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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

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The New Orleans African American Museum Kicked Off a Success REVIVAL



Elise Schenck
Data News Weekly Contributor

Recently, the New Orleans African American Museum (NOAAM) kicked off the first-ever Annual REVIVAL Cultural Festival calling on the greater New Orleans area to restore true Spirit-body-nature con-

nection through a visceral and emotional experience of the Grand Black Aesthetic on NOAAM's Bulbancha Lot and Historic Gardens.

The event was hosted by NOAAM and featured artists 504ICYGRL and DJ ANTWIGADEE! premiering an original dance party, and The Cultured Vegan - Chef Rain Truth served as The REVIVAL's featured food

vendor. Guests used Bayou Road as a physical portal into the Afrofuture-inspired Gardens into the night's message of change and shift to a higher frequency through beats, trance, and sensory surrender. Guests took part in other cultural activities including Black playing cards, Spades, dominoes, and Connect 4.

The event was part of an exciting new phase sym-

On the cover: NOAAM Executive Director & Chief Curator Gia M. Hamilton with family, Mandi & Candi Malbroue

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DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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Hip Hop Star, Odd the Artist.

bolizing the preservation of African American art and investment, and it will be filled with Black culture. In addition to THE REVIVAL, NOAAM offers three Signature programs: The free monthly family-friendly SATURDAYS @NOAAM; a free Quarterly Intergenerational Conversation Series Conversa-

tions & Calas, and FEATURES @ NOAAM, a quarterly cabaret-style live performance. With an admission fee of \$10 to \$20, visitors can view exhibitions from 11am to 4pm Thursday through Sunday.

NOAAM is located on 2 acres of land property in the Heart of Historic Tremé. The mission is to

preserve the history and elevate the art, culture, and contributions of African Americans in New Orleans and the African Diaspora. The organization recently put together a new Strategic Plan marking a new era of growth and attracting funding from major national and local foundations.



The Dillard University Diamonds

About The New Orleans African American Museum of Art, History, and Culture

The New Orleans African American Museum of Art, History and Culture (NOAAM) was founded in 1996 under the guidance and extensive support of the City of New Orleans Department of Housing and Neighborhood Development. NOAAM is located in the Tremé Section of New Orleans, a neighborhood that was once home to the nation's large-

est, most prosperous, and politically progressive community of Blacks by the mid-1850s. NOAAM seeks to educate and to preserve, interpret, and promote the contributions that people of African descent have made to the development of New Orleans and Louisiana Culture, as slaves and as free people of color throughout the history of American slavery as well as during Emancipation, Reconstruction, and contemporary times.

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NOLA Goes North for Fashion Prize



Tracee Dundas
Fashion Stylist

Once upon a time in a city on the other side of the State of Louisiana a Fashion Designer Competition was held, where not one, not two, but four of the competing designers traveled north to Shreveport to showcase their collection and talent.

The event, Fashion Prize, originally known as Fashion Project made the transition in 2019 when it officially joined Prize Fest in 2019. A total of five designers were selected after almost a year of producing a collection of work, from initial design to the final runway with the help from a series of workshops, critiques, peer support, and mentorship with industry professionals. The designers competing were Jazzmyne Cry, Kristine Pichon, Frank Robertson, Marwan Pleasant, all from New Orleans and Samantha Viti, from Phoenix, Arizona.

Amongst the exceptional and talented designers, Frank Robertson stood out, catching the eye of the industry professionals and fashion aficionados alike. Robertson, an engineering technologist and sheet metal fabricator, is known for using unconventional materials like tarp, bike tires and vintage fabrics to redefine eco-conscious fashion as well as up-cycling and repurposing. He is committed to sustainability and ethical practices. By using unconventional materials, he breathes new life into overlooked materials to create visually striking, innovative designs.

Frank's creative process involves extensive research and collaboration with like-minded artists and organizations like bike shops, coffee shops and clothing mills. He takes pride in designing functional and durable handbags/garments that make bold fashion statements while representing responsible consumption. Through his designs, Frank aims to lead the way towards a conscious and ethically driven fashion landscape, in-



Photo Credit – Jeremy Hernandez | @jeremy_hernandez_photo

spiring others to embrace sustainability and ethical practices.

Robertson's collection was noted for its "cohesive designs" with "well-exe-

cuted craftsmanship." The brand was described as a "functional luxury" collection with "mastery construction." Naming Frank Robertson of H.I.M. Studios of

New Orleans as the 2023 Fashion Prize Winner; taking home \$2,500 made possible by title sponsor, Ark-La-Tex Dermatology. Viva la Fashion Prize!

Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from these events.

Highlights from the Black Men of Labor Jazz Legacy Honors Gala and Jazz Concert

Photos by Eric Waters.

