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## American Fiction' Director Oscar Win

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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

# Black Women's Contributions to American History



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# Black Women’s Contributions to American History



Audre Lorde, writer, professor and civil rights activist.



Katherine Johnson, a mathematician whose work was crucial to the success of the U.S. Space Program.



Patrice Bath, an innovator in the field of Ophthalmology.



Vice-President Kamala Harris making history as the first woman of any race to hold this esteemed office.

**Marie Bell**  
Data News Weekly Contributor

In recognition of Women’s History Month, Data News Weekly will present a series of stories that highlight their contributions to the advancing of the struggle for equal rights and justice. Which continues today, as we march to the drumbeat to widen the lanes of de-

mocracy despite those who are trying to turn back the hands of time on civil and human rights. The History of Black women in America is a rich tapestry woven from stories of struggle, resilience, innovation, and triumph. From the earliest days of the colonial period to the present, Black women have played crucial roles in shaping American society, culture, and politics. Here are some key aspects and figures in the

history of Black women in America. **Enslavement and Resistance** During the enslavement period, Black women bore the brunt of brutal injustices. Despite this, they resisted oppression in various forms, from participating in slave revolts to creating networks of support within their communities.

Cover Story, Continued on page 3.

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Cover Story, Continued from page 2.

### Abolition and Civil Rights:

Black women like Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth were instrumental in the abolition movement. Later, during the Civil Rights Movement, women such as Rosa Parks and Fannie Lou Hamer emerged as leaders, advocating for equality and justice.

### Arts and Literature:

The Harlem Renaissance was a significant period where Black women like Zora Neale Hurston and Nella Larsen contributed to literature and arts, paving the way for future generations.

### Politics and Activism:

Shirley Chisholm, the first African American woman elected to the United States Congress and the first woman and African American to seek the nomination for president from one of the two major political parties, symbolizes the political strides made by Black women.

### Science and Education:

Black women have also made significant contributions to science and education. Figures like Kath-

erine Johnson, a mathematician whose work was crucial to the success of the U.S. Space Program, and Patricia Bath, an innovator in the field of Ophthalmology, have paved the way for women in STEM fields.

### Social Justice and Advocacy:

Throughout American History, Black women have been at the forefront of Social Justice Movements, advocating for rights and reforms that extend beyond racial equality to include gender equality, economic justice, and LGBTQ rights.

### Contemporary Leaders and Icons:

In recent years, Black women like Kamala Harris, the first female Vice President of the United States and the highest-ranking female official in U.S. History, and activists like Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors, and Opal Tometi, co-founders of the Black Lives Matter Movement, have continued to lead and inspire.

Each of these points represents just a fraction of the contributions Black women have made to America's History. Their sto-



Sojourner Truth, was instrumental in the abolitionist movement.



Alicia Garza, Co-Founder Black Lives Matter.



Rosa Parks, civil rights activist.



Zora Neale Hurston, contributed to literature and arts, paving the way for future generations.

ries and achievements have profoundly impacted every facet of American life, challenging the country to live up to its ideals of

freedom and equality for all.

These stories and contributions emphasize the diversity and depth of Black women's

roles in shaping American History and underscore the importance of acknowledging and celebrating their achievements.

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# City Park Hopping with Easter Events

