Turtel Onli
Visual Artist

“Black Age of Comics”
Friday & Saturday 12pm

A Chicago native, Turtel’s creative works cover a wide spectrum of genres; fine and visual arts, e.g. painting, drawing, illustration, publishing, fashion, and multimedia production. A pioneer in the world of comics and graphic novel depicting black super heroes, Turtel is credited with the title of “Father of the Black Age of Comics”. He is also noted for his stylization of fusing primitive and futuristic concepts which he coined, “Rhythmism.” For his works in comic and graphic novels Turtel received the “Glyth Comics Pioneer Award in 2006.

Ugochukwu Ukasoanya
Administrator
Department of Housing

“Housing in Woodlawn”
Friday 1pm

Ugochukwu Ukasoanya serves as Equity Officer for the Office of Community Engagement, Racial Equity, Strategic Initiative. A lifelong educational advocate and social service ambassador, Ugochukwu is passionate about achieving equitable outcomes for all no matter what their zip code. Before joining the DOH, Ugochukwu served as the Equity Policy Fellow for Chicago Public Schools (CPS) Office of Equity. Ugochukwu focused on developing racial impact assessment and policy analysis tools for use in CPS schools and district offices.
Rashauna Scott
Keller & Williams Real Estate
Agent/Entrepreneur

“Investing in Real Estate”
Friday 2pm
Saturday 3pm

Rashauna Scott is a millennial thought leader who strategically uses her influence to raise awareness about wealth building through investing in real estate. Rashauna is the founder of Flippin’ In Heels, a community for women real estate investors which hosts conferences, property tours, online summits, and much more. Flippin’ In Heels not only aims to educate women on the many avenues of investing but it also highlights women who are decision makers within the industry. As an Illinois licensed real estate broker, she’s attracted many clients who have an interest in investing; whether they are first-time home buyers or seasoned investors. Rashauna's decade of investing experience includes private investing, tax liens, wholesaling, buy & holds, and fix & flips. While she serves her clients in all capacities of real estate; her niche is helping them acquire multi-family investment properties. In addition to her above accolades, she also developed a specific investment strategy for raising and managing hundreds of thousands in private capital. Now, her greatest accomplishment is the opportunity to lead, educate, and inspire other agents like herself toward success.

Dayo Laoye
Visual Artist

“Symbolism in African Art”
Friday & Saturday 1-3pm

Dayo Laoye is a native of Nigeria. Dayo Laoye held a number of jobs in his homeland that enlisted his artistic talents before coming to America; cartoonist illustrator, and graphic artist. Today Dayo Laoye makes his home in Chicago where he is an acclaimed studio artist. Much of Dayo’s work is characterized by the celebration of the spirituality of the Yoruba people. Over his career Dayo has worked in various media marking a turn in his creative focus and inspiration. Thus in the Ilekun Orisa”, a series of oil paintings on old discarded doors inspired people and nature. The “Negritude” series depicts the unique beauty, diversity and power in women through the study of live models. Dayo’s presentation will revolve around “Symbolism in Art.”
Clara Hubbard is an acclaimed radio talk show host (Senior Talk with Clara Hubbard) with a “Heart.” Clara’s compassion and service to others, especially seniors, is well documented and recognized by numerous accolades and awards from a myriad of settings. Some of those awards include the “Be Hospitable Award,” which she received while working for Hyatt and Hilton’s Hotels in 2007. In 2015, after a 5 year stint as “Granddaughter of the Community,” Clara received the Gold Impact Award,” by the Golden Hope Foundation. Following Soon after in 2016, she received the “Community Engagement Award.” Clara’s “People Getting Better with Age” program focuses on cultural enrichment, entertainment and travel for youthful seniors. Finally, Clara’s show provides a platform by which senior’s issues are recognized and addressed by business and community leaders.

Jim Graham is a line dance instructor at Harris Park in Chicago. Jim became interested in dance while attending Dunbar High School in 1960. Inspired by watching people line dance at numerous parties, Jim fell in love with this form of dance. In 2006 Jim began taking line dancing classes. Throughout his years of dancing, Jim developed a passion, for not only dancing but also teaching line dance. Thus in August 2013, Jim formed his own dance group known as “Graham & Company.” In 2015 Graham & Company competed in a line dance competition with other groups at the Dolton Park District in Dolton, Illinois. Jim is also a smooth stepper but he does not teach stepping.
**Maggie Brown**  
Jazz Singer  

**Friday 3-5pm**

Maggie embodies a powerful and passionate. Whether she is presenting with her own trio or with Orbert Davis’ full 60 piece Chicago Jazz Philharmonic Orchestra. Maggie is called to bring authenticity and integrity to whatever the job calls for by a diverse list of band leaders like: Tom Tom Washington (South side Big Band), Joan Callas (11 Jazzy Divas) and Douglas Ewart (AACM Inventions Ensemble.)

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**Al Smith**  
Saxophonist Musician  

**Friday 3-5pm**

Al Smith is multifaceted composer and musician. Versed on the alto, soprano, tenor saxophone, flute, alto flute, clarinet and bass clarinet. Al has performed with artist like Aretha Franklin, Eric Beneton, Will Downing, Third World and many other well know artists and instrumental groups. Al has also played at benefits for former President Obama, Hilary Clinton, Roland Burris, Michael Jordan, to name a few. Today frequently performs with “Intimate Contact.”
Simba Tayari
(Kwanzaa Ceremony)

Friday 11:30am
Saturday 10:30am

Simba Tayari
Founder and Executive Director of the Swahili Institute of Chicago (SWITCH) promoting and preserving African language and culture through Instruction, publications, performances and presentations and language services.

Olu (Eric Johnson)
Lead Drummer

Friday & Saturday

Eric Johnson (a/k/a Olu Abdul Shakoor; a/k/a the “Drum Doctor” is master drummer raised in Chicago’s Bronzeville, Olu is proficient In West African drums and Contemporary drum styles
Olu founded the Nubian Cultural Dance Theater (1972-1984) also the founder/Creator of OSA Production, producing African centered Programs throughout the city and neighboring suburbs.
As one of the Visionary/Founders of the African Festival of the Arts (AFOA) he was the Entertainment Coordinator (1989-1991) and creator of AFOA Drum Village Pavilion (1991-2019).
Driven by his commitment to equity, Aaron Johnson works at the Office of Community Engagement, Racial Equity, and Strategic Initiatives at the Department of Housing as the Housing Manager. He oversees efforts that center around the community’s voice and addresses the harms around past government policies. Before joining the Department of Housing, Aaron had and continues to advocate for racial equity. He conducted public policy research in housing, education, transportation and engaged in community and labor organizing.