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## CLIMATE LEGISLATION CONSIDERED A GAME CHANGER FOR BLACK AMERICA

**Black and Brown communities tend to be where pollution is heaviest with higher exposure to carbon and all emission sectors, NAACP**

*Jacqueline Smith waits with her mother Lucille Matthew for transportation after they were rescued from their flooded neighborhood in the aftermath of Hurricane Ida on August 30, 2021 in Laplace, Louisiana. (Photo by Scott Olson/Getty Images)*

**Black people are 40 percent more likely to live in places where extreme temperatures driven by climate change will result in higher mortality rates, EPA analysis.**



## Brown U. acquires writings, artwork of incarcerated ex-Black Panther Mumia Abu-Jamal

Philadelphiaobserver.com

**B**rown University has acquired the personal papers and artwork of incarcerated former Black Panther, Mumia Abu-Jamal.

The Ivy League school obtained the documents in an effort “to advance research on incarceration,” the school announced on Wednesday. The records, papers, and art pieces will be held in a collection at the John Hay Library.

The collection is in partnership with Brown’s Pembroke Center and also includes related personal papers from historian Johanna Fernández — a 1993 Brown graduate and longtime advocate for Abu-Jamal. The documents were acquired through a trust for an undisclosed price and include more than 60 boxes of materials spanning the years 1981 to 2020, AP News reports.

The former journalist is serving a life sentence without the possibility of parole for the fatal shooting of Philadelphia Police Officer Daniel Faulkner on Dec. 9, 1981. Witnesses testified that Abu-Jamal shot and killed Faulkner while he was arresting his brother

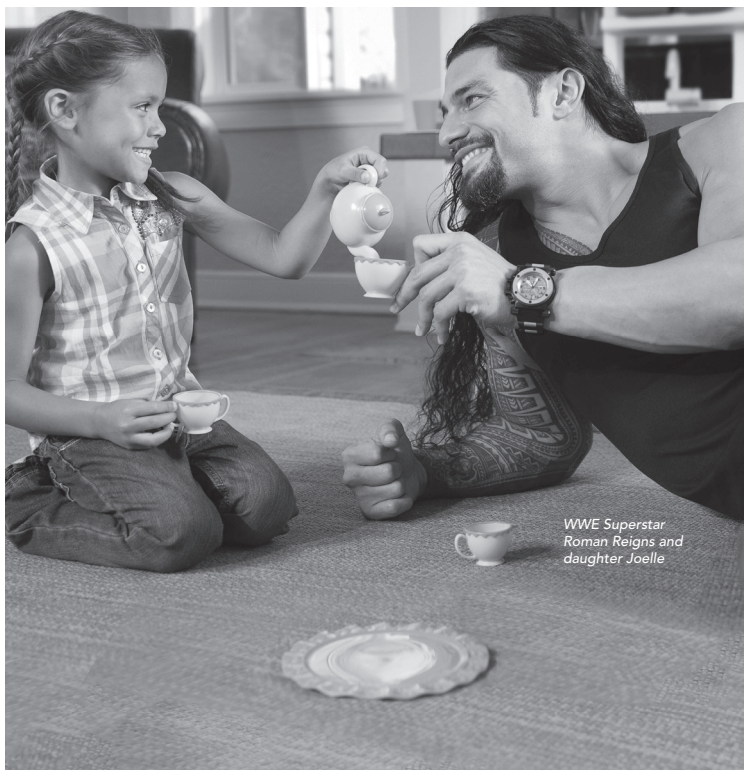
during a traffic stop.

But for decades, Abu-Jamal has maintained his innocence. Prior to the shooting, in the 1970s and early 1980s, Abu-Jamal worked as a radio reporter, where he covered MOVE and the organization’s tension with police, and highlighted other issues related to racism, systemic oppression, and politics, as noted by Billy Penn.

By the time he was on trial for Faulkner’s murder, Abu-Jamal was labeled a MOVE sympathizer and judged for wearing his hair in dreadlocks, according to reports. Abu-Jamal’s incarceration and sentencing remain at the center of fierce debates around racial injustice, the death penalty, and the flawed justice system.

Abu-Jamal’s work will be included in the John Hay Library: Voices of Mass Incarceration collection.

“This collection will give scholars a rare chance to peer inside prison walls and understand how incarcerated people live, think and advocate for themselves,” said Kenvi Phillips, director of library diversity, equity and inclusion at Brown.



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# Serena’s not ready to retire

Fans show mad love for Serena

By Andrew Rosario

**I**t had all of the excitement of a U.S. Open Women’s Final. When Serena Williams came out to center court at Arthur Ashe Stadium Monday night sold out crowd serenaded her with standing ovation that felt it would last forever. Last week, Williams



New York Shows Mad Love For Serena  
Photo: Special to the Philadelphia Observer

announced she will be leaving the game of tennis but chose not to use the word “retirement”. Instead she said she “is revolving from tennis.”

Williams faced Danka Kovinic from Montenegro in front of a packed house of over 20,000. Even the grounds on the outside of the stadium was standing room only. On hand to cheer her on was Spike Lee, Anthony Anderson, Bill Clinton, Queen Latifah, Gayle King, Billie Jean King, Hugh Jackman, Anna Wintour and Mayor Eric Adams.

Perhaps the crowd fueled Serena as she jumped out to a 2-0 first set lead. Kovinic righted herself taking advantage of poor Williams serves and unforced errors to go up 3-2. Game 6 saw Serena break tying the match at 3. Serena then coasted the last 3 games watching Danika commit a series of her own unforced errors as well as double faults.

The second set was similar to the first as Kovinic would go away easy. Serena made all the shots when it counted and after facing as she did not face a break point after facing 4 in the opening set. Williams took out Kovinic 6-3 moving on to the second round Wednesday against #2 ranked Annett Kontaviet. What will make that match even more difficult is the Williams sisters will play doubles earlier that day.

Afterwards, Williams talked about the love she felt from the crowd. “It was really overwhelming. It was so loud I could feel it in my chest it was a feeling I will never forget.

