



THOMAS D. BLACK

*A Life of Jazz and
Social Justice*



TIMUEL D. BLACK: A Life of Jazz and Social Justice

ORDER OF PROGRAM

PROCESSIONAL

AFRICAN DRUM SALUTE AND LIBATIONS

DRUMMERS: *Olu Abdul Shakoar, Idris A. Shakoar;*
DRUM DIVAS: *Dr. Yaounde Olu, Leslie Page-Piper, Zina, Alice Smith Jones, Ayanna Uhuru*

WELCOME

REV. MAURICE CHARLES
Dean, Rockefeller Chapel

INTERFAITH PRAYERS

BISHOP HORACE E. SMITH, MD, *Pastor, Apostolic Faith Church*
RABBI RACHEL MIKVA, *Professor, Chicago Theological Seminary*
IMAM TARIQ EL-AMIN, *Resident Imam, Majid Al-Taqwa*

“WEST END BLUES + WEATHER BIRD” by Louis Armstrong
ORBERT DAVIS QUARTET *presented by Chicago Jazz Philharmonic*
Orbert Davis, trumpet; Leandro Lopez Varady, piano; Stewart Miller, bass; Yusef Ernie Adams, drums

EMCEE – MICHELLE BOONE, *President, The Poetry Foundation*

REMARKS

JB PRITZKER, *43rd Governor of Illinois*
LORI LIGHTFOOT, *56th Mayor of Chicago*
ROBERT J. ZIMMER, *Chancellor, University of Chicago*

TRIBUTES

USENI EUGENE PERKINS, *Poet, Playwright, Activist and Educator*
JULIEANNA RICHARDSON, *Founder and Executive Director, The HistoryMakers*

EMCEE – HEATHER IRELAND ROBINSON
Executive Director, Jazz Institute of Chicago

“AFRO-CENTRIC” by Joe Henderson
JAZZ INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO JAZZ LINKS ALUMNI ENSEMBLE
Irvin Pierce, tenor sax; Manuel Canchola, alto sax; Tony Milano, piano; Thaddeus Tukes, vibes; Carmani Edwards, bass; Josh Ross, drums

“COME SUNDAY” by Duke Ellington
TAMMY MCCANN AND ENSEMBLE
Tammy McCann, vocalist; Fred Jackson, alto sax; Alex Beltran, tenor sax; Rajiv Halim, baritone sax; Matt Davis, trombone; Norman Palm, trombone; Victor Garcia, trumpet; Ryan Nyther, trumpet; Tom Vaitas, piano; Christian Dillingham, bass; Sam Jewell, drums

EMCEE – JOSEPH M. HARRINGTON,
Founding Member, T.D. Black Educational Foundation

TRIBUTES

MELODY SPANN-COOPER, *Chairwoman & CEO of Midway Broadcasting*
DON ROSE, *Journalist, Political Consultant, and Activist*
ROBERT T. STARKS, *Professor Emeritus, Northeastern Illinois University*
GREG KELLEY, *SEIU HCII; Board Member, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, The Chicago Federation of Labor, and United Working Families*

EMCEE – MONICA FAITH STEWART
Board Member, The Vivian G. Harsh Society

OSCAR BROWN JR. MEDLEY
MAGGIE AND AFRICA BROWN presented by South Side Jazz Coalition

“FOUR WOMEN” by Nina Simone
DEE ALEXANDER presented by Hyde Park Jazz Society
and Hyde Park Jazz Festival
Miguel de la Cerna, piano; Junius Paul, bass; Charles Heath, drums

EMCEE – BART SCHULTZ, *Executive Director of the Civic Knowledge Project and Senior Lecturer in the Humanities, University of Chicago*

TRIBUTES

BRANDON WALKER, *8th grade student, Wilbur Wright Middle School - Munster, IN*
DR. LISA YUN LEE, *Exec. Director, National Public Housing Museum*

EMCEE – WENDY WILLIAMS

PRESENTATION
JUAN SALGADO, *Chancellor, City Colleges of Chicago*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
ZENOBIA JOHNSON-BLACK

EMCEE – NATALIE MOORE, *Author and WBEZ Reporter*

“WALK WITH ME” arranged by Robert Irving III
CATHY TOWNSEND, AJENE COOKS AND ROBERT IRVING III

EULOGY
REVEREND JESSE L. JACKSON, *Founder, Rainbow PUSH Coalition*
JONATHAN JACKSON

MOMENT OF SILENCE

EMCEE – MICHELLE BOONE

“MAKE A JOYFUL SOUND”
AACM GREAT BLACK MUSIC ENSEMBLE
Mwata Bowden, *Conductor, clarinet*; Edwin Daugherty, Ernest Dawkins, Fred Jackson, *alto sax*; Ari Brown, Edward House, *tenor sax*; Leon Q Allen, *trumpet*; Stephen Berry, *trombone*; Jeff Harris, *bass*; Coco Elysses, *percussion*, Dushun Mosley, *drums*

RECESSIONAL AND SECOND LINE





SPEAKERS



REVEREND MAURICE CHARLES, *Dean of Rockefeller Chapel*

As Dean of the Rockefeller Chapel, Reverend Charles' religious service includes extensive work with the spiritual communities in Chicago. While a student at the Divinity School, Charles was sponsored for ordination to the Episcopal priesthood by St. Paul and the Redeemer Church in Hyde Park. The Cleveland native earned his bachelor's degree in psychology from Case Western Reserve University.



