

LITTLEBLACKPEARL

T H E B U S I N E S S O F A R T

Photo by Rodney Wright
IMAGE MAKERS PHOTOGRAPHY

SUMMER 2013



Plus
EXCLUSIVE
Interview with
THEASTER GATES

"I feel like having a space where a student can both develop a community and celebrate being their best selves is a big deal."

10TH ANNIVERSARY

LITTLE BLACK PEARL ACKNOWLEDGES ALL BOARD MEMBERS



MCA Chicago congratulates Monica Haslip and Little Black Pearl on 20 years of making Chicago an extraordinary cultural setting.

Museum of
Contemporary Art
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THIS is an amazing time of growth and reflection for me. This magazine will kick-off the celebration of 20 years of Little Black Pearl! I am humbled and astonished by the opportunities that this organization has afforded me and the community. Twenty years ago, I dreamed of creating a space where children would feel safe, honored and empowered. LBP has surpassed my wildest dreams and aspirations. With the help of many incredible people including; my board, staff, students, parents, volunteers, legislators, friends and most of all family, we have built an Institution that we can all be very proud of. I would like to dedicate this issue to my incredible mother who is my beautiful Angel in heaven interceding on my behalf on a regular basis. My mother showed me what strength, courage and love looked and felt like. I could not celebrate the success of LBP without acknowledging the very person who taught me how to dream big dreams and not lose my compassion for the needs of others. Twenty years have passed very quickly and I have had the pleasure of sharing most of my adult life with one of the true loves of my life "Little Black Pearl". It is an extraordinary honor to be positioned to really share a dream with the

world. Building this organization has not been without its peaks and valleys, but it has been by far the most consistent positive presence in my life. LBP represents the good in all of us. It is a demonstration of faith, hope and possibilities. We are always embarking upon new journeys and exploring ways to invite our community to see its true essence and beauty. Many extraordinary people have come through the doors of LBP, leaving behind pieces of themselves to scatter among the children that we have been entrusted to shine the light of hope and possibilities upon. LBP has touched many of our lives in ways that are immeasurable. Its core and foundation is based upon the love of art and the good intentions of many. I am so proud to have given birth to this incredible gift and I look forward to sharing it with all of you for years to come. Thank you for your continued support, love and prayers.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Monica Haslip".

Monica Haslip
Founder/Executive Director



Photo by Rodney Wright
IMAGE MAKERS PHOTOGRAPHY

IMPACT



Teen Tech Center

BEST BUY TEEN TECH CENTER

Pursue your interests and use new technologies with help from other teens and adult mentors. Then share your work with peers across the globe through the Intel Computer Clubhouse Network. The Center is a free after-school program for teens exploring computing, digital photography, videography, graphic design, audio production, robotics, game development, and mobile app programming.



Little Black Pearl is proud to announce that we have teamed up with the Intel Computer Clubhouse Network and Best Buy to provide a creative and safe after-school learning environment called the Teen Tech Center.

The goal of this center is simple: To help teens explore their passions in technology and inspire future education and career choices. The Teen Tech Center has broken the mold of traditional, static computer labs by offering catalytic environments that will spur teens to learn, experiment, collaborate and play with the latest technologies to build 21st century skills and enable them to seize opportunities for self-expression.



At the center, teens ages 12 to 19 can develop projects based on their own interest such as: creating art, music and animations; designing their own science simulations and mobile applications; writing and illustrating interactive poetry, stories and films; building kinetic sculptures and robotic constructions; and designing their own 3D worlds and games. In the process, youth will become excited about learning and fluent with new technologies, developing skills and experiences to help them succeed in their careers, contribute to their communities and lead outstanding lives.

The Teen Tech Center offers a powerful array of cutting-edge technology, such as computers, digital cameras, movie cameras, professional software, and program activities in a wide range of areas:

- Computing
- Digital Photography
- Film making & Videography
- Graphic Design
- Audio production (including music mixing)
- Robotics
- Game Development
- Programming (including app development)



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The University of Chicago

Congratulates

Little Black Pearl

On the occasion of your 20th anniversary

Recognizing the immense community contributions you have made on behalf of youth and their futures

Thank you for your service

ONE COMMUNITY



ONE BELIEF

NO ONE SHOULD GO HUNGRY

The Hunger Walk is more than a walk—it's a celebration. A celebration of the response to hunger in Cook County. More than 400 pantries, soup kitchens and shelters that are members of the Greater Chicago Food Depository work year-round to provide food for hungry people. Each June, volunteers, supporters and the people we serve come together to celebrate their efforts by walking along the lakefront at the Hunger Walk. Last year, nearly 12,000 people from all corners of Chicago and Cook County participated. The 28th Annual Hunger Walk takes place Saturday morning, June 29, at Soldier Field. Participants can expect activities for children, live entertainment, celebrity appearances and more. With the skyscrapers and Lake Michigan as the backdrop, the highlight of the day is the start of the 5K (3.1-mile) walk along Waldron Drive. The walk then winds south along Burnham Harbor and McCormick Place before returning to the stadium green outside Soldier Field. Hunger is a significant issue in our community. One in six people in Cook County is food insecure and unsure of when they will receive their next meal. But the walk, and the

support it provides, gives hope that one day none of our neighbors will go hungry. If all of this isn't inspiring enough, here's another incentive: every dollar raised at the Walk goes directly back to community pantries, soup kitchens and shelters. Last year the walk raised \$566,000. Many organizations raise their food budgets for the year because of the Hunger Walk. The Food Depository, Chicago's food bank, organizes the event but directs all funds to the community. Even better, by bringing more walkers, pantries, soup kitchens and shelters receive more funds. There's a joyousness and unity on display every year at the Hunger Walk: the joy of giving back to the community and the unity of people from every neighborhood who believe that no one in Chicago should go hungry. Anyone can take steps to end hunger by demonstrating their support on June 29. Sign up for the Hunger Walk at chicagosfoodbank.org/hungerwalk.



28th Annual Hunger Walk June 29, 2013

**One community, one belief:
No one should go hungry.**

Registration 7 a.m.
Step-Off 8:30 a.m.
Soldier Field

Take the next step to end hunger at
chicagosfoodbank.org/hungerwalk

For more information call
773-247-FOOD



Helping neighborhoods thrive through culture-driven redevelopment

Founded by Little Black Pearl alum, Theaster Gates Jr., Rebuild Foundation strengthens neighborhoods through community-driven programming, creates spatial equity for underserved artists and creative people, educates and provides opportunity through workforce enhancement, invests in creative entrepreneurs and local artists to spark economies.

Join us. Program and event details at
Rebuild-Foundation.org



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Congratulations Little Black Pearl

20th Year Anniversary

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QUAD COMMUNITIES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Quad Communities Development Corporation (QCDC) serves the South Side communities of North Kenwood, Oakland, and portions of Douglas and Grand Boulevard.

Little Black Pearl and the Quad Community Development Corporation have been long time partners. Beautification of the area with murals and banners placed along Cottage Grove are one example of the resources brought to fruition with LBP and QCDC collaboration. During Spring Break, Little Black Pearl students worked with QCDC to promote violence prevention. "Play Streets" was an initiative streaming from the FLOTUS's "Lets Move" campaign. Ten students were selected to work in Washington Park to help students on

Spring Break enjoy various fun activities during that week. Most recently QCDC partnered with the University of Chicago's Black Youth Project and Little Black Pearl to offer youth an opportunity to learn and sharpen their journalism skills. Students from area schools will become reporters for their individual schools. This summer long project will culminate with the new journalists reporting in a collaborative fashion show and area wide news. On Thursday May 16, 2013 QCDC celebrated it's 10 year anniversary with many supporters at

a luncheon at Maggiano's where the keynote speaker was Toni Preckwinckle Cook County Board President.



"Everyone's hard work with and through QCDC has laid the foundation for the current wealth of initiatives benefiting our communities."

