

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

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NOLA NOBLES

Giving Voice to Black Male Excellence



Torrence Taylor, founder of NOLA NOBLES' goal is to change the negative perceptions of Black Males and highlight Black Male Excellence.

Edwin Buggage
Editor-in-Chief Data News Weekly

Changing the Narrative

In the history of America, Black men have continued to fight against negative images, which leads to maltreatment and institutionalized racism. While this practice continues, Black men across the nation are taking control of the narrative, to highlight positive, progressive brothers that are both inspirational and aspirational.

Locally, Torrence Taylor, has set out to change this narrative by creating NOLA NOBLES. "I started NOLA NOBLES as a means for Black males in New Orleans to inspire each other first. We are often fed negative images of ourselves, and many Brothers have believed that's how we are and that's not true," remarks Taylor.

Moreover, Black males en masse are not out committing crime and being menaces to society, a fact that is stated by Taylor. "Many and I mean many Black boys and men are doing great works, and we must acknowledge our greatness and contributions to the world."

Matters of the Heart

To commemorate and give voice Black Male Excellence, Taylor recently held his Seventh Annual MLK Photo Shoot.

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P.O. Box 57347, New Orleans, LA 70157-7347 | Phone: (504) 821-7421 | Fax: (504) 821-7622
editorial: datanewseditor@bellsouth.net | advertising: datanewsad@bellsouth.net

Terry B. Jones	Contributors	Art Direction &
CEO/Publisher	Edwin Buggage	Production
Edwin Buggage	Eric Connerly	Pubinator.com
Editor	DNW Staff Writers	Editorial and
	GNO Youth and Education	Advertising Inquiries
Sharonda Green	Roundtable	datanewsweeklyad@gmail.com
Executive Assistant	Tracee Dundas	
	Emily Walker	
June Hazeur	Lesley White	Distribution
	Charmia Elam	
Accounting	Stacy M. Brown	by Terrence Lee

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Speaking of some of the projects of NOLA NOBLES, Taylor states, "Every year we adopt a high school, mentoring male students teaching them life skills. In addition, we also host barbershop meetings, and we discuss issues that affect Black male, finances, relationships, mentoring and fatherhood."



"I started NOLA NOBLES as a means for Black males in New Orleans to inspire each other first. We are often fed negative images of ourselves and many Brothers have believed that's how we are and that's not true," remarks Taylor.



NOLA NOBLES is committed to the mission of promoting Black Male Excellence and Achievement.

This year's theme was "Matters of the Heart" he notes that in the two years of living through the COVID-19 Pandemic and Civil Unrest, that community and family matters. His goal is to build bridges of understanding and to uplift and celebrate Black males' achievement.

This year he chose a plaid theme. On a recent interview with local NBC Affiliate WDSU, he stated that, "That there is beauty in its complexity." During the shoot brothers from diverse backgrounds came together in the spirit of unity. The shoot took place at Peaches Records on Magazine Street in uptown New Orleans. Located there are the old lunch counters, where participants sat re-enacting the Civil Rights sit-ins.

Empowering and Inspiring Black Males

Throughout the year NOLA NOBLES work on various projects, with the goal of empowering and celebrating Black males. "Every year we adopt a high school, mentoring male students teaching them life skills. In addition, we also host barbershop meetings, and we discuss issues that affect Black males, finances, relationships, mentoring and fatherhood."

These are truly crucial times in America for Black Males, who are often the subject of negative news stories that present them through a distorted lens. While it is undeniable that many young men fall through the cracks, there are many more who are assets to themselves,



During the shoot brothers from diverse backgrounds came together in the spirit of unity. The shoot took place at Peaches Records on Magazine Street in uptown New Orleans. Located there are the old lunch counters, where participants sat re-enacting the Civil Rights sit-ins.



their families, and communities. Not only in New Orleans, but across this nation.

