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New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"



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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

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Artist Series Showcases Local Black Women Photographers



A visitor with their photography from NOAAM's Photography Fridays.



Christine "Cfreedom" Brown pictured with a visitor.

Story and Photos by Amaya Cooper
Data News Weekly Contributor

The New Orleans African American Museum (NOAAM) is finding new ways to capture Black life and honor historical figures by activating one of their ongoing exhibitions, "First Frame: The Preludial Exhibi-

tion to SEEING BLACK." The museum, located in the historic Tremé neighborhood, invited New Orleans-based Black women photographers to capture visitors through the month of February to pay homage to Nineteenth Century Photographer Florestine Perrault Collins, whom the exhibition celebrates.

"First Frame," an immersive exhibition that reimag-

ines the studio of Florestine Perrault Collins, a pioneering Black woman photographer from Tremé, from a free family of color. It opens the conversation of capturing and remembering Black people in a sophisticated light. Visitors from all over the city stopped by to get their photos taken in this curated moment of history. They got the chance to be professionally photographed in the Victo-

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Polaroids of visitors photographed by Christine "Cfreedom" Brown.



Delaney George photographing visitor, Dwayne in the "First Frame" gallery space.



Taylor Hunter photographs visitors



Christine "Cfreedom" Brown photographs visitors.

rian-style gallery filled with 20th-Century-inspired antiques and plush seating – an experience that was one time not attainable for Black folks. The fee is only an additional \$5 on top of admission.

What's even more exciting about this experience, is that it is documented by all Black women – a demographic of artists in the city who have been highly overlooked throughout history. So far, photographers, Christine "Cfreedom" Brown, Delaney George, and Taja

Janel have been chosen to capture visitors for this activation.

"This story of Blackness and this story of telling Black expression, in my opinion, is best told through a Black lens," George said. "I think it's important for us to not only capture our own people but champion our stories," she added.

So often Black stories are narrated by those outside of the community who cannot accurately speak about their life experiences. Black women are often stigmatized in so-

ciety and sharing their stories is a form of empowerment, the photographers said.

"Representation is important," said Taja Janel, the third photographer booked for the month. "I love that. Just encouraging children and our people to just embrace themselves and love being Black," Janel added.

Visitors were pictured smiling and laughing with friends and family to capture moments of joy to remember Black legacies. NOAAM's event pro-

vided an accessible opportunity for everyday people to feel like a celebrity for a moment. And the photographers said they were honored to be a part of this seasonal event.

"It's so fulfilling to see their reactions when they've maybe never seen themselves like that," Janel said. "Maybe they weren't in the position to hire a photographer or couldn't get family portraits taken," she added.

The "NOAAM Presents Photography Fridays" events have sparked

community and conversation to uplift Black folks through the merging of contemporary and historic feats within the community. The exhibition "First Frame," curated by Shana M. Griffin will be on show at the New Orleans African American Museum until June 4, 2023.

"This was such a fun project to bring onto our campus," said Gift Shop associate, Rachel Carter. "So many people came through the museum with such good energy," Carter added.

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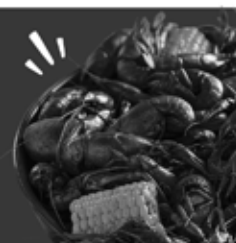
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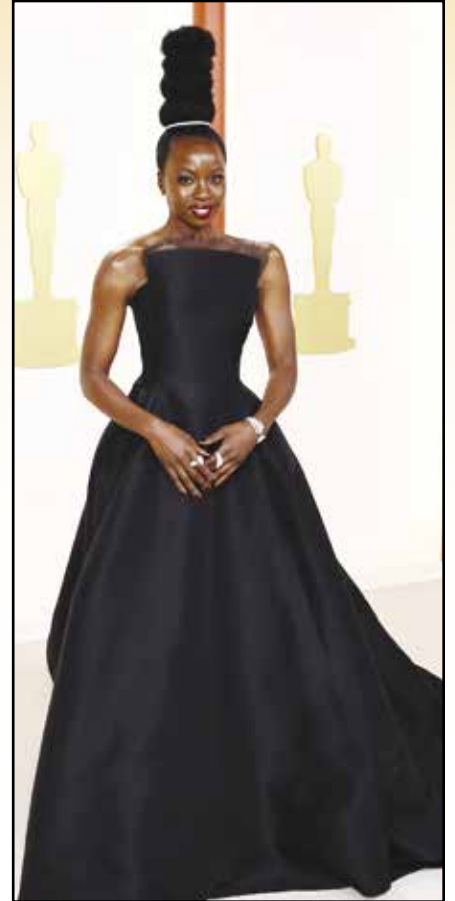
The Academy Awards – Hollywood’s biggest awards night honoring artistic and technical merit for the global film industry. With a who’s who list of A-listers in attendance in hopes of being acknowledged for their work in the industry and taking home the golden statue or in hopes of being noticed for their glamorous lifestyle and making the best dress list. Either way, it’s a night of glitz, glamour, and gorgeous fashions with over 18 million viewers watching from home anxiously waiting to see who’s wearing who. The glamour and drama began at the champagne-colored carpet walkway, as celebrities pose for the paparazzi photographers, followed by interview moments eager to answer the question; “Who are you wearing tonight?” As any fashion aficionado knows the fashions are everything and draws as much attention and excitement as the actual Oscar winners. The night’s style of fashion ran the gamut from grand voluminous ballgowns, to lush and vibrant eye-catching colors and beading from head to toe; it’s a night to pull out all the stops with winning details such as corset boning, rosette accents, and dramatic trains. Which stars stood out amidst a sea of Hollywood insiders? Here’s a look at some of the most memorable looks.



