

CHERYL MAGAZINE IN  
PARTNERSHIP WITH SOUL REBORN

# WOMEN *of* INFLUENCE

AWARDS LUNCHEON

MARCH 20, 2026  
STATLER HOTEL  
1914 COMMERCE ST, DALLAS, TX 75201



# Agenda

## **Welcome**

Emcee: Brittney Johnson  
Honorees Entrance  
Performance: Lakeisha Michelle  
Prayer: Kimberly Bizer Tolbert

## **Lunch**

Soul Reborn: Stephanie Bowers  
Performance: Justin Ugochukwu

## **Presentation of Awards by:**

Dr. Cheryl P. Williamson  
Adrienne Barrett

## **Red Carpet Correspondent:**

Kiara Tolliver  
Roni Benjamin-Talley

Platinum Sponsor: Agape  
Closing



# About Cheryl Magazine

Cheryl Magazine is a quarterly publication with a focus on highlighting the amazing work of powerful women. Each issue of Cheryl Magazine brings you the grace, class, style, and power of this country's far-most leading yet unsung women. Some of them you know, some you will come to know, but all of them, gifts to their perspective fields of endeavor. It's Inspiration for the Everyday Woman—for women, about women, by women.

CHERYL MAGAZINE

# WOMEN INFLUENCE

AWARDS LUNCHEON

Welcome to the 4th Annual Cheryl Magazine Women of Influence Awards. Today, we gather within the historic walls of The Statler to do more than just present awards; we are here to witness the manifest power of women who have said "Yes" to their purpose. This afternoon is a curated celebration of the architects, truth-tellers, and community visionaries who are redefining what it means to lead. From the boardroom to the front lines of advocacy, our 2026 Honorees represent the gold standard of influence—leadership rooted in grace and sustained by resilience.

A Mission of Transformation More than a celebration, this afternoon serves as our Annual Fundraiser for Soul Reborn, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to transforming the lives of women. Soul Reborn provides the essential tools, resources, and mentorship needed for women to transition from surviving to thriving—reclaiming their self-worth and resetting their destinies.

Every bid placed in today's silent auction and every donation made directly fuels the programs that empower our sisters to rise. As we celebrate these seventeen extraordinary icons, we invite you to lean in. We invite you to be inspired by their stories and to join us in our mission to pour back into the community.

Together, we aren't just honoring influence; we are creating it.





HONOREE

# Alaina Pinkney

Alaina Pinkney is a brand strategist, filmmaker, world traveler, and creative visionary dedicated to helping women turn their ideas into powerful, visible brands. As the founder of Pinkney Creative, she has spent more than a decade building brands, websites, and marketing strategies for entrepreneurs, authors, and leaders who are ready to elevate their presence and expand their impact. Known for her ability to see the bigger picture, Alaina blends strategy with storytelling to help women move from concept to a fully realized brand that attracts opportunities, influence, and income.

Beyond branding, Alaina is a filmmaker, content creator, and soon-to-be author whose work lives at the intersection of business, media, and culture. Her global travels fuel the stories she tells and the perspective she brings to her creative work, inspiring audiences through content that captures experiences, culture, and the power of stepping outside of your comfort zone. Whether she is developing a brand, producing visual content, or documenting adventures around the world, Alaina approaches every project with the same mission: helping visionary women, along with herself, show up boldly, build something meaningful, and leave their mark on the world.





HONOREE

# April Ryan

White House Correspondent April Ryan holds a historic vantage point as the only Black female reporter covering urban issues from the White House, a role she has held for 28 years since the Clinton administration. She is now the longest-serving Black tenured White House Correspondent in United States history, offering rare insight into the racial sensitivities and political dynamics of multiple presidential administrations. Ryan currently serves as the Washington, D.C. Bureau Chief and Senior White House Reporter for The Black Press, USA, and previously served on the board of the prestigious White House Correspondents' Association, becoming one of only three African Americans in its more than 100-year history to hold that role. In 2015, she received an NAACP Image Award nomination for Outstanding Literary Work – Debut Author.

Throughout her distinguished career, Ryan has received numerous honors recognizing her impact in journalism and public discourse. She received the Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Trailblazer Award in 2016, the Freedom of the Press Award from the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press in 2019, and an NAACP Image Award nomination in 2021 for Social Justice Impact. In 2024, she was named to EBONY Magazine's Power 100 as one of the year's "Media Mavens." A Baltimore native and Morgan State University graduate, Ryan is also the author of several acclaimed books, including *The Presidency in Black and White*, *At Mama's Knee*, *Under Fire*, and her latest work, *Black Women Will Save the World*, which highlights the resilience and leadership of Black women, particularly during the pivotal year of 2020.





HONOREE

# Cicley Gay

Cicley Gay is a seasoned leader with more than two decades of experience advocating for underinvested communities through nonprofit and philanthropic work. She is the founder of The Amplifiers, a social enterprise at the intersection of cause and communications, and currently serves as Chairwoman of the Board for Black Lives Matter.

Cicley began her civic service through two terms with AmeriCorps before becoming the founding director of STAND (Students Take Action for New Directions), where she empowered students by educating them on the impact of federal budget decisions on under-resourced communities. Her work also includes leadership roles with the Women's Sports Foundation and the National CARES Mentoring Movement, where she helped expand opportunities and mentorship for young people in underserved communities.

Her leadership and impact have earned national recognition, including the President's Volunteer Service Award from the Obama Administration and the Catalyst Award from the Global Center for Social Change. She is a member of the inaugural class of the Women's Entrepreneurship Initiative (WEI), a Georgia 40 Under 40 honoree, and a recipient of the SPANX Red Backpack grant for Women's Entrepreneurship. She has also been recognized among ATL+'s Most Powerful Women in Atlanta in 2024 and SUCCESS Magazine's 50 Women of Impact in 2025. Above all, she considers her greatest accomplishment to be motherhood as a proud mom of three sons.





