

Eugene A. Miller *Sabbatical* *Shareback - Part 1*

Yodit Mesfin Johnson - November 27, 2023



Sabbatical Overview & Aspirations

This program honors outstanding, experienced leaders of McGregor-funded nonprofit organizations in metropolitan Detroit.

The Fund selects, on a competitive basis, up to three agency directors annually to take time away from their day-to-day responsibilities and undertake a self-designed set of activities to rejuvenate themselves and do something of benefit for their work. Eligibility is determined by the Fund.

In 2023, the Eugene A. Miller Fellowship Program resumed after a two-year hiatus during the pandemic, naming an unprecedented nine fellows known for their long-term dedication to their communities and to equity and justice.

Yodit's plan: *Rest, reflection and experiential learning.*

- extended periods of rest and retreat intended to help center and restore wellness;
- engaging in personal and professional leadership development that centers BIPOC leaders;
- participating in national and international trainings to explore place-making, distributed leadership models, restorative economics and solidarity economies, community-driven planning and governance and practices that support values-driven leadership and culture-building in community.

Bon Voyage!

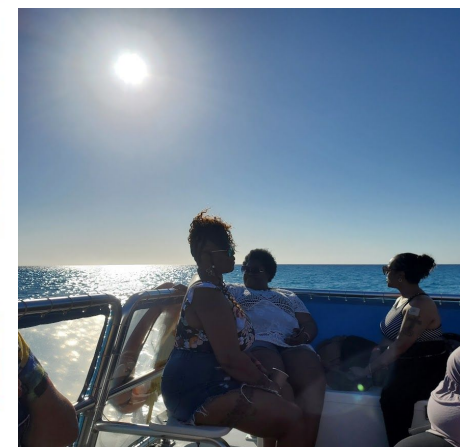


Miami • Key West • Beach Club at
Bimini

50th Birthday Cruise in March 2023
with six women of color - friends
and comrades from community



“We don't heal in isolation, but in community.” - S. Kelley Harrell



"Reunited and it feels so goood..."



