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# BRANDY GALMON

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PROVIDING HOPE FROM NEW ORLEANS TO THE MOTHERLAND



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# Brandy Galmon

## Shola International 504

*Providing Hope from New Orleans to the Motherland*

**Edwin Buggage**  
Editor-in-Chief Data News Weekly

In an inspiring tale of compassion and dedication, Brandy Galmon, a native of New Orleans, has taken her commitment to giving back to a global scale, leaving an indelible mark on both her city and the world.

Brandy’s journey began with a humble desire to help those in need within her own community as a registered nurse, after graduating from Dillard University. “Always do more than what is expected of you.” says Galmon. Her extended vision to impact beyond local borders began her journey to seek out how she could not only make the difference but be the difference!

After going on a mission trip to Ghana, Brandy was moved to take action. She flew home, tied up loose ends with establishing her organization and prepared to introduce Shola International 504 to the world. “Shola”, a Nigerian name meaning “One who is a blessing to many” served as a foundational theme in her efforts to build a safe haven for people being affected by a multitude of healthcare disparities. Shola International 504, aims to reduce poverty and health disparities. Steadfast in her vision to build a world where all impoverished communities have full access to high quality health, education, and opportunities to thrive. Brandy’s organizational goal is to be a beacon of hope to the hopeless, the homeless and the heart-broken.

Shola International 504 is rapidly gaining recognition for its innovative approach to humanitarian work. One of its most notable initiatives is known as Shola’s House. A safe space to many, this house is dedicated to making a tangible impact on maternal health in Ghana. Its mission is to improve the well-being of expectant mothers and newborns in underserved communities by providing accessible healthcare, education and support. With a deep commitment to reducing maternal mortality rates and enhancing maternal care, Brandy aims to create a positive and lasting change in the lives of women and families. This approach not only helps the mothers in Ghana, but



Brandy Galmon is the founder of Shola International 504 and have been involved in humanitarian work both in New Orleans and in Africa for several years. When asked about her motivation, she humbly states, “Every day I wake up with two things...a chance and a choice. Most days I put more emphasis on my choices because that’s what determines my destiny.”

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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](mailto:datanewseditor@bellsouth.net) | advertising: [datanewsad@bellsouth.net](mailto:datanewsad@bellsouth.net)

Terry B. Jones	Contributors	Art Direction &
CEO/Publisher	Edwin Buggage	Production
Edwin Buggage	Glenn Summers	Pubinator.com
Editor	N.O Agenda	Editorial and
Sharonda Green	DNW Staff Writer	Advertising Inquiries
Executive Assistant	Jeff Thomas	<a href="mailto:datanewsweeklyad@gmail.com">datanewsweeklyad@gmail.com</a>
June Hazeur	Stacy M. Brown	Distribution
Accounting		by Terrence Lee

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also promotes self-sufficiency and economic growth.

Currently, Ms. Galmon is working on establishing viable networks with local and international hospitals, cultural entities and universities to build a bridge of support between Ghana and New Orleans. Brandy's efforts have not gone unnoticed on the global stage. In early 2023, she was invited by Pivolution Hub to speak at Pivolution Hubs Venture Connect in Ghana. Her speech highlighted the importance of health and wellness and individuals taking action to work together to address global challenges.

Because she is from a city known for its many festivals, Brandy has helped produce Ghana's Groove Fest 2023, which will highlight the birth of Shola's House. In September of this year, she will be bringing along several local artists including Sunni Patterson, Paco Troxclair and Kodi Glapion. This effort creates an environment for people to be exposed to global issues and participate in fundraising activities while



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# Ashe' Cultural Arts Center to Receive Community Service Award at 2023 Cutting Edge CE Conference and Events

## New Orleans Agenda

Much can be and has been said about Ashe' Cultural Arts Center. Simply stated, it is the cultural nexus of the New Orleans artists' community. As stewards of the cultural and artistic community, Ashe' uses its position to house cultural assets and advocate for the health and betterment of artists, culture bearers, and its surrounding neighborhood: Central City.

Ashe' owes much to formidable women leadership, Carole Bebel (Emeritus), and Asali DeVan Ecclesiastes, Chief Equity Officer. This award is as much for these extraordinary women as the Center itself.