TONI PRECKWINKLE



**Quad Communities
Development Corporation**

Arts = SMARTS

Little Black Pearl has provided our flagship afterschool program Arts=Smarts to youth for the past 19 years to students from Chicago area schools. Arts=Smarts offers the opportunity to garner new artistic skills and continue the learning experiences through the arts. Arts=Smarts gives students access to explore the connection between art and business through a creative learning environment. As the need for students to have a safe, structured, and enriching environment has grown, so has Little Black Pearl's commitment to providing students relevant options. Upon arrival at Little Black Pearl students are able to enjoy a hot and nutritious meal through our long standing partnership with the Greater Chicago Food Depository. Students are able to select which studio: Glassblowing, Music Production, Ceramics, Dance, LIVE ART, Multi-Media, Painting/Drawing, and Technology.

Arts=Smarts students explore both visual and performing arts while also engaging in activities that encourage character development and civic responsibility. Arts=Smarts gives participants the opportunity to lend their artistic talents and voice opposing the violence that plagues our teens today. For instance "Collateral Damage" is a project that students have worked on to give an artistic response against the violence that has been rampant against our youth during the past few years. Students have created art in the music, glass, painting/drawing and multi-media studios to take a stand against the senseless crimes against their peers. Due to the partnership with Best Buy and the Intel Computer Clubhouse Network hundreds more students have had the opportunity to gain access to technology and digital art through the newly opened Best Buy Teen Tech Center now housed within Little Black Pearl. The BBTC has become a favorite place for students to hang out, mess around and geek out with technology. Students from around the community are welcome to become members and have access to Digital Photography, Animation, Architecture, Graphics and Music. Participants will be able to use more high quality technology to further engage in their arts. Various activities, guest speakers, and field trips provide an environment for students to be artists, entrepreneurs and well-rounded citizens. During the months of February and May students, staff and community residents participated in blood drives with the American Red Cross. The drives were part of a collaboration with the American Red Cross and Chicago Children's Memorial hospital. The donations given were submitted to children who are patients that have sickle cell. Students that exhibit commitment and dedication in their studios may have the opportunity to work on special projects for a variety of civic, community and business organizations. Arts=Smarts is offered the entire school year, call Chinyera Moody at (773)285-1211 ext. 307 for more information.

Congratulating Monica Haslip and Little Black Pearl for 20 years of unwavering leadership, diligence and unconditional love towards family, community, empowerment and educational excellence.

LITTLE BLACK PEARL BOARD



“AFRICAN AMERICAN CHURCH STAINED GLASS: Pointing To Our Past & Our Future”

There are signs of hope in the most violent neighborhoods of Chicago. New Mount Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church in the West Garfield Park on the city's Westside has become a beacon of light amidst despair. The powerful stained glass windows in the sanctuary of its old Romanesque Catholic Church structure tells the stories of tragedy and triumph, reflecting the challenges and hopefulness of the inner city families who worship and live in the surrounding communities.

After purchasing the Old Saint Mel parish properties in 1994, the idealism of the ministry and community development work of the congregation inspired new church window themes for the massive “rose windows” of the sanctuary. Because the old windows needed emergency repairs, the urgency spawned new visions of the power of church art. Surrounded by European Catholic characters the church took the opportunity to look beyond mere repairs and restoration. We envisioned new art to tell our own faith stories and to transform the worship space. What started as window repair has become a vision of a trilogy of three twenty-five foot “rose windows”; each revealing the pain and promise of the African American sojourn in this strange land.

First, the first window faces east and is called, MAAFA. That is the “great calamity” of the global slave trade of Africans from the 17th to the 19th centuries. The window was inspired by the powerful art work of the late Tom Feelings called, “Middle Passage”. Feelings spent twenty years of his life sketching scenes from the capture and transport of Africans as slave labor to build the “new world” in the Americas. The exploitation of African peoples and resources laid the foundations of the underdevelopment of Africa, the African Diaspora, and of the global economy of the 20th and 21st centuries.

The “tight packed” slave ship schematic became iconic for abolitionist in Europe and America, and a revered symbol of the suffering of the ancestors for African Americans during the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920's and the Black Conscience movement of the 1960's and 1970's. Today, in the 21st century, the “slave ship” icon is the singular global public memory of the TransAtlantic slave trade. When people see the slave ship packing scene, they remember the survivors and non-survivors of that traumatic, horrific trafficking in black humanity. The

MAAFA window at New Mount Pilgrim is the largest art form of that icon in the world. The memory of the African holocaust lives in the 21st century, as does the post traumatic pathologies of human degradation. The smaller rose circles have pictures of the African continent and the communion cup and bread, and large letters that spell out “remembrance”. The somber grey and dark blue and black hues of the huge “rose window” face east to the Atlantic Ocean, with the bodies of the captured Africans ascending, embodied in a Risen African Christ.

Second, in the north “rose window” of the sanctuary, is the equally massive GREAT MIGRATION window. Here, the inner scene is inspired by the Alex Haley's landmark book and television mini-series, “Roots”. A robed father holds up the newest born child. Sharing the scene is the mother and an older sibling. The backdrop is the “North Star”, a guiding star of faith and hope for the “underground railroad” out of slavery and the 20th century “great migration” of African Americans from south to north. Head shots of three of the pioneering pastors of the New Mount Pilgrim congregation are on the bottom roses, while the church name is customized, encircling the family “Lift Holy Hands” theme.

Third, our plans are under way to produce the third “rose window” installment, the SANKOFA peace window, facing the west. For this window, the youth of our community have been summoned to take lead. The window vision focuses upon the center scene, with the back of a Christ figure, guiding eight young people down a winding road, back into the peaceable place of an idyllic African village. At the upper road, we will see several hut houses along the path, the plentiful dwelling places of a wealthy African Father. At the top four small encircling rose windows, will be the individual likenesses of the four little girls killed at height of the civilian rights movement at the 16th Street Baptist Church in 1963 in Birmingham, Alabama. They will wear cultural female African head wraps, signifying a return home. At the bottom encircling “rose windows” will be the images of four victims of Chicago's urban violence in the late 20th and early 21st century. The males will wear male African crowns, and the female will wear the cultural head wrap. The current image choices are: Dantrell Davis and Eric Morris, young pre-teen victims of violence

in Chicago's public housing. Teen images being considered, suggested by community youth, are high profile urban violence victims Blair Holt and Hadiyah Pendleton. Akan symbols from Ghana will compliment the images and call for urban peace and restoring the “values of village in the heart of the city.” This is the theme and aim of all of the ministry and the Pilgrim Development Corporation's faith based community development.

Appropriately, young people should drive this last project. The youth of Pilgrim and West Garfield Park, in partnership with the young artist of Little Black Pearl, will finalize designs, raise funds, and create the third window as a gift of hope for the future. Sacred spaces are great places to reflect upon the pain and promise of our collective sojourn. These windows come from the soul of our collective experience, and they help give direction to the future. From the Africans captured from villages in the MAAFA, through the pilgrimage of the GREAT MIGRATION; we can, in the 21st Century, be guided by the insight and wisdom of SANKOFA. The “Sankofa” symbol is a bird whose long neck bends back to see behind it. In Akan the symbol means, “go back and get it!” There are times when, in order to move forward, we must go back and reclaim the values that have been lost. Led by our youth, we can use these windows in sacred space to point back to values of community that can help us move forward for a new century in the global economy of an emerging new world.

REV. DR. MARSHALL ELIJAH HATCH, SENIOR PASTOR
New Mount Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church

Pilgrim Community Development Corporation of West Garfield Park
“The Spirit Of Village In The Heart Of The City”





**WHEN WE SERVE TOGETHER
IN OUR COMMUNITIES,
EVERYONE SOARS.**

At Southwest Airlines®, we lend our time and talents to the extraordinary causes and passionate people that shape our world-one community at a time.



WHEN you meet Southwest Airlines' Manager of Community Affairs, Patty Kryschka, she will tell you, "we believe in supporting the causes that matter most to the people who live in the communities we serve. That's why our

Community Affairs Team works to develop strong relationships with community partners like Little Black Pearl."

