



UNCF

A mind is a terrible
thing to waste®



UNCF
MASKED
BALL

LOS ANGELES

SPONSORS



Keck Medicine of USC





Dr. Michael L. Lomax

President and CEO, UNCF



Greetings,

It is with great pleasure and gratitude that I welcome each of you to the 2026 UNCF Los Angeles Masked Ball. Your presence here reflects a profound commitment to the power of education and the belief that together, we can build a brighter future for our communities.

As we gather in this space, let us take a moment to acknowledge the incredible journeys that have brought us here. Each of you represents the collective hope and aspiration of countless students striving for excellence. Your dedication to supporting their educational endeavors is not just commendable; it is transformative.

To our Delta, Kaiser Permanente, Keck Medicine of USC, L.A. Care, Aids Healthcare Foundation, A Step to Freedom, SMS Transportation Services, Uncle Nearest, Butterfli and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., I want to extend a heartfelt thank you. Your commitment to this mission not only changes lives but also inspires others to join in this vital work. Together, we are lighting the way to promise and prosperity while fostering a culture of empowerment and achievement.

As we engage in today's activities, let us remember the impact of our collective efforts. Each conversation, each collaboration and each moment spent together strengthens our mission and enhances the lives of those we serve. The education and opportunities we provide are not just investments in individual futures; they are investments in the future of our communities and our nation.

Let us continue to inspire one another, share our stories and work together to make a lasting difference. Together, we can break down barriers and open doors for the next generation of leaders, thinkers and innovators.

Thank you for being here and for your belief in the mission of UNCF.

Sincerely,

Michael L. Lomax, Ph.D.

President and Chief Executive Officer, UNCF

 @DrMichaelLomax



KAREN BASS
MAYOR

February 20, 2026

Dear Friends,

With pleasure I extend a warm welcome to the **2026 UNCF Los Angeles Masked Ball.**

This evening brings together community leaders, supporters, and advocates who share a commitment to expanding educational opportunity and supporting students from underrepresented communities. Through its longstanding work, UNCF has played a vital role in strengthening access to higher education and advancing pathways to success for generations of students.

For more than 80 years, UNCF has helped support historically Black colleges and universities and promote educational excellence nationwide. Events such as this highlight the importance of continued investment in education and the collective effort required to build a more equitable future.

I commend UNCF and its partners for their leadership and dedication, and I extend my best wishes for a memorable and successful evening.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Bass". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Karen Bass



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 W. Temple Street, Ste. 866, Los Angeles, California 90012
Phone: 213-974-2222 | Fax: 213-680-3283

HOLLY J. MITCHELL
SUPERVISOR, SECOND DISTRICT



February 20, 2026

Dear Friends and Honored Guests,

I am honored to extend my congratulations to the UNCF Los Angeles in celebrating the 2026 UNCF Masked Ball. For decades, UNCF has been a leader in expanding educational opportunities, strengthening Historically Black Colleges & Universities, and empowering students to dream big.

I commend UNCF for their partnership with communities in Los Angeles County and for creating pathways that expand social mobility for our students. Congratulations to this year's honorees – Tabitha and Chance Brown, Valeisha Butterfield, Greg Dulan, Michelle Gaskill-Hames, Billy Mitchell, and Anderson .Paak – whose achievements embody excellence and inspire us all to continue striving for greater opportunity and progress.

On behalf of the 2 million people who reside in the Second Supervisorial District, I extend my best wishes for your continued success and a memorable event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hjmitchell".

Holly J. Mitchell
Supervisor, Second District
Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors



Dr. Veda Ramsay-Stamps

Regional Development Director, UNCF



Greetings,

Welcome to the 2026 UNCF LA Masked Ball and thank you for joining us this evening. Your presence elevates this celebration and affirms a shared belief in the extraordinary power of education to shape futures, strengthen families and transform communities.

Tonight, we honor the students you champion—and the momentum your partnership makes possible. Through EMERGE College and Career Readiness, we are preparing high school students to navigate the journey to college and their future careers with confidence, while offering a clear window into the business of entertainment and the opportunities it holds.

Through the Empower Me Tour, we take encouragement and guidance directly to young people, helping them imagine what is possible and pursue it with purpose. And when unforeseen hardship strikes, the LA Fire Emergency Fund provides critical, timely support for students and families impacted by crisis.

I am also proud to share that UNCF Los Angeles is stepping into an exciting new chapter. Alongside Kathi Barber, Ray Cunningham and Kerry Bryant, I am honored to help lead this work forward—with clarity of mission, a sense of urgency and deep care for the students and communities we serve.

To our partners—Delta Air Lines, Keck School of Medicine of USC, Bank of America, AIDS Healthcare Foundation, Annenberg Foundation, Kaiser Permanente, Kia, the Leavey Foundation, SMS Transportation and Butterfli, among many others—thank you. Your steadfast commitment expands access, fuels opportunity and helps students move from aspiration to achievement. And to our Leadership Council, thank you for your unwavering engagement and leadership. May this evening be filled with inspiration, connection and renewed resolve. Thank you for believing in UNCF and for investing in the promise of tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Dr. Veda Ramsay-Stamps

Regional Development Director, UNCF



EMERGE

COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS IN ACTION

Building early pathways to college, careers, and economic mobility in Los Angeles

- **25 students** participated in our third EMERGE workshop at the **Crenshaw Family YMCA**
- **101 students and parents reached** to date through the EMERGE initiative
- Students:
 - Registered for the UNCF Scholarship Portal
 - Connected with **HBCU representatives**
 - Gained real-world insight from leaders in **finance, sports, entertainment, and entrepreneurship**
 - Learned how to prepare for college without unnecessary debt

Why it matters

- Rebuilds UNCF's presence in a historically under-resourced, previously dormant market
- Strengthens our **local pipeline** with measurable outcomes
- Demonstrates a scalable model for place-based investment

Student Voice & Measured Need

- **100% of students were previously unaware of UNCF**
- Only **1 student** had ever applied for scholarships prior to EMERGE
- **100% rated the workshops positively**

"I learned that I can do anything I set my mind to and learn from barriers in my path. When things don't go my way, it's a chance for redirection."

