

**GRANT PROPOSAL
FOR
EZIBU MUNTU AFRICAN DANCE
AND
CULTURAL FOUNDATION'S
LEIGH STREET EVENT CENTER**



<http://www.ezibumuntu.org>

VISION STATEMENT

“Dare to Dream!”

Ezibu Muntu African Dance Company and Cultural Foundation has made dreams come to fruition for forty-three years. It has sustained the dream from an initial generous donation by Virginia Commonwealth University in 1973, to the powerful impact it has in the region today. VCU's financial support sponsored the company's brilliant genesis. That genesis was the dream of bringing into existence a community based entity that would expose thousands of citizens to rich African culture, history and values, while fostering children's ability to dream. In addition, it provided the opportunity to experience safe, enriching and uplifting community activities, positive reflections and joy in belonging to a heritage of richness and majesty.

Ezibu Muntu's seventy-five member company's success can start to be measured by the following: The children's performance company, eighteen in total; the number of collaborations the company has partnered throughout the Eastern Seaboard; the thousands of performances in schools, colleges and civic settings; and the tens of thousands of lives that have been transformed as a result of the company's impactful artistic excellence.

The Company's current location can no longer house their tremendous growth. After forty three years Ezibu Muntu is, by the force of its far reaching inspiration, naturally transitioning to the next level. The Company seeks to become even more invested in the community with the purchase of a 13,000 square foot facility in the historic, Jackson Ward District in Richmond Virginia, a culturally rich and diverse community by forming a separate entity: The Leigh Street Cultural Center. By becoming property owners and collaborating with like minded community organizations as their tenants, Ezibu Muntu will have a powerful, positive impact.

These organizations, under the Leigh Street Event Center banner, will become a part of a more diverse artistic community bringing in additional transformative art forms, for example: multi-media, theater, writing, and music. The Event Center will offer classes and special events to the community and will partner with organizations that require additional space to extend their services to the community. The Black History Museum, three blocks from the Center location has indicated interest in utilizing center space as a result of their existing space limitations.

This facility will offer state-of-the-art platforms conducive for multiple uses, from concerts to conferences, including tele-conferencing, banquets, receptions, seminars and workshops that extend into teaching, trainings, internships and mentoring.

Ezibu Muntu African Dance Company and Cultural Foundation (The Company) has taught African culture to children and adults, and now recognize it is time to incorporate, collaborate and expand horizons further. What better way than by being the owners of a transforming multi-level, multi-use cultural/event center. The Company will attain financial stability another forty-three years and beyond while establishing the foundation to teach and show children and adults how to build dreams and establish legacies. Leading by example!

The following entities have expressed interest in collaborating with The Center: The Black Repertory Theater, The Black History Museum, The Jackson Ward Heritage Foundation, and The Virginia Black Music Foundation. We will be community partners in preserving the culture and history of Jackson Ward.

INTRODUCTION

EZIBU-MUNTU DANCE COMPANY AND CULTURAL FOUNDATION'S IMPACT ON THE RICHMOND VIRGINIA COMMUNITY

"A cultural experience" [Richmond Magazine, 6/2009]

The state of Virginia has the longest continuous experience of African-American culture and life in the United States. African-American culture in Virginia dates back to August 1619 when the first Africans were involuntarily brought to the shores of historic Jamestown.

Slaves brought many cultures of Africa to America and although there were language barriers, Africans shared two common bonds of communication; dance and music. African dance and music transcended suppression and two hundred years later thrives today within the Ezibu Muntu African Dance Company and Cultural Foundation.

African Americans' rich heritage and black experience can be relived through sites, artifacts, events and museums across the state. However, there exists a living history of African culture in Richmond that can be experienced in the present. . . a presence alive, vibrant and dynamic. Within every performance, Ezibu Muntu African Dance Company and Cultural Foundation offers living history of what was, what is and what can be for future generations who wish to understand and appreciate the importance of African culture and history.

The Civil Rights Memorial in Richmond traces the slave trade from Africa to Virginia and onward throughout the United States until 1860. The Slave Trail chronicles Richmond's role as the largest exporter of enslaved Africans on the East Coast in pre-Civil War America. The "walk" available along the Richmond Slave Trail is popular for many visitors and residents alike, but Ezibu Muntu expresses that journey and makes it a visceral experience in one of its iconic dance-dramas "Slave Ship", created by founder Tanya Dennis in 1973.

Richmond houses one of the country's foremost African-American communities, Jackson Ward, known as "The Harlem of the South," which is the home of Maggie Walker, and a National Historic Site, in celebration of the first female bank president in America. Nearby the Bill "Bojangles" Robinson statue recognizes the dancer best known for his tap dancing with child-star Shirley Temple. In addition there is the statue of tennis star Arthur Ashe, a popular addition to Monument Avenue, considered to be one of the most beautiful boulevards in the world. But at 418 East Main Street in downtown Richmond, living history and culture is and has been taught for over 43 years at the Ezibu Muntu Dance Studio every Tuesday and Wednesday to the community with annual performances at various locations throughout the city.

Richmond offers a rich variety of festivals and events each year to celebrate African-American heritage. Annually Ezibu Muntu African Dance Company has made its cultural contribution in various venues; The Down Home Family Reunion, an annual festival celebrating African-American folklife; Jackson Ward's 2nd Street, now defunct, which traveled back in time each fall to the Second Street Festival, a celebration of the area's historic significance to the African-American community. This is a festival that The Company, once established in the Leigh Street Event Center hopes to restore; and the holiday season, celebrated each December with the Capital City Kwanzaa Festival. Ezibu Muntu has been a staple of this Festival for decades.

The Company's vision and mission is to promote a deeper understanding of the rich diversity of African-American traditions and art forms. Ezibu Muntu African Dance

Company has also played an integral part in preserving African traditions of respect, pride and integrity, and infuses these values in the youth company.

The Company has survived without private or public funding for over forty-three years. They have gone from a University sponsored Dance Company to a community based company surviving solely upon the grit and dedication of Renee Knight and Faye Walker, two of the founding dancers of the company created in 1973 by Virginia Commonwealth University Instructor/Founder Tanya Dennis.

Through fundraisers, performances and hosting classes, The Company has given consistently and unselfishly to the community asking nothing in return, except to preserve African culture, share its beauty and teach African American youth their history. Despite outgrowing their facility over twenty years ago, The Company has managed to maintain a seventy-five member dance company that sustains four companies within itself: The senior, junior, children and performance company. It is imperative that The Company secure financing for its own facility for training, education and performance. Ezibu Muntu will expand its cultural reach with a theater division, working in collaboration with the Richmond Black Repertory Theater, established thirteen year ago in the Richmond community. In conjunction with The Black Repertory Theater and The Richmond Musicians collaborative, The Company will use the Leigh Street facility for dance, music, art and theater. Community Rental space will offer two large meeting spaces, one with seating capacity of 400 the other with seating capacity of 150 with portable seating so seating configurations can be altered to the specifications of the user; band room; practice rooms; recording studio, meeting facilities for seminars, conventions, conferences, receptions and banquets, Teleconferencing will be a feature of The Center.

**EZIBU-MUNTU DANCE
COMPANY AND CULTURAL FOUNDATION**

"Critic's Pick for Outstanding Dance Company in Richmond"[Style Weekly:Best of Richmond, 5/2012]

EZIBU MUNTU DANCE COMPANY MISSION:

To enrich the lives of children, the community, and donors through resources of African dance, rhythms, culture and cultural arts. With additional expansion into theater and art, Ezibu Muntu will bring forth an even richer African and African-American heritage. Ezibu Muntu's cultural enrichment provides a source of pride, a sense of roots and a point of historical reference for Americans.

THE LEIGH STREET EVENT CENTER MISSION:

Ezibu Muntu will be the owner and anchor tenant of the Leigh Street Event Center, and will operate as a separate entity from the Leigh Street Event Center. Ezibu Muntu's former 1973 charter members, Founder Tanya Dennis, Media Director Ronald Carrington, Artistic Director Nancy Nelson-Ewing, CPA/Treasurer Brenda Bentley, Marketing Director Karen Barber Thomas, Renee Knight, Executive Director, Ezibu Muntu (The Leigh Street Team) will operate the Leigh Street Event Center and be accountable to the Ezibu Muntu African Dance Company and Cultural Foundation Board of Directors.

