

# THE VOICE

A Trusted Voice From The Community's Perspective



## LEFT OUT

WICHITA STATE'S DEVELOPMENT FAILS TO FLOW TO BLACK COMMUNITY  
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# THE VOICE

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2023

## LOOKING AHEAD

**You're Missing a Lot if You're Not Following Us Online.** We're posting stories daily on our website, many of which never make it onto the pages of The Community Voice print edition. Plus, you can read many of the stories from our print edition before they appear in our print edition. So consider stopping by CommunityVoiceKS.com on a regular basis to see what's news.

**Sign Up for Our Weekly Newsletter:** If you don't have time to stop by the website on a regular basis, sign up for our weekly newsletter. Once a week, we'll send you a newsletter summarizing our top five stories of the week.

## CONTACT US



**Stop Looking for a Print Edition of The Community Voice:** You can read editions of The Community Voice on our website. Not just current and recent issues. You can read issues dating back several years. Go to [www.CommunityVoiceKS.com](http://www.CommunityVoiceKS.com), click on "e-editions." Plus, our archive is searchable. If there's a particular story you're looking for, just enter a defining word for the story in the search box.

OFFICE HOURS

WITH *Bonita*

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO DISH WITH THE EDITOR

THIS MONTH ONLY

"OFFICE HOURS" IS THE SECOND FRIDAY (NOV. 10) SO THERE'S STILL TIME TO SIGN UP AND ATTEND.

SIGN-UP ON OUR WEBSITE  
[COMMUNITYVOICEKS.COM](http://COMMUNITYVOICEKS.COM)

THE VOICE... DELIVERING MORE



SHARE YOUR STORY IDEAS, ISSUES AND OPINIONS.

# Voice Endorses **Brandon Whipple** for Mayor



Brandon Whipple

If the telephone calls I'm receiving are any indication, our readers are honestly seeking direction on whom to support in the Wichita mayor's race.

I'm pleased that people are interested in voting and especially pleased that they want to be informed voters, in a race where it's not easy to get a clear understanding of where the candidates stand in the midst of tricky mailer after mailer from unidentified political action committees.

At The Voice, the answer was clear for us, we wholeheartedly endorse Mayor Brandon Whipple for reelection.

We like Lily Wu and think she's a nice person and a great reporter. Her immigrant, pull-yourself-up-by-the-bootstraps story is inspiring, and as a minority and a female, we gave her an extra degree of consideration.

Still, we don't think she's prepared and informed enough about the workings of city hall and we question the six-figure financial

support she's getting from conservative political advocacy groups.

Yes, Mayor Whipple is a White male, but as I'm known for saying, "Everything Black isn't good for us," and the reverse of that statement is, "Everything White isn't bad for us."

It's way past time that we support a person just because they're Black or a minority, or a female versus a male.

It's time we support the best person for the job, and that person is Mayor Brandon Whipple.

As mayor, he helped pass a local anti-discrimination law and just recently passed the CROWN Act, a bill making it illegal to discriminate against people for wearing their hair natural (i.e. braids, locs and afros).

In the absence of state-passed legislation legalizing even medical marijuana, he helped pass local legislation decriminalizing possession of small amounts of marijuana.

Even though the local races are nonpartisan, his voting history in the Kansas Legislature and as mayor shows he can be counted on to vote for issues that help OUR community.

In votes that can be divided between the half (3) liberal and half (3) conservative council members, I feel comfortable that we can count on him to cast a

deciding vote that most often helps OUR community.

Yes, he may have tried to use his position as mayor to get to the front of a line, but Donald Trump has done way more than that and Republicans still support him.

It's time to move past that and on to bigger issues.

Among the bigger issues is the support Wichita's business and conservative community is putting behind Wu.

Then there's the \$200,000+ Americans For Prosperity, a libertarian-conservative political

advocacy group founded by Charles Koch, has put behind those tricky mailers you've been receiving that support Wu.

You can bet individuals who put big money behind her campaign have expectations for something in return.

That's what makes me most scared about Wu.

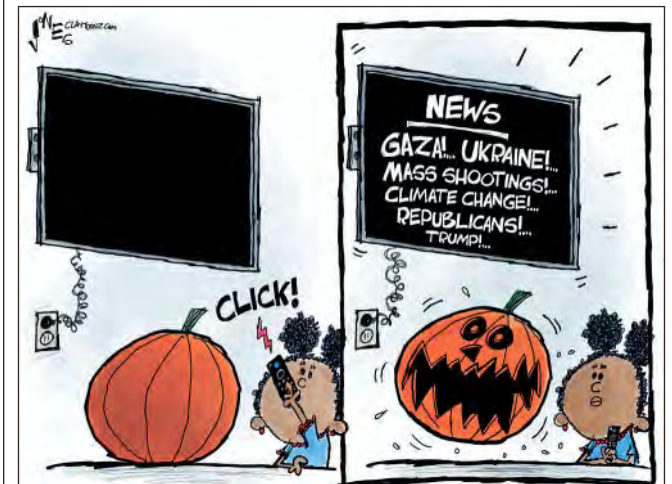
Yes, she's nice now, and she's in our community now, but was she here before, and will she be once she's elected?

I'd say past practices predict future behavior, another reason we support Whipple over Wu.

## Show Up & Vote

What's most important is that you show up and vote on Nov. 7. They will and they expect us to sit this election out. We can't afford to - the balance of the Wichita City Council and the future of our city relies on this election. Show up, vote, and bring others to the poll with you.

## CARTOON



### How to Carve a Pumpkin

This cartoon is a little late for Halloween, but things happening in the world really are scary.

**ON THE COVER:** Bernard Knowles, a general contractor and developer in Wichita, KS, is one of the few private developers building in Northeast Wichita. With massive development around Wichita State University, he and others say little if any benefit is coming to Black residents and business owners.

## THE COMMUNITY VOICE

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 Sports Trailblazer  
 (Posthumous)



**Angela Muhwezi-Hall**  
 Doris Kerr Larkins  
 Rising Star Award



**Deborah Gladney**  
 Doris Kerr Larkins  
 Rising Star Award

HOW TO WATCH

**Wichita**

November 10  
 The CW Channel 33 at 7:00pm  
 November 11  
 KWCH Channel 12 at 10:35pm

**Topeka**

November 11  
 WIBW Channel at 10:35pm  
 November 15  
 WIBW Channel at 9:00am  
 (Check your local listings)

**Kansas City**

November 11  
 KSMO Channel 62.1 at 7:00pm  
 KCTV Channel 5.1 at 11:35pm

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# Two Hearing Trying to Get Trump Barred from Running for Office

By Associated Press

It's hard to keep up with all of the trials involving former President Donald Trump, here are two you might have missed.

Both in Colorado and Minnesota, trials are being held to ban Trump from the ballot under the Constitution's "insurrection clause."

This week, the trial in Colorado turned to distant history when a law professor testified about how the post-Civil War provision was indeed intended to apply to presidential candidates.

Gerard Magliocca, of Indiana University, said there was scant scholarship on Section Three of the 14th Amendment when he began researching it in late 2020. He testified that he uncovered evidence in 150-year-old court rulings,

congressional testimony and presidential executive orders that it applied to presidents and to those who simply encouraged an insurrection rather than physically participated in one.

Plaintiffs in the case have argued that Colorado must ban him from the ballot because his role in the Jan. 6, 2021, assault on the U.S. Capitol, which was intended to halt Congress' certification of Joe Biden's win and keep Trump in power, falls under the provision. The section originally was designed to prevent former Confederates from returning to their old federal and state jobs and taking over the government.

"It was not intended as punishment," Magliocca said of the



**Donald Trump**

ban. "A number of senators discussed the fact that this was simply adding another qualification to office."

On Tuesday night, Trump slammed the Colorado proceedings in a video posted to his social media site, Truth Social.

In a reference to President Joe Biden, he said, "If crooked Joe and the Democrats get away with removing my name from the ballot, then there will never be a free election in America again. We will have become a dictatorship where your president is chosen for you. You will no longer have a vote, or certainly won't have a meaningful vote."

The two parallel cases were organized by two separate liberal organizations.

I'm *more* than my number.

[MORETHANMYNUMBER.COM](http://MORETHANMYNUMBER.COM)

WORKING TO END AGEISM



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# Tour Company Explores KC's Black History

By Asia Jones  
Voice Contributor

Experiencing Kansas City through the lens of Black figures from the past is just a bus ride away.

For the past 15 years, Erik Stafford, a local historian and the owner of the Kansas City Tour Company, has provided bus and walking tours that explore the daily lives of local Black historical figures and their contributions to the city.

Each tour incorporates significant landmarks, lesser-known sites, and personal stories to paint a picture of early life in Kansas City's Black communities.

There are currently five different guided tours that can be customized for group participation. Costs range from \$20 to \$30+ per person, and for select tours minors 17 and under are free when accompanied by one paid adult, limit two minors per adult.

Tours can be booked at BlackHistoryKC.com and for those who don't see the tour of their choice on their preferred day of the week, they can use the website's contact page to request a specific date and time.

The larger Kansas City Black History Bus Tour is not offered every week but is available for individual bookings with customized pricing based on group size. This is also the most popular tour Erik leads.

"The reason I think the Black History Bus Tour is the most popular is because it can either go from Quindaro or over to Independence, MO, and there is a lot of Black history in Independence that people don't know about," Stafford said. "It's comfortable and it's a great way to see and learn about the city."



For 15 years Erik Stafford (front) has been conducting Black History Bus Tours of Kansas City.

## KC Tour Company: From Idea to Reality

Not only is the Black History Tour the most popular, it is also the tour Stafford launched his business with.

As a KCMO native, Erik naturally had an interest in the city's history. However, the spark for the Black History Tour entered his mind in the mid-1990s when he was gathering field experience for his studies at the University of Central Missouri.

During that time he was housed in the Genesis School, which offered hip-hop tours as a way to teach Black history to students. Erik went on to teach social studies at the school and added on to the curriculum by including info about local history and its impact.

He finished his assignment at the school in 1996

and pursued other career opportunities before launching the Kansas City Tour Company in 2008.

## Swope Park Tour

For the past 15 years, Stafford has shared the city's Black heritage with schools, corporations, and tourists.