REVEREND JESSE L. JACKSON, *Founder, Rainbow PUSH Coalition*

Jesse Louis Jackson is a political activist, Baptist minister, and politician. He was a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1984 and 1988 and served as a shadow U.S. senator for the District of Columbia from 1991 to 1997. He is the founder and President of Rainbow PUSH Coalition, and one of America's foremost civil rights, religious and political figures. Over the past forty years, he has played a pivotal role in virtually every movement for empowerment, peace, civil rights, gender equality, and economic and social justice. On August 9, 2000, President Bill Clinton awarded Reverend Jackson the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor.



JONATHAN LUTHER JACKSON

Jonathan Luther Jackson is an American business professor, entrepreneur and social justice advocate. He is the national spokesman for the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition and a partner in a Chicago-based beer distributorship, River North Sales and Service, LLC. Jackson was born in Chicago, to the Rev. Jesse Jackson, a noted civil rights activist and Baptist minister, and Jacqueline Lavinia Jackson. His godfather was the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., from whom Jackson gets his middle name. The middle child of his parents' five children, Jackson's siblings are Santita Jackson and U.S. Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr., his elders, and Yusef, Jacqueline Jackson, and Ashley, his younger siblings.



GREG KELLEY, *SEIU, HCII; Board Member, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, the Chicago Federation of Labor, and United Working Families*

Kelley graduated from Proviso East High School in Maywood, Ill., and is an Alpha Phi Alpha graduate of the University of Iowa. Kelley's 20 + years' experience as a rank-and-file member informs his work to give voice to working people, lift wages, improve workplace conditions, bring dignity and respect to his members and places of employment, and fight for racial and economic justice. Kelley also sits on the executive board of the Chicago Federation of Labor, is a trustee of the Chicago Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, and is on the board of United Working Families. Kelley also serves as Vice-President and is an Executive Board Member at the International Union, SEIU.



SPEAKERS



DR. LISA YUN LEE, *Executive Director, National Public Housing Museum*

Lisa Lee is the Executive Director of the National Public Housing Museum, the nation's first cultural institution dedicated to preserving and interpreting the history of public housing. She serves on the Art History, Museum and Exhibition Studies, and Gender and Women's Studies faculty at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Lisa writes about museums and diversity, cultural and environmental sustainability, historic preservation, and spaces for fostering radically democratic practices. She was appointed to the Advisory Committee for the city of Chicago's racial healing and historical reckoning project to assess memorials, monuments, and other public art.



MAYOR LORI LIGHTFOOT

Lori Elaine Lightfoot is the 56th mayor of Chicago. Before becoming mayor, Lightfoot worked in private legal practice as a partner at Mayer Brown and held various government positions in Chicago. Most notably, she served as president of the Chicago Police Board and chair of the Chicago Police Accountability Task Force. Lightfoot is the first openly lesbian African-American woman to be elected mayor of a major city in the United States, and the second woman and the third African-American—after Harold Washington and Eugene Sawyer—to be mayor of Chicago.



USENI EUGENE PERKINS, *Poet, Playwright, Activist and Educator*

The activist, administrator, social worker, poet, scholar, educator, playwright, and one of the leading figures of the renowned Black Arts Movement, Useni Eugene Perkins was born in Chicago on September 13, 1932 as Eugene Perkins. His parents were the Chicago sculptor Marion Perkins and his wife, Eva. Throughout his life Useni was always around the arts while being taught to embrace his African American culture and heritage. He published his first poem in the Chicago Tribune at the age of eleven.



GOVERNOR JB PRITZKER

Governor Jay Robert "J. B." Pritzker is a businessman, philanthropist and politician serving as the 43rd Governor of Illinois. Pritzker was born and raised in Atherton, California to a Jewish family prominent in business and philanthropy during the late 20th century. He graduated from Duke University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science. Pritzker went on to earn his Juris Doctor degree from Northwestern University School of Law. He is an attorney and a member of the Illinois State Bar Association and the Chicago Bar Association.

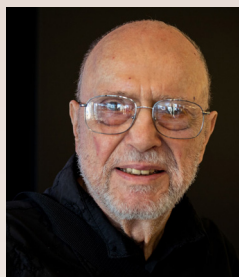


SPEAKERS



JULIEANNA RICHARDSON, *Founder and Executive Director, The HistoryMakers*

Ms Richardson is the founder and executive director of The HistoryMakers, a national non-profit educational institution based in Chicago. The HistoryMakers is committed to preserving, developing, and providing easy access to an internationally recognized archival collection of thousands of African-American video oral histories. Before founding The HistoryMakers in 1999, Richardson was a successful cable television executive and corporate lawyer. She was founder and CEO of SCTN Teleproductions, which served as the local production arm for C-SPAN, and Shop Chicago Inc.



