

COURAGE



Greater Washington Urban League

WHITNEY M.
YOUNG JR.

2024

gala

HONORING THOSE WITH
COURAGE UNDER FIRE



FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2024

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Use **#GWULGala24** and **#CourageUnderFire** when capturing moments from tonight's event.

Follow **@GWUL365** for real-time updates and recaps!



@GWUL365

We have listened to your voices, and in response, we are thrilled to revive the cherished tradition of the Whitney M. Young Jr. Gala. As we gather tonight, I am brimming with immense gratitude and admiration for the community that has made this event possible. Your support, enthusiasm, and commitment have been the driving forces behind the rebirth of this significant occasion.

This year is particularly momentous for me as it marks my 10th anniversary as President & CEO of the Greater Washington Urban League. It has been a decade of profound growth, challenges, and triumphs. As I reflect on these years, I am deeply moved by the enduring support and the collective journey we have embarked upon. This milestone intertwines with the legacy of Whitney M. Young Jr., making this celebration even more meaningful.

Our gratitude for your participation and support knows no bounds. The dedication and hard work each of you has shown reflect the core values of the Greater Washington Urban League (GWUL) and the legacy of Whitney M. Young Jr. himself. This evening is not merely a gala; it is a celebration of our collaborative efforts, perseverance, and the hope that propels us forward.

The business community deserves special acknowledgment. Your engagement and commitment to championing diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice are vital to our progress toward quality life for all. Together, we have made meaningful strides and remain committed to continuing this essential journey.

The caliber of individuals and organizations present tonight is a testament to the strength and unity of our mission. You represent the courage to confront and challenge societal inequities, embodying a united front in the pursuit of justice and equality for all.

A heartfelt thank you extends to our sponsors. Your financial contributions have been instrumental in bringing our Gala to life. Every contribution has brought us one step closer to realizing our vision, empowering communities, and changing lives.

Reflecting on our history, we stand on the shoulders of giants. For over 85 years, GWUL has been at the forefront of advocating for Black and marginalized communities. Tonight, as we celebrate, we also recommit ourselves to the principles of advocacy, empowerment, and community service that have always guided us. As an affiliate of the National Urban League, we join their commitment to the 3 Ds: **Defend Democracy, Demand Diversity, Defeat Poverty!**

Thank you for your unwavering support and for being a part of this incredible journey. Together, we continue to make strides toward a brighter, more inclusive future.

With deepest appreciation,



GEORGE H. LAMBERT, JR.
President & CEO
Greater Washington Urban League

The Whitney M Young Jr. Courage Under Fire Gala holds a cherished place in the hearts of our community, symbolizing inspiration and unity. As we gather tonight to celebrate with our esteemed supporters and friends, we are reminded of the unwavering resilience and determination that define the Greater Washington Urban League's mission.

Following a four-year hiatus due to the impact of the global pandemic, we are overjoyed to bring back this gala honoring the incredible legacy of Whitney M Young Jr, a true champion for social justice. It is inspiring to see that, despite the past years' unprecedented challenges and uncertainties, the Greater Washington Urban League's impact and commitment to empowering individuals and transforming communities has remained consistent and stronger than ever.

I want to express our heartfelt gratitude for the support and generosity of our sponsors, donors, and partners who have stood beside us, demonstrating solidarity in our pursuit of equity and justice.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership and dedication to the Greater Washington Urban League. Every one of you plays an important role in helping make our vision and mission of building a more inclusive and equitable community become a reality.

Yours in the movement,



DAWN C HENDRICKS
Board Chair
Greater Washington Urban League

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PepsiCo is proud to support the Greater Washington Urban League

PepsiCo and the PepsiCo Foundation proudly collaborate with the Greater Washington Urban League to champion entrepreneurs through the Black Restaurant Accelerator Program. Together with GWUL, we strive to empower and uplift local Black-owned restaurants.



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ORDER OF EVENTS

RECEPTION

INVOCATION

Rev. Dr. Kendrick E. Curry
Senior Pastor, The Pennsylvania Avenue Baptist Church, Washington, DC

REMEMBERING MAUDINE RICE COOPER

Special Presentation with Willa Hall Smith

OPENING REMARKS

Dawn Hendricks | Chair of the Board of Directors, Greater Washington Urban League
Muriel Bowser | Mayor of the District of Columbia
Marc H. Morial | President & CEO, National Urban League
George H. Lambert Jr | President & CEO, Greater Washington Urban League

CELEBRATING PRESIDENT GEORGE LAMBERT - 10 YEARS AS CEO & PRESIDENT

Special Presentation with the Greater Washington Urban League

DINNER SERVED

OUR COLLECTIVE IMPACT

YOUTH ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

GWUL Scholarship 2024 Recipients
Dreamers Club 2023 Members

WHITNEY M. YOUNG JR. 2024
HONORING THOSE WITH **COURAGE UNDER FIRE**

gala

LIVE AUCTION & PADDLE RAISE

John Maurelus | Board of Directors, Greater Washington Urban League
Jonathan Slocumb | Event Host

