



TPFF

THE PAIGE FRASER FOUNDATION, INC.
Performing Arts & Wellness

Monthly Newsletter February 2024



Hello Lesmah,,

We are pleased to report that we exceeded our participation targets for 2023. Our continued growth results from new programs we introduced like “In the Here and Now,” a music program that played to audiences at the Museum of Broadway and Rhythm and Teranga, a program that celebrates cultural diversity and sets the foundation for our Folk and Traditional Arts Program. We also expanded our on-line programming with a nutrition series and held our 6th annual Spine Series and there is so much more. Our expanded audience also results from you and your support in spreading the word about our work. Thank you.

In celebration of Black History Month, we cast a spotlight on Primrose and Lawrence Hammond, who recently visited Ghana; their work and commitment to community is long-standing and their interest in connecting heritage with daily life helps us all reconnect with our ancestry and celebrate the strength, power and pride of our community. Please read more about Primrose, TPF Board Advisor, and Larry, TPF Board Member, in the article below.

Please join us for upcoming events, be sure to view our website www.thepaige Fraser foundation.org and help us share information about our work through your networks.

May this year be filled with wellness, community, and connection!

Thank you,

Lesmah J. Fraser
TPFF President/CEO

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A Pilgrimage Journey – Going Back Home

By: Primrose & Lawrence Hammond

"In celebration of Black History Month, we are delighted to share excerpts of our journey back home to the continent of Africa. As we landed in Ghana, West Africa we could feel an “Akwaaba” spirit, a Twi word denoting the official welcoming expression of the Ghanaian community. For us, this journey brought us back home to the place where our ancestors were stolen from over 400 years ago. As African and Caribbean Americans, living in the diaspora, we longed for a place of belonging which we found in the time spent with our brothers and sisters. During our journey we embraced our cultural roots reflecting the vibrancy of the African cultural experience through dance, culinary delights, community engagement and celebration. We journeyed with a group representing the 313+ Ancestors Speak Project along with members of the New York Theological Seminary community. A highlight of our journey entailed the presentation to His Royal Majesty Oseadeeyo Kwasi Akuffo III, Paramount Chief of Akuapem Traditional Area, a replica monument of a 20+ foot statue erected in Elizabeth, NJ, commemorating 381 enslaved and free African ancestors buried on the grounds of Siloam-Hope First Presbyterian Church. This was the main purpose of our pilgrimage in bringing the “ancestors” back home."

[Learn More Here](#)

"There were several other experiences during our time in Ghana, so many, we do not have enough time or space to capture them all. However, we understand the importance of returning “back home” and encourage other African Americans to make the journey. It’s an experience of a lifetime. Ashe"



“My name is **Madisyn Manley** and I was born on August 27, 2005 in Queens, Ny and I currently reside in Brooklyn. My passion for dance begun at the tender age of about 6. This is where I began my extensive training under the Ailey School for an amazing 8 years. Ailey has made me into the well rounded dancer I am today and I use these skills whenever I am in a space of creativity. Mind Builders has opened many doors for me including the “Dance is Healing “ workshop and I am beyond thankful that someone has recognized my passion and I appreciate and thank you sincerely.”



JoElle Amarie Cole is a 14 year old native Washingtonian born and raised in Ward 7. JoElle is a 8th grade High honors student at KippDC Key Academy. JoElle’s love for movement started at the age of 18 months with gymnastics. She transitioned to dance at the age of three. Jo’Elle’s artistic training has afforded her the opportunity to travel around the DMV, and as far as the Bahamian Island, Los Angles, California, Memphis, TN, New York,NY, Philadelphia PA, Durham, NC, and Atlanta, GA.

Jo’Elle is a 3x national award winning competitive dancer. She has studied under several professional iconic trailblazers such as Kevin Thomas (R.I.S.E., Raising the Barre, @ Collage Dance Collective), Debbie Allen (Debbie Allen Dance Academy), Anthony Burrell (Breaking Barriers @ Philadanco) Kevin Iega Jeff (Deeply Rooted), and several local pre-professional and award winning dance companies; The Viva School and NGOMA Center for Dance, The Movement Studio’s and ZD Dance Academy. JoElle’s future aspirations is to become a professional dancer and travel around the world. She hopes that by gracing the stage it encourage’s and inspires other brown girls and boys to believe that they can do it too.

2023 TPF Dance is Healing (DIH) Spotlight Awardees

Madisyn Manley and JoElle Amarie Cole!

Annually these awards are given to 2 dancers who participate in our DIH Program, created by TPF’s Chief Artistic Officer (CAO), Paige Fraser-Hoffman.

Join us in congratulating and wishing them future successes!



Music Program Grows - "In the Here and Now 2.0"

We are pleased to share that plans are underway to expand our Music program. Last year, with the support of NYSCA Grant for Artist, Darryl J. Hoffman, TPFF Program Director, Music, created and offered an in-person, experiential music experience (with spoken word and dance) at the Museum of Broadway. It was named, "In the Here and Now," a name chosen to symbolize the nature of the work; occurring in real-time with audience involvement. The program won positive reviews for its creativity and inclusion. This year, Darryl will generate a new program that is based on his original score with the spoken word. The working title for this program is "In the Here and Now 2.0". Watch for news about this event in the Spring!

[Follow Darryl Here](#)



Art Beyond the Classroom! We're Off to the Museum!

Our new visual arts program, offered by Michael Tudor, TPFF Program Director, Visual Arts starts with a visit to the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH)! There, participants (students and their parents/guardians) will visit Dinosaur Hall, as well as a special exhibit. AMNH recently opened a new wing, Richard Gilder Center for Science, a 465 million dollar building designed like a canyon. Following the visit, students will attend 2 visual arts class sessions where they will learn art techniques and use their museum experience to create their unique works of art. Watch for registration information shortly.



Reset, Refocus and Recharge Your Health

Stop and Shop Nutritionist, Tina McGeough, MPH, RDN, CDCES helped us to “Reset, Refocus, and Recharge” with a special session on nutrition and health. On Tuesday, January 30, 2024, Tina offered our first webinar of the year, as we begin a year of wellness and health. Tina offered several webinars for us last year on healthy eating, the importance of hydration, selecting healthy food and preventing and living with Diabetes. In these informative sessions, she offers insights from the health field, tips for selecting healthy foods when shopping as she discusses the importance of nutrition for our body, mind and our overall health. Her sessions are on Zoom and free! Watch for future events!

EVENTS CALENDAR

Like what you see?

Be sure to follow us on social media to get the latest happenings at TPF!



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