Ashe' and its governing organization, Efforts of Grace, are the brainchildren of writer, producer, and planner Carol Bebel and Artist Douglas Redd (deceased). Ashe' forged relationships with the Contemporary Arts Center, Enterprise Corporation of the Delta, and the New Orleans Musician Clinic through their leadership.

Under Asali Ecclesiastes' leadership, Ashe' has continued to expand and renew its commitment to artists and the community with programs like "I Deserve it!" a groundbreaking initiative that trains artists and culture makers to serve as community health ambassadors. A partnership with partnering with Tulane University School of Public Health and New Orleans East Hospital with funding from the Mellon Foundation, Ashe' has continued to strive.

Asali Ecclesiastes, Carol Bebel, and the employees of Ashe' are powerful assets to the City of New Orleans. We are honored to present Ashe' as the 2023 Community Service Award co-honoree.



Ashe' owes much to formidable women leadership, Asail DeVan Ecclesiastes, Chief Equity Officer (L) and Carol Bebel (R), co-founder founder and (Emeritus). This award is as much for these extraordinary women as the center itself.

2023 CUTTING EDGE MUSIC  
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**Community Service Award**

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# Ms. Parker's Birthday Party at Bertha's

Photos by Glenn Summers  
Data News Weekly Contributor

Ms. Parker, Host, Promoter, MC and Influencer recently held a party at Bertha's Place Bar and Restaurant. It was a fun-filled night of food, drinks and dancing where her family and friends gathered for this amazing celebration.



Ms. Parker celebrating her birthday surrounded by family and friends.



Ms. Parker with Mark Jones, co-owner of Bertha's.



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



# Audubon CEO Ron Forman to Step Down in 2024

## Data News Staff Edited Report

Audubon Nature Institute President and Chief Executive Officer Ron Forman has advised the Institute's Board of Directors that he intends to step down from his current role at the end of 2024.

Forman has led Audubon Nature Institute for decades, serving first as Deputy Director of Audubon Park and Zoological Gardens in 1973, rising to Director in 1977. In 1988, the non-profit Audubon Nature Institute was formed and named him President and CEO. With him at the helm, Audubon experienced dynamic growth expanding a collection that now includes Audubon Zoo, Audubon Aquarium, Audubon Insectarium, Woldenberg Park, Audubon Park, Audubon Louisiana Nature Center, Audubon Center for Research of Endangered Species, Freeport-McMoRan Audubon Species Survival Center, Audubon Coastal



Audubon Nature Institute President Ron Forman.

Wildlife Network, and recently launched Riverfront for All.

"With his vision and leadership, Ron helped turn a once

shameful animal ghetto into one of the top zoos in the country," said Dr. Willard Dumas, Chairman of Board of the Audubon Nature Institute. "His drive to save wildlife and share the wonders of nature with people young and old has earned him countless honors, and his impact will be felt for generations to come."

"I have been so fortunate to have had the opportunity to help bring the world of nature to others," said Forman. "I have also had the pleasure of working with amazing colleagues and volunteers that have helped create this unique organization devoted to conservation, quality family attractions, and saving threatened and endangered species. Most importantly, we have been able to achieve this in one of the great cities of the world, New Orleans."

Some of Forman's notable achievements include:

- The opening of the riverfront in

the late 1980s with the development of Woldenberg Park and Audubon Aquarium.

- Chairing the Louisiana Nature Conservancy and working as a partner with Marlon Perkins.
- Revitalizing Audubon Louisiana Nature Center in New Orleans East.
- Helping launch the Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region, Greater New Orleans, Inc. and New Orleans & Company
- Chairing the Louisiana Stadium Exposition District (Superdome Commission)
- Chairing the Louisiana State Museum and serving on the Board of the American Association of Museums
- Serving as President and longest serving Director of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA)

The next step in the process is for the Audubon Board to begin a nationwide search for the next CEO.

## State & Local News

# New Orleans East is Booming

Jeff Thomas  
Think504.com

New Orleans East is making New Orleans great again. Non-residents love to hate the East. But recent developments point to the East not only being significantly better, but the biggest economic engine in the city. The resulting impact will change crime, politics, business, a nasty negative narrative and people's minds.

The city and the developers of Bayou Phoenix inched closer to finalizing that deal. The \$3 billion project is the biggest thing to hit the East since the new hospital. This project projects over 15,000 permanent and construction jobs. And while this is the most prominent and important economic development in the area, there are several other projects that are happening in tandem. Development of the lake-front airport and the surrounding area with an entertainment district



including restaurants and hotels is also on the works. And Lincoln Beach is getting cleaned up and put back into commerce. If Ochsner and Xavier University are considering putting the new medical school in the East, then call it grand slam.

