



Vol XXVIII No. 8

MAY 16-31 2022

THE 411

**MAY 3, 2022**  
**"An Evening with Itzhak Pearlman"**  
 Cobb Great Hall 7:30 for Ticket Information Call 1-800-WHARTON

**MAY 13, 2022**  
**Lansing Symphony Orchestra "BRAHS SYMPHONY NO 2" Clayson**  
**Stephenson Piano 7:30.**  
 Cobb Great Hall for Ticket call 517-487-5001

**MAY 17-22, 2022**  
**"Dear Evan Hansen" 7:30**  
 Cobb Great Hall For Ticket Information Call 1-800-WHARTON

**May 27-29**  
**"Cristo Rey Church Fiesta"**  
 201 W. Miller Rd, Lansing, MI  
 For more information call 517-394-4639 or go to: [www.cristoreyfiesta.org](http://www.cristoreyfiesta.org)

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SOUL II SOUL

MR PARTY

ADRIEANE PAYNE

**DETROIT FILMMAKER AWARDS**  
 RED CARPET/BLACK TIE EVENT  
 MAY 22, 2022 - 4PM TO 7PM  
 TICKETS ARE ON SALE AT [WWW.DETROITFILMMAKERAWARDS.COM](http://WWW.DETROITFILMMAKERAWARDS.COM)  
 CHARLES H. WRIGHT MUSEUM  
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 POWERED BY  
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DETROIT FILMMAKER AWARDS  
 Charles Wright Museum 4PM-7PM  
 Sunday, May 22, 2022. (above)



Ghostbusters (above) Publisher: Marcus Jefferson.

MALCOLM X SPECIAL EDITION



Detroit Opera's 'X' explores life of civil rights leader Malcolm X

Thulani Davis, a playwright, novelist and librettist, had one book to refer to in the early 1980s when she started researching the life of iconic but complicated civil rights leader Malcolm X: his autobiography. Much has changed since then — there now are dozens of not just books but movies that delve into the former Nation of Islam leader's life and murder in 1965 at the age of 39 — but what hasn't changed is how much an opera about his life, for which Davis wrote the libretto is still so pertinent, she said.

Davis said there's an aria that bass-baritone Davóne Tines, who plays X in Detroit Opera's new production of "X: The Life and Times of Malcolm X" opening Saturday at the Detroit Opera House, sings as Malcolm X is arrested, "Ever since I've been living, you've had your foot on me, always pressing."

When Davis heard that line again, "I said, 'Oh my God, that's George Floyd.' ...It's been an interesting journey to see how relevant it is."

Still, by the time curtain raises Saturday, it'll mark the first time Davis has seen the full opera again in more than 30 years. Additional performances are planned for May 19 and 22 at the Detroit Opera House and the production continues on to New York's Metropolitan Opera next fall. Davis's cousin, Robert Davis, is the composer.

"I'm looking forward to hearing it and seeing it," said Davis, speaking by phone last week.

"X," directed by Robert O'Hara and conducted by Kazem Abdullah, marks the final production of Detroit Opera's 2021-2022 season, one that has included several pieces that explore the Black experience or have Michigan ties. "X," which opens in Lansing where the civil rights leader spent a transformational part of his childhood, has both.

Wayne Brown, Detroit Opera's president and CEO, calls the opera a "significant American story."

"The opportunity to spotlight an historic American figure with Michigan ties, underscores our responsibility to share significant stories of our time through the opera art-form," said Brown.

Malcolm X moved to Lansing in the late 1920s with his family after they fled Omaha, Nebraska, to escape the Ku Klux Klan. But Lansing proved tragic in its own way. In 1931, Malcolm X's father was killed by a streetcar, though his family blamed the Black Legion, a white supremacist group. Strug-



gling to support her eight children, Malcolm X's mother was eventually declared insane and committed to a state hospital in Kalamazoo. Malcolm X started getting in trouble with the law and eventually was sent to a detention home in Mason.