Leadership

- **Dr. Veda Ramsay-Stamps**, Regional Development Director
- **Kathi Barber**, Area Development Director
- **Ray Cunningham III**, Development Associate
- **Kerry Bryant**, Office Administrator

What's Next

- Full EMERGE implementation
- College fairs & sustained mentorship
- Youth-focused financial literacy workshops
- Expansion across **multiple YMCA branches** in FY27-FY28 (pending funding)

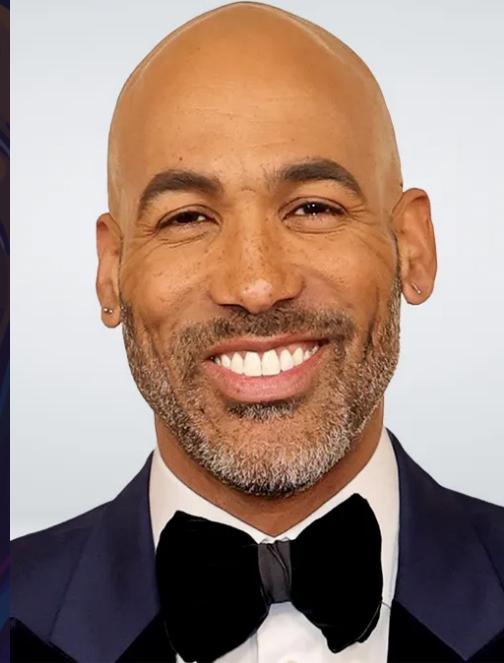
Impact ahead: deeper engagement, increased scholarship utilization, and expanded local partnerships.



EVENT CO-HOST

Melvin Robert

Award Winning Journalist,
Correspondent and News Anchor
KTLA



Melvin Robert is an Emmy, Golden Mike, and L.A. Press Club award-winning journalist who is thrilled to return to the KTLA family! He previously served as co-anchor of GOOD DAY LA weekday mornings. Additionally, he was senior correspondent and weekend host on the Emmy award-winning nationally syndicated entertainment news magazine EXTRA. He has also been seen as a special correspondent on THE JENNIFER HUDSON SHOW.

Robert is no stranger to Southern California morning audiences. In 2018 he joined Spectrum News 1 as a member of their original talent team, launching the network and introducing audiences to their unique brand of hyperlocal news. He served as co-anchor of YOUR MORNING ON SPECTRUM NEWS 1, alongside former KTLA Morning News anchor Giselle Fernandez, and host of the arts and culture news magazine THE SOCAL SCENE. Known for his infectious energy, authenticity, and relatability, he is committed to expanding the consciousness of the human collective through the craft of storytelling. Robert's work uplifts, inspires, and educates through his unique ability to connect with interview subjects and viewers.

He has anchored some of the biggest local and national news stories, including the 2025 Southern California wildfires that ripped through the Pacific Palisades and Altadena communities, the inauguration of President Joe Biden, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the 2020 civil unrest following the murder of George Floyd. Additionally, he covered the 2019 Los Angeles teachers' strike, Saugus High School shooting in the Santa Clarita community, and the Ridgecrest earthquake. He also reported on the deaths of Rep. John Lewis, George H.W. Bush, Kobe and Gianna Bryant, and Nipsey Hussle. In 2022, he was awarded Broadcast Journalist of the Year at the 14th annual National Arts & Entertainment Awards, presented by the L.A. Press Club.

A Southern California native, Robert was born and raised in Inglewood. He is a graduate of Loyola High School of Los Angeles, and matriculated to

Loyola Marymount University, where he earned his BA in English and MA in Educational Studies focused in Human Development and Counseling.

Prior to his career in television, Robert spent 12 years as a teacher, counselor, administrator, and consultant. His career in education led him to serve the needs of diverse populations, from at-risk and severely emotionally and psychologically challenged students to those learning the English language, minority college students, and adults within the corporate sector.

A lover of people, song, dance, food and the arts, he believes that life is more fulfilling when we choose to be happy and let that which we are most passionate about be our compass.

EVENT CO-HOST

Dawnn Lewis

Award Winning TV Actress



Dr. Dawnn Lewis, a multitalented and multifaceted individual: President & CEO of Morning Jewel Inc.—a multi-platform production company in the areas of film, television, animation, music / music publishing & experiential events. She is also the Founder & CEO of the A New Day Foundation.—a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization, that provides financial & programmatic support to underprivileged youth and grassroots community based nonprofit organizations. In 2019, Dawnn received an Honorary Doctorate in the Humanities for her more than 40 years of unwavering service and support to underserved youth and communities across the county and abroad. She is a: Trumpet Award, Grammy Award-winning singer, multiple NAACP Image Award, BMI & ASCAP Award-winning songwriter, film, television & stage actor, a Series TV creator/producer and an inductee into the Women Songwriters Hall Of Fame 2021. She is presently filming the new NETFLIX series NEMESIS (slated for a Fall 2025 release). Dawnn was nominated for a 2025 NAACP Image Award in the BEST VOICE ACTOR Category for her performance as Captain Carol Freeman in the hit Paramount + Series: STAR

TREK:;OWER DECKS; where she won the Women’s Image Award as BEST FEMALE VOICE ACTOR in 2021. Dawnn was added to the cast for season 3 of the hit series YOUNG ROCK, about the life of Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson. She currently co-stars in the NETFLIX animated series: KARMA’S WORLD, created by Chris “Ludacris” Bridges.—now in it’s 4th season, FUTURAMA as “LaBarbara”. Her holiday film BLACK JACK CHRISTMAS, written & Directed by Victoria Rowell premiered on BET+.