LEADERSHIP IMPACT AWARD & FIRESIDE CHAT

Wes Moore | Governor of the State of Maryland
Laura Coates | Chief Legal Analyst and Anchor, CNN

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AWARD

The Scotland Community

CHAMPION OF JUSTICE AWARD

Patrice Sulton | Executive Director, DC Justice Lab

COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD

Christopher Turner | Community Activist & Board Member, Mid-Atlantic Innocence
Project

CLOSING REMARKS

George H. Lambert Jr | President & CEO, Greater Washington Urban League

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

AFTER PARTY

Soiree Noir, hosted by Thursday Network will start at 10 PM

DINNER MENU

PASSED D'HOUVRES

Lamb Lollipop (NF, VG)
Chimichurri Sauce

Tofu Bite with Spinach and Garam Masala (NF, V)

Blackened Chicken Breast with Avocado and Black Bean Salsa (NF, GF)
On Purple Tortilla Chip

Smoked Trout with Lemon Cream (GF, NF)
On Cucumber Slice With Coriander Seedling Mayonnaise

FIRST COURSE - DUO

Roasted Asparagus Salad (NF, VG)
Pecorino Shavings, Brioche Crouton Tarragon Citrus Emulsion

Potato and Leek Chowder

DINNER MENU

ENTRÉE

Roasted Beef Tenderloin (GF, NF)

Grilled Corn Organic Quinoa, Culantro Sautéed Spinach, Chimichurri Beurre Blanc

DESSERT

Chocolate Caramel Crunch (GF)

Flourless Chocolate Cake, Creamy Caramel, Chocolate and Coffee Sauce served with Fresh Berries

WINES

Premium Red & White Wines

ABOUT WHITNEY M. YOUNG JR

Whitney Moore Young Jr. was a pioneering social worker who redefined the role of that profession, and its importance to the civil rights cause. His progressive work as the executive director of the National Urban League, and his efforts to bridge racial boundaries and usher African Americans into the social and economic mainstream, had enduring results for Black people and for the nation.

Young was born in Lincoln Ridge, Kentucky, on July 31, 1921. His father was president of the Lincoln Institute, a boarding school for Black children where his mother taught, and where Young attended school. He graduated as class valedictorian, showing great promise early on.

In 1944, he found himself in World War II Europe in an all-Black regiment with a white captain. In Young's own words, "It was my Army experience that decided me on getting in the race relations field after the war. Not just because I saw the problems, but because I saw the potential, too. I grew up with a basic belief in the inherent decency of human beings."

Returning to his studies at Kentucky State Industrial College, Young graduated with a B.S. in 1946 and immediately embarked on graduate studies in social work at the University of Minnesota. There he had his initial contact with the Urban League, a relationship that would extend throughout his life.

In 1954, he became dean of the Atlanta University School of Social Work, and the stage was set for his direct encounter with the struggle for civil rights in the South. As a member of the

Atlanta Unitarian Church, he forced that body to change its practice of holding annual picnics at segregated parks. He fought successfully to desegregate the Atlanta public library system, and co-chaired the Atlanta Council on Human Relations. In 1961, a golden opportunity presented itself. He was offered and accepted a job as executive director of the National Urban League. As executive director, Young revolutionized the thinner workings of GWUL and substantially expanded its fundraising ability, making connections with previously unused funding sources.

In 1963, Young brought the Urban League in as a participant in the March on Washington. Young perceived that GWUL's participation would actually serve to neutralize the most radical fringe. The result was that the Urban League became a standard-bearer and progressive force for the entire civil rights movement.

Young was also a forceful advocate for greater government and private-sector efforts to eradicate poverty. His call for a domestic "Marshall Plan," a 10-point program designed to close the huge social and economic gap separating Black and white Americans, significantly influenced the discussion of the Johnson Administration's War on Poverty Legislation. For this, President Johnson awarded him the nation's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, in 1968.

Young was the author of two books, *To Be Equal and Beyond Racism: Building an Open Society*. He died tragically of a heart attack in 1971 while attending a conference for Black leaders in Nigeria.





Greetings

Greater Washington Urban League Whitney M. Young, Jr. 2024 Gala

March 15, 2024



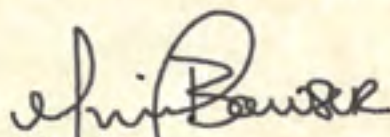
As Mayor of Washington, DC, it is my pleasure to extend greetings to the participants and organizers of the Greater Washington Urban League (GWUL) Whitney M. Young Jr. 2024 Gala.

This annual gala pays homage to former GWUL President Whitney M. Young Jr. and honors outstanding individuals and groups that have demonstrated courage in the face of adversity.