Davis said when "X: The Life and Times of Malcolm X" first premiered in 1986 — which also was unique in that it included jazz, not typical in operas at the time — many in the audience were familiar with the civil rights leader. But Detroit Opera's new production will introduce him to younger patrons who may not be as familiar with him, his life and his work.

"When we put it on in the '80s there were tons of people who remembered seeing him — on TV if nothing else. In New York, there were people who had seen him in Harlem, speaking. It's quite different now," she said. But she's updated some parts for the new production. She rewrote, for example, a spoken speech after X returns from Africa so it doesn't "sag," and it's now set to music and sung. And the opera is a little tighter, so it isn't as long.

With opera, Davis said, timelessness is important, so she tried to focus on the terror Malcolm X's family experienced in Nebraska, an emotion many felt when they moved to the territories of the United States. She also delved into the spirituality X eventually discovers and the transformation he experiences after Mecca, where "he loses his fear." "That's a very hard thing to try to describe. Most opera characters don't have the kind of dilemma that Martin Luther King or Malcolm had where both of them knew they had enemies that might try to kill them," said

Davis. "That's a really hard place to imagine going. In terms of building a story you want it to be dramatic but some of them are tough places to go. But that's what opera is really good at — the internal thoughts of human beings."

Tines, the renowned bass-baritone who plays X and is Detroit Opera's artist-in-residence, said Malcolm X's life "very much so" lends itself to an opera. Preparing for the role, Tines spent a considerable time getting to know Detroit during the past year, visiting almost monthly, and it now it feels like "one of my other homes."

"Telling stories beyond what is 'traditional' opera — which is actually kind of preclusive and limiting — is very important

because what opera has the potential to do is to give a story a certain scale of engagement and richness through the variety of mediums that are coming together," said Tines.

"...With portraying the role of Malcolm X, it's incredible because it allows me to do something I most appreciate performing arts allowing me to do, which is speak directly to audiences in ways that I think are vital."

In fact, Tines said in much of the opera, he's delivering speeches or versions of Malcolm X's speeches directly to the audience. "It's allowing an opportunity for those words and ideas to be re-engaged and retold," he said. "...And I think that's a very intentional choice by our amazing director."

Davis said she hopes audiences, especially younger patrons who may not be as familiar with Malcolm X, walk away with a sense of being able to relate to the iconic leader but also connected connect to the music and words.

She said Detroiters in particular are very much aware of X's history in Michigan. His wife, Betty Shabazz, was from Detroit. And Malcolm X also was one of the ministers at the Nation of Islam's Temple No. 1 in Detroit in the 1960s.

"That's been one of the joys of doing it in Detroit is we're honoring Michigan history," Davis said. Article and Pictures courtesy of Maureen Feighan and the Detroit News.

'X: Life and Times of Malcolm X' a production of Detroit Opera. Saturday, May 19 & May 22 at the Detroit Opera House.

For tickets, go to <https://detroitopera.org/season-schedule/x-life-and-times-of-malcolm-x/>.

# Stay ahead of COVID.

## Get vaccinated.

The virus is still out there. And the COVID-19 vaccine is shown to be safe and effective at reducing the severity of illness. Take this moment to get the facts, so you can protect yourself and others for whatever is next. To find your vaccine, visit [Michigan.gov/COVIDvaccine](https://Michigan.gov/COVIDvaccine), call 211, or text your zip code to 438829.

**MDHHS**  
Michigan Department of Health & Human Services



## Former Michigan State basketball star Adreian Payne fatally shot while trying to prevent domestic dispute, police investigation reveals

Former Michigan State basketball star Adreian Payne was shot and killed in Orlando, Florida, early Monday while trying to help a woman engaged in a domestic dispute, according to court documents released Tuesday.

Lawrence Dority, 29, pleaded not guilty after being arrested on a first-degree murder warrant in the shooting. Court documents filed in the Orange County Sheriff's Office's investigation state that Payne and his girlfriend, whose name was redacted in the report, went to the home of Dority at the request of Dority's girlfriend, Tatiana Mesa. Payne's girlfriend said Mesa had called her to intervene in past disputes with Dority to "prevent any physical violence."