The history of the Williams sisters and King go back when they 6 and 7 years old in April of 1988. King immediately knew they were special. One of the things that stood out to King was that they were very focused on the court. Said King of Serena, “thank you for your leadership and commitment to diversity, equality and inclusion. Especially for women of color.”

The crowds will continue to come out in full force every time Serena steps on the court. The energy they infuse could take her deep into the tournament.

It’s hard to imagine that the only time Coco Gauff stepped on the court at Arthur Ashe Stadium was her first time Monday afternoon. Gauff entered the tournament as the #12 seed and faced Leolia Jeanjean from France. Behind a dominant serve in which she connected on 91% of her first serve points, Gauff cruised 6-2, 6-3 to advance to the second round where she will face Romanian Elena-Gabriela Ruse. After dropping the first set to Australia’s Daria Gavrilova, Ruse rallied and won the next 2 sets 6-2, 6-4. Gauff claims she was nervous stepping on the court but you could not tell by her performance. Saying afterwards, “I was really nervous, I was feeling the pressure.

Like the Williams sisters, Gauff (ranked #1 woman’s double) will play Wednesday along with partner Jessica Pegula facing Leylah Fernandez and Daria Gavrilova

## Parents call for firing of art teacher over her voluptuous body

Philadelphiaobserver.com

\*An art teacher from a small New Jersey town has allegedly upset many parents of her young students because of her voluptuous body.

As reported by The Buzz, Roxsana Diaz goes by The Art Teacher on Instagram, where she has more than 750,000 followers. According to American Chronicles and The Recent Times, parents have asked officials at the school where she works to fire Diaz because “Her body distracts the students,” one unidentified parent reportedly said on social media.

There aren’t too many details online about this woman, other than she’s an artist who allegedly uses her social media presence to spread body positivity awareness. One of the articles mentioned above noted that she has talked about the criticism from parents on her YouTube channel.



# Historic climate legislation called a game changer for Black America

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire

Consensus on climate provisions marks a historic step in the right direction for tackling the climate crisis that impacts Black people and people of color at disproportionate rates, the NAACP noted following Senate passage of the Inflation Reduction Act.

In a statement, the NAACP said Black and Brown communities have higher exposure to carbon emissions and all emission sectors.

Therefore, financial investment in climate issues and plans to reduce toxic emissions would be a vital step toward climate justice, the civil rights organization stated.

As the U.S. House of Representatives takes up the more than \$700 billion economic package that includes healthcare, tax, and climate change, White House officials and climate justice activists said the bill would greatly benefit people of color.

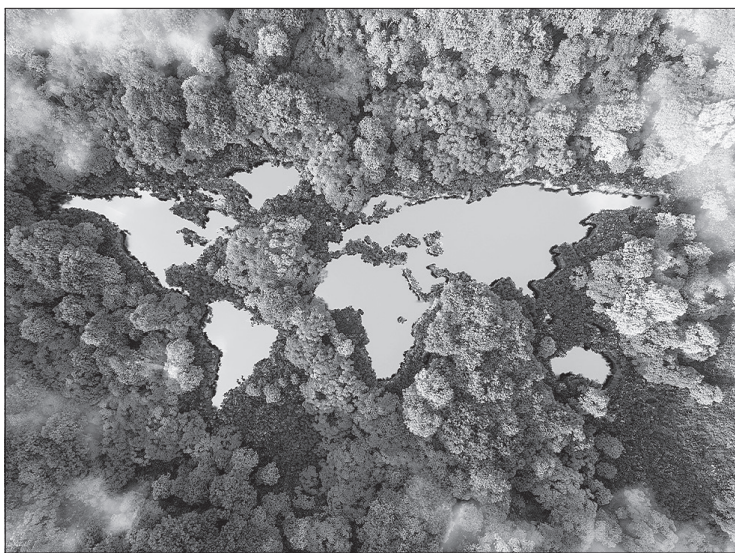
"It puts the money with the mission. It's a large amount of money, and the task in front of us is huge," Felicia Davis, the co-founder of HBCU Green Fund.

Davis and White House Deputy National Climate Director Ali Zaidi joined the National Newspaper Publishers Association's "Let It Be Known" to discuss the historic piece of legislation.

"The challenge has always been accessing the resources to do whatever. We all would love solar panels and drive electric cars," Davis stated.

"This legislation gives lower-income families access to those things, and it will make resources available if you're buying new or used electric vehicles. Also, the funds are now available for small businesses who might want to install electric charging stations."

Zaidi said the legislation would successfully tackle problems associated with consumer costs. In



Eliminating pollution counts among the most significant victories in the bill. (Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA)

addition, he said it would create family-sustaining wages and significantly reduce or eliminate pollution.

"It's really important for families right now. On average, this legislation will help cut annual energy bills by hundreds of dollars by helping families access technologies that are often out of reach, especially for low-to-moderate income families," Zaidi continued.

"Things like solar panels on your roof, a storage unit in your garage, switching to electric heat, or an electric stove. It's often hard for people to afford that upfront cost, but the legislation provides rebates and tax credits of up to \$14,000 for low-to-moderate income families."

Zaidi called the legislation "a big deal."

"It makes it a lot more affordable for families. The equivalent price of charging electric vehicles is \$1.20 per gallon, a huge shift that will save money," Zaidi asserted.

"Also, by creating jobs that folks can work in this industry, we've put in the bill a lot of incentives and

rebates that will help Americans expand the use of technology and the requirements for an apprenticeship. People will be able to raise a family with this income."

Eliminating pollution counts among the most significant victories in the bill, Zaidi continued.

"Black and Brown communities tend to be where pollution is heaviest, and they are usually left out and left behind," he said.

"There's a targeted focus with a \$60 billion investment in environmental justice which recognizes this issue and takes it head on."

The bill includes a minimum 15% tax on most corporations that make more than \$1 billion a year in profits and \$369 billion for climate action – the largest investment in the issue in American history.

Overall, the bill will allow the U.S. to cut the nation's carbon emissions by 40 percent in less than a decade.

"We don't want to miss this opportunity," Davis warned. "This is game-changing – transformational. We're starting at ground zero, and we must grab it."

