

100

NEW YORK URBAN LEAGUE
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION



VERNON E. JORDAN, Jr. | HONORARY CHAIR

HONORARY COMMITTEE

Billye Suber Aaron | **Harry Belafonte** | **Hon. Bill Bradley** | **Naomi Campbell**
The late Hon. David N. Dinkins | **Bethann Hardison** | **Iman** | **Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.**
Tonya Lewis Lee | **Spike Lee** | **Hal Steinbrenner** | **Deborah Willis** | **David Winfield**
Cole Anthony and Ella Anthony

Thank You Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

Honorary Chair

In 1966, the first Frederick Douglass Dinner was organized by Ann Sunstein Kheel, commemorating the work of both the League and those likeminded individuals whose work harkened to Frederick Douglass’ legacy. As the Chairman of this event for 25 years, Ann S. Kheel was a pillar of support for the League and the success of these dinners. While Mrs. Kheel aided New York, her husband Theodore W. Kheel served on the board of the National Urban League as Chair some years before Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.’s tenure as President.

Tonight, we thank you, Vernon E. Jordan, Jr. for being the Honorary Chairman of this Centennial Gala. Your support has been immensely empowering and uplifting throughout these past months and numerous years.

As we enjoy this centennial and celebrate all that the League has accomplished, we are mindful that tonight doesn’t outshine the present state that our world is in. COVID-19 and systemic racism have brought to the surface the pre-existing vulnerabilities that so many communities, particularly African Americans, in New York face—disparate health outcomes, lack of food, unequal access to financing and loans for small businesses, and the threat of foreclosure or eviction. It is our duty to work even harder to repair the damage done by the crises that continue to impact these communities.

Frederick Douglass once said, “we have to do with the past only as we can make it useful to the present and future.” New York Urban League’s history is full of important initiatives that inform the way that we will continue helping those who are underrepresented and underserved today. Your support is imperative as we look to the future and how we can improve society for all.

It is the work of each citizen that builds the foundation of change, and Mr. Jordan said it best: “You are where you are today because you stand on somebody’s shoulders. And wherever you are heading, you cannot get there by yourself. If you stand on the shoulders of others, you have a reciprocal responsibility to live your life so that others may stand on your shoulders.”

The giving acts that we perform will benefit others even years later, and we must remember to pay forward the kindness that we receive.

Again, we express our deepest gratitude to you, Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.





Greetings from the Board Chair

WARD CORBETT

Board Chair

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Each and every one of you have my sincerest gratitude for supporting the New York Urban League's Centennial Gala. In a year that has been turbulent throughout, your trust and generosity are so invaluable and help to make our centennial more meaningful.

African Americans have survived through drastic situations before such as the Great Depression, but the upcoming months will be challenging all the same. The League has an imperative drive to uplift our vulnerable fellow citizens and will continue to steadfastly aid those who need us. Tonight, we celebrate 100 years of that ambition and willpower to improve society, and tomorrow we resume the hard work that has only been possible with your support.



I must thank our remarkable Honorary Chair, Vernon E. Jordan, Jr. I also thank our extraordinary honorees Hank Aaron, Michael Dowling, Crystal McCrary, Raymond J. McGuire, and Daniel Schulman. The Frederick Douglass and Ann Kheel Awards are bestowed upon individuals and organizations that reflect the mission of the League, and their support and activism make all the difference.

Additionally, I would like to thank those in the Honorary Committee—Billye Aaron, Harry Belafonte, Hon. Bill Bradley, Naomi Campbell, The late Hon. David N. Dinkins, Bethann Hardison, Iman, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., Tonya Lewis Lee, Spike Lee, Hal Steinbrenner, Deborah Willis, David Winfield, Cole Anthony and Ella Anthony.

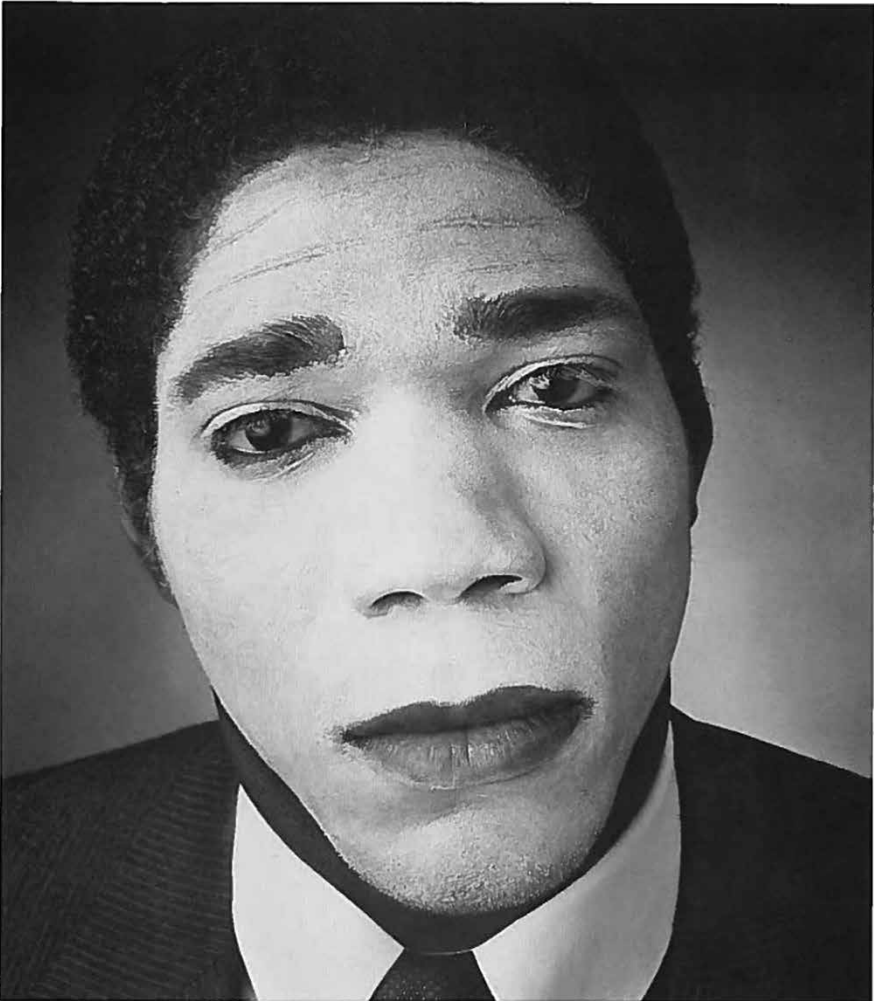
The staff as well as my board members at New York Urban League are incredible and hardworking. We are truly indebted to them. And of course, I thank Arva Rice, our President, for leading us in our endeavors.

Again, thank you for helping us get to where we are now, and I trust that you will support us as we move forward.

Sincerely,

Ward Corbett





**Is this what it takes
for him to get a decent job?**

Discrimination isn't funny. It's sad. Yet there are still employers who allow a person's race to color their judgment. They won't hire anyone with the wrong "look". To them, some people are more equal than others.

That's where the New York Urban League comes in. We've been fighting discriminatory practices in employment since 1919. We are also actively involved in the important areas of

education, housing, health and social welfare. As always, our basic goal is to make sure all New Yorkers get the chance they deserve. But we can't do it alone. You can help. Become a member, volunteer your services. Or send a contribution to the New York Urban League, 1500 Broadway, New York, New York 10036. (212) 730-5200.

The New York Urban League 

A Message from...

ARVA RICE
President & CEO

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Thank you for your support of the New York Urban League as we celebrate our Centennial Gala. For 100 years we have been dedicated to advancing economic growth and empowerment, equality, and social justice for New York's most vulnerable African Americans. When the League was founded in 1919 by interracial New Yorkers, their goal was to provide employment and connections for African Americans who had very few resources. Under the leadership of James H. Hubert, the first Executive Director, and Miss Elizabeth Walton, the first Board President, the foundation was set for the challenges and growth that our organization would experience as our impact and outreach evolved over the decades.