Payne and his girlfriend were parked near the home of Dority, who arrived with his father in his father's car. Dority, per witnesses, approached Payne near his vehicle.

Dority and witnesses offer different accounts of what happened next. Dority, who is 5-foot-8, told authorities he felt threatened by 6-10 Payne because of his size and claimed Payne told him, "I'll smoke you, brah" during an argument. He said Payne started to reach for what he thought was a weapon before Dority walked into his residence, retrieved a gun and fired the single shot that killed Payne. No firearms were found in Payne's vehicle.

Payne's girlfriend told authorities that Payne did not pose a threat to Dority and that they showed up only to play "mediator." Another witness said Payne did not make any "threatening motions" toward Dority. Through video and audio captured of the incident, Payne's girlfriend can be heard telling Dority, "do not pull your gun out" and "we were asked to come here" before Dority fired his weapon. Dority's father got out of his

car and tried to help Payne, who died at a hospital an hour after the incident. Dority called 911 and claimed an intruder had attacked him, per court documents. "This man tried coming to my house, he cut around my block and he tried shooting me," he told dispatchers.

Florida is a stand-your-ground state where residents "in a dwelling or residence in which the person has a right to be has no duty to retreat and has the right to stand his or her ground and use or threaten to use" deadly force.

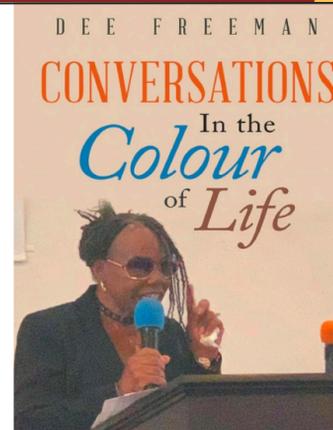
But authorities on the scene of Monday's shooting determined that Payne did not pose an immediate threat to Dority, whom they arrested on a first-degree murder charge after questioning him at the police station.

Payne was a member of the All-Big Ten second team in two of his four seasons (2012-13, 2013-14) with Tom Izzo's squad. He averaged 16.4 PPG

and 7.3 RPG for the Spartans and led the team to the Elite Eight in the 2013-14 season. "I'm in shock at the tragic news of Adreian Payne's death," Izzo said in a statement. "Our prayers are with his family, teammates and loved ones. Adreian was loved by his teammates and coaches, who respected his development as a player and a person. He came to Michigan State with a ton of raw talent and put in the work to reach his goal of becoming an NBA player."

Draymond Green, Payne's teammate at Michigan State in 2010-11 and 2011-12, tweeted broken heart emojis Monday. Payne, a 6-10 standout, played four seasons in the NBA with multiple teams.

Adreian Payne was 31 years old. Article and picture courtesy of Myron Medcalf and ESPN.



Dee's pure candor and truthful expressions bypasses frivolity and gets right down to the real deal. She lays it out in an undeniable way...hanging it all out on the line, hoping it dries to the nice crisp and clean laundry we all crave, but knowing some of the dirt doesn't readily wash out. That's the stuff still needing more scrubbing and time to air.

Yet some stains just won't let go, so Dee's "Conversations" opens options and inspires creative juices so we understand this simple fact...that we all need to vent, forgive ourselves and others... then move the heck on. Actually you may just toss out much of the grime and dirt in the wash water.. so to speak!! Yeah!! You got it! Good talk!

Come join the CONVERSATION with Dee Freeman's new book, hot off the press..

Check out the Kindle preview or paperback available now on Amazon.com. For autographed copies, please connect with Dee at 517.214-0200 or [deedkfreeman@yahoo.com](mailto:deedkfreeman@yahoo.com) \$14 + \$3. shpg

Join in and get your copy TODAY!