HONOREE

# Dee Dee Bates

Dee Dee Bates is a visionary Financial Executive and Corporate Vice President at a Fortune 100 insurance and financial services company. Guided by a deep commitment to faith, integrity, and intentional living, she has built a purpose-driven career centered on leadership, impact, and uplifting others. Dee Dee specializes in helping entrepreneurial-minded individuals grow thriving businesses through strategic market insights, innovative systems, and scalable solutions.

Throughout her career, Dee Dee has founded and helped charter several organizations dedicated to advancing leadership and opportunity for underrepresented communities. She is widely recognized as a champion for equity and inclusion, using her platform to mentor, develop, and connect emerging leaders across industries. As a devoted philanthropist and community advocate, she also partners with organizations and local leaders to expand access to financial education and empower individuals and families to build generational wealth and achieve economic freedom.

A proud alumna of Southern University A&M College, an HBCU, Dee Dee remains actively engaged through volunteerism and mentoring initiatives that reflect her belief in giving back. She is deeply grounded in her faith and devoted to her family, including her husband Kerry and their three children. Guided by the principle "We rise by lifting others," Dee Dee Bates continues to lead with heart, build with vision, and empower others to rise with her.





HONOREE

# Dr. Dretona Maddox

Dr. Dretona T. Maddox, DSW, MSW, BSN, RN-PHN, LCSW is a leader defined by purpose, resilience, and transformational impact. An award-winning educator, nonprofit founder, and national speaker, she brings both scholarly expertise and lived experience to her work, empowering women and girls across generations. A survivor of suicide loss, teenage pregnancy, and homelessness, Dr. Maddox defied the statistics that once defined her and transformed her journey into a mission of service and leadership.

She now serves as an assistant professor of social work at California Baptist University, mentoring students to lead with integrity, compassion, and vision. Dr. Maddox earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Master of Social Work, and Doctor of Social Work, with research focused on addressing health equity barriers for pregnant Black teens. She is also the founding executive director of Purposely Chosen, Inc., a nonprofit that operates maternity homes for pregnant and parenting teens in foster care, providing safety, education, and opportunity for young mothers.

Beyond academia and nonprofit leadership, Dr. Maddox is a dynamic keynote speaker who inspires audiences to transform pain into purpose, resilience, and legacy. Her leadership has secured funding, built meaningful partnerships, and created a model of maternal support rooted in dignity and hope. Across classrooms and communities nationwide, she continues to uplift others through faith, compassion, and a steadfast commitment to service.





HONOREE

# Dr. Karri Bryant

Dr. Karri Bryant is a dynamic leader with proven experience across both the government and nonprofit sectors. Her marketplace expertise, combined with her ministry background, has positioned her as an influential voice in leadership and faith. She currently serves as First Lady and Executive Pastor of Creative and Experience alongside her husband, Dr. Jamal Harrison Bryant, at New Birth Missionary Baptist Church in Atlanta, one of the largest African American churches in the nation.

In this role, Dr. Bryant provides leadership and oversight for several key ministries including creative production, broadcast, communications, marketing, social media, events, and women's ministry. Her work has earned national recognition, including the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award from President Joseph R. Biden Jr. and being named among the United States Black Chambers' Powerhouse 50 Women of Influence. She also launched the Distinguished Women of Color Doctoral Cohort at Payne Theological Seminary for women pursuing a Doctorate in Ministry focused on leadership in ministry and the marketplace.

Dr. Bryant holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Morris Brown College, a Master of Divinity from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University, and a Doctor of Ministry in Christian Leadership and Renewal. She is a renowned speaker and the author of *The Girl Bible*, *She's Lit*, and *The Nudge*. An ordained clergywoman, mentor, entrepreneur, and philanthropist, she travels the world inspiring women through faith, leadership, and purpose.





HONOREE

# Janelle Quinn

Janelle J. Quinn is a retired Major in the United States Air Force, financial educator, and founder of 3FIVE Wealth and Empowered Investor. With a distinguished 20-year military career, she has transformed her leadership and strategic expertise into a mission to help others build sustainable wealth and financial independence. Janelle enlisted in the Air Force at 18 and earned her commission as a Medical Service Corps officer in less than eight years. She later led healthcare operations and strategic initiatives worldwide, achieving financial independence by age 38 through disciplined investing and intentional planning.

Today, Janelle empowers individuals, especially women, veterans, and aspiring investors, through her Wealth Mastery Framework and the platform 3FIVE Wealth. Her work focuses on practical education and community support to help people invest confidently and build generational wealth. A passionate advocate for financial literacy, she frequently speaks at churches, women's conferences, and national financial forums and has been featured on CNBC for her insights in financial education.

Most recently, Janelle was featured in the 10th Edition of the "Stars and Stripes Military Spouse Entrepreneur Guide", where her article "Portable Prosperity" offers tools to help military spouses build retirement security despite frequent relocations and deployments. Based in Rockwall, Texas with her husband and two daughters, she remains committed to helping everyday people turn smart financial decisions into lasting legacies.





HONOREE

# Karan Staggers

Karan Staggers (Kay), MSN, APRN, FNP-C is a board-certified Family Nurse Practitioner with more than 30 years of experience in nursing. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Olivet Nazarene University and her Master of Science in Nursing from Walden University, specializing as a Family Nurse Practitioner. Karan currently practices at A.L.M.S. Community Health Center, Inc. in Mansfield, Texas, where she provides compassionate care focused on family health and wellness.

Throughout her career, Karan has specialized in pediatric and adult nursing, critical care, emergency medicine, and advanced wound care. Her work centers on identifying disease, managing chronic conditions, and educating patients to better understand and care for their health. She has been recognized as a member of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing and received the P.R.I.D.E. Values Award from the University of Chicago Hospital for excellence in nursing.

Karan, alongside Sharan, is also the co-owner of A.L.M.S. Community Health Center and AGAPE Life Multicultural Mobile Wound Care Services in Mansfield, Texas. Through both her clinical work and leadership in community health, she continues to make a meaningful impact by improving access to care and supporting the overall wellbeing of families and communities.





