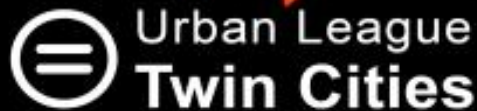


"THE EVENT OF THE YEAR"



Virtual Holiday Unity Ball

2021 Annual Fundraiser

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16

6:00 PM, CST

Urban League Twin Cities



Urban League
Twin Cities

President's Note



Urban League Twin Cities 2021 Update

The year 2021 undoubtedly will be remembered for its extraordinary challenges. The stubborn and destructive impact of the coronavirus; the attempted insurrection at the U.S. Capitol on January 6; the trials of killer cops Derek Chauvin and Kimberly Potter; and violent crime in Minneapolis and St. Paul soaring to near record levels amid calls and action to dismantle the police department and establish rent control.

The impact of these development on Black people also has been extraordinary. Black people experienced disproportionately high hospitalization and death rates from COVID as well as deep and stubborn vaccine hesitancy. Layoffs and job losses occurred at higher rates for Blacks. The year also included a surge in hate crimes and continued police shooting of unarmed Black men. As stakeholders, the Urban League has witnessed these events with deep personal connection and concern. As servants and leaders, we have rolled up our sleeves and gone to work. The result has been a year of striving and no small measure of success. Here are a few highlights:

- We launched ULTC's Center for Social Justice ("CSJ") and hired Cynthia Fraction as Director. CSJ will issue its first major research report at the end of this month. This State of Black Minnesota report is a comprehensive analysis of seven key metrics of well-being for African Descendants, including arts, business, criminal justice, education, faith, housing/generational wealth, and public health.
- ULTC is a subrecipient of major new grants from Google and Comcast to the National Urban League to expand its Urban Tech Jobs Program that is helping to close the digital divide with training to achieve industry recognized credentials. ULTC's workforce team initiated bi-monthly virtual job fairs in 2020 that have attracted over 60 employers and average more than 50 job seekers and attendees per fair.
- ULTC will publish this month the MN Equity in Action Framework, co-authored by Marquita Stephens, ULTC's VP for Strategic Engagement, along with partners from the MN Department of Education and Minneapolis Public Schools. The Framework promotes equitable power relationships for six drivers of education excellence that increase the likelihood of achievement for all students.
- One hundred percent of our housing counselors/coaches achieved HUD certification this past year. A grant from Wells Fargo provided funds to initiate a new homebuyer training curriculum and supports focused on individuals and couples interested in buying duplexes, triplexes or quads.
- REAL TALK, our virtual town hall forum launched in 2020, expanded to nine programs in 2021. Topics included white supremacy, the Chauvin murder trial, and Black voter suppression.
- ULTC's Young Professionals, an auxiliary organization of the National Urban League dedicated to bringing the next generation of leaders into the Urban League movement, was recognized this year with a regional PIVOT Award, which honors young professionals who make significant contributions to their local communities. Vachel Hudson, ULTC YP Chapter president was named YP President of the Year. Vachel also works for ULTC as Housing Manager.

We envision a future in which African descendants are fully engaged, empowered and invested in the success and well-being of the Twin Cities metro area. At ULTC, we show up every work day to help make that happen.

Steven Belton President & Chief Executive Officer

Steven Belton was appointed interim President and CEO of the Urban League Twin Cities (then the Minneapolis Urban League) in April 2015. After a national search, the Board appointed him to the permanent position in December of that year. An experienced executive and attorney, Belton has held positions in government, public schools, and the private and non-profit sectors. Immediately prior to joining ULTC, he served for several years as youth pastor for Park Avenue United Methodist Church, where he still serves as Minister of Preaching. Married for 40 years to Sharon Sayles Belton, former Mayor of Minneapolis, Steven and Sharon have three adult children.

Become a Volunteer

Ready to help us empower people and change lives? Urban League Twin Cities volunteers play an important role in the work that we do to improve the well-being of African descendants in the Twin Cities. We're looking for people who want to help us carry out our mission through volunteerism. Adults age 18 and older can volunteer with the Urban League.



Current Opportunities

Mentor

As a mentor, you'll provide support, guidance and advice to high school students in the Black Gems program. Mentors meet with students monthly while they are in high school and stay connected with them through their freshman year of college. Background check required.