Since 2014 Dawnn voices the character of Bernice Hibbert and several others in THE SIMPSON’S ; including their Disney short crossover films: LOKI & LISA JOINS THE CLUB! , as villains Ursula & Kah. You can also hear her do a variety of voices in the FOX series: HOUSEBROKEN and DUNCANVILLE as well as the feature films SING 2! & MINION’S 3! Dawnn was recently seen guest starring alongside Angela Bassett in the hit FOX TV series: “911”; AMAZON series THE BOYS and simultaneously recurred on three hit series: NBC’s THIS IS US!, TNT’s MAJOR CRIMES & the CW’s IZOMBIE! She returned to Broadway in the original cast (2019-2022), of the exhilarating TINA: THE TINA TURNER MUSICAL (12 TONY Nominations), co-starring as ZELMA BULLOCK, Ms. Turner’s mother. Dawnn can also be “heard” giving voice to several animated characters such as “The Chief” in Where In The World Is Carmen San Diego”, “Patty” in APPLE & ONION, “Mrs. Hanshaw” & “Mrs. Buttercup” in SOPHIA THE FIRST, “Granny McStuffins” in DOC MCSTUFFINS”, CURIOUS GEORGE & Disney/Pixar’s Academy Award winning animated feature hits INSIDE OUT! and MONSTERS UNIVERSITY! She’s served for several years on the National Advisory Board of the NATIONAL CENTER FOR CIVIL & HUMAN RIGHTS & the SAG-AFTRA National Board of Directors, while also serving as the Chair of the SAG-AFTRA Singers Committee. She currently serves as a Trustee for the SAG Pension Plan. Her TV & Film credits include: VERONICA MARS, MAJOR CRIMES, A DIFFERENT WORLD (composer of shows theme song: ASCAP & 4 BMI Awards), HANGIN’ WITH MR. COOPER, I’M GONNA GIT U SUCKA, A CHRISTMAS RETREAT, DREAMGIRLS, BE THE LIGHT, ANY DAY NOW, THE SECRET LIFE OF THE AMERICAN TEENAGER and ONE TREE HILL. Dawnn’s record label, Morning Jewel Music, released her successful solo CD Worth Waiting For; the title song is featured in the Disney movie THE POOF POINT soundtrack, in which she starred. Dawnn’s CD’s: “Worth Waiting For” & “Donny McCullough & Friends: CANDLES IN THE WINDOW” are available on Amazon & iTunes. Her music has been used in several other Film and TV soundtracks, for Disney, ABC, NBC, HBO and WIGS Films. She’s recorded with or composed for Everett Harp, Patrice Rushen, Vanessa Williams, Nancy Wilson, Take 6, Wayman Tisdale, Grover Washington Jr., Quincy Jones & Tom Scott to name a few.



ENTERTAINMENT

Divas and Drummers of Compton

The 1 Shine Youth Center is a non-profit youth center in Compton, CA which provides programming for inner city youth.

Our flagship Program is the Divas and Drummers of Compton, a dance and drumline program that uses the power of transformative social emotional learning through performing arts.

These hard-working professionals receive performing arts and music education training weekly. As a result of their dedication and leadership, these youth have been blessed with an opportunities to perform for the NFL Super Bowl 2022 Pre-Game Show at the SoFi Stadium in Los Angeles, the NFL Rams vs 49ers football game, and more.

One of the highlights of the Divas and Drummers of Compton is being Quarter-Finalists on NBC America's Got Talent and performing with WWE Champion Bianca Belair at WrestleMania 39. Recently, our Divas of Compton were featured in Kendrick Lamar's Music Video "Squabble Up." Our goal to spread love and positivity by exuding confidence through our talents while entertaining, uplifting, and inspiring the community.



EVENING PROGRAM

GREETING

Dawnn Lewis and Melvin Robert
Co-Hosts

WELCOME/REMARKS

Michael L. Lomax, Ph.D.
President and Chief Executive Officer, UNCF

INVOCATION

Dr. Royal Harrison
Southern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

≈ DINNER IS SERVED ≈

Inner City Youth Orchestra

REMARKS

Dr. Veda Ramsay-Stamps
Regional Development Director, UNCF

LIVE AUCTION

Gee Scott
Auctioneer

Dr. William Syms
VP West LA Comm College & Ethan Allen
UC Berkeley

FUND THE NEED

AWARD PRESENTATIONS

Dawnn Lewis and Melvin Robert

Tabitha and Chance Brown
Social Entrepreneurs
Founders Tab+Chance

Michelle Gaskill-Hames
President, Southern California and Hawaii
Kaiser Permanente