HONOREE

# Kelley Cornish

Kelley Cornish is the President and CEO of the TD Jakes Foundation, a workforce development and community-building organization focused on improving outcomes for individuals and communities with limited access to resources and opportunities. With nearly four decades of leadership experience, she has built a distinguished career across corporate, nonprofit, and community sectors. Prior to this role, Kelley served as Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer at Wells Fargo & Company and also led diversity and inclusion initiatives for TD Bank Group, AmeriHealth Caritas, and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

In March 2025, Kelley made history as the first woman in the 152-year history of Wiley University to be sworn in as Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees. She has also been recognized for her leadership and impact, including being named a Women of Influence by SUCCESS Magazine in 2023 and receiving the Woman of the Year Award from iHeartMedia in 2022. Through her podcast, Life + Leadership UNPLUGGED with Kelley Cornish, she shares insights on leadership, self-care, and personal growth.

Kelley frequently speaks nationwide about leadership, legacy, and career growth, and serves on the Dallas Regional Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and the People and Leadership Committee for the BAYADA Healthcare Board. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of South Carolina Aiken and a Master's degree in Human Resource Management from Webster University, and is a Certified Diversity Professional through Cornell University with additional leadership coursework from the Harvard Kennedy School.





HONOREE

# Kimberla Lawson Roby

Kimberla Lawson Roby is a *“New York Times”* and *“USA Today”* Best-Selling Author, speaker, podcast host, and founder of Successful Women of Faith – The Sisterhood. She is passionate about helping women grow spiritually, personally, and professionally. Kimberla has published 30 books, including her nonfiction title *“The Woman God Created You to Be: Finding Success Through Faith—Spiritually, Personally, and Professionally”* and its companion workbook, along with bestselling novels such as *“Sister Friends Forever”*, *“A Christmas Prayer”*, *“The Reverend’s Wife”*, *“The Perfect Marriage”*, and *“Casting the First Stone”*.

With more than 3 million copies of her books sold, Kimberla has received numerous honors throughout her career. She won the 2013 NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work – Fiction and was named by *“USA Today”* in 2020 as one of the 100 Black novelists you should read. In 2021, her nonfiction book *“The Woman God Created You to Be”* was nominated for an NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work – Instructional, marking her fourth nomination overall. In 2025, she received the Soar Radio Milestone Honoree Award.

After receiving numerous rejections for her first novel, Kimberla founded her own publishing company, Lenox Press, and successfully self-published her debut title *“Behind Closed Doors”*. She is also the founder of Successful Women of Faith, LLC., and serves on the YWCA Northwestern Illinois Foundation Board and the Friends of the Coronado Foundation Board in Rockford, Illinois. Kimberla resides in the Rockford area with her husband, Will.



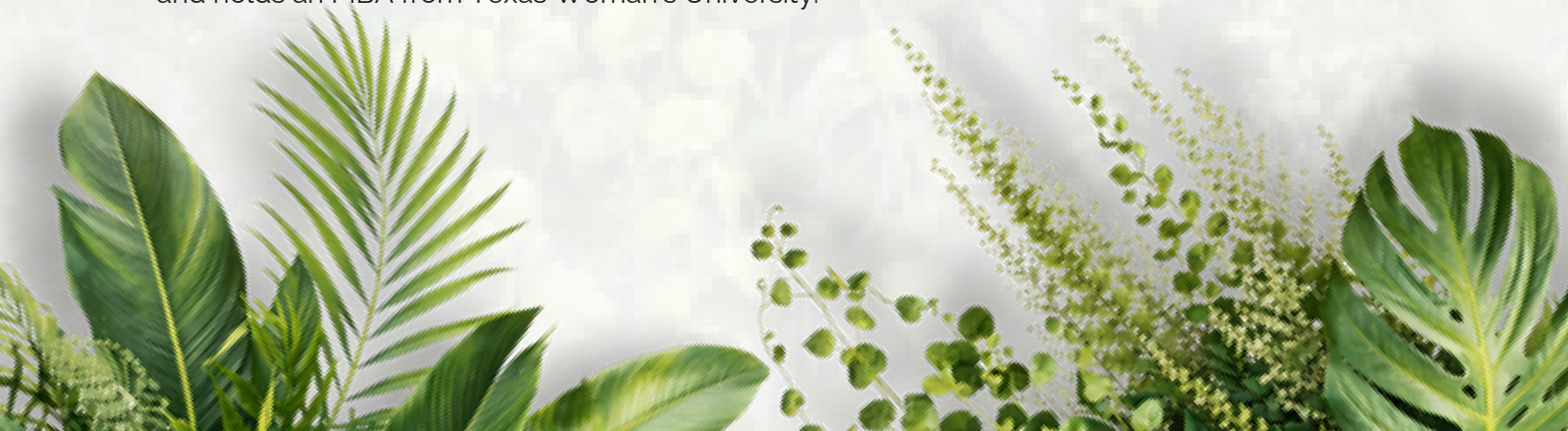
HONOREE

# *Marnese* Barksdale Elder

Marnese Barksdale Elder is the Interim CEO of the DFW Urban League and the Founder and CEO of Mecca Management Solutions, a boutique Human Resources consulting firm based in Arlington, Texas. With more than forty years of experience across Human Resources, government, and nonprofit leadership, she has built a distinguished career advancing talent strategy and organizational development. She previously served as Senior Vice President and Associate Chief Talent Officer at Parkland Hospital and has also held leadership roles with the State of Florida Department of Community Services, the Florida Department of Administration, and the Dallas Housing Authority.

She also made history as the first woman President of the Historic Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce in its 90-year history, overseeing operations, fundraising, budgeting, and membership growth. Her work spans housing, community development, and leadership across multi-state and quasi-governmental organizations.