"It is sad, but too often the only story that get talked about us is the negative. That is not the whole story of who we are," says

Taylor. "Today we have a voice and changed the narrative. Using social media and other means we can present examples of Black Male Excellence for the world to see, and that is what NOLA NOBLES is committed to doing."

For more information on their great work and mission go to @thenolanobles on Instagram, southernstyleintl@gmail.com, 504.905.5812 or NOLA NOBLES Facebook page.

Anthony Bean Community Theater Auditions

Actors, Singers & Dancers for its Upcoming Theater Season Talents Must be Ages 12-70

Eric Connerly
Data News Weekly Contributor

Anthony Bean Community Theater continues in the tradition of excellence. Coming soon is an opportunity for talented people across the city to see if they have the stuff to make it to the stage.

Auditions to take place Saturday, February 5, 2022 beginning at 11:00 AM 4527 Tchoupitoulas Street

APPOINTMENT REQUIRED

For an appointment, Call **504 862-PLAY**
Mon-Fri, between 11am & 5pm

Actors must be prepared with two (2) contrasting monologues.

Singers must prepare to sing two (2) contrasting songs—a ballad and an up-tempo song no longer than two minutes.

Dancers must prepare to perform at least a two-minute routine

Please bring a photograph and résumé or email to: info@anthonybeantheater.com

You must call for an appointment if you wish to audition.



ABCT Founder, Anthony Bean is seeking talented individuals to audition for his upcoming productions. The auditions take place on Feb. 5, 2022.



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Give 'Em the Cold-Shoulder



Tracee Dundas
Fashion Editor
@fashionablyyoursnola

As the temperature drops, there's no need to give this hot summer trend the cold shoulder. It's a style that works for any occasion, any age, and is fresh and flirty. The off-the-shoulder trend makes a seamless transition, continuing as a haute style no matter what the season.

Tips from New Orleans Style Experts:

"Pair an off-the-shoulder sweater with leather leggings or cropped fray flares denim and a pair of booties for a head turning upscale casual style!" Emily Walker, Owner, @shopEms

"Bring together your look with an over the knee boot for a killer sexy look! And don't forget killer accessories. Chokers and bolos really accent shoulders too." Lesley White, Owner, @hemlinemetairie

"Choose winter color palettes; like burgundy, navy, olive in texture fabrics, add opaque tights and bold accessories to complete a fabulous look." Tracee Dundas, @nolafashionweek Founder, Fashion Influencer & Data News Week Fashion Editor

"Shoulders are one of the sexiest parts of the body. Dust your collarbone and shoulders with a splash of highlighter for a polished glow." Charmia Elam, Founder, @mauve.co Luxe eBoutique & Fashion Stylist



Black Blazing – Off-shoulder faux leather mini dress with tuck detail bodice and side slit
Photo @asos



Winter Wonder – Off-White, wrap-shoulder with front cutout, body-con dress
Photo @popculturenola



Green Light – Green drop shoulder sweater with frayed collar and hemline; paired with distressed jeans
Photo @jazzitupboutique



Midas Touch – Metallic gold, one-shoulder, body-con dress
Photo @mauve.co



Animal Tamer – Black and white zebra-like print dress with bardot neck and side slit
Photo @asos



Onyx Only – Black off-the-shoulder knit top with asymmetric gold buttons
Photo @gianiccii



Red Haute – Red, loose fit jumpsuit with long sleeve drop shoulder
Photo @jazzitupboutique



Standing Tall – Black soft ribbed knit top, slit across front and shoulder; paired with Carmel faux pants
Photo @westlondonbtq



Brown Sugar – Carmel brown, cutout shoulders, long sleeve, knee length ribbed knit dress
Photo @zara

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City of New Orleans and Total Community Action Awarded \$474K to Eliminate Racial and Ethnic Inequities in the Justice System

Data News Staff Edited Report

The City of New Orleans today announced the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice Coordination (OCJC) and Total Community Action, Inc. (TCA) are the recipients of a \$474K grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation to deepen the push to eliminate racial and ethnic inequities in New Orleans' local Criminal Legal System. This grant is a part of the Safety and Justice Challenge (SJC), a \$300 million national initiative to reduce over-incarceration and address racial and ethnic disparities in local Criminal Legal Systems by changing the way America thinks about and uses jails.