Tutor

As a tutor, you'll provide high school students in our Black Gems program help with writing, English, math and more. Tutoring sessions are scheduled with each student individually during the school year. Background check required.

Guest Presenter

We're looking for experts in financial literacy, writing and storytelling, emotional intelligence and more. Experts will present on their area of expertise to students in our Black Gems program. Presenters will be asked to give 1-2 hours of their time per school year.

Family Day Event

As a Family Day volunteer, you can help bring entertainment, food, fun and resources to families in North Minneapolis. Volunteers can sign up for a three-hour time slot and will receive a free t-shirt to wear on the day of the event. Family Day is held in late August every year.

Unity Ball Event

As a Unity Ball volunteer, you can help bring this event to life. Volunteers will help with registration and day-of-event activities. The Annual Unity Ball is held in the Fall of each year. To register, email the Urban League at info@ultcmn.org.

If you're interested and want to learn more about volunteer opportunities, send us an email info@ultcmn.org or call 612-302-3100.





Host
Brandi Powell - Anchor/Reporter KSTP

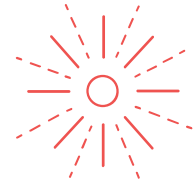
Event Agenda

- Welcome**
- Invocation**
- Lift Every Voice & Sing - Jamecia Bennett**
- Sponsor Remarks**
- ULTC Reflection**
- ULTC BLACK GEMS Program**
- Actress & Poet - Sha'Cage**
- Special Remarks - ULTC President Steven Belton**
- Community Champion Awards**
- Truth & Justice Awards**
- Relentless & Unapologetic Advocate Award**
- Vocalist - Jamecia Bennett**
- Keynote Speaker - Yamiche Alcindor**
- Thank You - Brandi Powell**
- Closing Remarks - President Steven Belton**





BRANDI POWELL



Urban League Twin Cities Host & Anchor/Reporter Channel 5 KSTP

Brandi Powell is a weekday Morning News Anchor and has been part of the 5 Eyewitness News team since January 2014.

In 2020, Brandi launched and reported an in-depth series called Conversations About Racism and the Road to Equality. The 3-part series included Understanding Racism, The Talk and Youth Activists & Education. Her team won a Minnesota Society of Professional Journalists Page One Award for Special Project/In-depth Series in 2021.

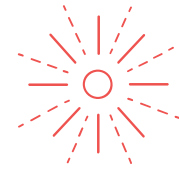
At KSTP-TV Brandi is also a daily contributor on Minnesota Live. She's filled-in as host on At Issue and as co-host on Twin Cities Live and Minnesota Live. Brandi was selected to be in the Prince and Mary Tyler Moore REELZ specials, giving on-air perspectives as a journalist and Minnesotan.

From 2011-2013, Brandi worked as a Reporter/Multi-Media Journalist at KNSD-TV (NBC 7) in San Diego. She covered breaking news, crime and politics. She also served as a regular on-air contributor for Politically Speaking, the station's weekly political show.

Brandi worked as a Reporter/Video Journalist/Bell County Bureau Chief, from 2008-2009, at News 8 Austin (now Spectrum News -Time Warner Cable). She covered Fort Hood and its surrounding communities.

Her first on-air TV position was as the Political Reporter at KFYZ-TV (NBC Affiliate) in Bismarck, North Dakota. From 2006-2008, she covered statewide elections and legislative sessions. Brandi was on assignment in Guatemala for nearly two weeks, covering elections, agriculture and education as she followed a group of North Dakota teachers doing an intercultural exchange.

Brandi began her career, behind-the-scenes, as a Production Assistant at MSNBC, from 2005-2006. She was an Intern with The Washington Center, for the 2004 Republican National Convention in New York City. She was also an Intern with Dateline NBC in 2004.



WELCOME

ATTORNEY GENERAL KEITH ELLISON



The 30th attorney general of Minnesota. A member of the Democratic–Farmer–Labor Party (DFL), Ellison was the U.S. representative for Minnesota's 5th congressional district from 2007 to 2019. He also served as the titular deputy chair of the Democratic National Committee from 2017 to 2018.

In Congress, Ellison was a vice-chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus and a Chief Deputy Whip. He was the first African American representative from Minnesota.

Ellison's profile was raised when he joined the race for chair of the Democratic National Committee in November 2016, gaining support from progressive groups and U.S. senators Bernie Sanders (of Vermont) and Chuck Schumer (of New York).

