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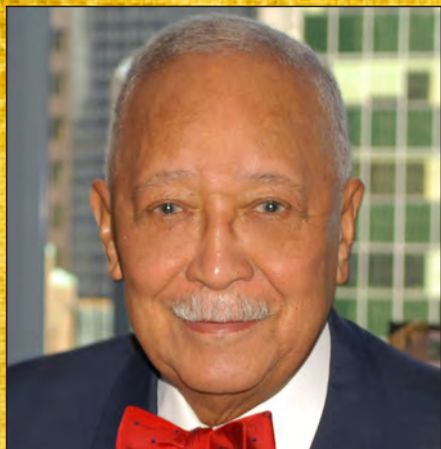
MADIBA HUMANITARIAN AWARDS

CELEBRATING THE LEGACY OF NELSON MANDELA

THEME: HUMANITARIANS WHO HAVE IMPACTED THE WORLD

BEDFORD-STUYVESANT MUSEUM OF AFRICAN ART (BSMAA)

HONORS:



David Dinkins
Former Mayor of NYC



Hon. Arikana Chihombori-Quao
African Union Ambassador to the U.S.



Hon. Laurie A. Cumbo
NYC Council Majority Leader



Ibtihaj Muhammad
Olympic 2016 Fencing Bronze Medal Winner



Judge Betty Staton
President Brooklyn Legal Services
(BLS) Bedford Stuyvesant



Sharon Content
President & Founder
Children of Promise, NYC

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/FOUNDER

Vira Lynn Jones

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Peggy Alston

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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BSMAA MISSION STATEMENT

Symbols of Tribal Spirits: The Bedford Stuyvesant Museum of African Art (BSMAA) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit arts organization located in Bedford Stuyvesant, Brooklyn. It is dedicated to providing an enriching educational experience to an underserved community in Central Brooklyn and beyond.

With its unique collection of artwork from 40 of the 55 African countries, BSMAA will enrich the lives of the multicultural community in Central Brooklyn, especially the youth. Furthermore, BSMAA will strive to increase broader appreciation and encourage a deeper understanding of the diverse art and cultures from around the world.

You can help BSMAA become world-class cultural institution and the pride of Brooklyn by making a tax deductible contribution on our secure website:

www.bedfordstuyvesantmuseum.org

BSMAA's 501(c)(3) IRS Tax Exempt No. 45-4880710

Masquerade Mask Dance In Costume
Igbo People
Nigeria





Nelson "Madiba" Mandela (Photo credit: internet)

"Death is something inevitable. When a man has done what he considers to be his duty to his people and his country, he can rest in peace. I believe I have made that effort and that is, therefore, why I will sleep for the eternity."

-Nelson Mandela

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The United Nations has approved The Madiba Humanitarian Award: Celebrating The Legacy of Nelson Mandela (Sponsored by BSMAA) as an official event listed in its calendar from 2015 to 2024.



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Vira Lynn Jones

The Bedford Stuyvesant Museum of African Art (BSMAA) is celebrating its Fifth Annual Madiba Humanitarian Awards: Celebrating the Legacy of Nelson Mandela. The BSMAA staff is proud of its theme: Humanitarians Who Have Impacted The World.

The dictionary defines a humanitarian as someone who actively engages in promoting human welfare, saving human lives and improving the welfare

What Does It Mean To Be A Humanitarian?

and happiness of other peoples without regard to race, sexual orientation, religious or political division. If history explores the background of the late South African President, Nelson “Madiba” Mandela, would it be correct to assume that he was an extraordinary humanitarian?

The answer is a resounding yes!!! How do we deconstruct a human being who has been deified for exuding the best of human qualities: generosity, compassion and an unwavering effort toward helping humanity? The famous prisoner who fought the suppressive apartheid regime that denied many South African citizens equal rights, has become associated with humanitarian efforts such as championing children’s education, building schools in rural communities

and, until his death, involved with the safe-sex HIV/AIDS campaign in South Africa.

The BSMAA Selection Awards Committee is proud of the six Mandela Humanitarian Award Honorees who exemplify the extraordinary principles that guided his life. Society needs to continue to celebrate this man who sacrificed 28 years of his life in prison for his belief that all people should enjoy equality and basic human rights. The future generation of children must learn to put aside selfish behavior, make a sacrifice to help others in need. That is one of the strongest traits of people who call themselves Americans—showing compassion and empathy toward others.

“The Year of Return, Ghana 2019” is a major landmark marketing campaign targeting the African–American and Diaspora Market to mark 400 years of the first enslaved African arriving in Jamestown Virginia.