The Leigh Street team will expand The Center's artistic reach by offering additional cultural arts to the community and the country. In collaboration with Richmond's Black Repertory Theater, two new divisions will emerge; theater and music arts. With 43 years of building self-esteem and knowledge of self in African American children, Ezibu Muntu theater division sees theater as another effective tool to help counteract negative perceptions Black children have of themselves.

Plays will be constructed and produced by Director of the Black Repertory theater Mr. Iman Shabazz, and the Event Center's Artistic Director, Nancy Nelson-Ewing.

The Leigh Street Event Center will offer music, dance and theater, classes (see programs), teach theater arts in acting, lighting, staging and offer art, dance and theater internships. Financial literacy and investor education will be offered from elementary to adult level. Teaching financial literacy and investor education, a missing component in

the African-American community as well as public educational institutions, is a special mission of The Company.

The Ariel Investors Curriculum will be offered free to all youth and adults. "Be the labor, great or small, do it well or not at all."

EZIBU MUNTU'S VISION

Ezibu Muntu African Dance and Cultural Foundation is a professional organization of dancers, drummers, entertainers and individuals dedicated to invoking an educated positive understanding of African culture, values, traditions and dance arts as a whole. Through exposing the community-at-large to educational and artistic programming based on African culture and art forms, Ezibu Muntu enriches the diversity of the community by introducing wholesome, grounded and rich African concepts of family and community into society by example. On the surface, Ezibu Muntu is a dance company, but upon closer examination, the examiner will discover that Ezibu Muntu is a family, bound together by culture and common experience. It is a support system for members within the company and for individuals and institutions that come in contact with their art form.

Preserving culture not only provides the seeds of wisdom that will grow into true wisdom, but it also provides a source of pride. Knowing one's culture enhances education and life. Heritage is history, the unique knowledge, values and traditions that developed by a combination of genes and environment over time. Heritage, whether it be national, cultural, or family is an endowment of unique sets of historical knowledge; but foremost, heritage is personal history. It is responsible for how we came to be, it is a very large part of who and what we are, and it can determine what we will become. As humans, we are free moral agents; because we can determine our future to great degrees, we may delude ourselves into thinking the past has no impact on us. But choices and past events have very profound and long-lasting impacts on any decision we can possibly make; therefore all decisions or choices made now are done so in the context of the past.

For too long African-Americans have been devoid of heritage, kept ignorant by design of their place historically on the planet and in America. Ezibu Muntu offers valuable insight to the African-American community as to their roots and rich heritage.

That is why Ezibu Muntu has been more than a dance company for over forty-three years. Ezibu Muntu has provided roots and a history to the African American Diaspora in Richmond.

This sense of identity that members of Ezibu Muntu have gained from the study of their heritage has helped to explain who they are. This intimate knowledge of self is invaluable. Heritage is an inheritance better than money or property. In American society especially, African American role models are vitally needed to uplift and build community. Ezibu Muntu through rich heritage has been the consummate role model to the African American community for over forty years!

Upon learning of The Company's mission to build an event center, four founding members immediately rejoined the company to assist at the administrative level after a forty year absence: Director of Media, Ronald Carrington; Marketing Director, Karen Thomas Davis; CPA and Bookkeeper Brenda Bentley; and Facilities Director and Grant Writer, Tanya Dennis. FAMILY!

HISTORY

Ezibu Muntu African Dance and Cultural Foundation began as a student organization on the campus of Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) in 1973. Founder, Tanya Dennis, a dance professor at VCU, recognized a need for multicultural enrichment in the Richmond community. She particularly wanted to help the African American students find a sense of ancestral pride and self-esteem. After maintaining status as a university based group, Ezibu decided they could better serve the community with a larger not-for-profit organization aimed at educating the community regarding African customs and traditions. In 1984, Ezibu established a corporation and has been exciting and educating audiences for over 43 years. It is estimated that since its auspicious beginning, more than 1500 individuals have been directly involved with the Ezibu Muntu family. Over the years, Ezibu has produced many professional artists in a wide variety of artistic disciplines. Founding dance member, Donald Washington was a member of the Alvin Ailey Dance Company in New York, Nancy Nelson-Ewing became a successful T.V. actress, and Renee Knight and Faye Walker still dance and lead the foundation.

STAFF

Renee Knight, Board Member/Executive Director - Founding Member

African Dance Consultant, Major Gift Officer and Executive Director of Ezibu Muntu African Dance & Cultural Foundation. One of Renee's passion in life is to preserve the legacy of the dance company that began as a Virginia Commonwealth University student organization in 1973. Renee is committed to enriching the lives of children, the community and their donors thru the resources of African Dance, rhythms, culture and cultural arts. Renee was a choreographer and dancer with the dance company in the early years. She believes accountability and integrity are traits that are important for success. She was nominated for Teacher of the Year 4 times by her colleagues. She has had several articles written about her work with Ezibu Muntu. The Richmond Free Press, The Richmond Times Dispatch and Richmond Magazine to name a few. Renee continues to perform with the Company.

Faye Walker, Board Member/Artistic Director - Founding Member

Faye Walker taught African Dance at Virginia Commonwealth University for thirteen years and has been instrumental in keeping Ezibu Muntu a viable entity. Faye Walker is a teacher and performer of African dance and one of the founding members of the Ezibu Muntu African Dance Company. A Hampton, Virginia native, "Sister Faye" has studied extensively with many African and African-American dancers and musicians who were or are now considered masters of the art form. Mrs. Walker has served Ezibu Muntu in many capacities throughout the years: performer, Dance Captain, General Manager, Board Member, Director of the Visual Musicians Color Guard Corps, and Artistic Director. She continues to mentor, choreograph, sit on the Board and co-direct the company. Sister Faye has also choreographed for other companies and theatrical groups including: the University of Richmond's Ngoma African and Modern Dance Company, the Kuumba Dancers and various community and recreation centers. She has also choreographed and staged musicals for the Hampton University Players. A short list includes: "Dreamgirls," "Ain't Misbehaving," "Little Shop of Horrors" and Scott Joplin's opera, "Treemonisha." Sister Faye happily worked at John H. Smith High School for 32 years, working with the Hanover Juvenile Correctional Center. She currently works at the Reception and Diagnostic Center at the W. Hamilton Crockford Annex High School.

Babadunjo Olagunke, Board Member/Lead Choreographer

Babadunjo is a professional dancer, choreographer, and costume designer. He currently is the co-director of The Ezibu Muntu African Dance Company, the Director of Ngoma African & Contemporary Dance Company at University of Richmond, and Color Guard Instructor at Deep Run High School and Lee-Davis HS. Has worked closely with Baba Chuck Davis (Durham, NC) and danced with Baba Melvin Deals' African Dancers and Drummers (Washington, DC). He is also a member of The Dzifa Masquerade Fraternity. Among these many talents he has also had the opportunity to travel to Senegal, West Africa as a dance liaison. He is also a performer with Carolina Gold Drum and Bugle Corps, Rocky Mount, NC for 8 years. Since at Carolina Gold, he has received Most Outstanding Performer 2003 and has held the captain leadership position 06, 07, 08. Mr. Olagunke is a past member of The Light Brigade World Winterguard Philadelphia, PA for 3 years. He received Most Valuable Member 2006 and Co-Captain 2007. Babadunjo has over 20 years of experience in African Dance. His educational background includes study at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) with a degree in Physical Education and a minor in Dance/Choreography.

LaShara Smith, Board Member/Public Relations

LaShara Smith is a Senior Analytical Research Scientist with Tredegar Film Products, a film extrusion company. She has been with Tredegar for 13 years in various roles including leading peer engagement and the product development for an internal brand. She received her Bachelors and Masters degrees in Chemical Engineering from the University of Florida and North Carolina A&T State University, respectively. She has been a member of the Ezibu Muntu board since 2007 managing marketing and public relations (includes print, social media and website support). LaShara is also a member of the senior performance company. Her outside affiliations include being President of the National Society of Black Engineers Richmond Professionals Chapter, Treasurer for the Richmond Joint Engineers Council, Secretary for the Richmond Minorities in Engineering Partnership Board, and mentor for the Delta G.E.M.S program.