Over the years, he's added to the tour mix as a way to give visitors a different perspective of Black life in the city, including the new Swope Park Blue River Underground Railroad Trek.

This trek is a carefully curated tour through Swope Park's Woodchuck Run trail, which has smooth and rocky sections. In addition to learning about the Underground Railroad stops, trekkers can also get in some cardio during the three-mile, intermediate-level route along the trail.

"[The trek] gives you the opportunity to connect with nature, it's meditative ... and it's good for your mental wellbeing as well. There are so many benefits to connecting with nature and learning your history at the same time. I think it's an invaluable experience."

Some of the other tours offered are less strenuous but still allow participants to stretch their legs.

## Other Tours

**The 1.5-mile BeBop & Beyond Tour** takes visitors through the 18th & Vine Jazz District.

**The Mafia Tour** starts at 3rd and Grand and combines the fun of the KC Streetcar plus a half-mile walk. The tour takes participants through KC Crossroads to see Tom Pendergast's offices, Union Station to learn about



Stafford's newest tour is more of trek in Swope Park that includes many sites of the underground railroad.

## Catch A Kansas City Tour Company Themed Tour

**The Swope Park Blue River Underground Railroad Trek** - Sun.  
at 10 a.m. and  
Mon. at 6 p.m.

**The Streetcar KC River City Mafia Tour** - Tue.  
and Wed. at 6 p.m.

**The Penn School Westport Walking Tour** -  
Wed. at 6 p.m.

**The Streetcar KC River City Civil Rights Tour**  
- Thu. at 6 p.m. and Sun. at 10 a.m.

**The BeBop & Beyond Walking Tour of the  
Historic 18th & Vine Jazz and Baseball  
District** - Fri. at 4 p.m.; Sat. at 6 p.m.; and Sun.  
at 2:30 p.m.

the Kansas City Massacre, and River Market District to learn about KC's underworld and notorious criminals.

Among the walking tours with a connection to KCK is the **Penn School Westport Walking Tour**. This tour shares the story of Steptoe, a Black enclave that flourished in the Westport area after slavery, in part due to the nearby Penn School, the first school west of the

Mississippi River created to solely educate black children.

In response to growing demand, the tour offerings for 2024 are expanding.

"I see us doing more field trips and expanding the [bus] tour," Erik said. "I plan on expanding to St. Louis and Chicago ... so [the tour] would be over a few days. I'm still working out the logistics."



***Black youth,  
Ages 10-24, have  
Experienced the  
Largest increase in  
Suicides of any  
Racial group\****



## ***Suicide is Preventable***

**“In the Black community, we don’t talk about feelings. We ‘suck it up, buttercup,’ and that really doesn’t help anyone. If we hold it all in, we suffer in silence.**

**The biggest thing a parent, friend, or loved one can do is to make it OK to have conversations on mental health.**

**The danger comes when we wait to the point where we are struggling with suicide ideation.**

**It is important to address the stigma so we can move forward as a community.”**

— KHADIJAH BOOTH WATKINS, CHILD & ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRIST



# Miss Kansas' Teen Launches Mental Health Initiative

Erin Rolfe announces 'What's Your Outlet?' to encourage friends to share

By PJ Griekspoor  
Wichita Reporter



Rolfe

Erin Rolfe, Miss Kansas' Teen 2023, is introducing the "What's Your Outlet?" challenge as she continues her year of service with a focus on raising mental health awareness.

Rolfe's initiative encourages others to discover and share their personal outlets for managing stress and nurturing their mental well-being.

This campaign underlines the importance of self-care and personal outlets for mental health, fostering a conversation on the topic.

"Mental health is as important as physical health.

We need to prioritize it and ensure everyone finds their outlet for overall well-being," Rolfe said. "Let's start this conversation and support each other on the journey to better mental health."

To join the movement, post your chosen outlet on social media using #whatyouroutlet and tag Rolfe's social media channels @missamericasteenks.

Rolfe wants "What's Your Outlet?" to become a movement spreading love, support and positivity. She urges

supporters to help spread the message by challenging their friends to also describe their outlet.

Rolfe, who won her crown in March, is the daughter of Wichita TV anchor Felicia Rolfe and Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce President/CEO John Rolfe.

For more info, please visit Erin's social media channels @missamericasteenks and use the hashtag #whatyouroutlet.

As Miss Kansas' Teen, Rolfe will advance to the Miss America's Teen pageant that will be held in conjunction with the Miss America pageant, Jan. 6-14 in the Walt Disney Theater at the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts in Orlando, FL. Miss America's Teen will be crowned on Sat., Jan. 13, and will receive a \$25,000 college scholarship.

Miss America will be crowned on Sun., Jan. 14.

The Miss Kansas Organization is a state licensee of the Miss America Organization, one of the nation's leading achievement programs and the world's largest provider of scholarship assistance for young women. The Miss Kansas Scholarship Foundation, a 501(c) (3) organization, makes available academic, community service, and other scholarships to women between the ages of 13 and 28. Annually, the MKO provides over \$6,000,000 in cash & in-kind scholarship assistance.

(Note: Miss America-affiliated pageants use an apostrophe in their titles to differentiate from competitor Miss USA-affiliated pageants - such as Miss Virginia's Teen compared to Miss Virginia Teen USA.)



Erin Rolfe, Miss Kansas Teen 2023 in downtown Wichita. She's wearing green in support of mental health awareness



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## Discrimination Financial Assistance Program

\$2.2 billion in assistance is available to agricultural producers who experienced discrimination by USDA in USDA Farm Loan programs before January 1, 2021.

### For more information:

1-800-721-0970 or [www.22007apply.gov](http://www.22007apply.gov)

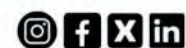
### Application deadline:

January 13, 2024

\*Filing an application is free



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**HOPE**



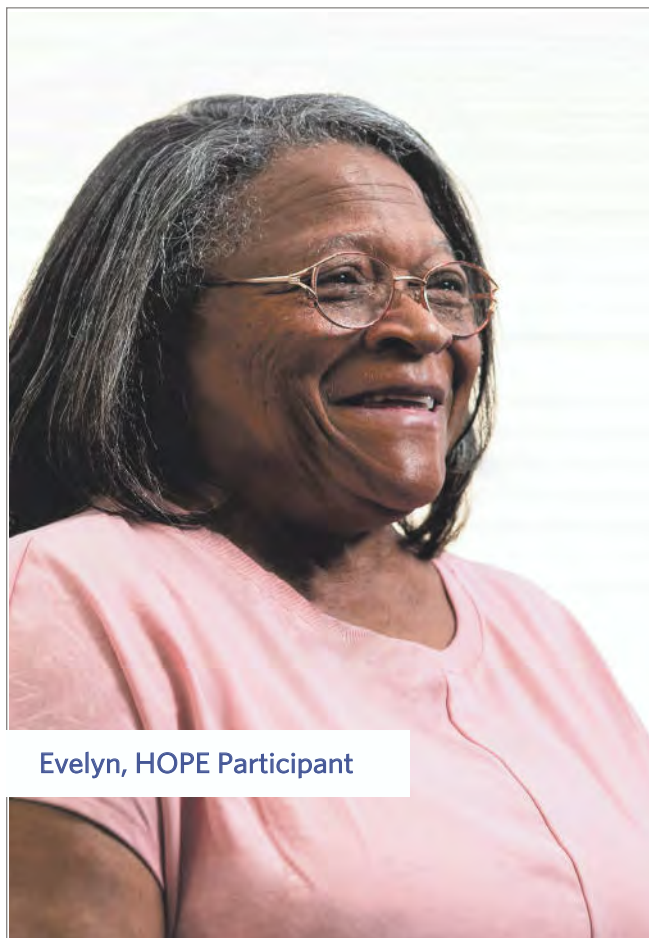
Scan to hear Evelyn in her own words

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[AscensionLiving.org/HOPE](https://AscensionLiving.org/HOPE)



Evelyn, HOPE Participant

# \$7 Million to Come to WYCO from Cerner Deal

Deal resolves fallout from Cerner's exit from Wyandotte County.

By **Tim Carpenter**  
Kansas Reflector

The state of Kansas reached a \$7 million settlement with the parent company of Sporting Kansas City to resolve a dispute about repayment of taxpayer-funded economic development incentives relied upon to build Cerner Corp.'s office complex in Wyandotte County, officials said Oct. 27.

OnGoal, the parent company of the professional soccer franchise, pledged to complete the settlement payments in 2025. Cerner's exodus from WYCO had left

OnGoal responsible for the IT company's economic development obligations.

The \$7 million will be distributed this way:

Willa Gill Services Center, \$2 million;

2026 FIFA World Cup, \$2 million;

Quindaro Ruins, \$1 million;

Community projects east of I-635, \$1 million;

Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall, \$500,000;

WYCO Historical Museum, \$250,000; and

Agricultural Center & Hall of Fame, \$250,000.

The administration of Gov. Sam Brownback provided Cerner with \$48 million in incentives in 2010 to build an office complex in WYCO in exchange for the company's promise to shower 4,500

jobs on Kansas.

In 2011, the job metric obligations linked to the government-backed incentives were dropped in concert with a deal with OnGoal that led to construction of the soccer stadium for Sporting Kansas City.

In 2021, Cerner put the set of office towers that opened in 2013 in western Kansas City, KS, up for sale and relocated employees. Cerner was later bought by Oracle.

The Brownback-era arrangement involving Cerner and OnGoal permitted the state to invoke clawback mechanisms to recoup up to \$3.04 million annually for five consecutive years if Cerner didn't meet payroll requirements. For the year ending Dec. 31, 2021, payroll tax collections were

insufficient and the Unified Government of Wyandotte County demanded in July 2022 the first \$3.04 million payment from OnGoal.

The Brownback-era arrangement spawning construction of the office complex and the soccer stadium intertwined Cerner, OnGoal, the Unified Government and the state of Kansas. To protect taxpayers, OnGoal — the parent of Sporting Kansas City — agreed to be responsible for financial clawbacks if Cerner failed to meet economic development targets.

Once Cerner bolted from WYCO, it left guarantor OnGoal with potential repayment obligations of \$15 million.

Attorney Korb Maxwell, speaking on behalf of OnGoal, said the company appreciated its partnership with the state and county.