DON ROSE, *Journalist, Political Consultant, and Activist*

A veteran Chicago journalist and activist, Rose has been a longtime leader of “progressive forces” in Chicago and the nation; he was Dr. Martin Luther King’s press secretary when Dr. King was in Chicago. Rose has published widely on political and cultural affairs, appearing in major newspapers across the country. He writes a weekly column on current news and politics for the Chicago Observer. Rose has lectured at Harvard, the University of Chicago, and many other schools and colleges. He is a frequent guest on network as well as local television and radio programs.



JUAN SALGADO, *Chancellor, City Colleges of Chicago*

Salgado oversees Chicago’s community college system that serves more than 80,000 students across seven colleges. He has focused his career on improving education and economic opportunities for residents in low-income communities. From 2001 to 2017, Salgado was CEO of Instituto del Progreso Latino, where he worked to empower residents of Chicago’s Southwest Side through education, citizenship, and skill-building programs. Salgado is a 2015 MacArthur Fellow and, among other civic commitments, a board member of the Obama Foundation.



MELODY SPANN COOPER, *Chairwoman and CEO of Midway Broadcasting*

As Chairwoman and CEO of Midway Broadcasting, Melody Spann Cooper owns and operates WVON, the oldest African American radio station in Chicago, where she started out as a teenage intern on her father’s show (the great DJ Pervis Spann “The Blues Man”). Spann Cooper is an innovative entrepreneur with over 30 years of experience in broadcasting, community engagement, marketing, media management, and radio. She is known for developing and gaining consensus around bold initiatives, including public and private partnerships and melding companies’ strategies with the socio-economic impact of emerging communities and constituencies.



SPEAKERS



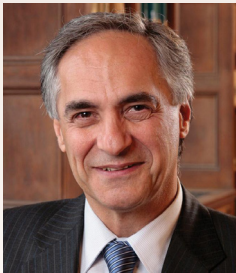
ROBERT T. STARKS, *Professor Emeritus, Northeastern Illinois University*

Robert Starks earned a doctorate from the University of Chicago and served as Professor of Political Science and Inner City Studies at Northeastern Illinois University. NEIU. Starks served as an advisor to Reverend Jesse L. Jackson and to the late Chicago mayor, Harold Washington; was the Chair of the Free South Africa Movement of Chicago and founding chair of the Task Force for Black Political Empowerment. He wrote columns for local papers and for national political publications. Starks is a long serving member of the board of directors for Black United Fund of Illinois, Inc (BUFI.). He is currently working to complete on his book on the political life of Harold Washington.



BRANDON WALKER

8th grade student, Wilbur Wright Middle School, Munster, Indiana



ROBERT J. ZIMMER, *Chancellor, University of Chicago*

Robert Jeffrey Zimmer is an American mathematician and academic administrator currently serving as the chancellor of the University of Chicago. From 2006 until 2021, he served as the 13th president of the University of Chicago and as the Chair of the Board for Argonne National Lab, Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, and the Marine Biological Laboratory. As a mathematician, Zimmer specializes in geometry, particularly ergodic theory, Lie groups, and differential geometry.

TIMUEL DIXON BLACK

Timuel Dixon Black, Jr., educator, activist, arts patron and author widely regarded as “Bronzeville’s historian”, was born in Birmingham, Alabama on December 7, 1918, the youngest of three children of Mattie McConner Black and Timuel Dixon “Dixie” Black. In 1919, the Black family came to Chicago, joining the first wave of the Great Migration of African Americans who moved north to escape oppression and find opportunity. Arriving in the city just weeks after the worst race riot in its history, the Black family settled into the segregated “Black Belt”, near 51st Street and Michigan Avenue and joined a thriving community of professionals, blue collar and domestic workers with close-knit, hard-working families who took pride in their homes, churches and civic organizations and stressed education as a means to better lives for their children. Timuel grew up in a loving household with his parents, older sister and brother Charlotte and Walter, and maternal grandmother, Laura McConner, an ex-slave who could “read, write and count” and played a profound role in shaping his outlook on life. He credited his indomitable drive and fervor for history to his father, a semi-skilled laborer, former sharecropper, steel worker, coal miner and trade unionist who followed the self-help philosophy of Marcus Garvey, and his mother, a homemaker who held high scholastic expectations for Tim and his siblings. History was also a favorite topic of his aunts, uncles and visitors to the family home like W.C. Handy, “The Father of the Blues” and Oscar DePriest, the first African American congressman from the north.

Young Timuel graduated from Edmund Burke Elementary School and attended Englewood High School and Wendell Phillips High School before transferring to the newly built DuSable High School in 1935. There his classmates included Nat King Cole, John H. Johnson, Redd Foxx, and class valedictorian and lifelong activist friend, Clarice Davis Durham. He often cited DuSable and its emphasis on academic excellence, school pride and involvement in social issues with helping to shape his direction in life.

