

#### SPOKEN WORD DANCE CHILDREN'S TALES SOCIAL HACKATHON













#### VIRTUAL EVENTS

SATURDAY, JUNE 26TH 10:00am to 12:30pm PST

### SOCIAL HACKATHON SUNDAY HINE 27TH

SUNDAY, JUNE 27TH 2:00pm to 4:30pm PST

FOR PROGRAM DETAILS & TICKETS GOTO

www.AWOCENTER.org

#### **AWO**

in association with the County of Santa Clara

Presents

THE FIRST ANNUAL



# Our Community. Our Story.

JUNE 26-27, 2021 www.awocenter.org

### WELCOME to the inaugural HUEmankind Fest 2021!

To celebrate and promote Juneteenth, *HUEman* kinship and kindness in the diverse communities of Los Gatos and Santa Clara County, AWO is pleased to present on June 26 and June 27 our inaugural **HUEmankind Fest**, a two-day groundbreaking festival bringing together unheard voices from local communities to unpack the different shades of our shared *HUEmanity*.

This year's festival theme, *Our Community. Our Story.*, features a rich tapestry of African American, Asian American, African, and immigrant storytelling artists, an African traditions workshop, a digital stories mosaic featuring diverse Los Gatos and Santa Clara County residents, as well as an interactive social justice hackathon to explore the profound disconnects resulting from the historical slave trade and African migrations, and how all the different shades of *HUEmanity* can help bridge these disconnects.

#### WHY THIS FESTIVAL NOW

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the one year anniversary of George Floyd's death and the historical significance of Juneteenth for all people, AWO's first HUEmankind Fest proposes a transformation of the Black experience - from being disconnected to re-connected by unpacking the many shades of black identity in our world today.

Through storytelling, interactive dialogues, and collective problem solving, AWO brings people together across color, class and culture to dismantle inaccurate stories and re-imagine through kindness and *HUEman* kinship more equitable collective narratives and social systems. By learning from the experiences and stories of African-Americans, African nationals and immigrants representing diverse cultures residing in the Bay Area, we can work towards achieving more color-full perspectives in American society.

We invite all members of our diverse Bay Area communities to hear the unheard stories of our neighbors, especially those who are African-American, refugees and immigrants of color. Join us to help complete the whole story of our *HUEmanity*.

Welcome everyone and thank you for joining us!

**Folake Philips** 

Founder & Executive Director AWO: Skin. Color. Race.

#### **Festival**

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MARISA THOMPSON



#### Festival At A Glance

#### Saturday, June 26, 2021 | 10:00 am - 12:30 pm (PST)

The festival will kick off with Main Stage performances entitled, **Our Darker Hues**. We will explore the everyday disconnects experienced by black, immigrants and people of color through *African Dance Artist* **Antoine Hunter**, *Vietnamese-American Spoken Word Artist* **Viet Mai**, *African-American Poet* **Richard Ezeagwu Akinyem**i, *Muslim Poet* **Sabina Khan-Ibarra**, *Spoken Word Artist* **Tyson Amir**, *Festival Speaker* **Dr. Natoschia Scruggs**, and additional ethnic/immigrant performing artists. Following the Main Stage performances and a brief intermission, festival attendees are invited to bring their children and families to an online Traditions Workshop: The Stories of Our Origins featuring *Nigerian Naming Ceremony Storyteller* **Obafeyikemi Luther**, *African Children's Tales Storyteller* **Tamkara Adun**, *Vietnamese American Writer* **Quyenzi Dang Pham** and *African Folklore Dancer* **Funmi Oloyede.** Using a children's tales format to educate, enlighten and entertain all families attending the festival, we will embrace our *HUEman* kinship and ancestry through ancient ritual, folklore and movement.

#### **Sunday, June 27, 2021 | 2:00 pm - 4:30 pm (PST)**

The festival will culminate in an interactive online Social Justice Hackathon, **Transforming the Black Experience**, where we will first unveil the results of AWO's *Stories Gathering Campaign* through a virtual stories mosaic featuring several residents from Los Gatos and Santa Clara County communities, and then facilitate in real-time a social justice hackathon where festival attendees can share their stories and hackathon team members begin prototyping collective solutions for *Microaggressions in American Society*, with the proposed solutions evaluated by three guest judges, followed by a Q&A Session for festival attendees.