"For more than a decade,



In 2021, Cerner put its WYCO office towers up for sale and relocated employees, and is now set to return tax subsidies it received.

OnGoal has been committed and invested in the local community and looks forward to further enhancing Kansas City, KS, as a major destination," Maxwell said.

OnGoal's contributions could begin in November with regard to Quindaro and Memorial Hall. Other

payments should be completed by the end of 2025.

"This agreement ensures sales tax dollars still are being utilized to further the state's tourism goals and puts money back into the community to have lasting impact," Lt. Gov. David Toland said.

*Respectfully asking for your vote in the upcoming General Election to continue standing with our community in my position on the Board at BPU. During my initial term, I:*

- ✓ Requested and voted in support of multiple disconnect moratoriums during the pandemic (2020)
- ✓ Requested that BPU put its audits on the website for transparency (12/15/2021)
- ✓ Voted AGAINST the 2022 budget for lack of transparency (12/15/2021)
- ✓ Voted AGAINST the first (12/15/2021) and second (11/2/2022) extension of the General Manager's contract and associated raise each time
- ✓ Requested the Board reallocate \$250,000 from the Eco Devo Fund to utility assistance for BPU customers (12/7/2022) and voted in support of the same transfer (12/21/2022)
- ✓ Voted AGAINST the 2023 budget for lack of transparency (12/21/2022)
- ✓ Voted AGAINST the BPU rate increase (7/19/2023)

## 2023 GENERAL ELECTION – Dates to Remember

- Oct 17th:** Last day to register to vote
- Oct 18th:** Advance by mail ballots begin mailing
- Oct 28th:** Advance Voting In-Person begins
- Nov. 6th:** Advance In-Person Voting ends (12:00 Noon at the Election Office only)
- Nov. 7th:** General Election (Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.)



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# Does KC Overuse Jails?

## Commission Looks for Better Solutions

As Kansas City explores constructing a new municipal jail, prison experts say the city has an opportunity to take a different approach to crime.

**By Josh Merchant**  
Freelance Reporter

### Key Points

- Kansas City spends money to jail people for low-level charges.
- Alternatives to Incarceration Commission formed to explore solutions.
- Recommendations include deflection, diversion, and recidivism reduction programs.

One of the most effective ways to make sure someone shows up at their trial is to send them a text reminder with their court date.

But instead of texting criminal defendants, Kansas City spends money every year to hold people in jail while they await trial.

Like nearly all other American cities, KC holds people in jail for violating city codes — whether they're convicted for violating a domestic violence probation or if they're simply awaiting trial for a low-level charge.

Following a state Supreme Court rule that took effect in 2017, defendants can only be sent to jail before trial if a judge decides they pose a threat to public safety or if there is reason to believe they may not appear in court. KC says it complies with this rule.

"People lose jobs, and they lose their homes and apartments and their vehicles by spending time in jail," said Amaia Cook, an organizer with Decarcerate KC, and organization looking to lower the number of people locked up on minor criminal charges. "Our community members have needs, and we know that locking people up is not a way to meet those needs."

Decarcerate argues for more creative solutions to reduce crime — like those court date-reminder texts — that could save



taxpayers money without jailing defendants and putting people's housing and jobs at risk by locking them up.

For someone living under a bridge or in the midst of a severe psychotic episode, people arguing for change say that jail does nothing to resolve the underlying issues. At worst, it can make the problem more severe and launch a relentless cycle of jail sentence after jail sentence. That, they say, ends up increasing crime, not reducing it.

In June, the Kansas City Council voted to form the Alternatives to Incarceration Commission to explore alternatives that can spare more people from the criminal justice system and steer them toward social services. The commission formed with support from Decarcerate KC.

### Who is Locked Up on KC Jail Charges?

Kansas City has not had its own jail since 2009. Instead, the city rented out beds in the Jackson County Jail until its contract expired in 2019. Since then, people facing municipal charges or serving short jail sentences have gone to the Vernon and Johnson county jails in Missouri. The city has access to 105 beds between the two jails.

The city's jail population is disproportionately Black — more than two-thirds of people held before and after conviction are Black despite Black residents only making up about 27% of the city's population.

A majority of people booked by KC's municipal court are nonviolent offenders — only 1 in 3 inmates is booked on a violent charge, often related to domestic violence.

Courtney Wachal, a KC municipal judge

who presides over the domestic violence docket, said those cases usually involve someone facing a new domestic violence charge while on probation. Wachal

## A 2018 study by the University of Missouri-Kansas City found that 1 in 6 people lost their jobs after just three days in jail.

serves on the Alternatives to Incarceration Commission.

"You are, at that point, not availing yourself of the resources that we are providing as a court and continuing to be a risk to public safety," she said.

The Alternatives to Incarceration Commission is focusing on the other two-thirds of inmates who get booked on nonviolent offenses.

That includes theft, vandalism, loitering and drug paraphernalia charges. Ordinarily, those charges don't come with a jail sentence. But courts turn to jail for repeat offenders. The problem, advocates say, is that jail only makes it more likely that a crime will happen again.

### Costs of Incarceration

"Imagine if you were snatched out of your life, without the opportunity to prepare for

it, for three or four days," said Sarah Staudt, the policy and advocacy manager for the left-leaning Prison Policy Initiative. "There would be major consequences in your life. And of course, those consequences are even more extreme for people who are right on the edge to begin with."

And the research reflects this, Staudt said.

A 2018 study by the University of Missouri-Kansas City found that 1 in 6 people lost their jobs after just three days in jail. If they spent longer than three days in jail, more than half lost their jobs.

About a third of people who were incarcerated also reported negative effects on their housing stability.

"Jail increases the likelihood that people will be rearrested in the future," Staudt said. "That destabilization helps no one and ultimately, it creates more crime."

Wachal, the Kansas City judge, said the

municipal court tries to enroll offenders in community-based programs like court-mandated therapy and addiction recovery programs for low-level offenses. If the court sends someone to jail, it's often because they have not participated in those programs and have been arrested again.

She said that often comes from mental illness, housing or transportation problems. If they don't have a home or car, or if they're suffering from issues like psychosis, they may not have the capability to make appointments.

"These people that we're hoping to intervene with, at least from my perspective, they are not people who should be in jail," the judge said. "They're people who need services in the moment and reintegration into the community."

See **JAILS** Page 11 →



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# Former KCPD Detective Who Killed Cameron Lamb Seeks Pardon; Denied Appeal Bond

Eric DeValkenaere is asking Gov. Parson for a pardon and is appealing to the MO Supreme Court.

By Thomas White  
Kansas City Reporter

Former KCPD Det. Eric DeValkenaere spent less than a week behind bars before asking for a pardon from Gov. Mike Parson.

DeValkenaere was convicted of killing Cameron Lamb in 2021 and sentenced to six years for second-degree manslaughter and armed criminal action. DeValkenaere — the first officer convicted of killing a Black man in KC — remained free on bond for roughly three years through his trial and appeal.

An appeals court upheld DeValkenaere's conviction, despite MO AG Andrew Bailey arguing against the former officer's conviction. The appeals court also revoked DeValkenaere's bond, and he surrendered to the Platte County jail, serving his first days



Former KCPD Det. Eric DeValkenaere's intake photo from the Platte County Jail.

behind bars since Lamb's death in late 2019.

DeValkenaere has since been transferred to a Missouri correctional facility in St. Joseph and said

he will appeal to the state Supreme Court. His legal team asked to reinstate his bond, meaning DeValkenaere would be free again, possibly for years, while waiting

for the courts to hear his appeals. A panel three Parson-appointed judges denied DeValkenaere's bond and the former officer began serving his six-year sentence.

## Gov. Parson Ponders Pardon

The ex-detective's wife defended her husband on social media, saying DeValkenaere was a "hero," and called on people to phone the governor's office demanding a pardon. The governor's office affirmed that they had received several hundred phone calls.

Parson is a former sheriff and, while not running for reelection, has received significant campaign contributions from police unions. The governor's office says they're weighing a decision but offered no timeline.

## Many Oppose Pardon

Joining Jackson County

Prosecutor's office, the majority of city council has sent a signed letter to Gov. Parson pleading with him not to pardon DeValkenaere.

"A pardon here would worsen and already fragile relationship between the public and the KCPD, as it would effectively communicate that justice is not possible for our Black communities," reads the letter.

The family of Cameron Lamb, prosecutors, and dozens of social justice organizations have also asked the governor not to pardon or commute DeValkenaere's prison sentence.

"He's in the penitentiary today," says Lamb's father Aquil Bey. "But if he gets pardoned, we'll go straight to the FBI because DeValkenaere violated my son's civil rights."

If you'd like to voice your opinion, call the governor's office at 573-751-3222.

## JAILS, from Page 9 ↓

Otherwise, Wachal said, the city is spending money on jailing someone and increasing the likelihood they'll land in jail again.

## So What Can KC Do Instead?

The Alternatives to Incarceration commission started out with the job of recommending the size of a new KC municipal jail.

But after a few meetings, the commission members shifted to looking at ways to avoid locking up so many people. The scope and cost of those recommendations will be sent to the city council in time for the budget planning process in the spring.

It's been fielding recommendations from nonprofit groups, other local governments, the KC Police Dept. and courtroom staff.

Most of the recommendations generally fall into three categories:

Deflection programs. These focus on keeping people out of the criminal justice system to begin with. They include, for instance, dispatching more mental health professionals and fewer police officers in response to some 911 calls.

Diversion programs. Rather than jail people, they hook them up with addiction treatment, help finding housing or job training to deal with the cause of whatever got someone arrested.

Recidivism reduction. They help people expunge their municipal records and make sure that they are able to find housing once they've been released.

Some cities, like New York, have experimented with sending text messages to defendants reminding them of court dates, as a replacement for traditional cash bail programs.

A pilot program in Multnomah County, Oregon, saved the county more than \$1 million over eight months. Both New York and Multnomah County saw more people showing up on their court dates as a result.

The commission heard from a nonprofit in Atlanta that partnered with the city's 311 program to dispatch a team of community responders for calls related to substance abuse, mental illness or extreme poverty.

That Policing Alternatives & Diversion Initiative sends out community responders to help when people are behaving erratically,

blocking streets, defecating in public or stealing basic essentials like food or baby formula.