And he fondly recalled the great teachers there who nurtured his intellect and instilled pride, confidence and a sense of purpose, especially Ms. Mary

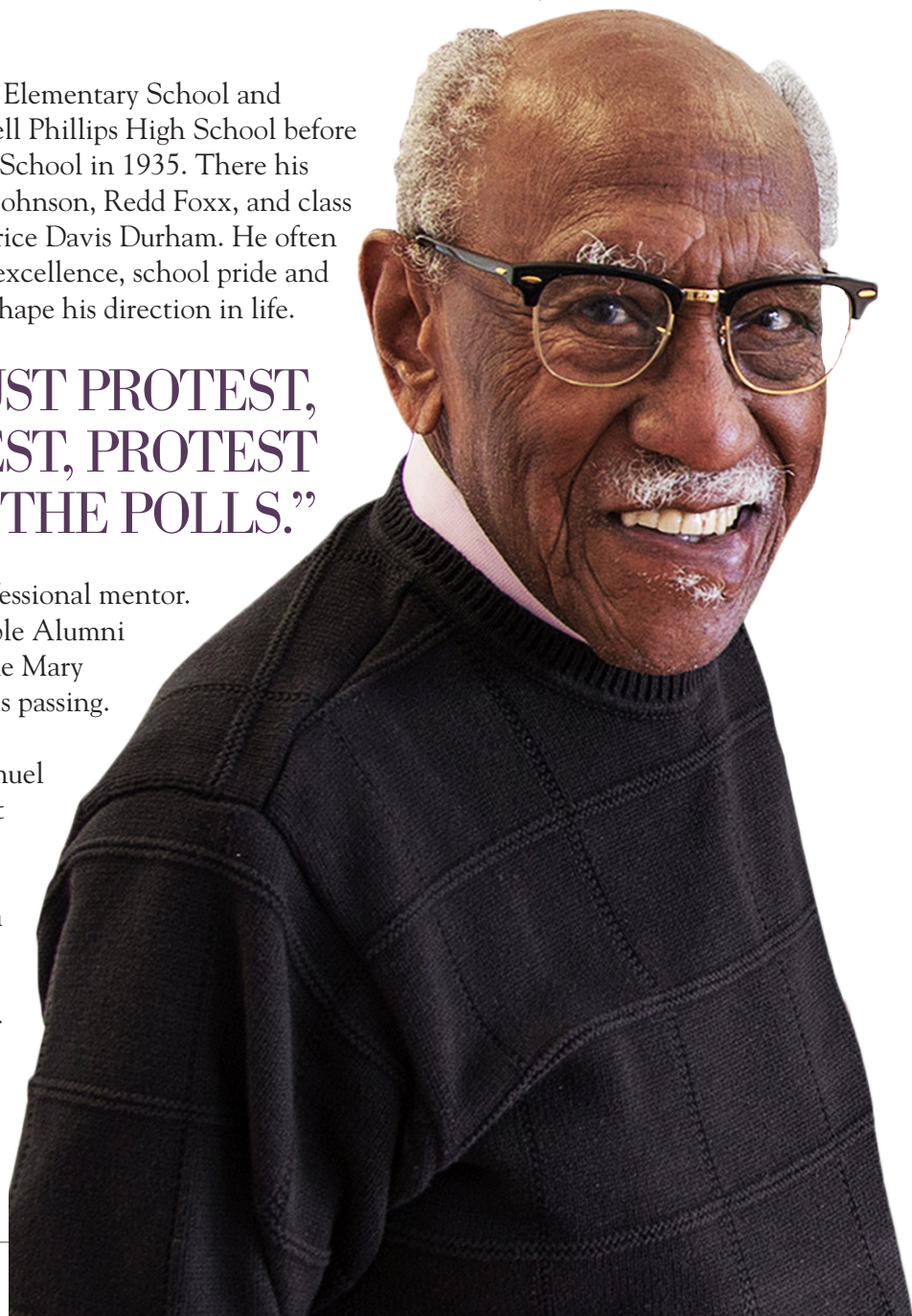
Herrick, who encouraged

him to become a teacher and became his professional mentor.

He was an active board member of the DuSable Alumni Coalition for Action and Vice President of the Mary Herrick Scholarship Fund until the time of his passing.

Growing up during the Great Depression, Timuel did every sort of odd job a youngster could get - selling the Chicago Defender newspaper on the street, delivering groceries by bike and in his red wagon, sweeping and cleaning up for a local mom-and-pop grocery - to bring home extra money to the household. At age 14, he met Levert Kelly, a renowned union organizer who enlisted him as a trainee organizing the nascent Colored Retail Clerks Union, with a boycott under the banner “Don’t Spend Your Money Where You Can’t Work.” Tim traced his lifelong commitment to fight for jobs,

**“WE MUST PROTEST,
PROTEST, PROTEST
AT THE POLLS.”**



housing and education for African Americans and other working-class people to this early introduction to Bronzeville's labor movement.

Tim served with honor and distinction in World War II, receiving four battle stars and the French Croix de Guerre as a member of the racially segregated U.S. Army in Europe. He was assigned to the 308th Quartermaster Railroad Company known as the Red Ball Express, driving trucks loaded with food and munitions to the front, through dangerous terrain during the Battle of the Bulge. His brigade was among the first U.S. troops to enter Buchenwald concentration camp, where he witnessed at close range the horrors of fascism and genocide. The experience marked him for life, giving rise to a deep commitment to defend democracy and to oppose fascism and racism, especially upon returning home in 1944.