Valeisha Butterfield
Founder, Technology, Music and Media Executive

Billy Mitchell
Internationally Renowned
Jazz Musician and Producer

Greg Dulan
Celebrated Entrepreneur and
Owner of Dulan's On Crenshaw

Anderson .Paak
GRAMMY® Award Winning Artist & Producer

CLOSING REMARKS

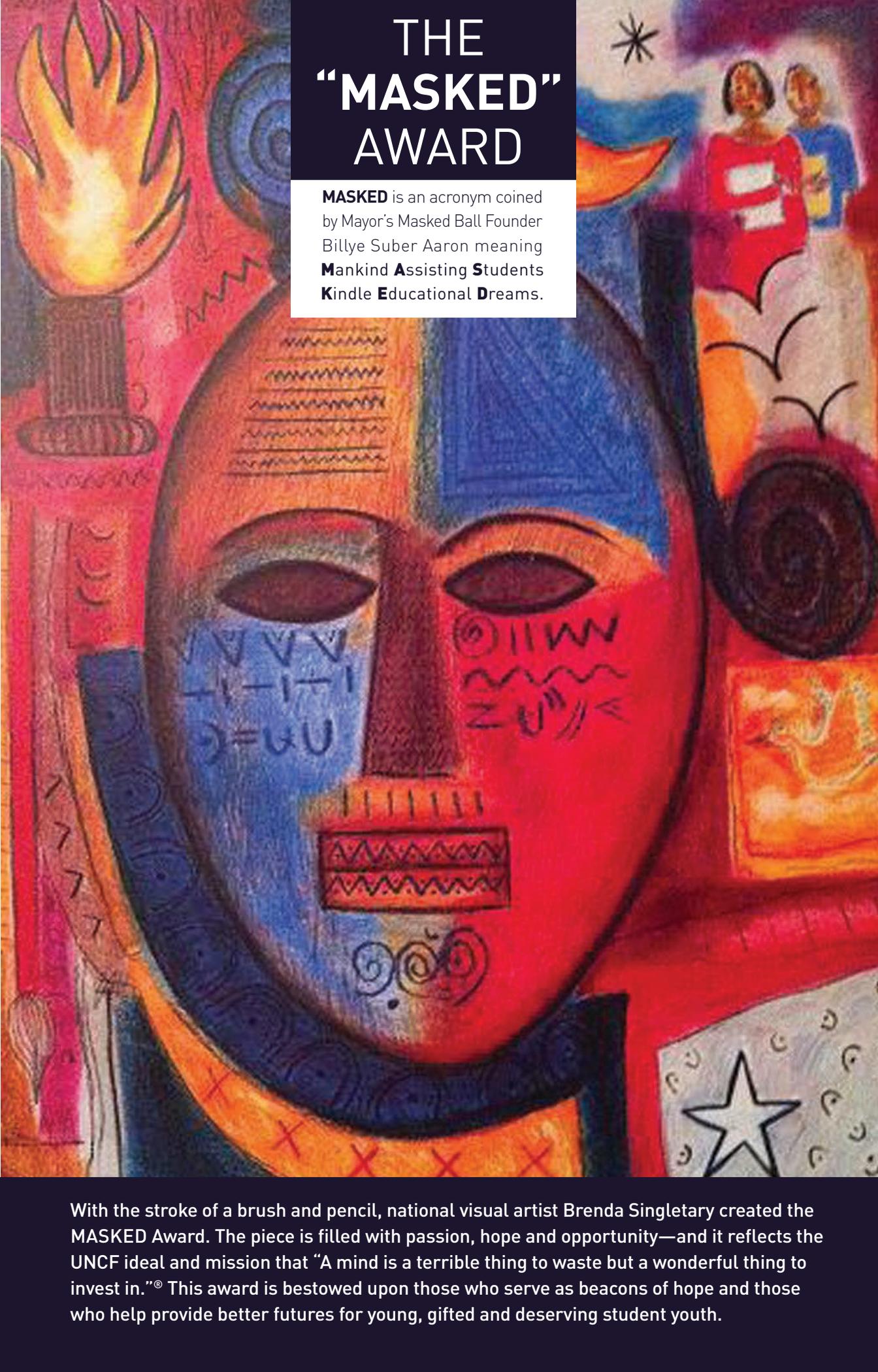
Michael L. Lomax, Ph.D.

ENTERTAINMENT

Inner City Youth Orchestra
Divas of Compton Lyrical Dance

AFTER-PARTY

DJ Benjamin and Ricky Ruckus - Entertainment, Mario



THE “MASKED” AWARD

MASKED is an acronym coined by Mayor’s Masked Ball Founder Billye Suber Aaron meaning **M**ankind **A**ssisting **S**tudents **K**indle **E**ducational **D**reams.

With the stroke of a brush and pencil, national visual artist Brenda Singletary created the MASKED Award. The piece is filled with passion, hope and opportunity—and it reflects the UNCF ideal and mission that “A mind is a terrible thing to waste but a wonderful thing to invest in.”® This award is bestowed upon those who serve as beacons of hope and those who help provide better futures for young, gifted and deserving student youth.

2026 HONOREE

Tabitha and Chance Brown

Social Entrepreneurs
Founders Tab+Chance



Tabitha Brown is an Emmy Award-winning host, actress and vegan food star who is affectionately known as “America’s mom.” She has provided millions with food for the body and soul with her everyday wisdom rooted in love, kindness, and compassion.

She is a 4 time New York Times Best Selling Author of *Feeding the Soul*, *Cooking from the Spirit*, *I Did A New Thing (30 days to Living Free)*, and *Hello There Sunshine*, her first children’s picture book. Tabitha is the co-creator and host of her own children’s show, *Tab Time*, as well as the recipient of several NAACP Image Awards.

She is also the co-founder and CEO of her own healthy haircare line, *Donna’s Recipe*, and Fragrance company *Tab&Chance*. She has launched multi-category products with major retailers like Target and McCormick and never fails to bring sunshine to everyone’s home. Her proudest accomplishment that she holds close to her heart is spreading love & joy all over the world.



2026 HONOREE

Valeisha Butterfield

Founder, Technology, Music and
Media Executive



Valeisha Butterfield is one of the world's most renowned women leaders, recognized for her paradigm-shifting impact across tech, entertainment and politics. Valeisha is the founder of SEED Media and Global State of Women, global platforms dedicated to advancing women, families and communities worldwide.

Her cross-generational impact and influence is award-winning, building and shaping some of the most iconic brands of our time, unlocking opportunity and access for more than 1M next generation leaders and counting.

Valeisha currently serves as a Board Trustee at her alma mater Clark Atlanta University, board member at GRAMMY Global Ventures, Honorary Chair of the GRAMMYS Black Music Collective, and a member of the GRAMMYS Television Committee, helping to produce the most highly rated and inclusive GRAMMY awards telecasts in recent history.

Valeisha is the former Vice President of Global Partnerships for Google, Inc., co-President at the Recording Academy / GRAMMYS, Deputy Director of Public Affairs for International Trade in the Obama Administration, and National Youth Vote Director for the Obama for America campaign helping to deliver one of the highest youth voter turnouts in American history.

Valeisha has been honored by ADCOLOR, ADWEEK, Step Up, McDonald's 365, ESSENCE, EBONY Power 100, The Root 100, and others, including landing the cover of Billboard Magazine.

A proud daughter of public servants, graduate of Clark Atlanta University, and devoted mother, Valeisha is redefining leadership and modern business.