Instead of sending a police officer to arrest the person and send them through a criminal justice system that may only worsen the problem, the community responders come with training in conflict resolution and can help connect people with shelters, food banks and community mental health centers.

"Oftentimes, people are experiencing a crisis of poverty," said Moki Macias, executive director of the Atlanta program.

Macias said that kind of program relies on a robust social safety net. If a city does not have public restrooms, walk-in services or safe places to shelter during the day and at night, then the community responders can't deliver much help.

The other presentations have included a crisis intervention program through KCPD and a possible "homeless court" program that would help unhoused people clear their warrants without the threat of jail time.

Staudt criticized the jail needs assessment for recommending an increase in jail beds as

a way to prevent crime and for not exploring the benefits of reducing incarceration.

"When we use incarceration, even for short periods of time, we're really shooting ourselves in the foot," she said during her presentation. "Municipal courts have an opportunity to be leaders and to say, 'Actually, almost our whole population of people moving through through our courts are probably better served by a non-criminalized approach than by a criminalized one.'"

## What Happens Next?

Kansas City withdrew from negotiations with Jackson County to share the cost of a new county detention center. Now, the city is on track to construct its own municipal jail.

Mayor Quinton Lucas told the Jackson County Legislature in a letter that he hopes to have an initial plan by January 2024.

In the meantime, Cook, from Decarcerate KC, hopes that the city can keep its focus on solutions to crime that may lie outside the criminal justice system.

"We want to keep those alternatives at the center," Cook said, "instead of locking people up in the same status quo that we've been forced to think is the only way."

# LEFT OUT

## WSU Development Wave Leaves Community Out

Innovation Campus' apartment-building craze hasn't lifted area neighborhoods or enriched community members, businesses or developers.

By **Bonita Gooch**  
Editor-in-Chief

There's no way to miss the wave of development that has taken place in recent years on Wichita State University's campus and on private property immediately adjacent to the university. Corporate offices are being built on the university's Innovation Campus and hundreds of new market-rate apartments have been built in the Fairmount area just south of the campus.

But this development has done little to enrich the surrounding neighborhoods, the residents in them, or business members in our community, who would like to have grown financially from this expansive development.

A lot of the development was fueled by current and anticipated growth in WSU enrollment and programming. However, development in the area was largely enhanced by the designation of the WSU campus and the Fairmount area as an Opportunity Zone.

Implemented as part of the bi-partisan Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, Opportunity Zones were designed to serve as a catalyst for development in underserved areas by offering significant tax breaks and credits to the project owner.

Different from other federal housing and community development programs, Opportunity Zones encouraged investment in larger private projects, but the scale of the projects typically meant the investors are not connected to the community.

While the projects can be transformative to neighborhoods that have historically been left behind, history has repeatedly



Large, multi-story apartment buildings now line 17th Street on the south side of the WSU campus.

demonstrated these investments lead to gentrification, do little to strengthen existing residents, businesses and the culture in these neighborhoods.

What communities of color and low-income neighborhoods want from Opportunity Zone projects are investments that offer new ways to build community wealth while lifting up their neighborhoods.

Instead, similar to trends around the country, members of Wichita's Black community have not benefited from the WSU

and Fairmount Park area development, even when they've wanted to.

The new apartment buildings are now a prominent feature of the streets south of 17th and west of Oliver. Signs are everywhere that the area is ripe for the development of businesses that provide the amenities that the thousands of students, the workers on the Innovation Campus AND THE STILL REMAINING COMMUNITY RESIDENTS need and want – a grocery store, drug store, restaurants, entertainment venues and

specialty shops.

There are community members who see the potential to share in the development and growth still to come.

The Voice talked to two property owners, each of whom has an interest in seeing future development spread in a way that will help uplift the community, sustain its culture and help build community wealth.

They talked about their dreams and the challenges to seeing them brought to fruition.

# Paradise Baptist Church Not Selling Out

Multiple offers don't budge church's resolve to locate a developer and partner on project.

**By P.J. Griekspoor  
Wichita Reporter**

Pastor David Chiles and Assistant Pastor Dexter Sutton at Paradise Baptist Church have had a front-row seat to the explosive building spree on Wichita State University's Innovation Campus.

Their church sits in the middle of a large slice of land from Oliver to Belmont St. on 17th Street, directly across the street from the campus.

The offers keep coming to buy their land, offers that Chiles says he has simply thrown into the trash.

He has a bigger vision, one that helps the community and helps the church.

They've been courted by developers, including one who offered to build Paradise a new church building in another location.

Instead of selling the land and turning it over to the new property owner to do what they like with it, they're looking for a developer who will partner with them to build senior citizen housing on their empty acres.

While the offers to buy the land are plentiful, so far they've only received one offer to partner with the church.

Four years ago, they were working with an

Arizona developer on a shared development concept, but the developer died of COVID during the pandemic, leaving the church back where it started.

Wichita developer Bernard Knowles introduced Chiles to that developer. He said he'd like to help the church, but has projects of his own that keep him busy.

"I knew the Arizona developer and thought he'd be able to help. And they were making progress toward that before he got sick," Chiles said.

He said that plan called for building a new church building on the east end of the property close to Oliver Street and using the remainder of the property for the housing, which he described as "on the order of Larksfeld Place."

With an aging congregation, Chiles says he sees

how the community can benefit from a quality, community-centered senior housing project.

It's an approach that allows the church and the community to invest in itself.

With the church and the land debt free, the congregation could just sell and walk away with a big check, but their debt-free position allows them the freedom to wait and shop for the right opportunity.

"You can sell property and get a one-time income," Chiles said. "If we develop the land, we get a revenue stream for generations to come."

In more simplistic terms Pastor Sutton said, "Once you give up the cow, you can't get no more milk."

Instead of the developers reaping all of the long-term revenue, Pastor Chiles says the Paradise congregation will be holding out for the milk.



Pastor David Chiles would like to find a developer who will work with him to build senior citizen apartments on property the church owns.



Bernard Knowles

## Knowles Rebuilding District, One Project at a Time

**By P.J. Griekspoor  
Wichita Reporter**

### Key Points

- Bernard Knowles plans to build "College Park Plaza" in Wichita's District One.
- He has invested in the Black community, building quality rental units.
- Knowles suggests collaboration for development projects in the community.

When general contractor and developer Bernard Knowles married his wife, Dr. Rhea Rogers, and moved to Wichita from his native Philadelphia, he immediately saw opportunity in the area surrounding Wichita State University.

"I watched the area around the University of Pennsylvania just explode with growth," he said. "I saw the same potential here."

As property came up for sale, he began buying near the university as well as elsewhere in the community.

### College Park Plaza

Over time, he's added the surrounding property so that he now owns everything in a block square from Hillside to Lorraine and 17th Street to 16th Street, with the exception of the now vacant former WSU International building at the corner of 17th and Hillside and two small lots on 17th and Lorraine. He's applied for a 65-year lease on the WSU International lot.

His goal is to build "College Park Plaza" on that property – a mix of housing and retail space.

He envisions a 30-unit apartment building for senior citizens, another mixed-used building with 15,000 sq. ft. retail space on the first floor with 20 apartments

above it, and a 30-unit market-rate apartment building.

He originally sought a letter of intent to lease the WSU property in 2016 under then-president John Bardo.

Seven years and two presidents later, he's still waiting to get a revised letter of intent approved by the Kansas Board of Regents before he can get the \$14 million project underway.

During the height of COVID, Knowles closed TOPS (Taste of Philadelphia), the restaurant he owned and operated in a strip mall near 21st and Grove, and says he'd like to reopen the restaurant in College Park Plaza.

As a developer with connections to the community, he sees the retail space as a place to provide the community the retail and service businesses they want and need.

See KNOWLES Page 14 →



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# Wichita's Opportunity Zones Offer Little For City's Core Black Communities

Implemented as part of the bi-partisan Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, Opportunity Zones were designed to serve as a catalyst for development in underserved areas by offering significant tax breaks and credits to the project owner.

Unlike many federal programs, city officials were allowed to select areas to benefit from the program by designating them Opportunity Zones.

Based on the program's concept of helping to revitalize underserved and low-income communities, you would have thought that Wichita's core Black community would have received an Opportunity Zone designation.

Instead, the zones are uniquely carved out to benefit some of the city's business centers.

Wichita State University, an area surrounded by the city's Black community, was carved out as an Opportunity Zone along with the land to the south — an area that had already been identified by developers for expansion of student housing.

That zone curves around the Redbud Trail and south, picking up Wesley Hospital and the medical

core at Central and Hillside, but does not go a few blocks west to include the Black community between Hillside and the canal route or the community north or east of the university.

The McAdams area, a historic Black community, was the only core Black area included as an Opportunity Zone, probably because of its close proximity to Via Christi Ascension Hospital and the North Broadway corridor.

Other designated Opportunity Zones are downtown Wichita, the South Broadway corridor, with a southern zone that includes Ascension St. Joseph Hospital.

If the thought was that improvement in these areas would flow to and benefit the surrounding truly underserved communities, the WSU project — as well as other Opportunity Zone projects across the nation — have proved, the outward flow doesn't work.

Opportunity Zones are benefiting the commercial establishments at their center, but the developers are not stepping beyond the zones, with their cushy tax credits, to invest in or uplift nearby communities.



## KNOWLES, from Page 13 ↓

“The way I see it, the university has already seen strong growth. Now, it’s time to grow our community.”

### Building in District One

Besides building in and around Wichita State University, Knowles is a rare private developer building in Wichita’s District One, which encompasses the city’s core Black community.

In fact, all of his investments are in District One, an area that his father-in-law, George Rogers, once

represented on the city council.

For the past two decades or more, building in the community has relied heavily on nonprofits. For housing, nonprofits like Habitat for Humanity, Mennonite Housing and POWER CDC, have built most of the homes and USD 259 has contributed schools.

Besides banks, gas stations and dollar stores, pretty much any construction in the district has had nonprofits behind them.

For private developers, District 1 has been a

non-starter. But Knowles has focused his development predominantly in Wichita’s Black community, building quality rental units.

He recently completed construction of four duplexes and a triplex at 26th and Hillside. When COVID hit, he sold his TOPS restaurant to help fund building on the property.