Janelle Monáe – Wearing a color rarely seen on the red-carpet, wears a sleek tangerine skirt with wide, asymmetric pleated waistband, black strapless bustier top and choker by Vera Wang.



Florence Pugh – The fashion risktaker got everyone’s attention wearing a voluminous nude color strapless Valentino gown with exaggerated puffy sleeves and black booty shorts peeking out.



Danai Gurira – Adding to her statue’s presence with a towering updo and wearing a Jason Wu sleeveless black ballgown.



Dwayne “Rock” Johnson – Real men wear pink! Looking confident and dapper in wear a light pink double-breasted Dolce & Gabbana tuxedo jacket with black slacks.



Harry Shum, Jr. – A modern take on the classic black and white tux with a wraparound sash belt worn over the asymmetrical black piping jacket by Adam



Ariana Debose – The Oscar Winner donned a Valentino, monochromatic wide leg pants set with matching bustier and billowing cape



Angela Bassett – Giving a queenly vibe in a richly toned purple organza gown by Moschino.



Halle Bailey – Wearing a aqua whimsical Dolce & Gabbana princess gown with a corset bodice and chiffon panel skirting.



Ruth Carter – Walking away with the honor of the first Black women to win 2 Academy Awards for costume designer – wearing her own designed ensemble. She wore a brilliant yellow taffeta, long sleeve, off-the-shoulder gown with a pink peek-a-boo accent at the hem.

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Congressman Carter Praises FY 2023 Community Project Funding for Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office



From left to right: Councilman Freddie King III, Councilwoman Lesli Harris, Jee Young Park, Innocence Project, Gee Park, Sheriff Susan Hutson, Congressman Troy A. Carter, Sr., Stephanie Legros Willis, Esq., ACLU of Louisiana, Will Harrell, VOTE, and April Winder, Southern Poverty Law Center

Data News Staff Edited Report

WASHINGTON, D.C. – On Tuesday, March 14, at 9 AM CT Congressman Troy A. Carter, Sr., hosted a press conference with community leaders to present a check for \$3,907,000 to the Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office (OPSO).

This funding will be used to design internal job training and education programs, release protocols, and post-release procedures to minimize the disruption of being detained and smooth the reentry transition. OPSO will also use this money to upgrade and modernize its information technology and data system infrastructure.

Celebration of the Life of Robert H. "Bob" Tucker



Data News Weekly's Publisher along with the Morial brothers, friends and Bob's daughter take a moment to remember some of his accomplishments. Pictured (Left to right) Standing is Terry Jones, Jacque Morial, and Brenda Thornton. Seated is Gee Tucker and Marc Morial, leaning down next to Marc is Iam Tucker (Bob's daughter)



(Left to right) Badi Murphy and Jerome Smith

New Orleans Agenda

Robert H. "Bob" Tucker Jr., a prominent Civil Rights Activist, successful businessperson, and dedicated community leader,

passed away on March 1, 2023, at the age of 82. Born in New Orleans, Louisiana, on January 29, 1941, Robert was the second of three children born to Rev. Robert H. Tucker Sr. and Mattie

Amacker Tucker. A Celebration of his amazing and impactful life took place on March 11, 2023. Family, friends, community and civic leaders were on hand to commemorate this occasion.

State & Local News

City of New Orleans Announces Job Training Initiatives of the Office of Workforce Development

City of New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS — The City of New Orleans announced the ongoing initiatives spearheaded by the Office of Workforce Development (OWD) for skills and job training.

"The investments made by my administration continue to make New Orleans a more thriving, attractive and equitable place to work, live and raise a family," said Mayor LaToya Cantrell. "I applaud the efforts of Workforce Development to train and prepare our residents for skilled, high-paying jobs, focusing especially on our most vulnerable populations. As our economy continues to expand and diversify, it is important that we to continue to set our people up for success by meeting them where they are, exposing them to the several high-demand employment opportunities within City government and ensuring they can support themselves and their families for generations to come."