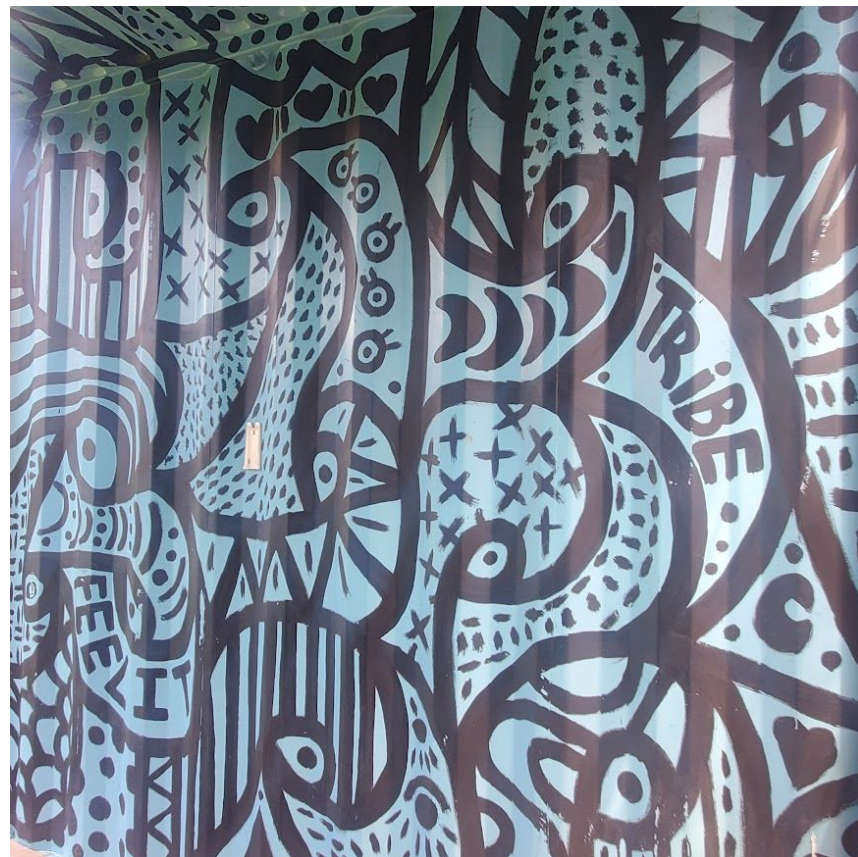
Making Connections To Our Work



Overtown, Miami

- Second oldest neighborhood in Miami, once known as Colored Town;
- Built by the same Black laborers who also helped build the rest of Miami and the county's section of the Florida East Coast Railway.
- As in most Southern cities around the turn of the century, Blacks were not allowed to live in the same neighborhoods as whites, **so they built their homes on the less desirable side of Henry Flagler's new railroad tracks.**
- Despite segregation, early Overtown prospered in many ways. The economic and social isolation **created a cohesive community where a real Black middle class arose, and some Overtown black business owners became relatively wealthy.**
- Overtown, is now one of the Miami's oldest Black American communities
- During the '50s and '60s, the neighborhood was no stranger to influential Black talent like Ella Fitzgerald, Josephine Baker, Billie Holiday, Nat King Cole, W. E. B. Du Bois, and Jackie Robinson.
- Many of these talents would perform in segregated nightclubs and theaters in Miami and then return to Overtown to sleep and perform free encore shows in Black clubs.

Murals, Oh My!



Wynwood Walls, Miami



Art Is Life



Jason Reynolds, Mama Sol & Austin Channing Brown



Community Driven Planning

Corporation For Supportive
Housing Conference, Philadelphia,
PA

- Co-presented on community-driven planning with Avalon Housing ED, Aubrey Patino & Jessica Letaw, Housing Justice Organizer
- Session title: Reckoning, Remembering, Reimagining in the build environment



Let The Official Sabbatical Begin!



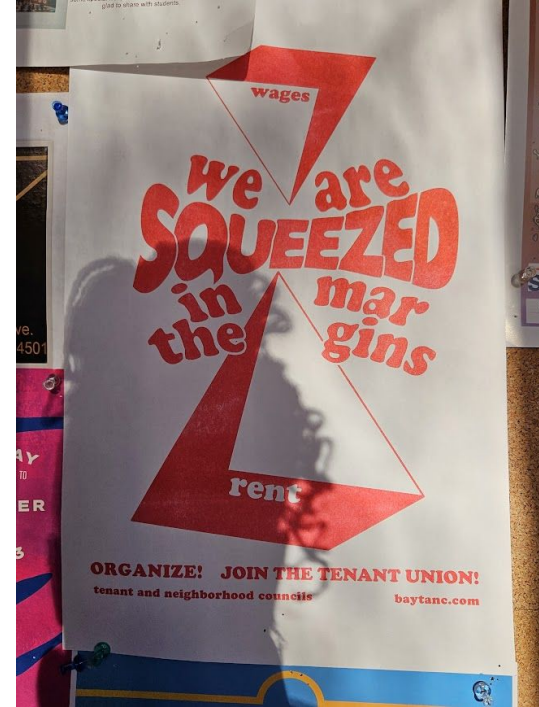
Bahamas: Beach, Family, Rest



Oakland, California

- Earliest known inhabitants were the Huchiun tribe, who have lived there since time immemorial. The Huchiun belong to a linguistic grouping later called the Ohlone (a Miwok word meaning "western people").
- African Americans have been a part of Oakland throughout most of its 167-year history, contributing to its rise from mid-nineteenth century fledgling railroad town to the major West Coast port city, thriving tech hub, and trendy tourist attraction it is today.
- In 1869, thirteen years after its incorporation as a town, Oakland became the western terminus for the Transcontinental Railroad, a development that led to the steady arrival of African Americans who came to work as porters, maids, cooks, redcaps and waiters on the railroads and as employees in the growing hospitality industry.
- The expansion of the city's black population coincided with the Civil Rights era. Oakland took center stage in the Pan-African Movement spreading across the nation when, in 1966, Huey Newton and Bobby Seale founded the Black Panther Movement for Self Defense in response to the ongoing brutality inflicted by the disproportionately white police force on the city's African American residents, who made up a third of the city's population.

Keep It Oakland!



Oakland & Detroit



The Women Of The Black Panther Party Museum



Volunteers with the Black Panther's George Jackson Medical Clinic providing free sickle cell anemia testing, Oakland, CA. © STEPHEN SHAMES

HUEY P. NEWTON

FROM THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY'S ANGELA DAVIS PEOPLE'S FREE FOOD PROGRAM

10,000 FREE BAGS OF GROCERIES (WITH CHICKENS IN EVERY BAG)

WILL BE GIVEN AWAY FREE MARCH 29, 30 AND 31, 1972 AT THE BLACK COMMUNITY SURVIVAL CONFERENCE

THIS ANNOUNCEMENT IS FOR THREE DAYS

MARCH 29, 1972 Oakland Auditorium 1300 St. Oakland, Calif. (Doors Open at 5:00 P.M.)

MARCH 30, 1972 Greenwood Field 65th Ave. (Near East 14th) Oakland, Calif. (12:00 P.M.)

MARCH 31, 1972 San Pablo Park 2000 Park St. (at Oregon) Berkeley, Calif. (12:00 P.M.)

