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New Orleans

# Data

News Weekly

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New Xavier/WBOK Partnership

Data Zone Page 4

May 29 - June 4, 2021 56th Year Volume 5 [www.ladatanews.com](http://www.ladatanews.com)

A Data News Weekly Exclusive

# Anthony Bean Theater Youth Summer Performing Arts Camp

Inspiring the Next Generation to Pursue Greatness

Page 2



**Newsmaker**

Rapper Alfred Banks Becomes Mental Health Ambassador

Page 6

**State & Local**

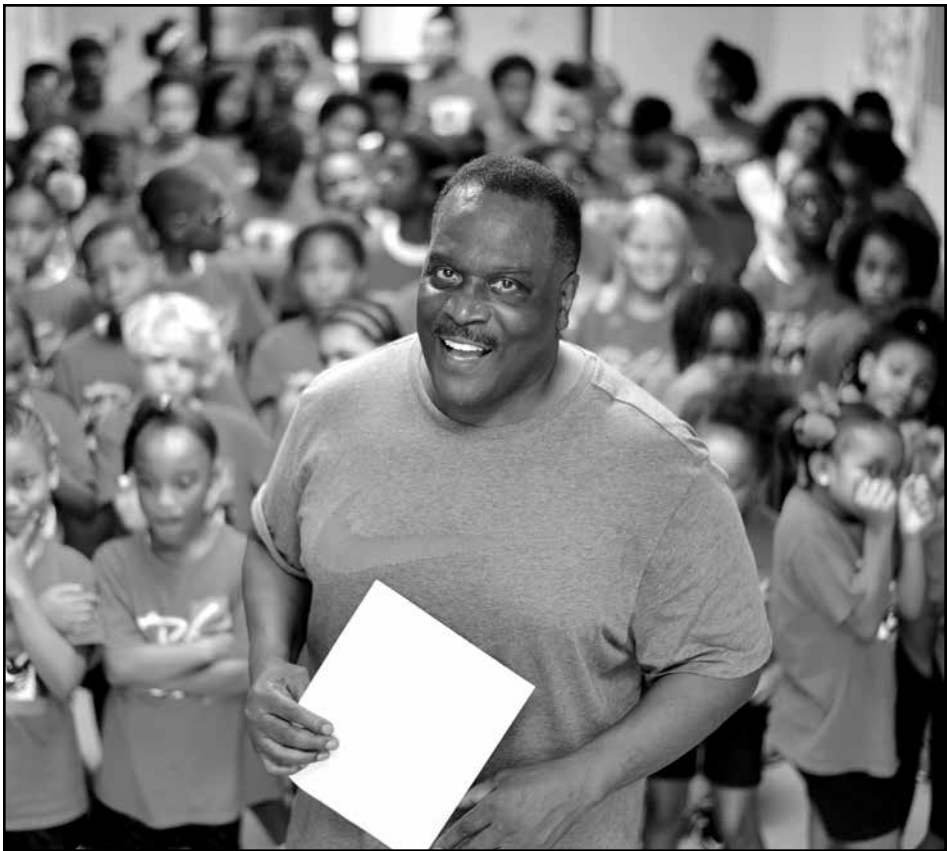
HBCU Community Development Action Coalition Awarded \$5.6 Million



Page 7

# Anthony Bean Theater Youth Summer Performing Arts Camp

*Inspiring the Next Generation to Pursue Greatness*



In addition to Bean training young people on the stage, he will also broadcast their great work on “ABCT Teen TV Reality Show” where they will speak of issues affecting teens and interview community leaders, including a one hour show with New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell. The show will air on WUPL-MY54.

**Edwin Buggage**  
Editor-in-Chief

**Aspiring to Reach Higher**  
Throughout his life and career in the arts, Anthony Bean has been about empowering, informing and

inspiring people. Showcasing Black Excellence and aspirations through his stage plays and teaching, his summer camp continues to be one that gives the youth of New Orleans a place to shine and tap into their full potential. “I have been doing this camp for a long time,” says Bean, sitting in his home uptown speaking of his pas-

sion for working in the community and especially with young people. “They are our future and I feel sometimes many looks at the youth of our City and have negative views of them. I would like to present something else and show that these kids, with the right guidance can show that they can be focused, disciplined and dedicated. Showing the world, they have

Cover Story, Continued on page 3.

