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Expanded for High School  
Students in Fort Worth ISD

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DECEMBER 2025



## New Shop Focuses on Confidence through Fashion

By Jill Darden  
FWBN Publisher

Nestled down a country road in Burleson, this business could have easily been called, Hidden Treasures. Beautiful apparel ranging from coats to suits and colorful separates are handpicked by one of Fort Worth's local leaders. Known to the community for her work as a corporate executive and serving on boards, Detra Whitmore opened The Confidence Room Fashion Boutique this fall.

"The idea had been stirring in me for years, but I committed to launching when I realized the community needed a space like this," Whitmore stated. "From the very beginning, my husband's support was essential - not only emotionally, but physically. He helped bring the vision to life by constructing the boutique space with his own hands, ensuring it reflected the sanctuary-like atmosphere I dreamed of."

Whitmore said the process was both challenging and rewarding, from sketching out the vision to curating inventory, and watching the walls go up piece by piece. She described opening day as "the culmination of faith, family, and hard work coming together in a space built with love and intention."

Raised by a mother who took her shopping often, buying cute outfits with matching purses and shoes instilled a love for fashion as a child. *When you look good,*



*you feel good*, she recalls her mom saying and she hopes to bring that feeling to clients who shop in the store.

"Looking nice is more than appearance - it's about how it makes you feel. When someone puts on an outfit that lifts them up, it changes their posture, their energy, and even how they interact with others," Whitmore explained, "Fashion has the power to unlock confidence, and that confidence can ripple into every area of life."

What sets this clothing store apart from others is scheduled personalized shopping by appointment, fashion consulting based on unique personalities, and the goal of increasing confidence in the individual.

[Continued on Page 4]





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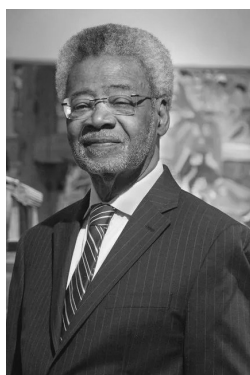
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Wangechi Mutu, *The Seated III*, 2019. Bronze. 82 7/8 x 37 3/4 x 33 3/4 inches. Collection of the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, The Friends of Art Endowment Fund and Museum purchase. © Wangechi Mutu



## African American Museum, Dallas Receives \$250,000 Grant from Communities Foundation of Texas

*The grant will support conservation initiatives and establish the Harry Robinson Jr. Research and Conservation Lab*



Communities Foundation of Texas (CFT) has awarded a \$250,000 grant to the African American Museum, Dallas, to launch Phase I of a three-year conservation project to secure the museum's archival, fine art and folk art collections, including historic documents, photographs, rare books and recordings.

The grant will also establish the Harry Robinson Jr. Research and Conservation Lab, a state-of-the-art facility dedicated to advancing preservation and research. The Lab is projected to open in February 2026.

"This support from Communities Foundation of Texas allows us to move forward with safeguarding our archival documents and related art objects," said Lisa Brown-Ross, president and CEO of the African American Museum, Dallas. "It's a powerful reflection of our commitment to protect and celebrate African American heritage through education, research and preservation."

Officials from Communities Foundation of Texas said they are honored to help advance Dr. Robinson's pioneering vision, leadership and legacy. Dr. Robinson led the African American Museum for over 40 years.

Replacing the museum's existing storage area on the second level, the new lab will feature digitization equipment, professional conservation furnishings and specialized tools for the preservation of rare photographs, documents and artworks.

In addition to the grant given by CFT, the museum receives ongoing support from the City of Dallas Office of Arts and Culture, the Dallas Parks and Recreation Department, and the Texas Commission on the Arts. Together,

these partners provide operational and programmatic resources that sustain the institution's exhibitions, educational programs and preservation initiatives.

Located in Fair Park, the African American Museum's archives include contributions from Dallas civic icons such as attorney L.A. Bedford and George Allen, the first African American elected to the Dallas City Council and to serve as Mayor Pro Tem. The collection also holds recordings of beloved Dallas jazz artist Shirley McFatter and Maurine F. Bailey, Lincoln High School's legendary music director.