After the War, Tim made use of the GI Bill to attend Roosevelt University, where he studied with the great social scientist St. Clair Drake. He became part of the large group of deeply politicized veteran students who had returned from the War determined to change the country and the world. He encountered and became friends with Roosevelt student activists including Milt Cohen, Harold Washington, Gus Savage, Bennett Johnson, Dempsey Travis, Earl Durham and others who shared his commitment to social justice. Tim went on to the University of Chicago where he earned his master's degree from the School of Social Administration in 1953. He had two children by this time, and after working for two years as a case worker in the Children's Division of the Chicago Department of Welfare, Tim and his young family moved to Gary, Indiana where he began his career in education as a social worker at Roosevelt High School, the flagship school of the city's black community.

In early 1954, Tim saw TV news footage of a young minister in Alabama speaking out against segregation and inequality in Montgomery. "I knew then, this was a call I'd been looking for," he recalled. "I flew to Alabama and signed on with Martin Luther King." He abandoned his doctoral studies at the University of Chicago and became an organizer for the Movement.

Also in 1954, he returned to Chicago and began teaching in the Chicago Public Schools - at Farragut,

DuSable, and Hyde Park High Schools. He established a Negro History Club at Hyde Park to address the school's lack of a black studies curriculum and to encourage students to learn about and take pride in their heritage. He took special interest in working with "at risk" youth, many of whom credited him with teaching them to believe in themselves and helping to turn their lives around.



**"I HAVE A LOT OF
UNCLES BUT I DON'T
HAVE ANY UNCLE SAM."**

Tim helped establish the Teachers Committee for Quality Education to combat discrimination and segregation in CPS. He led the Chicago Chapter of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), served as president of the Chicago Chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), and president of the Chicago chapter of the Negro American Labor Council founded by Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters president A. Philip Randolph. In the latter role, he organized two "Freedom Trains" that took 3,000 Chicagoans representing a broad coalition of labor unions, church congregations and community organizations to the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. He also worked closely with the United Packinghouse Workers Union (which later merged to become the United Food and Commercial Workers) and other progressive labor organizations including the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU), of which he was a founding member.

In 1960, he helped organize "wade-ins" that led to the integration of Rainbow Beach. In 1963 and 1964, he worked with Rosie Simpson and other grassroots community leaders to organize two one-day school boycotts by as many as 250,000 students and two demonstrations where thousands of people marched on Chicago Public Schools headquarters to protest overcrowding, segregation and inequity. The protests ultimately forced the resignation of CPS Superintendent Benjamin Willis. He was also active with the Chicago Urban League and the Coordinating Council of Community Organizations (CCCCO).

In 1963, Tim ran for Fourth Ward alderman, the first of two unsuccessful tries for public office. Although he lost to the Richard J. Daley Machine's candidate, he gained national attention for branding Daley's political control of the black community as "plantation politics." He was an integral participant in a number of progressive organizations including the Independent Voters of Illinois (IVI) and the Independent Political Organization (IPO), served as a delegate to three Democratic National Conventions, worked with Operaton Breadbasket, and was a leader in the campaign to elect Richard Hatcher as the first black mayor of Gary, Indiana.

Tim joined the staff of Wright College as Dean of Transfer Programs in 1969. He was Vice President for Academic Affairs at Olive Harvey College from 1972 to 1973, and Director and Chairperson of Community Affairs for City Colleges of Chicago from 1973 to 1975. He was Professor of Social Sciences at Loop College (now Harold Washington College) from 1975 until his retirement as Professor Emeritus in 1989. While at City Colleges, Tim was a founding member of Black Faculty in Higher Education, an organization of activist educators.

While serving as co-chair of 1st District Illinois Congressman Harold Washington's Education Task Force in 1980, Tim met a vivacious young volunteer named Zenobia Johnson who was a member of the congressman's Housing Task Force. A mutual attraction soon developed and the couple were married the following year. Tim always gave himself ample credit for having the good sense to marry Zenobia, his devoted life partner for 40 years.

In 1982, Tim co-chaired the People's Movement for Voter Registration and Education and led a historic drive that registered over 250,000 new voters and convinced the congressman to run for Mayor of Chicago. During the movement to elect Washington

in 1983 he collaborated with businessman Edward Gardner, the Reverend Jesse Jackson and veteran journalist Lutrelle "Lu" Palmer and mentored young activists including Robert T. Starks and Conrad Worrill. He remained a close and trusted advisor to Mayor Washington until his death

in 1987. In these years he was also active in the Free South Africa Movement and joined hundreds of marchers who participated in weekly demonstrations outside the South African Consulate in Chicago to protest apartheid and demand the release of Nelson Mandela from prison.

