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New Orleans

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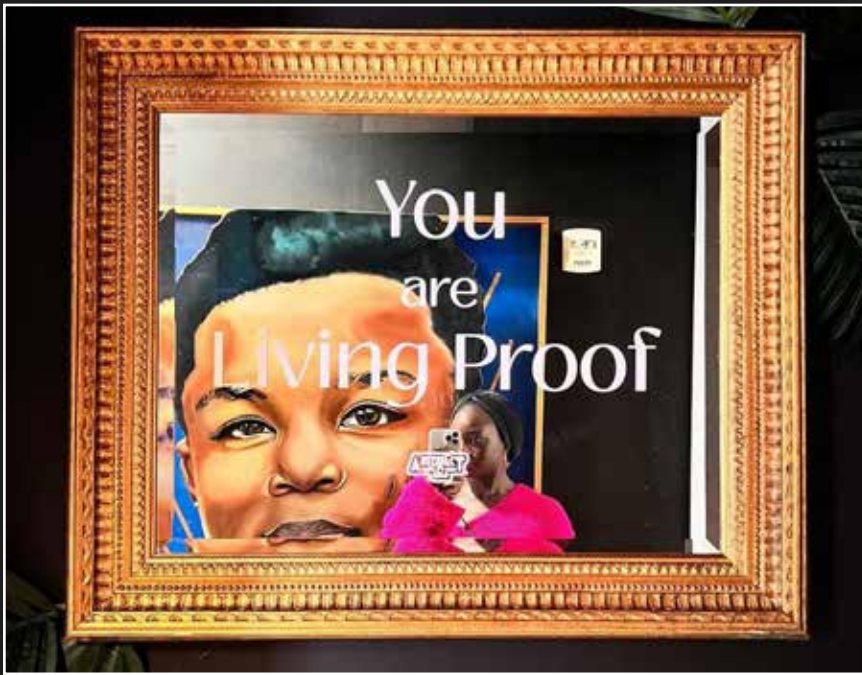
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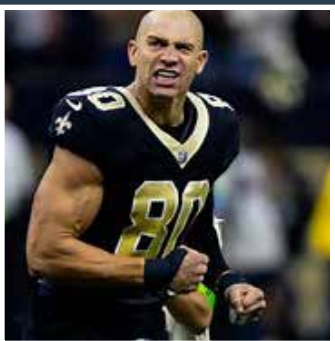
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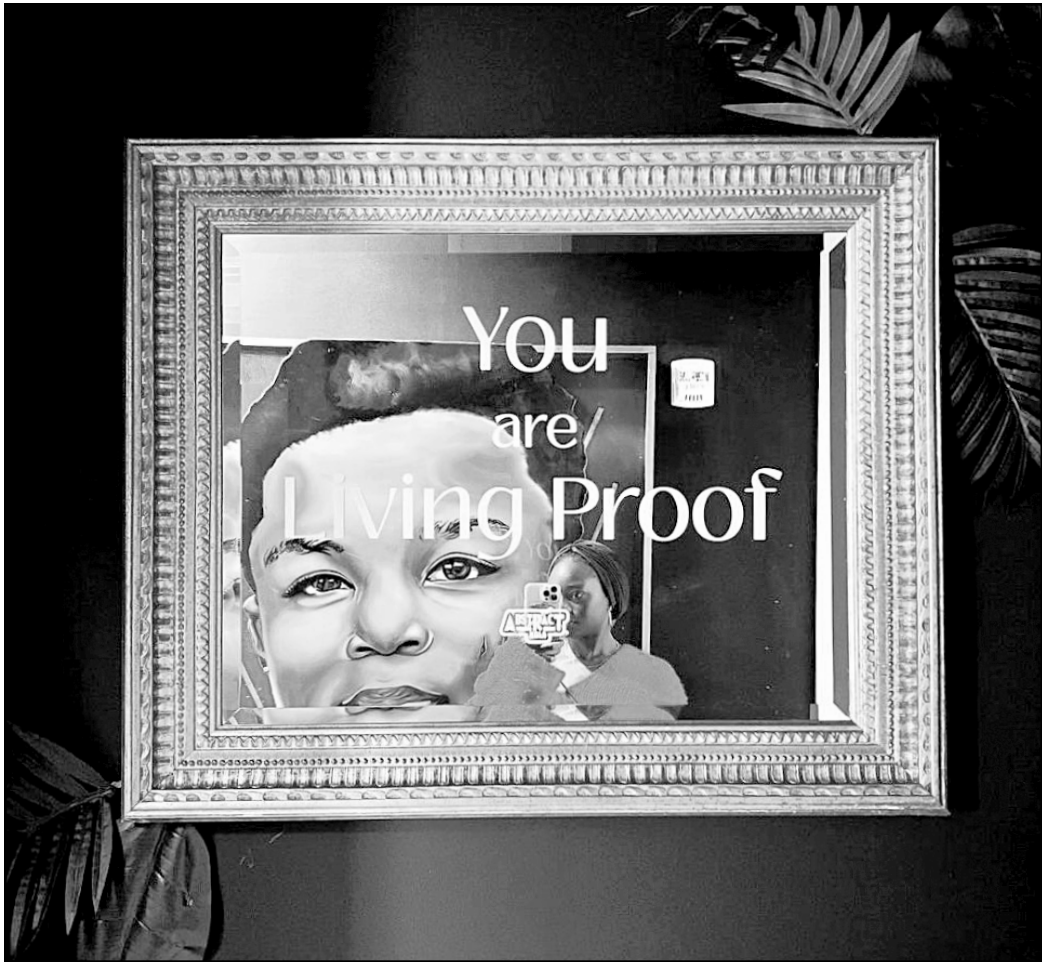
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Abstract Nola Curatorial Talks Spotlight Artists Through Dialogue