The New York Urban League's Frederick Douglass Awards Dinner was founded in 1966 by Ann Sunstein Kheel, a board member who served as the Chair for the dinners for 25 years. We are honored to keep her vision alive as it sets the unique stage to celebrate our centennial and to salute our distinguished honorees: the late Hank Aaron, Michael Dowling, Crystal McCrary, Raymond J. McGuire, and Daniel Schulman. They have continued to stand with us and support our mission from our original date of June 1, 2020 to this 2021 virtual date. We commend each of them and their staff for their commitment.



In part, this journal attempts to provide milestones charting the League's hard work and some of our accomplishments within this hundred-year-period. We have also included some alarming statistics from our recent publication of "The State of Black New York," which spotlight the unacceptable condition of inequality that must be addressed. Lastly, a page has been included at the back for you to reflect and write about something we may have missed and/or your relationship with the League. You all are part of our history and journey, and we hope your personal additions will highlight that.

We hope that you will continue to support us as the New York Urban League advocates for a new century of meaningful results for African American citizens of New York.

Sincerely,
Arva Rice



A Message from...

MARC H. MORIAL

President and CEO | National Urban League



Empowering Communities.
Changing Lives.

Marc H. Morial
President and CEO



80 Pine Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10005

Phone 212 558 5336
eFax 646 568 2165

www.nul.org
presidentoffice@nul.org

March 2021

Dear Friends,

Harlem, New York City, in 1919 was the cradle of Black art and culture, as migrants fleeing white supremacist terrorism in the South flocked to the city. These migrants brought new customs, new skills – and new challenges.

The New York Urban League rose to meet those challenges. Working hand-in-hand with the leading intellectuals, artists, writers and community activists of the time, the New York Urban League nurtured the Harlem Renaissance, established Harlem as a base for Black political power and broke down barriers to economic and social opportunity.

One of those artists, the playwright Abram Hill, captured this spirit in his article, *History of The New York Urban League*: "The story of the Urban League is a story of people. It is a story of people who, though of different races, of varying creeds and sects, and residents in widely separated communities, have found a common meeting ground in the belief that 'America's most baffling problem' can be solved only by intelligent and united action. It is a story of people who not only hold their belief but who are, and have been, willing to give their time and their service to make their ideal a reality."

For 100 years, the New York Urban League has been the city's cultural, economic, and social heart and soul. Even Mayor Bloomberg wore the affiliate's iconic apple-shaped emblem in his lapel throughout his tenure. Under the current leadership of the dynamic Arva Rice, the affiliate has flourished and expanded its influence even further. I congratulate her, along with her staff and board of trustees, on this incredible milestone.

Sincerely,

Marc H. Morial
President and Chief Executive Officer
National Urban League



A Message from...

HON. ANDREW CUOMO

Governor | New York State



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224

ANDREW M. CUOMO
GOVERNOR

March 16, 2021

Dear Friends:

It is a pleasure to send greetings to the members and guests participating through this virtual setting in the 55th Annual Frederick Douglass Awards Dinner of the New York Urban League (NYUL), celebrating its 100th anniversary.

As the early epicenter of the COVID-19 pandemic, this year has been especially difficult and demanding for New Yorkers. Yet, nowhere is human strength and resilience more visible than among our community resources and their members who inspire us through remarkable expressions of unity during this global health crisis.

Founded in 1919, the New York Urban League is an outstanding example of civic and social development as an organization that not only works to advance opportunities for African-Americans and other underserved populations, but also promotes service to all society. For more than a century, the League has addressed the needs of people in the New York-Metropolitan region, empowering them to attain social, educational, political, and economic growth and progress for themselves, their families, and their communities. Today, the NYUL continues to strengthen the lives of people through initiatives that offer job training, technical assistance, and other programs of enrichment that help build brighter futures for many.

While these challenging times ask each of us to exercise safety and respect through social distancing, technology thankfully allows you to continue this tradition in an online venue, reinforcing your sense of togetherness and purpose. As you pay tribute to the legacy of abolitionist Frederick Douglass – a great leader in the fight for freedom – you likewise remember the late Ann Kheel, longtime boardmember of the NYUL and founder of this annual event. I join in congratulating all of your distinguished honorees who reflect the spirit of these awards through their support for the ongoing efforts of the NYUL and the ideals of the national organization.

Warmest regards and best wishes, as we all look with hope to an end to the global suffering and loss in the very near future.

Sincerely,

ANDREW M. CUOMO

WE WORK FOR THE PEOPLE
PERFORMANCE • INTEGRITY • PRIDE

printed on recycled paper



A Message from...

HON. BILL DE BLASIO

Mayor | New York City



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, NY 10007

March 16, 2021

Dear Friends:

It is a great pleasure to welcome everyone as the New York Urban League celebrates its centennial at tonight's 55th Annual Frederick Douglass Awards Gala.

New York has long been a champion of equal rights, inclusion, and opportunity for all our residents, and these core values have shaped the fabric of the five boroughs for generations. Leading organizations such as the NYUL are vital partners in upholding this legacy and ensuring that all people can share in our city's great promise, and for over a century, it has been working tirelessly to uplift and empower the African American community. By providing leadership trainings, employment resources, academic support, community capacity building initiatives, and so many other vital services, the NYUL has built a bedrock of support for underserved New Yorkers and given them the tools they need to thrive. I applaud all those associated with the NYUL for their dedication to helping their neighbors and defending their rights and to forging a fairer, more equitable tomorrow for us all.

On behalf of the City of New York, congratulations to tonight's honorees. I offer my best wishes for a wonderful gala and continued success.

Sincerely,

Bill de Blasio
Mayor



**If some landlords had it their way,
you'd see ads like this.**

Don't be surprised. Unscrupulous landlords have always discriminated. The problem is no one hears enough about it. Which is why it keeps happening year after year.

The New York Urban League can help. We've been fighting prejudice and inequality for more than sixty years. And helping minorities secure clean, affordable housing is a vital concern.

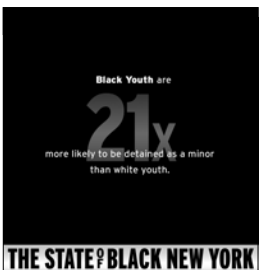
In addition, the League is also actively involved in the important areas of education,

employment, health and social welfare.

As always, our basic goal is to make sure all New Yorkers get the chance they deserve. But we can't do it alone. You can help. Become a member, volunteer your services, or send a contribution to the New York Urban League, 1500 Broadway, New York, New York 10036. (212) 730-5200.

The New York Urban League







EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT

THE NEW YORK URBAN LEAGUE

March 16, 2021

A Hundred Year Legacy

When the New York Urban League was founded times were tough, and New Yorkers needed an advocate and a resource. We've come a long way in our ten decades of service, but in these difficult economic times there is still so much more to be done.

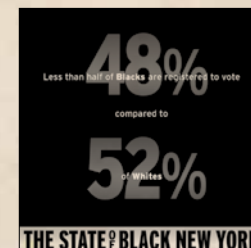
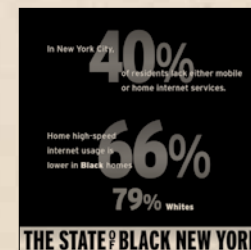
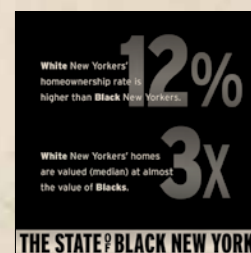
One hundred years ago, the New York Urban League was founded by a group of diverse New Yorkers concerned about the difficulties African Americans faced when migrating from the agricultural and rural South to the industrial urban centers of the north. NYUL provided jobs and advocated for employment in areas where Blacks were traditionally excluded. **TODAY**, the New York Urban League Employment Centers offer job placement and assistance for New Yorkers looking for ways to support their families in one of the worst economies in our City's history.

Eighty years ago, NYUL fought discrimination by bringing White and Black New Yorkers together to open hospitals to Black doctors, patients, and other hospital workers. The NYUL used similar task forces and commissions to bring pressure to integrate public housing. **TODAY**, Fair Housing counselors help New Yorkers stay in their homes and fight discriminatory housing practices.

