Dear Attendee

The Northwest African American Museum continues to thrive thanks to all of you – our growing community of supporters in the Pacific Northwest and beyond. We are grateful for each of you.

NAAM is a museum of, for, and by the community. The support from people like you makes great things happen through NAAM everyday. NAAM is so much more than a museum. We are an important gathering place for connection and reflection, for discovery; a place for social connections and identity-building, and a community resource that makes meaningful impact.

NAAM asserts a leading voice for social justice and racial equity, for educational empowerment, and Black art, culture and history. This is made possible by your generosity. We look forward to offering more bold and informative exhibitions once we reopen on King Day 2023 and welcoming thousands of visitors back to our beloved facilities.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff, members, and volunteers, we extend our sincere thanks and gratitude for your continued support as we ascend to higher heights together.

Sincerely,
LaNesha DeBardelaben
President & CEO

&

Debbie Bird
Chair, Board of Directors

Welcome!

On behalf of the Northwest African American Museum, it is an honor to serve as your Development Committee Co-Chairs for the 2022 Unity Benefit. As new board members, we are honored to uplift the mission of NAAM and help champion a new path forward with our fellow board members, staff, stakeholders, and community members.

We are pleased to introduce the first-ever Champion of Unity Award which will annually be presented to two individuals that have transformed the Pacific Northwest region through intentional collaboration, a commitment to service, visionary leadership, and advocacy for justice and equity. We couldn’t think of two better inaugural honorees than Dr. Constance Rice and Former Seattle Mayor Norman Rice.

As we elevate NAAM to the next level together, we are eager to reopen our doors on King Day 2023 and we need your support now more than ever. The time is now to join together as we continue this vital work in a massive way.

We hope you give the gift of equity today and beyond!

In Unity,

Nick Hailey
Julian Saint Clair, PhD

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5:30pm</td>
<td>Cocktail Hour, Kent Stevenson Trio, Curated Art Gallery, Step and Repeat, Signature Cocktails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>Program &amp; Dinner, Welcome - Monique Ming Laven &amp; Aaron Wright from Kiro 7, Co-hosts, Musical Expression - NAAM’s African American Cultural Ensemble (ACE) under the direction of Jason Turner, Greetings &amp; Remarks - LaNesha DeBardelaben, President &amp; CEO of NAAM, Poetic Expression - Monique Franklin, Poet, Dance Expression - Amanda Morgan, Ballet Dancer, Presentation of Honorees - Dr. David Sanders, Executive Vice President of Systems Improvement, Casey Family Programs, Remarks from Honorees - Dr. Constance Rice &amp; Former Mayor Norman Rice, Celebration of Giving - Monique Ming Laven &amp; Aaron Wright</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Menu**

**SALAD**
SOUND SUSTAINABLE GREENS DF
Cucumber, Radish, Herb Croutons, Sherry Vinaigrette

**ENTREE**
CAULIFLOWER “RISOTTO” GF
Grilled Artichoke Hearts, Seasonal Mushroom and Vegetable, Tomatoes, Parmesan

PAN-SEARED CHICKEN BREAST GF DF
Roasted Red Bliss Potatoes, Zucchini, Green Peppercorn Demi

HONEY SMOKED KING SALMON V GF DF
Jumbo White and Green Asparagus, Garlic Crusted Anna Potato

**DESSERT**
DECONSTRUCTED APPLE PIE NF
Caramelized Granny Smith Apples, Cinnamon-Sugar Pie Pieces, Caramel Sauce, Bourbon Vanilla-Bean Whipped Cream

CHOCOLATE AND CARAMEL NF
Milk Chocolate Sponge, Salted Caramel Sauce, Chocolate Biscuit Crunch, Caramel Chocolate Ganache, Cocoa-Nib Tuille, Milk Chocolate Chantilly

Give the gift of equity, education, and empowerment!