*Egg Scramble and Bunny Hops offer Easter Excitement for All Ages*

**City Park Conservancy invites you to March into the Park for an EGG-Cellent time.**

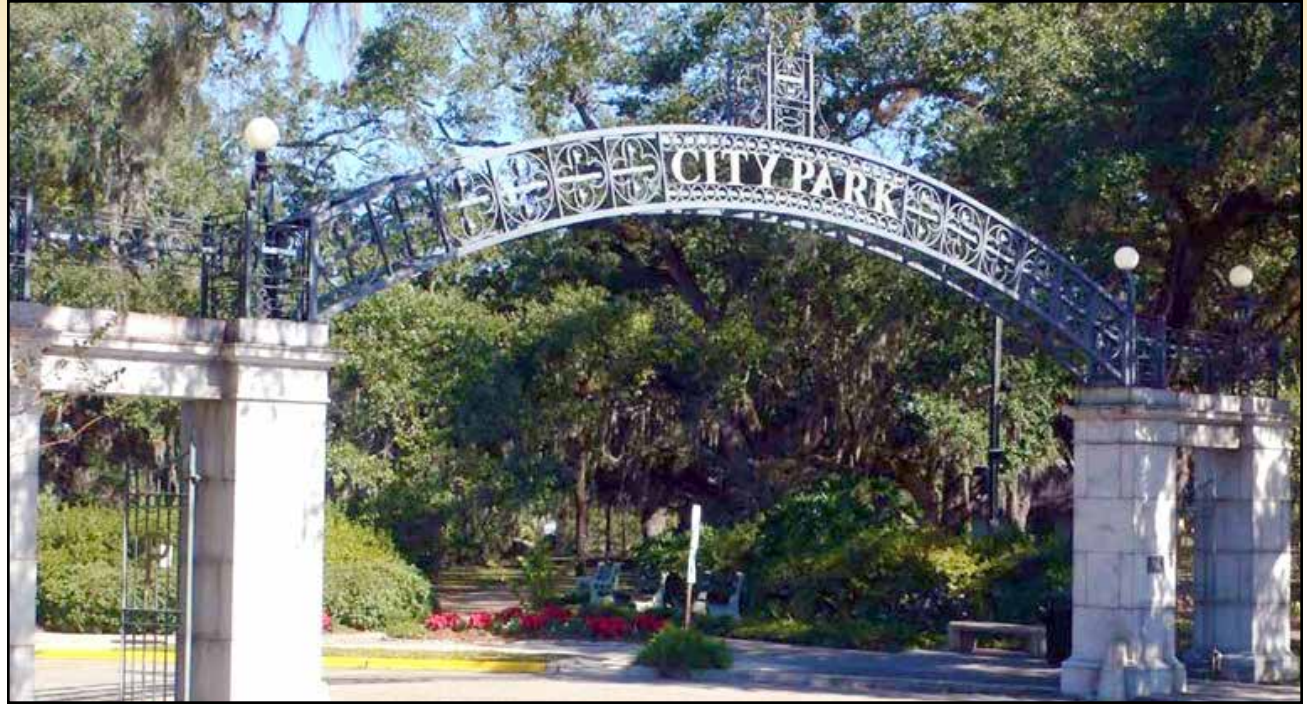
The weekend before Easter, 35,000 eggs will be spread throughout Carousel Gardens Amusement Park and Storyland for the Annual Egg Scramble. From 9:30 -10 am, Saturday, March 23rd and Sunday, March 24th, families will enjoy balloon artists, a DJ, and photos with the Easter Bunny. At 10 am, the hunt begins for hidden treasures including special golden eggs with Carousel Gardens and City Putt tickets enclosed.

Egg Scramble is recommended for children eight years and younger. Storyland will be specifically reserved for toddlers. Children will be provided with bags to hold their collected eggs. Tickets are \$25 for any guest over 36" tall and include unlimited Amusement Park rides – admission includes all-day access to Carousel Gardens.

The following week, the kids clear out as Bunny Hops moves in. From 7-10 pm, Saturday, March 30th, an adults-only egg hunt commences complete with open beer bars, jambalaya, a DJ, and novelty bunny ears. Tickets are \$35 for guests 21+ and include unlimited Amusement Park rides.

"You know it's officially springtime in New Orleans when you see kids and adults running around for eggs," said City Park Conservancy Director of Special Events Julie LaCour. "These two weekends bring us so much joy, and we're honored so many people choose to make City Park a part of their holiday tradition."

Friends of City Park members receive discounted admission to each Easter event. For more information, and to purchase tickets, visit [NewOrleansCityPark.org](http://NewOrleansCityPark.org).