Sixty years ago, the New York Urban League created a sporting event to highlight historically Black colleges and provide students with Whitney M. Young scholarships for college. **TODAY**, the New York Urban League hosts the Whitney M. Young Football Classic each year and has cumulatively provided more than \$15 million dollars in scholarships to needy students for college.

Thirty years ago, the New York Urban League partnered with the Board of Education to provide parents with the tools to better advocate and participate in their children's education. **TODAY**, high schoolers in our leadership program on Staten Island participate in training, leadership activities, and service projects to become change agents and leaders in their own communities.

In addition, our Employment Services program provides New Yorkers with professional resume services, job placement and training. Our Fair Housing program helps tenants negotiate landlord issues and advocate for them in housing court. Indeed, we have accomplished a great deal in our 100 years, and we are not finished yet!



New York Urban League CEOs

1919 - PRESENT

JAMES HUBERT (1919-1943)

The first Executive Director of the New York Urban League, Hubert's tenure was marked by the establishment of boys' and girls' clubs and fresh air camps, employment services, and conferences on social welfare. He spearheaded the League's move into actively and visibly advocating on behalf of minorities by providing educational and job training, oversight of housing applications in the first Harlem housing project, encouraging unions to adopt nondiscriminatory practices, and by ensuring minority opportunity in the Depression-era W.P.A. projects.

DR. EDWARD S. LEWIS (1943-1964)

For more than 20 years, Lewis led the League through milestones in minority representation on the city police force, area hospitals, investment institutions, real estate development companies, and housing management. During his tenure, the New York Urban League expanded into Queens, the Bronx, and Staten Island (The Brooklyn branch had been founded in 1916 and the Manhattan branch was to become a separate entity, within the NYUL).

ALEXANDER J. ALLEN (1964-1967)

Mr. Allen's tenure as Executive Director was characterized by attention to police/community relations and the need for quality integrated education. Under his direction, the first black police officer was appointed as Captain. He helped form the United Council of Harlem Organizations to address issues affecting the community, and also initiated the Success Center, a training program for high school dropouts. Operation Open City, a housing advocacy project, was instituted under his leadership as well as programs dealing with voter registration, leadership development and veteran's affairs.

REV. EUGENE CALLENDER (1967-1968)

During his tenure, League-sponsored community action programs were prolific and Rev. Callender began the famed *Street Academies* providing educational alternatives for high school dropouts. As a result, Harlem Prep, the Street Academy's own college preparatory school was formed. The school served as the model for similar programs in cities around the country. Under his guidance, the annual Frederick Douglass Awards Dinner was established to recognize those who have made outstanding contributions toward equal opportunity. In addition, Rev. Callender spearheaded the most comprehensive historical survey ever produced by African American artists, which was assembled and became a cultural highlight for the League.

JUDGE LIVINGSTON WINGATE (1968-1974)

Under Judge Wingate's directorship, the League strengthened its grassroots base. He pursued *New Thrust* programs that addressed the problems and needs of the least served people in the community and elicited the help of trained NYUL community organizers to implement the programs. Judge Wingate oversaw the creation of the United Federation of Black Community Organizations, the Afro-American Day Parade, the Whitney M. Young, Jr. Football Classic, the Whitney M. Young, Jr. Awards, and the establishment of the Youth Enrichment Services program, which supported court-referred youngsters. During his term, the League's Housing Development corporation developed 536 units of housing on Staten Island as well as a highly successful day care center, which is still in operation today.

HORACE MORRIS (1975-1983)

Faced with the organization's enormous indebtedness, Mr. Morris, with his wealth of administrative experience, undertook the task of settling in place an internal structure that could restore the League to financial solvency and reassert its positive image and advocacy efforts. He oversaw the launching of many innovative programs and the publication of two annual *Status of Black New York* reports. Under his directorship, the League's central office was moved to midtown, and a strong central administration was developed to provide assistance and program support to the borough branches.

HARRIET MICHEL (1983-1988)

As the first woman to head the New York Urban League, Ms. Michel demonstrated her exceptional leadership abilities by re-energizing the League's efforts on behalf of African Americans and by raising a significant amount of program funding. She also established measurable benchmarks by which to gauge the effectiveness of the various programs. In addition to instituting a housing renovation and Senior Citizen Program, her greatest achievements were in the areas of employment training through a computerized Job Bank and the enlistment of minority mentors. Educational initiatives included the establishment of college internships, scholarships and educational programs, skills enhancements, and summer youth employment.

DONALD POLK (1988-1990)

During his term as President and CEO, Mr. Polk's major achievements were administrative in nature. He was responsible for restructuring and reorganizing the agency, which was experiencing financial hardships, and putting it on firm footing. His internal reorganization included eliminating multiple levels of management, revitalizing Borough Advisory Boards by bringing in new leadership, and making long-lasting changes to increase employee compensation such as instituting staff benefits, initiating a retirement plan and raising salaries where appropriate. Having served on the subcommittee of the New York City Charter Revision Commission, Mr. Polk was involved with advocacy in many areas and worked to strengthen the organization's relationship with other non-profit agencies.

DENNIS M. WALCOTT (1990-2001)

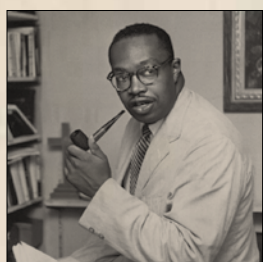
As a young student, Mr. Walcott received his first summer job through the New York Urban League. Then, as President and Chief Executive Officer of the organization, he reasserted the League's priorities by moving its headquarters back to Central Harlem. Programs implemented during his directorship include: *Healthy Start*; *Northern Manhattan Perinatal Partnership*; *Building Block*; *Project Peace*; and a program to study pregnancy in African American women. As a member of the Board of Education, Mr. Walcott brought the clout of the League to bear on city-wide educational issues.

DARWIN DAVIS (2001-2008)

Mr. Davis first worked at the Urban League as Director of Education. In 2001, he returned to take the helm as President and CEO. During his tenure, the agency re-focused their efforts on education and employment. Mr. Davis also created a signature event — Champions of Diversity — an annual breakfast that honors corporations with exemplary diversity practices in leadership, hiring and supplier relations.

ARVA RICE (2009-present)

Ms. Rice became the 11th President and CEO of the New York Urban League in April 2009. Prior to coming to the New York Urban League, she served as Executive Director of two non-profit organizations — Project Enterprise and Public Allies New York which focused on entrepreneurship and youth leadership, respectively. As the League's second female CEO, Arva brings to the position a passion for education and leadership. She has overseen the COVID-19 Emergency Fund, the latest State of Black New York report released in 2020, the Small Business Support Center, Diversity Lab, and joined Gov. Cuomo's Police Reform Committee.





A Glimpse:

NEW YORK URBAN LEAGUE MILESTONES

1919-2020

2020 *onward*

To date

- Initiated the COVID-19 Emergency Fund, providing grants to students and families in our employment and youth services programs.
- The Diversity & Inclusion Lab will be an incubator for recruitment, best practices, and other diversity and inclusion initiatives. It will provide an environment for New York City's most creative minds, forward thinking companies, premiere colleges and universities and top African American talent to interact. The goal is to make the NYC workplace one of the most inclusive in the world.
- NYUL's HBCU Fair continues to impact many Black youth in NYC. Between 2017-2019 there were 6,390 onsite admissions offered and over \$4.5 million offered in scholarships.
- Arva Rice joined the Police Reform Committee mandated by Governor Andrew Cuomo.

Future plans

- The Small Business Support Center will be designed to serve the critical needs of Black small businesses physically located in the five boroughs, particularly those in the hospitality industry. The high touch individualized approach will offer clients:
 - Access to capital via in-house loan and grant fund
 - C-level management support in all back-office and front-office functions including Finance and Accounting, Technology, Business/Strategic Planning, and Sales and Marketing
 - Literacy training in business management and technology
- The Diversity & Inclusion Lab will be an incubator for Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives, Recruitment and Best Practices. It will provide a communicative and collaborative environment for New York City's most creative minds, forward thinking companies, premiere colleges and universities and top African American talent to interact. The goal is to make the NYC Workplace one of the most inclusive in the world.