Roderick Davis, Board Member/Music Director and Lead Drummer

Roderick Davis is the Music Director and Lead Drummer of Ezibu Muntu. He was introduced to the dance company in 1994 by one of his mentors and original members of the Ezibu, Renee Knight and has been an active member of the company dedicating 20 plus years of studying and sharing his knowledge of West African Djembe music.

Mr. Davis has a Bachelor's of Science degree in Architectural Drafting & Design from Virginia State University and an Advanced Certification in Principles of Engineering from Duke University. He has taught Technology Education, Pre-Engineering and Basic Architecture at MLK Middle School for 8 years, also starting a West African Music program after school at MLK Middle. Roderick is currently the Lead Teacher for Richmond Public School's Governor's Engineering Academy at RTC for 2 years now. He is also an adjunct professor of West African Djembe music and history at University of Richmond. He mentors under-served youth centered around teaching them West African music, and he also volunteers teaching music therapy to adults with various cognitive disabilities in Richmond. Roderick is also the co-founder of Capoeira Resistência Richmond with world renowned capoeira master, Mestre Panão in 2005. Mr. Davis is now a graduated Instructor of capoeira and is now teaching capoeira in Charlottesville VA.

Mr. Davis is a 3rd generation initiated African Stilt Walker and mask dancer with Dzifa Masquerade Society. He completed the 1st initiation process at the age of 14, the 2nd at age 18 in West Africa, and the final stage at 27 years of age. Upon completion, Roderick was given the name Qadaha the Stilt Walker.

Tanya Dennis, Founder/Grant Writer/Leigh Street Facilities Manager

At 13 years of age, Tanya Dennis was a dance instructor at Grove Recreation and Parks in Berkeley California and had a professional dance company by the age of 16. For five years Ms. Dennis' company performed for the Oakland and Berkeley Public Schools annually during Black History Month and performed for numerous events throughout the Greater East Bay.

In 1968 Ms. Dennis starred as "Luttie-Belle" at the Berkeley Black Repertory Theater in Berkeley California. Ms. Dennis was Miss Oakland in 1968 and Miss Berkeley in 1967 and the first African-American to compete in the Miss California-Miss America Pageant. She garnered third runner up and won the talent competition performing an African dance. She attained a secondary teacher's credential and BA in Dance and English from UCLA in 1970.

Ms. Dennis attended Peabody-Vanderbilt University in Nashville Tennessee where she attained her Master's degree in Physical Education and Dance. In 1972 she became the head of the Dance Department at Virginia Commonwealth University. While in

Richmond Ms. Dennis performed in the Equity show “Purlie Victorious” as a principle dancer.

In 1973, Ms. Dennis formed a University sponsored 26 member African Dance Company, Ezibu Muntu which means “Universal Man” in Yoruba. Yoruba is one of four official languages of Nigeria.

Ms. Dennis returned to California in 1975 and taught in Compton, Oakland, Long Beach and Berkeley School Districts. She has been a Vice-Principal and Dean at the Secondary Level where she was recognized by the Civil Rights commission in San Francisco regarding her work with at risk youth and her ability to lower suspension rates among African American males. As Vice-Principal she was the facilities manager for Castlemont High School in East Oakland. She garnered the Community Service Award by the NAACP in 1995 for her work with at-risk youth. She is currently the editor and senior reporter for the Post Newsgroup, the largest African American paper on the west coast, and was a finalist for the Miller-Coors Commentary Award in 2010. She is a community activist with ACCE, the Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment, and was honored with the Screaming Eagle Award while President of the Home Defenders League.

In 1982 she received the Jefferson Award for her work with the disabled community. Ms. Dennis is a certified trainer in two character education modalities: “Living Values, An Educational Program,” and “TSI - Therapeutic Storytelling Intervention.” She formed the Ridgemont Neighborhood Association in Oakland in 2012 to combat crime and create community in her neighborhood. She has written three books: “Edge of a Dream” “African-American, Jewish History and Relationships” and “How to Save your Home from Foreclosure By Any Means Necessary.”

Ms. Dennis managed Dennis Properties in Berkeley and Oakland California and Maricopa Arizona. She has over 30 years of property management experience.

Ms. Dennis states that her proudest achievement in her life aside from her two children is the Ezibu Muntu Dance Company and Cultural Foundation and gives all credit to Renee Knight and Faye Walker for being “Keepers of the Dream.”

Will Anderson, Strategic Advisor/Grant Writer/ Drummer

Will Anderson has been an accompaniment drummer with Ezibu Muntu since 2012. He also volunteers his services as a grant writer and strategic advisor to the company. He is currently helping Ezibu Muntu incorporate Lean Startup inspired thinking and tools into its program development initiatives. Professionally Will is a product innovator of digital solutions, and a Lean Startup adviser and practitioner, with two decades of experience bringing emerging technology-based innovations to market. Currently, he serves as CEO of W.E. Innovate Solutions, a product development advisory firm for entrepreneurs, and Co-founder and Chief Product Officer of HealthCHEC Technologies, a specialized social health services startup. Prior to launching W.E. Innovate Solutions and HealthCHEC Tech, Will led digital product development teams as an executive at Charles Schwab, Comerica Bank and Gyricon LLC, a Xerox PARC startup.

Will's initial experience with African drumming and dancing began in the 1990's in Oakland, CA where he introduced his son and daughter to an African youth performing arts company. After volunteering with the organization for a few years, he became the Executive Director of the program.

Will earned a B.B.A. in Finance with a minor in Philosophy from the University of Notre Dame, and a M.S. degree in Public Policy and Management from Carnegie Mellon University. Will also attended the Summer Venture in Management Program at the Harvard Business School.

Ronald Carrington, Media Director/Founding Member

Ronald E. Carrington is a seasoned Broadcast Television and executive management professional with more than 30 years of experience in business development and project management. His background includes strategic planning, corporate relations and client development, TV programming, quality control/quality assurance and E-technology applications. Ron possesses an extensive understanding of TV Production, executive management including setting goals, procurement/project forecasting and managing subcontracting requirements. Carrington brings experience of being a key member of strategic leadership for planning in a small business environment. His skills in contract administration, program management, logistics and Etechnology applications have expanded personnel and revenue for company contracting. His strong management skills have led to improving organizational effectiveness in allocating resources and aligning goals with organizational strategies. His ROI - understanding revenue goals as well as infrastructure requirements necessary to support growth. ROI is the KEY to small business success and growth.

Experience and Accomplishments Business Solutions Strategic Planning and Procurement Forecasting Networking for Opportunity Identification Relationship Building and Expansion RFP and Proposal Review and Assessment

Brenda Bentley, Treasurer - Bookkeeper, Founding Member

Brenda Bentley is one of the charter members of the Ezibu Muntu African Dance Company. She currently serves as the controller of a non-profit organization in the Washington DC area. After graduating Virginia Commonwealth University and George Mason University, she began her career as an accountant for government contractors and has worked exclusively with nonprofits as a consultant or in Financial Managerial positions over the past decade. She has experience with grants, endowments, contributions, and strict grant reporting and administration required to administer Federal Government Grants and audits.

Brenda has had a passion for the arts, particularly for dance, her entire life. Working with Ezibu Muntu as treasurer allows her to combine her love for the arts and her skills in the financial world.