## Egg Scramble

When: 3/23rd + 3/24th | 9:30 am - Noon

Where: Carousel Gardens Amusement Park + Storyland

Admission: \$25 | \$22

FOCP

Tickets: <https://tix.wrstbnd.com/e/event/eggscramble24>

## Bunny Hops

When: 3/30th | 7-10 pm

Where: Carousel Gardens Amusement Park + Storyland

Admission: \$35 | \$32

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Tickets: <https://tix.wrstbnd.com/e/event/bunnyhops24>



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# American Fiction’ Director Cord Jefferson Stresses the Importance of Wide-Ranging Black Experiences after Oscar Win

Data News Staff Edited Report

“American Fiction” Director Cord Jefferson opened up about the significance of telling diverse Black stories after winning his first Oscar at the 2024 Academy Awards on Sunday.

The writer-director, who won the Academy Award for Best Adapted Screenplay for “American Fiction,” stressed how the Black Community is “just as nuanced and complex and diverse as any other group of people” while speaking to reporters’ backstage.

“Showing these kinds of people who aren’t normally shown on the big screen, that’s important to me,” Jefferson said about his film. “I think it’s important to show diversity within diversity. I mean, it’s sort of like people assume that diversity means one thing, and you have one Black guy in a room and that gives you the totality of the Black experience.”

Cord Jefferson poses backstage with the Oscar® for Adapted Screenplay during the live ABC telecast of the 96th Oscars® at Dolby® Theatre at Ovation Hollywood on Sunday, March 10, 2024.



American Fiction’ Director Cord Jefferson receiving his Oscar.



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- Member of New Orleans Coalition (NOC) • Member of Lakeview Civic Improvement Association (LCIA)
- Community Volunteer • Senior Citizen Activity Volunteer

# Karen Nabonne Coaxum '77 Receives 2024 Alden "Doc" Laborde Award

## New Orleans Agenda

NEW ORLEANS - The College of Business is proud to announce Karen Nabonne Coaxum '77 as the recipient of the 2024 Alden "Doc" Laborde Award for Ethical Entrepreneurship. Named for the illustrious Co-Founder of Loyola's Center for Spiritual Capital, the Laborde Award recognizes entrepreneurs who conduct business by the high-



Karen Nabonne Coaxum

est ethical standards. Ms. Coaxum graduated from Loyola University New Orleans with a degree in Journalism and currently serves as the Director of Communications at Coaxum Enterprises, Inc.

Ms. Coaxum, along with her husband Henry Coaxum, have made substantial impacts on the economic development and improvement of the New Orleans Community. Coaxum Enterprises owns and operates three

McDonald's restaurants, and the Coaxum's serve on numerous boards, including those dedicated to economic development, historic preservation, the arts, and health and human services.

The Coaxum's dedication to education is evident in the creation and implementation of the Coaxum Enterprises Training and Resource Center. Their state-of-the-art facility provides instruction and education to hundreds of employees, which

allows employees to gain confidence and comfort before entering the workforce. Additionally, high school and college students who are employed are given a pay raise and tuition assistance as a reward for achieving good grades. In their effort to improve the community, the Coaxum's offer the Training and Resource Center to other organizations in need of a venue for similar purposes.

## State & Local News

### Delgado Joins Clean Power Institute's Inaugural Team for Workforce Leadership

*Partnership Will Help Delgado Create Industry-Based Certification Training Programs in Clean Energy*

#### Data News Staff Edited Report

Recently, Delgado Community College announced its membership in the Clean Power Institute's first-ever Workforce Leadership Team. The Clean Power Institute, a Policy Organization based in Washington, D.C. that develops Industry-Based Certifications (IBCs) for clean energy (such as wind and solar), will assist Delgado in developing training programs in clean energy.

The new training programs will equip manufacturing professionals with transferable skills and credentials in the clean energy sector through courses such as Renewable Energy Professional & Hydrogen Safety, Wind Tower Welding, Wind Turbine Welding, and Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER).

Delgado Chancellor Larissa Littleton-Steib, Ph.D. said, "Delgado is honored to join the Power Institute's Workforce Leadership Team. This opportunity allows us to collaborate with leading, clean energy experts to ensure that our training programs remain aligned with industry standards and workforce needs."