Text NAAM to 44-321
Give via NAAM’s Venmo - @NAAMNW
Greetings from the Governor  
October 7, 2022

I am pleased to extend warm greetings to all attending the Northwest African American Museum’s annual Unity Benefit. The NAAM has provided people across this region with insight into the remarkable history of African Americans in the Pacific Northwest and the significant contributions they have made to the beautiful place we call home.

I especially want to congratulate Mayor Norm Rice and Dr. Constance Rice as recipients of the inaugural Champions of Unity Award. Throughout their careers, they have demonstrated an abiding love for the city and a deep commitment to making this region a hub for innovation, arts, culture, industry, and civic engagement.

While there will always be challenges on the horizon, Seattle is poised to tackle any that may arise because of visionary leaders like Mayor Rice and Dr. Rice. In numerous ways, these honorees embody tonight’s theme: Elevate. In their respective endeavors, the Rices have been forward-thinking in their efforts to position Seattle and the broader region on the cutting edge of our society. Both are exemplary members of the Seattle community and deserving of this recognition.

Thank you for coming and please accept my best wishes for a memorable evening of celebration. Enjoy the live music, performances, and program.

Very truly yours,

Jay Inslee
Governor

Metropolitan King County Council

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Northwest African American Museum (NAAM) is celebrating its annual Unity Benefit on Friday, October 7, 2022, at the Four Seasons Hotel in Seattle, and
WHEREAS, Elevate! is the inspirational and forward looking theme of this year’s gala, and
WHEREAS, NAAM will present two exemplary public servants, former Seattle Mayor Norman B. Rice and Dr. Constance Rice, with their inaugural Champions of Unity award; and
WHEREAS, NAAM has chosen to honor these two leaders who have transformed and invigorated our region with their dedicated, life-long leadership; and
WHEREAS, while celebrating the rich legacy of Norman and Constance Rice, friends and guests also join in supporting NAAM’s bright future:

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Metropolitan King County Council, proclaim Friday, October 7, 2022, as

Norman B. Rice and Dr. Constance Rice Day

and urge all people in our county to join us in this special observance and celebration.

DATED this seventh day of October, 2022.

Claudia Balducci, District Six, Council Chair
Garyu Ishibashi, District Two, Council Vice Chair
Jeanne Kohl-Welles, District Four
Joe McDermott, District Eight

Bill Bryant, District One
Sarah Rian, District Three
Dave Upthegrove, District Five, Council Vice Chair
Reagan Dunn, District Nine
Congratulations to Dr. Constance Rice and Former Seattle Mayor Norman Rice for your outstanding service on behalf of the NAAMily!

**PROCLAMATION**

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WHEREAS, while celebrating the rich legacy of Norman and Constance Rice, friends and guests also join in supporting NAAM’s bright future; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle is eternally grateful for Norman and Constance Rice and their legacy of civility, compassion and inclusion.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BRUCE A. HARRELL, MAYOR OF SEATTLE, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM OCTOBER 7, 2022 TO BE

Norman and Constance Rice, Champions of Unity Day

Mayor Bruce A. Harrell
City of Seattle

**CHAMPIONS OF UNITY AWARD:**

Champion of Unity Award Honorees exemplify excellence in work, service, and thought leadership through their pioneering efforts to uplift communities and make groundbreaking impact.

The Champions of Unity Award is by nomination only and honorees must have a longstanding commitment to their field and have a proven track record of economic, social and political advancement for communities of color.
Mayor Norman Blinn Rice was Seattle’s first Black mayor, serving from 1990 to 1997 as the city’s 49th mayor. After earning a bachelor’s degree in communications and a master’s of public administration from the University of Washington, he worked as a reporter at KOMO-TV News and KIXI radio. Later he served as Assistant Director of the Seattle Urban League, and worked for the Puget Sound Council of Governments. Mayor Rice was first elected to the Seattle City Council in 1978 and reelected in 1979, 1983 and 1987, serving eleven years in all. He was elected Seattle mayor in 1989 and re-elected in 1993. Because of his warm personality and easy smile, he was affectionately known as “Mayor Nice.” From 1995 to 1996, Mayor Rice served as president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, an association of more than a thousand of America’s largest cities. After his political career, Mayor Rice went on to be CEO and then President of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Seattle, was CEO of the Seattle Foundation, and a Distinguished Practitioner in Residence at the University of Washington Evans School of Public Affairs. He is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity (the Boule). He served as a member of President Obama’s White House Council for Community Solutions. He is married to Dr. Constance Rice, the first Black chair of the Seattle Art Museum’s Board of Trustees. Mayor Rice was the former chair for the Northwest African American Museum Board of Directors. His unyielding devotion to the Northwest African American Museum is an inspiration to all.