At Southwest Airlines, community involvement and supporting others have been a part of their Culture since they first took flight more than four decades ago. They work with charitable organizations large and small to support them in making a profound and lasting impact in our communities.

Additionally, Patty says that "every Southwest location and Employee is a part of a community, and we're committed to helping these communities thrive. It's a commitment deeply rooted in our Culture along with the belief that we can use our assets to be a catalyst for positive change."

Southwest Airlines is the nation's largest airline, carrying more domestic passengers than any other US airline. And, Southwest's operation at Chicago's Midway International Airport, is the largest in terms of flights in the entire Southwest system. Clearly, Chicago holds a special place in Southwest's heart.

**FUNDER
PROFILE**



We're very proud to be the Official Airline of Little Black Pearl. They are a wonderful partner doing excellent work to help so many people."

PATTY KRYSCHA



READ ALONG WITH
LBPA 2013

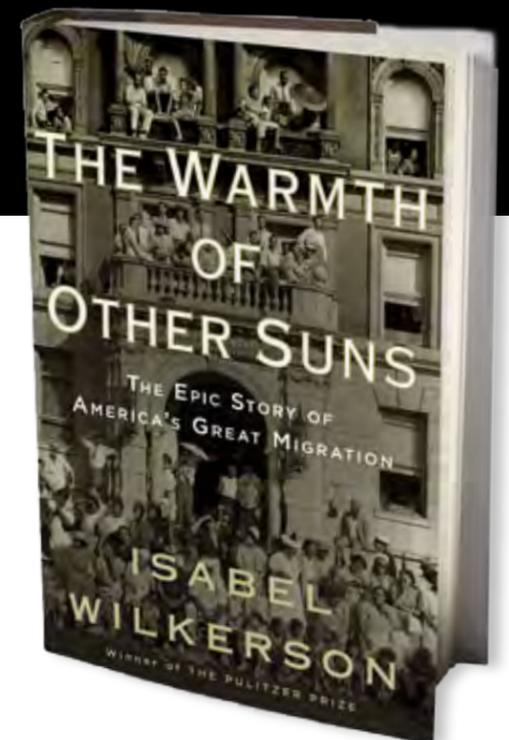
Join LBPA and Chicago Public Library for a full conversation.

We'll start by reading Isabel Wilkerson's award winning

THE WARMTH OF OTHER SUNS:

The epic story of America's great migration.

Now through Spring 2014!





GLASS BLOWING

CLASSROOM GROUPONS
Teaching the community an old tradition.

THE

Glass Studio at Little Black Pearl Workshop has been hosting community glass blowing classes through Groupon. Our classes focus on teaching members of our LBP community the basic skills involved in glass through the creation of a beautiful glass paperweight. These classes have been an incredible opportunity for our LBP community to come in and learn glass making from our glass staff and students, while simultaneously supporting our glass program. As a teacher I know that few things give students the chance to solidify their knowledge like sharing their expertise. I have enjoyed watching our students grow exponentially through being assistant teachers in our classes. They have also learned valuable business and communication skills throughout their experience. Most of all they gained a sense of confidence in their abilities and exhibited a strong work ethic. All these classes have been a wonderful exchange between our children and our community. In many cases working with our kids was the most enjoyable part of the class for our adult learners. I have also enjoyed our adult students who have come from as close as a block away and as far as Philadelphia to join us in making glass. We are excited to bring people from all over together to meet, mingle and have a truly unique experience. Classes are currently over for the season, but will resume in the fall. Come join the fun and continue to support our student glass artists though registering for a class!

*"... I have found in my career that the people who ask the tough questions and force you to see different perspectives have the greatest impact."
- Cynthia (Cindy) Davis*

OUR COMMITMENT.

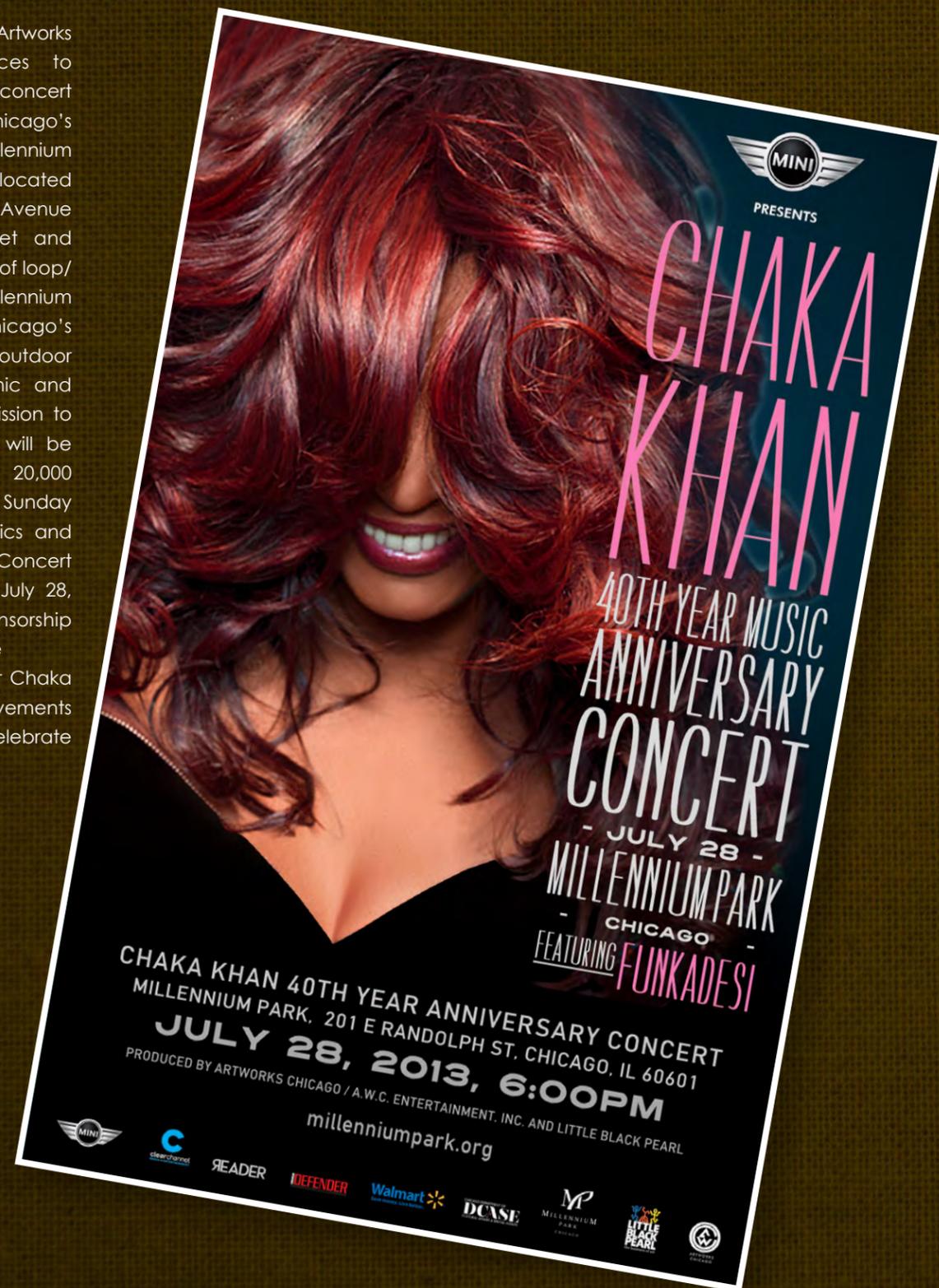
Walmart supports minority- and women-owned businesses and is a proud supporter of Little Black Pearl.



Little Black Pearl has given me a chance to learn a classic tradition of glass blowing at a convenient time and location for my schedule."