“I bought that property for \$60,000 with a bank loan for 60% of the price. Because I am a general contractor, I could put in a lot of sweat equity,” he said. “That property is now worth \$1.75 million

and every unit is occupied.

His initial Wichita investment was in the 1500 block of Fairmount, where he built two townhouse units with garages.

He also has plans to build six single-family homes near 9th and Madison.

### Unite on Projects

Developing in District 1 can be tough, in part because it’s tough to get banks to buy into supporting development inside the community, even for developers like Knowles, with a proven track record.

“Banks can be generous or impossible,” he said. “I’ve sat down with bank presidents, even hosted them at my house. But the checkbook is still closed. I had bank officials out to the job site for the houses at 9th and Madison, but so far, no word except I had to pay them \$500 for an appraisal.”

He said he’s determined to get a project done at 17th and Hillside and has put up a sign on his vacant lot to try to get a feel from businesses who might want to become tenants. He already knows who one of them will be.

With funding being so tight for development in the community, Knowles has a message for the community:

“If you have a project, I have a project; let us collectively collaborate on one project. We get yours done, then we go with someone else’s,” said Knowles.

“So many groups have done that. We can’t work opposite of each other. It just makes sense for us to pull together and unite and be a part of each other’s projects ... to pull together to help build each other and the community up.”

# Free 'Biz Ed' Events Highlight Global Entrepreneurship Week KC

GEWKC offers 100+ free informative sessions for entrepreneurs in Kansas City.

**By Thomas White**  
Kansas City Reporter

Global Entrepreneurship Week in Kansas City (GEWKC) offers more than 100 free educational events for entrepreneurs of all stripes Nov. 13 through 19. The GEWKC conference

is designed to help startups, small businesses or even large businesses that want help scaling and marketing their companies.

Throughout the week, industry-leading experts will delve into cutting-edge strategies, share real-world success stories, and offer insights to help participants along their entrepreneurial journey.

Micheal Carmona of KCSOURCELINK, who organizes the event, says GEWKC helps connect local entrepreneurs with support.

“GEWKC is the best way for the KC Metro’s doers, dreamers and makers to gain new skills, make key connections and move their business or business idea forward,” says Carmona. “There’s something for everyone, no matter if you’re starting a side hustle or looking to scale your operations.”

While the sessions are open to all, registration is required, and participants must sign up or log in to the online scheduling platform at GEWKC.com to build their agenda. Spots are

limited and are available on a first-come basis.

The sessions encompass a diverse range of topics, catering to individuals at different stages of their entrepreneurial endeavors.

**Sponsored Key Events:**

In addition to the smaller educational sessions, several larger sponsored events will help round out GEWKC: **Raising Capital for Your Tech StartUp Lunch: Nov. 16, Noon.** Entrepreneurs



Global Entrepreneurship Week KC has a broad and diverse list of workshops and presenters.

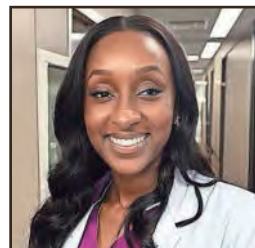
See BIZ ED Page 16 →



Learie Hercules



Jonaie Johnson



Patience Gitau



Jannae Gammage



Triumphia Houmbie Fulks

## Five Black Finalists Featured in LaunchKC Grants Competition

LaunchKC to announce winners of \$50k business grants for tech startups in Kansas City

**By Thomas White**  
Kansas City Reporter

LaunchKC is set to announce the winners of six \$50,000 Lifftoff Grants Nov. 14, during the Global Entrepreneurship Week Kansas City conference.

Each year, LaunchKC, a joint venture between the Economic Development Corporation of Kansas City (EDCKC) and the Downtown Council, takes applications for tech startup business grants in the Kansas City area. Since 2015, they have given out grants to 100 companies.

This year, 90 startups applied before LaunchKC’s panel narrowed down the list to 13 finalists.

Becca Castro, the strategic initiatives manager at EDCKC, told Startland News that LaunchKC is pleased with the diversity within the applicant pool. Among the 13 finalists, eight are female tech founders, and five are Black. Castro credited the organization’s diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB) business practices with this year’s diversity among finalists.

LaunchKC says that two-thirds of their past awardees are either women or minority-lead startups.

**Five Black Finalists:**

**Heft IQ (Learie Hercules)** — AI-driven supply chain advanced analytics platform to help entrepreneurs grow e-commerce.

**Interplay (Jonaie Johnson)** — Smart dog crate that allows owners to play music, talk to, and feed their pets while they’re away.

**NurseBridge (Patience Gitau)** — Medical staffing innovation bridging the gap between qualified medical professionals and success-driven healthcare systems through a tech-enabled staffing platform.

**Foresight (Jannae Gammage)** — Tech platform featuring an AI-powered lending assistant specially trained to streamline administrative work across the

lending cycle, including evaluation, eligibility and document verification, macro and micro economic data, and more.

**CodeAlgo Academy (Triumphia Houmbie Fulks)**— A 3D Computer Science gaming platform that teaches K-8 students how to code, making learning fun and tailored.

The winner will be announced at the Libations + Lifftoff event at J. Rieger & Co. distillery Nov. 14. The winning companies will not only receive \$50,000 in grant funding but also gain access to office space in downtown Kansas City for a year, personalized educational programs, mentorship, and other crucial resources throughout 2024.

For a full list of finalists and more information, visit launchkc.org. To attend the Libations and Lifftoff event where the winners will be announced, register for free at gewkc.com.

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# Get a Sneak Peek at Unique New Retail Space

The Blackprint will offer a wide array of products from home goods to beauty products & apparel.

By **P.J. Griekspoor**  
Wichita Reporter

Mark your calendar and set a reminder on your phone for Nov. 11, from 1 to 5 p.m., because you don't want to miss a sneak peek of The Blackprint, a new and innovative retail destination showcasing more than 20 local and national Black-owned brands.

The event will take place at the Cleveland Cortner, 156 N. Cleveland.

The Blackprint is a vibrant hub of culture and ingenuity founded by community advocate and visionary Tasha L. Hayes. It's a

premium retail experience that is beyond the norm and more than just a retail store.

The store is part of The Garages, a retail incubator program in Wichita that supports unique retail-based business concepts that contribute to the overall vibrancy of the city.

## So what can you expect to see on Nov. 11?

Visitors will get an idea of the wide variety of products from home goods, gifts, greeting cards, stationary, books, health, beauty, apparel and more. Each item has been meticulously curated and narrates a dynamic story of diverse Black talent, dedication, integrity, and brilliance.

"While there's a rise in Black entrepreneurship, sustaining a brick and mortar presents challenges, possibly leading to a gap in the market that The Blackprint will address," says Hayes.

The Blackprint seeks to curate intentional partnerships to build community and foster a supportive ecosystem for Black brands.

"The Blackprint provides a unique opportunity for Black brands," says Hayes. "We are committed to uplifting and connecting Black creators, catalyzing their journey toward growth and success."

The Blackprint's mission aligns with that of The Garages, which is to support entrepreneurs with unique retail-based business concepts that provide new or desired services and products to address demand from residents, employees, and visitors.

After their ribbon-cutting, the Blackprint invites you to get a first look at what they have to offer and immerse yourself in an unforgettable shopping experience.

For more info on The Blackprint, visit [www.TheBlackprintICT.com](http://www.TheBlackprintICT.com) or follow them on social media for the latest news and updates.



Tasha Hayes



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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shawn".

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# American Jazz Museum Showcases Frederick J. Brown's Iconic Jazz Artwork

'Energy is Jazz' exhibit immerses visitors in Brown's artistic journey & the essence of jazz through visual representation.

By **Thomas White**  
Kansas City Reporter

## Key Points

- Based in 1970s-80s New York, Brown drew inspiration from the "free jazz" sessions that were pushing musical boundaries.
- "Energy is Jazz" includes 36 paintings, sheet music, two films, and a collection of photos.
- The "Energy is Jazz" exhibit is open now through May 5.

Collaborating with iconic jazz musicians like Ornette Coleman and Anthony Braxton, and the abstract expressionist Willem De Kooning, artist Frederick J. Brown lifted his NY loft studio into a cultural hub, drawing in artists, musicians, writers, and performers - as depicted in the 2002 documentary film "120 Wooster Street."

Now, the American Jazz Museum is paying tribute to Brown's jazz-and-blues-inspired visual art in a new exhibition, "Energy is Jazz."

Co-curated between the museum and the artist's son, Bentley Brown, the exhibition immerses visitors into Brown's artistic journey and his vivid portrayal of jazz artists through the lens of portraiture, along with capturing the dynamism and essence of jazz through visual representation of real jazz objects, people, and/or scenes.

"You can expect to step into an artist's studio and see really vibrant, powerful, and intimate paintings," says co-curator Bentley Brown. "You can expect to think about jazz in a different way, not just as a music but to think of it as a visual and performance art form as well."

Scheduled to be on display in the museum's Changing Gallery from now through May 5, "Energy is Jazz" explores Brown's career and his passionate depiction of the jazz world.

Visitors will encounter works showcasing Brown's portrait series of jazz musicians,

materials from his days hosting events in his Soho loft, including photos and videos of performance art, and a collection of his early abstract pieces that delve into the essence of jazz.

## Capturing Jazz's Essence

Dan Cranshaw, chairman of the American Jazz Museum, pointed to portraits of Count Basie and Charlie Parker from the museum's permanent collection to laude Brown's artistry.

The new exhibit adds a treasure trove of Brown's work with 36 paintings, sheet music, two films, and a collection of a dozen photos, showcasing the diversity and depth of Brown's 40-year career.

"Frederick J. Brown's artwork embodies the very spirit of jazz," says Cranshaw. "His art is a symphony of color, a rhythm of brushstrokes, an exploration of energy that mirrors the improvisation and innovation that defined the uniquely American genre."

## About Frederick J. Brown

Hailing from Georgia and raised on Chicago's South Side, Brown established roots in the heart of New York City's art scene during its vibrant 1970s-80s art renaissance.

Following his tenure in NYC, Brown settled in Arizona, continuing to paint in New York and Scottsdale before passing away in 2012, leaving an indelible mark on the art world. His works are scattered across public and private art collections globally, housed in prestigious institutions such as the Smithsonian's National Museum of American Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the New Orleans Museum of Art, and, notably, the American Jazz Museum.