Nancy Nelson Ewing, Artistic Director, Founding Member

Nancy Nelson Ewing aka Nan-Lynn Nelson is a professional Actor for over 30 years. Her extensive background includes her starring debut on Broadway in: RUNNAWAYS, OPEN ADMISSIONS and replacing Angela Bassette in August Wilson's JOE TURNER'S COME AND GONE . She starred as Vicki, in the Emmy nominated PBS children's program series: 3-2-1 CONTACT/THE BLOODHOUND GANG. NBC's HOT HERO SANDWICH, numerous Television Commercials and a host of primetime and daytime television shows. As a writer, Ms. Nelson Ewing was recognized in London England as a finalist by the SUSAN SMITH BLACKBURN International Women's Playwriting Contest for her noteworthy stage play: LEAVING WATERMAINE. This play was honored by: Ernie Hudson, Stephanie Mills and Ellen Holly, as part of a staged reading production in NYC. She also garnered a prestigious selection for the Genesis Project by the Tony Award winning theater, Crossroads in New Jersey, where LEAVING WATERMAINE was developed. She has been selected by the Tribeca Performing Arts Center in NYC to develop her play ENEMY OF THE B.R.E.A.D. In addition, Ms. Nelson Ewing was recently recognized by New Works of Merit with an "Honorable Mention" status for her spoken word musical play: A TOWN CALLED WITNESS. She has penned several screenplays including THE REMEMBERING and BALIWICK. She is the author of two children's book series entitled: THE GIRL WITH THE GIGGLING HAIR and DELANEY DICTION MASTER. VIRTUE PLANET is her children's character education program complete with a children's story book, JOURNEY TO VIRTUE PLANET. She

has recently published her guide to Millennials entering into the job market entitled: HOW TO GET PAID: Interviewing With Style. As a Teaching Artist, Ms. Nelson Ewing has created and developed many successful character education and academic programs for both public and private schools ranging from elementary to middle-school students using media arts, creative writing, theater arts, dance, puppetry, crafts and virtues. Ms. Nelson-Ewing has a Bachelor's degree in English/Theatre and certificate in Drama Therapy from Empire State University.

Ms Nelson Ewing was a principal dancer with Ezibu Muntu from 1973-1975

Yolanda Branch, Assistant Business Manager/Dance Captain

Yolanda is known to the company members as "Yogi", renamed by Babadunjo in 1990. She has studied dance all of her life with a focus on ballet, modern and jazz. Yogi has graced the dance floor with Ezibu for 22 years and is currently the "Dance Captain" of the company. In addition to captain, she also plays a major role as being the Assistant Business Manager handling many of the bookings and contracts for the company.

Yogi attended the College of William & Mary where she studied Pre-med/Kinesiology -- with life's peaks and valleys, she ended up graduating from the University of Richmond as an English/Literature major (her 2nd love). Yogi currently works as an Implementation Manager at Allianz Global Assistance.

Patra Brodie, Business Liaison and Program Administrator

Patra Brodie is a native of Richmond, VA. Patra currently works as the Director of Phase II Neighborhood After School Center. She has worked for Richmond Public School teaching Head Start for several years before her transition back to childcare (where formal education begins). Patra has always had a love for children and takes pride in playing an active role in grooming tomorrow's model citizens. She is a graduate of Strayer University with a Bachelors of Science in Business Management.

She is currently pursuing her Master's in Education Management. With the combination of these two degrees she hopes to continue to play a leading role in the process of grooming youth. Patra has been actively dancing with Ezibu Muntu since 2000; she officially joined the company in 2001 and became an apprentice in 2002. Patra received her "shells" in 2005, and has been dancing her heart out ever since. Patra is the

Business Liaison and Program Administrator for Ezibu Muntu and Daughter and Sons of Ezibu. Patra's words she lives by are: Pray. Love, Laugh, Dance!

Tony Hall, Technical Director/Theater Director/ Theater Building Consultant

Successful Technical Director: Project manager for Calvary Christian Center and Royal Caribbean.

Royal Caribbean: Delivered successful projects at a good pace in an increasingly complex environment. Projects included full ship charters and complex staging of equipment. Calvary Christian Center: Project lead on technical aspects for all special events. Recently supervised Calvary Christian Center's Women's Conference, designing stage and lighting for two venues.

Other skills; Effective project manager who understands the inner workings of organizations; extremely cognizant regarding products/service brands, enabling intelligent conversations with clients/customers and functional leaders. This talent enables effective decision making; Expert in pre-planning and organizing subcontractors and vendors that enables efficient completion of tasks.

Detailed Work History

Theater

Broadway's MOTOWN Lights Music Circus, Sacramento, CA 2016
TRAPPED Set & Light Design/PM PASSER ENTERTAINMENT 2013
Rigging Specialist RCCL – LB (Perm. Install) 2011-2013
In The Air Entertainment Rigging Specialist RCCL - LB 2008-2013
Ever After Entertainment Rigging Specialist RCCL – LB 2008-2011
Somewhere In Time Entertainment Rigging Specialist RCCL – LB 2008-2011
Atlantis Charter Cruise Head Rigger/Asst. PM Royal Caribbean/ATLANTIS 2009 & 2011
Tom Joyner Charter Cruise Head Rigger/Asst. PM Royal Caribbean/Tom Joyner 2010
AFLAC Charter Cruise Head Rigger Royal Caribbean/AFLAC 2010
Theatrical Season Head Carpenter/Rigger Robert Mondavi Theatre 2006
High School Musical Technical Director/Rigger Jill Solberg Theatre 2006
Beauty & the Beast Technical Director/Rigger Jill Solberg Theatre 2005
Folsom Lake Civic Ballet Technical Director/Rigger Jill Solberg Theater 2005
The Wizard of Oz Technical Director/Rigger Jill Solberg Theater 2004
Alice in Wonderland Technical Director/Rigger Jill Solberg Theater 2004
Hello Dolly Technical Director/Rigger Jill Solberg Theater 2004
School House Rock Technical Director/Rigger Jill Solberg Theater 2004
Anything Goes Technical Director /Rigger Jill Solberg Theater 2004
Sleeping Beauty Technical Director/Rigger Jill Solberg Theater 2004

Where Are the Fathers? Technical Director (Tour) Calvary Christian Center 2003
Black Nativity Technical Director /Rigger/LD Calvin Simmons Theater 1994-2000
Phantom of the Opera Fly Rail / Rigger Curran Theatre 1996
Angel's In America Stage Crew/Rigger American Conservatory Theatre 1995
Brother Dap Technical Director/Stage Manager. Calvin Simmons Theater 1992-1994

Movies

MUMFORD First Unit Greens Universal Pictures 1999
True Crimes Scenic Carpenter / Pre-Rig Warner Brother's Pictures 1998
Patch Adams Scenic Carpenter Universal Pictures 1997 -1998
Sphere Scenic Carpenter Warner Brother's Pictures 1996 -1997
Rainmaker Scenic Carpenter Great Benefits Productions 1996
A Smile Like Yours Scenic Carpenter / Pre-Rig Rysher 1996
MeTRO Scenic Carpenter / Pre-Rig Eddie Murphy Productions 1996
The Rock Scenic Carpenter Paramount Pictures 1996
Phenomenon Special Fx / Scenic Carpenter Walt Disney Pictures 1996
JACK Scenic Carpenter / Pre-Rig Walt Disney Pictures 1995 -1996
James & The Giant Peach First Unit Carpenter Walt Disney Pictures 1995

Special Events Projects

Women's Conference TD, Staging and Light Design Calvary Christian Center 2014
FCMI Conference TD, Staging and Light Design Calvary Christian Center 2014
Goudeaux 65th Birthday Gala TD, Staging and Light Design Sheraton Grand,
Sacramento, Ca 2014
Church Growth Conference TD, Staging and Light Design Calvary Christian Center
2014
New Year's Eve Celebration TD, Staging and Light Design Calvary Christian Center
2013 & 2015
BKG 60th Birthday Gala Light Designer Sacramento Convention Center 2013
FCMI Conference TD, Staging and Light Design Calvary Christian Center 2013
Rock Legends Cruise I & II Head Rigger/Asst. PM Royal Caribbean/NAHA 2012/2013
Fantastic Voyage Charter Head Rigger Royal Caribbean/Tom Joyner 2010
Atlantis Charter Head Rigger Royal Caribbean/Atlantis 2009 & 2011

Television

(CFS) Cage, Muey Thai & Boxing Handheld Camera Operator Competitive Fighting
Sports (CFS) 2015 – Present
Bellator Cage Fighting Cage Carpenter Spike TV, I.A.T.S.E. Local #134 2016

