ANNIVERSARY

LITTLE BLACK PEARL ACKNOWLEDGES ALL BOARD MEMBERS

T H E A N N I V E R S A R Y

Plus
EXCLUSIVE
Interview with

THEASTER GATES

“I feel like having a space where a student can both develop a community and celebrate being their best selves is a big deal.”

Photo by Rodney Wright
IMAGE MAKERS PHOTOGRAPHY
is an amazing time of growth and reflection for me. This magazine will kick-off the celebration of 20 years of Little Black Pearl! I am humbled and astonished by the opportunities that this organization has afforded me and the community. Twenty years ago, I dreamed of creating a space where children would feel safe, honored and empowered. LBP has surpassed my wildest dreams and aspirations. With the help of many incredible people including; my board, staff, students, parents, volunteers, legislators, friends and most of all family, we have built an institution that we can all be very proud of.

I would like to dedicate this issue to my incredible mother who is my beautiful Angel in heaven interceding on my behalf on a regular basis. My mother showed me what strength, courage and love looked and felt like. I could not celebrate the success of LBP without acknowledging the very person who taught me how to dream big dreams and not lose my compassion for the needs of others.

Twenty years have passed very quickly and I have had the pleasure of sharing most of my adult life with one of the true loves of my life “Little Black Pearl”. It is an extraordinary honor to be positioned to really share a dream with the world. Building this organization has not been without its peaks and valleys, but it has been by far the most consistent positive presence in my life. LBP represents the good in all of us. It is a demonstration of faith, hope and possibilities. We are always embarking upon new journeys and exploring ways to invite our community to see its true essence and beauty. Many extraordinary people have come through the doors of LBP, leaving behind pieces of themselves to scatter among the children that we have been entrusted to shine the light of hope and possibilities upon.

LBP has touched many of our lives in ways that are immeasurable. Its core and foundation is based upon the love of art and the good intentions of many. I am so proud to have given birth to this incredible gift and I look forward to sharing it with all of you for years to come. Thank you for your continued support, love and prayers.

All the best,

Monica Haslip
Founder/Executive Director
Teen Tech Center
BEST BUY TEEN TECH CENTER

Pursue your interests and use new technologies with help from other teens and adult mentors. Then share your work with peers across the globe through the Intel Computer Clubhouse Network. The Center is a free after-school program for teens exploring computing, digital photography, videography, graphic design, audio production, robotics, game development, and mobile app programming.

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Little Black Pearl is proud to announce that we have teamed up with the Intel Computer Clubhouse Network and Best Buy to provide a creative and safe after-school learning environment called the Teen Tech Center.

The goal of this center is simple: To help teens explore their passions in technology and inspire future education and career choices. The Teen Tech Center has broken the mold of traditional, static computer labs by offering catalytic environments that will spur teens to learn, experiment, collaborate and play with the latest technologies to build 21st century skills and enable them to seize opportunities for self-expression.

At the center, teens ages 12 to 19 can develop projects based on their own interest such as: creating art, music and animations; designing their own science simulations and mobile applications; writing and illustrating interactive poetry, stories and films; building kinetic sculptures and robotic constructions; and designing their own 3D worlds and games. In the process, youth will become excited about learning and fluent with new technologies, developing skills and experiences to help them succeed in their careers, contribute to their communities and lead outstanding lives.

The Teen Tech Center offers a powerful array of cutting-edge technology, such as computers, digital cameras, movie cameras, professional software, and program activities in a wide range of areas:

- Computing
- Digital Photography
- Film making & Videography
- Graphic Design
- Audio production (including music mixing)
- Robotics
- Game Development
- Programming (including app development)

Driven To Deliver.

With 50 years experience, Enterprise is driven to deliver award-winning customer service, great rates and free customer pick-up.

The University of Chicago
Congratulates
Little Black Pearl
On the occasion of your 20th anniversary
Recognizing the immense community contributions you have made on behalf of youth and their futures
Thank you for your service
The Hunger Walk is more than a walk—it’s a celebration. A celebration of the response to hunger in Cook County. More than 400 pantries, soup kitchens and shelters that are members of the Greater Chicago Food Depository work year-round to provide food for hungry people. Each June, volunteers, supporters and the people we serve come together to celebrate their efforts by walking along the lakefront at the Hunger Walk. Last year, nearly 12,000 people from all corners of Chicago and Cook County participated. The 28th Annual Hunger Walk takes place Saturday morning, June 29, at Soldier Field. Participants can expect activities for children, live entertainment, celebrity appearances and more. With the skyscrapers and Lake Michigan as the backdrop, the highlight of the day is the start of the 5K (3.1-mile) walk along Waldron Drive. The walk then winds south along Burnham Harbor and McCormick Place before returning to the stadium green outside Soldier Field.

