lynch, GM and VP at Keds, remarks, "Collaborating with Christy and her daughter Grace for our 2024 campaign felt like a natural synergy. Both epitomize the effortless and classic style synonymous with the Keds brand. As a predominantly female-led brand, we're also inspired by Christy's remarkable advocacy for equitable maternal health." Keds will partner with Every Mother Counts, an organization dedicated to ensuring safe, equitable, and respectful maternity experiences for mothers globally.

Photographed by Cass Bird, styled by Katelyn Gray, with makeup by Romy Soleimani and hair by Bob Racine, the Spring/Summer collection is brought to life. The creative concept was crafted by The Culture Shop and Spring Studios

Discover the timeless allure of the classic Keds Champion showcased in the campaign and explore the new Spring/Summer collection at www.keds.com.



Aaliyah Thompson

Autism Activist and Beauty Entrepreneur



Meet Aaliyah Thompson, a trailblazing autism activist, and beauty entrepreneur dedicated to eradicating the stigma associated with autism. Originally from Jonesboro, Georgia, Aaliyah received her autism diagnosis at the age of 5 but refused to let it deter her aspirations. In a nation where 1 in 36 children is diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), Aaliyah stands as a beacon of hope, showcasing what's possible.

Despite the challenges, Aaliyah thrived academically, graduating high school with honors. It was during this period that her passion for the beauty industry ignited. Today, she proudly serves as the Founder and CEO of Aaliyah's Beauty Bar and the CEO of Aaliyah's Nail School, making history as the first autistic individual in the United States to own both a beauty bar and a nail school.

Launched in April 2023, Aaliyah's Nail School is specifically designed to cater to individuals with disabilities, offering them the opportunity to pursue certification in nail artistry at their own pace. Aaliyah's dedication to inclusivity extends beyond her businesses. In 2023, she was selected as one of the ambassadors for McDonald's Black and Positively Golden Change Leaders program, actively advocating for progress and breaking down barriers in her community.

"I strive to embody the power of inclusion and demonstrate the profound impact one person can have on their community," asserts CEO Aaliyah Thompson. With unwavering determination, Aaliyah continues to challenge stereotypes surrounding autism.

FOR FURTHER INQUIRIES, PLEASE REACH OUT TO:

Aaliyah Alicia Thompson School of Nails

184 North Avenue, Jonesboro, Georgia 30236

678.489.8480

Aaliyah Beauty Bar

7240 Davidson Parkway, Stockbridge, GA 30281

678.829.5699

Email:
aaliyahbeautybar22@gmail.com

https://linktr.ee/aaliyahbeautybar



NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH ADVOCACY AND AWARENESS

- Advocacy initiatives are instrumental in raising awareness, fostering acceptance and understanding, and advocating for resources and support services for individuals and families affected by ASD.
- Creating inclusive communities and workplaces is crucial for ensuring the inclusion and empowerment of individuals with ASD in society.
- Autism Spectrum Disorder is a multifaceted condition that impacts individuals uniquely.
- By fostering understanding, acceptance, and support, we can cultivate a more inclusive environment where individuals with ASD can thrive and realize their full potential.

FAMILY-FRIENDLY FILMS TO WATCH THIS SPRING

Looking to enjoy quality family time this spring? Dive into a diverse array of captivating films that cater to all ages:

- **Dune: Part Two (March 1, 2024)**



Experience the epic journey of Paul Atreides as he joins forces with the Fremen people of the desert planet Arrakis in a battle against House Harkonnen. Directed by Denis Villeneuve, starring Timotheé Chalamet and Zendaya.

- **Ricky Stanicky (March 7, 2024)**



Prepare for laughter with this American comedy directed by Peter Farrelly. Featuring Zac Efron, John Cena, Jermaine Fowler, Andrew Santino, Lex Scott Davis, and William H. Macy.

- **Giannis: The Marvelous Journey (February 19, 2024)**



Embark on the remarkable odyssey of NBA superstar Giannis Antetokounmpo, from his humble beginnings in Greece to becoming a basketball icon. Directed by Kristen Lappas..

- **We Grown Now (April 19, 2024)**

Delve into the complexities of life in this American drama directed by Minhal Baig. Starring Blake Cameron James, Gian Knight Ramirez, S. Epatha Merkerson, Avery Holliday,



Ora Jones, Lil Rel Howery, and Jurnee Smollett.

- **Godzilla X Kong: The New Empire (March 29, 2024)**



Witness the colossal clash between two legendary titans in this thrilling monster film directed by Adam Wingard. Featuring Rebecca Hall, Brian Tyree Henry, Dan Stevens, Kaylee Hottle, Alex Ferns, and Fala Chen.

- **Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes (May 10, 2024)**



Journey into a future where an ape's decisions will shape the fate of both apes and humans. Directed by Wes Ball.

- **A Quiet Place: Day One (June 28, 2024)**

Explore the origins of the chilling world of "A Quiet Place" in this apocalyptic horror prequel directed by Michael Sarnoski, starring Lupita Nyong'o.




He's 6'1",
but he still
looks up
to me.
Adopt a teen. You can't
imagine the reward.
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The High Museum of Art 2024 Advance Exhibition Schedule

The High Museum of Art presents a rotating schedule of exhibitions throughout the year. The exhibition schedule is subject to change. Visit the High Museum of Art website at high.org for more information.

UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

"Dutch Art in a Global Age: Masterpieces from the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston"

- **April 19-July 14, 2024**

This exhibition presents a diverse collection of over 100 artworks, including still lifes, portraits, seascapes, landscapes, architectural views, genre scenes, prints, maps, and decorative arts. Created by prominent Dutch artists such as Rembrandt, Jacob van Ruisdael, Frans Hals, Jan Steen, Willem Kalf, and Rachel Ruysch, these pieces span the 17th and early 18th centuries.

The exhibition delves into how Dutch dominance in international maritime trade, coupled with the influx of new commodities and information, profoundly reshaped life in the Netherlands and ushered in a remarkable cultural renaissance. Through these artworks, viewers gain insights into how the Dutch sought to portray themselves, their values, and their societal concerns.

"Tyler Mitchell: Idyllic Space"

- **June 21-Oct. 27, 2024**

Atlanta native Tyler Mitchell (born 1995) gained worldwide recognition after photographing Beyoncé for the September 2018 cover of Vogue, marking the first time a Black artist had achieved this milestone in the magazine's history. This summer, the High Museum will showcase a significant exhibition highlighting Mitchell's seamless fusion of fine art and fashion photography alongside a new photo-sculptural piece. Central to his work is the celebration of Black self-determination and empowerment, portraying individuals reveling in the freedom of leisure, play, and recreation.

With over 30 photographs, the exhibition will delve into themes like masculinity, motherhood, domesticity, play, rest, and the natural world. Mitchell's playful and expressive works explore style, beauty, and identity while delving into the deeper aspects of family bonds and human connection.

