FRONTIERS IN THE NEW YEAR! PHOTOS BY YVONNE KEMP
The Frontiers International held its first annual New Year's celebration at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, downtown. It was a sold-out event. Attendees celebrated with a raffle, instant photos, and a soul food meal, with dancing all night long. Looking forward to next year's celebration!

ON THE COVER...

Story of Bronzeville's past, present & future to be told through artwork featured at ThriveOn King

Artists with Milwaukee ties chosen in community-centered process

Over 20 acclaimed and home-grown artists will bring the history and heritage of Bronzeville to life throughout the first floor of ThriveOn King, the new community hub being developed on North Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive by the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, the Medical College of Wisconsin and Royal Capital.

Residents have emphasized art's importance to the culture and community narrative of Milwaukee's Halyard Park, Harambee and Brewers Hill neighborhoods since the formation of the ThriveOn Collaboration four years ago and have helped lead plans to ensure its meaningful integration into the place-based initiative.

From tile to embroidery, painting to sculpture, the art of ThriveOn King will vary in size, medium and placement, but collectively, the works will immerse guests in the legacy, vibrancy and potential of Milwaukee's Black community.

"Enthusiasm for incorporating arts and culture into the building has been high among residents from the very beginning, and we have been listening," said Darlene C. Russell, director of community engagement for the Foundation. "We are excited to be able to start showing the community how their perspective is being honored and their ideas are being represented in a tangible way."

Defining art as a priority, determining the values and stories that should be reflected through art, and then identifying artists and artwork for the building's community spaces are all part of an intentionally inclusive process that centers resident voices and features shared decision-making.

The process

Early community visioning throughout 2019 shaped the priorities of the collaboration as a whole and set the stage for art to have a prominent place in the work that emerged. This was reinforced as relationships among collaboration partners and community were built through years of neighborhood meetings, one-on-one interviews, office hours, meet-and-greet gatherings, community events and more.

Art began taking center stage in 2022 as the collaboration held a series of three intensive arts visioning sessions for residents in the fall, followed by an information session specifically for artists.

The resulting insight informed a truly unique "call for art" issued in early 2023 seeking engagement specifically with artists who have strong Milwaukee ties and understanding.

The U.S. FDA recently issued a ruling on menthol cigarettes that prohibits the manufacture and sale of menthol cigarettes in the United States, an action research estimates found could save up to 654,000 lives, including more than 230,000 Black lives over the course of 40 years.

The ruling is a step towards righting the historic wrongs of the tobacco industry against African American communities, which it targeted for decades with its deadly menthol products. But, as also evidenced throughout history, the tobacco industry does not plan to go down without a fight. It's wielding its many resources to wage a campaign of misinformation related to the menthol ban, including that it will result in the "over policing of the Black community. In other words, "targeting."

It's downright shameless that an industry which still targets the Black community, is warning those same communities that they in fact, will be targeted when menthols are removed from the market. No one should ever mistake the tobacco industry as a trusted messenger.

The successful campaign they wielded to push menthols in Black communities resulted in tobacco being a major contributor to the three leading causes of death for African Americans: heart disease, cancer, and stroke, with 45,000 dying each year from smoking-related deaths.

The truth is, the FDA has said that it can't and won't enforce the ban against individuals who smoke or possess menthols. Saying the ban will result in over-policing is an example of the tobacco industry exploiting real issues in the community related to police brutality and mass incarceration. The fact of the matter is that the menthol ban will save countless lives, including those of our friends, loved ones, and future generations.

For free to help to quit you can contact the Wisconsin Tobacco Quitline (1-800-QUIT-TODAY).

Youth who want to quit vaping can get help by texting "VAPEFREE" to 873373.
An art review committee of talented community members was assembled to partner with the collaboration’s art project team to assess the many proposals received. They ultimately selected more than 20 finalists who will either contribute existing works or create new, custom installations for ThriveOn King.