Hunger is a significant issue in our community. One in six people in Cook County is food insecure and unsure of when they will receive their next meal. But the walk, and the support it provides, gives hope that one day none of our neighbors will go hungry. If all of this isn’t inspiring enough, here’s another incentive: every dollar raised at the Walk goes directly back to community pantries, soup kitchens and shelters. Last year the walk raised $566,000. Many organizations raise their food budgets for the year because of the Hunger Walk. The Food Depository, Chicago’s food bank, organizes the event but directs all funds to the community. Even better, by bringing more walkers, pantries, soup kitchens and shelters receive more funds.

There’s a joyousness and unity on display every year at the Hunger Walk: the joy of giving back to the community and the unity of people from every neighborhood who believe that no one in Chicago should go hungry. Anyone can take steps to end hunger by demonstrating their support on June 29.

Sign up for the Hunger Walk at chicagosfoodbank.org/hungerwalk.

Helping neighborhoods thrive through culture-driven redevelopment

Founded by Little Black Pearl alum, Theaster Gates Jr., Rebuild Foundation strengthens neighborhoods through community-driven programming, creates spatial equity for underserved artists and creative people, educates and provides opportunity through workforce enhancement, invests in creative entrepreneurs and local artists to spark economies.

Join us. Program and event details at Rebuild-Foundation.org
Little Black Pearl has provided our flagship afterschool program Arts=Smarts to youth for the past 19 years to students from Chicago area schools. Arts=Smarts offers the opportunity to garner new artistic skills and continue the learning experiences through the arts. Arts=Smarts gives students access to explore the connection between art and business through a creative learning environment.

As the need for students to have a safe, structured, and enriching environment has grown, so has Little Black Pearl’s commitment to providing students relevant options. Upon arrival at Little Black Pearl students are able to enjoy a hot and nutritious meal through our long standing partnership with the Greater Chicago Food Depository. Students are able to select which studio: Glassblowing, Music Production, Ceramics, Dance, LIVE ART, Multi-Media, Painting/Drawing, and Technology.

Arts=Smarts students explore both visual and performing arts while also engaging in activities that encourage character development and civic responsibility. Arts=Smarts gives participants the opportunity to lend their artistic talents and voice opposing the violence that plagues our teens today. For instance “Collateral Damage” is a project that students have worked on to give an artistic response against the violence that has been rampant against our youth during the past few years. Students have created art in the music, glass, painting/drawing and multi-media studios to take a stand against the senseless crimes against their peers.

Due to the partnership with Best Buy and the Intel Computer Clubhouse Network hundreds more students have had the opportunity to gain access to technology and digital art through the newly opened Best Buy Teen Tech Center now housed within Little Black Pearl. The BBTTC has become a favorite place for students to hang out, mess around and geek out with technology. Students from around the community are welcome to become members and have access to Digital Photography, Animation, Architecture, Graphics and Music. Participants will be able to use more high quality technology to further engage in their arts.

Various activities, guest speakers, and field trips provide an environment for students to be artists, entrepreneurs and well-rounded citizens. During the months of February and May students, staff and community residents participated in blood drives with the American Red Cross. The drives were part of a collaboration with the American Red Cross and Chicago Children’s Memorial hospital. The donations given were submitted to children who have sickle cell.

Students that exhibit commitment and dedication in their studios may have the opportunity to work on special projects for a variety of civic, community and business organizations. Arts=Smarts is offered the entire school year, call Chinyera Moody at (773)285-1211 ext. 307 for more information.

Little Black Pearl and the Quad Community Development Corporation have been long time partners. Beautification of the area with murals and banners placed along Cottage Grove are one example of the resources brought to fruition with LLP and QCDC collaboration. During Spring Break, Little Black Pearl students worked with QCDC to promote violence prevention. “Play Streets” was an initiative streaming from the FLOTUS’s “Let’s Move” campaign. Ten students were selected to work in Washington Park to help students on Spring Break enjoy various fun activities during that week.

Most recently QCDC partnered with the University of Chicago’s Black Youth Project and Little Black Pearl to offer youth an opportunity to learn and sharpen their journalism skills. Students from area schools will become reporters for their individual schools. This summer long project will culminate with the new journalists reporting in a collaborative fashion show and area wide news. On Thursday May 16, 2013 QCDC celebrated its 10 year anniversary with many supporters at a luncheon at Maggiano’s where the keynote speaker was Toni Preckwinkle Cook County Board President.

Quad Communities Development Corporation
Quad Communities Development Corporation (QCDC) serves the South Side communities of North Kenwood, Oakland, and portions of Douglas and Grand Boulevard.

