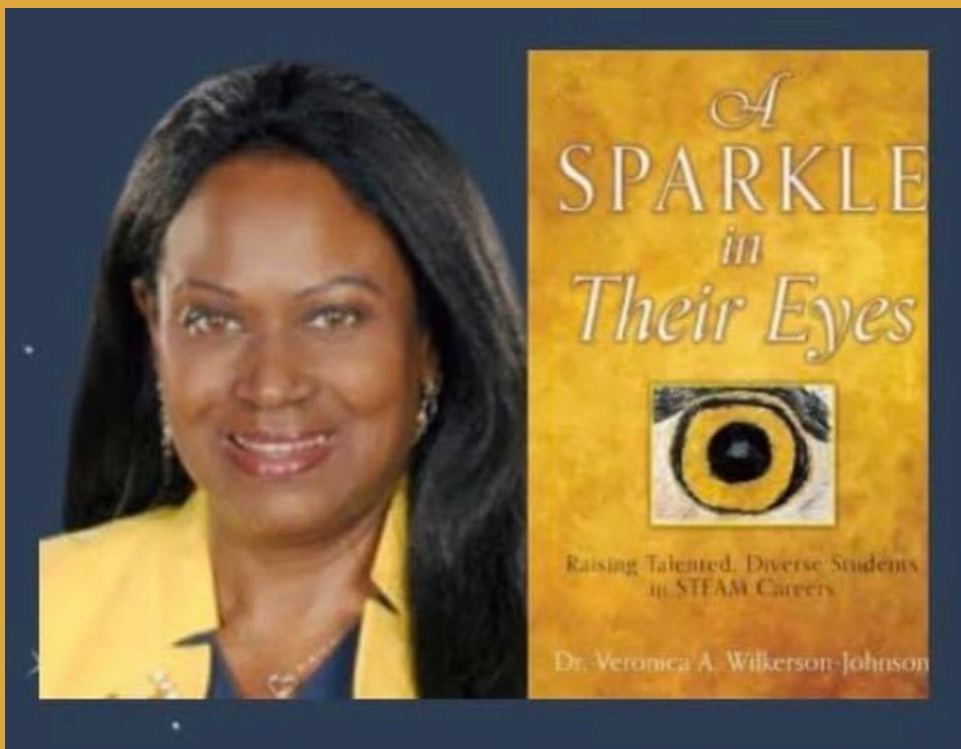


# A SPARKLE IN THEIR EYES: STEAM CELEBRATION & BOOK LAUNCH

**Friday, September 22, 2023**

**5:30 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.**



DR. VERONICA A WILKERSON JOHNSON

**Michigan Library & Historical Center**

**702 W. Kalamazoo Street**

**Lansing, MI 48915**

**Free Parking**

# AGENDA

5:00 PM Doors open

5:30-5:45 PM Audience entering the auditorium

5:45-7:00 PM STEAM Program in the auditorium

7:00-8:00 PM Strolling Reception, Hors d'oeuvres, Musical serenade, Student and Robotic Exhibits, and Author Book Signing in the Rotunda

## Program Highlights

**Welcome-** Dr. Stan Craig, Master of Ceremonies, Minister at Holmes Road Church of Christ, Lansing, Michigan.

**Indigenous Land Acknowledgement** - Dr. Emily Sorroche, Co-Director of the Indigenous Youth Empowerment Program (IYEP), Office of Cultural and Academic Transitions, Michigan State University.

**How to Initiate SPARKLE in Medicine in Diverse Ways** - Dr. Ericka Brunson-Gillespie, D.N.P., Nurse Practitioner at University of Michigan - Michigan Medicine.

**The Importance of STEAM and Diversity in the Lansing School District** - Rachel Willis, President of the Lansing School District Board of Education.

**A Journey Into STEAM Education** - Dedria Humphries Barker, Author of "Mother of Orphans: The True and Curious Story of Irish Alice, a Colored Man's Widow." , Professor of Writing, and Columnist for the Lansing City Pulse.

**Author's Insight and Quest in STEAM** - Dr. Veronica Wilkerson Johnson, author of "A Sparkle in Their Eyes: Raising Talented, Diverse Students in STEAM Careers."

**Advancing Robotics and Technology in STEAM**, featuring an Introduction of the Robot, **Digit** - Dr. Jamie Berger, Lecturer, Department of Robotics, University of Michigan

**Musical Interludes** -

Violinist Rodney Lamar Page.~"A Ribbon in the Sky" by Stevie Wonder

Vocalist Kyro' ~ "Colors of the Wind" - "Pocahontas" Movie Theme Song

**Closing Remarks and Prayer Blessing** - Minister Zachary Pope of the Greater Lansing Church of Christ, East Lansing, Michigan.

We thank this evening's distinguished presenters for their many contributions to the promotion of STEAM (**Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics**) education and the empowerment of students!