# Biden slowly winning LBJ, FDR like praise as legislative victories mount

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire

As Donald Trump told New York prosecutors that he'd invoke his Fifth Amendment rights against self-incrimination, President Joe Biden sat behind a desk at the White House, where he signed into law the PACT Act, legislation that expands health care benefits for veterans who developed illnesses because of exposure to toxic substances at U.S. military bases.

"The PACT Act is the least we can do for the countless men and women, many of whom may be in this room, who suffered toxic exposure while serving their country," Biden stated.

"This new law matters. It matters a lot."

Facing unrelenting criticism because of high gas prices, inflation, and his low-approval rating, Biden has built a track record that has gone almost overlooked.

If he continues the string of success he has enjoyed in getting his mandate through Congress, historians might revisit Biden's presidency as one of the most consequential in American history.

Despite Republican leadership vowing to do all they can to stunt Biden's agenda, the president has pushed through game-changing legislation like the PACT Act, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill, the American Rescue Plan, and the CHIPS and Science Act.

He's displayed a steady hand in returning affordability to gas prices, succeeded in expanding NATO, and monthly jobs reports continue to show increases.

"You can say what you will, that Biden is too old, he's not a deal maker, he's sleepy Joe, or whatever, but he's getting things done even though he's not getting the credit he deserves," Stacey Rouse, a D.C.-based utility worker opined.

"It's funny. When the other guy [Trump] was in office, you heard so much talk and bragging about what he's doing, and the media blanketed him with coverage," Rouse asserted.

"Now, you got the F.B.I. raiding Trump. He's pleading the Fifth at depositions, and Biden is conducting business the way you would want your president to conduct himself. I think he's accomplished so much, but we don't hear about it. I think ten years or so from now, and people will look back and realize what a good president this man is."

Rouse's colleague, Scott Anthony, agreed.

"I was a skeptic because that thing about sleepy Joe seemed true," Anthony said.

"But, it seems other people are doing the sleeping because Biden is getting things done and he's just not getting the credit."

Upon signing the CHIPS and Science Act on August 10, Biden also peeked into the future and prognosticated what historians and others might determine.

"I honest to God believe that 50, 75, 100 years from now, people who will look back on this week, they'll know that we met this moment," Biden declared.

An acronym for Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors, the CHIPS Act provides \$10 billion to invest in regional technology hubs across the country and a 25% investment tax credit for expenses for manufacturing of semiconductors and other equipment.

The bill earmarks about \$100 billion in spending over five years on scientific research and \$80 billion for the National Science Foundation.

"Those early aspirations to being another Franklin D. Roosevelt and Lyndon B. Johnson, the ones that felt like so much hubris in the past few months, are being heard again in the halls of the West Wing and the Capitol," Peter Baker wrote about Biden for the New York Times.

"House aides argue that the string of congressional victories – capped by the package of climate, health and tax provisions that finally cleared the Senate – compares favorably to the two-year legislative record of most any other modern president, even perhaps F.D.R. and L.B.J.," Baker penned.

Politico noted that "Biden has never had a more productive stretch of his presidency," with wins stacking atop wins at a most opportune time.

"Already the victories have enlivened beleaguered supporters and injected new optimism across the West Wing," Politico reported.

"Aides describe a burst of energy in the executive mansion ... Biden and his staff suddenly find themselves with a host of successes to talk about, from the reconciliation bill to the China competitiveness bill, from legislation to give health benefits to veterans harmed by toxic burn pits to a robust jobs market."

# Racist Jim Crow provisions are alive and suppressing Black votes in Mississippi

Philadelphiaobserver.com

There's been a new wave of voter suppression laws that have become more prevalent ever since Black people exercised their right to vote in record numbers during the 2020 Presidential election.

Republican-led states such as Texas, Florida, and Georgia are

just reimagining voting suppression tactics from an old playbook of poll taxes and Jim Crow laws. That's abundantly clear from what is happening in Mississippi right now. According to the Mississippi Free Press, the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has allowed an 1890 Jim-Crow era voting law to continue.

Yes, in 2022, remnants of Jim

Crow are still allowed to exist in southern states. While the primarily conservative court conceded the Mississippi law was steeped in racism, they believed the state had done enough since then to dilute the law's impact on Black Americans.

Just as recently as April, Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves vetoed a bill that would have overturned this provision. No wonder Mississippi has never elected a Black candidate for office, despite having the largest Black population in the country.

In 1890, newly emancipated Black Americans were making progress using their right to vote. At the same time, a white supremacist-dominated Mississippi legislative body was working to stop that by any means necessary. They got together and constructed parts of the state constitution that added crimes they believed mostly Black people committed in order to justify rescinding their right to vote forever and explicitly keep white rule in place.



According to reports, the average U.S. corporation's after-tax profit margin is around 16 percent. In traditional recessions, the rate drops down to single digits



## Louisville corrections officer fired after making video mocking Breonna Taylor's death: 'We killed that B\*\*\*\*'

Philadelphiaobserver.com

After making an offensive video that makes fun of the police killing of Breonna Taylor, a corrections officer in Louisville, Kentucky, was terminated by the Louisville Metro Department of Corrections last week.

According to The Washington Post, Turhan Knight, a corrections officer for the LMDC since 2018, was fired from his job due to insensitive remarks made in a video. The incident occurred in front of an LMPD display at the Kentucky State Fair.

The video, which he tried to play off as a recruitment video for the Louisville Metro Police Department, mocks the 2020 killing of Taylor by the recently indicted police officers involved in the controversy.

According to WHAS 11, in the video, Knight says,

"Answer the call, be a part of a great, great police department. Never mind what happened to Breonna Taylor, we killed that B\*\*ch. Do you want to be able to support your family, do you want to kill people and get off for it? Join Louisville Metro Police Department."

In an emailed statement to The Washington Post, Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer said:

"There is zero excuses for his insensitivity. He has brought great shame upon Metro Corrections and all of the Louisville metro government. I deeply apologize to the family of Breonna Taylor and all of the hard-working and ethical employees of the Louisville metro government. One person will not tarnish the good work we attempt



to do on behalf of our residents."