In 2024, she co-founded the Renaissance House of Terrell Heights in the Historic Southside of Fort Worth, a nonprofit community hub preserving the legacy of African American business and civic leaders while addressing health disparities through wellness programming. Marnese also serves on several civic boards, including the Dallas Regional Chamber, the African American Museum of Dallas, the United Way of Tarrant County, the Arlington Museum of Art, and the St. Philip's School and Community Center Foundation Board. She is a graduate of Fisk University and holds an MBA from Texas Woman's University.





HONOREE

# Sara Madsen Miller

Sara Madsen Miller is the Chief Operating Officer and Executive Producer at 1820 Productions, where creativity and strategy come together to bring powerful brand stories to life. With a strong eye for narrative and production leadership, she helps companies and agencies create bold, memorable content that stands out. 1820 Productions has become a trusted creative partner for brands such as Mastercard, Frito-Lay, and Discovery, as well as agencies including Edelman and GS&P, producing Emmy Award-winning branded campaigns, commercials, television shows, and documentaries.

Before joining 1820 Productions, Sara spent 14 years at Pfizer, leading high-performing teams and managing multimillion-dollar portfolios. Her results-driven leadership earned her top recognition, including the company's Vice President's Management Club honor. She is a graduate of Drake University with dual degrees in Journalism and Business and has completed executive leadership programs at Harvard and Dartmouth's Tuck School of Business.

Sara is also deeply engaged in her community, serving on the boards of the Dallas Regional Chamber, Housing Forward, the AT&T Performing Arts Center Endowment, and the Business Council for the Arts. She has received the Dallas Business Journal Woman in Business Award and was named a Shining Star by the American Advertising Federation. Based in Dallas, Sara continues to inspire through leadership, storytelling, and a belief in the power of meaningful connection.





HONOREE

# Sharan Allen

Sharan Allen (Shea), MSN, APRN, AGNP-C is a board-certified Adult Gerontology Nurse Practitioner specializing in primary care for patients from adolescence through end of life. She earned both her Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Master of Science in Nursing from Walden University, where she focused on Adult Gerontology Nurse Practitioner studies. Shea is committed to improving patient outcomes by helping individuals manage and prevent complications associated with chronic illness.

Her approach centers on patient education, evidence-based care, disease prevention, and long-term health maintenance. Shea believes that while chronic illness may be part of a patient's journey, it does not have to define their quality of life. She partners closely with her patients to promote informed health decisions and sustainable wellness.

Shea often shares the acronym C.A.P. as the heart of her healthcare philosophy: Compassion, Accountability, and Professionalism. Through empathy, dedication, and a commitment to excellence, she strives to create a supportive environment where patients feel empowered, cared for, and guided toward healthier lives.





HONOREE

# Sharyn Ellison

Sharyn D. Ellison is a passionate advocate for philanthropy, education, and design, and serves as the Co-Founder and President of The Ellison Foundation. Raised in Memphis, Tennessee as a preacher's kid, her deep commitment to charitable giving and community empowerment has shaped her lifelong mission of service. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Memphis, where her dedication to uplifting others first began to take root.

Alongside her husband, Marvin R. Ellison, Chairman, President, and CEO of Lowe's Home Improvement, Sharyn founded The Ellison Foundation with a vision to drive transformative change through mentorship, scholarships, and faith-based initiatives. Through this work, she champions social equity and helps create opportunities for individuals and communities to thrive. While supporting her husband's corporate journey, Sharyn also developed her own path as an interior and experiential designer while leading the Foundation with purpose.

Sharyn extends her service through leadership roles on several boards, including the University of Memphis Alumni Board, Paul Quinn College, the Foundation for the Carolinas, Restore Them Inc., and Space of Grace. Based in Charlotte, North Carolina, she is also a devoted wife of nearly 35 years and proud mother of two accomplished children. Through her work in philanthropy and community leadership, Sharyn continues to inspire lasting impact and opportunity for others.





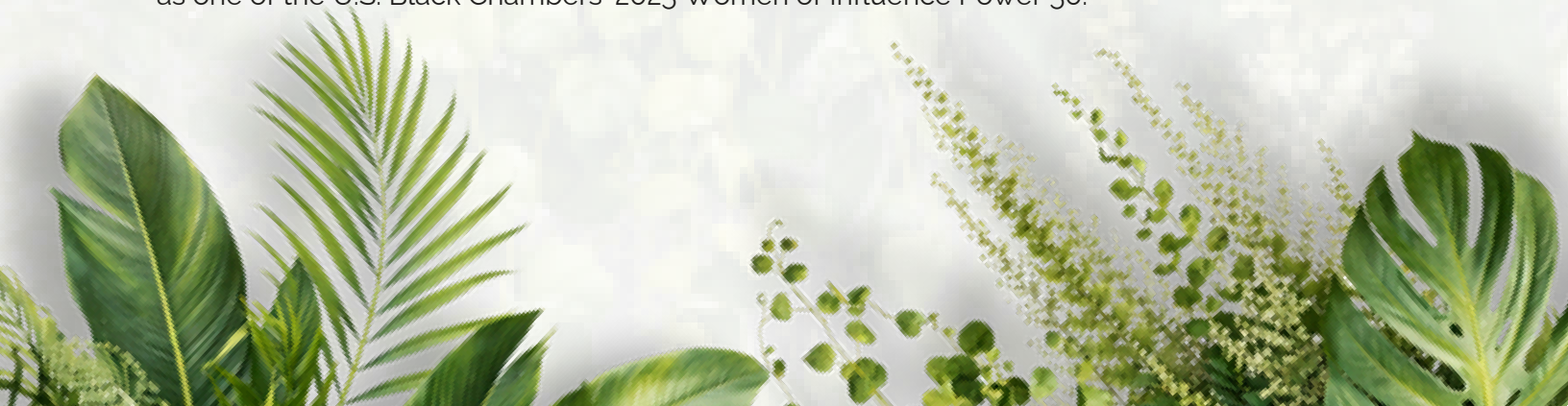
HONOREE

# Sheila Eldridge

Sheila Eldridge, CEO of Miles Ahead Entertainment & Broadcasting, brings more than 35 years of experience in broadcasting, corporate communications, integrated marketing, event activation, and public relations. A graduate of Howard University's Cathy Hughes School of Communications, she began her career at WHUR-FM and later completed advanced studies at UCLA in Crisis Management and New Communications Technology. After working in corporate America, she founded Orchid Communications, a firm that represented major entertainers including Janet Jackson, Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis, Charlie Wilson, and En Vogue, which later evolved into Miles Ahead Entertainment & Broadcasting (MAEB), a certified multicultural marketing and public relations company.