Tim advised and supported many other progressive elected officials including Congressman Charles A. Hayes, US Senator Carol Moseley Braun, Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot, and Barack Obama, a young organizer who came to Chicago in the 1980s and went on to become the 44th President of the United States. Tim's love for art and culture was reflected in his association with a wide range of organizations and institutions. He worked with Dr. Margaret Burroughs, to establish the South Side Community Art Center and supported her and her husband, Charles in founding the DuSable Museum of African American History and Culture in the basement of their home. He was a

longtime member of the Hyde Park Jazz Society, served on the board of the Jazz Institute of Chicago, and was a strong supporter of Abena Joan Brown and eta Creative Arts Foundation. He also served on the Advisory Council for the National Public Housing Museum, and was a member of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) - founded by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, and the National Conference of Black Political Scientists (NCOBPS).

In 2012, Tim made a gift of more than 250 boxes of personal papers, photographs, artifacts and memorabilia to the Chicago Public Library's Carter G. Woodson Library's Vivian G. Harsh Research Collection of Afro-American History.

In later years, he conducted Bronzeville tours for the University of Chicago and the Jazz Institute of Chicago. He served as a mentor to youth incarcerated in the Illinois Youth Center - St. Charles, and advised Black



**“IN THE GREAT
DEPRESSION,
WE WERE NOT
DEPRESSED. WE
WERE POOR BUT
WE WERE NOT
IMPOVERISHED.”**

Star Project founder, Philip Jackson. He was a founding member of the Chicago Area Friends of SNCC (Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee) and the SNCC History Project. And he collaborated with longtime activist friends, Clarice Durham, Brenetta Howell Barrett, Cleo Wilson, James Adams, Bennett Johnson, Luster Jackson, Josephine Wyatt, Larry Kennon, Rosie Simpson and Don Watanabe to complete the Ankobia Project, an oral history of the Chicago Civil Rights Movement for the Vivian Harsh Collection.

At his 100th Birthday celebration in 2018, Tim received the French Legion of Honor - the nation's highest civilian award - for his valiant service in World War II. His academic honors include an honorary doctoral degree from Roosevelt University in 2008, and he received the Benton Medal for Distinguished Public Service from the University of Chicago in 2012. Other notable awards include the inaugural City of Chicago Champion of Freedom Award (2013), and the Operation PUSH Legends in the Movement Award (2014). In 2021, he became the first person inducted into the Illinois Black Hall of Fame at Governors State University.

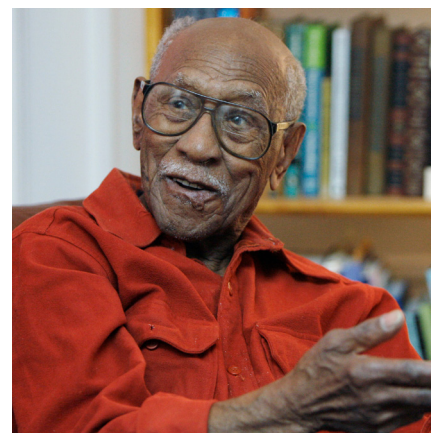
His oral history collection, Bridges of Memory, Volumes I (2003) and II (2008), was published by Northwestern University Press and contains extensive interviews with Chicagoans who were part of the Great Migration. His memoir, Sacred Ground: The Chicago Streets of Timuel Black, was published in 2018.

A number of awards and honors have been established in Tim's name to provide support for young activists, educators and artists including the Tim Black Community Scholar Award at the University of Chicago, the Timuel Black Fellowship at the Vivian G. Harsh Collection, and the Dr. Timuel Black Inspiration and Education Project at the Jazz Institute of Chicago.

In addition to his wife, Zenobia Johnson-Black, Tim is survived by daughter, Ermetra Black Thomas (Maurice Thomas) and numerous beloved cousins, nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by son, Kerrigan Black and stepson, Anthony Johnson.

Tim joined the First Unitarian Church in Hyde Park in 1953 and has remained a member for life. This church has been a source of comfort and friendship for over 50 years.

May the work of Timuel Dixon Black live on in the lives of those he has taught, inspired, and loved, and may his memory bless us always.



“IN THE WORDS
OF THE GREAT
SPIRITUAL: I’M
SO GLAD, I’M SO
GLAD, TROUBLE
DON’T LAST
ALWAYS.”

“AS MY GRANDMA
USED TO ALWAYS
SAY: ‘I CAN’T HEAR
WHATCHA SAYIN’,
CAUSE WHAT
YOU’RE DOIN’
TALKS SO LOUD.”



PERFORMERS



DEE ALEXANDER

Born on Chicago's west side, Dee Alexander is one of the city's most gifted and respected vocalist/songwriters. Her talents span every music genre, from Gospel to R&B, Blues to NeoSoul. Yet her true heart and soul are experienced in their purest form through Jazz. Growing up in a household steeped in recordings of Dinah Washington; Ms. Alexander names Sarah Vaughan, Ella Fitzgerald, and Chicago saxophonist Henry Huff among her major influences. Thus, setting her on the path to becoming one of the most accomplished voice improvisers in the world today. Ms. Alexander is currently a WFMT Jazz Radio host.



ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF CREATIVE MUSICIANS (AACM) GREAT BLACK MUSIC ENSEMBLE

Internationally renowned for unparalleled contributions to modern music, the Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians, Inc. (AACM) has been an inspirational leader within the cultural community since 1965. An intergenerational ensemble ranging in size from three to thirty pieces The Great Black Music Ensemble features some of Chicago's most visionary artists of improvisation and creative music. The Great Black Music Ensemble carries on the legacy of Chicago's South Side creative music by expressing the excitement of new sounds and rhythms while invigorating the traditions of Great Black Music.