## New Orleans East is Booming

Nothing stops a bullet like a job. Of the 90,000 residents who call the east home, around 100 were murdered last year. Drugs and drug related activity contributed to many

of these murders. Many young drug dealers see no other job options. But good paying jobs greatly diminish the lure and trappings of corner drug dealing. And working consistent hours means less time for other activities. Creating a neighborhood centered on work and productivity changes the very nature of the place.

The East is one of the most politically active subdivisions in the state. People always vote around 50% in several precincts. Those homeowners who saw green dots on their

property are now fierce advocates of property rights and proper political representation. They demand accountability and communication from their City Councilmen, State Representatives and Senators. The elected officials who help propel the East to higher heights have bright political futures. You might see future mayors or a Congressman in the bunch. Currently the elected officials are putting together a string of economic development projects that make the future bright.

Most impressively, African

Americans are investing in the East. In fact, every confirmed big new project is led by an African American. The nasty race-based narrative that the East is a dangerous and unsavory place depressed the area for too long. If you want something done right, then you should do it yourself. African Americans are pulling up their neighborhood up themselves. Forming alliances with smart and informed businesspeople, our local people are making a difference. Black excellence trumps the stale stupid talk about crime ridden and toxic. Not only is the East vibrant and strong, but the city of New Orleans will also depend upon the jobs and tax revenues created there. Any future crime reduction from these projects benefits the entire state.

Soon people will flock out East like they run to Metairie or the Northshore. New Orleans East is booming. Black excellence is on display.

# For LSU Track Star Sha'Carrie Richardson Completes Comeback with 100-Meter Victory at World Championships

Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Senior  
National Correspondent

Likely erasing all doubt about her commitment and ability, former LSU track star Sha'Carrie Richardson exploded on the outside lane 9 and overcame an early deficit to complete one of the most amazing comebacks in sports.

The flamboyant sprinter won the world championships during an electric 100-meter race in Hungary on Monday, Aug. 21.

The 23-year-old blazed through 100 meters at a career-best 10.65 seconds at the 2023 World Athletic Championships.

She defeated a field that included star Jamaican sprinters Shericka Jackson and Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, who finished second and third, respectively.

The Associated Press noted that the race featured four of the eight fastest runners of all time, including Marie-Josée Ta Lou, who finished fourth.

Richardson, an underdog coming in, became the American since



Sha' Carrie Richardson dominates the world stage in women's track and field meet at World Championships.

Tori Bowie in 2017, to win the women's 100-meter world championship.

The victory was as satisfying as any athlete could experience, as it comes two years after officials booted Richardson from the Tokyo Olympics for testing positive for marijuana.

Immediately after crossing the finish line, Richardson reportedly blew a kiss toward the sky, "cast her eyes on that beautiful scoreboard, and walked toward the stands in a daze to accept the American flag and congratulations from Fraser-Pryce, Dina Asher-Smith of Britain and others."

"My goal this year is to do what I should have done in these last two years already," Richardson said before the race.

Immediately after winning, Richardson dropped an exclamation point.

"I'm here, I told y'all," she declared. "I'm not back, I'm better."

## Cover Story/ Continued from page 3.

fostering a sense of unity. Brandy organization's vision is to strategically plant Shola's Houses in different regions and cater to their respective disparity.

When asked about her motivation, Brandy humbly states, "Every day I wake up with 2 things... a chance and a choice. Most days I put more emphasis on my choices because that's what determines my destiny." Her dedication serves as a testament to the power of one individual's passion and determination to create positive change on a grand scale.

As Brandy Galmon continues to expand the reach of Shola International 504' and inspire others to give back, her story resonates as a beacon of hope and a reminder that ordinary citizens have the potential to create extraordinary impact, both at home and around the world.

"God is always in the details". - Brandy



Brandy's goal is to make a positive impact both at home and abroad. To learn more, volunteer or donate go to [sholainternational504.com](http://sholainternational504.com) or email at [sholainternational504@gmail.com](mailto:sholainternational504@gmail.com)



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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.

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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### Job Opportunity

#### Administrative Assistant Wanted

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