## Honoring Jazz Legends

Brown was an abstract expressionist artist, but as he got more involved in the free jazz movement, he met musicians who feared that they would be forgotten to history, despite their contributions to American culture.

Brown then began experimenting with abstract portraits of jazz and blues artists as a way to honor them, and these portraits became his most famous works and immortalized the musicians.

"I think it's really important to recognize not just the music but its practitioners," says Bentley Brown. "We have work to do reclaiming this history for the Black artists



Brown often painted dream lineups for bands like this one of Ray Charles and Roosevelt Sykes



Frederick J. Brown



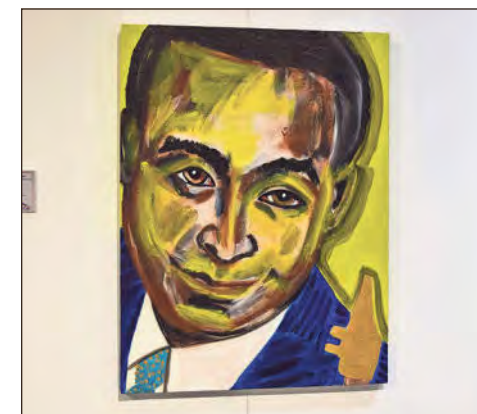
Frederick J. Brown's widow Megan Bowman and son Bentley Brown stand in front of a painting of Mississippi John Hurt, Joe Williams, and Big Joe Turner.

who led this movement."

In addition to showcasing the evolution of Brown's work, the exhibition will unveil rare footage of performance art that transpired in his Soho loft during the 1970s. The videos help broaden the understanding of jazz as not just a musical form but a visual and performance art expression.

"It's just an incredible experience to share my father's work and legacy with the community," says Bentley Brown. "This work is about not just the music that is jazz, but the action that is jazz, and recognizing that jazz is a practice of freedom."

For more info and tickets, visit [www.AmericanJazzMuseum.org](http://www.AmericanJazzMuseum.org).



Brown's abstract portrait of Charlie Parker is part of the exhibit.

# 'Black Being' Celebrates the Beauty of Black Existence

Charlotte Street Gallery's 15-artist exhibit challenges notions of exceptionalism.

By **Thomas White**  
Kansas City Reporter

The concept of "Black Excellence" has been widely celebrated, but a new multimedia exhibition seeks to shift the narrative by celebrating the beauty found in the "every day" of Black life.

Charlotte Street Gallery's "Black Being" features the works of 15 Black artists and explores the beauty found in the ordinary moments of Black life.

From the simple act of getting a haircut in a neighborhood barbershop to communal gatherings around a card table, "Black Being" asserts that the everyday experiences of Black individuals are just as remarkable as any notion of "Black Excellence."

One of the main

objectives of "Black Being" is to start conversations about the dangers of Black exceptionalism, a trend that has sometimes overshadowed the inherent value of Black life. The exhibition offers a platform where Black individuals can simply "be" without their experiences being framed within the context of struggle and oppression.

The featured artists in this exhibition use their works to encapsulate the vibrant tapestry of Black existence. Through diverse mediums such as painting, sculpture, and performance art, they craft a visual narrative that takes viewers on a journey into the heart of the Black experience.

Brian Ellison's contribution to the exhibition, "Journey to Softness (The Barbershop Series)," is a performance on Sat., Dec 9, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The audience will witness Ellison getting a haircut by a local barber in the gallery space, symbolizing the delicate care Black men receive

in these spaces.

Following his haircut, members of the community will have the opportunity to sit in the barber chair and receive the same service free of charge. This unique performance underscores the idea that seemingly mundane tasks within Black culture hold profound ritualistic significance.

"In the barbershop, Black men are handled with care," Ellison explains. "In this sacred space, Black men get to be delicate."

Curated by Kaitlyn B. Jones, "Black Being" celebrates the fullness of Black culture. From the faceless portrait in William Toney's "Sagging (Akademiks)" to the painted "kiki" in Kevin Hopkins' "Gossip Girls," each artist has visual poetry that calls the viewers to gaze at the humanity of Black bodies.

Andre Ramos Woodard explores communal and personal identity through the lens of Black queer experience, while Nehemiah

Cisneros' larger-than-life painting serves as a visual metaphor for the space Blackness deserves to take up in historically White-dominated institutions. Whether artists are exploring Black feminist futures in the works of Amani Lewis, Dawn Okoro, Glyneisha, and Rae Atakpa, or searching for metaphor through memory in Basil Kincaid's non-adhesive collages, Black Being is a testament to the multifacetedness of Black existence.

The Charlotte Street Foundation says that "Black Being" is not merely an exhibition; it is a celebration of Black life, devoid of the burdens of adversity. This showcase of art and performance promises to challenge preconceived notions, inviting visitors to explore and appreciate the beauty of Black existence in its unfiltered, everyday glory.

For more info about the exhibit, visit [CharlotteStreet.org](http://CharlotteStreet.org).

## "Black Being" Exhibit

### Opening Reception

**When:** Fri., Nov. 10, from 6 to 9 p.m.

**Where:** Charlotte Street Gallery, 3333 Wyoming, KCMO

### Exhibit Run

The exhibit runs Nov. 10 - Jan. 6, 2024

### Journey to Softness

**When:** Sat., Dec 9, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Brian Ellison's contribution to the exhibit is a performance. "Journey to Softness."

### Artist Talk

Participating artist rian Ellison will have an artists talk

**When:** Fri., Dec. 8, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

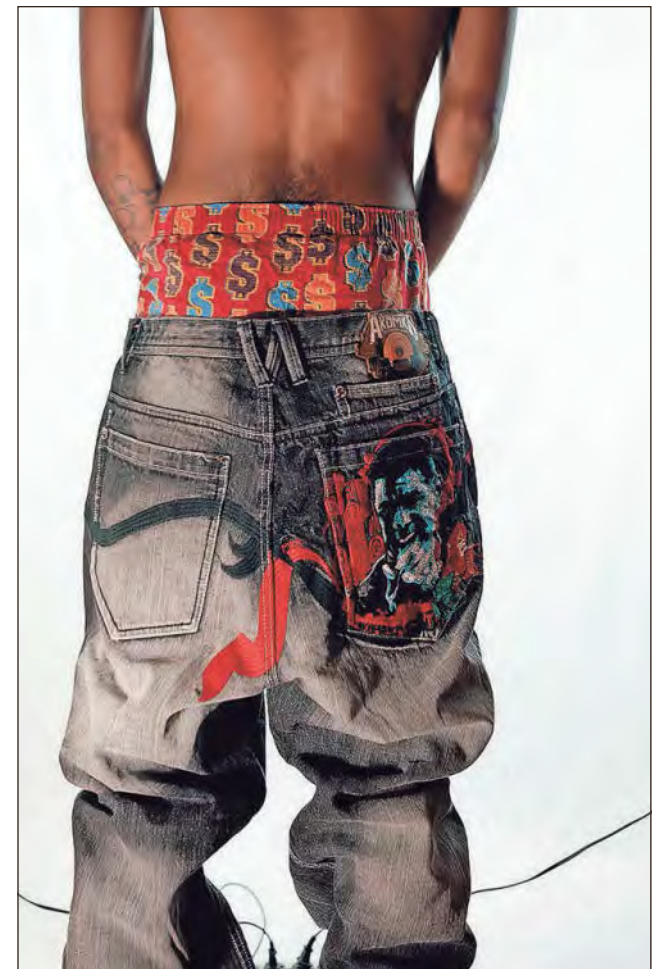


"Gossip Girls" by Kevin Hopkins Oil and oil pastel on canvas (IMAGE COURTESY OF THE ARTIST)

## "Black Being" Featured Artists:

Abby Oyesam  
Amani Lewis  
Andre Ramos Woodard  
Basil Kincaid  
Brian Ellison  
Dawn Okoro  
Derrick Adams  
Glyneisha

Kevin Hopkins  
London Pierre Williams  
Nehemiah Cisneros  
Rachel J. Atakpa  
Ronald Jackson  
Tokie Rome Taylor  
William Toney



"Sagging" inkjet print by William Toney (IMAGE COURTESY OF THE ARTIST)

# Oscar Winner to Host Free Film Workshop

Film jobs aren't just on the coasts; learn about sound engineering & production right here.

**By By Thomas White**  
Kansas City Reporter

You've seen it at the end of the movie – that long list of names scrolling across your screen.

Those names all represent jobs in the film industry, good-paying jobs that Creative City KC wants you to know about, and they are bringing

some accomplished friends to town to help introduce local youth and young adults to careers in those jobs.

Two-time Academy Award-winning sound engineer Willie D. Burton and veteran film and TV producer Dorez Douglas will lead a music-in-film workshop in June. The two have worked as production partners for a long time.



Willie D. Burton, who has won two Academy Awards, will lead a film workshop for Kansas City youth next summer.

Burton is best known for his sound engineering work on the films “Shawshank Redemption,” “Dreamgirls,” and, most recently, “Oppenheimer.” Douglas is the successful producer of “Beverly Hood” (1999) and the short “Voices” (2022); in the 1990s, she started the Entertainment Industry Training Program for teens, which was co-sponsored by Dreamworks and Sony.

The free five-day workshop

will take place the last week of June, with the goal of exposing students to different elements of sound and filmmaking.

Bukeka Blakemore, CEO of Creative City KC, says that our region regularly produces talented creative talent and that there are many good-paying jobs behind the scenes in our area, in film.

“The workshop is for those interested in careers in and around filmmaking,” says

Blakemore. “Curriculum is still being developed, but we are going to be providing the fundamentals of filmmaking.”

The organization hopes to attract youth and young adults, aged about 16 to 22, who can parlay the experience into a budding career. During the workshop, participants will produce a short documentary called a “proof of concept” that functions as a preview for a later full-length production. The seven-to-ten-minute proof of concept will be for a documentary featuring historic Kansas City sites like the Dunbar neighborhood and Quindaro Ruins.

## How to Get Involved

While formal signups haven't started yet, Blakemore encourages individuals to email [CreativeCityKC@gmail.com](mailto:CreativeCityKC@gmail.com) to express interest in the workshop and identify what area of the film industry they'd like to

learn about.