LITTLE BLACK PEARL SUMMER 2013

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Quad Communities Development Corporation
Congratulating Monica Haslip and Little Black Pearl for 20 years of unwavering leadership, diligence and unconditional love towards family, community, empowerment and educational excellence. LITTLE BLACK PEARL BOARD

There are signs of hope in the most violent neighborhoods of Chicago. New Mount Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church in the West Garfield Park on the city’s Westside has become a beacon of light amidst despair. The powerful stained glass windows in the sanctuary of this Old Romanesque Catholic Church structure tells the stories of tragedy and triumph, reflecting the challenges and triumphs of the inner city families who worship and live in the surrounding communities. After purchasing the Old Saint Mel parish properties in 1994, the idealism of the ministry and community development work of the congregation inspired new church window themes for the massive “rose windows” of the sanctuary. Because the old windows needed emergency repairs, the urgency spawned new visions of the power of church art. Surrounded by a window of six different characters, the community took the opportunity to look beyond mere repairs and restoration. We envisioned new art to tell our own faith stories and to transform the worship space. What started as window repair has become a vision of a trilogy of three twenty-five foot “rose windows” each revealing the pain and promise of the African American experience, the colonization and capture of the African American people who laid the foundations of the underdevelopment of Africa, the African Diaspora, and of the global economy of the 20th and 21st centuries. The “tight packed” slave ship schematic became iconic for abolitionist in Europe and America, and a revered symbol of the suffering of the ancestors, for African Americans during the Harlem Renaissance movement of the 1920’s and the Black Consciousness movement of the 1960’s and 1970’s. Today, in the 21st century, the “slave ship” icon is the singular global public memory of the TransAtlantic slave trade. When people see the slave ship packing scene, they remember the survivors and non-survivors of that traumatic, horrific trafficking in black humanity. The iconic for abolitionist in Europe and America, and a revered symbol of the suffering of the ancestors, for African Americans during the Harlem Renaissance movement of the 1920’s and the Black Consciousness movement of the 1960’s and 1970’s. Today, in the 21st century, the “slave ship” icon is the singular global public memory of the TransAtlantic slave trade. When people see the slave ship packing scene, they remember the survivors and non-survivors of that traumatic, horrific trafficking in black humanity. The

"AFRICAN AMERICAN CHURCH STAINED GLASS: Pointing To Our Past & Our Future"

New Mount Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church
REV. DR. MARSHALL ELIJAH HATCH, SENIOR PASTOR

LITTLE BLACK PEARL BOARD
you meet Southwest Airlines’ Manager of Community Affairs, Patty Kryscha, she will tell you, “we believe in supporting the causes that matter most to the people who live in the communities we serve. That’s why our Community Affairs Team works to develop strong relationships with community partners like Little Black Pearl.”

At Southwest Airlines, community involvement and supporting others have been a part of their Culture since they first took flight more than four decades ago. They work with charitable organizations large and small to support them in making a profound and lasting impact in our communities.

Additionally, Patty says that “every Southwest location and Employee is a part of a community, and we’re committed to helping these communities thrive. It’s a commitment deeply rooted in our Culture along with the belief that we can use our assets to be a catalyst for positive change.”

Southwest Airlines is the nation’s largest airline, carrying more domestic passengers than any other US airline. And, Southwest’s operation at Chicago’s Midway International Airport, is the largest in terms of flights in the entire Southwest system. Clearly, Chicago holds a special place in Southwest’s heart.

"We’re very proud to be the Official Airline of Little Black Pearl. They are a wonderful partner doing excellent work to help so many people.”

PATTY KRYSCHA

WHEN

At Southwest Airlines’, we lend our time and talents to the extraordinary causes and passionate people that shape our world— one community at a time.

READ ALONG WITH LBPA 2013

Join LBPA and Chicago Public Library for a full conversation. We’ll start by reading Isabel Wilkerson’s award winning

THE WARMTH OF OTHER SUNS:
The epic story of America’s great migration.

Now through Spring 2014!
Walmart supports minority- and women-owned businesses and is a proud supporter of Little Black Pearl.

Glass Studio at Little Black Pearl Workshop has been hosting community glass blowing classes through Groupon. Our classes focus on teaching members of our LBP community the basic skills involved in glass through the creation of a beautiful glass paperweight. These classes have been an incredible opportunity for our LBP community to come in and learn glass making from our glass staff and students, while simultaneously supporting our glass program. As a teacher I know that few things give students the chance to solidify their knowledge like sharing their expertise. I have enjoyed watching our students grow exponentially through being assistant teachers in our classes. They have also learned valuable business and communication skills throughout their experience. Most of all they gained a sense of confidence in their abilities and exhibited a strong work ethic. All these classes have been a wonderful exchange between our children and our community. In many cases working with our kids was the most enjoyable part of the class for our adult learners.