The Madiba Humanitarian Awards: Celebrating The Legacy of Nelson Mandela was selected as an official event for “The Year of Return, Ghana 2019



The Nelson Mandela Foundation Approves BSMAA's Annual Mandela Humanitarian Award Event

Reprinted With Permission From Our Time Press Newspaper



Vira Lynn Jones, Executive Director with Sello Hatang, Executive Officer, the Nelson Mandela Foundation

The Bedford-Stuyvesant Museum of African Art (BSMAA) has received an official letter from the South African-based Nelson Mandela Foundation sanctioning its annual event as the Madiba Humanitarian Award: Celebrating the Legacy of Nelson Mandela. Ruth Carter, the costume designer for the Black Panther movie, will be honored at the fourth annual event, Saturday, October 13th at the Brooklyn Museum from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. This year's theme is: "Education: A Forceful Weapon Empowering the World's Children." BSMAA has held its Annual Nelson Mandela Humanitarian Award event since 2014.

"This year is very special," said Vira Lynn Jones, the Executive Director and founder of the Bedford Stuyvesant-based museum. "Nelson Mandela would have been 100 this year. BSMAA has planned an incredible party with music and entertainment to celebrate the life and legacy of this incredible man."

Jones went to some lengths to get in touch with the right people to make this year's tribute a great and legitimate one. She was directed to Sello Hatang, the Chief Executive of

the South African-based Nelson Mandela Foundation. Jones met with Mr. Hatang in September 2017 when he visited Harlem.

"Mr. Hatang even approved BSMAA's request to commission an artist to create a bust of Nelson Mandela that Waterford Crystal in Ireland would produce in crystal," said Jones. "Since it would be

and not sold, BSMAA was given the Foundation's approval to create a bust likeness of the late South African President." Jones noted that prominent Brooklyn artist, Otto Neals, has been working on a rendering.

During their September 2017 meeting, Mr. Hatang explained that the Nelson Mandela Foundation had licensed the brand name the "Nelson Mandela Humanitarian Award" to the United Nations. Every five years, the General Assembly selected two laureates, a woman and a man, who have dedicated their lives to the service to humanity by promoting the purposes and principles of the United Nations while honoring and paying homage to Nelson Mandela's extraordinary life and legacy. Namibian ophthalmologist Dr. Helena Ndume was selected as the first female recipient because she has dedicated her life to treating blindness and eye-related illnesses in her country and throughout Africa. The male recipient was a former President of Portugal, Jorge Fernando Branco, who has dedicated his efforts to restore democracy in his country.

"I told Mr. Hatang I felt the United Nations list would select many prominent and world-renowned individuals for its award. I explained to him that were so many people working on the grass-roots level making incredible contributions toward humanity. These individuals never receive the recognition they deserve. Nelson Mandela was a very humble man and I know he would have embraced these people," Jones said. "I also reached back to 1990 and give Mr. Hatang a background history lesson about Mr. Mandela's historical visit to the Bedford Stuyvesant community in Brooklyn."

"I explained to him that the late South African President's first stop in New York was not to rub shoulders with celebrities. Instead, he traveled to Bedford-Stuyvesant. He visited the Boys and Girls High School where the athletic track and field have since been renamed to honor Mr. Mandela. "I also told him there was another school, the Mandela High School for Social Justice, located inside the building."

Jones remembered Mr. Hatang sitting forward in his chair, laughed and said, "You can call it the 'Madiba' Humanitarian Award: Celebrating the Legacy of Nelson Mandela. The name 'Madiba' is a very endearing term for Mr. Mandela in South Africa. When I return to South Africa, I will instruct the staff member in charge of writing official letters to e-mail you an official letter." A month later, Jones said she received the official letter via e-mail.

"When the letter arrived in my e-mail, you would have thought that someone was killing me in my apartment. I ran through each room while screaming because I was so excited. I was fist-bumping the walls with my hands," Jones said.



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, NY 10007

October 19, 2019

Dear Friends:

It is a pleasure to join the Bedford Stuyvesant Museum of African Art in welcoming everyone its Fifth Annual Madiba Humanitarian Awards Ceremony.

New York's greatest strength is the power of its diverse people, and we are fortunate to have an abundance of residents committed to giving back to their communities and upholding our progressive values. Tonight's event honors the enduring legacy of activist, humanitarian, and statesman Nelson Mandela, and recognizes the contributions of individuals who exemplify his commitment to service through their efforts to increase equality, inclusivity, and justice in the five boroughs and beyond. This celebration is also a wonderful occasion to commend the Bedford Stuyvesant Museum of African Art for its mission to enhance our cultural offerings and unite New Yorkers of all backgrounds in shared appreciation of artwork from across the African continent. Together, we are working to make New York the fairest big city in America and ensure it remains a vibrant center of opportunity and promise for all.

On behalf of the City of New York, Chirlane and I extend our congratulations to this year's distinguished Madiba Humanitarian Award recipients. Please accept our best wishes for a terrific evening and continued success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Bill de Blasio'.