SPECIAL EVENTS

Little Black Pearl and Artworks Chicago join forces to produce a historical concert featuring Chaka Khan at Chicago's most visited Landmark "Millennium Park". Millennium Park is located in Grant Park on Michigan Avenue between Randolph Street and Monroe Street in the heart of loop/downtown Chicago. Millennium Park is the City of Chicago's premier state of the art outdoor concert venue. The picnic and concert will be free admission to the general public and will be attended by more than 20,000 people. The park will open Sunday afternoon for family picnics and fun. The Celebration and Concert will be held on Sunday, July 28, 2013 6pm-10pm. Sponsorship opportunities are available City of Chicago will honor Chaka Khan for 40 years of achievements in the Music Industry and celebrate her 60th Birthday!



EVENTS CALENDAR

"Little Black Pearl Art and Design Academy (LBPA) will open its doors for the first time August 26, 2013. LBPA will offer a unique, state-of-the-arts learning environment that will enable High School students to develop skills in academics, fine arts and technology. Join us in welcoming our best and brightest to LBPA!"

STATEMENT FROM MONICA HASLIP

SATURDAY 7/27
CHAKA KHAN'S STREET NAMING CEREMONY
 TIME: 2:00-3:00 PM
 50-51st and Blackstone;
 Newest of Kenwood High School

SUNDAY 7/28
CHAKA KHAN AT MILLENNIUM PARK
 40th Year Music Anniversary Concert
 BLACK:unplugged Members Vip Event

JULY 30-31
GEEK SQUAD SUMMER ACADEMY

AUGUST 2
LBP SUMMER PROGRAM CULMINATING EVENT

AUGUST 26
LITTLE BLACK PEARL ART AND DESIGN ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL OPENING

2013 Senior Prom at Little Black Pearl





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Grilled Chicken Breast Strips
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Grilled Cheese

Mayo, chipotle mayo, honey mustard, ranch,- Cheese: Pepper Jack, Swiss, Cheddar, or American - Cucumber, Lettuce, Pickles, Tomato - Whole Wheat, Whole Grain Oat Nut & Italian

Grab & Go Hoagie \$5.00

Grab & Go Combo with chips and \$1.00 Drink \$6.50
Sliced Chicken Breast
Sliced Herb Roasted Turkey

Mayo, chipotle mayo, honey mustard, ranch,- Cheese: Pepper Jack, Swiss, Cheddar, or American - Cucumber, Lettuce, Pickles, Tomato - Whole Wheat, Whole Grain Oat Nut & Italian



Pizza

Pepperoni \$2.50 or
Cheese \$2.00

Salads

Garden & Caesar \$4.00
Chicken, Ham or Turkey \$5.00



Chicken

Chicken Wings \$2.50
Buffalo Chicken Tenders \$3.00

Snacks

Chips: \$.50
Muffins: \$ 1.75
Cookies: 2 for \$ 1.50

Drinks

Arizona Teas, Bottle Water, Sundrop, Sundrop Light \$1.00
Peach Snapple \$1.25

Smoothies \$4.00

Tea Lg. \$4.00 / Med. \$2.50 / Sm. \$1.50

Coffee Lg. \$3.50 / Med. \$2.00 / Sm. \$1.00

Searching for that unique WiFi spot to sip an excellent cup of

Fair Trade Organic coffee,

knock out that term paper or finally start reading that new book?

If so, *Black Pearl Cafe* is where you can indulge your passion and soothe your soul with an exquisite blend of coffee and art.

Come in and enjoy an assortment of beverages, cookies, pastries, salads and sandwiches.

We accept Visa, Master Card, Discover Card

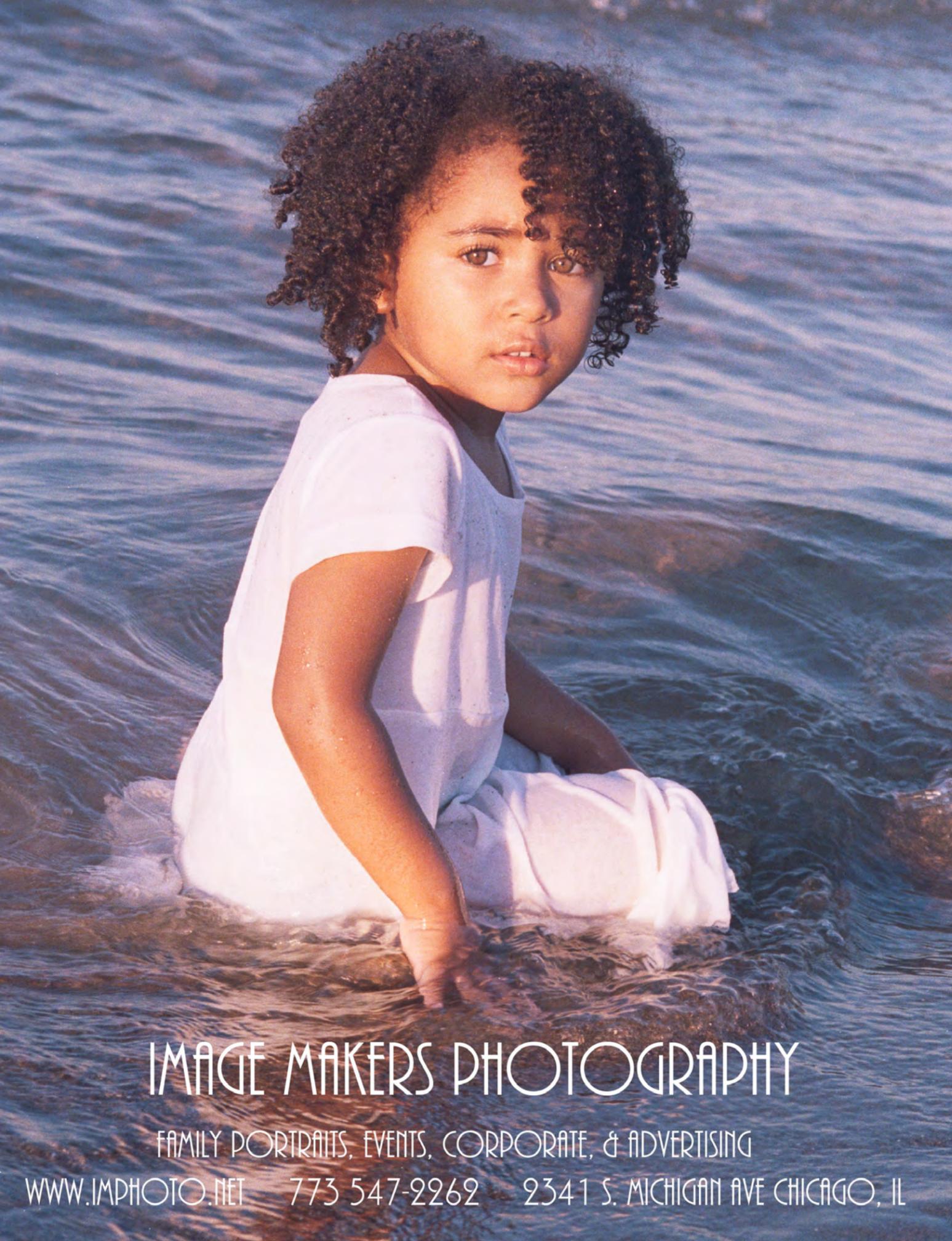


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FAMILY PORTRAITS, EVENTS, CORPORATE, & ADVERTISING

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DINNER WITH LIZZ WRIGHT

Two Black:unplugged members were the lucky winners of auction prizes which included fabulous dinners prepared by world renowned songstress Lizz Wright! Both evenings were lovingly orchestrated by Lizz and featured five course meals, thoughtful and beautifully executed ambiance, and a private live unplugged mini performances. Lizz is an amazing Board member of LBP and continues to share her special gifts with the community through her service at LBP! Thanks to our Black:unplugged members for your support! Nobody unplugs like LBP! Join today www.blackpearl.org Try one of Lizz's Black:unplugged recipes at home!