## SOUL II SOUL CONSCIOUSNESS: Intl Day to Combat Bi-Trans-Homophobia 050922

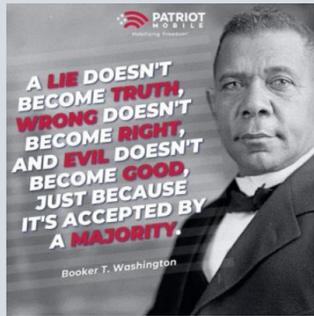


Pastor/Chaplain Pamelajune (Pj) Anderson, DMin.  
Soul II Soul Spiritual Fitness Couch  
Lt. Commander (RET) US Navy Chaplain Corps  
Certified Peer Support Specialist



BE STILL AND YOUR SOUL WILL SPEAK

"Anyone who does not love does not know God because God is love." I John 4:8 The Voice



Dearest of All, the Creator of Heaven and Earth, this article is written in support of the Bisexual and Transgender believers. When I refer to believers, I'm speaking of the necessity of you KNOWING and believing that you are great and honorable. Do not, I repeat, do not give your greatness away or view yourself as less than because of the hetero-normative, fundamentalist doctrine.

May 17<sup>th</sup> is the International Day to Combat Bi-Trans-Homophobia. To succeed in the battle against homophobia – dislike of or prejudice against gay people –

self-love, self-acceptance, and self-appreciation, are powerful internal influences. The oppressor, the adversary (enemy) hurling homophobic, intolerant, and misogynistic (strongly prejudiced against women) language, is doing what they do. The adversary never wants you to KNOW that you are competent, creative, and capable of overcoming the isms that can imprison those of us who are different. BE mindful - different is not deficient.

It's no consolation that Black and Brown people are being gunned down by the very 'professionals' hired to protect us. Much like my fellow Veterans and BI-Trans family, we are 'othered' by outside forces. It's key to see oneself from the inside through the eyes of justice warriors. Attacks are going to come. Learning to dodge the propulsion of hatred from haters may not be easy, but it certainly is necessary. We must vote for people who have our best interest and we must worship in places where humanity is affirmed and celebrated. We must always reject, resist, and disregard the words used to hurt us, even when the words come from family, frenemies, politicians, and preachers.

Take your self-estimate from God. I realize many of us have walked away from unsafe places of worship where both wickedness and righteousness co-exist. You have nothing to prove to a God who already loves you. If you're wondering where God is: Look to **life**. If you're questioning what God is up to: Look to **healing**. If you're pondering what God cares about: Look for symbols of **wellness**. Practice these hints daily in preparation for the Intl Day to Combat Bi-Trans-Homophobia.

Thank you to the Lansing Journal for your invitation to write this article.

# THE CITY OF LANSING'S CELEBRATION OF DIVERSITY

HOSTED BY MAYOR ANDY SCHOR AND THE CITY OF LANSING  
HUMAN RELATIONS & COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

LANSING IS A DIVERSE AND VIBRANT CITY,  
AND WE ARE EXCITED TO CELEBRATE WITH ALL OF YOU!

Everyone is cordially invited to join us,  
newly-appointed Fire Chief Brian Sturdivant and  
members of the Mayor's Cabinet for the celebration.