Super Bowl 50 On Set Carpenter CBS Sports, I.A.T.S.E. Local #134 2016
WWE Ring Carpenter Spike TV, I.A.T.S.E. Local #134 2015
ESPN/ABC/TNT/FOX Sports Utility Grip/Camera Operator BAFA/IATSE Local #119
2006-2008
Sacramento Kings Basketball Camera Operator/Grip Maloof Sports & Ent... 2004-2006
WNBA FINALS Handheld Camera Operator Maloof Sports & Ent... 2005 & 2006
Monarchs Basketball Camera Operator/Grip Maloof Sports & Ent... 2004-2006
Nash Bridges Set Carpenter/Pre-Rig & Grip Rysher Productions 1996-1998

Documentary

Oh Abe Director of Photography Passer Entertainment 2014
daddy hunger Second Unit Camera Assist DH productions 2006

Concerts

Kevin Hart Lighting Sleep Train Arena, Sac., CA 2015
Carrie Underwood Rigger Stockton Arena, Stockton, CA 2016
Beyoncé Formation Rigger/Video Levi's Stadium, Santa Clara, CA 2016
Albert Botecelli Rigger SAP Center, San Jose, CA 2016
Rock Legends Cruise I & II Head Rigger/Asst. PM Royal Caribbean/NAHA 2012/2013
Fantastic Voyage Head Rigger Royal Caribbean/Tom Joyner 2010
Sonny Rollins Head Carpenter/Rigger UC Davis Concert Series 2006
Chick Correa Head Carpenter /Rigger UC Davis Concert Series 2006

Special Projects

Google I/O Show Carpenter Lead Google, I.A.T.S.E Local #134 2016
Ice Floor Cover / LB On Board Project Manager Royal Caribbean Cruise Line
2012-2013
Intel Light Repair / SR On Board Project Manager Royal Caribbean Cruise Line 2012

Paul Joseph Griffith, African Culture Advisor

Scholar, historian, and educator Paul Joseph Griffith has worked as an American and Korean Public School Teacher, Lecturer and Professional Development Specialist for over eleven years. Paul earned his undergraduate degree, "cum laude", in African—American Studies from the University of California Los Angeles and a Masters in Education with honorable mention from Tufts University. Post graduate Paul served as Chair of African—American Studies for Berkeley Unified School District in Berkeley, California, taught in the Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Program, worked as an English Language Specialist in Korean Public Schools, travelled to 30

countries to conduct independent research and most recently spearheaded the creation of the first comprehensive African—American Studies curriculum for Friendship Public Charter Schools in Washington, D.C, the largest public charter school network in the district.

Paul has complimented his experience with traditional cultural studies of West African dance, music, and folklore under the apprenticeship of Emmy Award Winner and Founder of Diamono Coura West African Dance Company Zack Diouf and Artistic Director Naomi Diouf. Paul furthered his work in the historical arts by becoming the lead choreographer and Historian for the Afiya West African Dance Company in Long Beach, California and has been affiliated with Kankouran West African Dance Company in Washington D.C. Most recently, Paul was offered the opportunity to become an Historical Guide for the Ezibu Muntu West African Dance Company in Richmond, Virginia.

Shonda Hawkins, Financial Manager

Shonda Hawkins is a Financial Business Office Manager for United Surgical Partners, a national Ambulatory Surgical Center. She has been with USPI for 9 years where she manages accounts receivable, payable, payroll and a team of 18 employees. Prior to this position, she was the Director of Administration for a not-for-profit Adult Day Care for 10 years. She completed the majority of her Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration studies at Virginia Commonwealth University but received her degree online from University of Phoenix. She has been a member of the Ezibu Muntu board since 2007 where her duties include monthly financial monitoring and reporting.

Karen Barber Thomas, Marketing - Founding Member

Ms. Thomas serves as the National Renewable Energy Laboratory lead for the U.S. Department of Energy's Federal Energy Management Program's Utility Energy Services Contracting (UESC) team. She also provides technical support to energy efficiency and renewable energy projects for Federal agencies and utilities (nationwide) to implement energy and dollar saving projects in Federal facilities. She is the lead instructor for the Federal Energy Management Program's Utility Energy Services Contracting Workshops and provides technical support to Federal acquisition teams. An additional aspect of her lead role is growing the number of investor-owned utilities providing UESCs through strategic partnership building with key utilities and leveraging private sector investment (approximately \$200 million annually) in Federal energy projects. Karen serves on the Federal Utility Partnership Working Group Steering Committee. She also served as FEMP's Project Manager for the Renewable Energy Sections of President Obama's

Memorandum “Federal Leadership on Energy Management”, and is recipient of the Federal Energy and Water Management Award and the Presidential Award for Leadership in Federal Management. Karen is a former member of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Northern Virginia Chapter.

Ms. Thomas holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, with an emphasis in marketing, from Morgan State University, and pursued Graduate Studies in Howard University’s MBA program.

LEIGH STREET EVENT CENTER FACILITY SPACE AVAILABLE

- 1) Two large spaces for events - seating capacity 400 and 150, for concerts, seminars, workshops, conferences, recitals and performances
- 2) Band room
- 3) Recording Studio
- 4) Banquet Hall seating capacity 100
- 5) Copy Center (On-site printing of flyers, brochures, posters)
- 6) Office space (4)
- 7) Video Production for Tele-conferencing
- 8) Kitchen Facilities (2)
- 9) Conference Room
- 10) Artist in Residence facility

FUNDING ALLOCATION

Ezibu Muntu is seeking \$3,800,000 to 1) Purchase Sharon Church located at 22 E. Leigh Street in Richmond Virginia for performances and training purposes for \$630,000; \$1,300,000 for leasehold improvements, \$295,000 stage construction and lighting

equipment; \$700,000 video conferencing capabilities, \$250,000 theater chairs and other furnishings and \$250,000 for twelve months operating capital. Please view grant information for a complete breakdown of cost. (Qualified Funders Only)

The Company has rented other facilities to perform for 43 years, and their current location crowded to the extent that it does not comfortably accommodate participants. Purchase of the Leigh Street facility will provide a place to host concerts, rehearse, conduct classes and play host to other cultural events. Ownership of the facility will provide ancillary income streams from other organizations, corporations or individuals seeking venue space for conferences, seminars, workshops; conventions, weddings, receptions, banquets, concerts, recitals, opportunities are endless.

Rehabilitation is necessary (please see contractors assessments and bids Attachment A) to the sanctuary to convert into a theater, which previously held 450 to 500 parishioners, approximately the number of people that attend Ezibu Muntu's annual concerts. The theater and dance studio area, in addition to numerous offices and conference rooms will be available for rent to corporations, individuals desiring workable artistic or office space. Generation of additional revenues for the company assure Company sustainability within the community for generations to come.

LEIGH STREET EVENTS:

Seniors Activities at the Leigh Street Event Center:

- High Tea/ Quarterly: There will be a Spring, Summer, Winter and Fall High Tea and at each event there will be a "Best Hat" contest where the winner receives \$100.00

.

Cost \$10.00

- Bid Whist Club/Bridge Club (2): Seniors will meet in the band room for cards.

Membership Cost: \$60 a year.

- Annual Carnival: Funnel cakes, hot dogs and treats are served. Banquet Hall will transform into a place of games, food, mystery, music and prizes.
- Games of chance, some made from plywood, painted festive colors with number boards covered in felt will line the room. The games are:
 - Horse race - Participants sit at a 'track' a table marked with lanes. Each player receives a cardboard horse that advances with a roll of the dice.
 - The Wheel of Fortune - a color wheel where Participants pick a color and watch for the spinning wheel to bring them luck.

- Ring toss. Participants toss rings over tall painted bottles, decorated by the residents prior to the event, to secure a prize.

Ticket Price: \$15.00

- Oldies but Goodies Night: Cards, Dancing, Food and Big Band to 60's music.

Ticket Price: \$10.00

- Leigh Street Gospel Choir: A place to come together to sing praise

Cost: Member must purchase their robe or outfit

- Karaoke Ticket

Price \$10.00

- Chair Aerobics:

Cost \$5.00 per class

- Senior Aerobics:

Cost \$5.00 per class

- Senior Yoga:

Cost \$5.00 per class

- Leigh Street Book Club:

\$50.00 annual membership dues

- Senior Day Care: Sewing, knitting, sculpting, bridge, exercise, puzzles. Lunch served: Hours 9 – 5 Monday thru Friday.

