



By **Penelope Bunn**
DAC-News.com
27 September 2017

The Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc. 2017 Annual Legislative Caucus Phoenix Awards Documentary



YouTube Link: [Watch the entire CBCF- 47thALC - Phoenix Awards Dinner](#)

The Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc. (CBCF) hosted its **Annual Phoenix Awards Dinner** on September 23, 2017 during the **47th Annual Legislative Conference (ALC)** themed **“AND STILL I RISE”** at the **Walter E. Washington Convention Center** in **Washington, D.C.** The CBCF is a 501(c)(3), nonpartisan, nonprofit, educational and research institute. It's mission is to advance the global black community by developing leaders, informing policy and educating the public. The ALC is the leading policy conference on issues impacting African Americans and the global black community. More than 9,000 people attend 70 public policy forums. Thought leaders, legislators, elected officials, experts, industry leaders, activists, concerned citizens, and students address economic development, civil and social justice, public health and education issues, and more from an African-American perspective. The Phoenix Awards Dinner is the vertex of the ALC. It is the primary fundraising event for the The event showcases the CBCF's educational and leadership programs and pays homage to outstanding African-Americans that have made substantial contributions to society. The proceeds of this year's dinner will be used for the CBCF Leadership Institute and 2017 CBCF Hurricane Relief Fund.



CBCF-ALC-Phoenix Awards
Over 2,000 VIP guests annually attend this \$\$\$+ Sold Out! Fundraising Event



Michael Eric Dyson, Ph.D.
Keynote Speaker

THE STARS



**The Clarence Knight
Orchestra**



**Songstress
Cierra Jackson**



**Anthony Anderson &
April Ryan
Co-Emcees**



**Hon. Muriel M. Bowser
Mayor, Washington, DC**



**Congresswoman
Sheila Jackson Lee (TX)
CBCF Board Chair**



**Congressman Marc A. Veasey (TX)
Congresswoman Robin L. Kelly (IL)
CBCF - 47th ALC Honorary Co-Chairs**



**Congressman
Cedric L. Richmond
(LA)**



**Congressman
Emanuel Cleaver, II (MO)**



**International Music Icon
Dionne Warwick**



**A. Shuanise Washington
President &
CEO of the CBCF**



**Zoe Cadore, Esq.
2016-2018 CBCF
API Energy Fellow**



**LTG Russel L. Honoré
Commander of Joint
Task Force - Katrina**



**Tonya Veasey
Chair, CBC Spouses
Wife of Marc A. Veasey**



**Tamika D. Mallory
ALC Co-Chair's
Phoenix Award**



**The Honorable Ron Kirk
16th US Trade Rep.
ALC Co-Chair's
Phoenix Award**



**Congressman
Bennie G. Thompson
Harold Washington
Phoenix Award**



**Ruby Bridges
Civil Rights Activist
ALC Co-Chair's
Phoenix Award**



**Dr. Thomas F. Freeman
"The Great Debater"
ALC Co-Chair's
Phoenix Award**



**Lynn Whitfield
Emmy Award Actress &
Star of OWN's
"Greenleaf"**

THE PROGRAM

Phoenix

AWARDS DINNER

MUSICAL SELECTION

Recognition of Leadership Programs A. Shavonne Washington
President and CEO, Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc.
and
Zoe Cadoni
2018-2019 CBCF APH Energy Fellow

Remarks
Lillian G. Carter, Pastoral Honor
Composers of Joint Task Force Katrina

Remarks Tonya Weasey
Chair, Congressional Black Caucus Sports

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

PHOENIX AWARD PRESENTATIONS

ALC Co-Chair's Phoenix Award Tamika D. Mallory
Activist, National Co-Chair Women's March

ALC Co-Chair's Phoenix Award The Honorable Ron Kirk
18th United States Trade Representative

The Harold Washington Phoenix Award The Honorable Bennie G. Thompson
United States House of Representatives

CBC Chair's Phoenix Award Ruby Bridges
American Civil Rights Activist

CBCF Chair's Phoenix Award Dr. Thomas F. Freeman
Legendary Educator, Scholar and "The Great Debater"

Keynote Address Dr. Michael Eric Dyson
Georgetown University Professor of Sociology

The National Anthem Ciara Jackson
CBCF Leadership Institute Internship Alumna

"Lift Every Voice and Sing" Ciara Jackson

Celestings Anthony Anderson
and April Ryan
Co-empres

Remarks The Honorable Mayor Muriel M. Bowser
Mayor, Government of the District of Columbia

Statement of Dedication Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee
Chair, Board of Directors
Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc.