Having this info will help the organization in developing the program's curriculum. Initial plans include behind-the-scenes lessons in sound engineering, lighting, and production.

The group hopes to have 30 to 50 young adults participate in the workshop that will include both classroom and in-the-field experience.

## Who's Behind the Workshop

Since 2017, Kansas City has been designated as a United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) City of Music for its contributions to jazz, swing, and blues. From KC's participation with UNESCO the non-profit Creative City KC connected with the national think tank uThinkIndigo – which Burton and Douglas work with – to train area students about the impact of music in filmmaking.

Join us each Sunday in person @ 10 am & 5 pm for our Worship Services or online @ 10am @

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WICHITA

**Now - Nov. 19: "Ain't Misbehavin' - The Fats Waller Musical Show"** by Forum Theatre, First UMC-Wilke Center, 330 N. Broadway. Get ready to jump, jive, and wail the night away with this sly, sassy, sultry musical bursting with spectacular jazz-era hits. COST \$20+ <https://bit.ly/473pWki>

**Thu., Nov. 9, 10 am: Salute To Veterans Ceremony**, Century II, 225 W Douglas. More than 2,000 Wichita-area middle school and high school Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps and leadership cadets will honor U.S. military veterans at this special presentation.

**Nov. 9-11 (10 am - 4 pm) & Nov. 12 (12-4 pm): 56th Annual Holiday Tables**, Mark Arts, 1307 N. Rock Rd. Celebrate the season and view a curated collection of imaginative tablescapes presented by the area's most creative hosts and hostesses. COST \$12

**Thu., Nov. 9, 6-8:30 pm: Kansas Aviation Honor Awards - Hall of Fame Ceremony**, Kansas Aviation Museum, 3350 George Washington Blvd. Join us for a special evening as we celebrate the induction of three incredible Kansans into the Kansas Aviation Hall of Fame. COST \$75+ <https://bit.ly/3SjpYQM>

**Fri., Nov. 10, 6 pm: Sip' N Color**, Simply Sangria Wine Co., 243 N Cleveland. An instructor-led coloring art event. Great for dates. Co-sponsored by Get Ya Color On. FREE

**Sat., Nov. 11, 12-4 pm: Christmas Pop-Up Art Market**, Union Station, 701 E Douglas. Shop for Christmas from local vendors. Event by Daddy Daughter Decor. FREE

**Sat., Nov. 11, 7 pm: The Coleman Hughes Project featuring Adrienne**, Vann's Club, 3926 E. 13th. COST \$40+ call Maggie at 316-655-6967.

**Sat., Nov. 11, 1-4 pm: Planted @ The Blackprint** - The Planted Tea Shop grand opening, 156 N. Cleveland. Featuring 20+ Black businesses.

**Tue., Nov. 14, 7:30 pm: WSU Jazz Combos & Guitar Ensemble**, Walker's Jazz Lounge, 252 N. Mosley. Unforgettable night of live jazz with the talented Wichita State University Jazz Arts. Get ready to be immersed in the soulful melodies of jazz, performed by the future stars of the genre. COST \$8 <https://bit.ly/3MnxXZp>

**Tue., Nov. 14, 9 am - 3 pm: When Everyone Leads**, Kansas Leadership Center, 325 E. Douglas. The KLC equips people to lead. Pre register at <https://bit.ly/3Mrub1f>.

**Nov. 16-18, 11 am - 4 pm: Sedgwick County Historical Museum 40th Anniversary Wreath Festival**, Sedgwick County Historical Museum, 200 W Main. The Museum's Gift Shop is transported to the 2nd floor DeVore Auditorium, where holiday shoppers are sure to be dazzled by an array of artful wreaths, décor items, baked goods, cards, books, and unique gift items. FREE (Lunch available for \$16)

**Sat., Nov. 18, 10 am - 3 pm: Holiday Bake Sale**, Historic Dunbar Theater, 1007 N.

VOICE FEATURED EVENTS

KANSAS CITY EVENT

**Know Joey Foundation Returns With Annual Thanksgiving Give-away**

The 16th Annual Turkey Tuesday & Win Wednesday Giveaway sponsored by Joseph, "Joe Cuts" Thomas and his Know Joey Foundation is back again this year in both Kansas City, MO and Kansas City, KS. The collection of turkeys, non-perishable goods, toiletries and money is Tuesday, Nov. 21, 6 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Kansas City Urban Youth Academy, 1622 E 17th Terr., Kansas City, MO. Distribution, by application only, is Wed., Nov. 22, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Urban Youth Academy and in KCK at Clippin to Please, 3211 State Avenue. Registration is required, one turkey per family please. Reserve a spot on Eventbrite, go to <https://bit.ly/3QlpoiT> for KCMO registration and <https://bit.ly/3tY4VcF> for KCK reservation. For more information, to volunteer or to donate go to [knowjoeyfoundation.org](http://knowjoeyfoundation.org).

WICHITA EVENT

**'Bridging the Gap' Community Event Nov. 11**

The second annual "Bridging the Gap" community event will be held on Sat., Nov. 11, at the lasis Community Center, 1914 E. 11th St., Wichita, KS. This year's event will include food, games and a chance to win prizes, along with a panel discussion on current events. The event runs 1 to 5 p.m. "We see a lot of division and despair in the world," said event coordination Ty Juan Davis. "However, we have faith that together, we can create a bridge that bonds us all together in unity." Individuals or organizations wanting to be a vendor or make donations should contact Davis at 316-303-5208.

Cleveland. All proceeds go to support the next phase of renovations to the Historic Dunbar Community Center.

**Sat., Nov. 18, 9:30 am: Survivor of Suicide Loss Day**, WSU Engagement Institute, 238 N Mead. A day where people all over the world gather to remember their loved ones and continue their journey of healing. Lunch provided. Register @ [wichita-kansas.isosld.afsp.org](http://wichita-kansas.isosld.afsp.org)

**Sun., Nov. 19, 3 pm: Wichita Symphony Orchestra Masterworks Spirituals & Symphonies**, Century II, 225 W Douglas. Guest conductor Andre Raphel showcases the orchestra's capacity for contrasting textures and colors. More than mere arrangements, Adolphus Hailstork artfully uses traditional spirituals to craft original works alive with rhythmic and jazzy energy contrasted with a contemplative bluesy pace. COST 25+ [https://t.ly/B\\_Mkk](https://t.ly/B_Mkk)

**Tue., Nov. 21, 7:30 pm: The Hip Hop Nutcracker**, Century II, 225 W Douglas. "The Hip Hop Nutcracker" is brought to life by a powerhouse cast of a dozen all-star dancers, a DJ, a violinist, and MC Kurtis Blow, one of hip-hop's founding fathers, who opens the show with a short set. COST \$39+ <https://bit.ly/45QQiVB>

**Sat., Nov. 25, 10 am - 2 pm: Bringing it Black - Small Business Saturday**, Candela at The LUX, 120 E 1st. Come experience our very well-known small business shopping experience. Multiple local businesses will be on display as you prepare to shop local for your holiday needs. FREE

KANSAS CITY

**Sat., Nov. 4, 6-11 pm: 10th Anniversary**

**The Ebony Rose Scholarship & Awards Gala**, Kansas City Convention Center, Grand Ballroom, 301 W. 13th St. Celebrate, acknowledge, and appreciate our community members/organizations and award educational scholarships to high school graduating seniors and adult students. Opening speaker Dr. Contessa Metcalfe of the TV show "Married to Medicine" and keynote speaker Demetria McCain, principal deputy assistant secretary of U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development. COST \$100 [www.ncbwkansascity.org](http://www.ncbwkansascity.org).

**Wed., Nov. 8, 11:30 am - 1 pm: Wyandotte County Landlord Town Hall**. Wyandotte County Neighborhood Resource Center, 4953 State Ave, KCKS An opportunity to learn more about housing programs, potential Landlord Risk Mitigation fund, and network with peers. This event is targeted for current or prospective landlords. Lunch will be provided. FREE

**Wed., Nov. 8, 5:30 pm: Wyandotte County 8th District Town Hall on Infrastructure**. Giving Hope KC, 6640 State Ave., KCKS. Hear important updates and share your feedback. Dinner will be provided. FREE - Reserve a spot <https://bit.ly/3tLpbhh>

**Wed., Nov. 8, 5:30 - 7:30 pm: B Well Wednesday**, American Jazz Museum, 1616 E. 18th. This program will center around banking for musicians and entrepreneurs, and grant opportunity for arts projects, and organizations. FREE

**Wed., Nov. 8, 8 pm: Chris Tucker - The Legend Tour!** Kansas City Music Hall, 301 W 13th, COST \$39+ <https://bit.ly/3FD4ruP>

**Thu., Nov. 9, 4:30-7 pm: Thrive - A**

**Celebration of Community Development**, Kansas City MLB Urban Youth Academy, 1622 E. 17th Terr. As champions of equitable and inclusive community development, Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) Greater Kansas City works alongside community partners revitalizing neighborhoods and creating opportunities for residents to thrive. Our 2023 Thrive will be celebrating those in our community who are making a difference on the ground. FREE Registration required. <https://bit.ly/3FH4xS9>

**Thu., Nov. 9, 6 pm: Beyond the Lens Artist Talk - 400 North Creative**, Doug Barrett, Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, 4420 Warwick Blvd. Meet local artist 400 North Creative, Doug Barrett and learn about his photography practice. FREE

**Sat., Nov. 11, 4-6 pm: KC Buffalo Soldiers Veterans Day Salute**, Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Center, 3700 Blue Pkwy. Kansas City. Alexander/ Madison Chapter Buffalo Soldiers 9th and 10th Horse Cavalry. FREE

**Sat., Nov. 11, 7:30 pm: Buck O'Neil's Annual Birthday Celebration**, Gem Theater, 1615 E. 18th. Join the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum (NLBM) as they celebrate the life and times of Buck O'Neil in honor of his 112th Birthday. Features concert performances by Howard Hewett with special guest, Smooth Jazz saxophonist, Paul Taylor. COST \$50+ <https://bit.ly/45SYMeP>

**Sat., Nov. 11, 7:30 pm: Sisters of Distinction Black Tie Affair**, Disabled American Veterans, 14605 E. US Hwy 40. Get ready to dress to impress as we dance the night away in style. This in-person event promises to be a night to remember, filled with laughter, music, and good company. COST \$20 <https://bit.ly/3FFiKiM>