Today, MAEB provides consumer lifestyle marketing, event management, sponsor engagement, and integrated broadcast media campaigns for a diverse range of clients. Its multimedia production studio syndicates the four-time Gracie Award-winning "Café Mocha" radio show, known as "radio from a woman's perspective," airing in more than 50 markets nationwide and on SiriusXM Channel 141. Eldridge also launched the Mocha Podcasts Network, a platform for conversations that matter, which has earned three NAACP Image Awards.

She also founded the Mocha Cares Foundation, supporting underserved communities and creating career opportunities for HBCU students. Over the years, Eldridge and MAEB have received numerous honors including three NAACP Image Awards, four Gracie Awards, the Living Legends Foundation Entrepreneur Award, the Essence Women Award, and recognition as one of the U.S. Black Chambers' 2025 Women of Influence Power 50.





HONOREE

# Valeisha Butterfield

Valeisha Butterfield is a trailblazing leader, global advocate for women, and cultural architect whose work spans technology, politics, and entertainment. Born in Wilson, North Carolina with deep Bermuda roots, she comes from a legacy of public service as the daughter of U.S. Congressman G.K. Butterfield and North Carolina State Legislator Jean Farmer Butterfield. Over a career spanning more than two decades, Valeisha has built a reputation for bridging corporate leadership, activism, and cultural influence to drive meaningful change.

Her leadership includes senior roles at some of the world's most influential organizations. She served as Vice President of Global Partnerships and Engagement at Google, helping lead initiatives focused on AI ethics, creator equity, and global inclusion. Earlier, she served as National Youth Vote Director for the Obama for America campaign, contributing to one of the highest youth voter turnouts in U.S. history, and later as Deputy Director of Public Affairs in the Obama Administration. She also served as Co-President of the Recording Academy (GRAMMYS), helping lead reforms that advanced equity and transparency within the music industry.

Valeisha also co-founded the Women in Entertainment Empowerment Network (WEEN), a nonprofit empowering women and girls through mentorship and leadership development. Recognized by *\*Forbes\**, *\*ESSENCE\**, *\*Ebony\**, and *\*Adweek\**, she is also the author of the bestselling career guide *\*The Girlprint\**. A graduate and Board Trustee of Clark Atlanta University, she also serves on the boards of GRAMMY Global Ventures and the GRAMMYS Black Music Collective, continuing her mission to expand opportunity and representation.





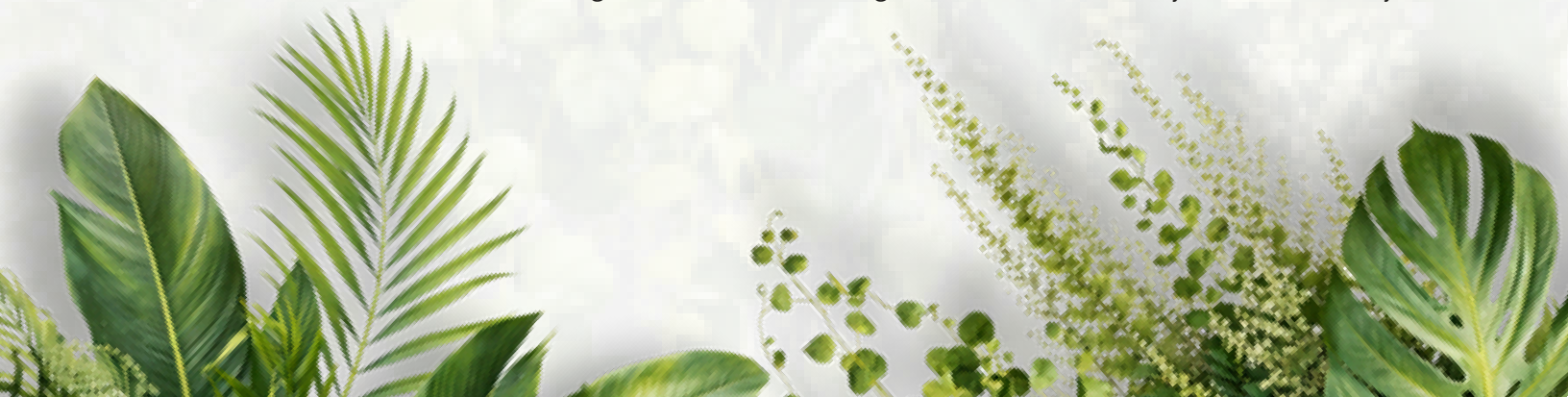
HONOREE

# Velena McRae

Velena L. McRae is an award-winning leader, speaker, and philanthropist known for her purpose-driven leadership and commitment to civic engagement. With more than 30 years of service with the U.S. Department of the Treasury, she serves within the Communications Stakeholder Liaison Field Division, helping strengthen relationships between government and community by engaging payroll and tax professionals nationwide. Her dynamic presentation style and ability to build meaningful connections have made her a sought-after presenter and trainer across the country.