Bill de Blasio
Mayor

**FIFTH ANNUAL MADIBA HUMANITARIAN AWARDS:
HUMANITARIANS WHO HAVE IMPACTED THE WORLD**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2019
BROOKLYN MUSEUM | 7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.**

2019 Honorees Processional	Asase Yaa Youth Ensemble
Greetings/Introduction of Master of Ceremonies	Vira Jones <i>Executive Director</i>
Master of Ceremony	Jelani Marshariki <i>Black Veterans for Social Justice Inc.</i>
South African National Anthem	Phindi Mhkize-Wilson
Libation	Reverend Johnny Youngblood
Reflections: Mandela Comes To Brooklyn	Dr. Al Vann <i>Former NYC Councilman</i> Tabari Bomanni <i>Principal, Boys and Girls High School</i>
Veteran Salute - Marine Honor Guard	LTC (Ret.) Ricardo Singleton

HONOREE PRESENTATIONS

Hon. David N. Dinkins <i>Former New York City Mayor</i>	Eric Adams <i>Brooklyn Borough President</i>
Creative Outlet - Tribal Truth	Jamel Gaines
Hon. Laurie Cumbo <i>New York City Council Majority Leader</i>	Jamel Gaines
Dancing The Mask: BSMAA's Vision	Vira Jones
Gue Pelou - Sacred Mask of the Forest	Kotchunga Dance Company <i>Bolo Bolo Blauweh</i>
Ibtihaj Muhammad <i>2016 Olympic Bronze Medal Champion</i>	Dordy Jourdain <i>Executive Director, YMCA, Bed-Stuy</i>
Hon. Judge Betty Staton <i>President, Brooklyn Legal Services</i>	Annette Robinson <i>Former NYS Assembly Woman</i>
Hon. Sharon Content <i>President/Founder, Children of Promise NYC</i>	Robert Cornegy, Jr. <i>NYC Council Member</i>
Asase Yaa Youth Ensemble <i>Kofi Osei Williams, Artistic Director</i>	Asase Yaa Cultural Arts Foundation
Hon. Arikana Chihombori-Quao <i>African Union Ambassador to the U.S.</i>	Jelani Marshariki
Closing Remarks	Vira Jones
Retiring Flag Colors - Marine Honor Guards	LTC (Ret.) Ricardo Singleton
"Grazing In The Grass <i>Salute To Hugh Masekela</i>	Lesedi Ntsane <i>South African Trumpeter</i>

New York's First African American Mayor: On The Front Lines of Making History



David N. Dinkins, Former Mayor of NYC

In 1989 former Mayor David Dinkins made history by winning the New York City Mayoral election. He defeated three-term incumbent Mayor Ed Koch in the Democratic primary. The former mayor defeated then-Republican candidate, Rudy Giuliani, in the general election, and becoming the first, and to date only, African American New York City mayor.

While his accomplishments have been positively documented in the history books, the BSMAA Awards Selection Committee wanted to acknowledge the contributions that the 92-year old former mayor has contributed

toward improving the lives of all New Yorkers. Mayor Dinkins was elected as mayor during the height of New York's drug and crime epidemic. He has not fully been given credit for reversing that scenario.

The Dinkins Administration initiated a program called, "Safe Streets, Safe City: Cops and Kids". The initiative was instrumental in reducing crime and expanding opportunities for New York's children and families. He also established the Beacon community centers that offered New Yorkers a mix of social services; ranging from recreation to job training, in public schools, after school hours. The community centers are still operational today.

Mayor Dinkins was also responsible for establishing numerous and widely lauded cultural vibrant events including Fashion Week, Restaurant Week, and Broadway on Broadway. The Dinkins administration was responsible for jumpstarting the revitalization of Times Square. His administration also negotiated an unprecedented windfall deal to keep the U.S. Open Tennis Championships in New York for the next 99 years. This arrangement generates more annual revenue to the city than the Yankees, Mets, Knicks and Rangers combined.

Perhaps the highlight of Mayor Dinkins Administration was the historical visit by the late South African President, Nelson Mandela, who, before he was democratically elected the first Black President, had just recently be released from 28 years in prison. The Dinkins Administration honored Mandela with a ticker-tape parade

that attracted hundreds of thousands who cheered his motorcade as it traveled up Wall Street.

He was often on the front lines with the people protesting and allowed himself to be arrested. He walked in the protest after the NYPD's injustice against Amadou Diallo, an African immigrant shot 19 times. Mayor Dinkins also calmed racial tensions during the Crown Heights riots in 1993 and, after the Yusuf Hawkins killing in Bensonhurst, that threatened to unravel the fabric, of what Mayor Dinkins famously called, the "Gorgeous Mosaic" that was, and still is, New York City.

David Norman Dinkins was born in 1927, in Trenton, New Jersey. He graduated from Trenton Central High School. Upon graduation, he joined the Marine Corps. After his honorable discharge, he utilized the G.I. bill to obtain a mathematics degree from Howard University. He went on to obtain a law degree from the Brooklyn Law School.

In 2013, Mayor Dinkins published his memoir, *A Mayor's Life: Governing New York's Gorgeous Mosaic*, that chronicles his career as a devoted career servant and New Yorker in love with the city. Mayor Dinkins is currently a professor at Columbia University in the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA). He is also the founding member of the New York Black & Puerto Rican Legislative Caucus.