2026 HONOREE

Greg Dulan

**Celebrated Entrepreneur and
Owner of Dulan's On Crenshaw**



Gregory “Greg” Dulan is a renowned Los Angeles restaurateur and the owner of the iconic soul food landmark Dulan's On Crenshaw, a cornerstone of South LA dining and culture. Known for its authentic Southern comfort food and welcoming atmosphere, the restaurant has served generations of locals, visitors, and celebrities alike.

Born into a family with deep roots in the food and hospitality industry, Greg was introduced to entrepreneurship at an early age. He worked alongside his parents in several family businesses, including the beloved Aunt Kizzy's Back Porch, where he developed a lifelong passion for cooking, customer service, and community building.

After graduating from Howard University and spending time working in the banking industry in New York, Greg returned to Los Angeles determined to continue and expand his family's culinary legacy. In 1992, he opened Dulan's On Crenshaw, quickly establishing it as a go-to destination for classic soul food favorites such as fried chicken, smothered pork chops, collard greens, mac and cheese, and homemade desserts.

Beyond the kitchen, Greg Dulan is deeply committed to preserving culture and uplifting his community. He personally led and financed a major renovation of the restaurant, modernizing the space while honoring its history through family photos and storytelling that reflect decades of tradition.

Recognized for his contributions to Los Angeles' culinary landscape, Greg has received widespread acclaim and industry recognition for his dedication to excellence and cultural preservation. Today, he continues to serve not only soulful meals but also mentorship, leadership, and a lasting legacy—ensuring that soul food remains a vital part of Los Angeles history.

Gregory Dulan is a visionary leader and tireless advocate for community empowerment, carrying forward a fifty-year legendary culinary legacy in Los Angeles. A proud Howard University alumnus and recipient of the School of Business Exemplar Award for 2025, Greg has earned national distinction as a multi-year James Beard Award semifinalist and a celebrated 2023 finalist for Outstanding Restaurateur. As the owner of Dulan's on Crenshaw, he has received numerous honors, including the prestigious LA Times Gold Award for 2025.

Beyond the kitchen, Greg is a dedicated civic leader serving on the California Restaurant Association State Board and the Trade Tech Culinary School Advisory Board. A frequent panel speaker, he is passionate about supporting small food businesses and providing “first opportunities and second chances” through local hiring and mentorship, ensuring his success fuels the growth of South Los Angeles.

2026 HONOREE

Michelle Gaskill-Hames

President

Southern California and Hawaii

Kaiser Permanente



Michelle Gaskill-Hames is the President of Kaiser Permanente Southern California and Hawaii, where she leads one of the nation's largest integrated health care delivery systems serving millions of members across both regions. In this role, she oversees health plan and hospital operations, working with medical leadership and care teams to advance high-quality, affordable, and equitable care for diverse communities.

Michelle began her career as a registered nurse, working at the bedside in a neonatal intensive care unit, where she developed a deep understanding of patient care and the impact of health care disparities. This experience shaped her commitment to improving health outcomes and inspired her transition into executive leadership.

Before joining Kaiser Permanente, Michelle built a broad and distinguished career in health care leadership. She held senior executive roles at several major health systems, including serving as President of Advocate Trinity Hospital in the Advocate Health Care network in Chicago. She also spent significant time in strategic planning and operations consulting with top firms, where she helped health care organizations improve performance, culture, and operational outcomes.

Michelle joined Kaiser Permanente in 2016, steadily advancing through leadership roles of increasing responsibility. In Northern California, she served as Senior Vice President and Area Manager for multiple service areas, Interim Regional Chief Nurse Executive, and Senior Vice President of Hospital and Health Plan Operations, where she also led the organization's COVID-19 response. In February 2022, she was named Chief Operating Officer and Chief Strategy, Growth, and Experience Officer for the Southern California and Hawaii region. She was appointed Regional President in 2023.

In addition to her operational leadership, Michelle serves on several professional and community boards and is actively engaged in efforts to address health equity, workforce development, and community health improvement.

Michelle holds a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a Master's degree in Health Services Administration from the University of Michigan. She also earned a Project Management Certification from the Harvard School of Public Health.

2026 HONOREE

Billy Mitchell

Internationally Renowned
Jazz Musician and Producer



Billy Mitchell is an internationally renowned jazz musician and producer, but in the Los Angeles community he is also known as a tireless leader, worker, and advocate for providing high quality music education to inner-city youth.

Born in Tarrytown and raised in Buffalo, New York, Billy tinkered with the piano as a child but did not get serious about music until he entered Morehouse College. While pursuing a political science degree he joined an off-campus jazz band and was soon playing gigs throughout the South. In 1970 Mitchell moved to Los Angeles to pursue a career in music and was soon backing up such artists as Ester Phillips, Randy Crawford, and Linda Hopkins.

He was most recently a member of the “Los Angeles Jazz Orchestra Unlimited,” headed by Jazz legend Kenny Burrell. The Billy Mitchell Group has performed at many international music festivals, and countless club appearances. His solo career has included appearances in film, most notably Clint Eastwood’s “Bird.” His solo recordings cater to both straight-ahead be-bop, and smooth jazz audiences, and his refusal to limit himself creatively has earned him respect from both sides of the proverbial fence.

As a working musician, Mitchell saw that many aspects of success that had less to do with talent and much to do with relationships, preparedness, professionalism, and awareness. His articles and clinics on this topic and his work with young musicians led to the publication of his book, “The Giggling Musician” (Rowman & Littlefield Pub.) which is considered a must-read for artists, teachers, managers, and producers.

Mitchell found it hard to believe that schools were eliminating the arts, the basic components necessary in a child’s overall development. And so, he set about developing simple, common-sense approaches for providing basic music instruction for youngsters in underserved communities. In 2002, he founded the Scholarship Audition Performance Preparatory Academy (SAPPA) which has been the focus of his efforts ever since. His work with youth did not go unnoticed and soon he was consulting for Los Angeles Music Center-Spotlight Awards, Pasadena Unified Schools, California State Summer School for the Arts, and the Compton Unified School District

In 2010 The Watts-Willowbrook Music Academy (Conservatory) was established as a project of the Scholarship Audition Performance Preparatory Academy (SAPPA). The WWMA program is part of the cultural arts strategy that creates opportunities for children who have little access to high quality music instruction. The non-tuition program provides music training in all orchestral string instruments. The WWMA was inspired by “El Sistema” the world-renowned music outreach and education program in Venezuela and is currently a member of El Sistema USA.