Laura Wilson Phelan, Chief Strategy and Program Officer of the Clean Power Institute said, "Delgado Community College's voice in the Clean Power Institute's workforce efforts is critical



to ensuring our priorities and approach are grounded in the lived experience of the students we hope to attract to the clean energy industry."

In addition, Delgado's Workforce Development, through the H2theFuture Grant and in partnership with the Clean Power Institute, is working to expand several advanced manufacturing programs and obtain certification for those programs from the Global Wind Organization, the only recognized wind energy credentialing body in the world. Delgado currently offers advanced manufacturing training for line workers and welders. Upon certification, the cre-

entials earned will be accepted in the clean energy sector.

Dr. Arlanda Williams, Vice Chancellor for Workforce Development at Delgado Community College, said, "Our involvement with the Clean Power Institute will give Delgado the opportunity to meet and partner with other wind sector companies for training and job opportunities for our students. Delgado will be poised to become a leader in Clean Energy Workforce Development."

For more information about Delgado's Training Programs in Clean Energy, contact Delgado's Workforce Development at (504) 671-6488 or visit [www.dcc.edu](http://www.dcc.edu).

Louisiana  
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(excluding Sunday, March 10th)  
from 8:30 a.m.- 6 p.m..

# President Biden Issues Stirring Call to Action in State of the Union Address

Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Senior  
National Correspondent

President Joe Biden delivered a resounding State of the Union Address, resonating with historical echoes and impassioned calls for unity and action. In a stark departure from his predecessor, Biden underscored his deep understanding of American identity, emphasizing the nation's unique values and the diverse tapestry that binds its people together.

"Because, unlike my predecessor, I know who we are as Americans," Biden declared as Democrats in Congress cheered while some Republicans could be heard hissing and ranting at the President. "We are the only nation in the world with a heart and soul that draw from old and new. Home to Native Americans whose ancestors have been here for thousands of years. Home to people from every place on Earth," Biden continued, setting the stage for a heartfelt exploration of the American experience.

Acknowledging Americans' varied origins, Biden remarked, "Some came freely. Some were chained by force. Some when famine struck, like my ancestral family in Ireland. Some to flee persecution. Some to chase dreams that are impossible anywhere but here in America." He spoke to the shared journey of every American, emphasizing, "That's America, where we all come from somewhere, but we are all Americans."

Transitioning to the contentious immigration issue, the President



President Joe Biden gearing up for re-election campaign.

asserted his readiness to address border challenges. "We can fight about the border, or we can fix it," he demanded. "I'm ready to fix it." The commitment to finding solutions underscored Biden's determination to bridge divides and work toward comprehensive immigration reform.

Biden then pivoted to a seminal moment in the fight for civil rights, commemorating the 59th anniversary of the march in Selma, Alabama. "A transformational moment in our history happened 59 years ago today in Selma, Alabama. Hundreds of foot soldiers for justice marched across the Edmund Pettus Bridge,

named after a Grand Dragon of the KKK, to claim their fundamental right to vote," he stated.

The President paid homage to the sacrifices made during this historic march, vividly recalling, "They were beaten bloodied and left for dead. Our late friend and former colleague, John Lewis was at the march. Five months later, the Voting Rights Act was signed into law." The historical reflection served as a poignant backdrop to Biden's urgent call to action against contemporary threats to voting rights.

"Voter suppression. Election subversion. Unlimited dark money. Extreme gerrymandering," he said,

squarely pointing the finger at Republicans. In honor of John Lewis and the heroes of the civil rights movement, the President fervently implored Congress, saying, "Pass and send me the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Act!"

President Biden condemned book banning in a forceful rebuke of actions that undermine core American values, stating, "And stop denying another core value of America our diversity across American life and banning books. It's wrong! Instead of erasing history, let's make history! I want to protect other fundamental rights!"

## DATA CLASSIFIED

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### 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](mailto:terrybjones@bellsouth.net) and [datanewseditor@bellsouth.net](mailto: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.

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