Your event promises to be even more meaningful thanks to your honorees, including Patrice Sulton of the DC Justice Lab and community activist Christopher Turner, and by your guest speaker, Maryland Governor Wes Moore.

As you gather under the theme "Honoring Those With Courage Under Fire," may you be inspired to achieve even greater success in advancing equality and social justice in our communities.

On behalf of the nearly 700,000 residents of Washington, DC, you have my heartfelt thanks for your exemplary service and my best wishes for a successful and productive event.


Muriel Bowser
Mayor, Washington, DC





COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

KENYAN R. McDUFFIE
Councilmember, At Large
Chair Pro Tempore
Chair, Committee on Business and
Economic Development

Committee Member
Executive Administration and Labor
Housing
Recreation and Youth Affairs



February 26, 2024

Congratulations!

Dear Greater Washington Urban League:

As Councilmember, At Large, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the Greater Washington Urban League on the Whitney M. Young, Jr. 2024 Gala. The GWUL has hosted this gala for many years, and I thank you for your commitment to empowering and uplifting our communities through your programs and initiatives.

GWUL has touched more than three million lives by helping to strengthen the economic and political power of Black populations in the region, focusing on families, and by working tirelessly to achieve a racially equitable metropolitan area. Again, congratulations on another successful Whitney M. Young Jr. Gala.

Best Wishes,

Kenyan R. McDuffie



March 15, 2024

Dear Friends of Greater Washington Urban League,



It is my distinct privilege as Chair of the Prince George's County Council to recognize the momentous occasion of the Whitney M. Young, Jr. 2024 Gala. I am honored to extend the warmest of welcomes, from the Prince George's County Council to all those gathering to celebrate the courageous individuals and organizations who uplift our communities.

The Gala's theme, "Honoring Those With Courage Under Fire," encapsulates the spirit of resilience and determination modeled by the late Whitney M. Young Jr. As a civil rights pioneer dedicated to advancing equality and social justice, Mr. Young's legacy continues to inspire the outstanding work of groups like the Greater Washington Urban League (GWUL), especially through their variety of empowering programs and initiatives.

The Greater Washington Urban League has been an instrumental force in our region for over four decades. As the Washington D.C. affiliate of the National Urban League, they spearhead essential programs across the spectrum, from education and youth empowerment to career development and neighborhood revitalization. The GWUL operates a series of enrichment initiatives for area youth, equipping young scholars with academic support and leadership tools to fulfill their potential. They also facilitate crucial workshops for adults to foster economic stability and self-sufficiency. We commend the GWUL for the depth and diversity of their programming as well as their tireless efforts to create pathways to prosperity for our most vulnerable community members.

Tonight we come together to champion those currently confronting adversity with bravery and conviction. The Prince George's County Council recognizes the significance of this occasion and these honorees' tireless efforts to create a more just world for all. We are proud to participate in paying tribute to them alongside The League.

Please accept my best wishes to the gala organizers, honorees, and guests as you celebrate these courageous leaders and organizations. Thank you for your part in keeping Whitney M. Young's legacy alive.

Sincerely,

Jolene Ivey
Prince George's County Council Chair
District 5



A Proclamation

COUNTY COUNCIL

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WHEREAS, The Greater Washington Urban League (GWUL) is dedicated to empowering and uplifting our communities through a variety of programs and initiatives; and

WHEREAS, The gala, themed “Honoring Those With Courage Under Fire,” recognizes and celebrates individuals and organizations that have demonstrated courage and resilience in the face of adversity; and

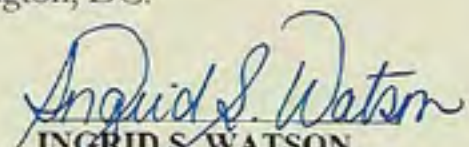
WHEREAS, This year, GWUL is privileged to host a Fireside Chat with Wes Moore, Governor of Maryland, led by Laura Coates, CNN’s Chief Legal Analyst & Anchor; and

WHEREAS, The GWUL is proud to honor several esteemed individuals and groups for their remarkable contributions to our community, including Patrice Sulton, Founder & Executive Director of DC Justice Lab; Community Activist and native Washingtonian Christopher Turner; and The Scotland Community of Montgomery County, MD; and

WHEREAS, Each honoree embodies the resilience, dedication, and impactful change at the heart of Greater Washington Urban League’s mission.

NOW, THEREFORE, Be It Proclaimed that the Prince George’s County Council is proud to acknowledge the efforts of the Greater Washington Urban League in their quest to celebrate those who have demonstrated courage and resilience in the face of adversity on March 15, 2024, at the Ronald Reagan Building – International Trade Center in Washington, DC.