A highlight of the archives is the *Sepia* magazine collection founded in 1947 in Fort Worth. The collection includes 40,000-plus images documenting African American life, leadership and culture, including portraits of Thurgood Marshall, Andrew Young, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, Aretha Franklin, Cicely Tyson and Ray Charles.

The grant from CFT supplements a recent \$3 million award from the Texas Historical Commission, which will support Phases II and III to establish a fully equipped Conservation Center and provide new climate-controlled areas to store both archival materials and the museum's collections of fine and folk art. The facility will serve as a hub for the care and preservation of extensive holdings and the nationally recognized African American folk art collection.

For more information about the African American Museum, Dallas, visit [aamdallas.org](http://aamdallas.org).

## Fort Worth ISD and Trinity Metro Launch Pilot Program to Expand Free Transportation for High School Students



Fort Worth Independent School District and Trinity Metro officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding yesterday at I.M. Terrell Academy, launching a new pilot program that allows FWISD high school students to ride Trinity Metro bus and rail services for free.

The new partnership is designed to increase safe, reliable transportation options for students, supporting their ability to travel to and from school, extracurricular activities, jobs, internships, and other essential destinations across the city.

The signing event featured remarks

from FWISD Superintendent Dr. Karen Molinar, Trinity Metro President and CEO Richard Andreski, and I.M. Terrell Principal Baldwin Brown. Student leaders at the school helped to kick-off the initiative, demonstrating how the process works.

High school students in the district can now download the GoPass app to begin accessing free rides on Trinity Metro bus and rail services.

Visit [www.ridetrinitymetro.org/fwisd](http://www.ridetrinitymetro.org/fwisd) for more details or to download the app.



FORT WORTH BLACK NEWS

## Fort Worth Black News

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Jill Darden | Publisher & Founder

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Informing & Inspiring You Since 1997

# The Confidence Room

[Continued from Front Page]

“The name reflects the heart of our mission. I wanted shoppers to know that this is a space where confidence is restored, where fashion becomes a tool for empowerment, and where every piece is ready to help tell their story,” Whitmore said. “It’s not just a boutique - it’s an experience where transformation happens.”

As a teenager growing up, the fashion entrepreneur loved dressing for school every day. It became a way of expressing herself, often wearing black and white because she appreciated how crisp the colors looked together. Heels were a regular part of almost every outfit in high school, and the one pair of tennis shoes were reserved strictly for gym class.

Listening in on the conversation between Whitmore and FWBN, her husband whom she met in high school confirmed, “She was always a sharp dresser!” Her younger sister said she was like a little paper doll that Whitmore picked clothing for and dressed daily. That appreciation for how fashion can positively impact your life stayed with her and she brings that joy to The Confidence Room to share with others.

In addition to clothing, customers will also find shoes, purses and accessories at the boutique. Every visit is about



“empowerment, connection, and celebrating the beauty of who you are.” The clothing venture combines Whitmore’s passion for dressing beautifully and her gift of making people feel comfortable.

“Through it all, I’ve been guided by the Lord Christ Jesus. His direction has shaped every step of this journey,” she stated. “I love bringing people together, hearing the chatter, seeing the laughter, and watching connections form. Helping people feel included and giving them a sense of belonging is part of my calling.”

You can book your appointment at The Confidence Room by emailing [confidencedressing@gmail.com](mailto:confidencedressing@gmail.com)

# Dr. Jared Williams Launches Campaign for Tarrant County Commissioner Precinct 2

Dr. Jared Williams, two-term Fort Worth City Councilmember and nonprofit leader, has announced he is running for Tarrant County Commissioner, Precinct 2. The seat will be vacated by Commissioner Alisa Simmons, who announced her candidacy for Tarrant County Judge in the upcoming election.

“For too long, those in power have claimed Texas is the greatest place to live, work, and play, while ignoring the reality for everyday people like us,” Dr. Williams said. “We’re working harder for less, being priced out of our homes, squeezed by rising costs, and too exhausted to enjoy the life we’re trying to build.”