LANSING CITY HALL LOBBY  
124 W. MICHIGAN AVE



Andy Schor, Mayor

WEDNESDAY - JUNE 8, 2022  
4:30 – 6:30 PM



## Celebration Announcements by The Ambassador of Celebration

### Birthdays in MAY

Ms. Angela Zamora celebrates her birthday on May 1st with family and friends.  
Ms. Tabitha Brown celebrates her 43rd birthday on May 1st, with her Sisters, new and old Friends. "I thank GOD for continuing to bless me and my family."  
Mr. Ron Vermillion celebrate his birthday on May 1st, missing his twin brother, the late Donnie V.; enjoying each other, as they've done since day one, "Together-Donnie and Ronnie V." with friends and family!  
Ms. Arie Carroll had a "Happy Birthday" on May 1st, with friends and family. She says, "Enjoy the Arie experience... helping people to reach their full potential!"  
Ms. Leigh Anne Coins celebrated, birthday 40, on May 1st, with friends saying, "Happy Birthday to Me!"  
Ms. Rashonda Ali, on May 2nd, celebrated her 31st birthday, with her family and friends. "We love you!!!"  
Ms. Breanna DeMyers celebrated her 30th birthday on May 2nd.  
"Happy Birthday; we all love you!" Dad.  
Ms. Andrea Dameron celebrates her 40th birthday on May 2nd, with friends.  
Ms. Danielle Castillo celebrates her 32nd birthday on May 3rd with her husband Tori and her son Brendin.  
Ms. Kathryn Spencer Dungy celebrates her birthday on May 3rd.  
Ms. Maribel "Mari" Odilia Tyler celebrates her birthday on May 3rd, with her loving family.  
Mr. Gerry Shakar celebrated his 40th birthday on May 3rd, thanking GOD for another birthday!  
Ms. Kenya Hattaway celebrates her 39th birthday on May 4th.  
Mr. Bruce Sturgis-Ramsay celebrates his 57th birthday on May 4th.  
Miss Cortana celebrates her 14th birthday on May 4th, with family and friends. "Happy Birthday Baby!" Love always, Mom  
Mr. Caden Jones celebrates his 17th birthday on May 5th, with family and friends. His Mom says, "We love you very much!"  
Ms. Janice Smith, in her remembrance, celebrated her birthday on May 5th.  
Ms. Tammy Gonzales celebrates her birthday on May 5th.  
Ms. Janice Hill celebrates her birthday on May 6th.  
Ms. Shavontai Henry celebrates her birthday on May 6th.  
Mrs. Kimberly Whitfield celebrates her 53rd birthday on May 7th, with her loving husband and daughter.  
Mr. Michael Thomas Jr. celebrates his birthday on May 7th.  
Ms. Lillian Michelle Boles: to her remembrance on May 7th, we celebrate her 42 years of Life with us. She enjoyed the celebration of her life, with family and friends.  
Ms. Karen Saddler celebrates her birthday May 7th, she said "thank you LORD for this day!"  
Mr. Charles Andrews, deceased: we celebrates his 61 years on May 8th. GOD bless family and friends.  
Mr. Rickey Jackson celebrates his 38th birthday on May 8th with family and friends.  
Mrs. Jill Foorman turns 58 years young on May 8th, celebrating with her family and friends.  
Mr. Ivan Civils, in his memory, we celebrate his birth on May 8th, with friends and family.  
Master Daytin Allen Scott Wilson celebrates his 10th birthday on May 9th. Love Mom, Dad and your Gran-nies... Angie Cooper and Jennifer Wilson  
Mrs. Deana Newman celebrates her birthday May 9th, with her loving husband, David, who says, "She is my rock and my life!"  
Ms. Keisha Giles celebrates her 45th birthday on May 9th. "Happy Birthday" from all her family and friends.  
Ms. Ann (D. J. Ann) celebrates her birthday on May 9th, with family and friends.  
Ms. Jessica Lynn Patterson celebrates her 29th birthday on May 9th. "Mommy loves and is very proud of you, my special young lady. Happy Birthday!"  
Ms. Jennifer Taylor celebrates her birthday on May 9th, exclaiming, "Let's Party!"  
Mr. David (Rabbit) Garcia celebrates his birthday on May 10th, with family and friends.  
Mr. Carlton McConnell celebrates his birthday on May 10th.  
Ms. Jazmine Patterson celebrates her 38th birthday on May 10th.  