Historical Context

- In 2018 median household income in Central Harlem was \$48,500, about 25% less than citywide median household income (\$64,850). The poverty rate in Central Harlem was 25.1% in 2018 compared to 17.3% citywide. (Source: American Community Survey, NYU Furman Center)

1919-1929

Leadership

JAMES H. HUBERT
Executive Director | 1919-1943

MISS ELIZABETH WALTON
Board President | 1919-1922

ARTHUR C. HOLDEN
Board President | 1922-1931

- New York Urban League was founded by a group of interracial New Yorkers and provided employment and connections for blacks migrating from the agricultural and rural South and Caribbean islands to the industrial urban centers of the North.
- Among the first achievements, NYUL formed boys' and girls' clubs and fresh air camps and organized employment services and social welfare conferences.
- In 1926, NYUL concentrated its efforts on creating new opportunities for Blacks in skilled trades and through educational programs.
- Citizens and Urban League members obtained Arthur Schomburg's collection on black life and history, eventually leading to the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture being certified as having national historical significance, in 1979.

Historical Context

- 1927 Harlem average monthly rent was \$41.14, and weekly family income was \$19.75. Pulmonary tuberculosis death rate 337 per 100,000 among Blacks, compared with 67 per 100,000 among Whites.



1929-1939

Leadership

FREDERICK KERNOCHAN
Board President | 1931-1940

- New York Urban League provided emergency support for the unemployed during the Great Depression, which disproportionately affected Black people, including providing subway fare, food, clothing, and housing.
- League President, on advocacy: "One of the most delicate pieces of work the Urban League has to do is to sell to the various social work organizations of the city the idea that the Negro should be consulted and should assist in the direction of any program that affects his welfare."



1939-1949

Leadership

EDWARD S. LEWIS
Executive Director | 1943-1964

WILLIAM H. KILPATRICK
Board President | 1940-1952

- New York Urban League sponsored the Committee for Interracial Voluntary Hospitals that lead to opportunities for Blacks to receive care and work in local hospitals.
- Obtained the contract to handle applications for the Dunbar Housing Project, the first new housing project in Harlem built primarily for Blacks.
- In 1945, NYUL's housing demonstration program became a training center for developing Black managers who could handle large-scale housing projects and banking operations in Harlem, and provided new opportunities for Black real estate brokers.
- NYUL expanded to serve Brooklyn, Queens and the Bronx.

1949-1959

Leadership

JAMES FELT
Board President | 1952-1954

SOPHIA YARNALL JACOBS
Board President | 1954-1955, 1956-1958

THEODORE W. KHEEL
Board President | 1955-1956

FREDERICK W. RICHMOND
Board President | 1958-1963

- New York Urban League negotiated with brewing, airline, and baking industries to open their ranks to African American workers.



1959-1969

Leadership

ALEXANDER J. ALLEN
Executive Director | 1964-1967

EUGENE CALLENDER
Executive Director | 1967-1968

LIVINGSTON WINGATE
Executive Director | 1968-1974

DAVID A. SCHULTE JR.
Board President | 1963-1965

JOHN MOSLER
Board President | 1965-1968

DAVID B. MCCALL
Board President | 1968-1969

- In 1966, the first Frederick Douglass Dinner was held to support the work of the New York Urban League. The event was organized by NYUL Secretary Ann Kheel (Mrs. Theodore Kheel) who served as Executive Chairman for the dinner.
- New York Urban League created Street Academies, where 2,000 students completed high school, and the program became the model for national replication.
- In 1969, NYUL Executive Director Livingston Wingate co-founded the African American Day Parade, which continues in Harlem to this day.
- First Whitney M. Young Football Classic was held to support educational initiatives of the New York Urban League. NYUL has provided thousands of scholarships since its inception.



1969-1979

Leadership

HORACE MORRIS
Executive Director | 1975-1983

ROBERT A. BERNHARD
Board President | 1969-1971

CHARLES E.F. MILLARD
Board President | 1971-1974, 1974-1975

JOHN MURRAY
Board President | 1974

MRS. CYRUS R. VANCE
Board President | 1975-1977

JOHN A. HERRMANN, JR.
Board President | 1977-1979

MS. DOLLY CHRISTIAN
Board President | 1979-1985

- The New York Urban League established the Youth Enrichment Services Program that provided a range of support to court involved youth, and built 536 units of housing on Staten Island.
- The first of the "State of Black New York" publications were released.
- Horace Morris in 1979: "New York City's staggering black youth unemployment rate, its deteriorating housing, a school system that is not responsive to the needs of minority school children and a lack of decent health services for the poor provide the New York Urban League with its greatest challenge. We have done so much, but so much more needs to be done."



1979-1989

Leadership

HARRIET MICHEL
President | 1983-1988

DONALD POLK
President | 1988-1990

Board Chair
JOHN BARRETT

- New York Urban League established the annual Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) College Fair that provides thousands of students and parents with information on the college application process, and a computerized job bank that gives the community access to employment.
- New York Urban League utilized federal grants to develop programs that focused on infant mortality, teen pregnancy and HIV/AIDS. State, local and community collaborations helped strengthen the League as a voice for issues facing New Yorkers in need.
- In 1985, NYUL convened a 2 day black leadership retreat of politicians, prominent clergy and civic leaders to discuss the scourge facing the Black community. From that beginning grew a national organization to provide focus, education, policy directives and resources to fight AIDS in the black community. Founded by NYUL director of Youth and Social Welfare, Debra Fraser-Howze, the National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS became the national leading voice on AIDS issues.



1989-1999

Leadership

DENNIS M. WALCOTT
President | 1990-2001

Board Chairs
PAUL FACELLA
SUSAN DRYFOOS
PAUL RHINEHART
JEAN-MARIE HOROWITZ

- May 12, 1993, Mayor Dinkins filled one of his two vacant seats on the board, appointing Dennis M. Walcott, president of the New York Urban League, to the NYC Board of Education.
- Rite of Passage Program for Boys and adopted a city block in response to violence in the community.

1999-2009

Leadership

DARWIN DAVIS
President | 2001-2008

Board Chairs
JEAN-MARIE HOROWITZ
NOEL HANKIN

- New York Urban League refocuses mission on original underpinnings of employment and education; Established Champions of Diversity Breakfast to honor corporations with exemplary diversity practices.
- In 2003, League President Darwin Davis led the creation of the Young Professionals, a network of young professionals across NYC dedicated to professional and leadership development.



2009-2019

Leadership

ARVA RICE
President | 2009-Present

Board Chairs
NOEL HANKIN
MICHAEL ROBINSON
BILL HOLIBER
JEANINE CONLEY
WARD CORBETT

- New York Urban League published "A Parent's Guide to College." This guide was made possible through the support of the Daily News, US News & World Report, the New York City Department of Education, and the City University of New York. The guide was designed for parents of students who are the first generation in their family to attend college.
- The guide examined all facets of college preparation, from entering 9th grade through the critical senior year of high school, as well as examining local options of the CUNY and SUNY system.
- New York Urban League in its 100th year of service reaffirmed its commitment to empowering African Americans and other underserved communities to secure a first-class education, economic self-reliance and equal respect of their civil rights through programs, services and advocacy.
- NYUL established a focus on STEM, developing partnerships with Microsoft, Google, and Infor and created the "Parent's Guide to STEM" in partnership with CUNY and distributed it to over 100,000 NYC families.
- Young Professionals awarded Hugh B. Price Chapter of Excellence 2010, 2012, 2014 and 2016.