JOLENE IVEY
COUNCIL CHAIR


INGRID S. WATSON
COUNCIL MEMBER



ABOUT THE GREATER WASHINGTON URBAN LEAGUE

The Greater Washington Urban League (GWUL) is one of the District of Columbia's oldest civil rights and community service organizations. GWUL was in its infancy in 1938 when the Great Migration brought thousands of Blacks fleeing onerous Jim Crow laws and a repressive system of segregation to the District. Today, we are still guiding individuals on the road to self-sufficiency through the midst of structurally enforced disparities across all measures of health and wealth.

GWUL envisions a DC metro area inclusive of flourishing, multi-generational, Black communities with members thriving unimpeded and unharmed by structural racism and violence. GWUL is on a mission to increase the monetary and political wellness and power of our historically disenfranchised and economically excluded Black populations. Our work serves as an antidote to psychological oppression, structural barriers, lost wealth, and community displacement.

For 85 years, GWUL has impacted over **five million** lives, serving as a safety net and facilitator of opportunity.

We manage and administer comprehensive programs in the areas of housing, homeless prevention, financial empowerment, entrepreneurship/small business development, emergency assistance, youth development and scholarship, workforce development and advocacy. Our solutions include:



HOUSING SERVICES

To prevent homelessness, we aid clients in avoiding the traumas of eviction and foreclosure. We make homeownership a reality by properly preparing people for the rigors and rewards of owning a home. Our services include:

- Closing Cost & Down Payment Funding
- Housing Counseling & Education
- Home Ownership Academy
- Foreclosure & Loan Modification Support
- Advocacy for Fair Credit Reporting



EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Through our channels of financial recovery, we distribute emergency assistance to families at risk of eviction, food insecurity, utility disruptions, education delays or medical neglect. Our financial aid includes:

- Payment of Rental Arrears
- Paydown of Past Due Utility Bills
- Cash for Life's Emergencies
- Eviction Diversion Support Access
- Support for College Students Experiencing Financial Hardship
- Advocacy to End Poverty Policies



HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

Our contribution of millions of dollars and hours of supplemental counseling help to prevent homelessness of individuals and income challenged families. We offer:

- Rent Subsidies
- Housing Navigation
- Financial Empowerment
- Workforce Development
- Advocacy for Affordable Housing



FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT

Planning generational wealth puts participants in the driver's seat. We equip resilient and financially savvy life-long earners with the skills and mindset needed to make sound financial choices. We offer:

- Money Psychology Workshop Series
- Financial Therapy & Coaching
- Expert Subject Knowledge Seminars
- Empowerment Lab Cohorts
- Credit & Debt Management Counseling
- Advocacy for Fair Banking



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

By influencing equitable opportunities for employment, our participants can implement employment strategies and cultivate resilience leading to consistent life-long earnings. Our vision includes:

- Workplace Navigation Workshop Series
- Employment Readiness Therapy & Coaching
- Personal Asset and Career Choice Matching
- Job Search & Networking Support
- Advocacy for Pay Equity



SMALL BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

We safeguard and expand Black-business ownership by nurturing and elevating well-positioned Black entrepreneurs. We offer:

- Industry-Specific and Start-Up Development Cohorts (Food Service, Arts, Contractors, Entrepreneur's Journey)
- Business Assessment & Coaching
- Subject Matter Intensive Workshops
- Professional Expert Consulting Services
- Licensing and Certification Support
- Capital & Procurement Readiness Preparation & Matching
- New Business Venture Acceleration
- Advocacy to End Capital Access Disparities



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT & SCHOLARSHIP

We counter the traps of prison pipelining by addressing the academic and interpersonal needs of our youth. Our auxiliary groups remove financial and educational barriers while mentoring students to become astute, powerful leaders. Our key programs include:

- GWUL Scholarship & College Sustainability Fund
- GWUL Back 2 School Health & Wellness Festival
- NUL Youth Leadership Summit
- Thursday Network Empowerment Academy
- The Guild's Future Leaders in Mobility Camp



ABOUT THURSDAY NETWORK

For over 30 years, Thursday Network (TN) has supported the programs of the Greater Washington Urban League by serving the diverse needs of Washington, D.C. Montgomery County and Prince George's County, Maryland. Our mission is to provide a place for young professionals to support GWUL and focus our energies on community service and economic empowerment.

Founded in 1992, Thursday Network is comprised of over 200 young professionals committed to serving the Washington metropolitan area through community programs and partnership that address the Empowerment Goal of the National Urban League. The mission of TN is to provide a forum for young adults, ages 21 – 40, to focus their energies on community service, professional development, and political involvement.

Annually, the organization sponsors several events such as Young Blacks - Give Back Month, the Empowerment Academy mentoring program, and awards "I EMPOWER" scholarships to local high school seniors. In addition to service programs, Thursday Network provides personal and professional development through workshops, seminars and networking opportunities.