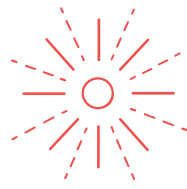


INVOCATION

IMAM MAKRAM EL-AMIN

Imam Makram El-Amin's commitment to service and civic leadership has made him a pillar in the Minneapolis community. For more than two decades, his work as a religious and community leader has been firmly rooted in the principle of our inherent human dignity. In addition to his weekly teaching duties, Imam El-Amin leads Al Maa'uun (Neighborly Needs) Community Outreach Services (almaauun.org) that addresses food insecurity, affordable housing, career services, and mentoring.





**PBS White House Correspondent
NBC/MSNBC Political Contributor**

KEYNOTE

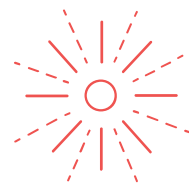
YAMICHE ALCINDOR

Currently the White House correspondent for PBS NewsHour, she moves to NBC News in March of 2022 as their Washington correspondent covering the Biden administration, the impact of federal policies on communities and issues at the intersection of race, culture, and politics.

She is also moderator and anchor for PBS' Washington Week, a role she will continue in after her move to NBC. A long-time MSNBC and NBC political contributor on programs such as Meet the Press, Morning Joe, Andrea Mitchell Reports, and Deadline, Yamiche Alcindor has become a go-to voice in analyzing the most critical issues of our time.

A broadcast journalist who came up through the ranks of print journalism, she worked as a national reporter for The New York Times and USA Today.

She has been called “a powerhouse,” “relentless” in the pursuit of truth, and courageous in her ability to “speak truth to power.”





CELEBRATE 2021!

Award Winners!

Community Champions 2021

Jeanelle Austin



Jeanelle Austin is the creator of Racial Agency Initiative, a racial justice leadership coaching company that pursues racial justice with joy. Jeanelle has over fifteen years of experience in facilitating group conversations on race, designing racism and multicultural educational programs, mentoring individuals, and helping institutional leadership think through strategies to take seriously diversity and inclusion integration. She has more than 20 years of public speaking experience and consults and speaks nation-wide on various topics as they intersect with race in America. A native resident of Minneapolis, she volunteers as a caretaker and board member for the George Floyd Global Memorial.

Robin Hickman-Winfield is the Executive Producer and CEO of SoulTouch Productions. One of her greatest passions is her divinely inspired artistry and collection of multi-ethnic fashion dolls. In 1995, she launched “RealTouch: A Celebration of Soulful Dolls” where she presented her original re-styled fashion dolls, handcrafted furnishings and accessories (hats), stationary, and photography of the lifestyle scenes. Over the past 25 years Robin has used the RealTouch “community” in motivational presentations to promote the “power of play” and creativity, nurture positive self-esteem, and inspire the appreciation of ethnically diverse images and life-styles.



Robin Hickman - Winfield

Truth & Justice 2021



Mr. Jerry Blackwell

Jerry Blackwell is a reputed attorney currently involved in Chauvin's kneeling on Floyd's neck when Floyd was killed.

Learn more about Jerry Blackwell. Jerry W. Blackwell, aka Jerry Blackwell, is the founding partner and Ceo of Blackwell Burke P.A. He also serves as national and trial counsel for numerous major corporations, having represented in more than 47 states and internationally. With a reputation of an experienced trial lawyer with nationwide experience, he is quite good with commercial disputes, toxic tort, product liability, and so on. Moreover, Blackwell is also a frequent presenter on winning trial strategies. He is a founder of the Minnesota Association of Black Lawyers.



Mr. Steve Schleicher

Steve Schleicher is a renowned trial lawyer with deep experience in high profile cases. He concentrates his work on high stakes criminal and civil litigation, government and internal investigations, and appellate practice —and leads Maslon's Government & Internal Investigations Group.

Steve's extraordinary trial skills are well known throughout the United States and the world. Most recently, he has been recognized for his role as a special prosecutor in the internationally televised homicide trial of former Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin for the murder of George Floyd. Steve received high praise for his prominent role conducting jury selection and witness examination. His devastating cross-examination of the defense use-of-force expert received national acclaim, and his powerful closing was viewed as a pivotal factor in the trial verdict.