NEW YORK URBAN LEAGUE NEWS

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HARLEM PREP OPEN

60 Former Dropouts Pioneer Revolution In Education

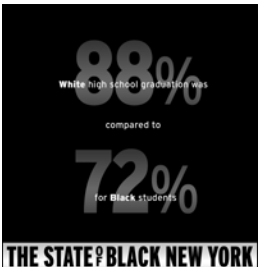
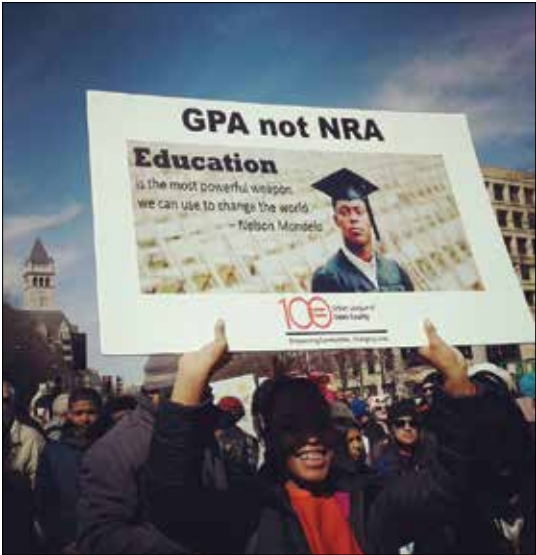
With much ado and a lot of fanfare the new day in education for Harlem youth is being opened in Harlem. Harlem Prep opened its doors for the first time to a group of former dropouts, many of whom took advantage of a local education through the Urban League's Harlem Prep program. The program is a part of the League's campaign to provide the best level of education for the Harlem children of New York's inner-city communities.

Through the program a group of 60 former dropouts are now attending the Harlem Prep, a new school in Harlem. The school is a part of the Urban League's campaign to provide the best level of education for the Harlem children of New York's inner-city communities.

Dr. Wright, a former graduate of Ford University and the present director of the Harlem Prep, said that the school is a part of the Urban League's campaign to provide the best level of education for the Harlem children of New York's inner-city communities.

Dr. Wright also said that the school is a part of the Urban League's campaign to provide the best level of education for the Harlem children of New York's inner-city communities.

SEE NEW YORK URBAN LEAGUE CONFERENCE PICS, P. 8



Reflections on My Tenure

HARRIET MICHEL

President | 1983-1988

My five years with NYUL were marked by growth, specifically in the number of new programs targeting teen pregnancy, educational enhancement focusing on grades 9-12, alternative sentencing programs for young offenders, employment and AIDS. At our peak, we claimed tens of thousands of clients annually. This success was made possible by an incredibly talented and creative team of young borough directors and program officers, including Esther Bush, Steven Sims, Amina Abdur-Rahman, Darwin Davis, and Debra Fraser-Howze. Esther and Darwin eventually became presidents of local Urban Leagues, Amina became a nationally recognized leader in public school reform, Steven Sims became the Vice-President and Director of Operations for the National Minority Supplier Development Council and Debra, through an NYUL initiative, founded the National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS. I was and continue to be very proud of developing a cadre of young black leaders.



We had many successes, but none was more impactful than the AIDS program that had its origins as a teen pregnancy project. Realizing that an alarming number of black teen girls were being impregnated and infected by older black men who as crack addicts had AIDS, in 1985 we convened a 2 day black leadership retreat of politicians, prominent clergy and civic leaders to discuss the scourge facing our community. From that beginning, through the foresight, drive, passion and extraordinary organizational skills of Debra Fraser Howze, grew a national organization to provide focus, education, policy directives and resources to fight AIDS in the black community. The National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS became the national leading voice on AIDS issues.

The staff was serious and driven, but we found joy in continuing the tradition of hosting the Whitney M. Young football game between 2 HBCU's at Yankee Stadium each fall. Black college football in New York City! Tens of thousands of HBCU fans came every year to support the colleges and the scholarships the NYUL provided from game proceeds. The battling marching bands, the fiercely loyal alumni, the celebrity honorees and the afterparties were for us a small re-creation of the black college experience.





Reflections on My Tenure

DENNIS WALCOTT

President | 1990-2001

One of my favorite experiences was the Whitney M. Young

Scholarship presentations to HS seniors. Countless number of NYC students who benefited from the proceeds of the Football Classic.

The other experiences that stand out are the creation of new programs that served people in need of jobs, better health care or improved schools.

On a separate note, I see people who are now adults who tell me they were a recipient of the WMY Scholarship or Education advocates who say they received their training at the League's advocacy training program approximately 25 years ago.



Highlights from...

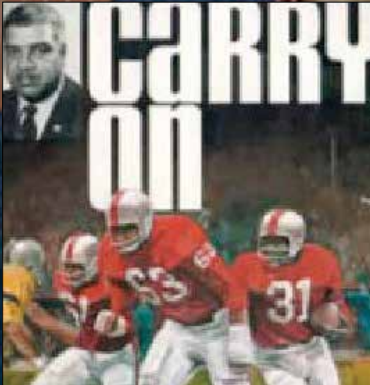
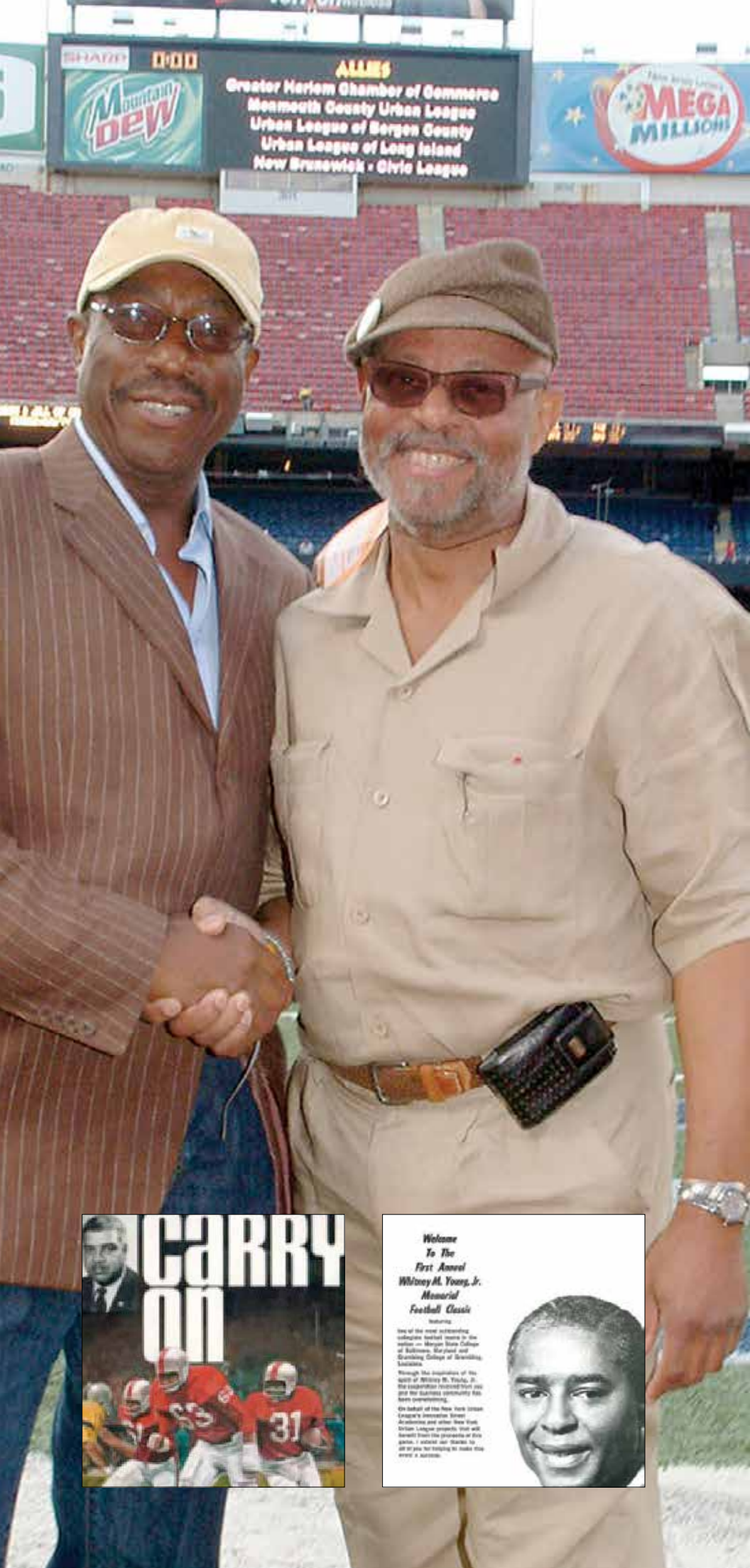
DARWIN DAVIS