\$100 for 20 Sessions

General Public Events - Leigh Street Event Center

- 2nd Saturday Jazz – local jazz artist will perform every second Saturday from 5 – 9

Ticket Price: \$20.00 dinner included.

- Annual New Year's Eve Costume Party to become the "go to" event for the next 100 years!!!

Ticket Price: \$75.00 per person dinner & champagne

- The Colors of Christmas Annual Concert hosted by The Virginia Black Music Foundation featuring Headline Artist TBD

Ticket Price: \$40.00 General Admission, \$25.00 Student/Seniors

- Kwanzaa Celebration 3rd Saturday in December -

Ticket Price: \$25.00 Music and Buffet Dinner open bar

- Lover's Brunch – February 14

Ticket Price: \$60.00 per person - Dinner and Champagne

- Ezibu Muntu Annual Concert – 3rd Saturday in June

Ticket Price: \$25.00

- Plays by Black Repertory Theater

Ticket Price: \$25.00

The Moth: Since 1999, The Moth Community Program has been teaching the craft of personal storytelling, providing people with the tools to share stories that dissolve stereotypes and bridge divides.

Cost: \$25.00

Classes & Programs:

Literacy classes

Cost: Free

- Modern/Ballet Classes

Cost: \$7.00 per class and \$100 for 20 class card

- Dancing with the Stars Classes

Cost: \$7.00 per class and \$100 for 20 class card

- Capoeira

Cost: \$7.00 per class and \$100 for 20 class card

- Drumming

Cost: \$7.00 per class and \$100 for 20 class card

Each class is an hour in duration

Rentable Space for events

1. Conferences
2. Seminars
3. Workshops
4. Receptions
5. Banquets
6. Concerts
7. Recitals
8. Weddings

Please call for Pricing

Youth Programs - Leigh Street Event Center

- Financial Literacy & Investor Classes

Cost: Free

- Cultural tours to Cuba and West Africa

Cost: \$3,500

- Workshops for Drumming and Dancing

Cost: 1 day \$20.00

2 day \$30.00

3 day \$40.00

- Gem of the First Waters (Character Education/Values Training)

The is a 6 month program design for behavior modification and values training

Class meets once a week for two hours on Saturday. Living Values, An Educational Program and "Gem of the First Water" are the materials used.

<http://www.livingvalues.net/>

<http://www.youthhealthusa.org/what-is-tsi.html>

Cost: \$100.00 for 20 weeks Age 7 - 12 Maximum group #: 20

- Storytelling
- Junior Plays
- Music Lessons (piano)
- Ballet
- Modern/Jazz “Dancing With the Stars”
- Hip Hop
- Capoeira (Brazilian Martial Arts)
- Drumming
- Beginning Drawing Technique

Cost: \$7 per class or \$100 for 20 classes

NOTE TO FUNDERS: Revenues generated from these programs have not been factored in the Profit Center Analysis. Money generated from these programs after cost will be given back to the community in forms of scholarships, Christmas Coat Campaigns, Thanksgiving Dinner, field trips, parties and other activities at no cost to the community.

Ezibu Muntu Youth Centered Programs:

At present, the centerpiece of Ezibu Muntu’s youth program is the Junior Dance Company, an ensemble of mostly pre-teen and teenage female dancers. There are teenage budding male drummers in the Junior Dance Company yet far too few to truly showcase their polyrhythmic potential in supporting a growing dance contingent, however Ezibu Muntu is dedicated to outreach to more males for drumming as well as dancing.

During this Kwanzaa season Ezibu Muntu recruited and featured three additional rookie drummers in their local and regional performances. The Junior Dance Company is well known for their premier performances throughout Richmond and the Mid-Atlantic region. They have been invited to perform at numerous impressive events and venues, and have been featured live on WTVR’s “Virginia This Morning”.

Piggybacking on this past year's events and performances, Ezibu Muntu will follow-up with youth drumming prospects to commence a free set of exploratory drum workshops in 2017. While both young boys and girls will be encouraged to participate, the Company will target male youth because they tend to not gravitate to such cultural programming as readily as their female counterparts. This program will employ cultural appreciation and performing arts training to attract their interest and advance their development. The goal of this initial outreach initiative is to test the viability of providing a safe haven for at-risk youth in our program, among positive adult male role models, where they can explore African heritage and culture, work in cooperative groups both musically and organizationally, and build lifelong skills and coping strategies.

Under the direction of music director Roderick Davis, on Saturdays, youth between the ages of 10 and 14 will learn percussion pieces and the historical context of such rhythms and dances from various African regions and people. The format is hands-on instruction through a combination of drumming and discussion. Mr. Davis is a teacher at Governor's Engineering Academy in Richmond and an adjunct instructor of African drumming and history at the University of Richmond; teaches Capoeira; and mentors underserved youth. Mr. Davis has been a member of Ezibu Muntu for 20 years.

In partnership with Mr. Davis, senior and elder drummers will operate as mentors to reinforce lessons learned by students including general principles of cultural humanity, such as unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith. Ezibu Muntu will offer its young drumming students diverse experiences to enhance their musical and life skills. The youth will learn the importance of self-discipline, civility and humility through practice sessions and will eventually gain performance experience, poise and community recognition.

The goal is to iterate and formalize the above workshop program after measuring the results and getting feedback from students and parents. The Company anticipates that, based on the program design and execution, many youth will want to learn how to drum and perform as well as mentor their younger prodigies. Ezibu Muntu plans to leverage the expertise and many contacts in the community to help build this program.

INTENT

Ezibu Muntu is committed to building on what has been a tremendous program for over 43 years. The Company's goal is fivefold: 1) to directly encourage participation of

children and youth; 2) to develop leadership skills and community appreciation in older youth. 3) to further enhance the Ezibu Muntu experience for all program participants. 4) establish a center where other art forms can grow, develop and flourish; 5) offer center space to:

- 1) Other Theater Groups
- 2) Musicians
- 3) Business Professionals
- 4) Groups for meetings, seminars, conferences, banquets and receptions
- 5) Corporate Conferencing



BUILDING SITE:

22 E. Leigh Street
Richmond, VA 23219 · 13,000 SF ·
\$630,000

Sharon Baptist Church
Price \$630,000 Property Use Type Vacant/Owner-User
Building Size 13,000 SF Commission Split 6%
Price/SF \$50 Lot Size 0.28 AC
Property Type Special Purpose APN / Parcel ID N0000080013
Property Sub-type Religious Facility
Last Updated: 05/13/2016
Description

PRICE RECENTLY REDUCED TO SELL! The previous price was \$850,000.00

Jackson Ward's largest historic buildings in an area on the cusp of redevelopment. This would make a great future home for a religious or community organization or be redeveloped into housing or mixed use as an R-63 corner lot has a multitude of permitted uses. Sale includes PID N0000080012 (602 N. 1st St.- Single story attached, 33.00x60.00, 1284sf).

The property is ready to be repurposed by a developer with a unique vision for this neighborhood bastion or utilized by a community of worship looking for a space. With over 13,000 sf, the building boasts a large atrium, cafeteria & kitchen, numerous classrooms and office space. The property has 50 Grandfathered parking spaces applicable to permitted uses and is ADA accessible.

Church is currently operating as such. Could be turn-key for like buyer.

Northwest corner of W. Leigh Street and N. 1st Street
Historic Jackson Ward

HIGHLIGHTS

State and Federal Historic Tax credit eligibility- Jackson Ward Historic District
Enterprise Zone III City of Richmond CARE area Zoned R-63 (corner lot) MLS Listing
1616113

Research

22 E. Leigh Street, Richmond, VA 23219 (Richmond City County)

Similar Listings

5711 Chamberlayne Rd. 5711 Chamberlayne Rd.

Richmond, VA 23227

For Sale · \$899,000

15,209 SF Building

Special Purpose (Other)

FINANCIAL LITERACY AND INVESTOR EDUCATION

Instructors at the Leigh Street Event Center will teach financial literacy and investor education to children, teens and adults utilizing the Ariel Financial Curriculum.