"Patterns in Abstraction: Black Quilts from the High's Collection"

- **June 28, 2024-Jan. 5, 2025**

Over the span of the last six years, the High Museum has significantly expanded its collection of quilts crafted by Black women, now holding more than five times its previous holdings. This upcoming exhibition, centered around the museum's recent acquisitions, aims to address a broader question: "How do quilts created by African American women challenge our perceptions of abstract art history?" Titled "Patterns in Abstraction," the exhibition will showcase approximately a dozen pieces by renowned Gee's Bend quilters like Mary Lee Bendolph, Louisiana Bendolph, and Lucy T. Pettway, alongside works by Atlanta-based quilter Marquetta Johnson and early 20th-century examples by previously recognized artists.

The displayed quilts predominantly feature variations of traditional Birds in the Air and Housetop patterns, ancient quilt designs that abstractly capture natural and human-made elements, while some hold deeper significance as tributes to family members. Presented as both utilitarian objects and artistic expressions representing people, places, and objects in abstract form, these quilts offer insight into how the creations of non-academic artists can revolutionize our comprehension of artistic innovation within American art.

"Giants: Art from the Dean Collection of Swizz Beatz and Alicia Keys"

- **Sept. 13, 2024-Jan. 19, 2025**

This groundbreaking exhibition marks the inaugural showcase of the extensive collection of African American and African diasporic artists curated by the esteemed musical and cultural figures Kasseem Dean (known as Swizz Beatz) and Alicia Keys. The collection unveils a remarkable assembly of artists spanning multiple generations, encompassing renowned figures from the mid-to-late 20th century, like Nick Cave, Lorna Simpson, and Barkley Hendricks, alongside emerging talents such as Kehinde Wiley, Deana Lawson, and Ebony G. Patterson, who carry forward and expand upon the legacies of their predecessors. Dubbed "Giants," the exhibition embodies the couple's commitment to "collecting and preserving the culture of ourselves for ourselves, now and into the future."

Featuring around 115 captivating pieces, including notable artifacts from the duo's early non-art collecting ventures and associated memorabilia, the exhibition charts the evolution of a bold and ambitious collection. It delves into how the showcased artists and their works have grappled with pressing societal issues, embraced monumental themes, and left an indelible mark on the art world.

"Kelli Connell: Pictures for Charis"

- **Sept. 20, 2024-Jan. 5, 2025**

In "Pictures for Charis," Kelli Connell, an American photographer, reexamines the dynamic between writer Charis Wilson and photographer Edward Weston by delving into Wilson's writings and Weston's renowned photographs. Connell intertwines their narratives with her own, offering a contemporary queer and feminist lens. Following the footsteps of Wilson and Weston, Connell and her partner, Betsy Odom, embarked on a journey to places significant to the couple's lives and work. Through collaborative photography sessions with Odom, challenging traditional roles of photographer and muse, Connell disrupts established notions. Additionally, Connell captures raw, unidealized images of the Western landscapes that Weston famously depicted decades earlier.

The exhibition will juxtapose Connell's recent portraits and landscapes with Weston's iconic works from his prolific period between 1934 and 1945, coinciding with his relationship with Wilson. "Pictures for Charis" aims to offer fresh insights into Wilson and Weston's story while sparking discussions on gender, sexuality, and relationships in the contemporary era.

"Georgia O'Keeffe: 'My New Yorks'"

- **Oct. 25, 2024-Feb. 16, 2025**

Celebrated for her captivating portrayals of flowers and Southwestern landscapes, Georgia O'Keeffe ventured into the bustling streets and towering structures of New York City armed with her paintbrush. Settling into the newly constructed Shelton Hotel in 1925, then the world's tallest residential skyscraper, O'Keeffe found inspiration in its soaring heights, embarking on a five-year period of vigorous artistic experimentation. Exploring diverse media and scales, she delved into subjects, forms, and perspectives, crafting compositions that captured the essence of the cityscape. From street-level views showcasing the grandeur of skyscrapers to suspended perspectives from her 30th-floor apartment, she coined these works as "my New Yorks," delving into the dynamic interplay between natural and man-made elements.

"Thinking Eye, Seeing Mind: The Medford and Loraine Johnston Collection"

- **Nov. 22, 2024-March 23, 2025**

During the mid-1970s, Medford Johnston, an artist and professor at Georgia

State University, alongside his wife Loraine, embarked on a journey of art collection. Their focus was on acquiring works by artists who spearheaded contemporary art during the late 1960s and 1970s. Aligned with Johnston's own artistic inclinations, rooted in abstraction influenced by American modernists like Josef Albers, Stuart Davis, and Ellsworth Kelly, the couple initially amassed paintings and objects. However, they soon honed their focus specifically on drawings.

Their relentless pursuit of the most exquisite drawings by the foremost artists of their era has culminated in one of the nation's most distinguished collections. This exhibition marks the inaugural presentation of the complete Johnston Collection. It offers a profound insight into the essence of connoisseurship, requiring not only discernment and infinite patience but also unwavering dedication to establishing the collection's parameters.

CURRENTLY ON VIEW

"Hear Me Now: The Black Potters of Old Edgefield, South Carolina"

- **Through May 12, 2024**

The High presents an exclusive showcase of a highly acclaimed exhibition spotlighting nearly 60 ceramic artifacts crafted by enslaved African Americans in Edgefield, South Carolina, before the Civil War. Examined through the lens of modern research in history, literature, anthropology, material culture, diaspora, and African American studies, these 19th-century pieces offer profound insights into the lives, creative expression, and technical expertise of their makers. Among the collection are striking storage jars by the renowned potter and poet Dave (later known as David Drake, circa 1801-1870s), along with rare utilitarian vessels and distinctive face jugs created by unrecorded artisans, including a circa 1840 water cooler jug from the High's own collection. Additionally, "Hear Me Now" features works by prominent contemporary Black artists such as Theaster Gates, Simone Leigh, and Woody De Othello, either inspired by or intricately linked to the Edgefield narrative.

"Truth Told Slant: Contemporary Photography"

- **Through Aug. 11, 2024**

This exhibition showcases the works of five emerging photographers: Rose Marie Cromwell, Jill Frank, Tommy Kha, Zora J Murff, and Kristine Potter. They bring dynamic and innovative approaches to documentary photography, challenging established norms of observing the contemporary world. With approximately 70 pieces on display, including some from the High's collection, the exhibition illustrates a recent shift in photographic practice.

Rather than adopting a dispassionate stance, these photographers imbue their work with lyricism, finding meaning in the world around them. Their art delves into enduring issues like race, inequality, identity, sexual orientation, immigration, globalization, youth, climate change, environmental justice, and violence.

Dutch Art Images



Rembrandt Harmensz. van Rijn (Dutch, 1606–1669), The Angel Departing from the Family of Tobias, 1641, etching and drypoint, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Katherine E. Bullard Fund in memory of Francis Bullard, 2001.139.



Jan Davidsz. de Heem (Dutch, 1606–about 1684), Still Life with Fruits, Pie, and Silver and Silver-gilt Tazze, 1653, oil on canvas, Susan and Matthew Weatherbie Collection. Photo © Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

Hear Me Now



Dave (later recorded as David Drake) (American, ca. 1801-1870s), enslaved at Stony Bluff Manufactory (ca. 1848–1867), Storage Jar, 1857, alkaline-glazed stoneware, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Harriet Otis Cruft Fund and Otis Norcross Fund, 1997.10. Photo © 2022 Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.