GARDENSIDE GOURMET

SALMON YAKITORI

7 tbsp. dark soy sauce
7 tbsp. mirin
7 tbsp. sake
2 tbsp. sugar
2 lbs. boneless, skin-on Norwegian salmon filet, cut into 1" cubes

1. Combine soy sauce, mirin, sake, and sugar in a large bowl and mix well. Add salmon, toss to coat, cover bowl with plastic wrap, and refrigerate overnight. Put 10-12 wooden skewers into a baking dish and cover with water; let soak overnight.
2. The next day, build a medium-hot fire in a charcoal grill or heat a gas grill to medium-high. (Alternatively, arrange an oven rack 4" from heating element and heat broiler on high.) Drain skewers. Thread salmon pieces onto wooden skewers and transfer to a plate. Grill or broil skewers, turning occasionally, until salmon is browned and cooked through, about 5 minutes. To serve, transfer skewers to a platter.



KALE AND AVOCADO SALAD

Elf in LA's Echo Park serves a version of this refreshing Japanese-inspired salad.

1/2 cup fresh orange juice
3 tbsp. fresh lemon juice
2 tsp. soy sauce
1 clove garlic, smashed and chopped into a paste 4 tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
3 avocados, halved, pitted, and peeled
2 tbsp. raw hemp seeds (optional)

1 bunch kale (about 3/4 lb.), stemmed and finely chopped
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
1. Whisk together juices, soy sauce, and garlic in a bowl. Slowly whisk in oil; set dressing aside.
2. Cut 2 avocados into 1/2" cubes and thinly slice the remaining avocado. Put cubed avocados, half of the hemp seeds, and kale into a serving bowl. Toss kale mixture with dressing and season generously with salt and pepper. Divide salad between plates and garnish with sliced avocado and remaining hemp seeds.
SERVES 4 - 6 both the salmon yakitori and kale salad can be found at saveur.com.





CALLING ALL ART STUDENTS... SEE YOUR ART IN AN EXHIBITION!

Join prominent artists from around the country and submit your work to the Museum of Science and Industry's 2014 Black Creativity Juried Art Exhibition. This is the longest-running exhibition of African-American art in the nation and features categories like photography, drawing, painting, sculpture, video art—and more!

If you are a youth artist between the ages of 14 and 17 (or enrolled in high school in 2014) apply for your chance to participate in this exciting event, opening January 2014. Along with seeing your work in a museum, you could take home a cash prize! To be notified when 2014 exhibition applications become available in September, contact Octavia Hooks at octavia.hooks@msichicago.org. Student entry is free.



msichicago.org | (773) 684-1414
5700 S. Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60637

"Crazy Blue," a digital photograph by Miguel Deberry—a Little Black Pearl workshop participant—was awarded 2nd Place in the youth category in 2013.

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IN MARCH, OPTIONS LABORATORY SCHOOL PARTNERED WITH NEW YORK CITY VETERAN TV PRODUCER, TANYA KATERI, (WWW.THE-WONDERIST.COM), ON AN INITIATIVE TO INVEST IN THE NEXT GENERATION OF CHICAGO'S FILMMAKERS. THROUGH CREATIVE INSTRUCTION IN DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY, MUSIC APPRECIATION, THE ART OF INTERVIEWING, AND SCRIPTWRITING, THE STUDENTS LEARNED THE FILMMAKING PROCESS FROM CONCEPT TO FINAL CUT. STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM WERE ENGAGED IN A FOCUSED EXPLORATION OF CONTEMPORARY ISSUES AND COMPLETED SEVERAL SHORT FILMS EXAMINING SUBJECTS THAT HIT

CLOSE TO HOME - VIOLENCE IN CHICAGO, TEEN PARENTING, THE LGBT COMMUNITY, AND LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL. NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HOPES TO RECOGNIZE THE WORK THESE STUDENTS ARE DOING AS FRONT-LINE AMBASSADORS OF YOUTH FILM BY FEATURING SELECT FILMS ON ITS WEBSITE. OPTIONS LABORATORY AND MS. KATERI ARE PROUD TO SEE THE WAY FILMMAKING HAS GIVEN THESE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS A VOICE AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME PRESERVATIONISTS OF THEIR OWN STORIES.

NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC



The Atrium: Undressed



SPECIAL EVENTS

The Little Black Pearl Art & Design Center provides an extraordinary cultural setting for community, local and national events.

Little Black Pearl Art & Design Center, located at 1060 E. 47th Street, is easily accessible from three major express ways and is only ten minutes south of Chicago's downtown area. Since 2005 Little Black Pearl has hosted over 50,000 guests and offers a Unique and Distinctive venue for special events.

The friendly staff at Little Black Pearl is experienced in event management of any scale. We value our customers and pride ourselves on customer satisfaction.

To learn more and to schedule an appointment contact Little Black Pearl's Facility Rental Department at 773-285-1211 or visit our website at www.blackpearl.org, choose the Facility Rental link.



*Magical
Memorable
Marvelous*



The Atrium: Dressed

“AN EVENT PLANNER’S DREAM”

FACILITY RENTAL

The 40,000-square foot facility offers spacious rooms to host private events of 20-400 guests. The venue is ideal for seminars, board meetings, sales and training conferences, corporate retreats, cocktail receptions, dinners and banquets.

STUDENT TESTMONIALS

"I've gotten better in math thanks to Ms. G. I've never done any type of math on my own but now I'm able to do a lot of work without a classmate or a teacher being around me the whole class period."

"The only way I can be successful in life is if I have an education. Education is important to me because it proves that any young black man can be successful in life. In order to make it you have to put your mind to it."

"Once I receive my diploma I plan on enrolling in college so I can start taking my nursing classes and begin my career in a hospital saving lives."

"You always have to live life on a positive note."

"Education is important to me because I know that without education you get nowhere in life. Education is the key to opening doors and without it you will always be locked out."

"My high school years were a lesson to me about how important it is to reach my goals, getting to college, and graduating."

"Out of every school that I have ever attended I never had as many opportunities as I have had at Options Lab. I got to travel outside of the country. I've met famous people that I thought I would never meet. I've discovered my talents."

"I'm using my high school life to prepare me for the future and the real world of being independent."

"My attitude has changed a lot by being at Options. This school changed everything about me and I'm so glad I came here. The things I've learned in high school will go with me wherever I go for the rest of my life."

THANK YOU OPTIONS LABORATORY SCHOOL/LITTLE BLACK PEARL

LBP A

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

"When things are crazy at home and I am stressed I throw myself into my art and I can work out my stress."

"I think that I would not be as successful at another school because of the care that my teachers have for me here. I can go to them and they will help me." These are some of the statements that I have heard during our senior presentations these last few weeks. It is the end of the school year and the atmosphere is charged with many conflicting emotions. Students are celebrating the end of another year of school but still concerned about end of the year finals. Seniors are ecstatic that their high school years are almost over but worried about what the future holds for them. Teachers are continuing to create learning opportunities for the classroom and preparing for finals but at the same time they are ready for the summer to recharge their batteries. The school leadership is working on the countless details of the end of a school year while planning a new year with a new school. In the midst of this "perfect storm" I take a step back to reflect on the school year and on to our next year. Have we been successful? Has learning taken place? Have we given the students what they need to be successful? As with any principal I need to look at my data to the answer for these questions and others.

How do we measure success? We can begin with our senior graduates. On June 18 at 2:00 over 50 graduates will walk across the stage at Little Black Pearl. Our seniors are accepted and planning to attend colleges and universities throughout the country such as Columbia University, Atlanta University, and Penn State. Comments in the senior presentations showed growth not only in academics but also social and emotional growth. Our students are apprehensive about the future but they are equipped to handle the next step to adulthood.

Our ACT scores show growth. Our highest ACT scores were in science. Students who gained an average of 3 credits at other schools gained 5 credits at Options Laboratory. In our STAR testing students have made gains in reading and math.

Our students have demonstrated outstanding successes in their arts and academic areas. Student

work was chosen to be featured in a video from the Kellogg Foundation. We had nine medalists in the southside NAACP ACTSO (Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics) competition with our gold medalists, Deolante Bibbs and Nkosi Barbar moving on to the Nationals in Florida in July. Miguel Deberry's photography was chosen for the Museum of Science and Industries' Black Creativity Juried exhibit in the fall of 2012. Five students were chosen to participate in the "Brainiac Project" working in the area of music production with Grammy winning artists. In Contemporary History students are finishing their work on documentary videos in partnership with National Geographic.