The City of New Orleans was one of four jurisdictions selected to join the SJC's Racial Equity Cohort and will work in partnership with local

community organizations to focus on racial and ethnic equity in the Criminal Legal System. The City will use lived experiences of BI-POC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) citizens and those impacted by the Criminal Legal System to authentically engage the community.

This funding will provide OCJC and TCA with training and technical assistance, peer-to-peer support from other cohort members and qualitative and quantitative data and analytic backing. As co-leads, OCJC and TCA will address national and local drivers of racial inequities.

As part of the Racial Equity Cohort, OCJC and TCA will create a citywide blueprint for advancing racial justice to reimagine Criminal Legal System reform — a strategy that will center data-driven analysis and community engagement. The planning and implementation process will engage a diverse group



Thelma H. French, President & CEO of TCA

of community-based organizations and community leaders to gather direct input that will assist in implementing action strategies. The work will compliment and draw from racial equity efforts initiated

in 2021 by OCJC's Ethnic and Racial Disparity Working Group and contribute to existing efforts by community partners to advance racial justice.

The creation of the Racial Equity Cohort is part of the MacArthur Foundation's commitment to centering racial equity and the voices of citizens most impacted by the Criminal Legal System. The new funding will support more intentional and effective strategies to eliminate institutional and systemic racism, utilizing a multi-faceted and multi-system approach to achieving racial equity and justice.

"This grant award is another important step to continuing to pursue our vision of centering racial justice and making strides to reduce racial inequities within our local Criminal Legal System. It takes all of us to hold our Criminal Legal System accountable to be fair and equitable

and provide comprehensive justice for people at each point in the system," said Criminal Justice Commissioner Tenisha Stevens. "The City of New Orleans is excited about this opportunity to partner with Total Community Action, a pillar in our community, to uplift and center the voices of people most impacted by the Criminal Legal System to create solutions to systemically eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in the Orleans Parish Criminal Legal System, while advancing and justice and community safety for all of our citizens."

"TCA welcomes this unique opportunity to collaborate with the City of New Orleans and the Safety and Justice Challenge to convene, connect, and mobilize our community in addressing the racial and ethnic disparities in our local Criminal Justice System," said Thelma H. French, President & CEO of TCA.

Commentary

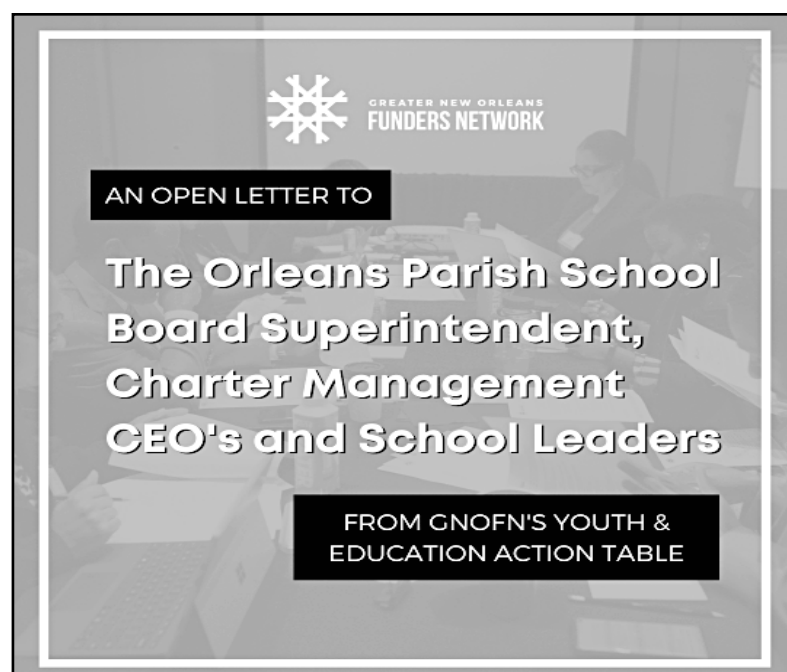
An Open Letter to the Orleans Parish School Board Superintendent, Charter Management, CEO's and School Leaders