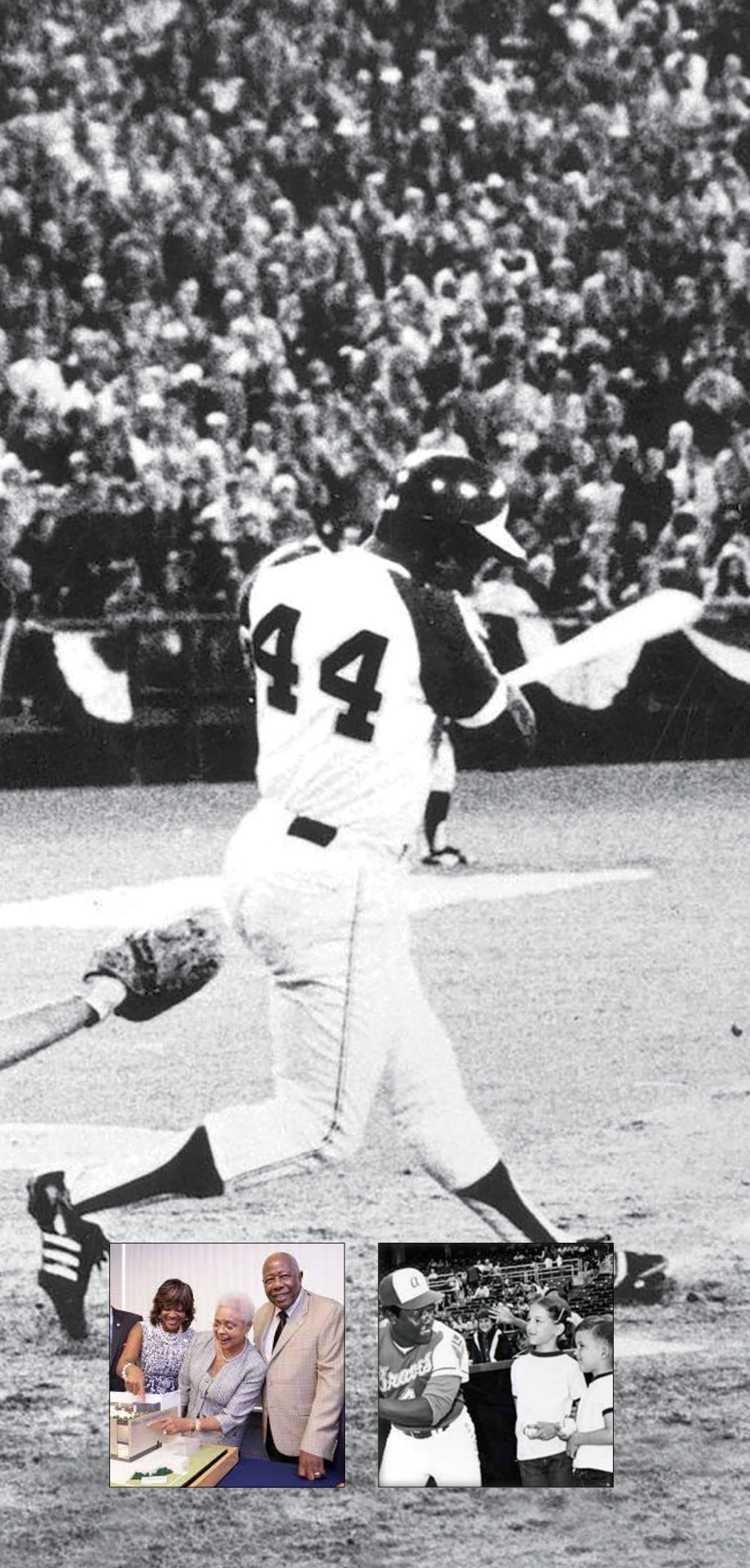
President | 2001-2008

- Worked as a summer employee of the League as a kid, and Director of Education under the League's President, Harriet Michel.
- Developed partnership to resurrect the State of Black New York report, and helped to seed the lives of hundreds of nonprofit professionals.
- Worked with the New York Urban League's executive team staff, select board members, and donors to retire \$3.3 million in historical debt in 4 years.
- Broke through a \$20 million dollar threshold in total scholarships given to Black, Latinx, Asian, and immigrant New York City students. The Whitney M. Young Classic was a cornerstone among the many scholarship funds.



Lastly, kudos to the extraordinary staff who weathered the challenges to keep the legacy of service to our core customers alive and well via the New York Urban League.





DEDICATION – HANK AARON

Baseball Hall of Fame Legend & Activist

The New York Urban League is most honored to award the Frederick Douglass Award to Hank Aaron, posthumously.

A 25-time All Star, Hank Aaron was one of the most accomplished players in baseball history. Starting his career in Mobile, Alabama, he played for the Mobile Black Bears and the Indianapolis Clowns before joining the Braves where he made historic strides. Ultimately surpassing Babe Ruth's homerun record in 1974, he was recognized as baseball's all-time homerun king for 30 years. To date, Aaron still holds Major League Baseball records for most career runs batted in, extra base hits, and total bases.

Aaron was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1982, and in 1999, Major League Baseball created the Hank Aaron Award to honor his contributions to baseball. Though successful, Aaron experienced the difficulties of living in a segregated society and bearing the brunt of discrimination. His life's work showed a drive to improve conditions for minorities and underserved communities.

Off the field, Aaron rejoined the Braves as the Vice President and Director of Player Development. He played a major role in forming programs that encouraged minorities to play baseball and founded the Hank Aaron Rookie League Program.

The Dreamchaser Scholarship, presented annually by the Hank Aaron Chasing the Dream Foundation (founded by Aaron and his wife, Billye Suber Aaron), awards grants to young students with limited financial capabilities so that they may develop their skills and pursue their passions.

We thank Hank Aaron for providing the opportunity for the New York Urban League to pay homage to him and his accomplishments.

FREDERICK DOUGLASS AWARD





MICHAEL DOWLING

CEO | Northwell Health

Michael Dowling is one of healthcare's most influential voices, taking a stand on societal issues such as gun violence and immigration that many health system CEOs shy away from. As President and CEO of Northwell Health, he leads a clinical, academic and research enterprise with a workforce of more than 74,000 and annual revenue of \$13.5 billion.

Mr. Dowling has received numerous awards, including the Ellis Island Medal of Honor and a number of honorary degrees from Fordham University, University College Dublin (Ireland) and the prestigious Queen's University Belfast. In 2017, he served as the Grand Marshal of the St. Patrick's Day Parade in NYC and he chairs the Institute for Healthcare Improvement.

Prior to joining Northwell in 1995, Mr. Dowling served in New York State government for 12 years, including leadership roles as Director of Health, Education and Human Services, Commissioner of Social Services, Deputy Secretary and a Chief Adviser to former Governor Mario Cuomo. Earlier, he was a Professor of Social Policy and an Assistant Dean of Fordham's Graduate School of Social Services.

FREDERICK DOUGLASS AWARD





CRYSTAL McCRARY

Author, Filmmaker, & Social Justice Advocate

Cystal McCrary is an award-winning film, television producer, director and author. She began her career practicing entertainment law with the New York City firm of Paul Weiss before leaving to pursue a career in writing, directing and producing. Since that time, she has written for several magazines, published two New York Times best-selling novels, and produced original programming for TV & Film including *HEMLOCK ADVANTAGE*, *GOTHAM DIARIES* and *INSPIRATION: Profiles of Black Women Changing Our World*. She also produced the independent film *DIRTY LAUNDRY* (FOX Films) and for six seasons has served as co-creator/executive producer for the NAACP Image Award nominated BET documentary series *LEADING WOMEN* and *LEADING MEN*. She also created and executive produced the documentary series *INSIDE: Black Culture* profiling The Studio Museum in Harlem, Evidence Dance Company and Abyssinian Baptist Church.