The After School Matters Program will be for two hours after school on Monday and Wednesday for children of middle school and high school age. Adult class will be taught on Friday Evening. The classes are free to participants.

The Leigh Street Business Team is committed to the Ariel Financial Curriculum program for the following reasons:

- Time for Americans, especially African Americans to take ownership regarding their future.
- 80 million working Americans have no pension fund or 401K.
- Social Security can no longer be viewed as a safety net as the average Social Security check is \$1,000, and Baby Boomers may make Social Security extinct.
- America is not saving enough. 45% of the population have less than \$25,000 upon retirement.
- Based on race, African American are doing 50% worse than white Americans financially, even with all things being equal in regards to education and career.
- Financial literacy and investor education is not being taught in schools.
- If Americans don't save and invest we will end in poverty upon retirement.

- It takes 1.1 million dollars in savings to retire comfortably with a \$50,000 income.
- The only place the average American can save that \$50,000 is in the Stock Market.
- Americans, especially African Americans know nothing about the stock market.
- Americans, especially African Americans need to be educated regarding retirement options and children's education funds.
- Currently white people don't have enough to retire and for African Americans it's even worse.
- The center will encourage every Corporation in Richmond to look at 401Ks by race and follow the example of the McDonald Corporation who encourages and informs their African American managers regarding the value of 401K investment.
- Without financial literacy and investor education the African American community will not thrive.
- Without financial literacy and investor education the American public will not thrive.

We would eventually like to become a training center for teachers in the Richmond School District to learn this curriculum.

Once established and our work validated, we will advocate for financial literacy and investor education to be added as part of the regular school curriculum within the Richmond School District.

We hope to have trained teachers for the District when the District is ready for implementation.

GRANTS RECEIVED BY EZIBU MUNTU AFRICAN DANCE COMPANY AND CULTURAL FOUNDATION

Richmond Arts and Cultural District Micro Grant Program, 2013 - Capital Improvement
 This capital improvement project consisted of prepping and painting the interior walls, ceiling, baseboards, trims and railings of the building's first and second floor.
 \$2,500 (maximum grant awarded)

Richmond Arts and Cultural District Micro Grant Program, 2014 - Capital Improvement

This capital improvement project is to repair and treat the flooring of the dance studio and common area.

\$2,500 (maximum grant awarded)

Richmond Arts and Cultural District Micro Grant Program, 2015 - Project Support

The purpose of this workshop was to instruct underserved youth participants in the art of making authentic African dunun and djembe drums, while concurrently providing education about traditional African culture, values and community.

\$1,000 (maximum grant awarded)

Richmond CultureWorks Grants Program, 2016 - Building Capabilities

This capabilities assessment project would identify information technology gaps covering a full range of systems from networks, antivirus/antimalware, file storage, donor management, other databases, our website, social media and other communications tools, and more.

\$1,500 (maximum grant awarded based on percentage of operating budget)

Moose Management Academy Program, 2015-2016 Participant Ezibu Muntu was selected by CultureWorks and received a scholarship to participate in a 12-month major gifts mentoring program for persons who have current responsibilities raising funds for nonprofit organizations in the Richmond, Virginia region. The Academy focuses only on the largest philanthropy pot: major gifts from individual persons – as opposed to corporations, foundations, and grassroots methods

EZIBU PERFORMANCE HISTORY

"If you have never seen Ezibu Muntu perform, you have missed out on all kinds of awesomeness! This group is amazing! I had the pleasure of watching the group perform tonight in Glen Allen. Former and current dancers "tore up the stage" in honor of the group's 40th anniversary. The musicians, the dancers, the costumes...fabulous! I can't wait for the next performance..."

[Karla Reddite NBC12, 6/2013]

Dance Company Collaborations:

Dance Africa Series "Brooklyn Academy of Music" (Washington, DC)
Latin Ballet of Virginia "AmorAmerica"
Melvin Deal's African Heritage Dancers & Drummers Annual Concert
Community

Juneteenth Celebration (Charlotte, NC)
Dogwood Dell Summer Series
Kwanzaa Kollektive
Virginia Commonwealth University
Hampden Sydney College
Children's Museum of Richmond
University of Richmond – Governor's School
Hanover Correctional Facility
Henrico Center for Arts
18th Street Detention Center
Day of Dance
African American Trailblazer Awards 2007 – Introduction of Maya Angelou
Queens Recreation Day (NYC)
Sister to Sister Conference: National Youth Sports Program
Ukrops Family Jubilee
Girl Scout Jamboree/Discovery Trail
Central State Hospital
Henrico Center for Arts
Virginia Union University
George Washington University
Longwood College
Mary Washington College
Jamaican Cultural Festival
Baydays Festival
2nd Street Festival
Film/Video

Sally Hemings Movie
Dave Matthews Band "Stay" Vide
JFK The Movie
Opening Act for Cheryl Lynn, Angela Bofield, Spike Lee

EZIBU IN THE NEWS

June 2013

"If you have never seen Ezibu Muntu perform, you have missed out on all kinds of awesomeness! This group is amazing! I had the pleasure of watching the group perform tonight in Glen Allen. Former and current dancers "tore up the stage" in honor of the group's 40th anniversary. The musicians, the dancers, the costumes...fabulous! I can't wait for the next performance..." Click to view pictures

[Karla Reddite NBC12, 6/2013]

"Ezibu Muntu Junior Ensemble on Virginia This Morning"

Click to view video

[WTVR Virginia this Morning, 6/2013]

June 2012

"Ezibu Muntu African Dance kicks off the Freedom Fest at Dogwood Dell in Richmond"[Richmond Times Dispatch, 6/2012]

View video

"Daughters of Ezibu perform on Virginia This Morning"[WVTR Virginia This Morning, 6/2012]

View video

May 2012

"Critic's Pick for Outstanding Dance Company in Richmond"[Style Weekly:Best of Richmond, 5/2012]

Read Full Article

June 2009

"A cultural experience" [Richmond Magazine, 6/2009]

Read full article

March 2009

"The Dance Company, which has been celebrating African dance and tradition since 1973, according to Allen, taught the audience several dance moves and encouraged them to dance and sing along to Funga Alafia Ashay Ashay, an African song of welcoming through hearts, words and happy thoughts." [Virginia Guard, 6/04/2009]
[Read full article](#)

February 2009

"The Ezibu Muntu African Dance Co. had its audience—from toddlers to grandparents—on their feet, clapping and swaying to an upbeat tempo yesterday at the Children's Museum of Richmond. The performance was part of Black History Month, and about 10 dancers captured the beat and moves of their ancestors and taught their audience about the world's second-largest continent." [Richmond Times Dispatch, 2/15/2009]
[Read full article](#)

April 2008

VCU Intercultural Festival Gets Musical

"Ezibu Muntu gave an informative performance on traditional West-African dance. Donning attire as vibrant as their dance, the performers put on a 40-minute, high-energy show, while the speaker informed the crowd of the dances' histories and purposes. Emphasizing joy, peace and becoming a part of the community, Ezibu Muntu encouraged audience participation, and even though only a few braved the dance floor, the turnout for this impressive group was substantial." [The Commonwealth Times 4/14/08]
[Read full article](#)

November 2007

"The evening opened with a riveting performance by Ezibu Muntu and its accompanying quartet of blazingly fast drummers. The dancers didn't stop moving from the second they walked on stage, to when solos were being performed by dancer to dancer, and drummer to drummer." [For Africa Benefit, 11/2007]

June 2004

"A village festival was evoked in "Econne-Conne" and "Lengen," as danced by the Ezibu Muntu African Dance Company, founded at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond. People swept the space to prepare it for dancing and then gathered in it, jumping happily and kicking with glee." [New York Times 06/01/2004]

[Read full article](#)

November 2004

"Richmond's first African dance company has been hard at work for more than 30 years. In 1973, Tanya Dennis, who was teaching dance at VCU, decided to create a student organization dedicated to African dance to help black students find a sense of pride." [Style Weekly, 11/3/2004]

[Read full article](#)

April 1985

African dancers interpret the traditional African dances based on the African customs and culture." [The Collegian 4/11/198

JACKSON WARD

Jackson Ward is a historically African-American neighborhood in Richmond, Virginia, United States. It is located less than a mile from the Virginia State Capitol. It sits to the west of Court End and north of Broad Street. It was listed as a National Historic Landmark District in 1978.^[4] "Jackson Ward" was originally the name of the area's political district within the city, or ward, from 1871 to 1905, yet has remained in use long after losing its original meaning.