"The City of New Orleans is committed to using Workforce Development as a strategy to



OWD Director Sunae Villavaso.

many of the challenges we face around housing, public safety and public health," said OWD Director Sunae Villavaso. "The Office of Workforce Development has been and will continue to be intentional about finding and utilizing as many resources as possible to provide quality training and careers for youth, young adults, adults and senior residents of Orleans Parish."

Earn and Learn Program

OWD is currently using \$500,000 in Wisner Funds to fund their inaugural Earn and Learn Program, which provides stipends to participants who enroll in training programs in priority industries. Participants receive a weekly stipend while training for up to 12 weeks. The goal of this form of apprenticeship is to provide stipends while participants upskill and or retrain

to more resilient and sustainable careers. The program is anticipated to start in the next few weeks.

Transitional Youth

JOB1, the programmatic side of OWD, has been working with several partners, such as Covenant House, Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS), Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC), local schools and businesses and more to assist transitional youth in skills and job training. This includes youth transitioning out of foster care, group homes and intensive homes and community supervision. Priority industries include advanced manufacturing, healthcare, transportation and logistics, building trades, green infrastructure and information and technology. All the partners involved utilize a shared database to ensure that no youth gets lost in the system.

Auto Mechanic Training

OWD is partnering with the City's Equipment Maintenance Division (EMD) to train more auto mechanics that would then be able to fill the vacancies at EMD faci-

ties. EMD will hire constituents as general laborers, and they will receive on-the-job training to become automotive technicians. As the entity responsible for the upkeep of the City fleet, including emergency vehicles, it is critical for the City and all residents that EMD is staffed.

Linemen Training

Last year, OWD submitted a proposal for up to \$100,000 in funding from the state through LWC to train more individuals as linemen. This proposal was approved for the amount of \$95,000. Each person's tuition is \$9,500, so this program anticipates training 100 new linemen. These new additions to our workforce are vital to our resilience and recovery in the face of severe weather.

Two other proposals were submitted to the state, but neither have been accepted for funding at this time. These were funding for supportive services and programmatic equipment and funding to train women in homeless shelters.

For more information about OWD's programs, please visit OWD's website.

Despite Increased Black Unemployment Rate, Biden Celebrates Robust Job Market

Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

America's employers added 311,000 jobs last month, surpassing the 208,000 experts predicted.

Further, the last two years saw more jobs created since 1940, a sign that the country has recovered soundly from the COVID-19 recession.

In January, employers added 504,000 jobs, and then 300,000+ last month, robust gains that pointed to high demand for labor.

However, despite the solid report, the African American job market remained problematic.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the overall unemployment rate rose to 3.6% in February from 3.4% the prior month.

Women over 20 saw an unemployment rate slightly rise to 3.2% from 3.1%.

Unemployment rates for Black women climbed to 5.1% from 4.7%.

Among Hispanic women, it jumped to 4.8% from 4.4%.

The Black unemployment rate peaked at 5.7%, up from 5.4% in January.

But, President Biden said he was excited about overall progress.

"I'm happy to report that our



economy has created over 300,000 new jobs last month, and that's on top of a half a million jobs we added the month before," a celebratory President Joe Biden exclaimed.

"All told, we've created more than 12 million jobs since I took office, nearly 800,000 of them manufacturing jobs.

"That means, overall, we've created more jobs in two years than any administration has created in the first four years."

Biden said he believes his administration's economic plan is working.

The President asserted that

when he took office, the economy was reeling.

"And 18 million people were unemployed, on unemployment insurance, compared to less than 2 million today," he stated.

"Unemployment was 6.3 percent, and the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office predicted it wouldn't get below 4 percent until 2026.

"Because of our economic plan, unemployment has been below 4 percent for 14 straight months since January 2022."

In February, the unemployment rate remained near the lowest level in a half-century.

"That's really good news. People

who were staying out of the job market are now getting back into the job market," the President noted.

"They're coming off the sidelines. They're getting back into the job market. And today's job numbers are clear: Our economy is moving in the right direction."

Biden declared that jobs are available, and Americans are working again and becoming more optimistic about the future.

He called right-wing Republicans the biggest threat to America's economic recovery.

"The reckless talk, my MAGA friends. This is not your — as you've heard me say, it's not your father's Republican party," Biden railed.

"But the Republicans in the United States Congress, what they want to do with regard to the debt limit. You know, they're threatening to default on our national debt. Planning to default, as some Republicans seem to be doing, puts us much at risk."

He continued:

"I believe we should be building on our progress, not go backward. So, I urge our extreme MAGA Republican friends in Congress to put the threats aside. Instead, join me in continuing the progress we've built. We've got a lot more to do, so let's finish the job."

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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.

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