Ms. Clarissa McClain celebrates her 30th birthday on May 11th, Happy Birthday! I will greet this day with love in my heart, God Bless; Mother, love you!!!  
Ms. Barb Garcia celebrates her birthday on May 11th.  
Mr. Blaine Buckingham celebrates his birthday on May 11th.  
ATien Colbert enjoyed a birthday on May 11th.  
Ms. Amber Shinn celebrates her birthday on May 11th. "Best day ever!"  
Ms. Kristie Zimmerman celebrated her birth on May 11th.  
Ms. Mary Alvarado celebrates her 38th birthday on May 12th, with friends and family.  
Ms. Moét Rodriguez celebrates her birthday on May 14th, with friends.  
Ms. Dawn Correa celebrates her 37th birthday on May 14th, with her husband, Robert and their son; preparing for their anniversary on May 17th.  
Master Carter Lamb celebrates his 13th birthday on May 15th. "Happy birthday little man, Mommy loves you!" Ashley Lamb  
Ms. Madison Jones celebrates her birthday on May 15th.  
Mr. Ricky Vasquez celebrates his 39th birthday on May 15th, with his loving wife by his side.  
Mr. Mike "Dog" Ranshaw celebrates his 46th birthday on May 15th, with family and friends.  
Ms. Samatra Denson celebrates her 45th birthday on May 16th. She says, "I'm loving life!"  
Ms. Sha Taraywe McKinley celebrates her 30th birthday on May 18th.  
Mr. Kurt Brumbaugh celebrates his 48th birthday on May 18th.  
Ms. Jina Cashey celebrates her 45th birthday on May 18th. "Happy Birthday" from Joyce.  
Mr. Kris Pratt celebrates his birthday on May 19th. He says "I thank GOD and myself for being so awesome!"  
Ms. Aaliyah Miller celebrates her 16th birthday on May 19th, with family and friends.  
Mr. Nigel Moore enjoys his birthday on May 19th.  
Ms. Gwendolyn Gail Rouse celebrates her birthday on May 19th!  
Ms. Nancy Berry-Beck celebrates her birthday on May 19th.  
Mr. Ray Lopez celebrates his 70th birthday May 19th.  
Happy Birthday Ray  
Mr. Drevaughn Croskey celebrates his 27th birthday May 19th. "My beloved son" Love momma  
Mr. Isaac Verser celebrates his birthday on May 20th, with family and friends.  
Mr. Carl R. Herring celebrates his birthday on May 21st, with his loving family.  
Mr. Jay A. Townsley Sr. with wife and family, celebrates his birthday on May 21st.  
Mr. AJ Brown celebrates his birthday May 21st, "Happy birthday" from your brother and your favorite sister in law.  
Ms. Brianna and Ms. Brooklyn Aguilar celebrate their 23rd birthday on May 22nd, with family and friends.  
Ms. Angela Redemsky celebrates her birthday on May 22nd, with family and friends.  
Ms. Celia Henderson celebrates her birthday on May 23rd.  
Ms. Tara Moore will celebrate her birthday on May 23rd.  
Mr. James "Jet" Davis celebrates his birthday on May 23rd.  
Ms. Rose Henderson celebrates her birthday on May 23rd.  
Ms. Laraine Walton celebrated her birthday on May 23rd.  
Mr. Robert Brown Sr., deceased, was born on May 23rd. A great Dad who taught me the value of our Mother, who taught us to LOVE, thus learning how to LIVE.  
Mr. Melvin S. McWilliams celebrates his birthday on May 24th.  
Mr. Cullen Dubose II, in memory we celebrate his birth on May 25th.  
Mr. Barry Williams celebrates his birth on May 26th.  
Mrs. Yvonne Young McConnell celebrates her birthday on May 26th.  
Mr. Blake Buckingham celebrates his birthday on May 26th.  
Mr. Claude Browne celebrates his 100th birthday on May 27th, with his Trinity A.M.E. Church family.  
Master Rolando R. Ruiz III celebrates his 13th birthday on May 28th, with family and friends. "Mom- Cece, Dad- Rolando Jr. and Nana love you very much!"  
Greer Dodd celebrates a birthday on May 28th.  
Mr. André Collins-Riddle celebrates his birthday on May 29th.  
Mr. John Wallick II celebrates his birthday on May 31st.  
Master Jacob Thomas Brown celebrates his 12th birthday in May with family and friends. "Happy birthday Little Man!!!" Love, Mommy and Daddy!!!