Abstract Nola hosted a Taste Making Talk featuring the artists of the Proof of Life: Phase II exhibit at the New Orleans African American Museum.

Iniko McNeil
Data News Weekly Contributor

New Orleans is the inspiration. This is the theme of “Proof of Life: Living Proof” an exhibit by Abstract Nola showcasing the work of contemporary local Black artists. The exhibit which runs until Dec. 17th

at the New Orleans African American Museum showcases the work of Delaney George, Nesby Phips, Jade Myers, Jamal Denzel Barnes, and Kentrice Schexnayder. The exhibit launched on Dec. 5th at the museum’s Governor Nicholls Street location as part of the Taste Making Talks with local artists.

“Your best weapon as a creative is being educated

about the industry you are trying to go into,” said George, whose photography exhibits have been showcased nationwide and in magazines. “There are people in the business and brands that are not art people and do not understand how it works so they are going to try to pull whatever over you. So, you have to be your own creator, your agent, you are to-go-to; be your own

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marketer, it is a lot on the creative brain,” George said.

As a creative city, Abstract Nola, founded by couple-team Antarah Leilani Hasan-Spears and Kenneth “Kulture” Spears, was founded in 2016 and serves as a dynamic creative collective to uplift and empower artists across all mediums. Through artists showcases, Abstract Nola provides a supportive platform for artists to flourish not only professionally but also socially and holistically.

“I think it’s just best to align yourself with a community that supports you or management that supports you; that way it’s not as much on you as the artist,” George said.

The artists shared one thing in common: how growing up in this city served as an opportunity for them to creatively express themselves. Courtney Nero is known for her groundbreaking visual art, Delaney George, a trailblazing photography and visual storyteller, Jade Myers, a dynamic performance artist, Jamal Barnes, a visionary filmmaker, and Kentrice Schexnayder, a versatile musician. Collectively, they showcase the possible richness and diversity of the creative



realm within the city. Their stories served as powerful testaments to the myriad ways art can be expressed, appreciated, and utilized to shape the cultural fabric of a community.

However, local artists do not always have the voice and support to advocate and promote their artistic gifts nationally and worldwide while

still holding the mission of using their art to positively impact their community.

“There have definitely been several challenges in the market we work in,” Myers said. “My first big opportunity did not come from New Orleans. And I don’t feel good about that but I do feel like I really did have to go somewhere else or be

seen by someone else from outside my community to acknowledge, ‘Ok we want to give this young Black girl a nice paycheck to do some quality work,’” Myers shared of her journey to be recognized in the industry.

The museum, with its commitment to preserving and celebrating African American history and cul-

ture, provided the backdrop for a conversation centered on the experiences and contributions of Black artists and is currently operating in its administration building while fundraising to reopen the entire historic site.

The artists’ talk aimed to inspire and resonate with aspiring artists while fostering a sense of solidarity within the creative community. The event sought to allow the broader community to witness diverse representations of artists and experience demonstrations of thriving creators, the organizers said. This intentional effort to bring attention to a dedicated space for Black creators within the art community underscored the importance of supporting, nurturing, and encouraging African American artists throughout the city.

“It’s rare you see a space that is made for Black creatives and artists just because of the sense of belonging here rather than other museums,” said J’Quan Ewing, who attended the artists’ event. “Talking about things like this with the community is just going to give the next young person hope or advice to make their process easier,” Ewing said.



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Winter Wonderment



Tracee Dundas
Fashion Stylist

Why Not Wear White in the Winter?

As the winter season unfolds, it's natural to gravitate towards darker tones and richer hues to match the cozy ambiance of the weather. However, if you're looking to add an unexpected touch of elegance and sophistication to your winter wardrobe, consider diving into the world of winter white. The palette leans towards off-white, beige, ecru, and gold tones, all colors that work well together to pull together an effortlessly chic outfit that is a standout.