GNO Youth and Education Roundtable

Dear Mr. Superintendent, Charter Management CEO's, and School Leaders,

Over the past two years, we have been in a time of great challenge. The COVID-19 Pandemic, the nation's racial reckoning, and most recently, the devastation to our region by Hurricane Ida has affected students, their families, and their teachers. These crises, individually and collectively, have impacted the mental well-being of both children and adults. This moment compels us to work differently, bridging the artificial divide of the "real world" and the schoolhouse in ways that reinvigorate teaching and learning by taking care of the teachers and the learners.

This letter is a call to care! Many of our Foundations have invested



in social-emotional and trauma-informed practices throughout the district in recent years. We stand in solidarity as we now call on each New Orleans Public School

to match and accelerate this investment by prioritizing interventions that respond to social and emotional needs as you deploy funds from the American Rescue Plan.

Here's Why

Social-emotional and trauma-informed practices are essential to accelerating student achievement. Research shows that effective Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) and Trauma-Informed Pedagogical approaches (TIA) are good for all learners. A study of children in New Orleans found that more than half had experienced some form of trauma. Unaddressed mental health issues and traumas have the potential to manifest in negative ways as a child develops. These traumas may consume a child, making it difficult to learn in a traditional learning environment. Unfortunately, many children do not have access to a mental health care provider to help them navigate these complex realities. Aside from time with family, school time is likely the most consistent interaction a child has with adults. By engaging educators in developing

policies for trauma-informed practices, all children attending a public school in New Orleans will benefit from its use regardless of their access to private mental healthcare services.

A Moral and Legal Impetus

Our need for greater capacity and integration of SEL and TIA is not new. As you recall, jointly funded and in collaboration with you, the New Orleans Public School Partnership Study identifies a clarion call from young people, teachers, and families alike for greater capacity in these areas. The study also outlines several actionable steps schools could take to afford all students access to SEL and trauma-informed approaches, including a recommendation to invest in building the capacity of educators to braid TIA into their instructional models.

Commentary, Continued on page 7.

Cedric Richmond Issues Blistering Voting Rights Attack Against GOP, Trump

Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

White House Senior Advisor Cedric Richmond continued the administration's forceful tone on voting rights with a blistering attack on Republicans and former President Donald Trump.

Richmond, who served as Louisiana's representative in the U.S. House for a decade before assuming his current role as the White House Office of Public Engagement Director, said during a Zoom gathering of reporters, that voting rights are the "bedrock of democracy."

But GOP lawmakers have a palpable fear of Trump and losing re-election bids if they go along with Democrats who want to make voting easier for all Americans.

"Let me be very clear, what has changed is Donald Trump and his stronghold on the Republican Party and people who don't want to get primaried," Richmond asserted.

The senior advisor to the President was asked why no Republicans support passing voting rights legislation today, despite 16 Republicans



White House Senior Advisor Cedric Richmond promised that the President would continue to make voting rights a theme of his presidency.

in 2006 voting in favor of extending the measure when pushed by then Republican President George W. Bush.

"President Joe Biden has said that politicians worry about the next election, but statesmen and stateswomen worry about the next generation," Richmond continued.

"The President and the Vice President stood up as a statesman and a stateswoman. 'Unfortunately, these Republicans fear the wrath of Donald Trump, and that is truly

unfortunate when you think about how important this is to the country. Their lack of displayed courage is something that we can't allow to stop us and what we need to do."