Last Week the Black Men of Labor honored and paid tribute to some of New Orleans Iconic Cultural Bearers, and in partnership with the New Orleans Culture and Tourism Fund celebrated the commitment, dedication, creativity, and contributions of the following Musician's.

The Incomparable Germaine P. Bazzle
Charles "Charlie" Gabriel

Roger Dickerson

Roger Lewis

Benny Jones, Sr.

Lawrence Cotton

Daniel Farrow

Al "Carnival Time" Johnson

Thais Clark

Lester Caliste

The Gala was to be dedicated in Memory of Peter "Chuck" Badie and Edward "Kidd" Jordan.

It was a great time had by all, and Data News Weekly was there!!!



BMOL Jazz Legacy Honoree Roger Dickerson



BMOL Members Todd Higgins, BMOL Jazz Legacy Honoree Charlie Gabriel, BMOL Fred Johnson, Jr., and the great nephew of Charlie Gabriel



BMOL Member Todd Higgins, BMOL Jazz Legacy Lifetime Achievement Honoree Germaine Bazzle, BMOL Member Gralen Banks, and BMOL Member Fred Johnson, Jr.



Mr. Michael Stykes, Alexa Higgins, and Mrs. Ayana Stykes



BMOL Member Gralen Banks, BMOL Jazz Legacy Brass Band Honoree Benny Jones, Sr., and BMOL Member Fred Johnson, Jr.



Jazz Honoree Daniel Farrow



Dr. Michael White Jazz Ensemble



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Anne Kirkpatrick Confirmed as New Orleans' New Police Chief

Data News Staff Edited Report

In what at times was a contentious hearing, the New Orleans City Council confirmed Mayor Cantrell's nominee Anne Kirkpatrick on Thursday as the next Superintendent of the New Orleans Police Department.

The final vote was 6-1, with Council member Oliver Thomas voting against and Freddie King abstaining.

Why it matters: (BOLD) It's the first time the City Council has used its new confirmation power in the hiring process for a top administrative official.



The New Orleans City Council recently confirmed Anne Kirkpatrick as the City's New Police Chief.

New Orleans Voters gave the council the power to check top hires last year when they approved a change to the Home Rule Charter, which acts like the city's constitution.

State of play: (BOLD) Cantrell nominated Kirkpatrick, most recently the Police Chief in Oakland, California, after a national search led by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. For her decision, she did receive some pushback from local leaders and members of the community. Some of them believed Woodfork was better suited to serve as the City's first female Police Superintendent.

Kirkpatrick was sworn in as the

Interim Chief on Sept. 22nd, replacing Michelle Woodfork, who had been serving as the Interim NOPD Chief since Shaun Ferguson retired in December.

During these contentious times, several council members previously praised Woodfork who was a finalist for the job. City Council Vice President Helena Moreno said she and others would work to create a permanent, three-star Deputy Chief Position for Woodfork, making her the force's No. 2 under Kirkpatrick.

The new chief has a large job on her hands in a city plagued with crime. It is a wait-and-see approach many have to see if she was the right choice to lead the NOPD.

State & Local News

Pride Gayla Holds Court for LGBTQ Community

By Iniko McNeil
Data News Weekly
Contributor

Photos by Iniko McNeil &
Jordan Booker

It's Homecoming Season for schools across the city. For most Historically Black Universities, the Annual Coronation to crown a Mr. and Misses are a traditional feature of Homecoming activities, marked with ballgowns, tuxedos and sashes. Often left out from the traditional nature of these activities are non-binary and LGBTQ students.

Introducing: The Pride Gayla. (sub)

Honorary Queen: New Orleans native and artist-in-residence: Laveau Contraire.

Pronouns: "Any" "Yeah! She, her, they, whatever I look like at the time," Contraire said as she headlined the second ever Pride Gayla organized by the Office of Inclusion and Social Justice at Xavier University of Louisiana, the country's only Black and Catholic HBCU, where officials said they are working to ensure that university and its activities welcomes and reflects all students.



New Orleans native and artist-in-residence "drag queen extraordinaire" headlined the Pride Gayla on Oct. 12 for Pride Week as part of Homecoming Season at Xavier University of Louisiana

The Pride Gayla on Oct. 12th in the university's Ballroom focused on the theme "Visible Voices" celebrating the work of LGBTQ artists and activists like Contraire. It was the centerpiece of a full Pride Week from Oct. 11th – 18th, that included resources from medical professionals on sexual and mental health and navigating gender, a "Barber & Beauty Shop" talk on the norms of masculinity and femininity, a yoga session to promote well-being and ending with an "HBCU Out Day"

in collaboration with the Human Rights Campaign to promote confidence in students affirming their identity.