Remarks Congresswoman Robin Kelly
and
Congressman Marc Veasey
Honorary Co-Chairs, 47th Annual Legislative Conference

Remarks Congressman Cedric L. Richmond
Chair, Congressional Black Caucus

Invocation Congressman Emanuel Cleaver, II

DINNER

SUPPORT CBCF
TEXT CBCF TO 56512



PROGRAM

“The CBCF Works! Follow the Achievers”

2016-2018 Cohort of Fellows



Kimberly Toots



Erin Robinson



Robert Madlock



Abdul Deensie



**Alexandrine
De Bianchi**



Zoe Cadore



**Priscilla
Barbour**

During the Phoenix Awards Dinner, the following video was presented featuring other promising protégés. Through a pipeline of fellowship, leadership, internship and scholarship programs provided by the CBCF Leadership Institute, these young scholars have the opportunity to learn, network and grow. “These young people will be our future members of Congress, Cabinet members and corporate executives who will help shape and fight for policies that benefit our community”, said A. Shuanise Washington, CBCF CEO.

(Get a tissue; you will be moved. –pb)



YouTube Link: [2017 CBCF Leadership Institute Appeal, "And Still I RISE" Video](#)

 Congressional Black Caucus
FOUNDATION ALC:17
SEPTEMBER 20-24

Invest in the next generation of leaders.
Text **CBCF** to **56512** to make a donation.

Standard Message and Data rates may apply. Your tax-deductible donation will help ensure that we will always have voices that represent our future.

THE LEADERSHIP

The Congressional Black Caucus Members



Although linked with [The Congressional Black Caucus \(CBC\)](#), [The Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc. \(CBCF\)](#) is a **separate** nonprofit group that runs programs in education, healthcare and economic development. Established in 1976 by members of the CBC, the CBCF began as a non-partisan research institute on issues affecting African Americans. Today the CBCF continues that research, publishes a yearly report on key legislation, and sponsors issue forums, leadership seminars, conferences and scholarships with an office located in Washington, D.C.

[A. Shuanise Washington](#) is president and chief executive officer and [Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee \(TX\)](#) is the current chairwoman of the board. Fundraising events and corporate partners support CBCF programs. The CBCF funds many of its activities by hosting the Annual Legislative Conference and Phoenix Awards Dinner each September. The CBCF often works with the [Congressional Black Caucus Spouses](#), a group of wives and husbands of the African American members of the United States Congress.



A. Shuanise Washington
President and CEO of the CBCF

Meet the Board

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Member of Congress

PRESIDENT & CEO
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Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc.

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Kevin Washington
YMCA of the USA

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CAC CHAIRPERSON
Chaka T. Burgess
Empire Consulting Group

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Accenture

Kenny Thompson
Paycom

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Intellectual Ventures

Shawna Watley
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Daron Watts
Sidley Austin, LLP

Hillary West
JP Morgan Chase & Co.

Cherie Wilson
General Motors

Washington manages the CBCF's public policy, research, educational and fund raising initiatives, most notably the ALC and Phoenix Awards Dinner. Washington stated, "Our Honorees have proven themselves to be unwavering in their commitment to answering the call of public service, leadership and activism. Along with our honorees, our keynote speaker, **Michael Eric Dyson, Ph.D.**, personifies this year's theme, 'And Still I RISE', through his ability to overcome obstacles, empower urban communities and raise the sentience of the black community in the U.S. and abroad."

[Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee \(TX\)](#)

[CBCF Board Chair](#)



Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (TX)



Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee
Hurricane Harvey Victim



Hurricane Harvey
AP Photo / David J. Phillip



YouTube Link: [PBS NewsHour](#)
[Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee pleads for Hurricane Relief Funds](#)



Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee
47th CBCF ALC Phoenix Awards Dinner

[Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee \(TX\)](#) serves as **[CBCF Board Chair](#)**. When she could not get to her own home during Hurricane Harvey, instead of going to a cozy hoity-toity resort, Rep. Jackson Lee went straight to a shelter and worked side-by-side with volunteers and first responders with her “*All Hands on Deck*” spirit. At the same time, she was campaigning on Capitol Hill for her fellow Houstonians. **Rep. Jackson Lee introduced, “The Hurricane Harvey Small Business Recovery Grants Act” (H.R.3930)**, which, if passed, will establish the Office of Hurricane Harvey Small Business Recovery Grants in the Small Business Administration to assist certain small businesses affected by Hurricane Harvey. Rep. Jackson Lee has not missed an opportunity to speak up for her Beloved constituents and rebuilding Houston, Texas. Please visit the **[CBCF Hurricane Relief Funds](#)** webpage for donations and information about how you can help.

Amidst all of this turmoil, like a trooper, Rep. Jackson Lee led the 47th CBCF ALC with vim and vigor. She said, “The culminating Phoenix Awards Dinner is a special occasion that honors diligent leaders in our community and encourages other leaders to do the work necessary for the betterment of Black lives around the globe. As we find ourselves in unparalleled times, it is critical that we come together and uplift each other through celebration and collaboration at the ALC—the Phoenix Awards Dinner aims to do just that.”

This is just the tip of the iceberg for Rep. Jackson Lee’s work. She is sponsoring over 50 bills that can significantly help her constituents in Texas as well as other communities in America and around the world. Her sponsored bills include the **Save America Comprehensive Immigration Act of 2017 (H.R.3647)**; **SIMARRA Act (H.R.3410)**; **Justice for Children Now Act of 2017 (H.R.1985)**; **Triple-Negative Breast Cancer Research and Education Act of 2017 (H.R.1984)**; **USA Values Act of 2017 (H.R.735)**; and **Fair Chance for Youth Act of 2017 (H.R.61)**.

47th CBCF ALC Co-Chairs

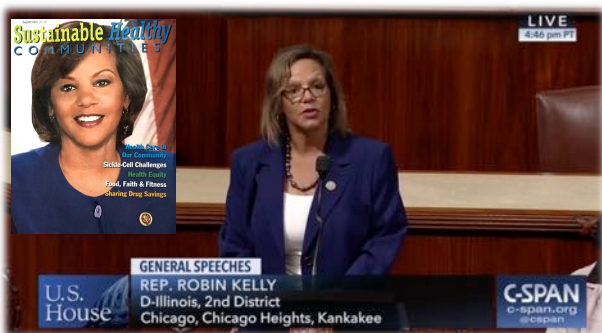


Rep. Robin L. Kelly (IL)
www.RobinKelly.house.gov



Rep. Marc A. Veasey (TX)
www.veasey.house.gov

This year's honorary 47th CBCF-ALC Co-Chairs were Rep. Robin L. Kelly (IL) and Rep. Marc A. Veasey (TX). In addition to chairing this mammoth event, both elected officials had to address their own Goliaths at home.



Collage: C-SPAN & Sustainable Healthy Communities

Rep. Robin L. Kelly (IL) has introduced over 40 bills that totally embody the spirit of the SDGs. Her insight and commitment to improving our human condition is a beacon for other lawmakers to follow. Here are just a few of her initiatives to save the planet, one community at a time: **Today's American Dream Act (H.R.3839)**; **Helping to Encourage Real Opportunities (HERO) for At-Risk Youth Act (H.R.2209)**; **Community College to Career Fund Act (H.R.2207)**; and **Supporting the goals and ideals of "National Gun Violence Awareness Day" and "National Gun Violence Awareness Month" (H.R.361)**.