Dr. Arikana Chihombori-Quao, M.D.: African Union Ambassador, Medical Doctor And Activist

The African Union Ambassador to the United States, Dr. Arikana Chihombori, has enjoyed numerous titles during her illustrious career. Dr. Arikana Chihombori is a medical doctor, a passionate activist for women's rights, entrepreneur, humanitarian and founder of medical clinics. The title that has been the most challenging for Dr. Chihombori has been her appointment as the African Union Ambassador to the United States, a position she has held since 2016.

Dr. Chihombori, who was born in Zimbabwe and moved to the U.S. in 1977, is outspoken about the implications of the Berlin Conference that took place in Berlin, Germany in 1885 that divided the borders of Africa. She lectures about the outcome of the divisions on the continent of Africa that were made and sees these divisions as a cause of some of Africa's problems that are still in effect today. She seeks to reunite African states, and Africans in the Diaspora.

As the African Union Ambassador to the U.S., Dr. Chihombori is fully committed to reinforcing the longstanding and deep historic, cultural and economic relations between Africa and the U.S. She plays a key role in reinforcing the African Union's strategic partnerships with the United States.

Before Dr. Chihombori's appointment, she was a renowned medical doctor in Tennessee where she had practiced

medicine for over 25 years. Dr. Arikana Chihombori is world renown for her industrious efforts to improve healthcare systems in Africa and promote women's rights around the globe.

In September 2013, Dr. Chihombori was one of four women who represented Africa at the International Conference on Women's Rights while sharing the stage with Nobel Prize winners. She delivered a moving speech on the topic of "Violence against Women and its Worldwide Effect." Since 2012, Ambassador Chihombori was the Chair of the African Union-African Diaspora Health Initiative (AU-ADHI) and has been pivotal in mobilizing the African Diaspora health professionals in addressing the healthcare crisis in Africa.

Dr. Chihombori holds a bachelor's degree in general chemistry and a master's degree in organic chemistry from Fisk University. She has a medical degree from Meharry Medical College.



Dr. Arikana Chihombori-Quao, M.D., Internet Photo

Upon graduating from medical school in 1986, she interned for three years in general surgery at the State University of New York in Brooklyn, New York.

New York City Majority Leader Laurie A. Cumbo Is A Relentless Political Warrior For The People



Hon. Laurie A. Cumbo, NYC Council Majority Leader

New York City Majority Leader, Laurie A. Cumbo, has proven that a politician can be a powerful warrior when fighting to improve the quality of life for the people who inhabit Brooklyn. Since she was elected New York City Council Woman representing Brooklyn's 35th District in 2014, she has passed over two dozen pieces of legislation focused on tenants' rights, addressing foster care reform, sex education implementation, women's health and public safety, and gender equity, increasing opportunities for minority and women-owned businesses, and campaign finance reform.

In 2018 she was appointed the New York City Council Majority Leader, the first African American woman to serve in this capacity. The Majority Leader has also been a relentless advocate in other areas. In collaboration with other community political leaders, she spearheaded the *Art: A Catalyst for Change*. The innovative program provided

after-school programming in schools affected by a high rate of gun violence.

The Majority Leader is a fierce advocate for tenants' rights. She traveled to Albany and allowed herself to be arrested with her colleagues and advocates while fighting for the protection of housing rights. She has brought innovation to New York City by sponsoring and passing the monumental 911 text emergency bill. It will allow New Yorkers to text 911, upload images and videos when making an emergency call is not possible.

Majority Leader Cumbo has recognized that every issue is a woman's issue. That is why she has invested her energy presenting legislation that is investing in the safety and security of women. She has more than tripled the New York City Council's investment in domestic violence awareness and preventative services. She has been on the frontlines to create the Mayor's Office for Victim Services. The Majority Leader has successfully championed the implementation of the New York City Paid Family Leave policy and she has pushed for pay equity and advocated for an increase in the minimum wage to \$15 an hour.

Before she began her political career, Majority Leader Cumbo had been at the forefront of social and cultural activism. In 1999, she used her graduate thesis as a model to found Brooklyn's first Museum of Contemporary African Diaspora Art (MoCADA). MoCADA

has gained a reputation for beginning together the diverse Brooklyn community to highlight challenging issues around race, gun violence, police brutality and homeless.

During her first term as a New York City Council Member, she successfully passed the largest cultural legislative package, tripling the percentage budget for art programs. She advocated for the largest increase in the Department of Cultural Affairs' budget in its thirty-five years history. She sponsored and passed legislation to create the first-ever citywide Minority and Women-Owned Businesses Task Force.

In 2019, the Majority Leader rallied the community in collaboration with other political leaders to save the Weeksville Heritage Center, a cultural institution facing financial difficulty. Last year she led a rally to prevent a long-time senior center from losing its lease to a developer.

Majority Leader Cumbo was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. She attended the Berkeley Carroll Day School and Brooklyn Technical High School. She graduated from Spelman College with an undergraduate degree in Art History and a master's degree in Visual Arts Administration from New York University.