The head of the corrections officers' union, president of Kentucky FOP Lodge 77, Daniel Johnson, agreed with the decision made by LMDC. They will not oppose his termination and stated the "termination was absolutely justified and was the right decision."

Knight also made a statement as he apologized to the Taylor family.

"I want to first apologize to the Mother, Boyfriend and Family of Breonna Taylor because I never meant to compound or further remind them of the tragedy that has taken place. And I also apologize to my family, friends, the community & my church member's because I knew better and I ask them to forgive me. I understand the severity of my actions and why I am currently in this position and the insensitive comments I made in a joking way should not have been made AT ALL."



## That was quick! 3 Arkansas officers suspended following video of violent arrest of white man

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Sometimes, I notice that when a Black person or suspect is resisting arrest, the officer then uses excessive or fatal force based on the behavior of that individual. Then, when people cry out "racism!" and "police brutality!" it's always met with the same recycled response, "Well, they should've complied." But suddenly, for a white suspect in Arkansas, the tables have turned.

A video went viral of two Crawford County sheriff's deputies and a Mulberry police officer pinning 27-year-old Randal Worcester down on the ground, per 4029TV News. They slammed his head onto the concrete and punched him repeatedly. The Crawford County Sheriff's Office released a statement on Facebook announcing

the three involved were suspended and currently under investigation.

The comments under the statement cried for accountability and justice, even while Worcester was labeled a wanted suspect and was violent toward the officers.

Read more on the incident from CNN:

Worcester is charged with second-degree battery, resisting arrest, possessing an instrument of crime, criminal trespass, criminal mischief, terroristic threatening and first- and second-degree assault, Arkansas State Police said.

Worcester allegedly threatened a gas station clerk in a neighboring town, Crawford County Sheriff Jimmy Damante told CNN affiliate KHBS. When he was spotted in Mulberry, Worcester was initially

cooperative, but then tried to attack the officers, leading to the confrontation seen in the video, Damante told the station.

It was unclear if Worcester suffered any serious injury. The suspect was examined at a hospital and booked into jail, while a deputy received minor head injuries during the altercation, the sheriff told KHBS.

CNN's law enforcement analysts viewed the footage of the incident and agreed the officers went overboard.

"it is very, very hard to argue that what you're seeing — the sort of punches and the kneeling him in the back and slamming his head ... on the ground. That is not acceptable, normal, standard police use of force under really any circumstances," said analyst Andrew McCabe via CNN.

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# President Joe Biden honors Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., others with Lifetime Achievement Award

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire

National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. has received the President Joseph R. Biden Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award for Community Service and Civil Rights.

Dr. Chavis received the award during a ceremony at Morehouse College in Atlanta.

"On behalf of the NNPA and the Thurgood Marshall Center Trust, as well as on behalf of all my fellow Civil Rights Movement comrades who were present at the President Joe Biden 2022 Lifetime Achievement Awards on the campus of the historic Morehouse College in Atlanta, I express my profound gratitude to President Biden and Vice President Harris," Dr. Chavis remarked.

"At a time when our nation is facing renewed challenges to our democracy, it was very timely to reassert the importance of the right to vote, the Black Press of America, and the need to continue the fight for freedom, justice, equality, and equity," Dr. Chavis continued.

"We are committed to achieving #10MillionMoreBlackVoters."

In addition to honoring the work of Dr. Chavis, the awards recognized the Atlanta Student Movement, civil rights leaders, and others who have shaped American history.

Among the many notable recipients were Dr. Otis Moss Jr., Rev. Dr. Lawrence E. Carter Sr., Dr. Anne Winbush Watts, Dr. Clarissa



Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. with Thurgood Marshall Center Trust Inc. President Thomasina W. Yearwood.

Myrick-Harris and Thurgood Marshall Center Trust Inc. President Thomasina W. Yearwood.

A final ceremony is scheduled for September 10 at the Thurgood Marshall Center Trust in Washington, D.C.

"We are eternally grateful to all venues for hosting the awards

program this year," said Dr. Beverly Kee, Executive Director of Premiere Coalition Partners Association, LLC., a Maryland-based certifying organization for the Presidential Volunteer Service Award Program.

"We have a very impressive list of honorees who are making



Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. with Dr. Otis Moses Jr.

a meaningful difference in their communities, and this venue is so fitting for such a prestigious event," Kee stated.

Ahead of the 2022 midterms, Dr. Chavis said it's important to register new voters. The NNPA and the Transformative Justice Coalition are in the middle of a

campaign to register 10 million more Black voters.

"We've got work to do," Dr. Chavis declared.

"I thank President Biden for the Lifetime Achievement Award for Community Service and Civil Rights. Equality, equity, and justice are on the ballot."

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# Editorial - Opinion

## Earthquake would say no to Liz Cheney



Emil Guillermo,

**W**hat's up with Liz Cheney and her one-woman crusade to save democracy? Is she really speaking to us in the BIPOC community?

I got some guidance from a legendary Black comedian.

Earthquake is not a California peril, but the name of one of Dave Chappelle's favorite comic mentors. Earthquake or Mr. Quake, as the New York Times might call him on second reference, gets political in his current Netflix special.

"You can't say no, you can't tell a Trump supporter nothing about Trump; they love Trump," says

Earthquake in the appropriate key of urban Southeast DC. "People ask me all the time, 'Quake, what kind of woman are you looking for in your life, and I say, (n word expletive) I'm looking for a woman like a Trump supporter. No matter what she hears about me that woman don't believe in nothing. She say, 'You got another woman, you say 'Baby, that's fake news.'"

Of course, Earthquake says it with more flair in a live setting where the crowd howls, but you get the point. We all know how belief in Trump is cult-like, and a threat to our democracy.

Which brings us back to Liz Cheney. She's like a new Uncle Sam

pointing her finger at us. But not like a "Karen" wagging her finger saying she wants to speak to the manager. She wants to make sure Trump is never the manager of us again.

It's just if she's serious, she'll need a lot more BIPOC support than anyone thinks.

Cheney lost big recently in Wyoming when her own Republican Party acted as if under a spell cast on them by a man known in Florida search warrants as FPOTUS.

That, of course, stands for the defeated "Former President of the United States."