Richmond promised that the President would continue to make voting rights a theme of his presidency.

"It is a very clear fact, a given, that the election in 2020 was one of the most safe and secure in our history. The fact that [Trump] has pushed the big lie – some represen-

tatives have stood up to it, and most have not. It is just an indication that their Party has been hijacked by former President Trump," Richmond declared.

Earlier, both President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris gave speeches about the significance of getting voting rights passed.

In what the White House called one of his most forceful speeches, Biden insisted that he would "defend your right to vote and our democracy against all enemies, foreign and domestic."

He questioned where U.S. senators stood on the issue.

On Thursday, January 13, Biden met with Democratic senators on Capitol Hill to discuss voting rights and even asked that they consider abolishing or altering the draconian filibuster to ensure passage.

"The 15th Amendment passed on a party-line vote. One Party delivered the vote to protect African Americans' right to vote," Richmond remarked.

"The filibuster rules shouldn't trump the Constitution. The rules are a means to an end. The end here is voting rights and free and fair elections."

Job Opportunity

Freelance Writers Wanted

Data News Weekly, "The People's Paper," is looking for freelance writers to join our team print and digital team. 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 and datanewseditor@bellsouth.net.

We can't wait to hear from you!

Job Opportunity

Administrative Assistant Wanted

Data News Weekly, "The People's Paper," is looking for an administrative assistant.

Compensation is competitive and detail orientation will be appreciated.

If you are interested, please email your resume to: terrybjones@bellsouth.net

This space can be yours for only \$80

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504-821-7421

Commentary, Continued from page 6.

Teachers must be equipped to recognize and respond to trauma, and students need access to counseling services. Act 353 which was passed in the 2021 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, authorized the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to develop and adopt guidelines for in-service training for the "utilization of trauma-informed educational practices." The passing of Act 353 codified the importance and concretized the opportunity to advance the implementation of trauma-informed practices in New Orleans.

The Opportunity: If Not Now, When?

With a federal infusion of more than \$ 220 million in ARPA/ESSER III funds for schools in New Orleans, this is a rare moment when the funding is available to address the need. Opportunities abound for exploring creative approaches to build SEL and TIPYU capacity, including connecting with partners

(Children and Youth Planning Board, IWES, Tulane's Trauma-informed Schools Collaborative, Navigate NOLA) who are doing this work and work collaboratively. It is equally important to use this time to build innovative approaches that can be sustained beyond the availability of ESSER funds.

We stand with you. We are investing in and with you. Any path forward in improving student achievement requires a holistic approach. We envision a community with a collective commitment to implementing emotional and trauma supports in ALL systems as an integral element of educating the whole child. Yet, philanthropy is only one slice of the pie. Now is our time to leverage public dollars to support the existing needs of our students and their teachers.

For more information,
please visit
gnofundersnetwork.org.

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WE HAVE THE TOOLS TO FIGHT OMICRON

As the Omicron variant continues to spread, we must remember that we have more tools than ever to slow the spread of COVID-19.

If you are not yet vaccinated, you are unprotected. Vaccines protect you against severe outcomes from COVID-19, like hospitalization and death. According to data from the CDC, unvaccinated people are 10 times more likely to be infected and 20 times more likely to die due to COVID compared to a fully vaccinated person with a booster shot.

- ✓ **Get vaccinated** and, if eligible, get boosted.
- ✓ **Wear a mask** in all public indoor settings, all indoor private spaces with people who are not in your immediate household, and outdoors when not able to social distance.
- ✓ **Limit exposure** to those outside your household.
- ✓ Practice **social distancing**.
- ✓ **Stay home** if you are not feeling well.
- ✓ **Wash your hands** with soap and water.
- ✓ **Get tested** if you're experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or if you have been recently exposed to someone with COVID-19.

LET'S GIVE COVID THE BOOT IN 2022!



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