I have also enjoyed our adult students who have come from as close as a block away and as far as Philadelphia to join us in making glass. We are excited to bring people from all over together to meet, mingle and have a truly unique experience. Classes are currently over for the season, but will resume in the fall. Come join the fun and continue to support our student glass artists though registering for a class!

"...I have found in my career that the people who ask the tough questions and force you to see different perspectives have the greatest impact.”
- Cynthia (Cindy) Davis

OUR COMMITMENT.
Walmart supports minority- and women-owned businesses and is a proud supporter of Little Black Pearl.
Little Black Pearl and Artworks Chicago join forces to produce a historical concert featuring Chaka Khan at Chicago’s most visited landmark “Millennium Park”. Millennium Park is located in Grant Park on Michigan Avenue between Randolph Street and Monroe Street in the heart of loop/downtown Chicago. Millennium Park is the City of Chicago’s premier state of the art outdoor concert venue. The park and concert will be free admission to the general public and will be attended by more than 20,000 people. The park will open Sunday afternoon for family picnics and fun. The Celebration and Concert will be held on Sunday, July 28, 2013 6pm-10pm. Sponsorship opportunities are available. City of Chicago will honor Chaka Khan for 40 years of achievements in the Music Industry and celebrate her 60th Birthday!

“Little Black Pearl Art and Design Academy (LBPA) will open its doors for the first time August 26, 2013. LBPA will offer a unique, state-of-the-arts learning environment that will enable High School students to develop skills in academics, fine arts and technology. Join us in welcoming our best and brightest to LBPA!”

Statement from Monica Haslip

SPECIAL EVENTS

SATURDAY 7/27
CHAKA KHAN’S STREET NAMING CEREMONY
TIME: 2:00-3:00 PM
50-51St and Blackstone; Newest of Kenwood High School

SUNDAY 7/28
CHAKA KHAN AT MILLENNIUM PARK
40th Year Music Anniversary Concert
BLACK:unplugged Members Vip Event

JULY 30-31
GEEK SQUAD SUMMER ACADEMY

AUGUST 2
LBP SUMMER PROGRAM CULMINATING EVENT

AUGUST 26
LITTLE BLACK PEARL ART AND DESIGN ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL OPENING

2013 Senior Prom at Little Black Pearl
We accept Visa, Master Card, Discover Card

Panini’s $5.50
Panini Combo with chips and $1.00 Drink $6.00
Grilled Chicken Breast Strips
Sliced Herb Roasted Turkey
Grilled Cheese
Mayo, chipotle mayo, honey mustard, ranch, Cheese: Pepper Jack, Swiss, Cheddar, or American – Cucumber, Lettuce, Pickles, Tomato - Whole Wheat, Whole Grain Oat Nut & Italian

Grab & Go Hoagie $5.00
Grab & Go Combo with chips and $1.00 Drink $6.50
Sliced Chicken Breast
Sliced Herb Roasted Turkey
Mayo, chipotle mayo, honey mustard, ranch, Cheese: Pepper Jack, Swiss, Cheddar, or American – Cucumber, Lettuce, Pickles, Tomato - Whole Wheat, Whole Grain Oat Nut & Italian

Pizza
Pepperoni $2.50 or Cheese $2.00

Chicken
Chicken Wings $2.50
Buffalo Chicken Tenders $3.00

Drinks
Arizona Teas, Bottle Water, Sundrop, Sundrop Light $1.00
Peach Snapple $1.25

Smoothies $4.00

Tea Lg. $4.00 / Med. $2.50 / Sm. $1.50
Coffee Lg. $3.50 / Med. $2.00 / Sm. $1.00

Searching for that unique WiFi spot to sip an excellent cup of Fair Trade Organic coffee, knock out that term paper or finally start reading that new book?

If so, Black Pearl Cafe is where you can indulge your passion and soothe your soul with an exquisite blend of coffee and art.

Come in and enjoy an assortment of beverages, cookies, pastries, salads and sandwiches.

We accept Visa, Master Card, Discover Card
DINNER WITH LIZZ WRIGHT

Two Black:unplugged members were the lucky winners of auction prizes which included fabulous dinners prepared by world renowned songstress Lizz Wright! Both evenings were lovingly orchestrated by Lizz and featured five course meals, thoughtful and beautifully executed ambiance, and a private live unplugged mini performances. Lizz is an amazing Board member of LBP and continues to share her special gifts with the community through her service at LBP! Thanks to our Black:unplugged members for your support! Nobody unplugs like LBP! Join today www.blackpearl.org Try one of Lizz's Black:unplugged recipes at home!

