



ALLEN TOUSSAINT'S

journey to music greatness began in Gert Town.

Born in 1938 in a shotgun house on College Court, Toussaint grew up surrounded by rhythm and community. His mother, Naomi, opened her home to local musicians, turning it into a creative hub where young talent thrived.

These early jam sessions laid the foundation for Toussaint's legendary career as a pianist, arranger, and producer.

From sneaking into the Dew Drop Inn to playing with Fats Domino's bandleader Dave Bartholomew, Toussaint's rise was rooted in Gert Town's vibrant culture. His influence stretched far beyond New Orleans—working with icons like Paul McCartney, Patti LaBelle, and The Band. Inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and honored with a street named after him, Toussaint's success is a testament to Gert Town's enduring impact on American music.



ELLIS MARSALIS'S

roots run deep in Gert Town. Born in 1934, he spent his early childhood in this vibrant neighborhood, where music and community shaped his future.

Friendships and early performances with local musicians like Roger Dickerson sparked a lifelong passion that would define his career.

Marsalis became a jazz icon, educator, and patriarch of the world-renowned Marsalis family, yet he never lost his connection to New Orleans.

Honored with the official Jazz Fest poster in 2016 and the Ellis Marsalis Center for Music, his legacy reflects the powerful influence of Gert Town on American jazz.



GARRETT MORRIS'S

story begins in Gert Town. Born in 1937, he spent his early childhood in this close-knit neighborhood before pursuing his passion for performance.

After graduating from Dillard University and training at Juilliard, Morris joined the Belafonte Folk Singers and later made history as an original cast member of Saturday Night Live in 1975.

From SNL to iconic roles in Martin, The Jamie Foxx Show, and 2 Broke Girls,

Morris built a prolific career in television and film.

His journey from Gert Town to national fame reflects the neighborhood's deep cultural roots and its role in shaping creative legends.



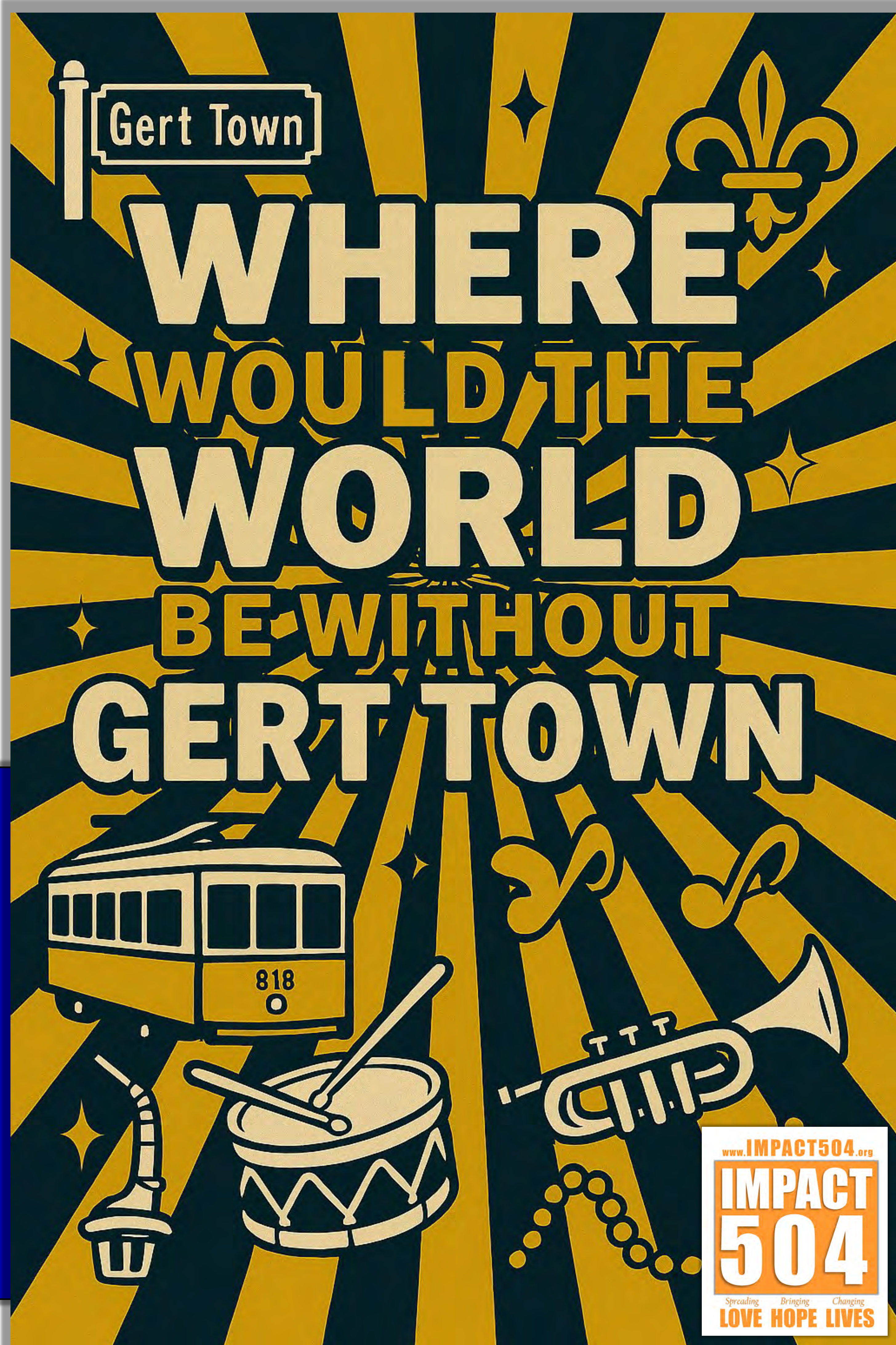
SYBIL HAYDEL MORIAL'S

fight for justice began in Gert Town.

Born in 1932, her early life in this working-class neighborhood under Jim Crow shaped her lifelong commitment to civil rights.

From being chased out of City Park as a child to challenging racial barriers in education, these experiences fueled her determination to create change.

As an educator, activist, and matriarch of the Morial family, Sybil became a driving force for equality—founding the Louisiana League of Good Government, serving nearly three decades at Xavier University, and partnering in the historic political career of Ernest “Dutch” Morial, New Orleans’ first Black mayor. Her legacy lives on through her children and the countless lives she impacted, making Gert Town a cornerstone of her remarkable story.



PARTNERS-N-CRIME

put Gert Town on the map in the world of bounce music.

Comprised of Walter “Kango Slimm” Williams and Michael “Mr. Meana” Patterson, the duo started performing at local talent shows before signing with Big Boy Records.

Their anthem “N.O. Block Party” became a defining track of New Orleans bounce, proudly representing their home neighborhood. With hits like “Let the Good Times Roll” and “Pump Tha Party,”

Partners-N-Crime helped shape the city’s hip-hop sound. From Gert Town to national recognition, their music reflects the energy and creativity of the community that raised them.



MERRY CLAYTON'S

powerful voice started in Gert Town.

Born on Christmas Day in 1948, Clayton grew up singing in her father's church before moving to Los Angeles to pursue music. Her talent led to collaborations with legends like Ray Charles, Carole King, and Neil Young, but her defining moment came in 1969 when she recorded the haunting duet on the Rolling Stones' "Gimme Shelter."

From early gospel roots to Grammy-winning recognition in the Oscar-winning documentary 20 Feet from Stardom, Clayton's journey reflects the strength and artistry born in Gert Town—a neighborhood that helped shape one of soul music's most unforgettable voices.



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