EACH ONE REGISTER ONE

SERVE THE PEOPLE BODY AND SOUL

INCLUDING: **REV. FRANK PINKARD** of the

ANGELA DAVIS WILL BE A BLACK COMMUNITY SURVIVAL CONFERENCE

UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY

ARTHUR EVANS NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLER WHO HAS NEGOTIATED AT ATTERO STATE PRISON IN NEW YORK STATE

What Will You Do For The Youth Survival

YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED FOR THE CHILDREN'S FREE BREAKFAST PROGRAM...

Send your extra food coupons to: Box 12, University Hall, (off-campus)

—ANNOUNCED BY THE Black Panther Party, since 1971, April 1970

FREE AMBULANCE PROGRAM

The Black Panther Party's People's Free Ambulance Service provides free, rapid transportation for sick or injured people without financial means. The clinic uses the public's financial system to benefit the Black community.

Adaptive ambulance services have long been a part of Black communities across the country. Hospital's other facilities refuse to assist their patients who are unable to pay for their services.

The People's Free Ambulance Service operates with a team of volunteers on 24-hour emergency hotlines and team to go as an emergency service to the sick and injured.

Adaptive ambulance services are provided to the sick and injured at the hospital or doctor's office in a modern, comfortable ambulance by trained, efficient and knowledgeable attendants.

The number of ambulances and other necessary equipment will vary with the needs of the city to be served. In all cases, the program should be able to serve the most vulnerable areas with a Black Panther ambulance.

Ambulances should include oxygen equipment for

84 weeks (August 21 to October 1, 1972) and clearly concluded that the age of the youth does bear a definite relationship to the type of offense committed. Of the reported total of 219 victims of strong-arm robbery and purse-snatching, 48% of the victims were over the age of 50. During the same period, only 13% of complaints in armed robbery cases fall into the senior citizen category. The conclusion here, is that an elderly person is more likely to be physically attacked whereas the younger, more agile person, who is more able to defend his or herself, will more likely be the victim of an armed assault. The fact has also been established that 57% of all "victims" committed to the city of Oakland are committed against senior citizens.

On the S.A.F.E. program is particularly crucial in the program's ability to cover the needs of the elderly. The program is to be initiated at the beginning of each month, offering free transportation services to the homes of the frail and senior citizens, a residence complex owned by the city, located at 500 15th Street in Oakland. This is far from the goal, as the program's development will be quite extensive.

"1. To provide round-the-clock transportation services to senior citizens in Alameda County, at no cost to low-income, elderly residents who otherwise would have no means of transport...to that degree, to keep medical appointments and other necessary commitments...

"2. Provide delivery services of life-sustaining food, medical prescriptions and medications...

"3. Provide assistance in moving household furnishings within Alameda County at no cost to low-income persons...

"4. Provide an escort for senior citizens as they walk to and from recreational, entertainment and social activities, in order to prevent isolation, assault and robbery of elderly persons...

"5. To encourage a spirit of respect for the old and concern about the special needs of the elderly among the present generation of businessmen and the distribution of educational and scientific materials...

The S.A.F.E. program also aims to settle Black and poor minority elderly residents, and bring a number of our youth to help implement these needed services. Both drivers and escorts will be recruited from among the young and energetic members of the Black Panther Party. The same time, will not draw the number of youth who would consider community a strategy which is a life change. In addition, drivers and escorts will be given extensive training in their respective fields, with both groups receiving intensive safety and first aid instruction.

nature of Black. The latter is the only one in the nation to offer such information to the general public. These youth information is available to the general public and is available to the general public. The program operates through the National Educational Center General Executive Office Program. Since this program serves the health needs of the community, doctors are required for this program. Information on ways to improve your health, including ways to living a more active life, and ways to be helped in determining the best way to live on the program.

The results focus on the for the maintenance of the program is vital for the maintenance program to be able to serve the health and safety of the community. The program is to be implemented in ways to improve your health, including ways to living a more active life, and ways to be helped in determining the best way to live on the program.

For those people whose lives have been so disrupted by the loss of loved ones, the program provides assistance through the People's Free Ambulance Service. The program is to be implemented in ways to improve your health, including ways to living a more active life, and ways to be helped in determining the best way to live on the program.

People's Free Ambulance Service, Oakland, Calif. 25

SENIORS TO GAIN A FEARFUL ENVIRONMENT (S.A.F.E.)

SAFETY (Seniors Against a Fearful Environment), a nonprofit corporation, was begun by the Black Panther Party at the request of a group of senior citizens for the purpose of preventing snuggles and attacks upon the elderly population. The Black Panther Party, the seniors had gone to the Oakland Police Department to request protection. These the seniors were told, to their dismay and outrage, that they "should each case in the case" in the future.