Collage: Lashia Nelson, Hurricane Harvey victim embraces her son after they were rescued from a rooftop against photo of Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX.

Rep. Marc A. Veasey (TX) hands were also full aiding his Dallas / Fort Worth constituents in the aftermath of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, and pushing for **Supplemental Appropriations for Hurricane Harvey Disaster Relief**; which also **PASSED in the House**. The disaster aid package will provide \$7.85 billion to aid in Hurricane Harvey relief, including \$7.4 billion for FEMA and \$450 million for the Small Business Administration (SBA). Rep. Veasey has introduced almost 60 bills, addressing all of the SDGs, including the **Methane Emissions Mitigation Act (H.R.2830)**; **Diversity in Military Leadership Act (H.R.5704)**; **Reduce Barriers to College Act (H.R.3516)**; **Police Protection Act of 2016 (H.R.6217)**; **Partnerships for the Future Act of 2016 (H.R.6064)**; as well as several bills for veteran's and immigration rights.

A long-standing ovation is due to these champions and their staffs for organizing the 47th CBCF ALC and Phoenix Awards Dinner, while simultaneously doing their own everyday incredible jobs.

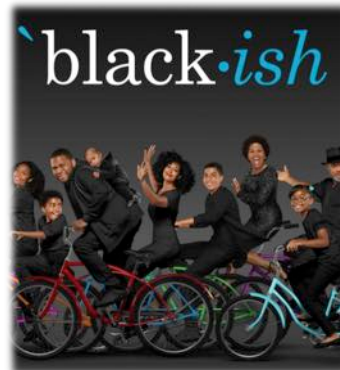


THE ENTERTAINMENT

The **CBCF ALC Phoenix Awards Dinner** is a star-studded, red carpet, black tie event. This year's co-emcees were Emmy and Golden Globe-nominated actor-comedienne, [Anthony Anderson](#) of the hit TV show, "[Blackish](#)", and [April Ryan](#), White House veteran correspondent for [American Urban Radio Networks](#) and [CNN](#) political analyst. Both celebrities generously donated their appearance fees to the CBCF and delivered a very entertaining and informative show.



[Anthony Anderson](#)



[ABC Website – Blackish](#)

In addition to the **CBCF**, **Anderson** supports SDGs and local and national charities that are closest to his heart: **American Heart Association, American Stroke Association, Artists for a New South Africa, FACE Diabetes, Greater Than AIDS, JB Dondolo, Make-A-Wish Foundation, Racing for Kids, Sheckler Foundation, Sugar Ray Leonard Foundation, Treatment Action Campaign, Youth Lifeline America.** Helping those in need is an important way to give something back to the community", says Anderson.



[April Ryan](#)

April Ryan, a 20-year veteran White House correspondent for [American Urban Radio Networks](#), was recently named, **2017 Journalist of the Year** by the [National Association of Black Journalists \(NABJ\)](#). Ryan has authored two best-seller books, "[The Presidency in Black and White: My Up-Close View of Three Presidents and Race in America](#)" and "[At Mama's Knee: Mothers and Race in Black and White](#)." Ryan has a more personal approach to her philanthropy. In honor of her mother, Vivian G. Ryan, Morgan State University has set up a scholarship in her name, **The Vivian G. Ryan Scholarship**, to which Ryan is a major benefactor. Ryan is following in her mother's footsteps by being a positive role model, and empowering African American youth to be productive and stand up for their rights.



*"My motto in life is, 'If you think it, you can do it!'
If we all apply that thought,
we can end hunger the world over."
Dionne Warwick*



Dr. Clarence E. Knight



Cierra Jackson

Humanitarian, multi-Grammy award-winning singer, actress, television show host, and [Ambassador Dionne Warwick](#) entertained the audience during dinner (a nice surprise because she was not on the program). Warwick is the second most-charted female vocalist of all time, with 56 singles making the Billboard Hot 100. She has a career spanning more than 40 years with a musical catalog including gospel, rock and roll and R&B. During the Phoenix Awards Dinner, she sang a medley of her songs, including my favorite, "That's What Friends Are For" that was recorded with [Gladys Knight](#), [Elton John](#) and [Stevie Wonder](#) for the [American Foundation for AIDS Research \(AmFAR\)](#). Warwick is a supporter of [The Hunger Project](#) and serves as [Global Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization](#).