INSIDE DATA	
Cover Story . . . . .	2
Data Zone . . . . .	4
Newsmaker . . . . .	6
State & Local News . .	6
National News . . . . .	7

### DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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Dated material two weeks in advance. Not responsible for publishing or return of unsolicited manuscripts or photos.

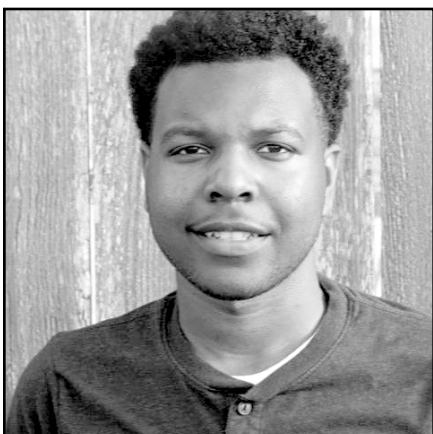
Cover Story, Continued from page 3.



"The children are our future and I feel sometimes many look at the youth of our City and have negative views of them. I would like to present something else and show that these kids, with the right guidance can show that they can be focused, disciplined and dedicated. Showing the world they have what it takes to be not only successful onstage, but in life," says Anthony Bean.



This year's camp will be held at the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra which is located on 1436 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd. in Central City from June 7th thru July 16th from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Mon. - Fri. With a culminating performance of "Shut Up and Dance" a Dance Musical Play written by Anthony Bean. (Photo from previous ABCT production of Cats)



Tyler Felix



Tristan Segura



Amira Konate



Jerimiah Craft

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### Shaping the Next Generation for Greatness

Bean continues to change lives and making the community better. His is one that shapes all people for greatness, especially African American males. He feels a greater investment in them is necessary to combat much of what happens to them when they fall through the cracks and are not able to thrive and shoot for the stars.

Seeing some become part of the school to prison pipeline or victims of gun violence. He believes more resources at the community level will address the root causes of the problem and can help in bring about solutions. ABCT, have been part of this solution by giving young people a voice that can empower.

### The Bean Effect... Young People talks about ABCT and How It Impacted Their Lives

There are many success stories of young people coming out of the theater that are in the arts are other endeavors armed with the tools given to them by Bean.

#### Jeremiah Craft

When people ask me, what does ABCT mean to me? I tell them it a place I can always call home. Growing up I was a stage guy; I grew up in the Anthony Bean Community Theater and Acting School. The legendary Anthony Bean taught me a lot when it came to acting. He taught me to always stay ready, because you never know when the director will call your name for that lead role."

#### Amira Konate

ABCT is a place where I do not have to be afraid to be me. I can feel free to talk about anything that is on my mind as a young Black girl growing up in America. Mr. Bean allows us to express ourselves and be proud to be in a space that is designed with us in mind.

#### Tyler Nowell Felix

Anthony Bean Theater has been a big part of my life since I was knee high to a duck. It has guided me through life by giving me the necessary tools and knowledge I need to succeed in my chosen field of dramatic arts. When I think of the theater, I think of Mr. Bean, because without him there would be

no Anthony Bean Community Theater and Acting School. Mr. Bean is a loudmouth, open minded, ready to set you straight at a moment's notice all while keeping a smile on his face and yours. Mr. Bean cares for all kids especially Black kids and wants to see them succeed in life. Acting is his passion, and he will teach you everything he knows if you are willing to let him guide you. He believes in the "No Wall" approach. It means to let go and believe there are no boundaries when it comes to acting. Be as silly as you can be or as dramatic as you can be.