A lifelong Tarrant County resident, Dr. Williams said his campaign is focused squarely on restoring affordability, strengthening essential services, and ensuring government works for everyday people.

He highlighted the affordability crisis as the defining challenge facing the county, pointing to what he considers a broken property appraisal



system, rising childcare and healthcare costs, and government decisions that have added burdens on working families.

The campaign announcement for Tarrant County Commissioner surprised the community since Dr. Williams did not seek re-election for his council seat when it expired. He has already earned a long list of endorsements from current and former leaders.

# Nominations for the 2025 Distinguished Service to Veterans Award Now Open thru January 16, 2026

The City of Fort Worth's Distinguished Service to Veterans Award recognizes individuals, businesses, or groups who have demonstrated remarkable dedication to supporting veterans and the veteran community in Fort Worth. This award celebrates those who have consistently shown commitment to serving and assisting veterans within the community.

Nominees must reside in the City of Fort Worth, and their contributions must have a demonstrated impact in Fort Worth.

Annual winners are announced at the City of Fort Worth's Neighbor-

hood Awards.

Eligibility:

- Nominees must reside in Fort Worth.
- Contributions must have a demonstrated impact on veterans in the city.
- For individuals, actions must be voluntary.

Nominations close on Friday, Jan. 16, 2026. Learn more: <https://fwcondev.com/distinguished-service-to-vets>



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Congressman Marc Veasey came out to the Eastside YMCA in support of Healthy Hub, a program that provides fresh fruits and vegetables to residents free of charge. Local citizens came stop by twice a month and get items for their homes. Shelves are lined and stocked like a grocery store with choices like bananas, apples, tomatoes, green vegetables and more.





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Blaque Kotton Clothing is more than just a fashion brand; it's a creative movement dedicated to honoring African American heritage and the legacy of ancestors who endured hardships such as picking cotton. Founded by Scotty Johnson, the brand's vision is rooted in drawing a powerful connection: just as a Black person's afro resembles a black cotton bulb, African Americans are likened to the valuable cotton they were forced to pick. The brand's mission is to share the rich culture, history, and greatest achievements of African Americans, aiming to give power and voice back to a history that has often been marginalized. Through its apparel, Blaque Kotton seeks to reunite the past with the present while celebrating family unity and the strength of a people.







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## The AMEN Corner: Faith & Inspiration

*"That I may publish with  
the voice of thanksgiving,  
& tell all thy wondrous  
works."*

*- Psalms 26:7*

### Peace

by  
Arnita Ware

**We often hear the  
Christmas carols this time  
of year. One song in  
particular is...**

"Let There Be Peace On Earth"  
Let There Be Peace on Earth and let it begin with me.  
Let There Be Peace on Earth, the peace that was  
meant to be!

With God as our Father, brothers all are we.  
Let me walk with my brother in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me. Let this be the moment  
now. With every breath I take,  
let this be my solemn vow;  
To take each moment and live each moment  
in peace eternally!  
Let there be peace on earth  
and let it begin with me!

Is this the only time there should be peace on  
earth? Is this the only time there should be peace in  
our hearts and minds? No, of course not. However, it  
is God that gives us peace. In fact, he gives us a peace  
that surpasses all of our understanding. This peace

prevails even in our most difficult situations or alarm-  
ing circumstances. Rest assured that whenever the  
Lord says "peace," there WILL be peace!

Some people have had a difficult or challenging  
year, thus far! Yet, somehow you made it. It was  
God's peace that carried you through, when in fact,  
you don't even know how you got to where you are  
now, had it NOT been for God's grace and peace  
keeping your heart and mind.

**Those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of  
peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.**  
*- James 3:18*

**Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be  
called the sons of God.** - *Matthew 5:9*

**Any time of the year is the right time for peace  
to prevail.**

**Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with  
me!**

*Arnita Ware is a published author & speaker. Book En-  
titled: Look Through the Window. She is also an educa-  
tor, life coach, a Lifetime member of Strathmore's  
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*Loews Arlington Hotel & Convention Center Honored for Contributing to the Community & Local Economy by Texas Workforce Solutions*



Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County recognized Loews Arlington Hotel & Convention Center as the region's 2025 Local Employer of Excellence. Loews Arlington accepted the award at the Texas Workforce Commission's 28th Annual Texas Workforce Conference in Corpus Christi. Local Workforce Development Boards nominate employers who make a positive impact on workers, the community and the state through their partnerships with Texas Workforce Solutions.