Simone Leigh (American, born 1967), Large Jug, 2022, glazed stoneware, courtesy of the artist and Matthew Marks Gallery, New York. © Simone Leigh. Image © Metropolitan Museum of Art, photo by Eileen Travell.

Patterns in Abstraction



Maker Once Known, Untitled (Triangles Pieced into Broken Stars Quilt), ca. 1940s, cotton and work clothes, High Museum of Art, Atlanta, gift of Corrine Riley on the occasion of Collectors Evening, 2017, 2017.181.



Louisiana Bendolph (American, born 1960), "Bricklayer" Variation, 2003, cotton, High Museum of Art, Atlanta, museum purchase and gift of the Souls Grown Deep Foundation from the William S. Arnett Collection, 2017.31.

Truth Told Slant

Kristine Potter (American, born 1977), A Good Man Is Hard to Find, 2016, gelatin silver print, High Museum of Art, Atlanta, purchased with funds from the Donald and Marilyn Keough Family Foundation, 2022.50.



© Kristine Potter.



SCAD ALUMNI ARTISTS REVITALIZED SPACES IN SAVANNAH AND ATLANTA COMMUNITIES WITH MURALS

The Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) is delighted to share the transformative impact on local neighborhoods achieved through its unique SCAD SERVE Paint Our Parks public art initiative. Since its inception in 2021, SCAD SERVE Paint Our Parks has enhanced 16 basketball courts and play areas in Savannah and Atlanta by showcasing larger-than-life murals conceived by a select group of talented SCAD alumni artists.

Under the umbrella of SCAD SERVE, Paint Our Parks serves the communities of Atlanta and Savannah by leveraging the university's extensive network of skilled students and alumni to rejuvenate shared recreational spaces with vibrant, picturesque murals. Presently, SCAD SERVE Paint Our Parks has breathed new life into 16 parks, recreational centers, and school playgrounds across the region. Through this initiative, deserving communities have experienced upliftment, unity, and lasting change, all fostered by the shared power of public art and altruism that define the essence of the SCAD community.

In line with SCAD's collaborative ethos, each Paint Our Parks mural project is spearheaded by a SCAD SERVE Alumni Artist tasked with conceptualizing a unifying mural design tailored to each neighborhood. These murals are distinctive artworks, rich in local colors, symbols, and iconography, resonating deeply with each community's unique identity. SCAD SERVE Alumni Ambassadors oversee teams of volunteers drawn from SCAD students, faculty, community advocates, and local residents to bring these vibrant works to fruition.

Paula Wallace, SCAD president and founder, remarked, "Our parks are where we find our best selves, and SCAD SERVE's Paint Our Parks initiative invites our neighbors and friends to enjoy the work of accomplished SCAD artists. SCAD SERVE Alumni Ambassador artists, whose murals adorn streetscapes worldwide, spearhead each Paint Our Parks project to realize shared visions of positivity, wellness, and joy, enriching neighborhoods from Atlanta to Savannah."

Through the Paint Our Parks initiative, SCAD has made a substantial investment in revitalizing play spaces in Atlanta and Savannah, with financial contributions totaling over $667,000. This support includes the restoration of park surfaces, installation of top-of-the-line basketball equipment, and provision of painting materials. Over 2,000 volunteers from the SCAD community and local neighborhoods have contributed to this initiative, utilizing more than 2,000 gallons of paint to bring these larger-than-life artworks to fruition. Over the past 18 months, SCAD has collaborated with local partners such as the Atlanta Department of Parks and Recreation, City of Atlanta Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs, Atlanta Public Schools, City of Savannah, Savannah Chatham County Public School System, Savannah Jewish Educational Alliance, and Greenbriar Children's Center.

The university has produced a short film showcasing all 16 enhanced parks, featuring testimonials from community leaders, talented alumni artists, educators, and K-12 students who have been positively impacted by the Paint Our Parks initiative. SCAD intends to sustain its legacy initiative throughout 2024 in Savannah and Atlanta. Plans include park restoration and mural installations at Cook Park in Atlanta, as well as Heard Elementary, DeRenne Middle School, and Southwest Elementary School in Savannah.

"Allison Schuster-Jones, principal of Coastal Middle School, expressed gratitude, stating, 'SCAD has bestowed upon our students and community an extraordinary gift - one that blends art, joy, and play.' She continued, 'The SCAD SERVE Paint Our Parks team has transformed what was once an eyesore of an outdoor space into a masterpiece. While our Parent Teacher Student Association had been striving to beautify the area for years, SCAD came in and worked their magic in their unique way. Our students, families, and community members will cherish this incredible spot for years to come. Thank you, SCAD!'"

Visit scad.edu/scadserve to learn more.

SCAD SERVE



UNDERSTANDING THE COMPLEX REALITY OF HOMELESSNESS IN THE UNITED STATES

Homelessness is a multifaceted and pervasive issue that affects individuals and communities across the United States. Despite being one of the wealthiest nations in the world, the U.S. grapples with a persistent homelessness crisis that spans urban, suburban, and rural areas. In this article, we will explore the various dimensions of homelessness in the United States, examine the root causes and contributing factors, and discuss potential solutions to address this ongoing social issue.

THE SCOPE OF HOMELESSNESS IN THE UNITED STATES

According to data from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), on any given night, hundreds of thousands of Americans experience homelessness. This includes individuals living in shelters, transitional housing, or unsheltered locations such as streets, parks, and vehicles. The homeless population is diverse, encompassing people of all ages, backgrounds, and circumstances, including families with children, veterans, youth, and individuals experiencing chronic homelessness.

FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO HOMELESSNESS

Homelessness is not solely the result of personal choices or individual shortcomings; rather, it is often rooted in systemic factors and structural inequalities. Key contributors to homelessness include:

- **Lack of Affordable Housing:** Escalating rent prices, stagnant wages, and insufficient affordable housing options have left many Americans struggling to secure stable and affordable housing.
- **Poverty and Economic Instability:** Poverty, unemployment, underemployment, and economic downturns can push individuals and families into homelessness, particularly those living on the margins of society.
- **Healthcare Access and Mental Illness:** Limited access to healthcare services, including mental health and substance abuse treatment, can exacerbate homelessness, as individuals may struggle to manage their conditions without adequate support.
- **Racial Disparities:** Structural racism and discrimination perpetuate inequalities in housing, employment, education, and criminal justice, disproportionately impacting communities of color and contributing to higher rates of homelessness among Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) populations.

IMPACT ON INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES

Homelessness takes a devastating toll on individuals, families, and communities. Those experiencing homelessness face numerous challenges, including food insecurity, exposure to harsh weather conditions, physical and mental health issues, and the constant threat of violence and exploitation. Homelessness also strains social services, healthcare systems, and public resources while undermining community well-being, safety, and economic stability.