Sometimes in the day to day work we forget to step back and look at the whole picture. Is the vision of the school reflected in reality? I have to say yes and there are many people that should be recognized for the work this year. Our teachers have been outstanding! They open the eyes of the students to new opportunities and knowledge. They take the time to work with each student for a successful experience and growth. They integrate arts and project learning into the academic areas and give rigor in the classroom. Teachers, students and administration along with parents working together are the reason our students have shown growth and gains this year.

I also want to take a moment and recognize our Little Black Pearl Board and community members. It certainly does "take a village" and the support we continue to get from friends and family make a difference in these young peoples' lives.

SHARON MASON, PRINCIPAL



LBPA

TEACHER IMPACT

“Our teachers are amazing! Research states that the biggest impact on student success in the classroom is the teacher. Along with being experts in their subject area our teachers are passionate, dedicated and care about the students. I am grateful for all they have done for Options Lab HS this year and we look forward to next year.”

SHARON MASON

THE SCIENCE MAN!

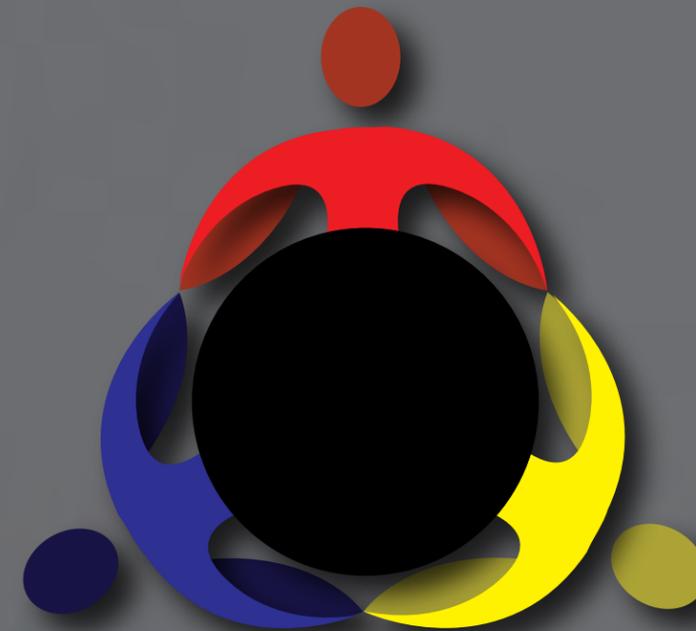
Daniel Jankovich, Science Instructor

Daniel Jankovich was born in the small town of Sauk Village, Illinois, just 31 miles south of Chicago. He was raised in and spent a great deal of his childhood in the south side of Chicago. Born to parents of Serbian descent, he became the first in his family to attend college right out of high school. He enrolled at Loyola University Chicago, earning degrees in the fields of biology, history and secondary education while graduating with high honors. Outside of school, Mr. Jankovich belonged to a number of improv comedy groups and environmental groups, as well as participated in several theatrical performances since the beginning of high school. Mr. Jankovich joined Little Black Pearl Art & Design Academy after learning about the interesting artistic approach to the standard school curriculum, where he happily became the school's first science teacher. After having had a chance to meet and get to know the population and staff of LBPA, he now looks forward to another successful year at one of Chicago's finest arts-based academic institutions.

THE HISTORY BUFF!

Gary Obaob, History Instructor

Originally from the northwest Chicago suburb of Roselle, Gary Obaob is the social studies instructor at Options Laboratory School. He teaches US History, World History, and Contemporary History. Gary earned his Bachelor's of Arts in Social Studies Education in 2005 from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a Master's of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction from Concordia University Chicago. The most enjoyable part about Little Black Pearl, he states, is the creativity of the students and how that is applied and demonstrated in class discussions and projects. In his free time, Gary enjoys singing, dancing, cooking, reading, comic books, zombie and science fiction movies, and advocacy on behalf of the disabled and LGBT communities. When motivating students, Mr. Obaob often uses favorite quote: "The expert in anything was once a beginner- Pres. Rutherford B. Hayes".



**LITTLE BLACK PEARL
ART & DESIGN ACADEMY**

THE NEW LITTLE BLACK PEARL ART & DESIGN ACADEMY OPENING IN SEPTEMBER 2013

Founded in collaboration with Little Black Pearl Workshop, Little Black Pearl Art and Design Academy seeks to offer a unique, state-of-the-art learning environment that will enable students to develop skills in academics, fine arts and technology. Urban students will be challenged to be critical thinkers in a safe learning environment while earning a high school diploma, pursuing post-secondary education, and career opportunities.

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LBPA is a CPS contract high school.

Little Black Pearl Art & Design Academy prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability, race, creed, color, gender, national origin, religion, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation or need for special education services.



SPACE MATTERS

INSTALLATION ARTIST **THEASTER GATES**

Interview by **Monica Haslip**

I decided to interview Theaster in my favorite place...my kitchen! It was the morning of Mother's Day and we both loved and adored our mother's and believe that they are the Angels guiding and protecting us through it all. I was preparing barbecue ribs for a mother's day celebration later in the afternoon and thought that it was a good opportunity to break bread and catch up with Theaster.

MONICA: Theaster what are your thoughts about the importance of space in relationship to youth?

THEASTER: I feel like having a space where a student can both develop a community and celebrate being their best selves is a big deal. And with that being said, there aren't a lot of spaces like that. You know what I mean? For example, I remember for my prom we had to go out to the west suburbs to some kind of little hall. Now the reason for this was because there was nothing in the neighborhood that was good enough to the point that it would allow us to have a decadent experience. You know prom was that one time where I was able to dress up. There was just no place around our neighborhood that would give that type of experience. So Little Black Pearl is important in that, youth had access to an amazing space on the front end.

MONICA: People are always asking, "Why do you need to have such an ambitious space? Why does your space have to be so tricked out for a thing as low as working with at-risk kids doing the arts?"

THEASTER: I know over the years I may have gone back and forth about, "How I don't want Monica to be upside down because of the weight and fiscal burden of this space." What's your response to that, Monica?

MONICA: You know the reality is I think space really does matter. And at the end of the day, I would rather have to work really hard to deal with the requirements of maintaining that space than to not have given it to them at all. I believe that these kinds of spaces are important because our children need to know how to be, and feel comfortable in their own skin in places that look like this and these places are the places that have the most influential and impactful touch on the world.

I personally don't think that anything I've done is magical. I mean it has been a tremendous amount of work and sacrifice but the rewards are in humanity, in our people. I may not see all the huge financial gifts from all the wealthy folks and we may not have all the connections, but I do have an opportunity to see human beings feel empowered and transformed. It's amazing the number of people who come back and many of those are the ones whose life has changed for the better because they had access to a place like this. This place helped them to see what was possible, and for me, if I leave this earth having accomplished that, I am absolutely satisfied! I believe that it is more satisfying as a human being, to really have that kind of connection to people and to inspire them to be more hopeful. I admit... it's hard work and sometimes very, very hard. I don't usually encourage people to try and do what I do, because it's not an easy path. It is not for the faint of heart. Sometimes I feel faint!! (Laughter)!!!!

THEASTER: It's not...because you have to always be thinking about how to stay alive.

MONICA: It can be a very tough thing, but when I see people like you and Hebru, Carla and others who have come through LBP I know we are doing something right. We are always figuring it out. Figuring out what works for us, what works for our community, what works for our kids, what works for our businesses and what works for our artist?