Dr. Constance W. Rice is the President of the Very Strategic Group, a consulting firm for executive coaching and educational policies. Dr. Rice is the first African American board chair at the Seattle Art Museum and currently serves on the University of Washington Board of Regents as well as on the Washington State Kaiser Permanente board. Dr. Rice was formerly the Senior Executive Fellow for Casey Family Programs, the nation’s largest operating foundation focused on safely reducing the need for foster care in America. A tireless advocate and civic leader, Dr. Rice has made her mark in many areas of local, national, and international service. As founder and past president of Strategic Education Centers, Dr. Rice and her advisory board established two educational centers in Swaziland. Dr. Rice also served as the national founding Executive Director of the Desmond Tutu Peace Foundation, U.S.A. Dr. Rice is the former Vice Chancellor and Senior Chancellor of Seattle Community Colleges. She also served as interim president of North Seattle Community College. Dr. Rice is the past national western area Vice Director of The Links, Incorporated, and served on the Board of Directors of Downtown Rotary, the Rainier Club, The Seattle Foundation, and Swedish Hospital. Numerous civic and humanitarian organizations have honored Dr. Rice for her industrious, unflagging community service. Dr. Rice holds a graduate degree from the University of Washington, Evans School of Public Policy & Governance, and a doctor of philosophy from the University of Washington, College of Education. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and is married to Norman B. Rice, former Mayor of the City of Seattle. Dr. Rice is an advisor to leaders and a tireless advocate for equity. She has been a pillar of strength and partnership to the Northwest African American Museum.
Monique Ming Laven co-anchors KIRO 7 News at 4, 5, 6 & 7pm. She joined KIRO 7 News in 2006 and has covered a wide range of stories during her tenure, from the 2009 and 2011 trials of Amanda Knox in Italy to the Oso landslide to the Seattle Seahawks Super Bowl celebrations.

KIRO 7 News anchor Aaron Wright co-anchors the 5, 6 & 11pm Newscasts at KIRO 7. Aaron is an Emmy Award-winning journalist hailing from Spartanburg, South Carolina and is a Hampton University graduate. Aaron believes journalism is service and at its best uplifts the community, exposes corruption, and helps people in need.
**PERFORMERS**

DJ Chukundi

A self-described “Multi-Hyphenate”, Chukundi aka Kun Luv grew up in the Central Area of Seattle and attended Garfield High School. Given the name DJ KUN LUV while attending Elizabeth City State University (a North Carolina HBCU) and DJing the “GYM JAMS”, Chukundi has gone on to perform at events around the world. Known for his ability to connect with a crowd, he has been one of the premier party rockers in the Northwest and beyond for over 25 years. In the 90s he served as NBA Hall of Famer, Gary Payton’s official DJ while selling mix tapes across the country including the legendary music store Earwax in Atlanta. Outside of his DJ work, he is the founder of Service is a Lifestyle, a 501©3 Non-Profit. He is also a 25 year employee at Seattle Parks and Recreation.

ACE Choir

The Northwest African American Museum’s President & CEO LaNesha DeBardeleben envisioned and created the African American Cultural Ensemble (ACE) during the racial reckoning of 2020 and early 2021. Under the musical direction of Jason Turner and Kent Stevenson, ACE is composed of top vocalists and musicians who bring hope and healing to communities across the Northwest region through heritage songs. It is the nation’s first, permanent, on-going museum choir. ACE has performed in various venues, including in front of just about all of Seattle’s hometeams - the Kraken, the Mariners, the Sounders FC, OL Reign, and soon to perform in front of the Seahawks. ACE has performed in front of over 250,000 people, offering melodies of history, hope, and healing through song. This choir is a reflection of NAAM’s innovative commitment to the living arts.