Layering with neutrals: Start by layering your whites with other neutral shades, such as beige, cream, or soft grays. This creates a cohesive and sophisticated winter look. Pair white jeans with a cream-colored chunky knit sweater or opt for a classic white blouse under a camel-colored coat to achieve a tonal winter white look.

Play with textures: Creating contrast is key. Experiment with different textures such as knitwear, leather, and cashmere to add depth and visual interest to your outfit. For instance, pairing a white cable-knit sweater with off-white leather pants or an off-white faux fur coat with ivory leggings to elevate your ensemble, keep you cozy, stylish, and create a classic monochromatic look in all white for a crisp, clean fit.

Mix and match: White pieces work well with a wide range of colors, allowing you to experiment with different combinations. Try pairing white wide-leg trousers with a jewel-toned sweater or a white turtleneck with a plaid skirt for a playful yet polished winter outfit. By not focusing on matching completely, instead makes a subtle and luxuries fashion statement.

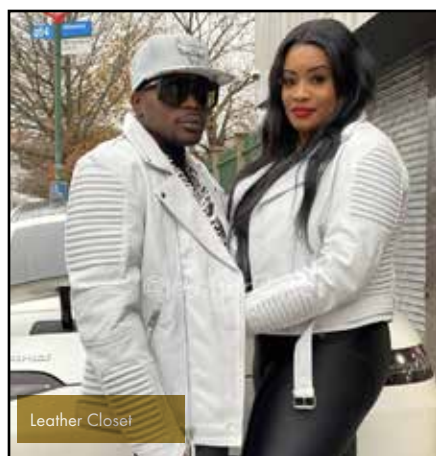
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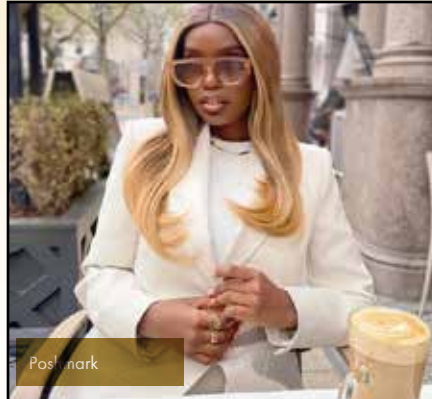
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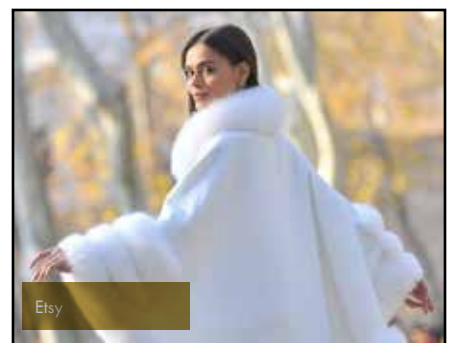
Gentleman Within



Style We



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ing is a simple yet powerful way to level up your winter white look. Add a pop of color with a vibrant scarf, bold gloves, or a statement bag. Alternatively, embrace the minimalist aesthetic by opting for

all-white accessories like a white leather belt or a pair of white ankle boots.

Confidence is key: Above all, the most crucial aspect of pulling off white in winter is to wear it with confidence. Embrace

the unique elegance that white brings to your outfits, the elegant touch it brings to the season's fashion landscape, and the fashion statement it makes that inspires others.

Photo Credit - Courtesy the Stores

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

Henry Consulting and H&W Drug Store Holiday Party

Photos by Terry B. Jones

Troy Henry of Henry Consulting and H&W Drug Store Holiday Party held their Annual Holiday Celebration on Saturday, December 16th, 2023, at the Press Street Station in New Orleans. His message was "Let's light up the night at our annual holiday party!" There was great food, great music, and lots of guests enjoying the comradery and the joy of the season. And of course, Data News Weekly was there too!!!



Troy Henry, Mother, Elvira Henry, Sterling Henry Jr., and Ruston Henry, his two brothers.



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Saints Still Alive in Playoff Hunt

Fleur De Lis
Data News Weekly
Contributor

Here we are in week 15 of the NFL season and the New Orleans Saints remained tied for first place in the NFC South after defeating the New York Giants. In any other year a 7-7 record during this time of the season, many teams would not be in playoff contention.

The Saints are tied for first place with the Buccaneers, but because of a loss in week 4 to the Bucs, the Saints are technically in second place. We in the Who Dat Nation will have to take a wait-and-see approach and hope our Saints can catch fire and make the playoffs.

This scenario may be the one that would not cause a major shakeup before next season. But of course, despite the Saints winning or losing, we will continue to support the Black and Gold.



Veteran Jimmy Graham is showing why he is one of the best Tight Ends in the league. Making crucial catches and touchdowns late in the season. He, along with the rest of the team is making a late-season surge in a fight in the NFC South to get to the playoffs.