EFFORTS TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS

Across the country, governments, nonprofit organizations, faith-based groups, and community stakeholders are working to address homelessness through a variety of strategies, including:

- **Housing First Approach:** Prioritizing access to stable and affordable housing as a fundamental human right and an essential first step in ending homelessness.
- **Supportive Services:** Providing wraparound services such as case management, healthcare, mental health and substance abuse treatment, job training, and education to address the complex needs of individuals experiencing homelessness.
- **Prevention and Outreach:** Implementing prevention programs, rapid rehousing initiatives, and outreach efforts to intervene early and connect individuals at risk of homelessness with necessary support services.

WORKING TOGETHER TO END HOMELESSNESS

Homelessness is a deeply entrenched social issue that demands comprehensive and compassionate solutions. By addressing the root causes of homelessness, investing in affordable housing, expanding access to supportive services, and promoting equity and justice, we can work towards ending homelessness and building a more inclusive and resilient society for all Americans.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). (n.d.). The 2021 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress.

Retrieved from https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/6387/2021-ahar-part-1-pit-estimates-of-homelessness-in-the-us/



THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF HOME AFFORDABILITY:

A STRIKING 80% INCREASE SINCE 2020 NAVIGATING THE SOARING COSTS OF HOMEOWNERSHIP IN 2024

In a startling revelation, a recent analysis by Zillow, the most visited real estate website in the United States, has shown that homebuyers in 2024 need to earn a whopping $47,000 more than their counterparts just four years ago. The income required to afford a home comfortably has surged by 80% since January 2020, while median income has only risen by 23% during the same period.

According to the analysis, prospective homebuyers today need an annual income of over $106,000 to comfortably afford a home, contrasting sharply with the $59,000 required in 2020. This surge in housing costs has outpaced wage gains, leaving many buyers to get creative in order to make homeownership a reality. A typical monthly mortgage payment on a U.S. home has nearly doubled since 2020, skyrocketing by 96.4% to reach $2,188, assuming a 10% down payment. The housing market's dynamics have seen home values rise by 42.4%, with the median U.S. home now valued at approximately $343,000.

REGIONAL DISPARITIES

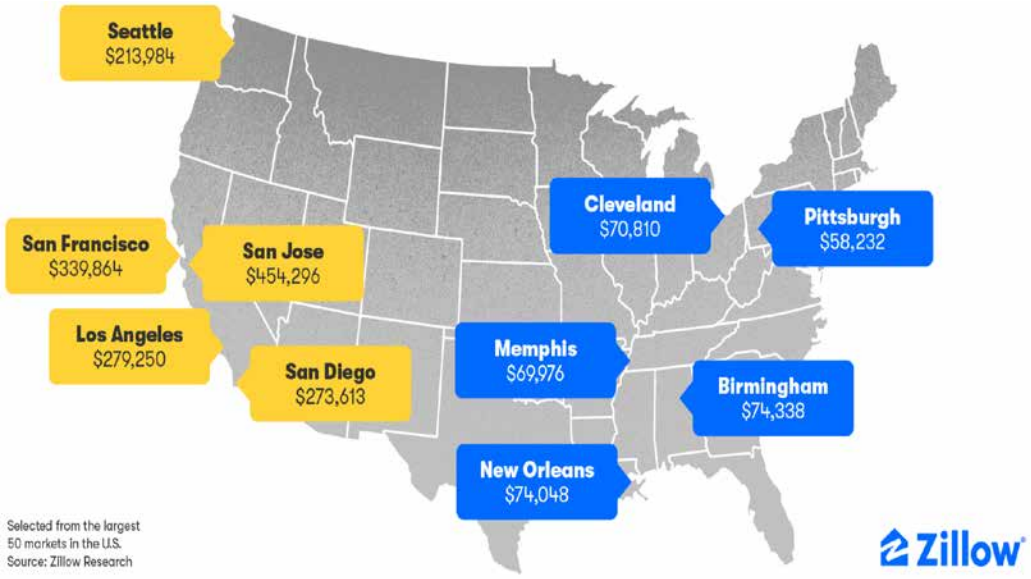
Notably, certain metropolitan areas stand out for their varying affordability levels. Pittsburgh, Memphis, and Cleveland emerge as the most affordable markets, requiring significantly lower incomes to afford a typical home. On the flip side, California continues to be a challenging market, with San Jose, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego demanding incomes exceeding $200,000 for comfortable homeownership.

CREATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR ASPIRING HOMEOWNERS

With the rising cost of mortgages, millennials and Gen Z buyers are adopting innovative approaches to tackle affordability issues. "House hacking," or the practice of renting out all or part of a home for extra income, has become crucial for many buyers. Additionally, 21% of last year's buyers reported co-buying with friends or relatives as a strategy to cope with increasing home prices.

LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS

Orphe Divounguy, a senior economist at Zillow, emphasizes that building more homes is the key to improving long-term affordability. While easing



mortgage rates provides some relief, addressing the housing shortage remains critical.

LOOKING AHEAD

The current landscape of homeownership is undoubtedly challenging, with the income needed to afford a home rising exponentially. Aspiring buyers are encouraged to explore creative solutions, such as "house hacking" and co-buying, to navigate the evolving dynamics of the real estate market.

To help home shoppers find a home within their budget, Zillow offers tools that allow users to filter search results by monthly cost instead of list price. Additionally, down payment assistance modules on Zillow's home listings help shoppers explore local resources for potential financial aid. The changing face of home affordability demands adaptability and creative solutions from prospective buyers, reinforcing the need for a comprehensive and sustainable approach to address housing challenges in the long run.

According to Zillow, listed below are the incomes needed, ranging from the lowest to the highest, to comfortably afford a home.

