

AFRICAN AMERICANS
OF EXCELLENCE
Exhibit 2024





AFRICAN AMERICANS OF EXCELLENCE *Exhibit 2024*

7:00-7:05 PM	Welcome	Jo Elizabeth Butler <i>Emcee for AAOE 2024</i>
7:05-7:10 PM	Presenting Sponsor <i>TGP Gives</i>	Joe Gatewood <i>President - TGP Gives</i>
7:10-7:25 PM	Exhibit Ribbon Cutting <i>Frederick County Chamber of Commerce</i>	Rick Weldon <i>President & CEO - Chamber of Commerce</i>
7:25-7:30 PM	AARCH Society Remarks <i>African American Resources Cultural and Heritage Society</i>	Dr. Cheryl Gooch <i>Executive Director - AARCH Society</i>
7:30-7:40 PM	Artist Remarks	Tiffany Kowalsky <i>T.Kowalsky Photography</i>
		Brandon Chapman & De'von Wellesley <i>88Visual</i>
		Yemi Fagbohun <i>Yemi Art</i>
7:40-7:45 PM	Recognition of Student Artists	Timika Thrasher <i>CEO & Executive Director - Boys & Girls Club of Frederick County</i>
7:45-8:25 PM	Honoree Remarks <i>Premier showing of AAOE Exhibit 2024 videos</i>	
8:25-8:55 PM	Live Auction	Robert Wilson
8:55-9:00 PM	Closing Remarks	Jo Elizabeth Butler

MEET *the* HONOREES

The seven honorees for the AAOE Exhibit 2024 were selected by the AARCH Society. To find out more about these legacy leaders in our community, read *Stewards of a Better Tomorrow* in the February 2024 edition of Frederick Lifestyle (pages 35-42).



Bernard Brown



Mary Harris



Seaven Gordon



Ted Luck



Joy Onley



Wendell Poindexter



Gary Rollins

1st Annual AAOE Exhibit Honorees (2023): Pastor Rex Bowens, Tammy Davis-Thompson, Ruth Dredden, Aje Hill, Jason Lee and Dr. Rev. Derek Shackelford

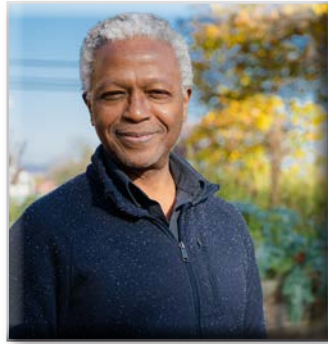
Yemi Fagbohun

Yemi Fagbohun was born in Nigeria to S. I. Fagbohun and J. T. Fagbohun. His father was a well known custom men's tailor, his mother a wedding dress maker.

Yemi arrived in New York where he attended Pratt Institute and earned both a Bachelor of Fine Arts and Master of Science in Art and Communications Design. For the years he has been an artist, Yemi has done drawings for more than one hundred Fortune 500 companies. Yemi has also designed more than 300 postage stamps for countries including: Azerbaijan, Gambia, Tanzania and more. Yemi's 'Girl Group' stamps are a part of the permanent collection of the Rock-n-Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio.

Yemi has won several illustration awards, including ADDY's and Illustrators Club awards. He has designed more than 200 greeting cards along with many children's books and products—with designs sold in a large number of chain stores and specialty stores across the country (i.e. Target, Neiman Marcus, Macy's, Duane Reade, Linens and Things, etc.). In addition, his murals and large installations can be found throughout Frederick County and beyond.

Yemi believes that art transforms communities and spaces. He shares, "My artistic soul finds most nourishing, not only transformation, but also using art as a vehicle to bring community together in shared spaces." YemiArt.com



Tiffany Kowalsky

Tiffany Kowalsky resides in Adamstown, Maryland, with her husband and two children. After serving as an elementary school teacher for twelve years, she decided to take a break and focus on her family. As she transitioned to this new season in her life, she pursued her love for photography. As she continued to learn and grow in her craft, Tiffany launched her photography business to serve the local community. After her work was

published in several editions of Frederick Lifestyle, Yemi invited Tiffany to share her photography talent in the AAOE Exhibit 2024. Tiffany is passionate about her family, her photography and the arts. TKowalskyPhotography.com

MEET *the* ARTISTS

Brandon Chapman

Brandon is the Producer and Co-owner of 88Visual. He has been a magnanimous part of the community of Frederick for over ten years. Brandon connects with clients and is able to pull out the heart of their vision. He loves living in Frederick with his beautiful family and working closely with underserved youth.