GARDEN SIDE GOURMET

SALMON YAKITORI

7 tbsp. dark soy sauce
7 tbsp. mirin
7 tbsp. sake
2 tbsp. sugar
2 lbs. boneless, skin-on Norwegian salmon filet, cut into 1” cubes

1. Combine soy sauce, mirin, sake, and sugar in a large bowl and mix well. Add salmon, toss to coat, cover bowl with plastic wrap, and refrigerate overnight. Put 10-12 wooden skewers into a baking dish and cover with water; let soak overnight.
2. The next day, build a medium-hot fire in a charcoal grill or heat a gas grill to medium-high. (Alternatively, arrange an oven rack 4” from heating element and heat broiler on high.) Drain skewers. Thread salmon pieces onto wooden skewers and transfer to a plate. Grill or broil skewers, turning occasionally, until salmon is browned and cooked through, about 5 minutes. To serve, transfer skewers to a platter.

KALE AND AVOCADO SALAD

Elf in LA’s Echo Park serves a version of this refreshing Japanese-inspired salad.

1 cup fresh orange juice
3 tbsp. fresh lemon juice
2 tbsp. soy sauce
1 clove garlic, smashed and chopped into a paste
4 tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
3 avocados, halved, pitted, and peeled
2 tbsp. raw hemp seeds (optional)
1 bunch kale (about 3⁄4 lb.), stemmed and finely chopped
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

1. Whisk together juices, soy sauce, and garlic in a bowl. Slowly whisk in oil; set dressing aside.
2. Cut 2 avocados into 1/2” cubes and thinly slice the remaining avocado. Put cubed avocados, half of the hemp seeds, and kale into a serving bowl. Toss kale mixture with dressing and season generously with salt and pepper. Divide salad between plates and garnish with sliced avocado and remaining hemp seeds.

SERVES 4 – 6 both the salmon yakitori and kale salad can be found at saveur.com.

IMAGE MAKERS PHOTOGRAPHY

FAMILY PORTRAITS, EVENTS, CORPORATE, & ADVERTISING

WWW.IAPHOTO.NET 773 547-2262 2341 S. MICHIGAN AVE CHICAGO, IL
In March, Options Laboratory School partnered with New York City veteran TV producer, Tanya Kateri, (www.the-wonderist.com), on an initiative to invest in the next generation of Chicago’s filmmakers. Through creative instruction in digital photography, music appreciation, the art of interviewing, and scriptwriting, the students learned the filmmaking process from concept to final cut. Students participating in the program were engaged in a focused exploration of contemporary issues and completed several short films examining subjects that hit close to home - violence in Chicago, teen parenting, the LGBT community, and life after high school. National Geographic Channel hopes to recognize the work these students are doing as front-line ambassadors of youth film by featuring select films on its website. Options Laboratory and Ms. Kateri are proud to see the way filmmaking has given these high school students a voice and the opportunity to become preservationists of their own stories.

CALLING ALL ART STUDENTS...
SEE YOUR ART IN AN EXHIBITION!

Join prominent artists from around the country and submit your work to the Museum of Science and Industry’s 2014 Black Creativity Juried Art Exhibition. This is the longest-running exhibition of African-American art in the nation and features categories like photography, drawing, painting, sculpture, video art—and more!

If you are a youth artist between the ages of 14 and 17 (or enrolled in high school in 2014) apply for your chance to participate in this exciting event, opening January 2014. Along with seeing your work in a museum, you could take home a cash prize! To be notified when 2014 exhibition applications become available in September, contact Octavia Hooks at octavia.hooks@msichicago.org. Student entry is free.

Close to home - violence in Chicago, teen parenting, the LGBT community, and life after high school National Geographic Channel hopes to recognize the work these students are doing as front-line ambassadors of youth film by featuring select films on its website. Options Laboratory and Ms. Kateri are proud to see the way filmmaking has given these high school students a voice and the opportunity to become preservationists of their own stories.

LITTLE BLACK PEARL SUMMER 2013

2013 Juried Art Sponsor
U.S. Cellular

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ComEd | Dover | ITW | Nicer Gas | Northern Trust | Peoples Gas | State Farm Insurance | Walgreens

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“Crazy Blue,” a digital photograph by Miguel Deberry—a Little Black Pearl workshop participant—was awarded 2nd Place in the youth category in 2013.
The 40,000-square foot facility offers spacious rooms to host private events of 20-400 guests. The venue is ideal for seminars, board meetings, sales and training conferences, corporate retreats, cocktail receptions, dinners and banquets.

The Atrium: Undressed

The Atrium: Dressed

The Little Black Pearl Art & Design Center, located at 1060 E. 47th Street, is easily accessible from three major express ways and is only ten minutes south of Chicago’s downtown area. Since 2005 Little Black Pearl has hosted over 50,000 guests and offers a Unique and Distinctive venue for special events.