**Sat., Nov. 11, 9 pm - 1 am: Scorpio All Black Affair**, Virtue Night Club, 13824 S. US Hwy 71, Grandview, MO. Multiple hosts, DJs and more. COST \$30 <https://bit.ly/3MonoVM>

**Sat., Nov. 11, 6:30 - 8:30 pm: Here Comes the Judge Judicial Education Forum**, UMKC Student Union, 5100 Cherry St. Join Zeta Phi Beta and learn the importance of your participation in the trial process. Learn what happens when you don't prepare for certain legal situations. Learn what it's like from those who work on the judicial bench. Judge panelists are: Jalilah Otto - Presiding Judge; Kevin Harrell - Family Justice Center; Mark Styles Jr. - Probate Division. FREE Register at <https://bit.ly/3Qd66w6>

**Nov. 17-18 (7:30 pm) & Nov. 19 (2:30 pm): The Real Barbee: Unmasked**, The Black Box KC, 1060 Union Ave. A three-day cabaret extravaganza with music, dancing, and arts entertainment. FREE

List your events on our website @ [www.communityvoiceks.com](http://www.communityvoiceks.com)



LEBRON JAMES



PEYTON MANNING



BARACK OBAMA



ALTHEA GIBSON



JESMYN WARD

### LeBron, Peyton Manning, Obamas Team Up for Series

After the success of Netflix's "Quarterback" series, an NBA-equivalent series could be in the works. It reportedly will be produced by LeBron James' SpringHill Company, Peyton Manning's Omaha Productions, and the Obamas' Higher Ground and will follow the lives of a select few NBA players throughout their seasons.

Netflix's "Quarterback" consisted of eight episodes and followed the lives of Patrick Mahomes, Kirk Cousins, and

Marcus Mariota. It gave behind-the-scenes glimpses at their lives on and off the field.

The Obamas' production company, Higher Ground, has a first-look deal with Netflix, meaning that streamer could be the one to land this NBA series. Manning joins the production after serving as executive producer of "Quarterback."

Another question, who will star in the show? However, if it's half as entertaining or insightful as "Quarterback," this has a great chance at being special.

### These Black Women will be on U.S. Quarters

The U.S. Mint announced that Althea Gibson and Ida B. Wells are among five women who will be featured on the quarters scheduled to be minted for 2025.

Gibson became the first Black athlete to play tennis at its highest level, and Wells was a co-founder of the NAACP, a civil rights activist and an investigative journalist.

The 2025 coins will be the last set in a four-year, 20-coin production run that will celebrate important women in

America. The women were chosen by Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen in partnership with the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum, the Congressional Bipartisan Women's Caucus, and the National Women's History Museum.

### Oprah Finally Spotlights Author Jesmyn Ward

Oprah Winfrey has selected "Let Us Descend" by author and MacArthur Fellow Jesmyn Ward as her newest book club pick. Ward, noted for her poignant storytelling,

holds the distinction of being the youngest recipient of the Library of Congress' Prize for American Fiction and the only woman and African American to win the honor twice.

In 2011, at age 34, she won her first National Book Award for her second novel, "Salvage the Bones," and she won again in 2017 for the novel "Sing, Unburied, Sing."

Her newly released novel, "Let Us Descend," is already garnering attention for its heart-rending narrative and depth of historical research.

Ward's first three

novels were set in the fictitious Mississippi town of Bois Sauvage. "Let Us Descend" chronicles the trials of Annis, an enslaved teenager on a grueling journey from a North Carolina plantation to her subsequent sale in New Orleans.

The novel opens powerfully with the line, "The first weapon I ever held was my mother's hand." Ward said the metaphor speaks to the protagonist's protective relationship with her mother.

Writing "Let Us Descend" was a personal journey for Ward, as she navigated the loss of her husband to COVID-19.

She says her grief helped her better understand Annis and what she was going through. "Her journey to figure out what her new future, or what a new life without her mother and without these people that she loved... I think that sort of served as a model for me to begin to figure out what this new version of my life would look like."

# SPIRITUALS & SYMPHONIES

SUN, NOVEMBER 19, 2023 / 3:00 PM

CENTURY II CONCERT HALL

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# Eyedrops from CVS, Rite Aid & Others Carry Risk of Infection, FDA Says

U.S. health regulators are warning consumers not to use more than two dozen varieties of over-the-counter eye drops because of the risk of infections that could lead to blindness.

The Food and Drug Administration advisory applies to lubricating drops sold by six companies, including CVS Health, Target, Rite Aid and Cardinal Health. Consumers should stop using the products immediately and avoid purchasing any that remain on pharmacy and store shelves, the FDA said in a statement.

The agency has asked the companies to recall their products because FDA inspectors found unsanitary conditions and bacteria at the facility producing the drops. The FDA did not disclose the location of the factory or when it was inspected.

No injuries related to the products had been reported at the time of the announcement, but the FDA encouraged doctors and patients to submit cases through the agency's online reporting system.

Earlier this year, federal officials linked an outbreak of drug-resistant bacteria to eyedrops from two companies, EzriCare and Delsam Pharma. More than 80



FDA regulators are warning consumers not to use more than 24 kinds of over-the-counter eyedrops because of risk of infections that could lead to blindness. (AP PHOTO/MANUEL BALCE CENETA, FILE)

people in the U.S. tested positive for eye infections from the rare bacterial strain, according to the most recent update from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

After the products were recalled in February, health inspectors visited the manufacturing plant in India that made the eyedrops and uncovered problems with how they were made and tested, including inadequate sterility measures.

## How to Launch Your Food Business:

**Nov. 17, 1:45 p.m.** An informative session guiding individuals through the steps of launching a startup food truck or restaurant business.

**G.I.F.T. Breakfast + Marketing Mastermind Panel: Nov. 16, 8 a.m.** Hosted by G.I.F.T. KC, this session features insights from diverse marketing experts, concluding with a Q&A session.

The main sessions for GEWKC 2023 will take place at the conference's home base at Plexpod Westport, 300 E. 39th St., KCMO. The centralized location allows for back-to-back content from morning to evening from Nov. 15-17, with more events taking place off-site throughout the extended week, Nov. 13-19.

For a complete list of GEWKC free educational sessions and events, visit [GEWKC.com](http://GEWKC.com). While you're there, pre-register for events and build your agenda for the week.

## BIZ ED, from Page 15 ↓

can enjoy a sponsored lunch while engaging with a panel of founders who have successfully raised capital for their ventures.

**Altcap Pitch Competition: Nov. 16, 3 p.m.** Like a local version of "Shark Tank," in the 2023 AltCap Your Biz Pitch Competition, business owners will showcase their innovative concepts for a chance to win cash prizes up to \$25,000.

**Breakfast + Panel: From Isolation to Integration: Nov. 17, 8 a.m.** This session explores how Kansas City's robust entrepreneurial ecosystem thrives due to its strong community focus and support resources for entrepreneurs.

**Capital Connections Happy Hour: Nov. 17, 4 p.m.**

A networking opportunity designed to connect diverse business owners with local lenders in the area.

# Black Archives Opens Cameron Lamb Exhibit

Legal documents from the first conviction of a police officer in the killing of a Black man in KC will be displayed to the public.

By Thomas White  
Kansas City Reporter

The family of Cameron Lamb has donated the legal documents of his murder case to the Black Archives of Mid-America.

Lamb's case is significant because it is the first case in Kansas City where the offending officer who killed a Black person was convicted of doing so unlawfully.

The court documents, along with a photo of Lamb, will be on display on the first floor of the Black Archives as part of the exhibit of Black life in Kansas City. The documents will also be scanned and held in the museum's digital archives.

At a ceremony Oct. 26, Aquil Bey, Lamb's father, said he was overjoyed to see the documents saved for people years from now to see.

"They tried to downgrade him and drag his name through the mud," says Bey. "He was a good guy, and I hope this tells the real story about Cameron."

Lamb was shot and killed Dec. 3, 2019, by plain-clothed KCPD Det. Eric DeValkenaere, following a reported disturbance allegedly involving Lamb's truck chasing a purple Ford Mustang. Officers DeValkenaere and Troy Schwalm followed Lamb's vehicle to his residence, knocked over a grill and car hood to get to the backyard, where Lamb was backing into his garage.

DeValkenaere said he saw Lamb pull out a gun and point it at Schwalm. But at the trial, Schwalm said



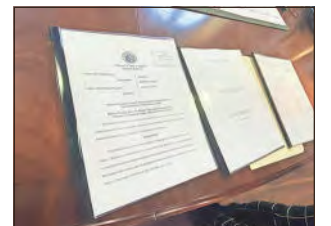
Cameron Lamb's parents Laurie & Aquil Bey with Black Archives of Mid-America Executive Director Dr. Carmalita Williams.

he did not see a weapon in Lamb's hands. DeValkenaere testified there was no time to de-escalate the situation and that he needed to back up his partner.

Police say Lamb had his left arm and head hanging out of the driver's side window, and on the ground near his left hand was a handgun. Prosecutors during the trial argued the crime scene was tampered with and evidence planted. The prosecution also argued that DeValkenaere violated the Fourth Amendment when the officers entered the property without a warrant, making any actions the officers took unconstitutional and criminal.

Judges in both the initial case and DeValkenaere's appeal agreed with the prosecutors' argument and said the officers did not have probable cause to enter Lamb's property, did not have a search warrant or evidence to obtain a search warrant, and that Lamb had an expectation of privacy while in his backyard.

DeValkenaere was sentenced to six years in prison but remained free on bond until this week after losing



The legal judgments and a placard of Cameron Lamb will be on display at the Black Archives of Mid-America.

his conviction appeal. The case was also unusual because Missouri Attorney General Andrew Bailey declined to defend the conviction at the appeal but instead argued for DeValkenaere.


Kansas City Law Enforcement Accountability Project co-founder Steve Young said seeing the documents go into the archives was a bright spot but there was still a cloud over the day, considering Gov. Mike Parson may pardon or commute DeValkenaere's sentence.

"This is unprecedented, and this is a case that people around the country can refer to and study for years to come," says Young.

For more info, visit [BlackArchives.org](http://BlackArchives.org).

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