After the American Civil War, previously free blacks joined freed slaves and their descendants and created a thriving African-American business community, and became known as the "Black Wall Street of America." Leaders included such influential people as John Mitchell, Jr., editor of the Richmond Planet, an African American newspaper, and Maggie L. Walker. Ms. Walker was the first woman to charter and serve as president of an American bank, all the more remarkable an accomplishment as she was both African-American and was mobility-impaired. The Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site at her former

Jackson Ward home is operated by the National Park Service. The house was designated a National Historic Site in 1978 and was opened as a museum in 1985.

As a center for both black commerce and entertainment, Jackson Ward was also called the "Harlem of the South". Venues along "The Deuce " (2nd Street) such as the Hippodrome Theater were frequented by the likes of Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald, Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, Lena Horne, Cab Calloway, Billie Holiday, Nat King Cole , James Brown and other Chitlin' circuit performers. Today, a statue of Robinson dancing on a staircase is at the center of the neighborhood at the intersection of Chamberlayne Parkway and West Leigh Street.

Other notable residents included Bishop F. M. Whittle, Addolph Dill and Max Robinson and brother Randall Robinson.

Ironically, after desegregation, as black Virginians became more widely integrated into Richmond's other business and residential areas, Jackson Ward's role as a center of black commerce and entertainment declined. In addition, during the construction of the Richmond-Petersburg The district was central to the Civil Rights movement in Richmond.^[5] It housed the law practice of Oliver Hill and Spottswood William Robinson III, the plaintiff attorneys in *Davis v. County School Board of Prince Edward County*, one of the cases that was part of the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*, which declared segregation in public schools as unconstitutional, and later attorneys Samuel Wilbert Tucker and Henry L. Marsh^[5] Turnpike (today Interstate 95) in the 1950s, Jackson Ward was split in two, much to the detriment of the neighborhood. Like most older urban neighborhoods of a similar era, the housing stock of Jackson Ward deteriorated as absentee landlords took over from single-family households.

Toward the end of the 20th century, investment in the housing stock increased. The National Park Service assisted in the process by restoration of the Maggie L. Walker house and the listing of the neighborhood on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976 and as a National Historic Landmark District in 1978. Subsequently, the neighborhood became a Richmond Old and historic district. In the 1980s, historic tax credits by the federal government aided the restoration of dozens of houses on Leigh, Marshall and Clay Streets.

City officials hoped that construction of the Greater Richmond Convention Center and Visitors Bureau at the eastern edge of Jackson Ward would bring renewed vitality to the neighborhood. However, the construction of the convention center destroyed a number of historic houses, and separated it from much of downtown. Vacant and substandard houses in the neighborhood have been targeted in Richmond's Neighborhoods in Bloom program. In some areas, the progress of renovation has been slow, most notably with the First Virginia Volunteers Battalion Armory, best known as the Leigh Street Armory. In the mid-1980s, the Richmond School Board leased the armory building to the Black

History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia, and the museum is expected to open in the armory in 2015.

Some Richmond residents have bought houses in Jackson Ward to renovate and restore in order to live in an historic area and revive the cultural character of the neighborhood. Each first Friday of the month, First Fridays Artwalk is held at night on Broad Street. Art Galleries open their doors to an outdoor party that includes live music, including Jazz and Salsa. Local restaurants, bars and a coffee shops serve customers who come to the First Fridays Art Walk.

The earliest houses of Jackson Ward were a series of small cottages built in the Federal style. By the later 1830s up until the Civil War, the Greek Revival style was prominent, which represents a major part of Richmond's pre-war architectural heritage. And then beginning in the 1850s the Italianate styles. A major part of the district's visual appeal and charm derived from the contrast between the two ornamental and austere characteristics of the two styles.^[7]

Early on, the neighborhood held a mix of German, Jewish, English and African American residents. In fact, St Mary's German Catholic Church was built on Marshall St to serve the growing German Catholic immigrant community that had moved into the greater Richmond community from about 1850 to through the 1880s.

The center of the neighborhood is dominated by the former Armstrong High School, now the Richmond Public Schools Adult Career Development Center. Armstrong's sports field is now Abner Clay Park, which has a bandstand, football field, basketball court and tennis facilities.

Notable historic churches in Jackson Ward include the Third Street Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Hood Temple African Methodist Episcopal Church, Ebenezer Baptist Church and Sixth Mount Zion Baptist Church. Sixth Mount Zion is known as the home of African-American evangelist John Jasper, whose famous "Sun Do Move" sermon brought him fame.

The Leigh Street Armory has now being revitalized and will be the future home of the Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia, which was previously located at 100 Clay Street in Jackson Ward.

THEATERS IN THE RICHMOND VA AREA

Richmond's creativity shines on the stage. [Coalition Theater](#) hosts live comedy shows, including our very own satirical late night show, RVA Tonight, and classes. The Richmond Triangle Players, an LGBT troupe, produces experimental shows. The [Virginia Repertory Theater](#) creates professional productions of classic comedies, dramas and musicals for adults and special children's performances. [The Cultural Arts](#)

Center at Glen Allen features art exhibitions, concerts, plays and musicals, modern and classic dance performances, the Latin Ballet of Virginia and much more. The Henrico Theater hosts musical and theatrical performances in a landmark Art Deco building. You can catch performances of touring Broadway shows, the Virginia Opera, the Richmond Symphony Orchestra, Richmond Ballet and more at Richmond Center Stage locations including the historic Carpenter Theatre and iconic Altria Theater.

EZIBU MUNTU THEATRE PROPOSAL

By Artistic Director Nancy Nelson-Ewing

Having had an extensive successful professional show business career in New York City on Broadway, Off-Broadway, Television, Voice Overs, etc, it has afforded me a wealth of knowledge. One such gem of that experience is knowing that having unity of thought to inform clarity of vision leads to a successful and satisfying outcome.

Here is one way, I propose, to achieve that unity of thought: Through a consultative process, with Artistic Director, Executive Director and selected artists, the Ezibu Muntu Theater department will always take into accounts its mission statement, stakeholders and surrounding residents as a way to inform what production will be offered. It will uphold the most professional quality of excellence from pre production to the final curtain call, as its trademark.

A themed based season of well crafted and artistically engaging stage plays and presentations with social and cultural relevancy at its core, will help to guide the

selected projects for a season, always including at least one original written work by an Ezibu Muntu student.

Seeking new and innovative writers, director and actors as well as seasoned, noteworthy and accomplished professionals working together to ensure the most compelling and unique theatrical experience for its audience.

As part of a unifying theater educational experience, Ezibu Muntu will be an all encompassing theatrical learning institution. Our student will learn set design and building, lighting, sound and costumes. From history to state of the art information. For our productions, we will be able to utilize the skills of our students. These skills will offer them opportunity in the job market for the many theatrical, film and television occupations available, not just in front of the camera, behind the scenes as well.

We will look to incorporated our theater students in as many functions of each theater production as possible by offering classes in acting, movement, voice, playwriting. One of our goals will be to produce the works of our students who participate in our writing and acting classes.

We seek to be a culturally conscious, thought provoking, inspiring, innovative and supremely entertaining theatrical entity that will identify Ezibu Muntu as a jewel in the heart of Richmond's Black Cultural center.

On behalf of the Executive Director, Board, Members and Volunteers of Ezibu Muntu, we would like to thank **you** for considering this grant request. Your funding will enable us to build new capabilities so we can affect positive change in the Richmond region and beyond through the resources of cultural arts, financial literacy and a facility that accommodates the needs of Richmond's business and social community.



FUTURE HOME OF EZIBU MUNTU AFRICAN DANCE COMPANY AND CULTURAL FOUNDATION AND THE LEIGH STREET EVENT CENTER FOR THE COMMUNITY