#### Triston Segura

ABCT is especially important to me because, it has always been there for me and countless other kids just like me. Showing "Black Children" how to overcome any obstacle. Because of ABCT, I feel like I can take on any challenge and be successful. Mr. Bean is always saying "Triston, make sure you know who you are, not only as a man but as a Black Man" when it comes to this world we live in; know that and no one or nothing can pull the wool over your head. You hear me young man, make sure you never lose sight of who you are, as long as you continue to do that, no matter what you try to accomplish in life, it will come and find you; you don't have to go looking for it". I honestly believe every Black child in America should have the chance to grow up in a place like the Anthony Bean Community Theater and Acting School.

For more information about the camp call **504-862-Play** or visit the website at **anthonybeantheater.com**

**TEXTING  
AND DRIVING  
MAKES  
GOOD PEOPLE  
LOOK BAD.**

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# New Xavier/WBOK Partnership

## Data News Weekly Staff Edited Report

NEW ORLEANS— WBOK Radio continues its mission to be an outlet, giving voice to the African American community of New Orleans and beyond with its suite of programs that are of both local and national interests. African Americans in New Orleans.

This great history is now merged with one of another great institution for African Americans, Xavier University.

Dr. Reynold Verret, Xavier's President remarked, "Not only has WBOK been an important messenger of the Black experience but also the actions for just equity in the City. It resonates very much with the interest of students and faculty at Xavier."

Verret joined folks on hand Friday afternoon to herald not only a move of the station to the campus, but also a partnership with the school's Communications Department.

The reception was filled with a who's who of leaders from the Black community.

Equity Media owns WBOK. Actor Wendell Pierce is also a part of the ownership group and flew in from Budapest to attend.

Pierce spoke as to the goals of the station through this partnership, "This is a place that we are giving voice to all



WBOK Station Owners Troy Henry, Cleveland Spears, III a representative from Ray Brandt Automotive Group, and owners Wendell Pierce and Jeff Thomas.



Jeff Thomas, Gerod Stevens, Host of "Reality Check" and New Orleans Criminal Sheriff Marlon Gusman.



Troy Henry and Oliver Thomas, Host of the high rated "The Good Morning Show" on WBOK.

those who have a vision and think that they can't actually get there. We'll give them a way to get there. At least discuss the ways to give them the tolls and re-

sources to get there and I think that's really important."

WBOK Host Oliver Thomas said, "It's a great opportunity, especially what we

know now about media and disparities. When we talk about money and opportunity. A great opportunity to come out of this Pandemic and move forward."

## Duana Parker

### *An Example of Black Excellence*

Duana Parker, daughter of proud parents Duane and Nancy Parker, is an example of Black Excellence. The New Orleans native recently graduated from Xavier University of Louisiana with a B.S. in Public Health and plans to pursue her Master's in Public Health at her Alma Mater in the Fall of 2021.



Duana Parker is a recent graduate from Xavier University, earning a B.S. Degree in Public Health.



Proud Parents Nancy Parker and Duane Parker pictured with Duana at her graduation.

Visit [www.ladatanews.com](http://www.ladatanews.com) for more photos from these events



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# New Orleans Rapper Alfred Banks Becomes Mental Health Ambassador

## Data News Staff Edited Report

May is Mental Health Awareness Month and New Orleans based rapper Alfred Banks is on a mission to be successful at his craft, while also helping to bring freedom to others.

In 2014 Alfred's brother Orlandas Banks took his own life after suffering from schizophrenia. His mental illness was a hard conversation not just for Orlandas, but also for his family.

"I come from a Black family... from Uptown," says Banks. "We don't really talk about mental health issues."

Banks also have been open about his own struggles with mental health and has been open about



New Orleans based rapper Alfred Banks is getting recognition from more than just his skills on the mic. He's also uses his voice to bring awareness around issues of Mental Health.

it in his music.

After the untimely death of his brother, he took a short break from creating music, then Alfred Banks decided to illustrate the pain through his art.

Those songs made up 'The Beautiful' Album, a work that's been embraced by organizations like the National Alliance on Mental Illness, which Banks is now an ambassador for. His songs have become life-changing for his fans. On the opening track, 'The Funeral', Banks illustrates the funeral services for his brother. On the day of the service, the rapper had to leave early to drive to a performance he had that night.