METROPOLITAN AREA*	SIZE RANK	INCOME NEEDED TO AFFORD A MORTGAGE, JANUARY 2024	CHANGE IN NEEDED INCOME SINCE JANUARY 2020	ZILLOW HOME VALUE INDEX (ZHVI), JANUARY 20243	MONTHLY MORTGAGE PAYMENT, 10% DOWN4	YEARS TO SAVE A 10% DOWN PAYMENT
Pittsburgh, PA	27	$58,232	$23,675	$201,487	$1,286	5.3
Memphis, TN	43	$69,976	$31,717	$230,807	$1,473	6.9
Cleveland, OH	34	$70,810	$30,227	$211,712	$1,351	6.0
New Orleans, LA	46	$74,048	$19,203	$232,870	$1,486	7.0
Birmingham, AL	50	$74,338	$31,875	$246,805	$1,575	6.7
Oklahoma City, OK	41	$74,732	$31,057	$226,048	$1,442	6.3
Detroit, MI	14	$75,662	$31,124	$236,025	$1,506	6.1
Buffalo, NY	49	$76,884	$34,744	$242,435	$1,547	6.5
St. Louis, MO	21	$76,895	$31,880	$238,231	$1,520	5.9
Louisville, KY	45	$77,450	$31,185	$243,810	$1,556	6.8
Indianapolis, IN	33	$82,037	$38,150	$267,301	$1,706	6.6
Cincinnati, OH	28	$86,027	$38,050	$267,423	$1,706	6.8
Kansas City, MO	31	$92,896	$40,742	$289,290	$1,846	7.2
Houston, TX	5	$95,374	$39,779	$300,955	$1,920	7.5
San Antonio, TX	24	$95,767	$38,307	$283,161	$1,807	7.5
Columbus, OH	32	$95,821	$43,405	$297,637	$1,899	7.3
Milwaukee, WI	40	$100,822	$42,613	$321,037	$2,049	8.5
Virginia Beach, VA	37	$102,703	$43,989	$332,820	$2,124	8.2
Chicago, IL	3	$104,757	$39,716	$300,906	$1,920	6.7
Richmond, VA	44	$106,170	$47,930	$349,558	$2,231	7.9
United States	0	$106,536	$47,490	$342,941	$2,188	8.4
Philadelphia, PA	7	$109,257	$47,837	$343,102	$2,189	7.5
Jacksonville, FL	39	$109,271	$51,617	$348,665	$2,225	8.2
Charlotte, NC	23	$111,051	$55,239	$368,712	$2,353	9.2
Hartford, CT	48	$114,109	$52,114	$334,712	$2,136	7.3
Minneapolis, MN	16	$114,344	$41,867	$355,511	$2,269	7.3
Baltimore, MD	20	$114,348	$44,063	$367,861	$2,347	7.6
Atlanta, GA	9	$115,430	$55,989	$370,548	$2,364	8.0
Tampa, FL	18	$116,329	$58,577	$370,474	$2,364	9.8
Las Vegas, NV	30	$119,529	$54,172	$407,516	$2,600	10.6
Dallas, TX	4	$121,398	$53,679	$366,690	$2,340	8.3
Orlando, FL	22	$121,418	$58,140	$386,687	$2,467	9.9
Nashville, TN	36	$128,535	$59,508	$425,827	$2,717	10.1
Raleigh, NC	42	$130,472	$62,410	$430,562	$2,747	8.7
Phoenix, AZ	11	$131,322	$65,017	$447,074	$2,853	9.9
Providence, RI	38	$142,928	$65,387	$449,025	$2,865	10.1
Austin, TX	29	$149,267	$65,144	$451,322	$2,880	8.8
Miami, FL	8	$151,163	$74,834	$472,970	$3,018	12.3
Salt Lake City, UT	47	$154,455	$72,592	$523,832	$3,343	10.6
Portland, OR	25	$161,624	$65,664	$528,724	$3,374	11.0
Washington, DC	6	$166,551	$64,078	$539,116	$3,440	8.2
Sacramento, CA	26	$172,261	$69,908	$559,243	$3,569	11.6
Denver, CO	19	$172,704	$71,338	$566,692	$3,616	10.7
Riverside, CA	13	$173,375	$81,676	$563,468	$3,595	12.6
Boston, MA	10	$205,253	$86,967	$650,890	$4,153	11.6
New York, NY	1	$213,615	$78,696	$627,944	$4,007	12.9
Seattle, WA	15	$213,984	$94,163	$697,824	$4,453	12.2
San Diego, CA	17	$273,613	$131,018	$902,199	$5,757	16.9
Los Angeles, CA	2	$279,250	$121,457	$918,247	$5,859	19.4
San Francisco, CA	12	$339,864	$119,614	$1,104,853	$7,050	16.0
San Jose, CA	35	$454,296	$191,071	$1,493,255	$9,528	18.8

*Table ordered by income needed to afford a mortgage in January 2024.



Common Homebuying Mistakes & How To Avoid Them

When it comes to buying your first home, there are several common mistakes that first-time homebuyers often make. One common mistake is not getting pre-approved for a mortgage before starting the house-hunting process. Getting pre-approved not only helps you understand how much you can afford but also gives you an advantage when making an offer on a house.

Another mistake is not considering all the costs involved in homeownership, such as property taxes, insurance, maintenance, and utilities. It's important to factor in all these costs to ensure you can comfortably afford your new home and to avoid surprises down the road.

First-time homebuyers often make a mistake by skipping the home inspection in an effort to save money. The inspection can uncover any potential issues with the property that may not be visible during a showing, which could lead to unexpected expenses down the road.

Additionally, some first-time buyers make the mistake of rushing into a purchase without fully understanding the terms of the mortgage or the details of the contract. It's crucial to take the time to review all documents carefully and seek advice if needed to avoid any surprises later on. By being well-prepared, informed, and working with an experienced professional, first-time homebuyers can navigate the process more smoothly and avoid these common pitfalls.

If you are ready to become a homeowner, please get in touch with me. My contact information is below. I'm only licensed in Georgia & North Carolina, but I can assist buyers & sellers in any city or state as I have a network of trustworthy referral agents. My contact information is below.

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EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

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Carbice Corporation Appoints Marc Sullivan to its Board of Directors



Carbice Corporation has appointed Marc Sullivan, an accomplished executive with extensive experience in management and finance, to its board of directors. With a background spanning domestic and international markets, mergers and acquisitions, and capital raising, Mr. Sullivan brings valuable expertise to Carbice, a leading deep-tech company specializing in thermal interface materials.

In a recent development, Carbice announced a collaboration with Blue Canyon Technologies, Inc., a prominent provider of small satellite solutions. This partnership solidifies Carbice's role as a key supplier of aligned carbon nanotechnology (CNT) solutions for critical spacecraft programs. Through this collaboration, Carbice's innovative Carbice Space Pad™ will continue to be integrated into a wide range of satellite solutions offered by Blue Canyon Technologies.

"I am so pleased to join the board of directors at Carbice," said Mr. Sullivan. "The achievements of Dr. Baratunde Cola and his team are truly inspirational. What they are building with their technology is transformational in the truest sense and will no doubt have a significant impact on the world. I am very excited to join them on this journey."

With a career spanning investment banking, private equity, and executive leadership roles, Mr. Sullivan brings a wealth of global experience to his new position. His extensive background includes living and working in various countries, managing projects across diverse markets, and earning an MBA from Harvard Business School while holding a CFA Charterholder designation.

"Welcoming Marc Sullivan to the board of directors at Carbice is a high point to an already strong start to the year," said Dr. Baratunde Cola, Carbice CEO and Founder. "Marc is well connected in the private and public investment ecosystem and will be a great addition to our team to continue to tell the exciting Carbice story as we scale the company, expand further into international markets, and develop important new business relationships. Marc adds a depth and breadth of experiences and expertise across finance and operations that will strengthen Carbice. We are so thrilled to welcome him to the team."

Headquartered in Atlanta, GA, Carbice Corporation offers innovative thermal interface solutions that are consistent and easy to apply in manufacturing environments of any scale. Their Carbice® Pads, infused with aligned carbon nanotubes, provide predictable performance in thermal, electrical, mechanical, and electromagnetic properties, addressing various application needs. Carbice's technology sets a new standard for interface materials, enabling customers to achieve cost-effective and faster-to-market solutions across aerospace & defense, industrial power, and data sectors.

Carbice is the material for pioneers.™

Carbice



TIME FOR FINANCIAL SPRING CLEANING?

Spring is almost here, which means it's time for some spring cleaning. This year, in addition to tidying your home and surroundings, you might want to consider sprucing up your financial environment, as well.