The Dallas/Fort Worth region's Hospitality and Tourism industry continues to be a major economic engine, generating \$14.5 billion in impact and supporting more than 90,000 jobs in 2024. As a leader in this sector, Loews Arlington Hotel & Convention Center has become a cornerstone of Arlington's entertainment district and a valued partner in Tarrant County's workforce development ecosystem. Through inclusive recruitment, internships, on-site adult education and active involvement with Workforce Solutions for

Tarrant County, Loews Arlington has demonstrated how hospitality careers offer strong pathways for growth and economic mobility. They were recognized for their commitment to innovative, equitable and sustainable workforce strategies.

Robert Sturns, Executive Director of Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County said, "Loews Arlington Hotel & Convention Center's commitment to developing talent and fostering a culture of excellence sets the standard for employers in our region. We're proud to celebrate their outstanding contributions to Tarrant County."

"The Employer of Excellence award is a well-earned recognition for outstanding contributions to both the community and the Texas economy," said TWC Chairman Joe Esparza. "From job creation to workforce innovation, Loews Arlington Hotel & Convention Center is a model for a growing and thriving business in Texas."

For more information about resources available to Tarrant County employers and job seekers, visit: <https://workforcesolutions.net/>.

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**Social Graces & Etiquette***Ask Anita***The Art of Regifting:  
Making Christmas  
Thoughtful and  
Sustainable**

As the holiday season approaches, the hunt for the perfect Christmas gift intensifies. But what if the ideal present is already sitting in your closet? Regifting, once considered a faux pas, is gaining acceptance as a thoughtful, eco-friendly practice when done with care.

**Why Regift?**

Regifting not only helps reduce waste but also aligns with sustainable living. It allows unused items to find homes where they'll be appreciated, minimizing clutter and saving money.

**Tips for Thoughtful Regifting:****Consider the Recipient:**

Ensure the item suits the person's tastes and needs. A gift should feel personal, not like an afterthought.

**Pristine Condition:**

Only regift items that are brand new and in perfect condition. Packaging should be intact, with no signs of wear.

**Avoid Awkward Moments:**

Keep track of who gave you the original gift to prevent the embarrassment of regifting it within the same circle.

**Add a Personal Touch:** Pair the regift with something new, like a handwritten note or complementary item, to show thoughtfulness.

**What's Okay to Regift?**

Unopened gadgets, books, home decor, and sealed gourmet items are generally safe bets. Avoid anything personalized, outdated, or expired.

**The Etiquette of Regifting:**

Honesty can be refreshing. In some cases, especially within eco-conscious groups, sharing that it's a regift can be appreciated. It emphasizes sustainability over materialism.

This Christmas, embrace regifting not as a shortcut, but as a mindful way to share joy, reduce waste, and give items the life they deserve.

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Anita C. Heiskell,  
Certified Social Graces  
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*Anita Heiskell is the founder and owner of Prim, Poised and Proper, LLC., a full-service Etiquette School located in Fort Worth, Texas that focuses on social graces, dining etiquette, business etiquette, along with image and presentation skills. Heiskell also offers Pageant Preparation and training. She is certified from The Social Skills School of Protocol and has over 25 years experience in the etiquette field.*

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with Dr. Sheron C. Patterson

**Gambling Spouse Lost Christmas Money****Dear Dr. Patterson,**

I am distraught and don't know where to turn. This morning I looked at our Christmas savings account online and it is empty. My husband and I put money in it all year to buy Christmas gifts for our four children. When I confronted him, he lied at first and finally admitted he has been using the money to place sports bets on his phone for a while. I had no idea he was gambling! We seemed like the perfect family from the outside. We are active in church, our kids schools and in the community.

We have been married 15 years, and our four kids are under the age of 12. They will be heartbroken twice. Once if there are no gifts under the Christmas tree, and again if they learn that their dad gambled away the Christmas money. I want to tell the kids.

