

Office of the Southern Area Director



February 2, 2026

Greetings,

It gives me immense pleasure to extend greetings on behalf of the Southern Area of The Links, Incorporated on the 2026 Links Day at the Capitol. This annual event offers an opportunity for us to use our collective voice to advocate on behalf of the communities we serve. As members of The Links, Incorporated, we are on the forefront in responding to the multifaceted needs of African Americans and other persons of African ancestry, and how those needs interconnect with issues and policy making.

We must advocate in support of issues and the implementation of policies and legislation that can impact social changes for all communities. The choices we make as informed and active citizens shape the course of our future. It is vital that we serve not merely as observers, but as active participants in the civic conversations around us. Our communities need us. The future depends on us. Let us rise to the occasion, for we are the change-makers, the dreamers, and the doers. And in the end, we will stand together, proud of the legacy we have built, and confident in the brighter future we have forged.

For nearly 80 years, The Links, Incorporated, has stood as a beacon of purpose. Our vision has always been clear: to uplift, to educate, to advocate, and to advance the well-being of our communities. But what sets The Links apart is not merely our ability to envision change, it is our unwavering commitment to activate that vision. Because vision, without action, is only aspiration. We do not merely discuss challenges, we design solutions. We transform vision into measurable outcomes.

Although the list of topics can be exhaustive, during the Links Day at the Capitol, we want politicians to hear the voices of our members and be enlightened on the importance of topics such as food insecurity, housing insecurity, healthcare access, health-related poverty, food insecurity, redistricting, maternal health, and education. It is my wish that the urgency in our voices during our LDAC will galvanize our elected

leaders and spur them into action. We must continue to be **Changemakers: Linking Vision to Action** and remind them ***Vision Informs, Action Transforms.***

I hope you enjoy the events planned for you and the fellowship amongst the membership as we continue to serve as a catalyst for change. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to the 2026 Links Day at the Capitol.

Good luck and much success.

Leading With Intentional Friendship & Service,

Vanessa Falls

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Southern Area Director