Mitchell has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the Jazz for the Next Generation Award (America West Airlines), Gold Crown Award (Pasadena Arts Council), Local Heroes Award (KCET/Union Bank), Inductee into the California Jazz & Blues Hall of Fame, Jazz Hero Award (Jazz Journalist Association), Nica Award (California Jazz Foundation) and many awards and commendations from the City and County of Los Angeles and the State of California.

2026 HONOREE

Anderson .Paak
GRAMMY® Award Winning
Artist & Producer



Multi-hyphenate global superstar **Anderson .Paak** is a 9x GRAMMY Award-winning artist, producer, songwriter, director, entrepreneur, and philanthropist from Oxnard, California. Born Brandon Paak Anderson, he began as a church drummer before rising to international acclaim.

By 2021, .Paak had won four GRAMMY Awards, including one for his powerful and socially charged single “Lockdown” released on Juneteenth following his participation in a Los Angeles protest against police brutality. That same year, he joined forces with Bruno Mars as one half of Silk Sonic, whose debut single “Leave The Door Open” topped global charts, surpassed a billion streams, and earned four GRAMMYS.

A creative visionary on and off stage. His vinyl-spinning alter ego DJ Pee .Wee has captivated audiences from Coachella to the Met Gala, while his record label APESHIT, in partnership with Universal Music Group, champions independent artistry and creative freedom. He earned a BET Award for Best Director at the 2024 International Film Festival and premiered his debut feature film K-POPS which opens in theatres on February 27th. Why Lawd?—under his duo NxWorries with producer Knxwledge—won the 2025 GRAMMY Award for Best Progressive R&B Album. He continues to expand his brand through multiple ventures including restaurants, Andys Lounge West Hollywood, Taisho, Casito, and BLVD Steak.

Beyond his musical success, Anderson .Paak is deeply committed to giving back. Through the Brandon Anderson Foundation started in 2016 and its annual .Paak House event now touted as Coachella for Families, he champions programs that empower underserved youth through music, art, and community outreach. His philanthropic work focuses on creating access, opportunity, and inspiration for the next generation of creators—reflecting his belief that creativity can transform lives. The foundation has raised over \$4MM and impacted over 21K thousand greater Los Angeles area underserved youth and families and through collaboration and partnerships, have distributed over \$5MM of products including basic hygiene products, food, toiletries, clothing, school supplies and more to underserved youth and young adults including firemen impacted by the Pacific Palisades fires and Ventura County families impacted by systemic displacement.

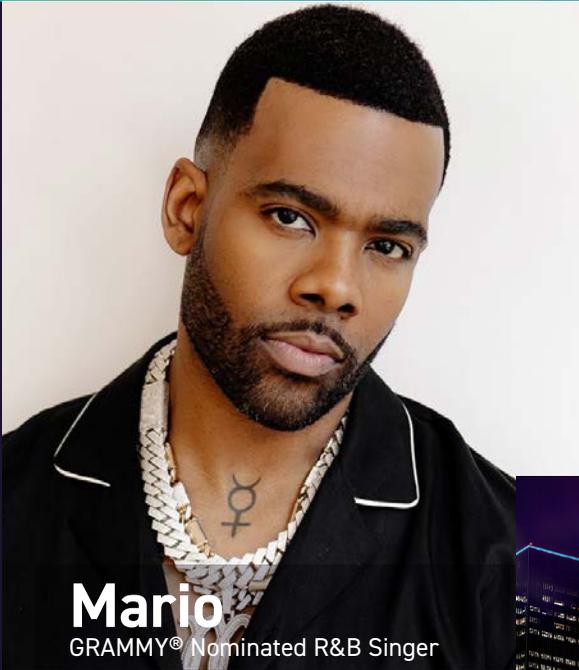
From his humble beginnings in Oxnard to the world’s biggest stages, Anderson .Paak continues to redefine what it means to be an artist he stands as a symbol of perseverance and joy—a drummer turned global star who continues to uplift others while crafting timeless, feel-good music. From Oxnard’s humble streets to the world’s biggest stages, his groove keeps reminding us that rhythm, soul, and kindness can change more than just the beat—they can change lives.