State & Local News

Mayor Cantrell Issues Statement on New Orleans Recreation & Culture Fund Recipients

Edwin Buggage
Editor-in-Chief
Data News Weekly

Last week Mayor LaToya Cantrell today issued the following statement on the recipients of the New Orleans Recreation & Culture Fund: "The grant funding announcement marked a bright day for our city's future," said Mayor LaToya Cantrell.

"As I've said before, the City of New Orleans' greatest and most valuable asset is our people, especially those outstanding, compassionate individuals who work tirelessly on behalf of their communities. My administration, in partnership with the New Orleans City Council, remains committed to uplifting those who are boots on the ground making a difference. We will continue to support our youth, culture bearers, musicians, artists, cultural organiza-



New Orleans Mayor
LaToya Cantrell

tions, nonprofits and local small businesses by expanding funding opportunities for mentorship programs, victims' services, cultural and arts initiatives and more. All of this work is crucial and significant to build thriving communities. As we approach the New Year, we hope these funds lend a well-deserved boost so the work can continue through 2024 and beyond."

Some recipients included The Roots of Music, The Leona Foundation for Change, Reconcile New Orleans Inc., and The Anthony Bean Community Theater (ABCT).

"I would like to thank the Mayor and New Orleans City Council for making these funds available to help those who are working to make a difference in the lives of the people of our city," says Anthony Bean, one of the award recipients. "I believe this investment is money well spent and will help with the work we all are doing to help uplift our community and make it better for all of our residents."

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Largest US Credit Union Scrutinized Over Significant Gaps Between Approval Rates for White and Black Borrowers

Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

Navy Federal Credit Union, the largest credit union in the United States, is under fire for exhibiting the most substantial racial disparities in mortgage approval rates among major lenders. The disparities, reaching new heights in 2022, underscored a pronounced contrast in approval rates for White and Black borrowers.

Recent Consumer Financial Protection Bureau data indicated that Navy Federal approved over 75% of White applicants for new conventional home purchase mortgages in 2022. In stark contrast, the approval rate for Black borrowers applying for the same type of loan was less than 50%. The nearly 29-percentage-point gap in approval rates at Navy Federal stands out as the widest among the top 50 lenders originating the most mortgage loans last year.

Even when considering similar incomes and debt-to-income ratios, the racial disparity persisted. Navy Federal approved a higher percentage of applications from White borrowers earning less than \$62,000



annually than Black borrowers earning \$140,000 or more.

A detailed statistical analysis conducted by CNN revealed that Black applicants to Navy Federal were more than twice as likely to be denied compared to White applicants, even when multiple variables, including income, debt-to-income ratio, property value, downpayment percentage, and neighborhood characteristics, were identical.

Navy Federal, initially founded in 1933 to serve Navy employees and now open to all armed forces members, Department of Defense personnel, veterans, and their rela-

tives, boasts about 13 million members and holds over \$165 billion in assets. Last year, the credit union rejected approximately 3,700 Black applicants for home purchase mortgages, potentially impeding their path to homeownership, notably as interest rates spiked.

Bill Pearson, a spokesperson for Navy Federal, defended the credit union's lending practices. "Navy Federal Credit Union is committed to equal and equitable lending practices and strict adherence to all fair lending laws," Pearson stated. However, experts in mortgage lending and advocates for fair housing express concerns about the institution's practices, emphasizing that the racial gaps in approval rates raise questions about Navy Federal's commitment to fairness.

The widening gap in homeownership rates between White and Black Americans, exemplified by Navy Federal's 2022 approval rates of 77.1% for White applicants, 55.8% for Latino applicants, and 48.5% for

Black applicants, mirrors a broader national issue. In comparison, other major lenders like Wells Fargo, US Bank, and Bank of America exhibit smaller racial approval rate gaps.

CNN reported that advocates have urged lenders to improve automated underwriting systems to reduce racial disparities in decision-making. Some experts pointed out that Navy Federal's unique member base may have different financial characteristics than large banks, potentially influencing the observed racial differences.

While federal regulators review banks' lending under the Community Reinvestment Act, the network reported that credit unions like Navy Federal are not subject to the same scrutiny. Calls for legal revisions to ensure credit unions adhere to similar rules as banks have continued.

Sara Pratt, a lawyer at Relman Colfax, noted that racial disparities in mortgage lending may also be linked to loan officers assisting White borrowers more than Black ones. Despite having no evidence of such practices at Navy Federal, Pratt emphasized that the approval rate gaps demand explanations from the lender.

Federal law stipulates that lenders can be in violation of fair lending rules without intentional racism, as a "disparate impact" on minorities can lead to discrimination claims. This is not the first time Navy Federal has faced scrutiny over racial disparities, as a previous analysis in 2019 indicated significant gaps. This trend appears to have only intensified since then.

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