The friendly staff at Little Black Pearl is experienced in event management of any scale. We value our customers and pride ourselves on customer satisfaction.

To learn more and to schedule an appointment contact Little Black Pearl’s Facility Rental Department at 773-285-1211 or visit our website at www.blackpearl.org, choose the Facility Rental link.

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

The Little Black Pearl Art & Design Center provides an extraordinary cultural setting for community, local and national events.

**“AN EVENT PLANNER’S DREAM”**

**FACILITY RENTAL**

The 40,000-square foot facility offers spacious rooms to host private events of 20-400 guests. The venue is ideal for seminars, board meetings, sales and training conferences, corporate retreats, cocktail receptions, dinners and banquets.
“I’ve gotten better in math thanks to Ms. G. I’ve never done any type of math on my own but now I’m able to do a lot of work without a classmate or a teacher being around me the whole class period.”

“The only way I can be successful in life is if I have an education. Education is important to me because it proves that any young black man can be successful in life. In order to make it you have to put your mind to it.”

“Once I receive my diploma I plan on enrolling in college so I can start taking my nursing classes and begin my career in a hospital savings lives.”

“You always have to live life on a positive note.”

“Education is important to me because I know that without education you get nowhere in life. Education is the key to opening doors and without it you will always be locked out.”

“My high school years were a lesson to me about how important it is to reach my goals, getting to college, and graduating.”

“Out of every school that I have ever attended I never had as many opportunities as I have had at Options Lab. I got to travel outside of the country. I’ve met famous people that I thought I would never meet. I’ve discovered my talents.”

“I’m using my high school life to prepare me for the future and the real world of being independent.”

“My attitude has changed a lot by being at Options. This school changed everything about me and I’m so glad I came here. The things I’ve learned in high school will go with me wherever I go for the rest of my life.”

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“Our teachers are amazing! Research states that the biggest impact on student success in the classroom is the teacher. Along with being experts in their subject area, our teachers are passionate, dedicated and care about the students. I am grateful for all they have done for Options Lab HS this year and we look forward to next year.”

SHARON MASON

THE SCIENCE MAN!
Daniel Jankovich, Science Instructor

Daniel Jankovich was born in the small town of Sauk Village, Illinois, just 31 miles south of Chicago. He was raised in and spent a great deal of his childhood in the south side of Chicago. Born to parents of Serbian descent, he became the first in his family to attend college right out of high school. He enrolled at Loyola University Chicago, earning degrees in the fields of biology, history and secondary education while graduating with high honors. Outside of school, Mr. Jankovich belonged to a number of improv comedy groups and environmental groups, as well as participated in several theatrical performances since the beginning of high school. Mr. Jankovich joined Little Black Pearl Art & Design Academy after learning about the interesting artistic approach to the standard school curriculum, where he happily became the school’s first science teacher. After having had a chance to meet and get to know the population and staff at LBPA, he now looks forward to another successful year at one of Chicago’s finest arts-based academic institutions.

THE HISTORY BUFF!
Gary Obaob, History Instructor

Originally from the northwest Chicago suburb of Roselle, Gary Obaob is the social studies instructor at Options Laboratory School. He teaches US History, World History, and Contemporary History. Gary earned his Bachelor’s of Arts in Social Studies Education in 2005 from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a Master’s of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction from Concordia University Chicago. The most enjoyable part about Little Black Pearl, he states, is the creativity of the students and how that is applied and demonstrated in class discussions and projects. In his free time, Gary enjoys singing, dancing, cooking, reading, comic books, zombie and science fiction movies, and advocacy on behalf of the disabled and LGBT communities. When motivating students, Mr. Obaob often uses favorite quote: “The expert in anything was once a beginner- Pres. Rutherford B. Hayes.”

THE NEW LITTLE BLACK PEARL ART & DESIGN ACADEMY
OPENING IN SEPTEMBER 2013

Founded in collaboration with Little Black Pearl Workshop, Little Black Pearl Art and Design Academy seeks to offer a unique, state-of-the-art learning environment that will enable students to develop skills in academics, fine arts and technology. Urban students will be challenged to be critical thinkers in a safe learning environment while earning a high school diploma, pursuing post-secondary education, and career opportunities.

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LITTLE BLACK PEARL
SUMMER 2013

I decided to interview Theater in my favorite place...my kitchen! It was the morning of Mother’s Day and we both loved and adored our mother’s and believe that they are the Angels guiding Day and we both loved and adored our mother’s place…my kitchen! It was the morning of Mother’s world.

THEASTER: I feel like having a space where a student can both develop a community and celebrate being their best selves is a very important in that, youth had access to an amazing space on the front end.