NAAM’s African American Cultural Ensemble Members Include:

- Lisa Allen
- Tanisha Brooks
- Gina Brooks
- Tommie Burton
- Michele Charity
- Josephine Howell
- Dana Jackson
- Kenya Leger
- Geneva Martin
- Liah Walker
- Kent Stevenson
- Angela Vega
- Rosalind Wallace Brown
- Maelu Strange
- Jason Turner

Lift every voice and sing, 'Til earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;

Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on 'til victory is won.
Amanda Morgan is from Tacoma, Washington. She studied at Dance Theatre Northwest and Pacific Northwest Ballet School, and she attended summer courses at Alonzo King LINES Ballet, Boston Ballet School, and the School of American Ballet. She participated in PNB School’s exchange with the Palucca University of Dance in Dresden, where she also performed with Dresden Semperoper Ballett. Amanda joined Pacific Northwest Ballet as an apprentice in 2016 and was promoted to corps de ballet in 2017.

Amanda has danced a leading role in George Balanchine’s The Nutcracker® (Hot Chocolate, Coffee), Ulysses Dove’s Red Angels, Alexander Ekman’s Cacti, Ronald Hynd’s The Sleeping Beauty (Fairy of Beauty), Crystal Pite’s Emergence, Jerome Robbins' West Side Story Suite (Rosalia), Eva Stone’s F O I L, and Kent Stowell’s Cinderella (Stepsister). She originated leading roles in Donald Byrd’s Love and Loss, Nia-Amina Minor’s And yet here we are, and Dani Tirrell’s Suckle.

As a choreographer, Amanda has created works for PNB’s NEXT STEP, including Pages (2018) and The Argument (2019). She has choreographed for the Seattle International Film Festival and created her own show at Northwest Film Forum through a residency with Northwest Film Forum and Velocity Dance Center (2019). That same year, Amanda launched “The Seattle Project,” an artist collaborative that creates new works, focusing on eliminating barriers in the community. In 2020, “The Seattle Project” premiered two works; The How of It Sped at Northwest Film Forum and Musings as part of Seattle Dance Collective’s Continuum Program. In 2020 Amanda choreographed and directed This Space Left Intentionally Blank for PNB’s digital season.

Amanda was named one of Dance Magazine’s 25 to Watch in 2020.

Monique Franklin (Verbal Oasis) is an activist, poet, performer, scientist, and mother from Rainier Valley, Seattle. She has been referred to as “The unofficial poet laureate of South Seattle,” “The Billie Holiday of Spoken Word,” as well as “the Verbal Manifestation of Nina Simone’s Soul” and “High Priestess of prose, poetry and the art of storytelling.” Monique is a 10+ year member of African American Writer’s Alliance and has self-published two volumes of poetry entitled Acoustic Accolades and Erotic Annals of a Poet. She has released three spoken word albums Acoustic Accolades Volume 1, Hot Summer Nights and Mama’z Muezz all are available on soundcloud. She currently co-host and co-produces Afrodisiac Erotic Poetry Show celebrating the diversity and sexuality of people of color. Her poetry gives voice to social issues, human relationships, tributes to her many influences, and self-discovery. As a performer you can find her poetry commingling with musicians, vocalist and dancers. The subject matter of her poetry stems from the rich spectrum of her life experiences. This woman is a creative soul.