*"The laughter of a child
lights up a house."*

-African Proverb

Ibtihaj Muhammad: Olympic Trailblazer, Advocate For Religious Tolerance And Empowering Young Women

Ibtihaj Muhammad has been a trailblazer since she began fencing as a 13-year old growing up in Maplewood, New Jersey. Ms. Muhammad, who won the 2016 Olympic fencing bronze medal in Brazil, is a celebrated athlete, activist, speaker, author and an advocate for religious tolerance.

Ms. Muhammad's athletic career has been dominated by trailblazing historically first. She is best known for being the first Muslim-American woman to wear a hijab while competing for the U.S. She also became the first female Muslim-American athlete to earn a medal at the Olympics. Her path to cementing her story in the

Ms. Muhammad is an activist. She serves as sports ambassador with the U.S. Department of State's Empowering Women and Girl's through Sport Initiative. She also works closely with organizations such as Athletes for Impact and the Special Olympics.

She has written two books. In 2018, she penned her memoir, *"Proud, My Fight For An Unlikely American Dream"*, a riveting coming-of-age story delving into the obstacles she overcame with grace and compassion to become a force. In 2019, Ms. Muhammad co-wrote a children's book, *"The Proudest Blue: A*



Ibtihaj Muhammad, Olympic 2016 Fencing Bronze Medal Winner

"At this point in my career it's important that I lay the groundwork for athletes who are different."

"Sports is a great tool to bridge different communities and different cultures."

history books has not been an easy one. She overcame teasing and bullying while wearing the hijab, the head covering worn in public by some Muslim women to honor Islam. She had a competitive spirit and loved sports. Ms. Muhammad's parents, in accordance with their Muslim beliefs, wanted her to participate in a sport where she was not restricted from wearing her hijab. Fencing was a perfect fit.

Story of Hijab and Family, that is on the New York Times best seller list. The toy manufacturer, Mattel, has created an Ibtihaj Muhammad Barbie within its "Shero" collection. In 2016, Ms. Muhammad appeared in Time Magazine's 100 Most Influential People.

Ms. Muhammad graduated from Duke University with a dual major in international relations and African

studies. She attended the prestigious Peter Westbrook Foundation, a nonprofit organization that introduces and teaches fencing and life skills to underprivileged inner-city youth in New York City. She trained under the Westbrook Foundation's Elite Athlete Program.

The BSMAA Awards Selection Committee overwhelmingly voted to honor an incredible woman and the BSMAA staff feels

honored that she has accepted the 2019 Nelson Mandela Humanitarian Award. The Committee said Ms. Muhammad inspires us to break barriers and build bridges."

*"If love is sickness,
patience is the
remedy"*

-African Proverb

Judge Betty E. Staton: Dedicated Community Activist, Attorney And Celebrated Bedford Stuyvesant Shero!



Judge Betty Staton
President Brooklyn Legal Services (BLS) Bedford Stuyvesant, Internet Photo

Bedford Stuyvesant resident, Judge Betty E. Staton, has been quoted as saying, "There are only two important questions you should ask yourself in life, and that is, 'Did you find joy in your life, and did your life bring joy to someone else?'" Judge Staton, who recently turned 85 years old, has found joy serving the Bedford Stuyvesant community as a community activist, lawyer and president of the Brooklyn Legal Services (BLS). If the history of her community activist career path were documented in a nonfiction book, it would be a page-turning best-seller.

At 41, and, as a single parent with two young children, Judge Staton obtained a full scholarship to attend law school at New York University. While a law student, she left a legacy as a co-founder of the Black

Latino Asian Pacific Alumni Association, an organization that is still in existence. Years later Judge Staton founded the first African American female law in the State of New York, Boyd, Staton & Cave.

Judge Stanton brought her legal knowledge back to the Bedford Stuyvesant community. She used her legal skills working with Brooklyn Legal Services (BLS), a nonprofit organization that provides low-income residents free legal services in the areas of housing, immigration services, tax and disability issues. She left BSL in 1991 after former Mayor David Dinkins appointed Judge Staton to serve as a Kings County family court judge.

Judge Stanton was emotionally affected by the stories and scenarios that she experienced in her court and worked effortlessly fighting

Judge Staton grew up in a single-parent household in Bedford Stuyvesant, Brooklyn. She both understood and shared her experiences as a "latch-key kid". Since she was the older child, she was designated as the responsible one to have the house key dangling around her neck. "You had the responsibility to look after the younger siblings and you knew what to do in an emergency." Today when children are discovered along, Judge Staton said, the situation is perceived as neglect "Removing the children from the home is emotionally traumatizing."

The Bedford Stuyvesant Museum of African Art (BSMAA) Awards Selection Committee found Judge Staton's selection for the Nelson Mandela Humanitarian Award an easy one. Judge Staton is still finding joy in serving humanity. After she retired from the family court in 2004, Judge Staton returned to BLS where finds joy empowering the Bedford Stuyvesant community. She is currently the president of Brooklyn Legal Services (BLS).

"People can tell you anything but it's what they actually do that makes the difference."