But how can we assure he stays defeated? Perhaps if we answer Cheney's call.

In the Wyoming primary, Cheney lost to her opponent by 37 points, 66% to 29%. That's some rebuke for someone from a legacy Republican family. It was a public betrayal.

But you have to admire Cheney's willingness to pay the price — the loss of her job, her seat in Congress. And all because of an unprincipled belief in the Constitution and her unwillingness to join in the zombie chorus of

Republican election deniers who stand by their FPOTUS.

So I'm open to Cheney when she pitched herself to America during her concession speech.

There's at least one thing we agree on. The defeated FPOTUS must stay out of government. As a single issue that may be enough to join her American pro-democracy movement.

"Freedom must not, cannot, and will not die here," Cheney said in Wyoming.

"This is a fight for all of us together," she said. "I'm a conservative Republican."

Then came the pitch.

"But I love my country more," she said. "So I ask you tonight to join me. As we leave here, let us resolve that we will stand together, Republicans, Democrats, and independents, against those who would destroy our Republic."

BIPOC members who have an independent, even a slightly conservative streak, may find her message attractive.

But I'm not so sure. Cheney didn't vote for the Inflation Reduction Act which includes more than \$750 billion for climate change,

Obamacare extensions, prescription cost limits in Medicare, plus a 15% automatic tax on wealthy corporations.

During the FPOTUS administration, Cheney's votes favored rich, white, and corporate special interests 100% of the time.

She voted against restoring the Voting Rights Act, LGBTQ issues, and all but the most obvious civil rights issues. For example, she voted for the Juneteenth holiday. Was it because rich whites got the day off too?

Newsweek reported Cheney voted with Trump 93% of the time.

That puts her at 7% soul. Not enough to get me to switch parties and vote Republican to help Cheney defeat Trump in 2024. Better idea: just make sure you vote and support the party that got us this far. That would be quite enough to beat Trump. It was the last time.

As for Cheney? Support in spirit, but she's not for us.

And I think Mr. Quake would concur.

Emil Guillermo is a veteran journalist and commentator. He is at <http://www.amok.com>

# I asked what kind of family



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## Nipsey Hussle's legacy honored by Star on Hollywood Walk of Fame

Edward Henderson | California Black Media

On Aug. 15 on what would have been his 37<sup>th</sup> birthday, the late Grammy-nominated rapper, entrepreneur and philanthropist Nipsey Hussle was honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

He is the 11<sup>th</sup> rapper to have a Walk of Fame star.

Hussle's fans, family and friends from the industry attended the ceremony.

"I think I speak for the entire city of LA when I say that we've known Nip was destined for greatness," said Lauren London, Hussle's long-time girlfriend who spoke at the ceremony. "This moment only amplifies that for us. Nip would have been honored by this moment. I think he would want everyone to remember that you can't get to what's possible unless you commit to moving forward. It doesn't mean forgetting where you come from, but it requires acknowledging the reality you were born into and the power you have to change that reality for the better."

Los Angeles City Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson declared Aug. 15, Nipsey Hussle Day in Los Angeles.

"Today, on his born day, we finally got him a star on the walk of fame. Rest in Paradise Nip" Assemblymember Isaac Bryan (D-Los Angeles) a guest in attendance at the 30-minute ceremony posted on Twitter.

Born Airmiess Joseph Asghedom, Hussle was a Los Angeles native who rose to fame in the mid-2000s. After gaining notoriety locally following the release of a string of mixtapes, his gritty sound and inspirational spirit captivated listeners' imaginations. He became more famous as he sold physical copies of his mixtapes for \$100 each, an unheard-of strategy given the music was available digitally for free. This declaration of self-worth caught the attention of his fans and the music industry at large. Jay-Z famously bought 100 copies of the mixtape in a show of respect and support.

Hussle's crowning musical achievement was the release of his 2018 album 'Victory Lap'. The effort received a Best Rap Album Grammy nomination in 2019. In 2020, at the 62<sup>nd</sup> Grammy Awards, he posthumously earned three more nominations and took home two wins for Best Rap Performance and Best Rap/Sung Performance.

His impact on the community grew with the opening of his Marathon clothing store in the heart of the Crenshaw commercial district. The store gave customers access to exclusive music along with the clothing. Hussle would go on to buy the entire shopping mall that surrounded the Marathon clothing store, in which he invested in



STEM technology workspaces and housed other local entrepreneurs.

On March 21, 2019, Hussle was killed outside of his Marathon store by Eric Holder who last month was found guilty of first-degree murder. Following his death, there was an outpouring of tributes. People in his community, across California and around the country, honored his life with murals, vigils and other remembrances, reflecting the impact Hussle had on California and the hip hop community worldwide.

While the Marathon store has closed, the location remains a memorial to Hussle where fans pay daily tribute to his memory. There are plans to open a second store on Melrose Avenue. However, no date has been set for its opening.

Writer and sports media personality Justin Tinsley narrated an ESPN 30 for 30 special about Hussle and his close relationship with athletes and the sports world, particularly LA Sports.

"That star on the Walk of Fame is symbolic of so much," said Tinsley. "Nipsey is one of those people who will always be remembered — yes, as an incredible rapper — but even more than that, he was a man who had a vision for himself and his people. He put that into action and the result of which will keep his name alive for generations of Black folk. That's so beautiful and it's inspiring that he cared so much to do everything he did. But that star is also symbolic of

everything we lost with him too. Everything he was yet to think of. Everything he was supposed to do and accomplish."

Tinsley said he feels the sadness following the senseless murder of Hussle still lingers amongst his supporters but that the joy, pride and motivation he brought to many cannot be forgotten.

"Losing Nipsey in the physical sense will never truly make sense. It's something God — or whomever you pray to — can truly answer. But it's such a blessing that we were all given the time to be impacted by him whether up close and personal or from afar. And through all the pain that's still there — and will always be there — that's how we got to look at it. Grief is a very real emotion. But it shouldn't be the only one when we talk about Nipsey Hussle."

The concept of "The Marathon" was a staple in Hussle's music. Persevering through obstacles to reach your goal and enduring the pain that inevitably comes when striving for greatness. At the conclusion of London's Walk of Fame induction speech, she referenced this concept and left a message for everyone visiting Hussle's monument.