Kent Stevenson is a longtime Seattle musician, composer/arranger and music educator. He serves as the music co-director for NAAM’s African American Cultural Ensemble. He also leads a jazz trio. He is the music director of the Shades of Praise and Jubilation Gospel Choirs at Seattle’s St. Therese Church. Stevenson’s concert tours and choral workshops have taken him around the world including China, Russia, Japan, Brazil, Cuba, Paris, throughout Europe and the Bahamas.
**Yaddi Bojia**
yadesabojia.com

Yaddi Bojia is a Seattle-based artist, painter and graphic designer whose work reflects a deep appreciation for African and Western art and how they intersect. Living in the United States since 1995, Yaddi was born in a small town near the capital city of Ethiopia called Ambo. Yaddi cites his earliest exposure to art in childhood where he would gaze at murals often found in Ethiopian Orthodox churches around where he grew up. Yaddi believes his work is a by-product of the cultural differences he’s enjoyed while living in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, and in Seattle, Washington.

**Jasmine Brown**
@jasmineionadesign

Jasmine Brown is an artist and muralist that uses the Black experience and her story to inform her art while making impactful statements about society as whole. Jasmine has lived in Seattle since 2010 and has truly made her mark on the city producing the art installation project, ‘Black Teen Wearing Hoodie’ using her son’s likeness for the project. Her art would later go on to make headlines after repeatedly being vandalized in Seattle. Despite the mistreatment of her work and the racism that likely fueled it, Jasmine continues to make exceptional works of art.

**Lawrence Pitre**
lcpitre.com

Lawrence Pitre is a native Seattle based artist and muralist. As a young man, Lawrence attended the University of Washington’s School of Art where he began to cultivate his artistic talents under the direction of the renowned artist Jacob Lawrence. The unique experience would go on to inform the way Lawrence appreciates and creates art. Lawrence has gone on to say that he sees his artistic endeavors as self-expressions depicting life experiences, which includes struggles, joy, and his love of life.

**Robert Horton**

Robert L. Horton is a Seattle native and has worked as a professional artist over twenty-five years. He works in various mediums such as pen and ink, watercolors, acrylics, airbrush, in addition to glassblowing. He has featured his works in numerous art galleries and exhibits throughout Seattle and Northwest territories over the past fifteen years. Robert has been involved with several community base projects, including a mural called ‘UnMask Your Mind!’ for the Seattle Rainier Beach Library featuring several ceremonial masks from ethnic groups living in the South Seattle area.

**JW Harrington**
jwharrington.com

JW Harrington is a painter, social-science professor, and trained baritone, living, working and painting in Tacoma, Washington. Using acrylic on canvas or hardwood panels, he paints abstract works: some using strict, “rational” patterns of complementary colors; and some using intuitive composition. He also paints portraits and animated landscapes motivated by the vibrant beauty of the Puget Sound region. As a painter, JW believes his goal is to use color, composition, line, and/or implicit allusion to get the casual viewer to engage with the work and find what resonates with them.
NAAM BY THE NUMBERS

146,695
Number of visitors to NAAM’s programming over the last year

8,960
Number of African American children’s books distributed as part of NAAM’s Knowledge is Power initiative over the last year

25
Number of Interactive Storytime read-alongs for early readers we’ve presented over the last year

125
Number of partners who helped NAAM make regional impact over the last year

11
Number of Black elders who have been inducted into NAAM’s Elders Circle

11
Number of collaborating Black museums that are part of NAAM’s Blk Freedom Collective

$3,000
Number of dollars the local Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority raised this year to support NAAM’s cultural literacy programming

Highlights of NAAM’s Reach in 2022:

• NAAM hosted keynote talks by nationally-renowned poet Nikki Giovanni and Smithsonian Secretary Lonnie Bunch

• NAAM inaugurated the James Baldwin Circle with local award-winning journalist Marcus Harrison Green as the first James Baldwin Fellow

• NAAM’s Descendant Series include hosting conversations with the descendants of Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington, and Nat Turner this year

• NAAM installed a popup art exhibition Lumen Field featuring the works of artists Jacob Lawrence and Jeremy Bell

• NAAM’s Youth Curator Program was nominated for a Northwest Regional Emmy Award
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Tiffany LaTrice Williams, Marketing Director
Jason Turner, Education Coordinator
Imani Gaddy, Social Media Coordinator
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