"After a show, one woman told me her husband passed away from brain cancer," says Banks. "She was

depressed and she wanted to harm herself. When she heard 'The Funeral', it stopped her from committing suicide."

Banks hopes that his work, along with his brother's memory, will break chains for others who are suffering in silence.

"I want to let people know that you're not by yourself," says Banks. "It's not something you have to deal with on your own."

If you or someone you know could use help, **NAMI New Orleans** provides free services - support groups, classes, and even mental health aid training. Call **504-896-2345** or email them at **namino@namineworleans.org**.

## State & Local News

# Ronald Greene's Mother Says She's 'Hurting So Bad' Over Bodycam Video

## Sytonia Reid The Grio

"I'm so damn hurt. I'm hurting so bad. I broke down not too long ago. And I needed that," Mona Hardin, mother of Ronald Greene told NBC News.

Two years after her son's death, Mona Hardin has finally seen the bodycam footage that captures the fatal altercation between Ronald Greene and Louisiana police.

The Louisiana State Police agency released nine bodycam and dashcam videos on Friday after the Associated Press published footage they obtained. The videos show Greene's violent arrest near Monroe, Louisiana, during which officers kicked, punched, choked, tased, and dragged the 49-year-old.

Greene died following that arrest in May 2019 after he led police on a high-speed chase. Much of the brutalization occurred while Greene was already handcuffed. At one point, Greene tried to roll over in what some suspect was an attempt to breathe, and officers ordered him to stay face down on his stomach.



Ronald Greene died following that arrest in May 2019. Recent bodycam videos show Greene's violent arrest near Monroe, Louisiana, during which officers kicked, punched, choked, tased, and dragged the 49-year-old.

The officers identified are Louisiana State Troopers Chris Hollingsworth, Dakota DeMoss, and Kory

York. In another clip, officer Chris Hollingsworth, who died in 2020, is heard saying, "I beat the ever-living

f— out of him. Choked him and everything else trying to get him under control. He was spitting blood everywhere, and all of a sudden he just went limp."

Hardin believes her son was murdered, and his death was imminent from the start of the arrest. "I'm so damn hurt. I'm hurting so bad. I broke down not too long ago. And I needed that," Hardin told NBC News. "I needed that because the anger, the boiling point of Louisiana and the corruption and my murder, the murder of my son, and how they had a good time doing it."

The autopsy performed by the Union Parish Coroner's Office did not identify a cause of death and noted missing information, CNN reports. Coroners cited "cocaine induced agitated delirium complicated by motor vehicle collision, physical struggle, inflicted head injury, and restraint," as a possible cause but also said that Greene's head injuries were "inconsistent with motor vehicle collision injury. These injuries are most consistent with multiple impact sites from a blunt object."

Greene's family alleges that in

addition to leaving Greene without medical care for roughly nine minutes following his arrest, officers attempted a cover up, initially telling them that Greene died from the impact of a car accident. Without the footage the Associated Press accessed, Hardin's legal team believes that there would have been no further investigation into Greene's death.

"We've seen a pattern in this country, an unfortunate pattern. When law enforcement alone are the only persons with access to critical evidence, like this kind of video, the process is to minimize the conduct, to keep it out of the eyes of the public and to protect the police officers," said Attorney Lee Merritt.

DeMoss was notified of his department's intention to fire him and York completed a 50-hour suspension and returned to duty, NBC News reports. Neither has been arrested.

Ronald Greene died following that arrest in May 2019. Recent bodycam videos show Greene's violent arrest near Monroe, Louisiana, during which officers kicked, punched, choked, tased, and dragged the 49-year-old.