"Whenever you're in the City of Angels and you see this star, I hope it encourages you to break away from whatever might be holding you back and for you to run your marathon until God says that it is finished."

# On the scene



## Kevin Hart, Mark Wahlberg & Regina Hall brought their fun game to 'Me Time'

By Audrey J. Bernard

**O**n Tuesday, August 23, 2022, Netflix hosted the star-studded Premiere event of "Me Time" at the Regency Village Theater in Westwood, Calif. This was a fun event, and all the stars brought their fun game to the carpet as they joked around with each other and provided photo ops and

autographs for their fans who lined up in scorching weather to see the hot stars of the film. Kevin Hart, Mark Wahlberg and Regina Hall were in attendance along with co-stars Luis Gerardo Mendez, Jimmy O. Yang and director John Hamburg. Castmates Andrew Santino, Deborah S. Craig, Naomi Ekperigin, Drew Droege, Ilia Isorelys Paulino, Tahj Mowry, Che Tafari

and Amentii Sledge were also in attendance. Also joining in on the fun was producer Bryan Smiley and executive producers Lauren Hennessey, Mark Moran and Patricia Braga. As the story goes, When a stay-at-home dad finds himself with some down time for the first time in years while his wife and kids are away, he reconnects with his former best friend for a wild weekend

that nearly upends his life. The hilariously amusing movie was written, directed and produced by John Hamburg. Kevin Hart and Bryan Smiley also get producing creds. Executive producers are Lauren Hennessey, Mark Moran, Patricia Braga, Joe Gatta. "Me Time" was released on Netflix August 26, 2022. (Photos by David Livingston/Getty Images for Netflix)



Cast and Crew of Netflix's Me Time at the premiere at Regency Village Theatre on August 23, 2022, in Los Angeles, Calif.



Jimmy O. Yang, Bri Kimmel



(L-R) Me Time co-stars (L-R) Kevin Hart, Regina Hall, and Mark Wahlberg



Me Time writer-director John Hamburg



Amentii Sledge, Che Tafari



Kevin Hart with his wife Eniko Parrish





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# Wednesday's woman

## The Greatest Diva of Our Time – Diana Ross – brings 'Thank You' show to RCMH

"Singing is my beautiful, delicious obsession" –Diana Ross

By Audrey J. Bernard

**D**iana Ross is the definitive description of an icon who is loved worldwide! Most recently, she gave a platinum performance at the Queen's Jubilee Party in England. Now the reigning Queen of Motown is bringing her royal highness show to Radio City Music Hall as her New York stop on her "Thank You" tour. Although the Detroit native rose to fame as the lead singer of Motown's famous girl group, The Supremes in the 1960s, she took her acclaimed stardom to the next level as a solo sensation which made her a uber star with global appeal. No one does it like Ms. Ross who spins magic on any stage she appears with her beloved distinctive vocals, vivacious spirit and vibrant designer's gowns. Very few can galvanize fans like her, either! And she never disappoints them putting on a visual extravaganza consisting of stunning gowns and exuding imperial Black elegance. Fans can expect her signature past hits from her successful solo career as well as her memorable work with The Supremes and concluding with selections from "Thank You" from her current album. I grew up with Ross and attended the historic show in Central Park on both nights!

### Diana Ross: Her Story

Diana Ross defines an icon. A national treasure with a magnificent legacy that has changed the course of music history and popular culture. Ms. Ross is a creator of life, an alchemist of an unprecedented career that has made her the most successful recording artist and entertainer of all time.

In 2021, Diana Ross does it again, bringing the world together with the release of a new album titled Thank You. "This collection of songs is my gift to you with appreciation and love. I am eternally grateful that I had the opportunity to record this glorious music at this time. As I walk my path, you are in front of me, we are one. These songs are from my heart, and it brings me such joy to share them from me to you. I would like to thank everyone who participated in the making of these recordings and those that inspired me to create 'Beautiful Love' memories." Ms. Ross co-wrote, produced and masterfully curated the album with songs of collective spirit and togetherness.

Her dream began as a young girl in the North End section of Detroit. In a city where she would help to create a national cultural movement and become the premiere artist at the renowned Motown Records. Her extraordinary



Diana Ross (Albert Watson)

nary journey from the leader of The Supremes to her solo career has inspired and empowered countless musicians, artists,

celebrities, and young dreamers. The Diana Ross magic has touched music, fashion, stage, film, and TV. Ms. Ross' interna-

tional achievements were acknowledged by the prestigious Kennedy Center Honors in Washington D.C. (2007). The National

Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences bestowed its highest honor, The Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award, in 2012.

Her portrayal of Billie Holiday in the classic film *Lady Sings the Blues* produced an Oscar nomination and a Golden Globe Award. Starring as an aspiring designer in the 1975 romantic comedy *Mahogany*, the role was a perfect opportunity to personally sketch and design all the fashion in the timeless film. As a stage actress, she won Broadway's top honor with a Tony Award for her one-woman show, *An Evening with Diana Ross*. The same show was later broadcast as an award-winning network television special.

In 2017, the American Music Awards presented Ms. Ross with the Lifetime Achievement Award. In 1993, she earned a Guinness World Record for her success in the United States and United Kingdom by having more hits than any other female artist on the charts with a career total of over 75 hit singles.

Additional career milestones include Induction into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, The Songwriters Hall of Fame, National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences Hero Award, NAACP Entertainer Award, Billboard's Female Entertainer of the Century Award, and The Soul Train Legend Award. Ms. Ross is also one of the few celebrities to have two stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Her voice, described as "honey" and "angelic," has over 100 million streams, downloads and sales around the world.

In what has been described as one of the greatest live concert performances, Diana Ross drew a crowd of over 800,000 people to New York's Central Park on July 21 & 22, 1983. Soon after the show began on July 21, pouring rain and heavy wind threatened to put an end to the show, but she pushed on for much of the set, urging the drenched crowd to remain calm and stay with her. Eventually the storm put an end to the performance, but not before she promised her fans that she would return the next day. True to her word, she performed the entire concert again on July 22nd for the people of New York City.