Thursday Network is proud of its history as one of the most progressive service-oriented organizations in the DC metropolitan area. We invite you to join "the movement" and show that young Black folks really do give back.



@thursdaynetwork



@thursdayntwk



@Thursday Network -
Greater Washington Urban League
Young Professionals



ABOUT THE GUILD

Greater Washington Urban League Guild is an auxiliary that assists GWUL in providing direct community services to individuals and families in the metropolitan area. It promotes and supports GWUL in the areas of youth development, fundraising, volunteer services, health, education, and community engagement, connecting GWUL to communities in Prince George's County, Montgomery County, and the District of Columbia.

The Guild's membership is comprised of dedicated individuals of diverse talents, skills, and abilities.



@GWULGuild

WHITNEY M. YOUNG JR. ²⁰²⁴
HONORING THOSE WITH COURAGE UNDER FIRE *gala*

DONATE!

HELP US HELP
OUR COMMUNITY



**Greater Washington
Urban League**



SCAN ME

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Thank you

UPCOMING EVENTS AT GWUL

Health & Wellness



**Perinatal Mental Health Training
Certification Training** | May 8th - May 10th

Back 2 School Health & Wellness Festival |
August 24th

gwul.org

Entrepreneurship Center



**Entrepreneurship Spark Series: Mapping Your
Entrepreneurial Journey** | March 19th

**By Our Hands: Accelerate Revenue with an
Attractive Digital Presence** | April 15th

gwul.org/ec

Center for Financial Inclusion



Financial Empowerment Spark Series | May

gwul.org/fec

UPCOMING EVENTS AT GWUL



Greater Washington Urban League
HOUSING CENTER

Housing Center

Let's Get It Together: Credit Score Optimization |
May 11th

Pre-Purchase Workshop | May 18th

gwul.org/housing-services

THURSDAY NETWORK

Thursday Network

Spirit of Service | August

thursdaynetwork.org



The Guild

Future Leaders in Mobility Program |
August

gwul.org

LEADERSHIP IMPACT AWARD

WES MOORE GOVERNOR OF MARYLAND

Wes Moore is the 63rd Governor of the state of Maryland. He is Maryland's first Black Governor in the state's 246-year history, and is just the third African American elected Governor in the history of the United States.

Born in Takoma Park, Maryland, on Oct. 15, 1978, to Joy and Westley Moore, Moore's life took a tragic turn when his father died of a rare, but treatable virus when he was just three years old. After his father's death, his family moved to the Bronx to live with Moore's grandparents before returning to Maryland at age 14.

Moore is a proud graduate of Valley Forge Military Academy and College, where he received an Associate's degree in 1998, and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Afterward, he went on to earn his Bachelor's in international relations and economics at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, where he graduated Phi Beta Kappa.

While at Johns Hopkins, Moore interned in the office of former Baltimore Mayor Kurt Schmoke. Moore was the first Black Rhodes Scholar in the history of Johns Hopkins University. As A Rhodes Scholar, he earned a Master's in international relations from Wolfson College at Oxford.

In 2005, Moore deployed to Afghanistan as a captain with the 82nd Airborne Division, leading soldiers in combat. Immediately upon returning home, Moore served as a White House Fellow, advising on issues of national security and international relations.

In 2010, Moore wrote "The Other Wes Moore," a story about the fragile nature of opportunity in America, which became a perennial New York Times bestseller. He went on to write other best-selling books that reflect on issues of race, equity, and opportunity, including his latest book "Five Days," which tells the story of Baltimore in the days that followed the death of Freddie Gray in 2015.

Moore built and launched a Baltimore-based business called BridgeEdU, which reinvented freshman year of college for underserved students to increase their likelihood of long-term success. BridgeEdu was acquired by the Brooklyn-based student financial success platform, Edquity, in 2018.

It was Moore's commitment to taking on our toughest challenges that brought him to the Robin Hood foundation, where he served for four years as CEO. During his tenure, the Robin Hood foundation distributed over \$600 million toward lifting families out of poverty, including here in Maryland.

While the Robin Hood foundation is headquartered in New York City, Wes and his family never moved from their home in Baltimore.

Moore has also worked in finance with Deutsche Bank in London and with Citigroup in New York.

Moore and his wife Dawn Flythe Moore have two children – Mia, 12; and James, 10.

Join in the excitement of the auction –
WiFi access is on us!

Username: GWUL1938
Password: gwulgala24



governor.maryland.gov



@Wes Moore



@GovWesMoore



dcjusticelab.org



@DC Justice Lab



@dcjusticelab

CHAMPION OF JUSTICE AWARD

PATRICE SULTON

Patrice Sulton is an attorney, criminal justice reform advocate, community organizer and law school professor who is powering a movement to fundamentally transform the criminal justice system in Washington D.C., which has one of the highest incarceration rates in the country. She served on the District of Columbia's Criminal Code Reform Commission (comprehensively rewriting D.C.'s criminal code), Police Reform Commission (recommending an overhaul D.C.'s approach to public safety), and Jails & Justice Task Force (publishing a plan to decarcerate by half and bring D.C.'s residents home to a safe environment).