HERE ARE SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR DOING JUST THAT:

• **Improve your vision.** Once the days are warmer and longer, you may want to get outside and clean all the winter grime and smudges from your windows, allowing you to see the world more clearly. You may want to bring more focus to your financial vision by asking some key questions: Is my investment strategy still appropriate for my needs, goals, and family situation? If not, what changes should I make? And am I prepared for changes in my life, such as health challenges or a need to retire earlier than planned? The answers to these and other questions can help you clarify where you are regarding your financial picture and where you want to go.

• **De-clutter.** As you look around your home, you may find things such as expired health care products, old prescriptions, ancient cleaning solutions, and so on, in addition to duplicate household items (how many blenders do you really need?) and non-working equipment — printers, laptops, etc. Most people find that eliminating this clutter gives them a good feeling – and a more livable space. As an investor, you can also find clutter in the form of redundant investments — for example, you might own several nearly identical mutual funds. You might be better off selling some of these funds and using the proceeds to find new investments that can help you further diversify your portfolio. As you may know, diversification is a key to investment success, but keep in mind that it can't prevent all losses.

• **Plant seeds of opportunity.** Whether they're planting camellias and crocuses or carrots and cilantro, gardeners are busy in the spring, hoping their efforts result in lovely flowers and tasty foods. And when you invest, you, too, need to plant seeds of opportunity in the form of investments that you hope will grow enough to enable you to make progress toward your goals. So, you may want to review your portfolio to ensure it's providing this growth potential, given your individual risk tolerance.

• **Reduce dangers.** You may not think about it that much, but your home and surroundings can contain potential hazards. You might have ill-fitting caps on cleaning products with toxic chemicals, sharp cutting instruments protruding from shelves in your garage, or heavy, cracked tree branches hovering close to your roof. Spending some time on a spring-cleaning sweep can eliminate these dangers, and devoting time to considering the possible threats to your financial security and your family can also pay off. For starters, review your life insurance to determine if you've got enough. Your employer may offer some coverage as an employee benefit, but it might not be sufficient so that you may need private coverage. The same is true for disability insurance because if something happened to you and you couldn't work for a while, you'd still want to protect your family's lifestyle.

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Edward Jones, Member SIPC



DaVaul Carter



FanDuel's Commitment to Responsible Gaming:

Pioneering Mental Health Collaboration and Support Efforts

New Initiatives Aim to Raise Awareness and Provide Crucial Assistance during Problem Gambling Awareness Month

In a groundbreaking move during Problem Gambling Awareness Month, FanDuel, North America's premier online gaming company, unveils a series of initiatives to promote responsible play and support individuals dealing with problem gambling. The company's strategic collaboration with Kindbridge Behavioral Health marks a significant step forward in mental health support for players, while donations to non-profit organizations reinforce FanDuel's commitment to combating gambling-related harm.

FanDuel is partnering with Kindbridge Behavioral Health to launch a pilot program in New Jersey and Ohio, offering comprehensive mental health assessments and group support services to self-excluded players. This pioneering initiative will enable individuals in need to schedule telehealth appointments with specialized problem gambling outpatient treatment providers. Those who self-exclude from the FanDuel platform in these states will gain access to a complimentary mental health assessment and a range of peer support and educational groups to aid in their recovery journey.

"Our team works year-round at FanDuel to equip and support our customers to play responsibly," said Alison Kutler, Vice President, Sustainability and Responsible Gaming for FanDuel. "As we mark Problem Gambling Awareness Month, I'm excited to work with a growing roster of partners to expand access to problem gambling support resources."

"We are thrilled to be working with FanDuel to offer vital mental health support for players in need," added Daniel Umfleet, CEO of Kindbridge Behavioral Health. "This collaboration is deeply resonant, extending a compassionate hand to those navigating the complex terrain of problem gambling. At the heart of our ethos lies a genuine belief in the power of accessible mental health resources to illuminate paths toward healing and recovery."

FanDuel is amplifying its support for problem gambling prevention through substantial donations. The company will contribute $150,000 to the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG) to enhance the Agility Grants program, which supports non-profit organizations nationwide. Another $150,000 will go to the International Center for Responsible Gaming (ICRG), aiding research and educational programs focused on understanding gambling behavior and improving responsible gambling initiatives.

"Investing in prevention is key to mitigating gambling-related harm," said Keith Whyte, NCPG Executive Director. "We appreciate FanDuel's support of NCPG and their proactive and collaborative approach to providing problem gambling prevention, research, and treatment resources."

"FanDuel's support continues to play a huge role in ICRG's research and development," stated Arthur Paikowsky, President of ICRG. "We are honored to work with FanDuel as we commit to advocating for the importance of responsible gaming."

To encourage responsible gaming habits, FanDuel rewards customers who use responsible gaming tools, such as deposit, wager, and time limits, in select retail locations across the country. Customers demonstrating their use of these tools will receive a special FanDuel 'Play Well' branded gift. Starting mid-March in Phoenix, Chicago, and Washington, D.C., this promotion emphasizes FanDuel's commitment to fostering a responsible gaming culture.

These initiatives align with Flutter's global sustainability strategy, the Positive Impact Plan. FanDuel aims to have 50% of its online customers globally using a responsible gaming tool by the end of 2026, contributing to a safer and more responsible gaming environment. For further details on FanDuel's dedication to responsible play, visit fanduel.com/rg.



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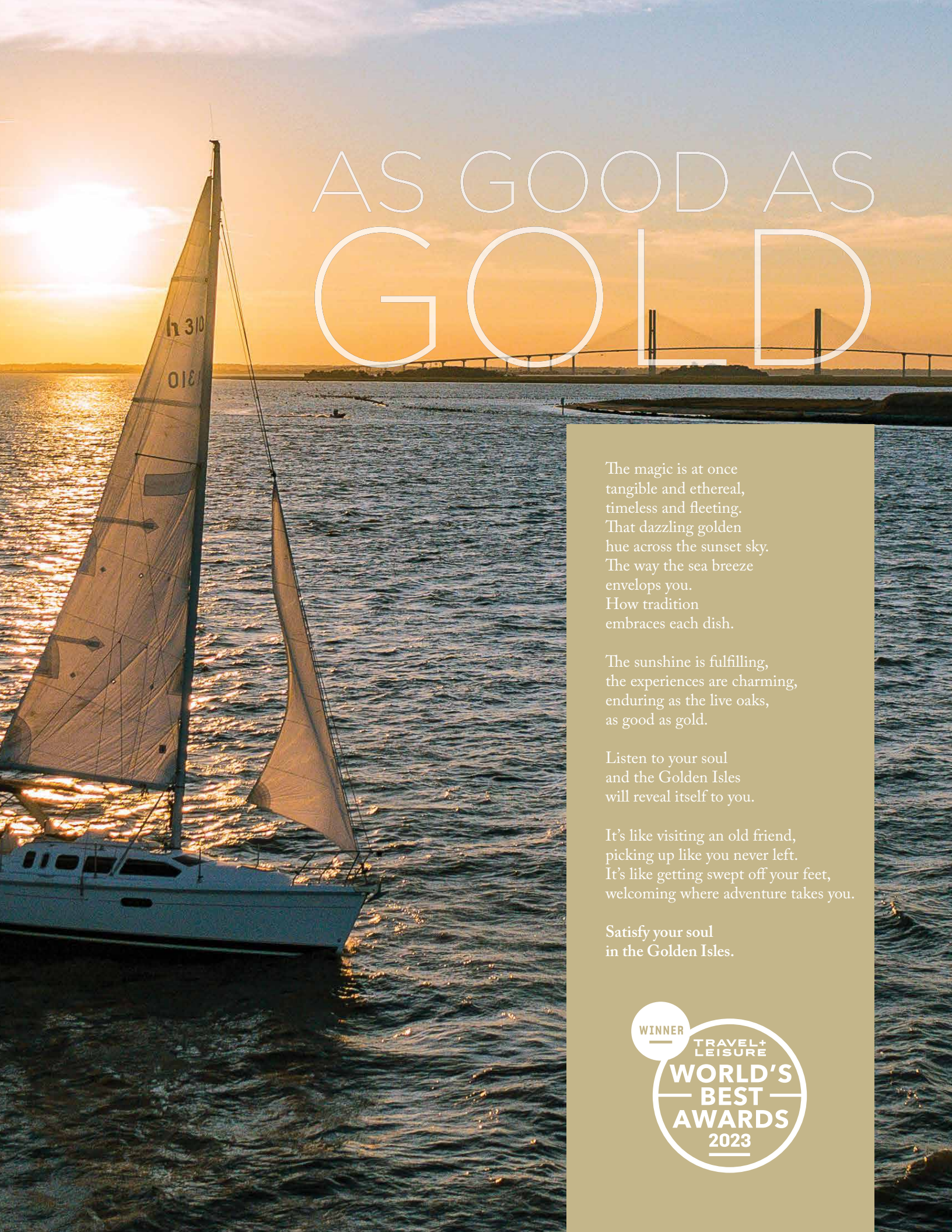
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AS GOOD AS GOLD