"As you hear my voice, you hear my heart. 'Let Love Lead the Way.' I am so happy to have music as a part of my life. For the many moments of traveling and singing songs to you and loving you, I am so, so grateful. Thank You for all the blessings in my life that you have given me. I have always felt your beautiful love. Thank you to my children and all my family. Thank you to all those that have made this incredible journey possible." (Source: Diana Ross "My Story")

# Kenny Robinson's anointed voice touches the soul of people

Posted By Don Thomas

**K**enny Robinson is one of today's emerging inspirational gospel singers/songwriter, and record producer whose anointed voice touches the souls of people. An example is his chart-topping latest single "Something Good," an anthem that advocates for hope in the midst of life challenges, from his current album UNCOMPROMISED on A.V. Entertainment. The high spirited song was self-penned by Robinson to deliver stimulating and inspiring feel-good messages that speaks to all mankind, while encouraging them to hold on to their faith and reminding them that although bad things happen in our lives, God always finds a way to turn it around for our good.

UNCOMPROMISED is a 13-track CD of gospel and inspirational songs all written by Kenny as a public declaration of his personal commitment to always use God's name in his music and "trust Him to order the steps of my life," he admits. The messages expressed on the CD are also intended to caution others to not compromise faith and integrity to attain success, but to simply work hard and trust in God.

The track, "Never Cry Again," is a personal song of emotional healing, lamenting the death of a loved one, the loss of his son. "Our faith in Christ and the promise of Heaven provided us with a sense of peace that when we meet and see each other for a second time, that we'll never have to cry again," he stated. "I believe that if

I pour my heart into my music, it will overflow into the heart of those who hear it, touch their lives and help them to experience the love of Jesus Christ," he adds.

Kenny's next single, titled "Trust Me," is scheduled for release the fourth quarter of 2022 and will be available on all top music digital streaming platforms (DSP). In 2019 Kenny released his first single, "My Due Season," a song of hope that warns about giving up on dreams. The song swept the gospel airwaves and landed in the Top #20 position on Billboard's Gospel Charts. In 2022 he was nominated by the Tampa Bay Gospel Awards as "TBGA Artist of the Year."



*"My mission is to create songs that inspire, uplift and serve people from all walks of life with a purpose," says Kenny Robinson*

His most recent performance was a gospel celebration at the 2022 Essence Music Festival of Culture. Kenny has also been featured as a guest on inspirational/gospel shows including "Dr. Bobby Jones Presents," and Rhonda Towns' "Plenty More Love," and has also shared the stage with award-winning gospel artists like Byron Cage, Jekalyn Carr, Joshua Rogers, Maurice Grif-

fin, and more.

Robinson names Kirk Franklin as his musical influence for his broad appeal in delivering songs that touches all people "which is also my goal," says Kenny, as he recalls growing up listening to the remarkable contralto voice of gospel great, Mahalia Jackson over the radio airwaves. When not recording Kenny spends time as a volunteer helping others in his community. He has been acknowledged on the CBS network in a special news segment honoring "Extraordinary Persons," for his great leadership and public service.

A former candidate for Fort Pierce City Council, Kenny is an advocate for veterans, a volunteer with "Building Homes for Heroes" and also authored the tribute song "HERO" which honors our men and women of the United States Armed Services.

An alumnus of Indian River State College and former student at Florida A&M University, Kenny is devout husband to his childhood sweetheart, father to five children, and a dedicated licensed minister at his hometown church, in Fort Pierce, Florida, Bass Temple COGIC, where he accepted his calling in 2021. He plans to attend the International Seminary in Plymouth, Florida in pursuit of a degree in theology. When asked about his objective as an artist and writer, Robinson states, "I just love great music with a significance that moves people. My mission is to create songs that inspire, uplift, and serve people from all walks of life with a purpose."

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# Fashion

## Ngozi Okaro's Custom Collaborative 2022 collection is fashion that works

By Veronica Jones

Custom Collaborative (CC) is a non-profit entrepreneurship and workforce organization that teaches and inspires women to design, sew, and sell sustainable fashion and accessories. CC's innovative Executive Director, Ngozi Okaro, is a statuesque and strikingly attractive woman who has always custom ordered fashionable clothes to fit her lifestyle. The daughter of a Black American mother and Nigerian father she stands tall while fashioning herself in the style of her choice for every occasion. Okaro received a bevy of compliments wearing fashions by local African designers. At the same time she realized the makers did not charge enough for the quality garments they were producing. Consequently, Okaro was motivated to find a way to provide the knowledge and skills to improve the fabric of their lives that is essential for the BIPOC economies and communities to thrive.

Custom Collaborative's innovative programs give women the opportunity to achieve viable livelihoods in the fashion industry, supporting women's economic independence and being in

control of their work. By learning business practices of the fashion industry and professional design skills, our participants overcome barriers to employment, and ultimately change the economics of the fashion industry. The women who participate in CC's programs come from 23 countries, including the United States: 100% are ambitious women; 80% are immigrants – first generation; 85% of our students are mothers; 80% of the participants live below the federal poverty level; and 50% live in unstable housing.

Within the last five years, Custom Collaborative has graduated over seventy women who are representative of the BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) immigrant and low-income community. Since 2016, our participants have completed a 14 week program covering the art, craft, and technique of fashion design. CC established a business incubator that offers advanced training in all aspects of the fashion business. Twice a month, we provide a MasterClass, inviting successful industry executives and entrepreneurs to share their personal stories with the inspired women of Custom Collaborative. The two trillion dollar global fashion industry perpetuates humani-



Ngozi Okaro's Custom Collaborative proud graduation class of 2022

tarian and environmental injustice at every level of the supply chain. Racial inequity in education, business and industry continues to persist, leaving BIPOC and immigrant populations at a disproportionate disadvantage. The dual pandemics of COVID-19 and racial injustice in society have brought to light the immediate need to re-evaluate infrastructures, systems and policies.