88Visual is an Emmy award-winning, full-service agency, that breathes life into potent and inspiring visual narratives. 88Visual offers strategic content solutions that go beyond traditional video production. Their team immerses itself in your unique stories and objectives, creating authentic, dynamic and impactful content. 88Visual.com

De'von Wellesley

De'von is a creative and innovative Cinematographer and Co-owner of 88Visual, and a five-time Emmy winner and recipient of numerous other awards. With over a decade of experience in the industry, De'von has developed a unique and visionary style and process that set him apart. He is a dedicated and talented artist who constantly pushes the boundaries of what is possible with video. He is committed to delivering the best possible experience to clients and their audiences.



Go to CityLifestyle.com/Frederick and find out more about these artists in the following feature articles:

YEMI: The Passionate, Innovative Artist Who Creates from the Heart
Frederick Lifestyle (February 2023)

LIVING THE DREAM: Dynamic Duo Brandon Chapman & De'von Wellesley Grow 88Visual from Humble Beginnings to Emmy Award-Winning Brilliance—And They're Just Getting Started
Frederick Lifestyle (February 2024)

INTRODUCING TIFFANY KOWALSKY: Devoted Mom, Passionate Photographer, Lover of the Arts
Frederick Lifestyle (February 2024)

MEET *the* STUDENT ARTISTS

Yemi partnered with the Boys & Girls Club of Frederick County to host an art workshop where students from across Frederick County (public school, private school and homeschool) created one art piece to contribute to the AAOE Exhibit 2024. Each student chose one honoree and created a pencil drawing, then added color using various techniques.

Alana Afari	Adam Kolbay
Jaylen Azane	Phoebe Kwak
Larissa Azane	Lindsay Mankatah
Margeaux Ayala	McKenna Massaquoi
Eyram Azoumar	Nyran Naylin
Sabella Barron	Quinn Nounbissie
Madigan Benna	Nathaniel Oladeinde
Tillman Benna	Rebecca Pawlik
Florence Binfon	Tymeer Pernell
Sheridan Brown	Mia Tarantino
Claire Browning	Kendall Teron
Phoebe Carpenter	Sophie Thomas
Mitchell Dahlin	Lauren Tisdale
Ronan DeSantis	Charlie Trainor
Andrew Fer	Charlotte West
Sofia Gonzalez	Felipe Williams
Madeline Guajardo	

All 33 pieces created by students are included in the SILENT AUCTION in the lobby of the Weinberg Center. Proceeds from the silent auction will be donated to the Boys & Girls Club of Frederick County.

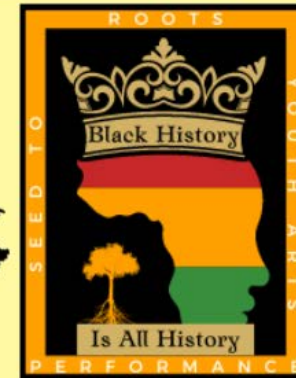
2024 Seed to Roots

Experience the Vibrant Showcase of Youth Talent at Seed to Roots 2024!

WEINBERG CENTER

MON FEBRUARY 19, 2024 | 6:00 PM

2024 SEED TO ROOTS A BLACK HISTORY CELEBRATION



JOIN US IN CELEBRATION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH
ENJOY PERFORMANCES BY
FREDERICK COUNTY K-12 GRADE STUDENTS
INSPIRED BY BLACK HISTORY AND CULTURE, BOTH PAST AND PRESENT

THANK YOU *to our*

PARTNERS & SPONSORS

Special thanks to everyone who brought the 2nd Annual African Americans of Excellence Exhibit 2024 to our community. We are so grateful for your support!