THEASTER: But you know the figuring out... It hasn't been figuring it out to run around a circuitous track. The figuring out has had cycles of growth that... it's like you figure out one thing then it bumps up and then you have to figure out a new set of things to bump it up. You know and I think that's very different. Like when people talk about a certain kind of grass roots-ness, but--and maybe when I say grass roots, it's just a certain kind of small that stays small. That hasn't been your dilemma. The basement thing was kind of pragmatic. It's like, how do we take this building that we have and do as much as we can

with what we've got, and make it as beautiful as possible? This relates a little bit to this place making thing. Before that word existed, before that idea existed, there are people like you...10, 15, 20 years in, imagining that the poor Black neighborhood in the middle of the burgeoning neighborhood and the neighborhood transition. The kids who have need, that that need should be fixed right where they live and that if art and culture could live in that place-- If we could shut the street down and have the best people in the world come and perform on the street, that that street would be made more special that the world might imagine, Brownsville or the south side a little bit different. I think I learned that from you. I think before there were words and descriptors for this thing that now you can apply for a grant for, there was Monica Haslip doing this work that had no name and that was confusing people. Is it art or is it business?

They're right. Are you teaching- an entrepreneurial tract or are you-- Exactly what are you doing? [laughter] People don't like that messiness and it has been exciting! I think-you mentioned Hebru, Carla, and I-we still have messy practices. We were born of a messy lot and people would rather it be more refined, You can't both be comfortable moving in the art world... are you an activist or are you an artist? Are you an entrepreneur or are you an activist? You know what I mean? It's like I'm a mutt, I'm a mutt. I don't know-who cares? But that came from a very specific set of models. I think that you were a big part of that. How do you convey self-determination? (which sounds a little bit dated), but there is a certain amount of self-determination associated with kids that you teach and you teach them to believe in themselves and to be creative and that might have an output that can sustain them. Can you talk about that?

MONICA: Well... the bottom line is everyone always put you in a box that they imagine you're in. It has never been just my agenda or role to teach kids about art. Little Black Pearl for me was about the intersection between

art and economic development. It was about employing artists and providing them the same kind of salaries and health benefits that they deserved. It was about giving us a safe place to mess up, to play around, to figure it out, and to try new things without there being these huge punitive repercussions for it. I think my biggest weight has been just really protecting the spirit of LBP because I take a lot of hits for imperfection. Imperfection for me is the opportunity for people like you and Hebru to come through, test, play around and figure it out. And then be able to say 'Ok, that might work or that might not work'. There are not a lot of places where African-American artists are given that opportunity to just test, and not be punished for not always being successful at that one thing.

THEASTER: You know what you're saying is funny...for some reason I'm thinking about NASA and the moon. And this idea that part of an astronaut's training requires that they spend time in this vacuumous environment that kind of mimics the environment that they're going to somewhere else, either on their journey or once they get there. It's like, OK, the conditions of the moon are this, and you're going to be in your little hovercraft, you're going to do your moonwalking, and we want you to experience this for years. We want you to test how your body responds to the reality of the future. So this is the ziplock, this is the drypak. We're going to have you eat this, sh*t like this...live in the conditions with other people. We'll try that for a month and then we'll try that for 2 months -like a marathon. And all of it is about this acclimation, in your case the building allowed for this environment that one might hope for so that when they get there it's like, Oh, yeah! They're not so terrified.

MONICA: Yeah. Usually we shut down with fear. Fear is the biggest paralyzing force that our children live with every day. It's mind-blowing to me, the stuff that they have to endure just to do regular stuff like go to school or go to the store. They walk down the street fearful, having to constantly put on all of this armor to just be able to get

through regular stuff. But, to come into a space like this one helps them to remove some of that fear. So when I take them to MCA or the Museum of Science and Industry or anywhere, they are not paralyzed because of all the things that they experienced in the place that they have. They can now trust, be free in, and see some of the similarities that keep them from getting paralyzed. Many of my children function in a three block radius. Their whole world is in a really small space. So when they come in here, they've normally not been in a place like this. So we spend a lot of time getting them acclimated to what's appropriate and what's not.

THEASTER: Right? And I think about that a lot because you still have English and history and math, you've got these STEM things. How do you -what do you tell kids--you know, it's like when a kid comes up to me and they say, 'I want to be a doctor'. And it's like, Negro, do you know how far you are away from doctorhood?
MONICA: Right. Right.

THEASTER: At eleventh grade, you're talking aspiration with no pragmatics. Then you get a kid that says, I want to be a sculptor, which to me now, knowing what I know, seems as far away from

"I think before there were words and descriptors for this thing that now you can apply for a grant for, there was Monica Haslip doing this work that had no name and that was confusing people. Is it art or is it business?"

doctorhood as anything else. How do you do it? It seems daunting to me, to take kids from wherever they are for real on the South Side to a new place.
MONICA: It is...it is. It's daunting but I think about the documentary, "Waiting for Superman", and I realize...there ain't no Superman.

We're the Superman. So for me, when I started thinking about a school... the school emerged because I didn't really have a vehicle to clearly demonstrate the impact of art and community involvement could have on academic achievement for our children. I didn't have a vehicle to demonstrate that in an after school setting because you are so limited in what you can control. When I talk about control, I'm talking about control in terms of data and everything else. We've come full circle back to space. So when I designed this space it was designed as a trade school because in my mind I was always dreaming about a school for that group of children who didn't have access. So, I'd much rather have a child who has interest and passion, than one who has a gift. In my experience, children with interest and passion are much

more open to possibilities and not as restricted by what they believe they are good at. Sometimes you can be so good at something that you can't imagine doing anything else. Providing access is critical...like



you have access that most people in our community don't have.

THEASTER: And then there are environments where I feel like I don't... right? And in some environments I can leverage parts of myself or a set of things and they have a return... there's a value for them. And in the other parts, I'm really not convinced that and beyond that--people who made money--people in my life who are generous to the projects that I do, I think they're generous because it hits something that's personal in them or in their families. Like, when people think about the fact that I'm rehabbing abandoned buildings on the South Side, they're reminded of their grandfather who was rehabbing buildings on the South Side.

MONICA: Yeah but... Theaster, what I want you to do is to not minimize what you're doing because the reality is...people have been rehabbing spaces since the beginning of time and have not gained the notoriety that you have. So there is something really special about the

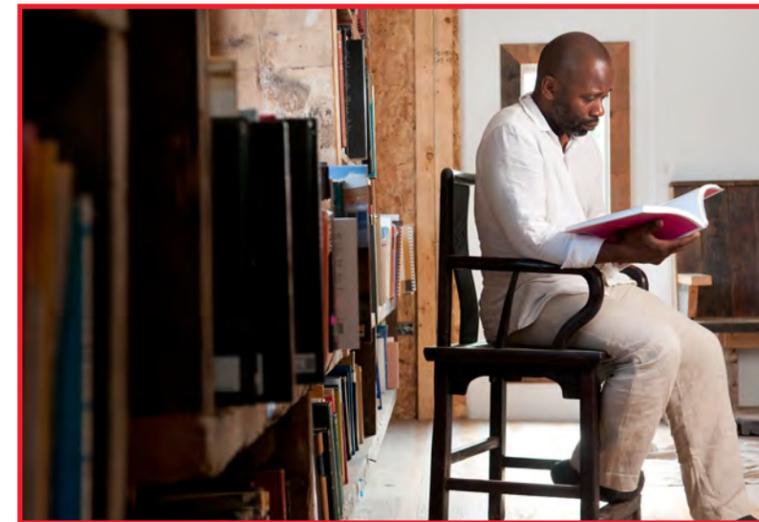
way in which you are approaching this work. I think you're almost really forcing people who may not normally think of it in that context, or in the context that you put it in, to think of it in a different way and that seems to be the thing that motivating them to really get involved and be invested in the transformation of the community around your work. And that to me is huge.

THEASTER: You're right. We don't have many of those moments and it does kind of feel like what you do at Black Pearl. You're at the same time doing the work and modeling the work.

MONICA: Right.

THEASTER: So there'll be lots of people who are extremely skeptical of the possibility and until someone else affirms that the thing that you've been

doing for the last 20 years, in your case, that there's actually some merit that's different from the merit of other after school art programs, or different from the merit of other workforce training programs, or different from the merit of the community.--That you're out there solo, and so I think you're right, there are a lot of people who support the work, and there are a lot of skeptics. What I've been trying to do is, and again, these are things--who knows where I learn these things--but what's been really clear in terms of your mentorship to me, is that, in light of the skeptics, there is a purposeful work that needs to be done. If you can just say 'f*ck



you' long enough to the skeptics and continue to do the work and figure out a way that without the resource of the skeptics--because the skeptics come when they only have the power to be skeptical and it only matters because they have something else we want.