AFRICA BROWN

Africa Brown has established a distinguished career performing alongside her famous father, Oscar Brown, Jr., appearing in musicals he wrote and produced including "In De Beginning" and "Great Nitty Gritty." She appeared in several noted engagements with her father and older sister, Maggie and continues to perform OBJ tributes and create shows with her musical family. In 2011 she launched Isis Edutainment center to teach music and theater using original material of Oscar Brown Jr. She has also performed and studied African drumming and dance with Adoyele Drum and Dance Company.



MAGGIE BROWN

Singer, songwriter, actress, producer, and director Maggie grew up tuning into her father, Oscar Brown Jr.'s methods on stage, at the typewriter and in the director's chair. In Chicago, Maggie's authenticity and integrity define the work she has done with a diverse list of band leaders. Over the past two decades, she has conducted master classes, workshops and residencies with Rebuild Foundation and Jazz Institute of Chicago among others. She and sister Africa Brown work together as curators, co-directing The Oscar Brown, Jr Archive Project at Logan Center for the Arts at the University of Chicago.

PERFORMERS



AJENE COOKS

Ajene Cooks is a singer/artist who has enjoyed sharing his musical gifts since he was seven. Every summer since 5th grade, Ajene has attended music and theater camps such as Lutheran Summer Music Camp, and Showchoir Camps of America. He has performed with the Chicago Children's Choir, held leading roles in his school's annual musicals, and is a member of Young Diva Young Divo. Ajene is passionate about learning music and how to share his talents with the world.



ORBERT DAVIS

Trumpeter, composer Orbert Davis is co-founder, conductor and artistic director of CHICAGO JAZZ PHILHARMONIC, a 55+ piece orchestra dedicated to multi-genre projects. Winner of the 1995 Cognac Hennessy National Jazz Search, Orbert was chosen one of Chicago Tribune's "1995 Arts People of the Year". Chicago Magazine named him "Y2k Best Trumpeter in Chicago" and "Chicagoan of the Year for 2002". Along with his business partner Mark Ingram, Orbert owns and operates ORBARK PRODUCTIONS. Their credits include projects for Atlantic, Capitol, CBS, Epic, MCA, the Warner Brothers record labels and several feature films.



ROBERT IRVING III

A native of Chicago, Irving was one of a group of young Chicago musicians that in the late '70s and early '80s formed the nucleus of Miles Davis' recording and touring bands. Irving left the Davis band in 1989, and has gone on to a prolific career as touring musician, composer, arranger, producer, educator and interdisciplinary artist. Irving resumed his career as a recording artist under his own name with the release of *New Momentum* followed by "Our Space In Time" by Robert Irving III Generations (featuring students Irving mentored through the Jazz Institute of Chicago Jazz Links program).

JAZZ INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO'S JAZZ LINKS ALUMNI ENSEMBLE

The Jazz Institute of Chicago has been cultivating young jazz artists since 2005. The Jazz Links Student Council, Jazz Links Fellows, and Kiewit-Wang Mentorship Award continue to give young artists the opportunity to develop musically and professionally through exposure to live music, workshops/mentorships with professional musicians, and performance opportunities throughout the city. Many Alumni of the program have established successful careers in music.



PERFORMERS



TAMMY MCCANN

Tammy is an internationally recognized jazz vocalist whose Yes! Mahalia project has been presented in Europe and the U.S. McCann has thrilled audiences in festivals and clubs world-wide as well as the nation's premier jazz venues. She was recently honored by the Chicago Tribune as 2020 Chicagoan of the Year in Jazz. She has toured as a 'Raelette' with the great Ray Charles, and performed with the likes of NEA Jazz Masters, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Ramsey Lewis, Von Freeman, and others on stages ranging from Carnegie Hall to Chicago's own Jazz Showcase and Green Mill.



ERIC JOHNSON A/K/A OLU ABDUL SHAKOOR

A Master Drummer and Cultural Griot raised in Chicago, Olu founded Nubian Cultural Dance Theater where he produced the Pan African Dance Festival. He founded and created OSA Productions producing African centered programs throughout Chicagoland. As a Visionary/Founder of the African Festival of the Arts/Chicago Olu was the Entertainment Coordinator and creator of the "Drum Village Pavilion." Proficient in West African and contemporary African drum styles, Olu has vast knowledge about the history and development of African/African American contributions to the celebrated and growing interest in all things "African".



IDRIS SHAKOOR (DJ TRACKMATIC)

Having always been inspired by the rhythmic force of music in the lives of people, Idris Shakoor was moved to craft his own stirring and dynamic musical compositions, experimenting with Afrobeats, Reggae, Hip Hop and other diverse genres. The growing artist started making Hip Hop and Reggae music, marking his foray into the musical realm through mix tapes from 1993-1995. In 1995, the eclectic artist decided to pursue DJ-ing as a passion, enlivening audiences with his hip styles, tastes, and sensibilities.