The magic is at once
tangible and ethereal,
timeless and fleeting.
That dazzling golden
hue across the sunset sky.
The way the sea breeze
envelops you.
How tradition
embraces each dish.

The sunshine is fulfilling,
the experiences are charming,
enduring as the live oaks,
as good as gold.

Listen to your soul
and the Golden Isles
will reveal itself to you.

It's like visiting an old friend,
picking up like you never left.
It's like getting swept off your feet,
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Satisfy your soul
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The Best Vacation Spots in Georgia

Georgia offers an array of vacation spots suitable for every traveler's taste and preference, whether you're seeking a family getaway, a girls' trip, a romantic retreat, or a sports enthusiast's adventure. With its diverse landscapes, rich history, vibrant cities, and outdoor recreational opportunities, Georgia has something to offer everyone. Get ready to embark on an unforgettable journey and explore some of the best spots this beautiful state has to offer.

- **GOLDEN ISLES OF GEORGIA**

You can savor an island escape solo, especially in the enchanting Golden Isles of Georgia, recently crowned the top U.S. Island destination in Travel + Leisure's 2023 World's Best Awards survey. Start your adventure on the leisurely St. Simons Island, offering 18 square miles of pedestrian-friendly terrain perfect for solo strolls or bike rides. Visit the Pier Village district, home to Neptune Park, the St. Simons Lighthouse Museum, and the fishing pier. No visit to St. Simons is complete without unwinding on its breathtaking beaches, such as East Beach, Gould's Inlet, Massengale Park, or the Coast Guard Station Beach.



- **SEA ISLAND**



For nearly a century, Sea Island has stood as a beacon of excellence, captivating those who cherish refined service and genuine hospitality. Situated among the Golden Isles, a collection of barrier islands on Georgia's southeastern coast, Sea Island boasts a pristine coastline spanning five miles, along with an array of exclusive amenities. Sea Island beckons families, outdoor aficionados, and individuals seeking rejuvenation alike. Renowned as the sole resort worldwide to attain four Forbes Five-Star awards for an impressive 15 consecutive years, Sea Island stands as a beacon of excellence in hospitality.

- **ATLANTA**

Atlanta stands as the unrivaled hub of entertainment in the



South, offering world-class restaurants, vibrant nightlife, professional sports teams, and a plethora of attractions and events. Visitors can immerse themselves in a rich and diverse cultural scene, with theaters, museums, galleries, and concert halls. Delve into the city's historical significance at institutions like the Atlanta History Center, the National Center for Civil and Human Rights, and the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park. Atlanta is also a sports enthusiast's paradise, boasting professional teams like the Atlanta Hawks, Falcons, Dream, and United, which attract fervent fans from across the nation. Attend games at Truist Park, home of the 2021 World Series Champion Atlanta Braves. Explore Centennial Olympic Park or marvel at marine wonders in the Georgia Aquarium.

- **SAVANNAH**



Savannah, nestled on Georgia's picturesque coast and approximately 4 hours from Atlanta, exudes quintessential Southern charm. See stunning architecture, visit the renowned art scene, and restaurants with top-notch dining options. No visit to Savannah is complete without a short jaunt to Tybee Island, a charming beach destination boasting a famous red-and-white striped lighthouse and excellent fishing opportunities. Whether strolling through Savannah's historic streets or lounging on Tybee Island's sandy shores, this enchanting coastal gem promises unforgettable experiences..

- **LAKE BLUE RIDGE**

Embark on a lakeside adventure to Blue Ridge, and you're not just opting for a simple getaway; it's an immersive journey. Surrounded by majestic mountains and the crystal-clear waters of the lake, there's an abundance of water-based activities awaiting you. Venture to the pristine waters of Lake Blue Ridge for a myriad of aquatic adventures. With its sprawling 3,290-acre expanse, the lake offers a variety of dynamic activities, from serene camping spots to



invigorating public swimming areas and convenient access to a full-service marina. For a brief yet rewarding excursion, visit the Toccoa River Swinging Bridge and embark on a family-friendly hike along the Benton MacKaye Trail, just 45 minutes from Blue Ridge. The trail leads to the awe-inspiring 270-foot suspension bridge, which sways gently over the picturesque Toccoa River, offering breathtaking views and culminating in the sight of a magnificent waterfall.

- **MACON**

Macon offers an enriching journey through history, encompassing music, art, culture, architecture, and the stories of multicultural experiences in Georgia. Embark on your historic odyssey at the Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park, potentially Georgia's newest national park. This site, soon to be co-managed by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma, holds profound significance as the ancestral land of Native American cultures spanning over 12,000 years. Trace the narrative of Black history with a visit to the Tubman African American Museum, paying homage to the indomitable spirit of Harriet Tubman. Delve into African American art, history, and culture through captivating exhibits, including a mural by Wilfred Stroud, showcasing the journey from Africa to America.





The Georgia International Plaza and Mercedes Benz Stadium in Atlanta, GA.

- **GEORGIA'S COASTLINE**



Georgia's coastline beckons those in search of tranquil beaches away from the crowds. With over 100 miles of shoreline and more than 14 barrier islands, opportunities abound to find solace along the coast and reconnect with nature's serenity. For an exclusive eco-retreat, Little St. Simons Island offers an enticing option. Accessible only by boat, this all-inclusive eco-resort invites guests to unwind on secluded beaches or join naturalist-led excursions to uncover the island's pristine landscapes. For a glimpse of unspoiled beauty, venture to Cumberland Island National Seashore, home to breathtaking beaches and the historic Dungeness Ruins. Sapelo Island, a protected sanctuary, offers a haven for wildlife enthusiasts and nature lovers.