# HBCU Community Development Action Coalition Awarded \$5.6 Million from the Wells Fargo Foundation to Address Racial Wealth Disparities

**Our Money Matters:  
Financial Wellness  
Program kicks off on  
seven HBCU campuses  
to advance Financial  
Health of Black college  
students**

## NNPA Newswire

Miami — The Historically Black Colleges & Universities Community Development Action Coalition (HBCU CDAC) is proud to announce the launch of a comprehensive financial wellness initiative, Our Money Matters (OMM) for college students of color. This new \$5.6 million initiative, funded exclusively by the Wells Fargo Foundation, is taking a more holistic approach to helping students who may be facing food and housing insecurity, college debt and other financial hardships to increase opportunities for financial inclusion and future economic success.

HBCU CDAC also announced the launch of OMM on seven HBCU campuses: Allen University, Bowie State University, Lincoln University, Miles College, Morris Brown College, Southern University at New Orleans, and University of Illinois at Chicago.

Over the next three years, OMM will expand to 25 HBCU and Minority Serving Institution (MSI) campuses across the U.S., equipping roughly 40,000 students of color and the extended community with much needed financial capability skills, personalized tools for managing finances and student loans, and access to support services like career closets and emergency financial assistance. Over the long term, this initiative aims to accelerate opportunities for building generational wealth within communities of color to help to close the racial wealth divide.



“The initiation of the OMM program is especially timely as the economic burden of COVID-19 is projected to have a devastating impact on HBCUs, MSIs, and surrounding communities. The OMM program is a proactive solution positioned to address these issues and generational wealth disparities within communities of color. Our partnership with the Wells Fargo Foundation demonstrates our aligned interest in equipping our partner institutions and their surrounding communities with the financial tools needed to create wealth for generations to come”, said Ron Butler, CEO of HBCU CDAC.

“As a financial institution, we believe we have a responsibility to do even more to accelerate financial inclusion for people of color,” said Darlene Goins, head of Financial Health Philanthropy at Wells Fargo. “HBCUs and MSIs are known for helping generations of Black youth and other students of color achieve academic and professional success. Working with HBCU CDAC, we hope to support students who may be navigating complex financial challenges and give them a stron-

ger foundation for future success and opportunities for wealth generation.”

Through its holistic “wrap around” approach to addressing the myriad of factors that have contributed to the persistent wealth gap, OMM’s programs and resources will engage, educate, support and scale financial capability and wealth creation in communities of color while disrupting and removing barriers to economic opportunity. The program has three primary components:

The Online Financial Counseling Hub, powered by iGrad, is a digital platform that helps students manage their day-to-day finances and build new skills and habits for life after college, including personalized tools for managing student loans, car loan calculator, investment analyzer, and access to certified financial planners.

The Financial Curriculum, developed in collaboration with academics and financial professionals, includes a wide variety of financial health courses and interactive activities, which faculty and staff can also integrate into general educa-

tion and degree programs.

OMM Service Suite connects students with on campus and community-based support services such as housing assistance, employment opportunities, and career closets that provide access to appropriate interview and work attire.

“Lincoln remains committed to supporting students to persist to and through graduation. This comprehensive education program teaches students financial literacy and connects them with resources to address their financial gaps,” comments Dr. Brenda A. Allen, President, Lincoln University.

Partnering with Our Money Matters is going to be a great resource for our students,” said Bobbie Knight, President, Miles College “This program will provide an important tool to teach our students the importance of good money management and financial responsibility.”

To learn how to get involved as a student, participating school, or community partner visit:  
**OurMoneyMatters.com**

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### Job Opportunity

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Data News Weekly, “The People’s Paper,” is looking for freelance writers to join our team print and digital team. We want to hear from you if you are a working journalist, or an aspiring journalist who has 2 years or more of newspaper or PR writing experience. We need writers who can cover New Orleans news stories, ranging from local high school sports, community events, City Hall and entertainment. Experience in print is necessary, experience in digital and social media are encouraged.

Compensation is competitive and great story ideas will be appreciated.

If you are interested, please email your resume and 3 writing samples to: [terrybjones@bellsouth.net](mailto:terrybjones@bellsouth.net) and [datanewseditor@bellsouth.net](mailto:datanewseditor@bellsouth.net).

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