MONICA: It can be a very tough thing, but when I see people like you and Hebru, Carla and others who have come through LBPP I know we are doing something...something I thought we were trying to do it out. Figure out what works for what, what works for our community, what works for our kids, what works for our businesses and what works for our artists.

THEASTER: But you know the figuring out... It hasn’t been figuring it out to run around a circuitous track. The figuring out has had cycles of growth that… it’s like a mountain that it bumps up and then you have to figure out a new set of things to bump it up. You know and I think that’s very different. Like when people talk about a certain kind of resilience, but--and maybe when I say grass roots, it’s just a certain kind of small that stays small. That hasn’t been your dilemma. The basin thing was kind of pragmatic, it's self-determination is the key. The people are given that opportunity to just test, play around, and figure it out. And then be able to say “Oh, that might work or that might not work.” There are not a lot of places where African-American artists are given that opportunity to just test, and not be punished for not always being successful at that one thing.

THEATER: You know what you’re saying is funny…for some reason I’m thinking about NASA and the moon. And this idea that part of an astronaut’s training requires that they spend hours upon hours of training in a vacuous environment that kind of mimics the environment that they’re going to somewhere else, either on their journey or once they get there. This kind of thing that is the condition of this…this is what people are this, and you’re going to be in your little hovercraft, you’re going to do your moonwalking, and we want you to experience this for years. We want you to experience this for the whole of your life. I imagine a very specific set of models. I think that you were a big part of that.

THEASTER: How do you convey self-determination? (which sounds a little bit dated), but there is “How I am self-determination, environment that one might be in that is associated with kids that you teach and you teach them to believe in themselves and be creative and that might have an output that can sustain them. Can you teach them to always be thinking about how to stay alive. It's not…because you have a faint of heart. Sometimes I feel faint!! It's not an easy path. It is not for the faint of heart. Sometimes I feel faint!!

THEATER: It's not...because you have to always be thinking about how to stay alive. It's like, how do we take this building that we have and do as much as we can with what we’ve got, and make it as beautiful as possible? This relates a little bit to this place making thing. Before we went that word existed, before that idea existed, there were people like you…10, 15, 20 years in, imagining that the poor black neighborhood in the middle of the burgeoning neighborhood and the neighborhood transition. The kids who have need, that need should be fixed right there where they live and that art and culture could live in that place. If we could shut the street down and have the best people in the world come and perform on the street. Pay that street was made more special that the world might imagine. Brownsville or the south side a little bit different. I think I learned that from you. I think before there were words and descriptors for this thing that now you can apply for a grant for there was Monica Haslip doing this work that had no name and that was confusing people. Is it art or is it business?

THEATER: They right. Are you teaching an entrepreneurial tract or are you–

THEASTER: Exactly what are you doing? (laughs) People don’t like that messiness and it has been exciting! I think you can say that about what we mentioned Hebru, Carla, and I live off that. It is like Ok, the conditions are not always perfect, we have messy practices. We were born of a messy lot and people would rather it be more refined. You can’t both be comfortable moving in the art world and doing that. We've invested you in art and are you an artist? Are you an entrepreneur or are you an activist? You know what? I mean--It’s like I’m a mutt. I’m a mutt. I don't know who cares! But that came from, you know, a very specific set of models. I think that you were a big part of that.

THEATER: How do you convey self-determination? (which sounds a little bit dated), but there is “How I am self-determination, environment that one might be in that is associated with kids that you teach and you teach them to believe in themselves and be creative and that might have an output that can sustain them. Can you teach them to always be thinking about how to stay alive. It's not…because you have a faint of heart. Sometimes I feel faint!! It's not an easy path. It is not for the faint of heart. Sometimes I feel faint!!
“I think before there were words and descriptors for this thing that now you can apply for a grant for, there was Monica Haslip doing this work that had no name and that was confusing people. Is it art or is it business?”
“Little Black Pearl’s 20th Anniversary means progress...innovation...cutting edge...community...partnership...globalism. I’m proud to be a part of and celebrate an institution that has been changing the world through art, outreach and education; one child at a time.”

ZAKEYA CARTMAN

“I am honored to be part of an organization seeking to enrich our community through the arts. Little Black Pearl is a gem that has helped to shape the minds and spirits of thousands of youth and their communities. I am looking forward to what the next 20 years bring!”

CHINYERA MOODY

“Rarely do we get to choose the success of our passions, but twenty years of “heart & soul” dedicated to the growth of young people’s growth has given rise to a reason to celebrate one decision and a single passion that has resulted in touching thousands of lives.”

LEON HASLIP

“Little Black Pearl serves to connect hundreds of young people whose cultural awareness has been broadened because of their exposure to Little Black Pearl. Art Makes Change and for LBP to be a part of that movement for 20 years is an outstanding feat and a necessary part of making a difference in the Chicago landscape.”