- **GEORGIA MOUNTAINS**



Georgia's mountain towns offer a delightful retreat from the ordinary. For a truly unique getaway, consider North Georgia Glamping in Ellijay. Nestled amidst an alpaca farm, this charming retreat combines the rustic appeal of vintage Airstream trailers with the comfort of a geodesic dome. Explore the surrounding wilderness with activities like whitewater rafting and kayaking, arranged by local outfitters. Don't overlook Georgia's mountain towns when planning your next getaway – they promise a wealth of unforgettable experiences amidst breathtaking natural landscapes.

- **GAINESVILLE**



Gainesville boasts the expansive 38,000-acre Lake Sidney Lanier, offering abundant recreational opportunities such as canoe and kayak rentals at the Olympic Venue. Downtown Gainesville bustles with a diverse array of shops and restaurants, serving as the starting point for a to-scale model of the solar system. Nature enthusiasts can explore the woodland refuge and museum at the Elachee Nature Science Center, situated adjacent to the Chicopee Woods Nature Preserve and Chicopee Woods Agricultural Center. Art aficionados will find inspiration at The Arts Council, housed in a transformed CSX railroad depot, and the Quinlan Visual Arts Center on Historic Green Street.

Visit exploregeorgia.org to learn more about travel destinations throughout the state of Georgia.

CELEBRATE the New Year *with* Omni Atlanta at Centennial Park.



Ring in the 2024 New Year at Atlanta's largest New Year's Eve Carnaval Masquerade Ball featuring two distinct vibes transporting guests to Latin America and around the globe. Dance the night away to a live Latin band in the Carnaval Grand Ballroom or groove to global beats and top 40 hits at Top Draft Sports Lounge with an outdoor terrace overlooking Centennial Olympic Park. Enjoy the music from Atlanta's Top DJs: DJ EU and friends. Enjoy food stations inspired by South America and global connectivity accompanied by our signature cocktails, wine, and beer open bar. Enhance your stay when you book our V.I.P. New Year's Eve Carnaval Masquerade Ball.

OMNI

ATLANTA
AT CENTENNIAL PARK

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Carowinds Announces New Summer Music Festival Amplified by Coke Studio™

Prepare for an electrifying park experience as Carowinds introduces the new Carowinds Summer Music Fest, powered by Coke Studio™. This multi-weekend music extravaganza promises an unforgettable time with headline performances at the iconic Paladium amphitheater, along with local bands and emerging artists entertaining throughout the park.



Featuring a stellar lineup including renowned artists such as Flo Rida, two-time GRAMMY® Award winner LeAnn Rimes, and two-time GRAMMY Award-nominated Skillet, the festival guarantees a summer filled with sensational music. In collaboration with Coca-Cola®, guests can expect exciting music-related activations every weekend, with over 30 artists scheduled to perform.

Manny Gonzalez, Carowinds' vice president and general manager, expressed excitement: "As the ultimate destination for fun in the Carolinas, we're thrilled to kick off an exhilarating summer of music and thrills with the all-new Carowinds Summer Music Fest powered by Coke Studio™. Get ready for 10 days of phenomenal performances that will make Carowinds the place to be this summer. And the best part? These incredible shows are free with your park admission, ensuring a summer packed with entertainment and iconic thrills."

The Paladium amphitheater, a longstanding centerpiece of entertainment at Carowinds, will host concerts on five select weekends. Since its inception in 1975, the Paladium has welcomed cultural icons such as Billy Joel, Bob Dylan, and Mary J. Blige. Carowinds was among the first amusement parks to establish a permanent concert facility, with an expansion project in 1991 transforming the amphitheater into a standalone concert venue.

The Carowinds Summer Music Fest, powered by Coke Studio™, is included with park admission, allowing season pass holders to enjoy all performances as part of their pass benefits. The 2024 Silver Season Pass offers unlimited visits to Carowinds, including access to Carolina Harbor Waterpark and free parking through Labor Day, September 2.

Valencia Bivens, senior vice president of strategic partnerships at Coca-Cola North America, added, "Coca-Cola is thrilled to partner with Carowinds to bring this exciting and entertaining experience to Carolina music fans."

Carowinds, a 400-acre amusement park located on the North Carolina-South Carolina state line, boasts top-rated roller coasters, including Fury 325, the world's tallest and fastest giga coaster. Additionally, the park features over 58 rides, attractions, and live stage shows. Carolina Harbor, a 26-acre water park, offers a variety of water slides, wave pools, and play structures. On-site accommodations include Carowinds Camp Wilderness and SpringHill Suites by Marriott.

For more information, visit www.carowinds.com or call 704.588.2600.



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FOOTBALL STARS PATRICK MAHOMES AND TRAVIS KELCE'S NEW CULINARY VENTURE

Noble 33's Co-Founders, Tosh Berman, and Mikey Tanha, in collaboration with Super Bowl champions Patrick Mahomes and Travis Kelce, are excited to introduce the innovative dining concept, 1587 Prime. This modern steakhouse, named after the jersey numbers of Mahomes and Kelce, promises to deliver an extraordinary dining experience in Kansas City.

Scheduled for its grand opening in early 2025, 1587 Prime will occupy a prominent space within the iconic Loews Hotel Kansas City, spanning nearly 10,000 square feet across two floors. Crafted by the renowned team at Noble 33, led by Berman and Tanha, this upscale restaurant aims to redefine the culinary landscape with its immersive atmosphere and exquisite menu offerings.

Mahomes and Kelce, long-time patrons of Noble 33's establishments, were drawn to the brand's innovative approach to hospitality. "Having frequented Noble 33 restaurants in various cities, we saw an opportunity to bring something extraordinary to our hometown of Kansas City," expressed Mahomes. Kelce added, "Partnering with Noble 33 allows us to create a unique dining experience for our community."

Noble 33's diverse portfolio includes acclaimed venues such as Toca Madera, Casa Madera, Sparrow Italia, and Meduza Mediterrania, spanning across cities like Los Angeles, New York, and Toronto. With expansion plans underway, the group is set to introduce seven new restaurant projects globally in the next 18 months.

Tanha highlighted the significance of the collaboration, stating, "Our partnership with Patrick and Travis symbolizes a blend of culinary innovation, athletic excellence, and community engagement." Berman echoed this sentiment, emphasizing their commitment to creating an unforgettable dining destination.

1587 Prime will feature private dining rooms, a state-of-the-art chef's kitchen, and a striking meat display, paying homage to Mahomes and Kelce's achievements on the field. The restaurant's extensive wine collection, curated to complement its diverse menu, is set to become one of the largest in the state.

Anticipated to set a new standard for upscale dining in Kansas City, 1587 Prime is poised to captivate patrons with its blend of culinary artistry and hospitality. For updates, follow @noble.33 and @1587prime on Instagram.




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