[Dr. Clarence E. Knight](#) is a professional musician experienced in musical theater, recordings, and performances whose career spans five decades. He has worked with many luminaries including [Pearl Bailey](#), [Ray Charles](#), [George Duke](#), [Aretha Franklin](#), [Lena Horne](#), [Freddie Jackson](#), [Gladys Knight](#), [Johnny Mathis](#), [The Four Tops](#), [The Jackson Five](#), [The Temptations](#), [Stevie Wonder](#) (just to name a few). He is CEO of [Clarence E. Knight Productions](#) and the leader of [Clarence Knight Orchestra](#). His orchestra is in high demand all across the United States and has been the band of choice for the Congressional Black Caucus Awards Dinner (over 10 years), Presidential Inaugurations (5), and many other political, corporate, and VIP events. His Company also provides back-up musicians for hundreds of shows and artists around the world. Knight is a former Chair and Professor of Music, Department of Fine and Performing Arts, Bowie State University. He holds the Bachelor of Music Education and Masters of Music Education degrees from Howard University and the Ed. D. in Educational Administration Degree from The George Washington University.

Brains + Humanitarian + Talent + Beauty = [Cierra Jackson](#).
Brains: Jackson is a graduate of Spelman College, Bachelors of Arts in Political Science with a concentration in American Institutions and Processes. She is a **CBCF Leadership Institute Internship Alumni**. **Humanitarian:** Jackson is a **SDGs Good Samaritan** who volunteers her time to organizations like **Children's Miracle Network Hospitals**, **Ronald McDonald House**, **Salvation Army**, **Humane Society**, **The Boys and Girls Club**, local education campaigns, tutoring programs at middle schools and project homes, and coaching the **Youth Atlanta Track Club** at the **West End Boys and Girls Clubs of America**. **Talent:** Jackson opened the 47th CBCF ALC Phoenix Awards Dinner with her sultry soprano voice singing, "The Star Spangled Banner" and "Lift Every Voice and Sing." Jackson has a new Christmas CD, [Cierra Jackson: "It Was The Night"](#), which is spellbinding. **Beauty:** Jackson is a genuine Beauty Queen. She has won or placed in many pageants including Miss Phi Beta Sigma of the Chi Chapter at Morehouse College (2010-2011), Miss Brookhaven, GA (2011), Miss Rome, GA (2013), Miss Columbus, GA (2015), Miss District of Columbia (2016), and Miss America (2017). Who says you can't have it all?

THE HONOREES

The Phoenix Award is the CBCF's highest honor, presented to individuals whose extraordinary achievements strengthen communities and improve the lives of individuals, families, and communities, nationally and globally. This year's distinguished honorees are as follows:



Dr. Thomas F. Freeman



Ruby Bridges



Ambassador Ronald Kirk



Tamika D. Mallory

[Dr. Thomas Freeman](#) received the CBCF Chair's Phoenix Award in recognition of his profound influence on our nation as a legendary educator and prolific scholar, and for his long-standing commitment to improving the quality of life for black students that will leave a significant and lasting impression for generations to come. Dr. Freeman founded the [Texas Southern University Debate Team](#) and earned the moniker, "The Great Debater," for his immaculate genius. After 68 years, Dr. Freeman can still be found in his office as Head Coach Emeritus, and continues to help students find their voice.

[Ruby Bridges](#) received the CBC Chair Phoenix Award for her fearless leadership and willingness to confront segregation head on in the New Orleans school system. Her achievements include leading the way for integrating America's schools, being one of the youngest members of the civil rights movement, and showing courage during the struggle for integration are legendary. In 1960, when she was only six years old, her parents responded to a request from the [National Association for the Advancement of Colored People \(NAACP\)](#) and volunteered her to participate in the integration of the New Orleans school system. By taking that first step into an all-white school at such a young age, Bridges made a lasting impact on American society. From that day to the present, Hall has diligently fought against racism and prays that one day it will be a subject only spoken about in history textbooks.