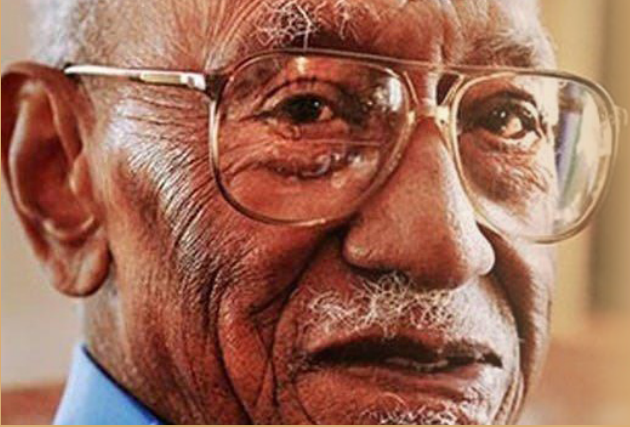
CATHY TOWNSEND

Chicago psalmist Cathy Townsend is a veteran gospel singer. Since making her music debut at the age of seven, Cathy has soloed, sang in trios and groups, and directed and participated in choir. Her relaxed jazz vocal style has taken her from the sanctuary to prison ministry to city and civic events and has enabled her to travel nationally and internationally singing gospel. Her voice is powerful but prayerfully introspective.



AYANNA UHURU

Ayanna Uhuru is a multi-disciplinary artist who utilizes dance, singing, musical instruments, multi-media art, and storytelling as spiritual devotion and cultural education. Ayanna has performed throughout the country as a company member with Momentum Dance Theatre, The Willingham Project, Flo Fiyah, and Ayodele Drum and Dance. Through teaching and performance, she uses dance as a healing modality for herself, audiences, students, and communities. Ayanna currently studies and practices shamanism, yoga, reiki, and other healing traditions. Ayanna seeks to bring the beings of this world back into balance and harmony.



CENTENARIAN GRIOT OF BRONZEVILLE

(A TRIBUTE TO TIMUEL D. BLACK)

Every village has a Griot
Whose impeccable voice becomes
The narrator of a people's
Humanity, ethos and history
That spans several generations
Bronzeville was truly blessed
When you became the oral archivist
Of the stories that made it sacred
From the days it was called the Black Belt
To the first Black migration
When many of our people left the south
From the cane fields of Georgia
And the Delta region of Mississippi
From the cotton plantations of South Carolina
And your birthplace of Alabama
Seeking consolation from racism
To labor in the stock yards, steel mills and factories
In Carl Sandburg's "City with the big shoulders"

And after you served in the army
During the Second World War
You returned to the streets of Bronzeville
And continued to record its stories
From the race riot of 1919
To the jubilation of the Bud Biliken Parade
From the ordinary people who rode
The jitneys along South Park Boulevard
Which was adorned by fashionable Brownstones
Occupied by Bronzeville's growing
Black middle class
To the emergence of Chicago's Black Renaissance
When artists of many genres
Exhibited their created works

At the South Side Arts Center
And the DuSable Museum of
African American History
When the blues and jazz artists
Graced the stage of the Regal Theater
With crescendo that rivaled Harlem's fabled legacy
As the epicenter of Black culture and art

But you were not just a teller of stories
You also helped to make them
And championed many causes
As an activist in Chicago's Freedom Movement
And mobilized Chicagoans of all hues
To participate in the March on Washington
And became a striving force
In our fledging Black Labor Movement
And used your political savvy
To help elect Harold Washington
Become Chicago's first Black mayor
And played a formidable role
In the election of President Barack Hussain Obama

Your voice echoed the diligence of our Ancestors
And leaves an indelible legacy
On every aspect of Bronzeville's
Protracted struggle for social justice
And we praise you with calabashes of love
For being our Centenarian Griot
Who told our stories with integrity and compassion

Peace Harmony and Love
Useni Eugene Perkins



A NOTE OF THANKS FROM ZENOBLA JOHNSON BLACK

“I want to express my heartfelt appreciation and best wishes to Chancellor Zimmer. My profound thanks to Bart Schultz; to the Office of Civic Engagement, the Rockefeller Chapel, the Musicians, the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events; to the Memorial Planning Committee and Volunteers for making this Celebration happen. To Dr. James Woodruff, the Unity Hospice team, to those who stood by Tim, with me, in those dark days; who showed up with loving arms and helping hands: I will always be deeply grateful for your kindness, care, and generosity. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.”

MEMORIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

*Lauren Deutsch
Joseph Harrington
Walter Kindred
Susan Klonsky
Olumenji
Wynona Redmond
Heather Ireland Robinson
Bart Schultz
Kim Schultz
Alice Smith-Jones
Monica Faith Stewart
Wendy Williams*

VOLUNTEERS

*Patricia McCreary Cannon
Marabia Clark
Joanne Cowart
Omiyale Dupart
Eric Edwards
Georgette Greenlee
Monica Hobson
Jesse Howard
James Hutchinson
Everett Hobson Johnson
Toya Merriweather
Don Rashid
Kimberly Sorrell Sanders*