She has represented clients in criminal and civil cases for 15 years, served on public commissions and worked alongside grassroots organizations in underestimated communities of color that are deeply impacted by over-policing, over-sentencing, and notoriously unsafe jails. These experiences inspired Patrice to launch DC Justice Lab, an innovative nonprofit that is driving a conversation about what constitutes public safety and reimagining public systems that ensure safety and justice for all. In creating a model for comprehensive change in Washington DC, she is laying the foundation for generating more effective and equitable systems everywhere.

Patrice is passionate about instructing the next generation of lawyers in constitutional law, criminal justice reform, racial equity, and in how to generate systems change. She is a Professorial Lecturer in Law at The George Washington University Law School, where she teaches Adjudicatory Criminal Procedure and Trial Advocacy. She was awarded the Distinguished Adjunct Teaching Award in 2021. Patrice is recognized for training peers in trial skills and criminal law at, among other prominent organizations, the National Institute of Trial Advocacy, Rising for Justice, the DC Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, and the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia.

Patrice serves on the Board of Directors for the Network of Victim Recovery of DC. Prior to founding DC Justice Lab, Patrice served on the Board of Directors for several leading justice-focused nonprofits, including NAACP DC, DC Lawyers for Youth, DC Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, and the New York Urban League of Young Professionals. She was named a "Rising Star" by Super Lawyers Magazine, the Greater Washington Area Chapter of the National Bar Association, the National Law Journal and Legal Times. Patrice earned a B.A. in Philosophy from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and her J.D. from the George Washington University Law School.

Patrice's career is devoted to fundamentally changing the way people think about who we punish, why we punish, and how we punish. A lifelong organizer, she believes the brilliant ideas we are looking for are in the brilliant people we overlook.



exonerate.org



[@Mid-Atlantic Innonence Project](https://www.facebook.com/MidAtlanticIP)



[@MidAtlanticIP](https://twitter.com/MidAtlanticIP)

COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD

CHRISTOPHER TURNER

Christopher Turner, born in Washington, D.C. in 1965, spent his formative years in the same city. He graduated from Calvin Coolidge Senior High School in 1983 with plans to enlist in the U.S. Air Force. However, in late 1984, he faced a wrongful arrest and was charged with the murder of Catherine Fuller, along with 16 others. Despite his innocence, he was convicted and sentenced to life in prison.

Chris was released in 2010, after spending nearly 26 years behind bars. Chris is currently employed by D.C. Public Schools and has dedicated his post-release years to assisting and supporting individuals reentering society after incarceration. Chris serves on the board of the Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project, the organization that handled his appeal. Additionally, he is part of the advisory board of Free Minds, a DC-based group that champions creative writing projects for incarcerated individuals. Furthermore, he collaborates with Healing Justice, a national non-profit committed to raising awareness about the adverse effects of wrongful convictions.



COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AWARD

THE SCOTLAND COMMUNITY

Scotland is a predominantly African American community in Montgomery County, Maryland, located along Seven Locks Road. Consisting of 100 townhomes, Scotland Community's roots date back to the late 19th century, when the formerly enslaved people bought land in Potomac.

The dedication of the Scotland community to honor its past and safeguard its heritage is commendable. Through proactive efforts to document and preserve their history, Scotland ensures that its cultural and historical significance endures for generations to come. Their commitment to preserving their legacy is a beacon of inspiration.

Recognizing the invaluable contributions of Scotland, we celebrate their pivotal role in shaping the local narrative and ensuring that their voices resonate through time. This historically Black community in Montgomery County exemplifies dedication to preserving legacy, fostering diversity and inclusion, nurturing community engagement, and serving as a source of inspiration for others. They are truly deserving of recognition and appreciation for their unwavering commitment.



lauracoates.com



[@Laura Coates](https://www.facebook.com/LauraCoates)



[@thelauracoates](https://www.instagram.com/thelauracoates)

FIRESIDE CHAT HOST

LAURA COATES

Laura Coates is CNN's chief legal analyst and anchor. She plays a central role in the network's extensive legal programming and fills in as an anchor across CNN programming including hosting primetime programs, impactful specials, and a CNN Town Hall. She is also the host of the award-winning daily The Laura Coates Show on SiriusXM's bipartisan P.O.T.U.S. channel where she interviews world leaders and politicians from both sides of the aisle and engages the audience with a lively discussion on the intersection of politics and the law.

Coates is a well-respected constitutional expert, attorney, commentator, author, and former adjunct professor at the George Washington University School of Law. Her depth of experience and broad expertise have earned her acclaim across all media platforms for her objective, nonpartisan legal analysis.