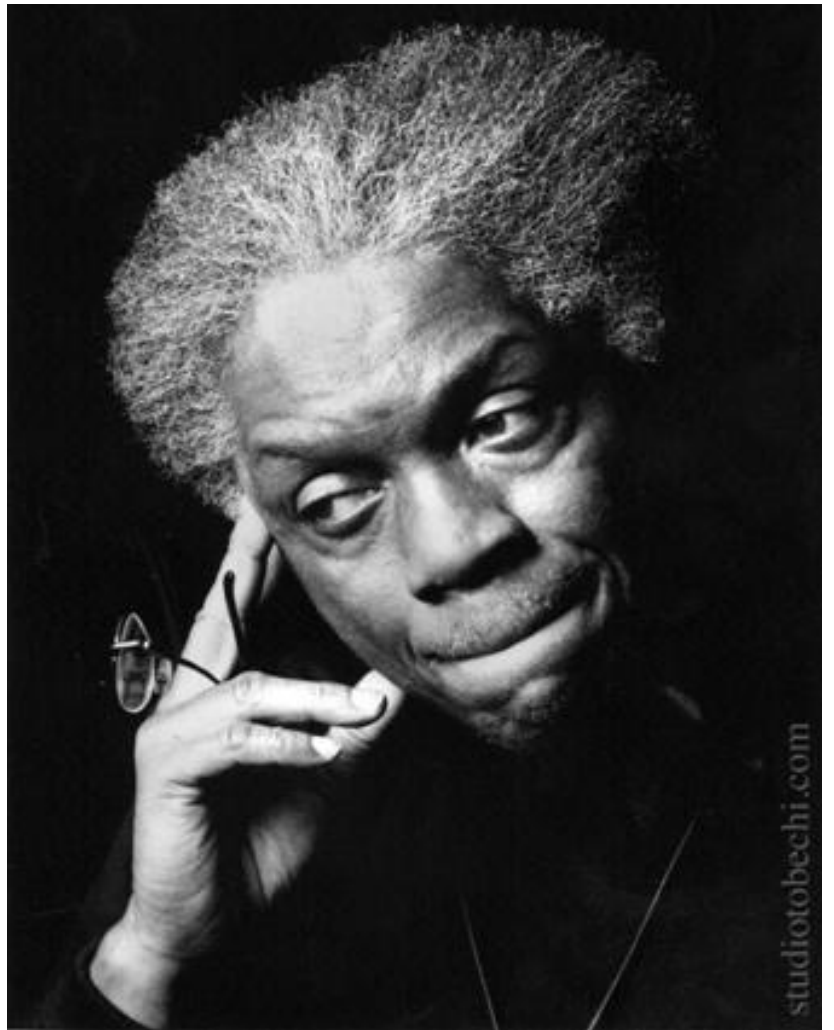
Relentless & Unapologetic 2021

Mahmoud El-Kati is a lecturer, writer, and commentator on the African American experience. He specializes in African American history and advocates institution building within cultural communities. He is an advocate of building ones humanity through the understanding of their culture, history and community. He currently lives in the Rondo neighborhood, St. Paul's historic Black community.

El-Kati, Professor Emeritus of history at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. Macalester College has established the Mahmoud El-Kati Distinguished Lectureship in American Studies in recognition of his scholarly and community work.

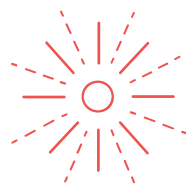
El-Kati as a writer has written articles, essays, and reviews that deal with a variety of issues including the myth of "race," Ebonics, gangs and Black youth, education, African Americans, sports, and other issues.

They have appeared in several newspapers and publications including the New York Times, St. Paul Pioneer Press, Minneapolis Star Tribune, Insight News, The MN Spokesman-Recorder, and The Nigerian Times. As a published author, he has written such books as Politically Considered: 50th Commemoration of the Supreme Court Decision of 1954 and The Hiptionary: A Survey of African American Speech Patterns with Critical Commentary and A Digest of Key Words and Phrases and his latest Haiti: The Hidden Truth.



Professor

Mahmoud El-Kati



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U.S. Bank is proud to support Urban League Twin Cities.

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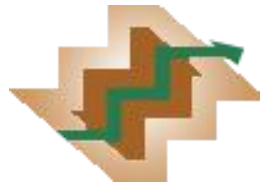
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MINNESOTA & THE DAKOTAS

Actress. Grammy Winner

Jamecia Bennett

Jamecia Bennett is a three time GRAMMY Award Winner who resides in Minneapolis, when she is not touring with her own band "J Movement " she carries the torch of being the featured lead vocalist of the original Grammy Award-Winning Sounds Of Blackness.