-Betty Staton during a Women's Leadership Network interview in 2017

to repair and maintain the family structure rather than ripping them apart. She said the rush to judgment and to remove children from their homes was a result of cultural misunderstandings, misconceptions, stereotypes and an absence of judges of color.

Judge Staton also finds joy in many other areas in her life, like Latin dancing, and is an active member in her local church, Emmanuel Baptist church in her Clinton Hill neighborhood.

Sharon Content Embraces Children Of Incarcerated Parents And Empowers Them To Break The Intergenerational Prison Pipeline



Sharon Content, President & Founder, Children of Promise, NYC, Photo: CPNYC

Children of Promise, NYC (CPNYC) Founder and President, Sharon Content, was a successful budget analysis on Wall Street. In a magazine interview with Vibe, Ms. Content talked about how much she enjoyed her career at Smith Barney, but, one day she said to herself, “This is not what I want to be doing all day.” On that day, Ms. Content realized that she wanted to dedicate her skills, time and talents working in the non-profit sector.

Ms. Content got her feet wet when she worked with the Osborne Association Alternative to Incarceration Program. She followed this experience with a splash with the Boys & Girls Club. Ms. Content was responsible for conducting research and discovered a neglected population of children who

had a parent or parents incarcerated in the criminal justice system but lacked effective support systems. She grew increasingly concerned. Ms. Content sprang into action to fill the void.

In 2009, Ms. Content founded the nonprofit organization Children of Promise, New York City. This year CPNYC is celebrating its 10th Anniversary. Plans are in motion to open a program in the South Bronx. CPNYC has stepped up and provided holistic services to children and families in desperate need of intervention, advocacy and support through their after-school programs, one-on-one mentoring and summer camps.

According to criminal justice reports, children, who have an incarcerated parent in prison, are six times more

likely to be thrown into the criminal justice system. According to statistics, there are currently over 2.7 million children with a parent in prison and over 100,000 in New York alone. It is a devastating reality, but the statistics do not stop there. One in nine African American children have a parent in prison, compared that with one in 57 white children. Ms. Content has effectively used CPNYC to break the prison pipeline for the youth. CPNYC is the only nonprofit organization in New York to support the children, caregivers, and incarcerated parents by simply, and quite brilliantly, combing services through its mental health clinic and enriching after-school programs.

Ms. Content, who is married with two children, squeezes out time from her busy schedule to visit and speak with incarcerated parents who are in the prisons. “At least once every three months I go into prisons to speak. Not only do we work with some of their children, we also work with the parents who want to have a genuine impact on their children’s lives, as well as the communities that they have left,” she has been quoted as saying in interviews. “I enjoy going into the prisons because they’re always so appreciative of the connection we provide and how we respect that relationship.” Ms. Content said the dad will say, “I’m still his dad. I made these mistakes. I’m here but I love my child. And, she explained, the children love their parents and misses the parent’s presence in their lives.”

It is for these reasons that the BSMAA Awards Selection Committee was excited to honor and recognize Ms. Content for her important work. She has selflessly advocated and supported children in jeopardy of falling into the vicious cycle of the judicial system.

2018 MADIBA HUMANITARIAN AWARD HONOREES

THEME: EDUCATION: A FORCEFUL WEAPON EMPOWERING THE WORLD CHILDREN



RUTH E. CARTER
*Academy Award Winning
Costume Designer*



ROB GARRIS
*CEO/Founder
Throwaway Kids Foundation*



KEVINEE GILMORE
*Founder
Foster Care House & Creator of #Fostercare*



MINISTER TONY MUHAMMAD
*Regional Representative
Nation of Islam
Created "United In Peace Movement"
To Stop Gang Violence*



JAMES SHAW JR.
*Waffle House Hero Who Disarmed
Gunman In Tennessee*

2016 MADIBA HUMANITARIAN AWARD HONOREES

THEME: A SALUTE TO WARRIORS: A CULTURAL TRIBUTE TO OUR MEN & WOMAN IN UNIFORM



KOMAL AHMAD
CEO/Founder COPIA



DR. LOREE SUTTON, M.D.
*Commissioner
NYC Dept of Veterans Affairs
Office of Mayor Bill de Blasio*



HERBERT SWEAT JR.
*A True Humanitarian And Genuine
Vietnam War Hero*

2015 MADIBA HUMANITARIAN AWARD HONOREES

THEME: IMPACT IN OTHER PEOPLE'S LIVES



DR. NADIA LOPEZ, Ph.D.
*Principal, Mott Hall Bridges Academy,
Brownsville, New York*



BRYAN STEVENSON, ESQ.
*Executive Director/Founder, Equal Justice
Initiative (EJI)*



ISAIAH WASHINGTON
Actor, Author and Philanthropist

2015 MADIBA HUMANITARIAN AWARD HONOREES

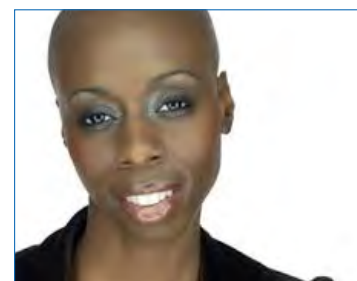
THEME: NELSON "MADIBA" MANDELA: LARGER THAN LIFE



CHIRLANE McCRAY
New York Activist First Lady



DR. MELONY SAMUELS, Ph.D.
*Executive Director
Bed-Stuy Campaign Against Hunger*



**DWANA ADIAHA
SMALLWOOD**
*Founder, The Dwana Smallwood
Performing Arts Center (DSPAC)*

Children of Promise, NYC wants to congratulate all of the incredible nominees for receiving the Madiba Humanitarian Award.