Mrs. Van Frank, founder of the East Bay Legislative Council for Senior Citizens and the state of California's Outstanding Senior Citizen for 1971, commenting on the danger experienced by the last experienced seniors as aged people by the senior citizens, has remained in our area homes.

A section of a recent hearing proposed for the S.A.F.E. program, necessitates these claims. A comprehensive crime study was done over a period of

Box 123, Sausalito, California 94965

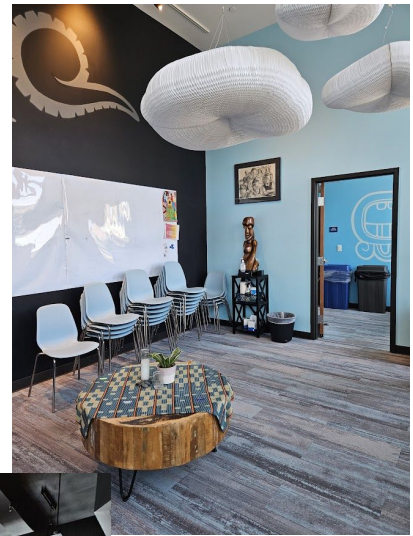


NCT Inspiration!

Restore Oakland



“We believe that collective liberation is intertwined with personal healing. Our mission is to create models of safe and thriving communities and economies. Our community space brings residents of Oakland together to build wholeness, a sense of safety, and democratic wealth.”



Art In The Built Environment



Community Garden & Farm



Designing Justice + Designing Space Offices



The Nook - San Francisco



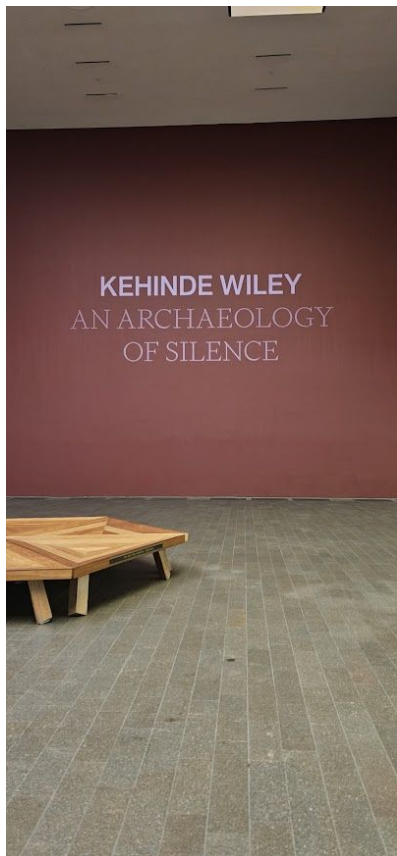
From the Bay Down The California Coast



Napa Valley - Wine & Cultural Immersion



Kehinde Wiley - DeYoung Museum



American artist Kehinde Wiley's new body of paintings and sculptures confronts the silence surrounding systemic violence against Black people through the visual language of the fallen figure.

Wiley investigates the iconography of death and sacrifice in Western art, tracing it across religious, mythological, and historical subjects.

In *An Archaeology of Silence*, the senseless deaths of men and women around the world are transformed into a powerful elegy of resistance. The resulting paintings of figures struck down, wounded, or dead, referencing iconic paintings of mythical heroes, martyrs, and saints, offer a haunting meditation on the legacies of colonialism and systemic racism.

Kehinde Wiley - DeYoung Museum



Kehinde Wiley - DeYoung Museum



Kehinde Wiley - DeYoung Museum



Kehinde Wiley - DeYoung Museum



From Bahamas to Tigray



Cultural Explosion



Caribana - Toronto

- Held every August, in commemoration of the full Emancipation of slaves in Canada in 1838, the festival is a spectacular display of costume, sound, and colour that moves its way through the city of Toronto.
- Approximately two-thirds of Canada's West Indian population reside in the Greater Toronto Area.
- Ten Torontonians, with a common West Indian heritage founded the Caribana festival to display their rich cultural traditions. The festival continues to promote cultural pride, mutual respect, and social unity.



Caribana emerged during a time when many Caribbean residents emigrated to Canada following immigration reform, internationally acclaimed singers were popularizing Caribbean music (for example Harry Belafonte sang to a sold-out crowd at the O'Keefe Centre in Toronto)

What's Next?

- Silent Retreat (May 2024)
- East Africa (Ethiopia, Kenya, Botswana, Tanzania) - Summer 2024
- Costa Rica (TBD)

THANK YOU