Beyond her federal service, Velena is the Founder and President of the JV McRae Foundation, Inc., which supports initiatives in education, health, financial literacy, and family stability for underserved communities. She also chaired the African American Museum of Dallas Annual Fundraising Gala in 2022 and 2023, raising vital funds to support youth summer programming. A Silver Life Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., she made history as the 47th President of the Alpha Xi Omega Chapter, the largest and oldest chapter in the Dallas–Fort Worth Metroplex, guiding the organization through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Velena's faith and commitment to service extend to her work at Hamilton Park United Methodist Church, where she has served in several leadership roles. She holds an MBA from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, a Business Analytics certificate from Texas A&M–Commerce, and a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, and is also a Professional Registered Parliamentarian. A devoted mother of two accomplished sons, Velena continues to lead with resilience, grace, and an enduring commitment to family and community.



MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES

# Brittany Johnson



Brittney Johnson is an Emmy Award-winning journalist and co-anchor of NBC 5 News at 10 p.m. in Dallas-Fort Worth. Known for thoughtful storytelling and community-centered reporting, Brittney is passionate about using journalism to inform, empower and inspire. Throughout her career, she has covered critical issues including housing affordability, mental health and the foster care system.

Brittney's career has taken her to newsrooms in states across the country, including North Carolina, Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas. Her reporting has earned a Lone Star Emmy and awards from the Associated Press, the North Carolina Association of Broadcasters, the Radio Television Digital News Association of the Carolinas, and the Texas Psychological Association, which recognized her for impactful reporting on mental health.

A proud graduate of Howard University, Brittney began her journalism career as a writer for The Hilltop. She later earned a master's degree from UC Berkeley's Graduate School of Journalism and served as a health reporting fellow for The Washington Post.

Beyond the newsroom, Brittney is a champion for health, wellness and community well-being. She is a certified personal trainer and nutrition coach and the founder of Best Life Health Coaching. She has served as a multi-year chair for NAMIWalks for NAMI North Texas and for the Community Council of Greater Dallas Family Fit Fest. She has also spent years delivering meals to seniors through Meals on Wheels, donating platelets with Carter BloodCare, and co-sponsoring a scholarship for college students through the Arlington Foundation for Excellence in Education.

Brittney is a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, and the National Association of Black Journalists.

MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES

# Roni Talley



Roni Talley is a bestselling author of four self-help and personal development books. As an inspirational speaker and communication coach, Roni's mission is to uplift and inspire others to reach their fullest potential in life. Her approach includes practical exercises to help break through trauma from the past and discover gifts and talents that have been dormant for far too long. Her commitment to overcome child molestation, domestic violence and self-limiting beliefs are apparent with her delivery of every speech. The audience embarks on a journey from trials to triumph and is inspired to move forward with purpose.

Roni demonstrates her passion for helping others break through what's holding them back from living their best life.

Roni Talley is a professional event emcee and corporate facilitator renowned for her magnetic soulful energy that inspires audiences to connect and act. She helps audiences get to the heart of every session at live on-stage, in-studio, hybrid, and virtual events with her laser in-the-moment focus, graceful improvisation, and contagious effervescence. Roni emphasizes critical points from speakers and themes, creating continuity, cohesion, and driving deeper audience engagement.

Drawing from years of experience as a stage and film actress, radio personality, emcee, moderator, and corporate presenter in technology, healthcare, finance, and more, Roni makes complex material conversational, improvising with humor and grace. These rich experiences add to her ability to flow with the changing variables of live events. Her clientele spans large corporations like Intuit Inc., New York Life, Rolling Out Magazine, Cheryl Polote Williamson, LLC, Soul Reborn and Congregational Security, Inc.

PERFORMER / SAXOPHONIST

# Justin Ugochukwu Jinanwa



**Ugo Sax** is a Dallas-based saxophonist known for creating unforgettable atmospheres through live music. Blending smooth jazz, R&B, gospel, Pop and Afro-soul influences, Ugo Sax brings elegance, energy, and emotion to weddings, private celebrations, corporate events, and worship experiences.

Whether performing during a ceremony, cocktail hour, or special moment, Ugo Sax transforms events with soulful melodies and timeless sound.

# SILENT *Auction*



AUCTION ITEM NO. 1

# The "Grace & Growth" LA Experience

A Private Masterclass in  
Intentionality with Tabitha Brown



SCAN TO BID

**The Icon:** Step into the world of America's Mom. Tabitha Brown is a multi-hyphenate powerhouse—an Emmy-nominated actress, a 2025 NAACP Image Award winner, and a New York Times #1 best-selling author. From her viral hit show *It's Compliantly Tab* to her groundbreaking "Donna's Recipe" hair care and her luxury perfume line, Tabitha has mastered the art of building a global empire rooted in authenticity and joy.

**The Experience:** This is not just a meeting; it is a masterclass in staying true to your spirit while scaling to the top. This exclusive package invites you to Los Angeles for an intimate 3-hour private session with Tabitha. Whether you are looking for brand-building wisdom, a career "reset," or simply to soak in the light of a woman who has redefined modern influence, these three hours are designed to be a life-shifting investment in your personal and professional growth.

**Your Luxury Package Includes:**

- Roundtrip Airfare to Los Angeles, CA.
- One-Night Stay at a premium, hand-selected luxury hotel.
- Private Black Car Service for all transitions.
- A 3-Hour Private "Deep Dive" Session spent 1-on-1 with Tabitha Brown.

**Item Value: Priceless Starting Bid: \$5,000**

AUCTION ITEM NO. 2

# The Mastermind Experience

Legacy meets Strategy with Kim  
Roxie, CEO of LAMIK Beauty



SCAN TO BID

**The Visionary:** Join the woman who didn't just enter the beauty industry—she revolutionized it. Kim Roxie, the powerhouse CEO of LAMIK Beauty, has taken clean beauty from a local boutique to the shelves of major national retailers. Now, she is pulling back the curtain to help you scale your own legacy.

**The Experience:** This is a high-touch, immersive "War Room" session designed to move your brand from "idea" to "retail-ready." Set in Tulsa, Oklahoma, this journey begins with a grounding in the history of Black Wall Street, followed by a tactical deep dive into your business ecosystem.