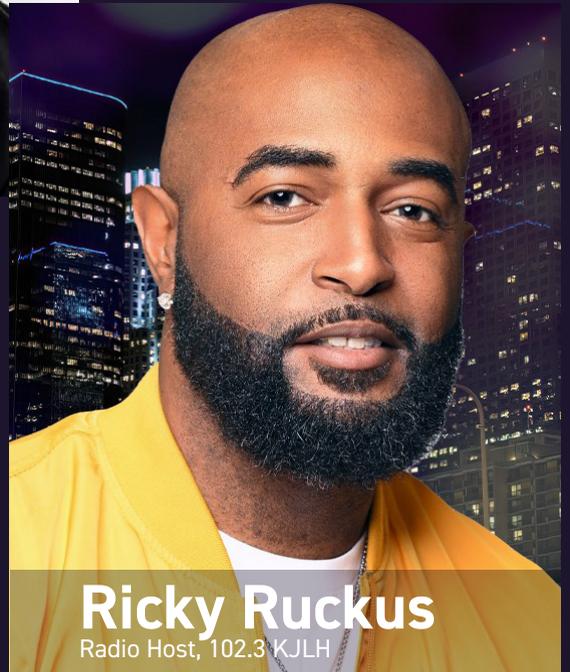
UNCF
**MASKED
BALL**
LOS ANGELES

2026 **AFTERPARTY**

PRESENTED BY IAC AND
SPONSORED BY UNCLE NEAREST



Mario
GRAMMY® Nominated R&B Singer



Ricky Ruckus
Radio Host, 102.3 KJLH



DJ Benjamin

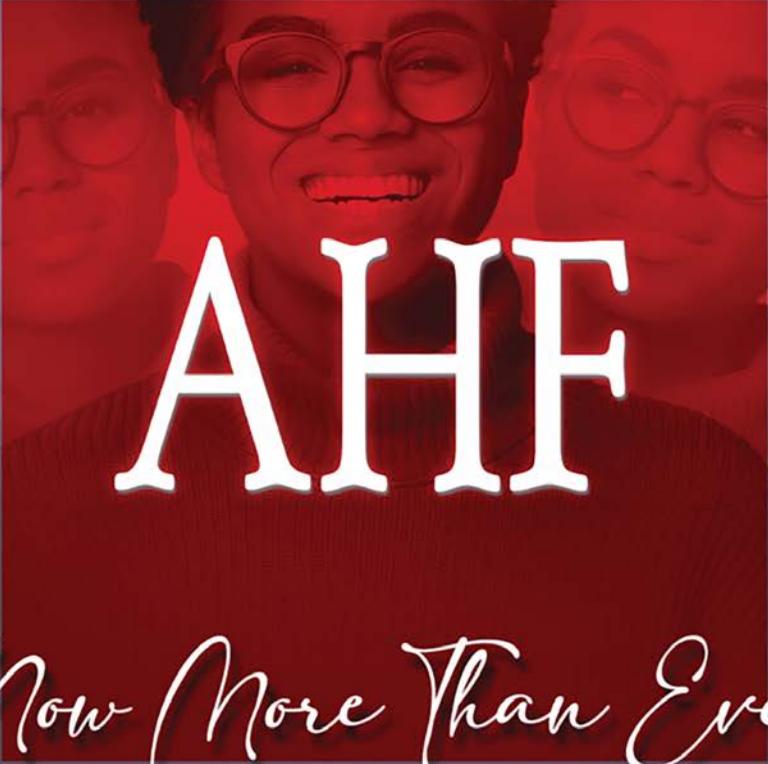
HELPING BRIGHT FUTURES TAKE OFF.

Proud to support the 2026 UNCF LA Masked Ball.



KEEP CLIMBING
 DELTA 

*The AIDS Healthcare Foundation proudly salutes
The Ladylike Foundation as they celebrate, motivate and inspire
women of excellence.*



AHF

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CUTTING-EDGE MEDICINE
AND ADVOCACY REGARDLESS
OF ABILITY TO PAY



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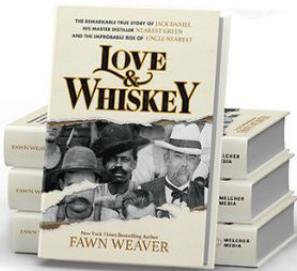
We proudly congratulate Dijon McFarlane (Mustard) on receiving the Vanguard Award at the NMPA Songwriter Awards, a well-deserved honor recognizing your vision, impact, and influence.