Should I?

- Mad, sad Momma

**Dear Mad, sad Momma,**

I feel your anger! Those four precious children and you deserve better. This pain runs deep. It's not just about the money. It's the betrayal, the broken trust, and the fear that the man you love is losing himself to the addiction of gambling.

First, do not let your children know what is going on. This burden is too heavy for them. Remember the days of "grown folk business." Keep their innocence as long as possible.

Take a breath, and reflect on your love for your husband. Have a conversation with your husband when the kids are not around. Confront the issue — not the man. Avoid name-calling or shaming, which will only make him defensive. Instead, express how his actions have affect-

ed you and the children, and entire family.

Demand that he get help immediately. Gamblers Anonymous and counseling can make a world of difference, but he must want to change. You can't force it, but you can support recovery once it begins. Love does not mean tolerating destructive behavior. If he refuses to get help, protect yourself and your finances. That may mean separating accounts or even limiting his access to money until he seeks treatment.

Next, you and your gambling man need to get busy fixing this mess. Perhaps you can solicit funds to purchase Christmas gifts from family, friends and or your church.

Lastly, remember: Christmas isn't found in the gifts under the tree. Jesus is the reason for the season.

- Dr. Sheron Patterson

**Got questions? I have answers?**  
Send to [patterson52@icloud.com](mailto:patterson52@icloud.com)

You will remain anonymous and we'll share the answer right here in this section of  
*Fort Worth Black News!*

*Dr. Sheron C. Patterson is available to enhance your relationships as a life coach. She is also available for speaking and preaching engagements.*

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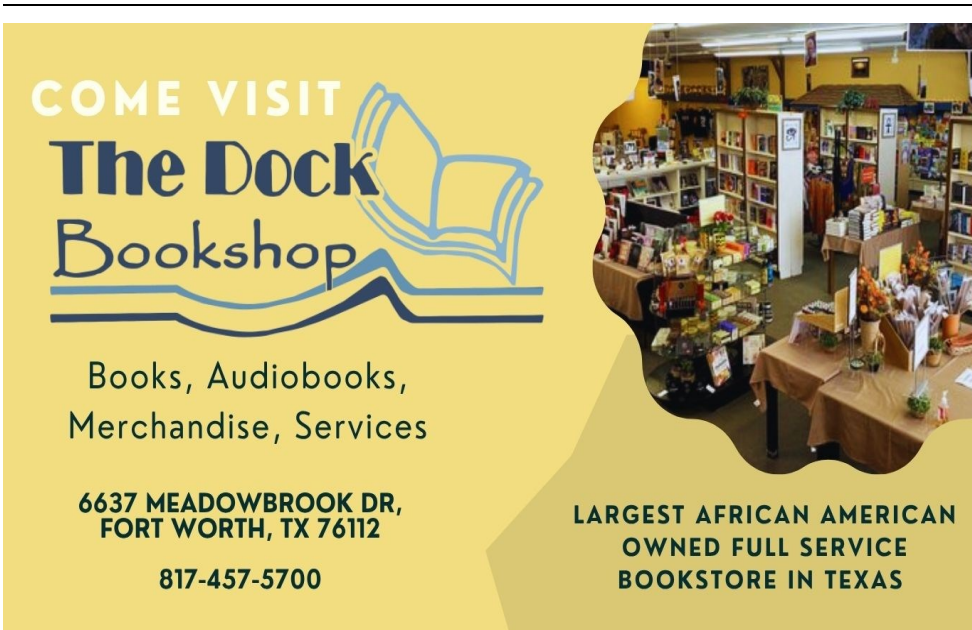


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The exhibition is co-organized by the Art Institute of Chicago and Fondazione Torlonia, in collaboration with the Kimbell Art Museum, the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, and the Museum Box.

FONDAZIONE  
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Statue of Cupid and Psyche (detail), second half of 2nd century AD, Roman, Imperial Period, marble. Provenance: Possibly found in Rome, near Castro Pretorio. Torlonia Collection, Rome. © Fondazione Torlonia. Photo by Lorenzo De Masi.



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