She is the New York Times bestselling author of *Just Pursuit: A Black Prosecutor's Fight For Fairness*. In 2016, recognizing the dire need for increased police accountability and improved police-community relations, Coates wrote the bestselling book *You Have the Right: A Constitutional Guide to Policing the Police*.

A native of Saint Paul, Minnesota, Coates graduated from Princeton University's School of Public and International Affairs and the University of Minnesota Law School, where she serves on the Board of Advisors, before beginning her legal career in private practice. Called to public service, she transitioned from private practice to the United States Department of Justice, thriving as a federal prosecutor.



@iamjslocumb



@iamjonathanslocumb

EVENT HOST

JONATHAN SLOCUMB

Jonathan Slocumb is a veteran comedian/actor who is globally known for being a “Clean Comedian” and admired for his unique fashion style.

The proud Atlanta, Georgia native is also a sought after MC/Host of corporate and special events across the country and overseas. He still holds the record for being the longest Main Stage host of ESSENCE Festival for 7 years in a row.

He has been featured in EBONY, on CNN, BET, COMEDY CENTRAL, HLN, TVONE, Upscale Magazine, & The Tom Joyner Morning Show

He is also known for his roles on “The Steve Harvey Show”, Tyler Perry’s “Meet the Brown’s” (movie), and recently multiple episodes on THE WONDER YEARS as well as numerous other films, TV shows and stage plays.



ENTERTAINMENT

DJ TRAUMA

DJ Trauma (born Tayari McIntosh, New York City) has been a DJ and Producer for the past 20+ years and has been called up to perform for some of the world's biggest celebrities like Dave Chappelle, Jay-Z & Beyonce, Serena Williams, Oprah and more. He has rocked the stages in 40+ countries and does between 100-150 gigs a year. DJ Trauma's mission is to connect people globally through their love of music, and his passion is to use music as a means to travel and see the world. Therefore, the question always is #whereintheworldisdjtrauma.

Currently DJ Trauma is the official tour DJ for legendary comedian Dave Chappelle. Prior to that, he toured with artists such as Ciara, Monica, Keri Hilson, Sean Garrett, and others. In addition, DJ Trauma often collaborates with brands, and has been part of campaigns and events by Nissan, McDonalds, Coca-Cola, Coors Light, and Nike.

After moving from the birthplace of hip-hop (NYC) to Atlanta to attend Clark Atlanta University, DJ Trauma got his start doing local clubs and college parties. Then he became a DJ on V-103FM in Atlanta, the #1 urban radio station in the country and also signed with Priority Records, releasing his first single in 2017 - "Take Me High" ft. The Dan. From there, the celebrities came calling. He was the headline DJ for Dwayne Wades 40th Birthday Party, Nipsey Hussle's Grammy Nomination Party, Jay-Z and Beyonce's Baby Shower, Serena Williams' Wedding, LeBron James' Beats By Dre NBA All Star Party, Tiffany Haddish's Tour, and many more.

When not on the road, DJ Trauma is at home in Los Angeles, working on mixes, doing live sets on his Twitch channel, and guest appearing on radio stations and podcasts. He also has an annual flagship event called The Trauma Unit Retreat, which takes place every June at the RoMarley Beach House in Puerto Morelos, Mexico. Going on its third year, over 500 music lovers and party goers gather for an always sold-out 4-day retreat centered around good music and good vibes. Not only does it feature DJ Trauma's unique blend of hip hop, R&B, dance, reggae, and Top 40 (along with guest sets from special artists & DJ's) but the retreat also comes with his guarantee that lifetime memories will be made, lifelong friendships will be formed, and everyone will be dancing all night long. Previous retreat highlights include special guests and performers such as Rocsi Diaz, Brian Michael Cox, Anthony David, DJ Mars and Supreme LaRock.

DJ Trauma is inspired by the music of Stevie Wonder, Jay-Z, and A Tribe Called Quest and DJs such as Kid Capri, Kool DJ Red Alert, Mr. Magic, and works day and night to continue to revolutionize hip hop music for the next generation, and to ignite the scene wherever he goes. From the city that never sleeps, to the DJ that never settles – DJ Trauma is always down for the next adventure and has his bags packed, his passport handy, and his set list ready to go.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

As an important and long standing manifestation of its mission, the Greater Washington Urban League (GWUL) and its young professionals' auxiliary, Thursday Network (TN) are committed to awarding scholarships to high school seniors and college students. In conjunction with steadfast corporate sponsors, GWUL has facilitated the distribution of more than \$2 million in scholarships to more than 300 young adults.

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Thank you to our 2024 Scholarship Sponsors! We are grateful for your support and commitment to the Greater Washington Urban League.