## **The Itinerary:**

**Phase 1: Grounding in Greatness.** A private tour of the historic Greenwood District. Before you build your future, anchor yourself in the legacy of economic innovation and resilience.

**Phase 2: The Intensive Whiteboard Session.** We roll up our sleeves to dissect your business, product, or idea. We map your gaps and identify exactly what is standing between you and the retail shelf.

**Phase 3: The Retail Roadmap.** Learn the "Retail Readiness" checklist. Kim shares exactly what she—and big-box buyers—look for when evaluating a partnership.

## **Your Executive Package Includes:**

- Roundtrip Airfare to Tulsa, OK.
- One-Night Stay at a premium local hotel.
- The Full-Day Mastermind Session with Kim Roxie.
- The Result: A comprehensive strategic plan and the clarity needed to execute your next level of growth.

**Item Value: \$10,000 Starting Bid: \$3,500**

AUCTION ITEM NO. 3

# The 2027 "Legacy & Luxury" Experience

The 5th Annual Cheryl Magazine  
Women of Influence Awards



SCAN TO BID

The Experience: Secure your place at the most anticipated event of 2027 before tickets even hit the public market. Celebrate the 5th Anniversary milestone of the Women of Influence Awards in absolute style. This package is designed for the woman who values her time, her network, and a seamless, high-end experience from the moment she arrives at the iconic Statler Hotel in downtown Dallas.

The Landmark Venue: Experience the mid-century modern elegance of The Statler, a masterpiece of Texas hospitality. You won't just attend the event; you will live the experience from the heart of the action.

## **Your 2027 VIP Package Includes:**

- Two (2) VIP All-Access Tickets to the 5th Annual Women of Influence Awards (includes VIP Welcome Reception and Afterparty).
- Premium Overnight Stay in a luxury suite at The Statler Hotel on the night of the event.
- Complimentary Valet Parking for the duration of your stay.
- VIP "Fast-Pass" Check-in: Bypass the general lines with a dedicated Mosaic Engagements concierge.

**Item Value: \$2,500 Starting Bid: \$1,200**

AUCTION ITEM NO. 4

# The "Literary Legend" Chicago Experience

A Private Masterclass in Storytelling  
with Kimberla Lawson Roby



**The Icon:** Meet the woman who has defined the contemporary fiction landscape. Kimberla Lawson Roby is a New York Times Best-Selling Author of 29 installments, a NAACP Image Award winner for Outstanding Literary Work, and a recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the African American Literary Awards. With over 3 million copies of her books in print, she is a titan of the written word.

**The Experience:** This exclusive invitation brings you to the vibrant city of Chicago for a 2-hour, 1-on-1 private session with Kimberla. Whether you are an aspiring author looking for industry secrets, a business leader seeking to master your narrative, or a lifelong fan, this is a rare opportunity to sit with a literary icon.

## **Your Luxury Package Includes:**

- Roundtrip Airfare to Chicago, IL.
- Premium Hotel Accommodations (One-night stay).
- Private Black Car Service for all transitions.
- 2-Hour Private Session with Kimberla Lawson Roby.
- The Legacy Collection: Receive personally signed copies of six (6) of Kimberla's acclaimed books.

**Item Value: \$10,000 Starting Bid: \$5,000**

AUCTION ITEM NO. 5

# The "Influence & Impact" Coaching Session

Strategic Breakthrough with Dr.  
Cheryl Polote Williamson



SCAN TO BID

**The Visionary:** Dr. Cheryl Polote Williamson is a multi-hyphenate force—a Best-Selling Author, NAACP Image Award Nominee, and a world-renowned speaker and filmmaker. As the CEO of Cheryl Magazine and a powerhouse in the world of executive coaching, she has dedicated her life to helping women walk in their purpose and power.

**The Experience:** This is your chance to gain direct access to one of the most sought-after minds in the industry. This 1-hour private coaching session is designed for the woman ready to make her next big move. Cheryl will help you audit your vision, identify your blocks, and create a roadmap for your next level of influence.

**This Package Includes:**

- 1-Hour Private Strategic Coaching Session (Virtual or In-Person at a mutually agreed location).
- The Author's Library: A curated collection of eight (8) signed books authored by Dr. Cheryl Polote Williamson.

**Item Value: \$5,000 Starting Bid: \$2,500**

AUCTION ITEM NO. 6

# The "Timeless Beauty" Collection

The Estée Lauder Ultimate  
Luxury Gift Basket



The Experience: Indulge in the gold standard of skincare and cosmetics. Estée Lauder has been the world leader in prestige beauty for decades, and this curated collection brings the spa and the vanity of a queen directly to your home.

**This High-Value Collection Includes:**

- A comprehensive suite of Estée Lauder's top-performing products.
- Professional-grade skincare tools and accessories.
- Exclusively curated for the 4th Annual Women of Influence attendee who demands excellence in her self-care routine.

**Total Package Value: \$1,000 Starting Bid: \$500**

AUCTION ITEM NO. 6

# The "Statement of Power" Collection

Exclusive Handbag Duo  
by The Bag Icon



SCAN TO BID

The Brand: Founded on the principle that your accessories should speak before you do, The Bag Icon has become a staple for the high-achieving woman. Known for their structured silhouettes, vibrant hues, and the iconic "Icon" hardware, these bags are designed for the woman who leads with style and carries her legacy with grace.

The Experience: Elevate your professional wardrobe with a curated duo of luxury handbags. Whether you are stepping into a boardroom or onto a red carpet, these pieces serve as a physical reminder of your status and your story. This package is for the woman who knows that her "Icon" status is not just a title—it's a lifestyle.

**This Luxury Collection Includes:**

- Two (2) Signature Handbags from The Bag Icon's premier collection.
- Hand-selected for their timeless appeal and executive functionality.
- Includes dust bags and a certificate of authenticity.