PARTNERS



FREDERICK LIFESTYLE™



88VISUAL



SPONSORS

Curator



Collector

MARK & LATRICIA BEISLER



Muse



Canvas



Paint Brush



IN-KIND DONORS

- Frederick Flying Cows
- Jamiee Cutwright
- Ken's Art & Frame
- Lytebox Photography
- Marie Rose Photography
- McClintock Distilling
- Ory Florist
- Robert Wilson Auctioneer
- Showcall Inc.
- Weinberg Center for the Arts
- WFMD

LIVE *auCTION* BENEFICIARIES



AARCH Society is proud to serve community members and visitors of all ages and cultural backgrounds who are interested in learning about and sharing their stories about African American history and heritage in Frederick County. **AARCHSociety.org**



The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination. **Frederick.SalvationArmyPotomac.org**



The Frederick Community College Arts & Visual Communications Scholarship Fund awards students in the Arts & Visual Communications Program at FCC who are pursuing a major in arts.

Frederick.edu/Foundation



The Frederick Rescue Mission commits to sharing our Christ-centered ministry with those in need in our community. The Frederick Rescue Mission serves residents from Frederick County and surrounding areas with grace and love. People

come to us when they are hungry, facing poverty and desire to break free from chemical addiction. We welcome all with open arms and a heart of compassion. We're working to better the lives of those in most need in our community, not just for a moment in time, but for eternity. **TheRescueMission.org**

The Honors Class

With a mission to enhance the daily lives of seniors in every possible way, **The Honors Class** was founded in 2013 to celebrate seniors, of all ethnicities, who are 90 years of age and older. We do this by hosting various luncheons, banquets and celebrations throughout the year. Our seniors deserve these honors and more. We stand on their shoulders and are indebted to them. We thank them for their sacrifice and all that they have done to blaze the trail and to make our journey a bit easier. **TheHonorsClass.org**



We are a team of dynamic individuals, on a mission to inspire a self-care revolution by being a catalyst for healing; touching people's hearts, expanding their minds and providing them with the necessary tools to live a **Wholehearted L.I.F.E.** (Living Intentionally, Fearlessly, & Expectantly). We help individuals identify their needs, understand options and make positive choices while managing the issues of Life, Loss, Leadership & Legacy. **WholeHeartCenter.org**

WITH GRATITUDE



We are so grateful for this group of community leaders who worked closely with Yemi for the past ten months to support the development and implementation of the 2024 AAOE Exhibit:

Leigh Adams Executive Director, Ausherman Family Foundation

Tawanda Bailey Chair, Maryland Commission for Women; Owner, Bailey Massage & Wellness

Leslie Barnes-Keating Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Frederick County Government, MD; Founder & Realtor, Keating Group of Keller Williams Realty

Jo Elizabeth Butler Founder, Ethiopian Children's Appeal

Yemi Fagbohun Founder, African Americans of Excellence Exhibit; Founder, Community Arts, Inc.; Owner, Yemi Art; Executive Director, African Americans of Excellence Exhibit

Protean Gibril President of the Board, African American Resources and Cultural Heritage (AARCH) Society

Kyle Harris Owner, Maryland Property Renovations

Erica Jarboe Director, TGP Gives; Director of Marketing & Brand Management, TGP Homes

Dr. Rachel Mandel Owner, Rachel Mandel Consulting

Ted Robinson Owner, ArtFrederick; Chief, Homeland Security and Interagency Branch, FEMA, Dept of Homeland Security

Dr. Rev. Derek Shackelford Alderman, City of Frederick; CEO of City of Hope; Pastor, Asbury 4-Pillar Church

Timika Thrasher CEO, Boys & Girls Club of Frederick County (BGCF); Owner, Thrasher's Cleaning Service

Kristen Wojdan Founder/Editor, Frederick Lifestyle Magazine

LIVE AUCTION



This number is unique to your program and may be used as your bidder paddle for the live auction tonight. (All bidders for the live auction must be 18 years or older.) Thank you for being a part of this special evening. We are so grateful for your presence and support!