Ms. McCrary directed and produced the documentary, *LITTLE BALLERS* as well as the series *LITTLE BALLERS INDIANA*, both for Nickelodeon Sports. She is now in production on three films which include the history of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, the building of the George Lucas Museum of Narrative Art and *Ariel at 35* which tells the story of the oldest and largest African American asset management firm in the United States.

Dedicated to and outspoken on education, children's rights and women's issues, Ms. McCrary has appeared on several national television shows including *Good Morning America*, *The TODAY Show*, and *CNN*. Ms. McCrary has also appeared as a guest co-host on ABC's *The View*. She has also interviewed President Bill Clinton and Mayor Michael Bloomberg for her television shows. Ms. McCrary was named to *Crain's New York Business Forty Under Forty*.

Ms. McCrary is a cum laude graduate of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor and New York University School of Law and American University (J.D., 1995). Ms. McCrary also studied International European Community Law in Paris, France. She lives in New York City with her husband and three children.

ANN S. KHEEL AWARD





RAYMOND J. McGUIRE

Vice Chairman | Citigroup
Chairman | Banking, Capital Markets & Advisory

Raised by a single mother and his grandparents in Dayton, Ohio, Ray McGuire and his two brothers didn't have much growing up. But they had family, faith, church, a loving home and a deep-seated belief that education was their ticket to anywhere.

With a lot of student loans and borrowed money, Ray went to Harvard, becoming the first in his family to graduate from college. He then enrolled in a four-year JD/MBA program at Harvard University. After earning degrees in law and business at the same time, Ray went to New York for a job on Wall Street.

Over the last 36 years, Ray has led businesses responsible for generating \$20+ billion a year in revenue supporting public and private sector clients around the world. He recruited and built teams to do multi-billion-dollar deals, and he advised the CEOs of companies on how to help their businesses grow, thrive and create jobs. For the last 13 years, Ray was the head of Global Corporate and Investment Banking at Citigroup and the longest-tenured head of investment banking in the history of Wall Street. As a Citi Foundation Board member, Ray helped the firm improve the lives of people in low-income communities. He also recently helped write a groundbreaking report on the economic impact of systemic racism. Through mentoring, Ray has held the door open for many others including those who grew up like him.

Ray gives back to the city by serving on the boards of the New York Presbyterian Hospital, the New York Public Library, the Whitney Museum and the Studio Museum in Harlem. He has also served on advisory boards for the Council of Urban Professionals, Sponsors for Educational Opportunities, Management Leadership for Tomorrow and others.

Ray is married to Crystal McCrary McGuire. Together they are raising three children.

FREDERICK DOUGLASS AWARD





DAN SCHULMAN

President and CEO | PayPal

Dan Schulman is focused on democratizing and transforming financial services and e-commerce to improve the financial health of billions of people, families and businesses around the world. With extensive corporate experience and a lifelong commitment to social justice, he believes the private sector has a responsibility to serve multiple stakeholders and to improve the state of the world. Under Dan's leadership, PayPal has been named as one of the top companies on JUST Capital's and Forbes' JUST 100 list, featuring "companies doing right by America." PayPal has also been recognized as a *Fortune* Change the World company for its work to tackle the biggest challenges facing society today.

Dan has frequently been recognized by *Fortune* as one of the top 20 Businesspersons of the Year. In 2017, he received the Brennan Legacy Award, established to honor the late Supreme Court justice and his career-long commitment to social justice and "common human dignity". Dan has also been honored by the Council for Economic Education (2017) and the Financial Health Network (2018) for his promotion of economic and financial literacy to create a better informed society. In 2020, Robert F Kennedy Human Rights honored him with the Ripple of Hope Award, which recognizes those who have demonstrated a commitment to social change and a passion for equality, justice and basic human rights.

Dan is actively involved in the World Economic Forum, as a member of the International Business Council, and the Board of Governors and Board of Stewards for the Future of Financial & Monetary Systems platform. In addition, Dan is a life member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and an International Advisory Council member of the Singapore Economic Development Board. Dan is a board member of Verizon Communications, Inc., and previously served as Non-Executive Chairman of NortonLifeLock (formerly Symantec Corporation). He also serves on the boards of Business Roundtable, The Economic Club of New York and Autism Speaks.

FREDERICK DOUGLASS AWARD



1966

A. Philip Randolph
Robert W. Sarnoff
Hon. Robert F. Wagner

1967

Gardner Cowles
Rev. Leo McLaughlin, S.J.
Rev. James H. Robinson, D.D.

1968

Stephen & Audrey Currier, in
Memoriam
Hon. Robert J. Magnum
Rev. Msgr. Gregory Mooney

1969

Dr. Albert H. Bowker
The Boys of Yesteryear, Inc.
Donald McGannon

1970

Ossie Davis
Ruby Dee
Harvey G. Mehlhouse

1971

Ennis Francis
Frederick D. O’Neal
Pepsi-Cola Company

1972

Joan Ganz Cooney
Rev. William A. Jones, Jr.
Whitney M. Young, Jr., in Memoriam

1973

Robert A. Bernhard
Jackie Robinson, in Memoriam

1974

Dr. Kenneth Clark
Dr. Anna Arnold Hedgeman
Andrew Heiskel

1975

*Aspiring Youth in the Street
Academy Program*
Dr. John L.S. Holloman, Jr.
John Mosler

1976

James L. Hicks
Hon. Constance Baker Motley
J. Henry Smith

1977

Bertha Harris
Rt. Rev. Paul Moore, Jr.
Dr. Robert C. Weaver

1978

Romare Bearden
Lloyd K. Garrison
Hon. Ernest G. Green

1979

His Eminence, Cardinal Cooke
Louise Fisher Morris, in Memoriam
Gil Noble

1980

369th Veteran’s Association, inc.
Arthur Mitchell
George Wein

1981

Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corp.
Doris Turner
George Weissman

1982

Clara Hale
Joseph Papp
Rev. M. Moran Weston

1983

Lois K. Alexander
David J. Mahoney
Hon. Percy E. Sutton

1984

Gordon Parks
Lillian Roberts
Tom Wicker

1985

James Chancey, Andrew Goodman &
Michael Schwerner, in tribute
Charlayne Hunter-Gault

1986

James L. Ferguson
Dr. Bernard W. Harleston
John T. Patterson, Jr.

1987

Dorothy I. Height
Lloyd Richards
Lewis Rudin

1988

Harry Belafonte
Mrs. Kate Hicks
Thomas S. Murphy

1989

Stanley W. Hill
Hon. John V. Lindsay
Dr. Clifton R. Wharton, Jr.

1990

John B. Carter
Bishop Emerson J. Moore
Dr. Betty Shabazz

1991

Ahmet M. Ertegun
Theodore W. Kheel
Florence M. Rice

1992

Horace W. Morris
William A. Schreyer

1993

Dr. James R. Dumpson
Osborn Elliott
Judith Jamison

1994

John J. Barrett
Eugene L. McCabe

1995

Edward Lewis
Josie McMillian
James E. Preston

1996

Wynton Marsalis
Leonard Riggio

1997

Dick Gidron, Sr.
Victor Gotbaum
Cicely Tyson

1998

Barbara Smith
George M. Steinbrenner, III
Eugene h. Webb

1999

Earl G. Graves, Sr.
Dr. Muriel Petioni
Walter V. Shipley

2000

Dr. Roscoe C. Brown, Jr.
Toni Fay
Tom Freston

2001

Mrs. Theodore W. Kheel
Ken Miller
Russell Simmons
Rev. Dr. Gardner C. Taylor

2002

Ralph Dickerson, Jr.
Westina Matthews Shatteen
Robert B. Willumstad

2003

Gerald Boyd
Carla A. Harris
Dennis D. Swanson

2004

Michael Caridi
Jeffrey S. Fried
Bud Greenspan
Ken Kaess
Marie Christmas Rhone

2005

John Esposito
Tonya Lewis Lee
David Slackman

2006

Jack Belsito
Paul Charron
Dr. Marcella Maxwell
Michael Robinson

2007

Deborah Roberts
Al Roker
Allan H. (Bud) Selig
Greater Harlem Chamber of
Commerce
JP Morgan Chase