[Ambassador Ronald Kirk](#) received the ALC Co-Chair's Phoenix Award for his outstanding contributions to the enhancement of improved relations in foreign affairs and for his belief that trade is the strongest key to unlocking jobs and growth for the American economy and global prosperity. Ambassador Kirk was the first African-American to serve as U.S. trade representative and was a member of President Barack Obama's cabinet, serving as the president's principal trade adviser, negotiator, and spokesperson on trade issues. Ambassador Kirk has held several other most prestigious positions: Secretary of State of Texas; Mayor of Dallas; Lobbyist for Vinson & Elkins, Energy Future Holdings, and Merrill Lynch; and currently Senior Counsel at [Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher's](#) Dallas and Washington D.C. offices where he is co-chair of both the International Trade and Sports Law practices. He is also a member of the Public Policy, Crisis Management, and Private Equity practice groups.

[Tamika D. Mallory](#) will receive the ALC Co-Chair's Phoenix Award in recognition of her exemplary leadership and commitment to social justice and civil rights advocacy, equal rights for women, health care, gun violence and police misconduct. Mallory is a highly sought after speaker, who travels worldwide to address issues plaguing our society and solutions to bring forth change. As president of [Mallory Consulting](#), a strategic planning and event management firm, Mallory has worked with Fortune 500 corporations, non-profit organizations and international NGOs. She is a board member of [The Gathering for Justice](#), active member of [Justice League NYC](#), co-chair for [The Women's March](#), and served as a member of the Transition Committee for NYC Mayor-Elect Bill de Blasio. In her previous position as Executive Director of the [National Action Network](#) ([Rev. Al Sharpton's](#) civil rights organization), Mallory was instrumental in creating [New York City's Crisis Management System](#), an official gun violence prevention program that awards nearly \$27 million to violence prevention organizations annually. Her great humanitarian work, has earned Mallory a place on the [2017 Time 100 Pioneers List](#) as well as [Fortune's 2017 List of The World's Greatest Leaders](#).

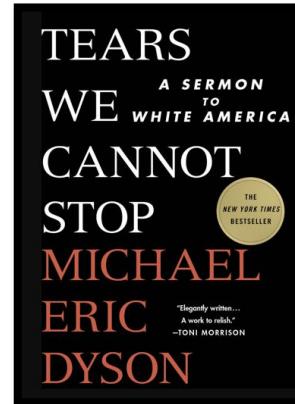


Bennie G. Thompson

The Honorable [Bennie G. Thompson](#) received the Harold Washington Phoenix Award in recognition of his immeasurable contributions to African American political awareness, empowerment and advancement of minorities in the electoral process. Congressman Thompson has spent his entire life giving a voice to the voiceless. His lifelong public service record is a testament to his unwavering dedication to the constituents of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi. Congressman Thompson is sponsoring over 175 bills and co-sponsoring 3,470 supporting Agriculture Appropriations, Civil Rights, Economic Recovery, Education, Emergency Services, Energy and Environment, Health Care and Health Care Reform, Homeland Security and Anti-Terrorism, Jobs and the Economy, Social Security, and Veterans. He is the longest-serving African American elected official in the state of Mississippi.



Michael Eric Dyson, Ph.D.