Charlotte Elizabeth Yancey Eights Trust

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR DREAMERS CLUB 2023 MEMBERS

We've partnered with Dreamerscorp to offer an after-school STEM certification program at the Greater Washington Urban League. This monthly bootcamp taught students software engineering and coding skills while doing what most youth love to do: build games! Congratulations to our students for completing the program and earning their Certified Entry-Level Python Programmer certification!

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**Thank you to our team for their support and commitment to the
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**Nigel Brown, Founder of DreamersCorp
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CONGRATULATIONS

On behalf of the entire George Washington University community, President Ellen M. Granberg congratulates each of the remarkable Courage Under Fire honorees of the Greater Washington Urban League's 2024 Whitney M. Young Jr. Gala.



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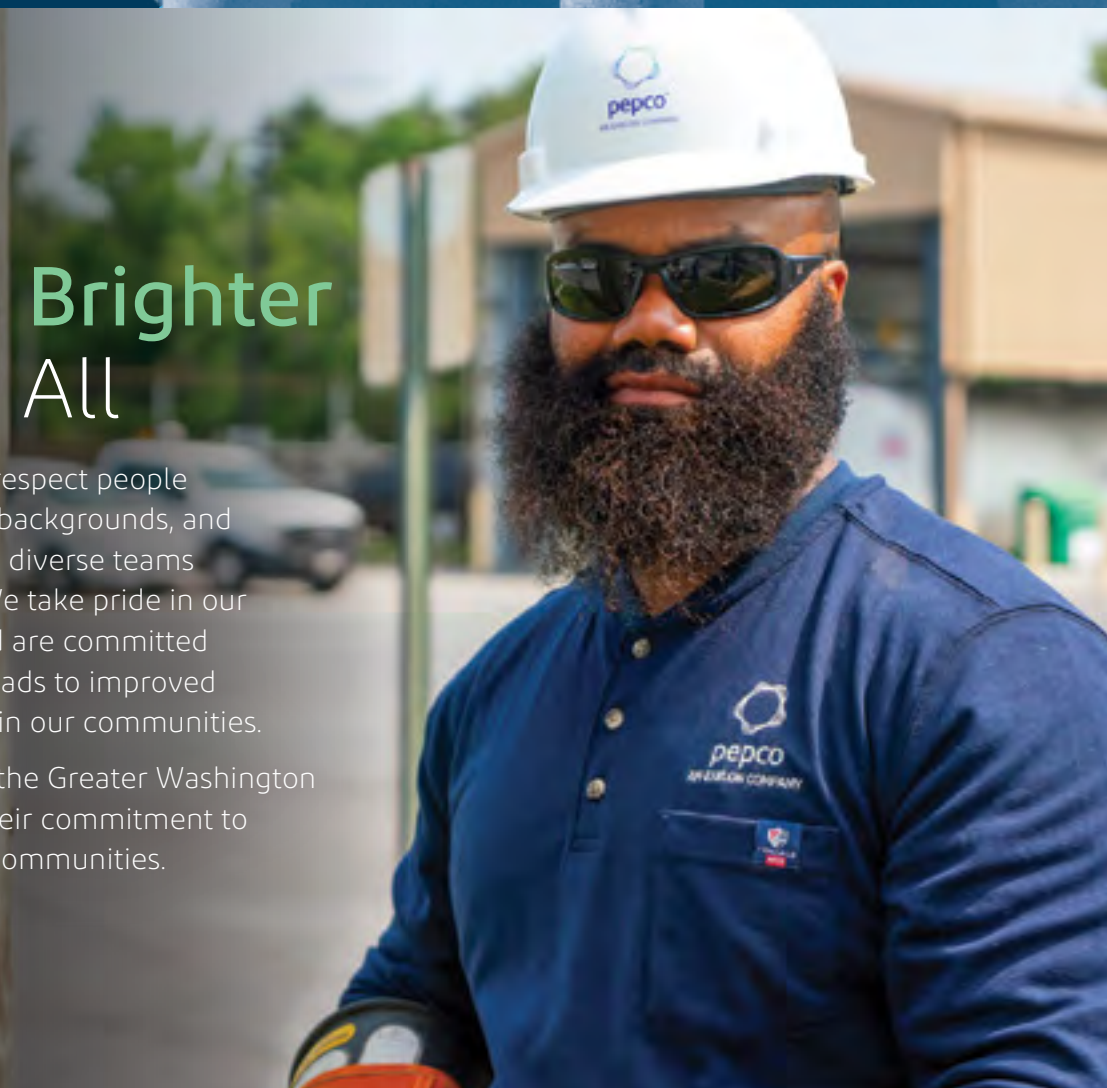
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At Pepco we welcome and respect people with different perspectives, backgrounds, and traits because we know that diverse teams drive powerful outcomes. We take pride in our long history of inclusion and are committed to promoting change that leads to improved economic and social equity in our communities.

We are honored to support the Greater Washington Urban League and join in their commitment to making a difference in our communities.

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