2008

Marva Aleen, Hue-Man Bookstoree
Raymond McGuire, Citi
Franklin A. Thomas, TFF Study Group

2009

Susan W. Dryfoos
William M. Lewis, Jr.
Jessye Norman

2010

Scott Mills
Sullivan & Cromwell
Susan Patricoff
(Ann S. Kheel Honoree)

2011

The Hon. David N. Dinkins
Marcus Samuelsson
Cora Weiss (Ann S. Kheel Honoree)

2012

Charles M. Blow
Zane Tankel and Apple-Metro
KEM
Michele Cahill (Ann S. Kheel Honoree)

2013

Bethann Hardison
UPS
NYUL Young Professionals
(Ann S. Kheel Honoree)

2014

Edward Enniful
CVS Caremark
John King (Ann S. Kheel Honoree)

2015

Jason Franklin
(Ann S. Kheel Honoree)
GEICO
Macy's
Dennis M. Walcott

2016

Amalgamated Bank
Sherry Bronfman
(Ann S. Kheel Honoree)
Michael Cardozo
Deutsch (Volunteer Award)

2017

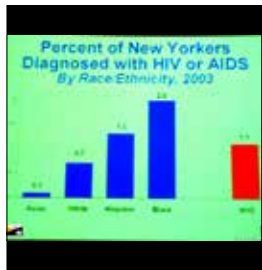
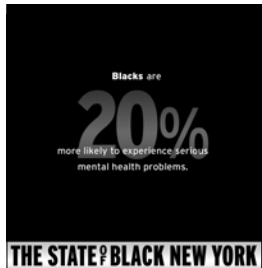
Erica Payne (Ann S. Kheel Honoree)
Tracy Reese
Tiffany R. Warren

2018

Dapper Dan (Icon Award)
Kyle Hagler
Valeisha Butterfield Jones
(Ann S. Kheel Honoree)

2019

Grasshopper Bancorp, Inc.
Sunny Hostin
Kenneth Thompson, posthumously
(Ann S. Kheel Honoree)



THE PAST

New York City’s staggering black youth unemployment rate, its deteriorating housing, a school system that is not responsive to the needs of minority school children and a critical lack of decent health services for the poor provide the New York Urban League with its greatest challenge.

HORACE MORRIS
President | 1975-1983



TODAY



NYUL Young Professionals

EU'NICE R. McCOY
Chapter President | 2020-2022

Greetings & Welcome to the New York Urban League's Centennial Gala. On behalf of the New York Urban League Young Professionals, I thank you for supporting the New York Urban League and its Centennial Gala.

Founded on April 1, 2003, NYULYP is one of 64 chapters of the National Urban League Young Professionals. The award-winning New York Urban League Young Professionals (NYULYP) is a 200+ member volunteer auxiliary of the New York Urban League, composed of members aged 21-40 who are committed to serving and supporting our affiliate and the NYC community. The organization trains, develops, and educates young professionals to take leadership roles within Urban Leagues, the civil rights movement, and society-at-large. Our dedicated members of dynamic young professionals provide over 16,000 hours of service throughout the five boroughs of NYC and supporting the New York Urban League. Specifically, we help staff the annual HBCU Fair, serve as mentors to Whitney M. Young, Jr. scholars, co-sponsored get out the vote, voter registration drives and census count initiatives. We have served on the Urban League Board of Directors, special events committees and most recently our immediate past president Shalima L. McCants joined the NYUL staff as the Chief Program Officer.

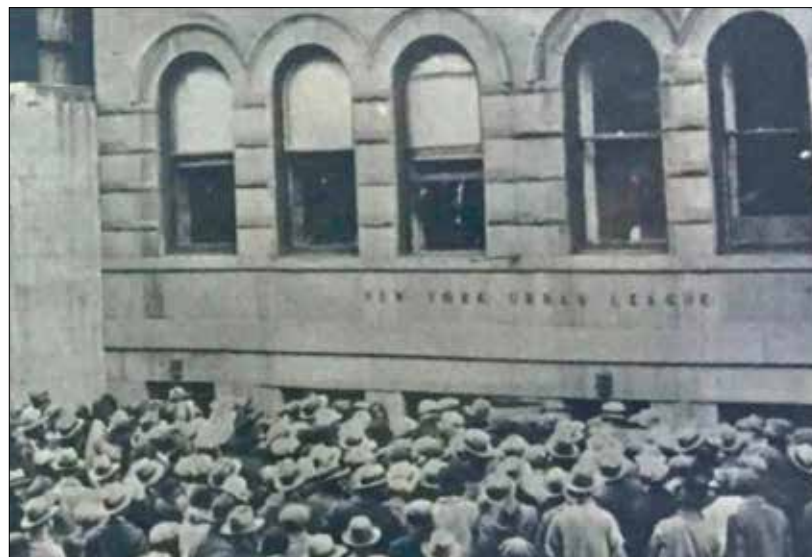


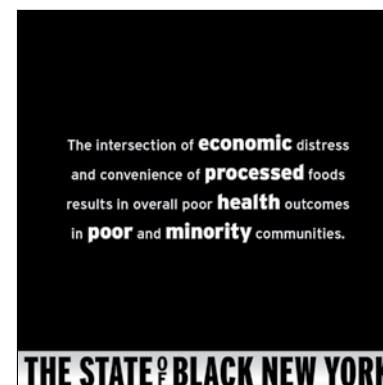
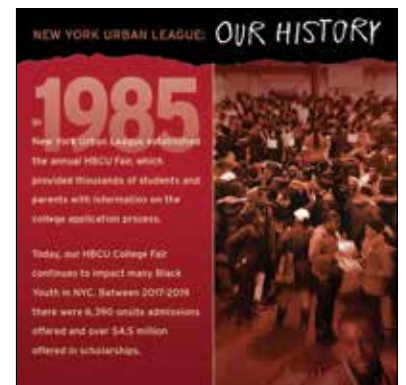
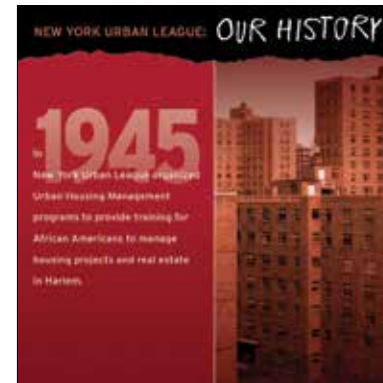
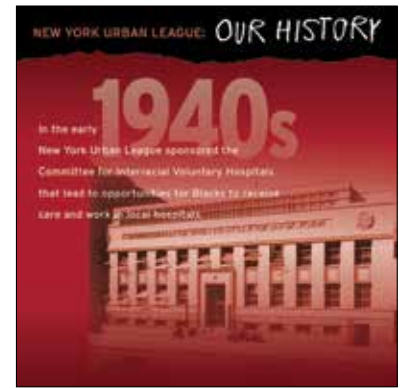
On behalf of NYULYP, I am delighted to continue our support of the New York Urban League and the Frederick Douglass Awards Dinner. As we look forward to the next one hundred years, we thank you for your continued support, and look forward to your future support as we continue to empower the next generation of African Americans.

Eu'nice R. McCoy,
President









Ad from the Archives...



**This is the closest some kids
will ever get to college.**

A lot of kids who should go to college never get there. Many don't know where to go for financial help, or career guidance. Others aren't sure how to apply, or what courses to take. And too often the result is a wasted life.

That's where the New York Urban League comes in. Helping minority kids get into college is just one of the things we've been doing for more than sixty years. We are also actively involved in the important areas of housing,

employment, health, and social welfare.

As always, our basic goal is to make sure all New Yorkers get the chance they deserve. But we can't do it alone. You can help. Become a member. Volunteer your services. Or send a contribution to the New York Urban League, 1500 Broadway, New York, New York 10036. (212) 730-5200.

The New York Urban League 



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