Ngozi Okaro advocates for a fashion industry that honors people, planet, and profit. At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, CC's Production Manager designed a fabric mask that aided in unifying the community through social media and Custom Collaborative.org. The sales of the "Unity In the Community" mask has generated income for the women of CC while working from home. They were paid a fair wage and were able to elevate the economics of life for their families. Mask collaborations were created with Mara Hoffman, a celebrated sustainable fashion industry sportswear designer, and Hanky Panky, a women's lace underwear slow fashion manufacturer. NiLu Gift shop in Harlem has supported Custom Collaborative with mask purchases and in store pop ups. The Today Show filmed their story from the classroom at Riverside Church, to the CC Studio on East 124th Street and at NiLu Boutique on Lenox Avenue in February 2020.

In March 2020, the organization successfully transitioned to remote learning and a Cohort 8 graduation on Zoom in June 2020. On August 19, 2022, Custom Collaborative is privileged to present Cohort 9's Graduation and Fashion Show, "Design & Flourish", the first in person class and ceremony since March 2020 at Riverside Church. CC was the recipient of a Gucci Grant in 2020 to support their programs. The Garment District Alliance selected Custom Collaborative as one of ten organizations selected to present skills to uphold the footprint of the garment industry with skill training programs and



Custom Collaborative Executive Director Ngozi Okaro

master classes about manufacturing and the business of fashion. In Custom Collaborative provided a four part series on how to become a Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) with Keyonnia Hallums presenting from March 25, 2022 to May 9, 2022. Grants from Chanel and PVH were secured to create apprenticeships and internships with garment industry companies for CC participants.

Ngozi Okaro is known for her incisive reasoning and executable strategies — gained through 15+ years of transformational strategies and execution. She is a 2022 Goldman Sachs Black Woman

Impact Leader, Conscious Fashion Campaign & United Nations Office for Partnerships SDG Honoree, 2021 Crain's Notable Women Business Owner, and AARP Purpose Prize Fellow, 2020 "World-Changing Women in Conscious Business" winner, from Conscious Company Media and Kate Spade, 2019 NYC Fair Trade Coalition "Changemaker of the Year", and New York Women's Foundation "Spirit of Entrepreneurship" award. She is a renowned speaker on sustainability, diversity, and social justice. Okaro is a revolutionary mind that will change the fashion world for the better and create the impact that we need



Design from Custom Collaborative graduate

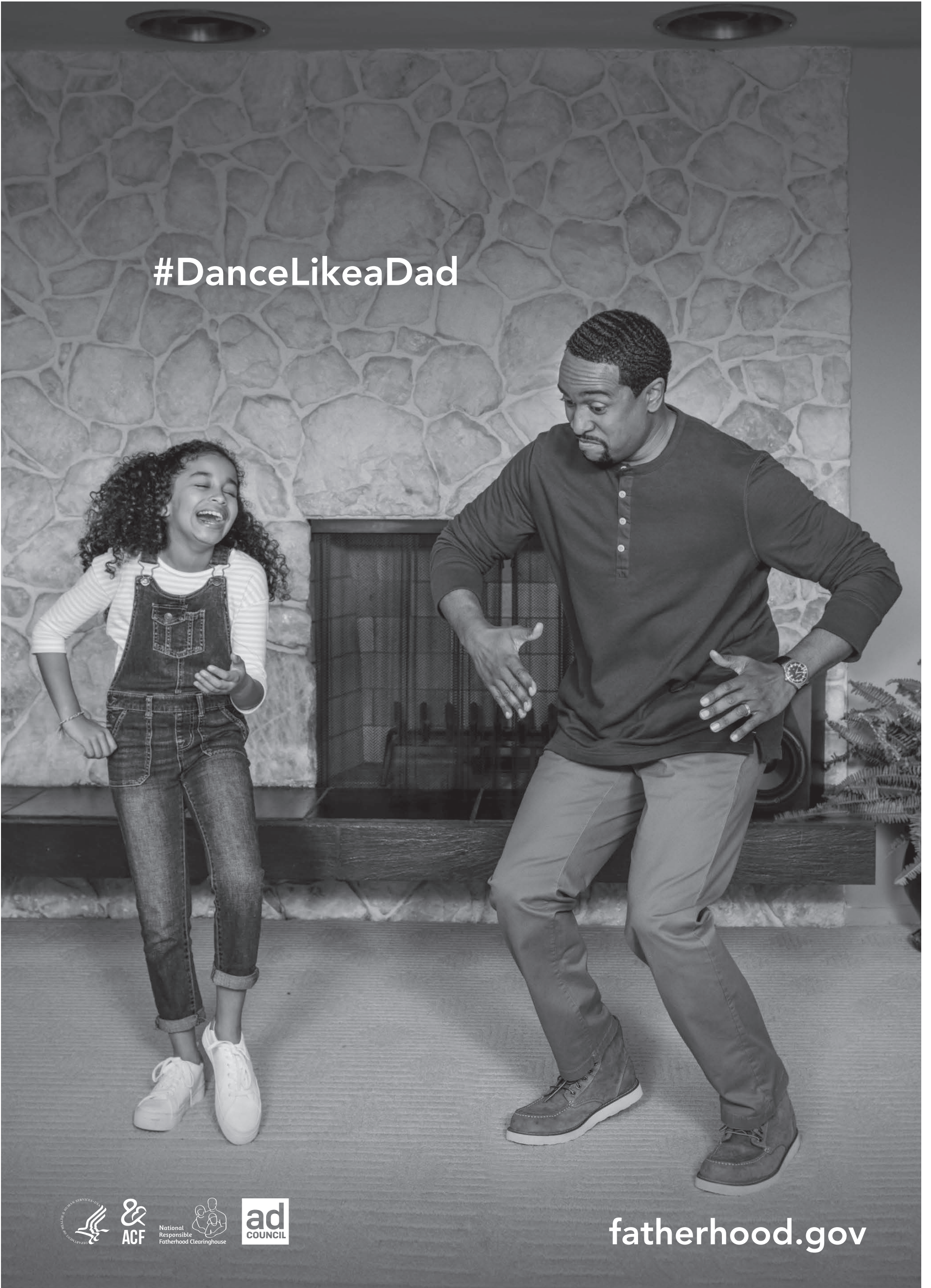
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