“It was very important that our process for selecting the art was carefully attentive to the rich history of the community,” said Staci Young, PhD, senior associate dean for community engagement at the MCW School of Medicine. Dr. Young is also director of MCW’s Center for Healthy Communities and Research, and associate director of community outreach and engagement for the MCW Cancer Center. “We took the time to thoroughly discuss the submissions, recognizing that artists put considerable effort into their work. We wanted the results to showcase their gifts and talents for the community’s benefit.”

Keeping with the ThriveOn Collaboration’s inclusive approach, the art initiative is supported by aligning partner resources, Foundation grantmaking and the generosity of many donors who share an interest in art and its power to communicate important community narratives.

The narrative
Neighborhood residents and stakeholders have expressed a desire for art that is welcoming, representative and imbues a sense of discovery in the gathering spaces that will define the ThriveOn King experience. The chosen art will convey a cohesive narrative arc reflecting the values and priorities of the community:

Respecting and preserving the culture and history of Bronzeville
Honoring the vitality and community connections present today
Celebrating youth and the promise of a thriving future

These connected themes will provide the canvas for essential community stories — from seminal eras like the migration of Black families and the city’s jazz boom, to the iconic places that defined Bronzeville to the generations of people who embody the neighborhoods’ spirit, including local legends, students and children.

*Anyone who enters ThriveOn King is going to feel an immediate sense of belonging, because the art selected through this process truly represents what matters most to the community,” said Sande Robinson, ThriveOn Art Review Committee member. “The caliber of participating artists also makes this effort incredibly special. Having the works of so many respected and accomplished creative minds all in one place, contributing to one collective story is extraordinary.”

The artists
Work from the following renowned and rising artists will be integrated into the first floor of ThriveOn King:* 
- Bolanle Awosika
- Reginald Baylor Studio
- Brad Anthony Bernard
- Fondè Bridges
- Olivia (LIV) Burks
- Nehemiah Edwards
- Reynaldo Hernandez & Rozalia Singh

- Vedale Hill
- Kristine Hinrichs
- Deva Houston
- Mutópe J. Johnson
- John Kowalczyk
- La Familia de Arte
- Mene Muhammad (RazitoZulu)
- Ras ‘Ammar Nasroma & Adjua Nasroma
- Rosy Petri
- Isaac Pulliam
- Evelyn Patricia Terry
- Rakim Wil

* Specific works — both existing and commissioned — will be previewed at a later date. Creation of new artwork continues this winter for installation early this year. Project partners Greenwood Park Art Galery and Guardian Fine Art Services will work closely with the ThriveOn Collaboration on the preparation and installation of the art within the ThriveOn King community space.

The context
The ThriveOn Collaboration of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, the Medical College of Wisconsin and Royal Capital is committed to making generational investments throughout Milwaukee’s Bronzeville community and beyond, aimed at eliminating health, economic and social disparities perpetuated by systemic racism and disinvestment.

The centerpiece of this community-centered collaboration is the restoration and redevelopment of the former Gimbels-Schuster’s department store at 2153 N. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. In its new life as ThriveOn King, the site will include community, commercial and residential spaces that offer new resources and opportunity to the neighborhood.

When complete, the site will be home to the Foundation’s offices and numerous MCW centers and institutes. The first floor will house a Malaika Early Learning Center campus, JobsWork MKE and Versiti Blood Center of Wisconsin programs in addition to community gathering spaces, healthy food and wellness offerings. The development will also include approximately 90 units of mixed-income housing for families, seniors and students.
The Party is calling a bid to secure control of the U.S. House in the upcoming November elections, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC) has announced a $35 million investment in a comprehensive outreach initiative targeting Latino, Black, Asian American, Pacific Islander, and Native Hawaiian voters. "Power the People" aims to persuade, organize, welcome, educate, and reach voters from diverse ethnic backgrounds.