[Michael Eric Dyson, Ph.D.](#), the 47th CBCF ALC 2017 Phoenix Awards Dinner Keynote Speaker, electrified the audience with his poignant speech, many points being taken from his highly acclaimed book, "[Tears We Cannot Stop – A Sermon to White America](#)". Dr. Dyson is one of the most sought after speakers in America. He has authored and edited 18 books. He regularly appears as a commentator on **CNN**, **MSNBC** and countless other media outlets. Currently a professor at **Georgetown University**, he has taught at several notable universities around the world throughout his career. There wasn't a dry eye in the house when he was done at The Phoenix Awards Dinner—Drop the Mic! **"TEARS WE CANNOT STOP."**

YouTube Link: [MED's Message of Gratitude](#)



Congressional Black Caucus
420 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 226-9776
Chairman: [Cedric L. Richmond \(LA\)](#)

TO FIND OUT ABOUT NEXT YEAR'S EVENT, FOLLOW:

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For more information about exhibiting, speaking, sponsorships and media credentials, contact **CBCF – Christopher Epps (202) 263-2822** or **Marc Banks (202) 263-2812** or email media@cbcfinc.org.

Relevant Event Tags:

- 15 Accredited HBCUS
- 400 Years: Our Legacy
- Advancing Minorities Interest In Engineering [AMIE]
- African American Legacy
- African American Owned Newspapers
- Angela Rye
- Bank of America
- Barack Obama
- Black Press Of America
- Central Park Five
- Coca-Cola
- Commission on Black Men and Boys
- Commission on the Social Status of Black Boys and Men
- **CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS (CBC)**
- **CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS FOUNDATION'S (CBCF) ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE (ALC)**
- David A. Hinson, CBCF President & CEO
- Diane Watson
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- Donald M. Payne Fellowship Cruise
- Eddie Bernice Johnson
- Elijah Cummings
- **EMERGING LEADERS POWER LUNCHEON**
- Eric von Lockhart
- Frederica Wilson
- General Motors
- **GOSPEL EXTRAVAGANZA**
- Gregory Meeks
- **HBCU Student**
- Jim Clyburn
- LEGACY RECEPTION
- Marriott Marquis (Wash-DC)
- National Action Network
- National Association of Black Hotel Owners, Operators & Developers (NABHOOD)
- National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ)
- National HBCU Brain Trust
- National Newspaper Publishers Association
- National Town Hall Meetings
- NNPA-Newswire
- Penelope Bunn
- Phoenix Awards Dinner
- Phoenix Awards Gala
- Reverend Al Sharpton
- Roland Martin
- Sojourner Truth Legacy Project Town Hall
- Sarah Glover
- Stacy M. Brown
- Suzan D. Johnson Cook
- The Sojourner Truth Women's Leadership Reception
- Toyota
- Walter E. Washington Convention Center (Wash-DC)
- Yolanda Adams

###



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Diplomacy | Arts | Culture (DAC) is a humanitarian organization dedicated to promoting the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** established by the United Nations. Our goals are to develop and raise awareness of the theory and practice of cultural diplomacy in conjunction with the SDGs, particularly those relating to the *environment, human rights, social justice, sustainable economies, and women's rights*, and connecting them to the arts and culture. Through print and digital platforms, www.DAC-News.com provides original editorial content, recommendations, and curated lists of the best *art, culture, entertainment, films, food, music, sports, tourism and events* for the diplomatic and art communities in New York City, Washington, DC, and around the world.



Penelope Bunn is founder | content publisher | editor-in-chief of **Diplomacy | Arts | Culture – DAC-News.com (DAC)**. She is a creative director and writer with over thirty years of experience — both in print and online media — with an interest in profiles and a focus on art, culture, entertainment, environment, fashion/beauty, food/spirits, human rights, SDGs and travel. She is a “Native New Yorker” in the truest sense; a graduate of Fordham University, New York; and dedicated to writing about individuals, businesses, and non-profit organizations doing their part to save our planet. Prior to this, Penelope was senior cultural editor for **Society and Diplomatic Review**, a United Nations accredited publication and website for which she still provides content. **Contact:** pbunn@DAC-News.com. Penelope works in partnership with celebrity and advertising photographer, **Eric von Lockhart**. Eric’s portfolio features magazine covers of *Beyonce, Mary J. Blige, and Alicia Keys*, and portraits of *Hillary Clinton, Chuck Schumer, John Conyers, Elijah Cummings*; just to name a few. **Contact:** [Instagram EVL1](https://www.instagram.com/EVL1) | eric@ericvonlockhart.com.



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