"It's amazing because I didn't get to go to an HBCU so to have this love at an HBCU was just so monumental for me because it makes me feel at home, and I am giving back to the community and people that look like me, so it is just mine blowing," Contraire said at the Gayla.

Attendees at the Annual Gayla enjoyed a three-course meal while



Laveau Contraire with Pride Week organizers Glenn Caston, Xavier's Inclusion and Social Justice Officer and Kerri Lee Alexander, Xavier's Chief Inclusion Officer and Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs.

networking and creating community with fellow LGBTQ+ community members along with allies, determined to be themselves and share an intentionally created safe space.

"I think events like this such as our Pride Gayla are super important for our voices and our students' voices to be heard and tonight's theme is visible voices," said Glenn Caston, Xavier's Inclusion and Social Justice Officer in the Division of Student Affairs.

"What we are trying to do is cre-

ate institutional change and policy so using these platforms to hear from our students and to really welcome them into the space to ensure their voices are seen in everything they do is what our office focuses on," said Caston, who also serves as the Head Cheerleading Coach at Xavier.

While legislation in many Southern states is making initiatives around inclusion and equality in the

Pride Gayla, Continued on page 7.

Report Reveals that Racial Disparities in Incarcerations Persist, Despite Progress

Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

A recent report from the Sentencing Project has revealed significant strides have been made in reducing racial inequities in incarcerations over the past two decades. However, the study also warns that ongoing pushback from policymakers threatens to impede further progress.

The report, titled "One in Five: Ending Racial Inequity in Incarceration," highlights a notable decline in the lifetime likelihood of imprisonment for Black men born in 2001 compared to those born in 1981. While one in three Black men born in 1981 faced the prospect of imprisonment, the figure has now dropped to one in five for those born in 2001.

The authors attribute the decline to reforms, particularly in drug law enforcement and sentencing for drug and property offenses. Urban areas, predominantly home to communities of color, have significantly reduced imprisonment rates.

Despite these positive trends, the report underscores that imprisonment levels remain alarmingly high nationwide, particularly for Black



Americans. The authors caution that the U.S. remains entrenched in the era of mass incarceration, with a 25% reduction in the total prison population since 2009, following a nearly 700% surge in imprisonment since 1972.

The report further notes that the prison population in 2021 was nearly six times larger than it was half a century ago, before the mass incarceration era, and continued to expand in 2022. The U.S. also maintains a five to eight times higher

prison and jail incarceration rate than France, Canada, and Germany. Notably, states such as Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Oklahoma have incarceration rates nearly 50% above the national average.

"The reluctance to fully correct sentencing excesses, particularly for violent crimes as supported by criminological evidence, prolongs the harm and futility of mass incarceration," the authors concluded, emphasizing that racial equity in incarceration remains an elusive goal.

The report also highlights persistent disparities among different racial and ethnic groups. The lifetime likelihood of imprisonment for Black men born in 2001, while reduced, remains four times that of their white counterparts. Black women face an imprisonment rate 1.6 times higher than white women in 2021.

The Sentencing Project stressed that addressing these disparities necessitates a dual approach, targeting the criminal legal system and the underlying socioeconomic conditions contributing to higher crime rates among people of color.

To address the injustices outlined in this report, the authors said there remains a need for policies and practices changes that unfairly affect communities of color, and authorities should seek to reduce excessive punishment for all individuals. "The United States would still have an incarceration crisis," University of Pennsylvania professor Marie Gottschalk wrote in the report, "even if it were locking up African Americans at 'only' the rate at which whites in the United States are currently incarcerated—or if it were not locking up any African Americans at all."

Pride Gayla, Continued from page 6.

classroom harder for educators, Caston said it is even more important for educators and administrators to allow space for classroom curriculum and environment to reflect all students in the classroom.

"A you can see; legislation right now is pushing out these curriculum ... In my opinion it is absolutely necessary to have our students in

discourse. They need to be finding themselves wrestling with tough concepts and tough curriculum so that they know not to repeat it."

Affirmation is not only about being comfortable speaking and standing in one's truth. It also entails having visual, physical, relatable representation. Contraire embodied that self-acceptance at

the Pride Gayla, transforming as a self-described "drag queen extraordinaire."

The event held a sacred place for Contraire, who said she was inspired to see that institutions in her native city are creating space and celebrating all genders and gender identities, even when historically, they may have been isolated or marginalized.

"The option to be more free

and be more daring," Contraire said. "Because, I always say if I can get on stage looking like this, and doing all that you can, be bold in your everyday life and maybe you'll wear that extra outfit that you thought was a little too much for the function but if you can come to a Laveau Contraire Concert and see her doing that then maybe you can step out in your sparkles or whatever."

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