



Life Patron of the NYC Multicultural Festival

MR. WILLIE WALKER

Mr. Willie Walker was born and educated in Birmingham, Alabama. Throughout his life, Mr. Walker has made a stance for civil activism, impacting the lives of everyone he meets. As an activist, Mr. Walker participated in the Civil Rights Movement in Birmingham and in the "March on Washington, D.C." In 1996, Mr. Walker took on a different task in community activism by becoming Chairperson for Community Board #10. Later, after wanting to serve the public in a broader capacity in 2001, he ran for City Council - 9th District.

Mr. Walker's professional career is highlighted by his tenure with the J.C. Penny Corporation, a degree in Theology from the Living Ministry International to become an ordained minister, and the Director of Data Processing at Columbia University. After holding that position for 12 years, he changed careers and joined the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC DOHMH). As part of DOHMH's Bureau of Development for HIV Services, he created the first Networking System for the A.C.T. (Anonymous Counseling and Testing) Sites. He was promoted to Director of Special Events for Educational Outreach. Although he is no longer with the DOHMH, he continues to speak on health and public issues at forums and expos for AIDS awareness.

In March 2005, he was appointed by former Governor Pataki to the position of Building Superintendent of the Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. State Office Building; the tenancy consists of 39 State, Federal and City Agencies and Offices, with more than 1500 employees. Mr. Walker's staff supervised the day-to-day operation of the building. During his first-year tenure, the Adam Clayton Powell Jr. State Office Building was awarded with the 2006 Facility of the Year Award. In 2007 he received the Facility Manager of the Year Award, and The Commissioner's Merit Award; the Office of General Services' highest award.

Mr. Walker oversaw the completion of the \$2M window installation at The Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. SOB. He worked tirelessly to renovate the building as a pillar of the community. His efforts to make sure the public building was available to the community by offering such events as NYS SummerStage in Harlem, Harlemween and The Holiday Tree Lighting did not go unnoticed.

Mr. Walker sits on several boards and acts as advisor to numerous organizations, which include:

- The Mayor's Task Force against Domestic Violence
- Harlem Legal Services (Domestic Violence Against African American Women)
- Community Health Care Network at The Helen B. Atkinson Clinic
- Adam Clayton Powell Memorial Foundation
- Prostate Cancer Awareness for African American Men at North General Hospital
- The Disciples (A Group of 25 men that fellowship and provides mentorship for churches in Central Harlem.)
- National Committee for Black AIDS Day for the Center for Disease Control
- Board of All Saints Church / School
- Make The Grade Foundation for Inner City School Literacy
- Vice President - Community Works/Dwyer Cultural Center
- The Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce
- Harlem Arts Alliance

An interesting project which Mr. Walker became part of was serving on the Board of Direct Funding. This organization along with Catholic Charities has raised over 10 million dollars to date for a teaching hospital in Tanzania, Africa. The hospital opened in January 2004. As part of his commitment to this project, over the past two years, Mr. Walker has hosted over 25 doctors in his home while they participated in a Cornell University Hospital Management Program. Currently there are twenty-five thousand patients for one doctor and three hundred thousand patients for one dentist in Tanzania. Upon completion of this program, the doctors returned to Tanzania where they taught other doctors from various other African Countries.

In 2003, Mr. Walker fulfilled his dream of youth education by opening the Little Walker's Kiddie Academy, a Harlem-based day care center, and opened the Little Walker's Kiddie Kollege in 2016.

A recipient of numerous awards, on June 4, 2022, Mr. Walker was installed as the Life Patron of the NYC Multicultural Festival in recognition of his tremendous work to improve the lives of people of diverse cultural backgrounds. A Nigerian King, His Royal Highness Alhaji Samaila Mohammed Mera, donated the Community Hero Lifetime Achievement Award which was presented to Mr. Willie Walker by the New York African Chorus Ensemble, Inc., during the 2nd edition of the festival held last year on June 18, 2022.