### \*Anniversaries

Mr. Johnathon Short and Mrs. Megan Adrienne Short were married on May 2nd, 2011, celebrating 11 beautiful years together!  
Mr. David and Mrs. Deana Newman will celebrate their 13th wedding anniversary on May 27th.

### \*Announcements

Face book Page: [www.facebook.com/mrpartyconv](http://www.facebook.com/mrpartyconv)  
Celebration Gram: Your special message delivered by:  
Mr. Party, The Ambassador of Celebration!!!

### Please let us know if you have anyone to celebrate

Please send us the information about you, your family or friends celebrating the Events of Life, by email: [mrpartyconv@aol.com](mailto:mrpartyconv@aol.com), or call our office at 1-517-391-4849.

**Lansing Community College congratulates Trustee Angela Mathews and Benita Duncan on their recent elections at the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Leadership Congress**

Trustee Mathews was elected Vice-Chair of the African American Community College Trustees Association (AACCTA). The AACCTA is a constituency group of the ACCT and serves as an organization committed to assessing the cumulative effects of higher education policy on African American students, faculty and staff.

Ms. Duncan was elected as President of The Professional Board Staff Network (PBSN). She becomes the first African American to ascend to the position of President for the Executive Committee of the ACCT PBSN. The PBSN is a national level resource for those who support governing boards or presidents of community colleges.



**Trustee Angela Mathews**  
Vice-Chair LCC Board of Trustees



**Benita Duncan**  
Executive Assistant and Liaison to LCC Board of Trustees



LANSING COMMUNITY COLLEGE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION/EMPLOYER.

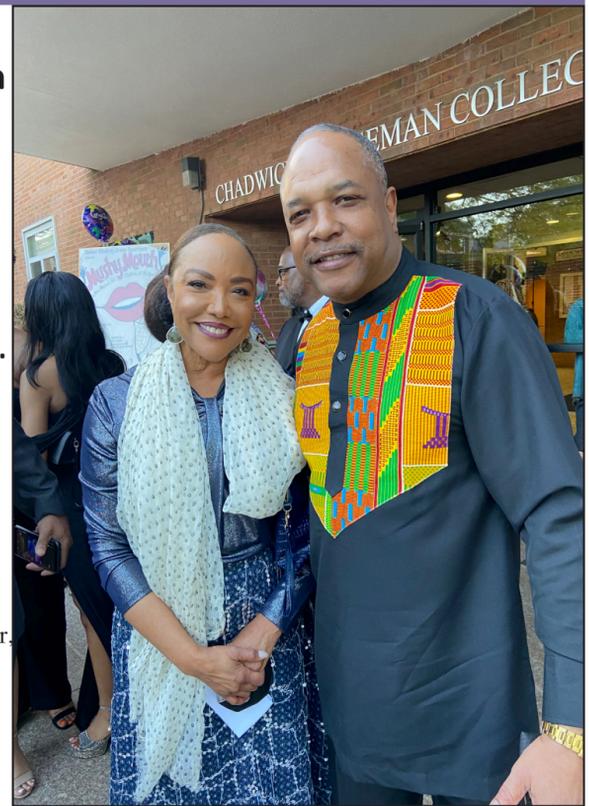


**Howard University's Professor Emeritus Vera J. Katz Official 86th Birthday Celebration and Book launch**

Over 100 well-wishes gathered at Vera J Katz Birthday and Book launch was held on April 25, 2022 at Howard University's Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts her new book is called "A KATZ WALK, A Toolbox of Techniques for Actors and Directors"

Pictured (left) Vera J. Katz and Michigan Bulletin Publisher Marcus Jefferson.

Pictured (right) former Katz student Lynn Whitfield and Marcus Jefferson.



**An Evening of Smooth Jazz Returns!**

**URBAN JAZZ COALITION** HOLT H. S. 5885 W. HOLT ROAD

7:30 pm Friday July 22, 2022

**URBAN JAZZ COALITION**

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