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37

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A mind is a terrible
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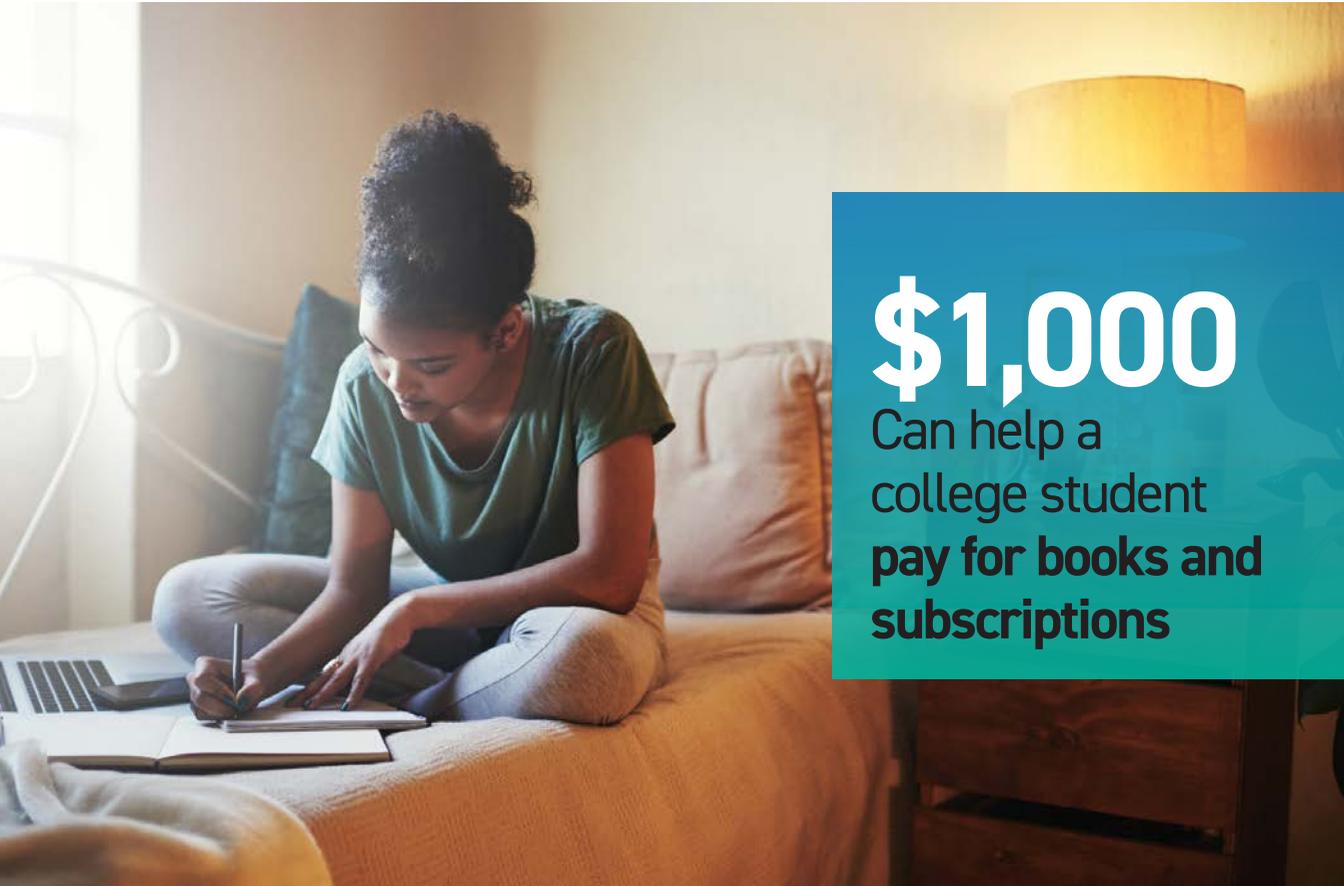
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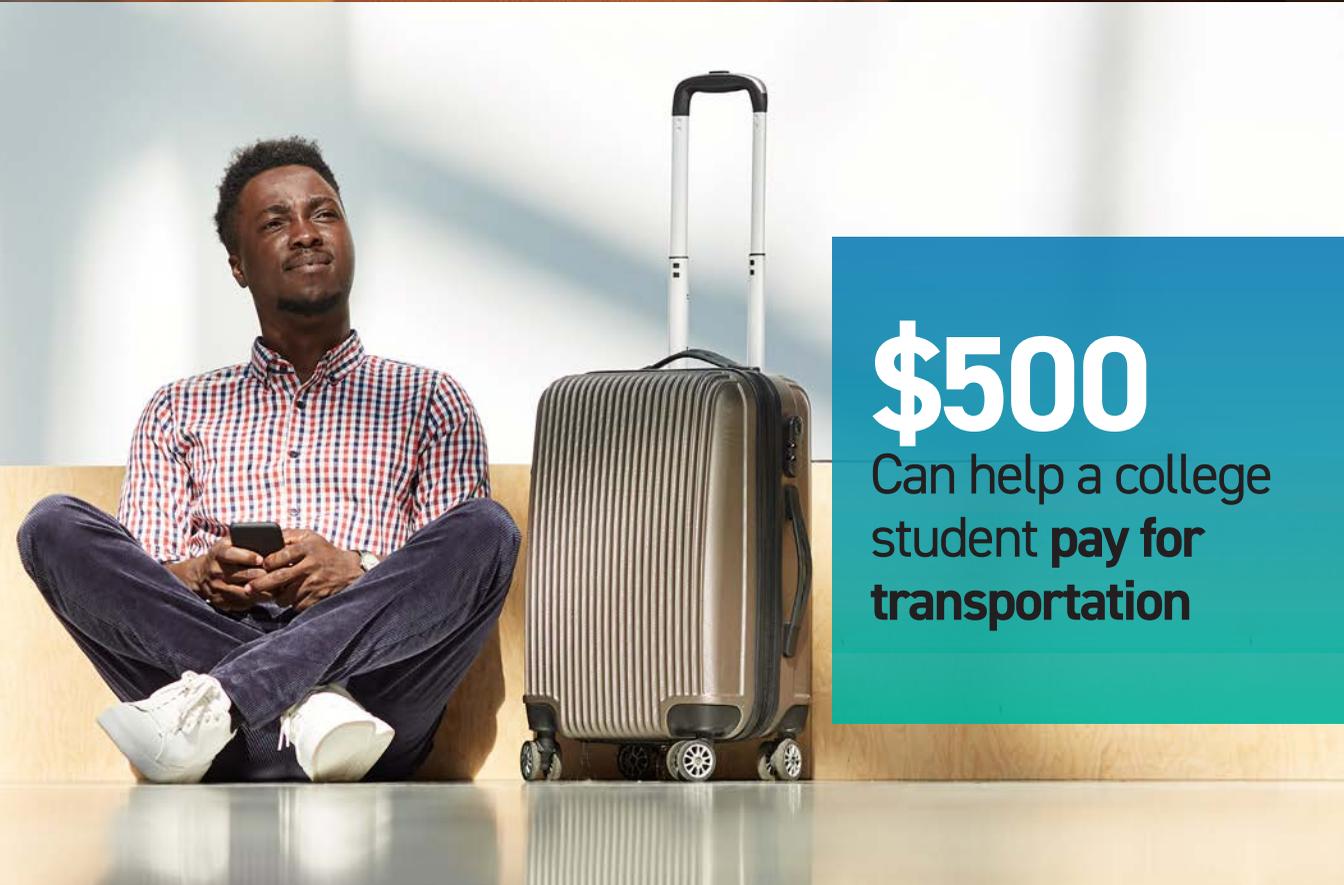
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

UNCF Los Angeles extends heartfelt gratitude to our civic leaders, corporate partners, community organizations, and supporters whose collective commitment makes this evening—and our mission—possible.

We are especially grateful to Mayor Karen Bass, Los Angeles County Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell, and the Office of the Second District, as well as Los Angeles County Board Chair for their leadership and steadfast support of educational equity and student success across Los Angeles. Their partnership strengthens UNCF's work to build a robust, nationally recognized pipeline of underrepresented students who, with UNCF support, become highly qualified college graduates and future leaders.

We proudly thank our sponsors whose generosity fuels this work, including Delta Air Lines; Keck Medicine of USC, AIDS Healthcare Foundation; Kaiser Permanente; Inter Alumni Council; JPMorgan Chase; Bank of America; Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority; Step to Freedom; Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.; L.A. Care Health Plan; Uncle Nearest Premium Whiskey; and Butterfli.

We are also deeply appreciative of our community partners, volunteers, and in-kind supporters whose time, talent, and advocacy help bring this event to life and expand our reach throughout Los Angeles.

Together, we are fortunate to stand alongside partners who share UNCF's enduring belief that "A mind is a terrible thing to waste."[®]

UNCF also recognizes the following individuals and companies for their outstanding contributions.

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