MONICA: Yeah

THEASTER: Then in light of the fact that they are not generous yet, the work has to continue to get done. So you demonstrate and you demonstrate and you demonstrate. Then you model and you model. Then some new models will come they will grab your model and then the skeptics are going to be like: Oh my God. Oh my God. This is so wonderful! Oh my God I can't believe they are combining art and business! Oh my God! It's amazing. Art and

economic development! Gallery 37 is awesome. It is amazing! It's awesome what they're doing. It is awesome over there.

MONICA: Yeah. And so part of that is about fortitude and having the right intention. Having a belief that so crystal clear or even if it's not crystal clear, it's so deep in you that it continues to compel you on the murky journey. Because again...for me, I'm going to do this as long as I'm supposed to do this. I never know what is in my future and I live based on faith. I am convinced that my intentions drive this work. When I get to a point where I am doing what I am doing to get something out of somebody, or I'm doing what I'm doing to make somebody feel a certain way about what I'm doing...then I ain't doing this no more. I'm doing this because of my own personal feelings about what I'm supposed to do on this Earth as a human being and I will continue to wait and see what the Lord has in store for me. What role I'm supposed to play. That's why I'm doing this. I'm not doing it to get anything, to make anybody do anything

different than what they're doing, to make them believe or not believe, invest or not invest. I am doing this simply to empower my community, my family and the children that I service. I've seen amazing things happen as a result of it, but that's not why I do it. I do it because somebody's got to do it. I may make it just because I have-- my mother in me.

THEASTER: Yeah, yeah.

MONICA: We gonna make it do what it do.

THEASTER: Yeah.

MONICA: And it may have a bit of glamour on it--(laughter)

THEASTER: Yeah.

MONICA: Because that's just how my mama raised me.

THEASTER: Thank you (laughter).

20th ANNIVERSARY

STAFF THOUGHTS

"Little Black Pearl's 20th Anniversary means progress...innovation...cutting edge...community...partnership...globalism. I'm proud to be a part of and celebrate an institution that has been changing the world through art, outreach and education; one child at a time."

ZAKEYA CARTMAN

"I am honored to be part of an organization seeking to enrich our community through the arts. Little Black Pearl is an expanding gem that has helped to shape the minds and spirits of thousands of youth and their communities, I am looking forward to what the next 20 years bring!"

CHINYERA MOODY

"Rarely do we get to choose the success of our passions, but twenty years of "heart & soul" dedicated to a love of young people's growth has given rise to a reason to celebrate one decision and a single passion that has resulted in touching thousands of lives."

LEON HASLIP

"Little Black Pearl serves to connect hundreds of young people whose cultural awareness has been broadened because of their exposure to Little Black Pearl. Art Makes Change and for LBP to be a part of that movement for 20 years is an outstanding feat and a necessary part of making a difference in the Chicago landscape."

NADIA JOHNSON

"Being around when Monica's vision was only a thought, but witnessing 20 years of success and being a part of the business that has provided inner-city children with quality art and educational experiences, is very exciting to me. Robert Collier says, "Vision gives you the impulse to make the picture your own." Monica, you had the vision and now the picture is self-explanatory."

ARLESIA JURAN

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"A dream will remain a dream until you bring it into reality."

got options?

My dream is to be a musician. My voice is my instrument. My style of music is undefined. I just express myself through phrases of pain, joy, and experiences that I have felt within my 17 years as an African American male.

DEMARJIO IRVING - Senior/LBPA

FAMILY SUCCESS *THROUGH* HOUSING COMMUNITIES

Our mission at The Community Builders is to build and sustain strong communities where people of all incomes can achieve their full potential. We strengthen families and revitalize neighborhoods through housing, commercial development, strong property management and community support. Our partnerships in Bronzeville are producing new developments at Oakwood Shores and Shops and Lofts at 47 - bringing modern, spacious mixed-income housing along with retail and medical space and creating jobs and economic opportunity for the community.



"INSIDE-OUT": Black Pearl Café focuses toward the public

When Little Black Pearl made its initial expansion, by renovating the Hidden Pearl Café into the innovative space now named the Teen Tech Center, there was the realization that the term "hidden" may have obscured the prominence of the café's offerings. So, the old adage of K.I.S.S. (keep it simple stupid) was certainly applicable to bringing our Café brand in line with the name and concept of what the organization has always stood for. "Black Pearl" connotes nurturing the raw talents of young people, through a full spectrum of opportunities, that guide and develop their inner "pearl" (as a precious and valuable jewel) and their sense of being "Black" for its true significance (the only color made from the combination of all colors) among humanity, into a confidence and humility that reveal their strengths in a vast universe of imperfections. After shifting its position to the east portion of the ground floor, the southern exposure to the foot and vehicle traffic of 47th Street was minimized, while the Café's entrance remained accessible from the corner of Greenwood Ave and 47th Street. Now the challenge of visibility requires bringing the public's attention around the corner, to make them aware of the vibrant yet soothing atmosphere of the space that offers great food, wi-fi, TV viewing, music, gaming and an exhibition gallery. Black Pearl Café, is the latest and sleeker version of the old concept of integrating an inviting eating space with relevant amenities that establish connections to today's world of technology. The reality is that the space and atmosphere have significantly evolved, with just a little bit of a make-

over. New tile walls and product displays, new flat screen TVs and game station components, new lighting and color schemes, new seating and new surround sound acoustics are a few of the upgrades that have heightened the energy and atmosphere of the Café space and its purpose. Following the transition of moving the Café, we primarily engaged in servicing the student population of the school that is housed within our walls. By providing a social space for students to gather and socialize, the Café has served to broaden the communication skills and interactions of the students - as a group. Some students found opportunity to learn service skills and café operations by working a few hours a day behind the counter. In a small way, this break from the routine of academic study provided an alternative to the regular lunch room food menus and a short period of time each day to relax from the rigors of study and Classroom expectations. Now, as the Summer season approaches and the students prepare for Graduation and vacations, the Café is ready to focus "outwards" to our surrounding community, offering our space for breakfast, lunch and afternoon food service, as well as a place to meet for small gatherings,

a study environment and occasional night time rental activities. It's been a long wait to swing open our doors again and invite the outside world "back" into the cool atmosphere of our Café. The anticipation has been palpable, for there are a few remaining final touches that must happen before the engines are revved fully and we are finally speeding down the road. First, there are the windows...new window ads will draw the attention of passers-by; this will broadcast our expanded menu and new offerings: then, there are a few more pieces of equipment and the slight rearrangement of the décor: and finally, there are the new products and wall exhibitions that are currently being acquired and installed. Even though, some of the furnishings moved with the Café, the atmosphere evokes a new experience. As the excitement grows... soon the treasures that have been nurtured "inside" our walls will be "out" for the entire world to experience.

COMING SOON...
www.blackpearlcafe.org:
 a website and online store.

A hearty menu of sandwiches, soups, hot wings, buffalo wings and strips, stuffed potatoes, pizza, coffee, assorted chips, teas, beverages and juices headline the daily food choices that the Café offers.

So, whenever you're trying to think of some place to go for something good to eat...think of the place that serves a cool atmosphere with every hot meal. Come and try us at Black Pearl (BP) Café.

Leon Haslip
 Director of Facility Operations



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GIVE TODAY.

It does not take a large contribution to impact the lives of children and communities...every dollar counts. Please join Little Black Pearl in making an impact on the lives of children and the fabric of our community. Your contribution is 100% tax deductible.

We ask that you join LBP in making an impact on the lives of children and the fabric of our community. Please follow the link below to make a financial gift or select from one of the in-kind donation options.

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INFORMATION



LITTLE BLACK PEARL ART AND DESIGN CENTER

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