Despite the significant allocation, a notable omission from the Democratic strategy is the exclusion of the Black Press of America, a move that continues to raise eyebrows given the pressing need to engage African American voters effectively. Critics argue that the omission is particularly striking during what is widely acknowledged as modern history's most crucial and transformative election. During Biden's 2020 campaign, he turned to the Black Press when it appeared that Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and even New York billionaire Michael Bloomberg's campaigns were gaining steam. In fact, before arriving in South Carolina, Sanders who had just romped in Nevada, held 45 delegates while Texas Democrat Pete Buttigieg was second with 26, and Biden had claimed just 15. In Charleston, Biden met with a conglomerate of publishers from the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), the trade association of America's 250 Black-owned newspapers and media companies. A broadcast interview led by NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. was followed by a national news article about the sit-down that all went viral. After the endorsement of South Carolina Rep. James Clyburn, Biden solidified the vital Black vote and dusted his competition all the way to the White House. Missayr Boker, DCCC Deputy Executive Director for Campaigns, defended the "Power the People" initiative, stating that it honors the commitment to a multiethnic coalition crucial for a robust democracy.

Critics argue that the omission is particularly striking during what is widely acknowledged as modern history's most crucial and transformative election. The initiative focuses on persuading and mobilizing Latino, Black, Asian American, Pacific Islander, and Native Hawaiian voters to counteract what the DCCC perceives as efforts by extremist Republicans to suppress the votes of people of color.

The DCCC said its approach includes conducting in-depth research, creating multilingual media content, organizing with local leaders, and countering disinformation targeting specific communities. However, the absence of collaboration with the Black Press of America remains a point of contention. In response to criticisms, José Muñoz, a DCCC spokesperson, emphasized the party's commitment to "smart, targeted outreach," which he claims recognizes the nuances not only between different ethnic groups but also within various regions and districts.

Democrats Allocate $35 Million for Outreach But Overlook Black Press in Bid for Diverse Voter Support!

By Stacy M. Brown NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent @StacyBrownMedia

The Democrats are calling a bid to secure control of the U.S. House in the upcoming November elections, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC) has announced a $35 million investment in a comprehensive outreach initiative targeting Latino, Black, Asian American, Pacific Islander, and Native Hawaiian voters. "Power the People" aims to persuade, organize, welcome, educate, and reach voters from diverse ethnic backgrounds.

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A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:

NOTICE IS GIVEN: A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:

From: DEZERAE ROZE CALEDONIA ROZE
By (Petitioner) DEZERAE ROZE CALEDONIA ROZE

It is ordered:

This petition will be heard in this Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.

Judge’s Name: HON. J.D. WATTS
Dated: 1-2-2024
Wisconsin.

IT IS ORDERED:

This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.

Judge’s Name: HON. GWENDOLYN CONNOLLY
Dated: 1-2-2024
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Judge’s Name: HON. GWENDOLYN CONNOLLY
Dated: 1-2-2024
Wisconsin.
This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin on:

Judge’s Name: HON. GWENDOLYN CONNOLLY BR. 44 PLACE: 901 N. 9th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53233

Date: FEBRUARY 22, 2024, TIME 9:30 A.M.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:
Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Milwaukee Community Journal, a newspaper published in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:
This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.

Judge’s Name: HON. GWENDOLYN CONNOLLY BR. 44 PLACE: 901 N. 9th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53233

Date: FEBRUARY 7, 2024, TIME 3:00 P.M.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:
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In conjunction with the Racine Community Coalition, Racine Women for Racial Justice announces “Continuing The Dream” in celebration of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Monday, January 15.

Newly appointed Racine Circuit Judge Toni L. Young will address the audience along with elected officials and community leaders.

There will be a special tribute to Ken Lumpkin, Jr. and Lisa Panham, musical performances, community awards and more.

All are welcome to attend this free event which will take place from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at First Presbyterian Church, 716 College Ave. in Racine.