CPNYC is so grateful that our Founder & President, **Sharon Content**, has been honored alongside fellow humanitarians who have impacted the world. Sharon founded Children of Promise, NYC in 2009 to embrace children of incarcerated parents and empower them to break the cycle of intergenerational involvement in the criminal justice system.



LEARN MORE & GET INVOLVED

www.cpnyc.org or call 718.483.9290 Ext. 302

ABOUT CPNYC

We support children ages 6-18, their caregivers, and the incarcerated parent through an Article 31 Certified Outpatient Mental Health Clinic, After School Program, Summer Day Camp, One-to-One Mentoring, Teen Program, Advocacy, and Food Distribution Program. We are excited to announce the launch of a new state-of-the-art facility in the South Bronx in December of 2019. Children of Promise, NYC will be celebrating ten years of saving lives at our Inaugural Gala on April 1, 2020. We look forward to celebrating our supporters and community partners who have helped us to reach this incredible milestone.

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A SALUTE TO THE 2019 MADIBA HUMANITARIAN AWARD HONOREES

Hon. Arikana Chihombori-Quao, African Union Ambassador to the U.S.

David Dinkins, Former Mayor of NYC

Hon. Laurie A. Cumbo, NYC Council Majority Leader

Ibtihaj Muhammad, Olympic 2016 Fencing, Bronze Medal Winner

Judge Betty Staton, NYC Council Majority Leader

Sharon Content, President & Founder, Children of Promise, NYC

In Celebration of Nelson “Madiba” Mandela’s Legacy

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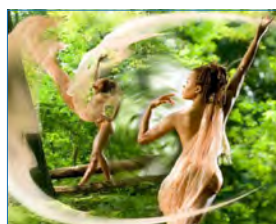
ABOUT THE PERFORMING ARTISTS



LESEDI NTSANE

South African Trumpeter Extraordinaire

Lesedi Ntsane has played the trumpeter since he was four years old. Ntsane's playing style has been compared to Hugh Masekela, the late South African trumpet giant. Ntsane was influenced by Masekela, who was mentored by and played in his grandfather's band, the Merry Markers' Orchestra. Ntsane would later study with Masekela and replace Masekela who was to perform with Abdullah Ibrahim.



CREATIVE OUTLET DANCE THEATRE

Jamal Gaines, Founder/Artistic Director

The Creative Outlet Dance Theatre of Brooklyn is a professional dance company that merges rigorous classical and modern technique with an African American soul and spirit.



ASASE YAA YOUTH ENSEMBLE

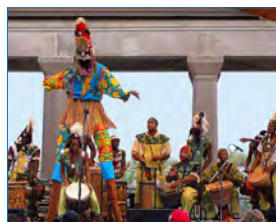
Kofi Osei Williams/Artistic Director

Asase Yaa is a nonprofit organization that is dedicated to fulfilling its goal to enrich, educate, entertain and promote the importance of cultural performing arts to youth and adults in the community.



BOLO BOLO BLAWEH

Bolo Bolo Blaweh is a multicultural African drumming group. Bolo Bolo Blaweh is a collective of Djembe drummers, educators, artists and cultural custodians from the African Diaspora who are deeply devoted to preserving the teachings, customs and legacy of the people of the Ivory Coast.



GUE PELOU

Sacred Mask of the Forest

Gue Pelou is the "Sacred Mask of the Forest" is a stilt-dancing mask that bridges the worlds of the ancestors, and the living, bringing blessings. Because of the power and importance of this mask in the lives of the Mahou people, it is treated with extreme respect and reverence.



PHINDI MKHIZE-WILSON

Singer, Broadway Actress

Phindi Mkhize-Wilson is a native of South Africa, who began her career performing in theatrical productions all around the world. Ms. Wilson is renowned for playing Rafiki in the U.S., Madrid and Brazil productions of Disney's *The Lion King* and at the Festival of *The Lion King* in Hong Kong.