Actress. Producer

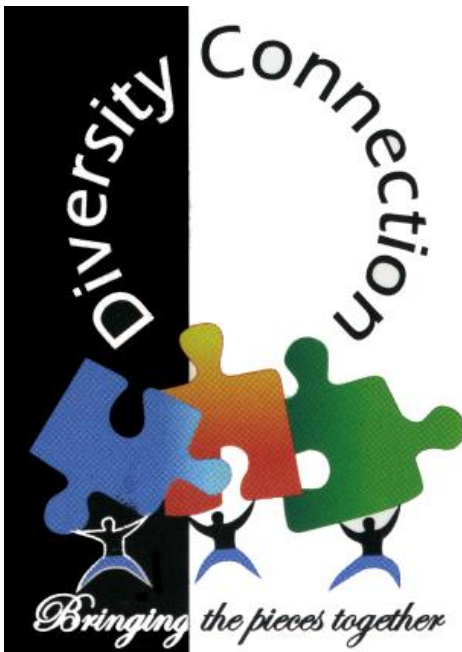
Sha' Cage

Shá Cage is an actress and producer, known for *New Neighbors* (2017), *Lemon Shark* (2021) and *Midnight Chronicles* (2009).

Since 2000, she has served as the Development Director of Tru Ruts Endeavors, and the MN Spoken Word Association, which she also co-founded.

Special Thanks

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Honorees
Special Guests
Attendees
Musical Talent
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Urban League
Twin Cities

2021 ULTC Board

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Kathryn Coleman

Mary Liddicoat

Barry Davies

Kendra Parker

Makram El-Amin

Therese Pautz

Tom Evers

Sheila Quintus

Timothy Giles

Alex Schmid

Stephen Glynn

Shaun Simpson

LaTonia Green

Ashley Steele

Alex Gumbs

Rev. James C. Thomas

Molly Guy

Huda Yusuf



Urban League
Twin Cities

2021 ULTC Staff

Linda Anderson	Executive Assistant
Steven Belton	President and CEO
Ashley Burriss	Director of Operations
Arthur Cannady	Job Developer
Barbara Doyle	Program Manager
Cynthia Fraction	Director
Geoffrey Gill	Job Developer/Coach
Kasele Howard Lockridge	Administrative Assistant
Vachel Hudson	Housing Counselor
Nicholas Jaeger	Intersection Director
Alvin Lockridge	Facilities & Maintenance
Stephanie Matteson	BEST/UOC Job Developer
Tiffany McQueen	Accounting Clerk
Norma Miller	UOC Job Developer
Ray Richardson	BEST/UOC Job Developer
Marquita Stephens	Program Manager
Pearll Warren	Housing Counselor

Planning Committee

Mary Liddicoat	Tammie Follett
Linda Sloan	Trent Bowman
Katie Ketterhagen	Barbara Beecher
Charles Bradley	Channon Lemon
Eric Howell	Huda Yusuf
Anna Hyde Babington- Johnson	Linda Anderson
Carla Callender- CorpWorld Exhibit & Event Mgt.	



Urban League
Twin Cities

ULTC Young Professionals

Executive Leadership Team

Vachel Hudson
President

James Cooper
Vice President

Cristine Minako Johnson
Secretary

Joi Jones
Treasurer

Cesarine Ntanga
Parliamentarian

Committee Officers

Quincy Powe & Ibrahim Owolabi
Advocacy & Civic Engagement Committee Co-Chairs

Britnee Posey & Stephanie Nwaudo
Community Service Co-Chairs

Oluwatobi Oluwagbemi
Community Service Assistant

Key Rose
Digital Content & Marketing Chair,

Lakee Amber
Membership Chair

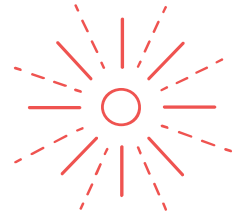
DeSean Wells & Charles Frazier
Personal and Professional Development Committee Co-Chairs

Averi Turner
Social Cultural Committee Chair,

Akim Anderson
Youth Empowerment Committee Chair



Urban League
Twin Cities



Thank You Enjoy the Holidays!