**Total Package Value: \$1,200 Starting Bid: \$600**



# Help Us Make A Difference

**Soul Reborn** is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded by best selling author, transformational speaker and entrepreneur, Cheryl Polote-Williamson. Through the help of community leaders, influencers and volunteers, Soul Reborn focuses on transforming the lives of disadvantaged, disenfranchised and previously incarcerated women by educating and equipping them with the tools for life and business.



HELP US MAKE  
A DIFFERENCE



[WWW.SOULREBORN.ORG](http://WWW.SOULREBORN.ORG)

# A Legacy of Partnership: Thank You to Our 2026 Sponsors

*The 4th Annual Women of Influence Awards is made possible through the visionary support of our corporate and community partners. We extend our deepest gratitude to those who have invested in the mission of Soul Reborn and the celebration of these 17 extraordinary icons.*



**Our 2026 Legacy Partner: Agape Life Multicultural Services (ALMS)**

**LEGACY PARTNER | \$50,000**



**Agape Life Multicultural Services**  
(A.L.M.S.) PLLC

At the heart of the 4th Annual Women of Influence Awards stands our Legacy Partner, Agape Life Multicultural Services. With a transformative \$50,000 investment, ALMS has demonstrated an unparalleled commitment to the health, restoration, and empowerment of our community.

Led by visionaries Karan Staggers and Sharan Allen, ALMS is more than a healthcare provider; it is a sanctuary of "Agape" love. By providing compassionate, multicultural care that treats the whole person—mind, body, and spirit—ALMS perfectly aligns with the mission of Soul Reborn to transition women from surviving to thriving. We honor and thank ALMS for paving the way for a legacy of healing and influence.

**TRAIL VISION PARTNER | \$35,000**



**LIMITLESS PARTNER | \$25,000**



**VIP MEET & GREET PARTNER | \$20,000**



**AFTER PARTY PARTNER | \$20,000**



**3FIVE WEALTH**

**DREAM PARTNER | \$10,000**



**Agape Life Multicultural Services  
(A.L.M.S.) PLLC**



**Simmons Bank**

**VIP PARTNER | \$5,000**

- Texas Credit Union

**PREMIER VISIBILITY PARTNER | \$5,000**

- Modesty Essentials

**VALET LOUNGE PARTNER | \$5,000**

- Intuit

**TABLE PARTNERS | \$4,200**

- 1820 Productions
- Adkins-Green, LLC
- Adrienne Barrett
- Butterfly Sisters
- Eight48 Ministries
- Esi's Corner
- Kimberly Sweet Media
- M. Gaulding & Associates
- MarWen & Son, LLC dba McDonald's
- New York Life African American Market Unit
- Purposely Chosen
- She Empowerment Global
- The Talent Practice

### **DREAM PARTNER | \$10,000**

- Agape Life Multicultural Services
- She Empowerment Global
- Simmons Bank

### **HONOREE TABLE SPONSORS | \$1,000**

- ABI
- Donna's Recipe / Tab & Chance Fragrance
- Intentional Matters
- IvoryLuxe Fragrance
- Kween Bee
- LAMIK Makeup
- MYOA LLC - The Luxury Cookie Experience
- Paint Your Lips Red
- Sugar Scrub

### **VENDOR SPONSORS | \$700**

- American Airlines
- Eye Do Eye Wear
- IvoryLuxe Fragrance
- Therapeutic Transitions

### **BAG SPONSORS | \$500**

- Cheryl Jackson
- DiVine
- Flower Mound Dentistry
- Healing Hearts Therapeutic
- IvoryLuxe Fragrance
- Intuit
- LAMIK Makeup
- Mansfield Funeral Home & Crematory
- Potter's House
- Terri Sanders

# A NOTE FROM OUR CEO/FOUNDER

DR. CHERYL POLOTE WILLIAMSON

## To My Sisters and Distinguished Guests,

As we draw this 4th Annual Women of Influence Awards to a close, my heart is overflowing with a profound sense of gratitude. Looking across this room at The Statler today, I don't just see an audience—I see a collective of world-changers and a beautiful community of souls joined together for a higher purpose.

When I first envisioned this platform, my prayer was to create a space where excellence wasn't just acknowledged, but where it was amplified to light the path for others. Today, we have done just that. To our **17 extraordinary Honorees**: your "Yes" to your calling has shifted the atmosphere. You are the "Truth-Tellers," the "Legacy Builders," and the "Architects of Compassion" that our world so desperately needs. Your life is the evidence of what happens when grace meets grit.

However, our work does not end with the final applause. The true purpose of this gathering is rooted in our mission for **Soul Reborn**. Because of your presence and your generosity today—from our Legacy Partner, **ALMS**, to every individual heart that gave—we are able to continue the vital work of restoring women. Your support ensures that we can provide the tools and mentorship necessary for women to reclaim their voices and transition from simply surviving to truly thriving.

As you leave this space, I challenge you to carry the spirit of this afternoon with you. Influence is not a crown to be worn; it is a tool to be used. Use yours to open doors, to heal communities, and to lift a sister as you climb.

Thank you for believing in the vision. Thank you for investing in the mission. And most importantly, thank you for being the heart and soul of this journey.

**With a Heart Full of Agape Love and Great Expectancy,**  
**Dr. Cheryl Polote Williamson** Founder & Visionary, Cheryl Magazine & Soul Reborn



[WWW.SOULREBORN.ORG](http://WWW.SOULREBORN.ORG)



[WWW.CHERYLMAGAZINE.COM](http://WWW.CHERYLMAGAZINE.COM)



C H E R Y L   M A G A Z I N E

# WOMEN *of* INFLUENCE

A W A R D S   L U N C H E O N

Cheryl Magazine proudly announces the **5th Annual Women of Influence Awards Luncheon 2027**, an upcoming celebration honoring women who lead with fearless conviction, challenge expectations, and move with unapologetic purpose. Building on the legacy of this year's honorees, we look ahead to a new class of trailblazers redefining what it means to take up space, break barriers, and create lasting impact across industries and communities.

FRIDAY  
MARCH  
*19th*  
2027



GET YOUR  
TICKETS