NADIA JOHNSON

“Being around when Monica’s vision was only a thought, but witnessing 20 years of success and being a part of the business that has provided inner-city children with quality art and educational experiences, is very exciting to me. Robert Collier says, “Vision gives you the impulse to make the picture your own.” Monica, you had the vision and now the picture is self-explanatory.”

ARLESIA JURAN
FAMILY SUCCESS THROUGH HOUSING COMMUNITIES

Our mission at The Community Builders is to build and sustain strong communities where people of all incomes can achieve their full potential. We strengthen families and revitalize neighborhoods through housing, commercial development, strong property management and community support. Our partnerships in Bronzeville are producing new developments at Oakwood Shores and Shops and Lofts at 47 - bringing modern, spacious mixed-income housing along with retail and medical space and creating jobs and economic opportunity for the community.

When Little Black Pearl made its initial expansion, by renovating the Hidden Pearl Café into the innovative space now named the Teen Tech Center, there was the realization that the term “hidden” may have obscured the prominence of the cafe’s offerings. So, the old adage of K.I.S.S. (keep it simple stupid) was certainly applicable to bringing our Café brand in line with the name and concept of what the organization has always stood for. “Black Pearl” connotes nurturing the raw talents of young people, through a full spectrum of opportunities, that guide and develop their inner “pearl” (as a precious and valuable jewel) and their sense of being “Black” for its true significance (the only color made from the combination of all colors) among humanity, into a confidence and humility that reveal their strengths in a vast universe of imperfections. After shifting its position to the east portion of the ground floor, the southern exposure to the foot and vehicle traffic of 47th Street was minimized, while the café’s entrance remained accessible from the corner of Greenwood Ave and 47th Street. Now the challenge of visibility requires bringing the public’s attention around the corner to make them aware of the vibrant yet soothing atmosphere of the space that offers great food, wi-fi, TV viewing, music, gaming and an exhibition gallery. Black Pearl Café, is the latest and sleeker version of the old concept of integrating an inviting eating space with relevant amenities that establish connections to today’s world of technology. The reality is that the space and atmosphere have significantly evolved, with just a little bit of a make-over. New tiles walls and product displays, new flat screen TVs and game station components, new lighting and color schemes, new seating and new surround sound acoustics are a few of the upgrades that have heightened the energy and atmosphere of the Café space and its purpose. Following the transition of moving the Café, we primarily engaged in servicing the student population of the school that is housed within our walls. By providing a social space for students to gather and socialize, the Café has served to broaden the communication skills and interactions of the students - as a group. Some students found opportunity to learn service skills and café operations by working a few hours a day behind the counter. In a small way, this break from the routine of academic study provided an alternative to the regular lunch room that must happen before the engines are revved fully and we are finally speeding down the road. First, there are the windows…new window ads will draw the attention of passer-by: this will broadcast our expanded menu and new offerings: there, then are a few more pieces of equipment and the slight rearrangement of the decor; and finally, there are the new products and wall exhibitions that are currently being acquired and installed. Even though, some of the furnishings moved with the Café, the atmosphere evokes a new experience. As the excitement grows… soon the treasures that have been nurtured “inside” our walls will be “out” for the entire world to experience. So, whenever you’re trying to think of some place to go for something good to eat…think of the place that serves a cool atmosphere with every hot meal. COMING SOON…

www.blackpearlcafe.org: a website and online store.

A hearty menu of sandwiches, soups, hot wings, buffalo wings and strips, stuffed potatoes, pizza, coffee, assorted chips, teas, beverages and juices headline the daily food choices that have been nurtured “inside” our Café offers. So, whenever you’re trying to think of some place to go for something good to eat…think of the place that serves a cool atmosphere with every hot meal.

Leon Haslip
Director of Facility Operations

a study environment and occasional night time rental activities. It’s been a long wait to swing open our doors again and invite the outside world “back” into the cool atmosphere of our Café. The anticipation has been palpable, for there are a few remaining final touches that must happen before the engines are revved fully and we are finally speeding down the road. First, there are the windows…new window ads will draw the attention of passer-by: this will broadcast our expanded menu and new offerings: there, then are a few more pieces of equipment and the slight rearrangement of the decor; and finally, there are the new products and wall exhibitions that are currently being acquired and installed. Even though, some of the furnishings moved with the Café, the atmosphere evokes a new experience. As the excitement grows… soon the treasures that have been nurtured “inside” our walls will be “out” for the entire world to experience. So, whenever you’re trying to think of some place to go for something good to eat…think of the place that serves a cool atmosphere with every hot meal. COMING SOON…

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