# Our Inspiring Musicians



**Rodney Lamar Page** is a composer, recording artist, conductor, and performer with a wide-ranging musical style, from classical to pop. A native of Southfield, Michigan, he began studying the violin at age 10 and went on to earn bachelor's and master's degrees in music education at Michigan State University. Rodney Page has performed with various orchestras, including the Midland Symphony Orchestra, Michigan State University Symphony Orchestra, and South Shore Symphony Orchestra in China. He is also a passionate music educator, having directed orchestras in public school systems and taught at the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp in Michigan. Rodney Lamar Page's music is infused with motivational messages, and he released his first EP titled "Inevitable" in 2016.

**Kyro' Smith**, born and raised in Detroit, Michigan, graduated from Alabama A&M University with a degree in Social Science and Secondary Education. Also, a talented musician, he began his career as a singer and songwriter, specializing in House, Disco, and R&B music. Kyro' has released three albums to date: "Cosmic Energy," "Lejama," and "Night Out." He has also made appearances in films and performed on stage with various artists. Additionally, Kyro' has worked as a radio personality for Audilous and I-95 Radio Stations in Atlanta, GA, and recorded radio jingles. He has hosted and produced two music shows for unsigned artists, namely "A Night With The Stars" and "A Night With The Stars Remixed."



**We thank these talented artists who bring significant contributions to the world of music in their respective genres!**

# Acknowledgements

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the outstanding **Student Exhibitors** and the opportunity to celebrate their academic and artistic achievements, and to meet UM Robot, **Digit**.  
Also to the parents, families, and many dedicated individuals who have helped to inspire this journey.

**Author Karen Williams** - Whose literary contributions inspire us all.

**Sandra Kay Cehr** - A dedicated Health and Environmental Specialist whose work impacts our well-being.

**Educators Emeriti and mentors, Wilbie and Willie Cobb** -

and **Ann and Willie Blair** - Guiding lights in our educational landscape whose legacy continues to inspire.

**Mrs. Pamela Collins** - An Arts Instructor at Everett High School, shaping the artistic talents of future generations.

**Ramona Henry** - Our Native American Liaison at Lansing School District, fostering unity and cultural diversity.

**Meko Moore** - A Transition Specialist at Lansing School District/Ingham County Youth Center, guiding young minds toward success.

**Antonia Gordon** - A dedicated MSU Doctoral Candidate, contributing to the academic world.

**Lauren Cecil, Greg Powell, and Nick Campbell** - Leaders at UM School of Information, shaping the future of information science and technology.

**A. Paul Fontaine** - The visionary Director of UM Engaging the Community Through the Classroom Initiative, bridging education and community transformation.

Deepest gratitude to the community leaders who provided gracious hospitality during this evening's event:

**Dr. Nettavia Curry, Dr. Lillian Brooks, Tanesha Ash-Shakoor, J.D., Brenda Henderson, Brittany Edwards, Verlicia Kelley-Johnson, and Courtney Cole.**

Also, to Members of the Holmes Road Church of Christ, and **Dr. Ken Slater**, Elder, Greater Lansing Church of Christ for their unwavering support.

Heartfelt thanks to state and local elected leaders:

**Mayor Andy Schor**

**State Senator Sarah Anthony, Chair of Senate Appropriations (D-21)**

**State Representative Penelope Tsernoglou (D-75)**

**Angela L. Mathews, Chair, LCC Board of Trustees**

And to all who support and foster excellence and diversity in student and community engagement.

A special thank you to our dedicated STEAM and media professionals who ensured this event's success!

**Angela J. Keys**, Event Coordinator; **Jahton H. Bishop**, Videographer;

**Darrett Pullins**, Photographer; **Michelle Hill**, AV Engineer, and

**Teresa Barcy**, Professional Party Planners and Catering.

Huge thanks to Bookseller **Scott Harris**, Owner of Everybody Reads Books and Stuff, for book sales and support at the event.

The Author immensely thanks her family (**'Team Johnson'**), friends, colleagues; and State of Michigan staff, including **Rachel Brim**, DTMB Events Coordinator, **Luke Krzeminski**, and **Kyle Peake**, for their excellent support.

And finally, immense thanks to the **Library of Michigan Foundation**, including **Dr. Kathy M. Irwin**, Board Vice President, and **Patricia K. Headley**, Chief Development Officer, for co-sponsoring this remarkable STEAM CELEBRATION and Book Launch event! Their commitment and support of education and literacy is truly commendable.

"The Library of Michigan Foundation" is proud to be part of this celebration, and we congratulate author **Dr. Veronica A. Wilkerson Johnson** on her latest release. We share her passion for helping all students achieve their education and career goals.

The Library of Michigan Foundation exists to support and raise funds for the Library of Michigan. Our mission is to preserve Michigan history and culture, ensure board access to quality information, and promote lifelong reading. You can learn more about our foundation at <https://www.libraryofmichiganfoundation.com/>.