SALIEU SUSO

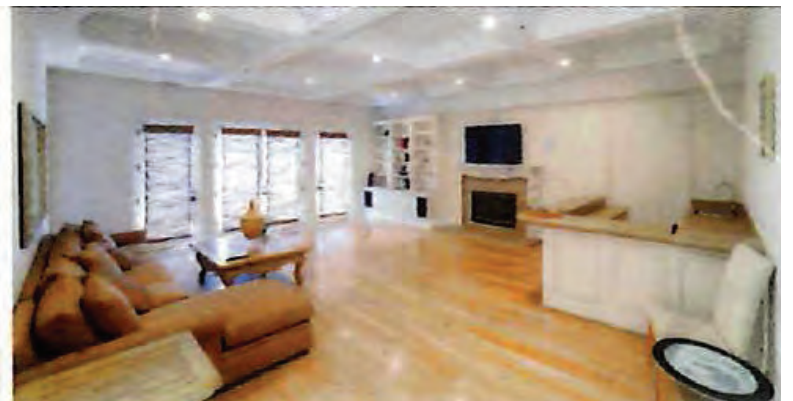
Kora Player

Musician Salieu Suso hails from The Gambia, a small West Africa country. He plays the a 12-string West African harp called a Kora, an instrument made of calabash and cow hide. He has performed all over the globe including the Americas, Africa and Europe.



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MEET THE MADIBA EVENT PLANNING STAFF



VIRA LYNN JONES

Executive Director, Bedford Stuyvesant Museum of African Art

Vira Lynn Jones, who has lived in Brooklyn for more than 30 years, was born and raised in West Virginia. After she graduated from Ohio University with a degree in journalism, she joined the Peace Corps and lived in Ghana, West Africa for two years. She travelled extensively throughout the Ivory Coast, Mali, Burkina Faso and Togo. When her tour ended, she returned to Washington, D.C. and worked with Peace Corps until she was offered an opportunity by a United Nations program to teach English as a Second Language (ESL) in the Peoples Republic of China for almost two years. After China, she moved to New York to pursue a graduate degree at Columbia University. She founded BSMAA in 2006 and is passionate about creating a world-class African art museum in Bedford Stuyvesant.

Vira, who has collected African art for more than 35 years, has donated her collection to create the museum. She has also travelled to Brazil, Cuba, Cameroon, Nigeria and South Africa.



PEGGY ALSTON

Performer/Educator and Arts Consultant

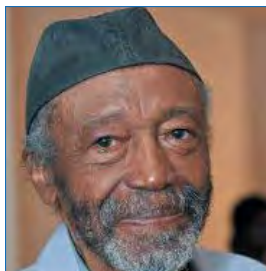
Peggy Alston is an award-winning actress. Alston is a founding member of Brooklyn's theatrical treasure, the Billie Holiday Theater, and has been involved in many of its production. She was an active member of the renowned Negro Ensemble Company. Alston has performed in works by Pulitzer-prize winning playwright such as Charles Fuller and August Wilson. She has an education and sociology degree from Medgar Evers College.



JELANI MARSHARIKI

*Regional Manager, Black Veterans For Social Justice (BVSJ)
Director, Pamoja House Men's Shelter*

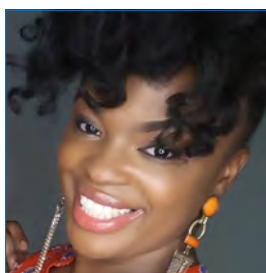
Jelani Marshariki was born and raised in Brooklyn. He is passionate about social justice and educational issues. He graduated from Brooklyn College, studied in Senegal and volunteered with Americorps.



OTTO NEALS

Painter, Sculptor, Printmaker

Brooklyn-based artist, Otto Neals, was the only artists considered to create a bust in the likeness of Nelson "Madiba" Mandela. The South African-based Nelson Mandela Foundation has given BSMAA permission to create a bust in the likeness of the late South African President. Neals is currently working a bust that will be cast in crystal. Otto Neals' body of work has been featured at the Library of Congress, the Columbia Museum of Arts in South Carolina, the Smithsonian Institution, the Huntsville Museum of Art in Alabama and the collections of Congressman John Lewis, jazz musician Randy Weston, actor/singer Harry Belafonte and Oprah Winfrey.



MERCEDES SAINTFLEUR

*Event Planner
Fleur Occasions*

Mercedes SaintFleur is the owner of Fleur Occasions, an event management group that specializes in full service planning.

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“I was not a Messiah, but an ordinary man who had become a leader because of extraordinary circumstances.”

– Nelson Mandela

“A winner is a dreamer that never gives up.”

– Nelson Mandela

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BSMAA wishes to thank:

Walden Hunter-Finner, Brooklyn Museum
Jelani Mashariki, Black Veterans For Social Justice
Peggy Alston
Mercedes SaintFleur
Krystal Brown

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A VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Lynda Hamilton, Assistant to Mayor David Dinkins
Peggy Alston
Mercedes SaintFleur
Theresa Hamman, Children of Promise
Lesedi Ntsane, Trumpeter
Phindili Mkhize-Wilson, Singer
Asase Yaa Youth Ensemble
Creative Outlet
Vado Diomande, Stilt Walker
Bolo Bolo Blauweh
Salieu Suso, Kora Player
Joyce Almeida Prado

Back Cover:
Elephant Mask
Kuosi Secret Society
Bamileke People, Cameroon



SYMBOLS OF TRIBAL SPIRITS:
THE BEDFORD STUYVESANT
MUSEUM OF
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