#### June 26 Day 1 Schedule

10:00 AM - 10:07 AM (7 minutes)

Welcome & Opening Remarks

10:07 AM - 11:17 AM (70 minutes)

Featured Performances with Q & A

11:17 AM - 11:27 AM (10 minutes)

Intermission

11:27 AM - 12:25 PM (58 minutes)

Featured Performances with O & A

12:25 PM - 12:30 PM (5 minutes)

Closing Remarks

#### June 27 Day 2 Schedule

2:00 PM - 2:10 PM (10 minutes)

Welcome & Opening Remarks

2:10 PM - 2:20 PM (10 minutes)

A Virtual Mosaic of Stories

2:20 PM - 2:25 PM (5 minutes)

Presentation of The Social Challenge

2:25 PM - 3:15 PM (40 minutes)

Breakout Session 1 | Short Films Main Stage 1

3:15 PM - 3:20 PM (5 minutes)

Intermission

3:20 PM - 4:00 PM (40 minutes)

Breakout Session 2 | Short Films Main Stage 2

3:50 PM - 4:25 PM (35 minutes)

Presentation Of Results, Judging, Q & A

4:25 PM - 4:30 PM (5 minutes)

Closing Remarks

#### June 26, 2021 Program | 10:00 AM PST

Welcome Remarks Folake Phillips, Founder & Executive Director, AWO

Opening Remarks Supervisor Otto Lee, County of Santa Clara

Storytelling Performance Series with Q & A:

Dancer: Antoine Hunter

Title: "Spirit That Dance With Me"

Date Created: May 2021 Location: Albany, CA Running Time: 8:45 minutes

Poet: Viet Mai

Title: "Problem Solving: Math Poem for Social Justice"

Date Created: 2016

Location: San Diego, CA Running Time: 2:38 minutes

Description: Spoken word poet Viet Mai describes teaching math through the lens of

social justice and problem solving.

Poet: Richard Ezeagu Akinyemi

Title: It's In Your DNA! Date: November 2013.

Location: Sands of Badagry Slave Route Point of No Return Lagos Nigeria

Running Time: 1:30 minutes

Description: A highly inspirational poem that encourages us all to reject the lies that

have beset us all our lives and to wipe the mirror to see and embrace the

greatness in our DNA.

Poet: Sabina Khan-Ibarra

Title: "What I Will Tell My Daughter: A Story on Americanness and Belonging"

Date Created: October 30, 2020 (published)

Location: Half Moon Bay, CA

Running Time: 5:30 minutes

Poet: **Tyson Amir** 

Title: "Revolutionary Change"

Date Created: June 26, 2021 Location: San Jose, CA Running Time: 7:00 minutes

Description: Spoken Word Poet will share his words about the need for revolutionary

change.

Speak(er): **Dr. Natoschia Scruggs** 

Title: "...and [SOCIAL] justice for all: United for Social Justice"

Date Created: June 20, 2021

Location: Washington, DC, USA

Running Time: 10:00 minutes

#### **INTERMISSION**

Storyteller 1: **Obafeyikemi Luther** 

Title: "Traditional Yoruba Naming Ceremony: Power of A Name"

Date Created: June 19, 2021 Location: Lagos, Nigeria Running Time: 7:00 mins

Description: Obafeyikemi shares a special Yoruba traditional naming ceremony which

has been recorded for this festival from Lagos, Nigeria.

Storyteller 2: **Tamkara Adun**Title of Story: "Tales Of A Lioness"

Date Created: June 2021 Located: Doha, Qatar Running time: 15:00 minutes

Description: Funmilayo Ransome-Kuti showed strength and kindness in her

community. She spoke out against harmful governmental policies despite great danger to her life and she was able to achieve positive outcomes for the women in her community. Her bravery, strength of will, and voice

continue to inspire today.

Storyteller 3: **Quyenzi Dang Pham** Title: Letter to Lotus Flower

Date Created: May 2021

Location: Los Angeles, CA Running time: 6:04 minutes

Description: Vietnamese American daughter pays tribute to her mother through

storytelling, flashbacks and a photo collage of AAPI sons, daughters and their mothers to raise awareness to stop Asian hate crimes and support

AAPI nonprofit organizations.

Storyteller 4: **Olufunmilayo Oloyede** 

Title: \*ÀRÀ\* : A fusion of songs, dance and oríkì (chant)

Date Created: June 10th, 2021 Location: Lagos, Nigeria. Running Time: 10:00 minutes

Description: The word Arà means astonishing wonders, sometimes used when we can't

unravel the manifold wonders of GOD. The song was written at a season of my life when it looked so bleak I thought there'd be no way out. In the South-Western part of Nigeria, popularly called Yoruba land, we find joy

and ecstasy in singing, dancing, storytelling and chanting (Oríki).

Closing Remarks Folake Phillips, Founder & Executive Director, AWO

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\*or autographed Warriors merchandise by **Stephen Curry or Klay Thompson** 

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- Emmanuel Baptist Church
- Gilroy High School
- Valley Specialty Center
- Mountain View **Community Center**

If you've been vaccinated, you can still enter by bringing proof of vaccination and an unvaccinated friend to any of the above County vaccination sites.

New winners will be announced every Wednesday at 2pm on Instagram Live at



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#### Festival Cast & Crew

#### **Co-Hosts**

Edidiong Obot, *Environmental Scientist*, City of Houston Alexis MacNab, *Director & Curator*, Alexis Macnab Projects

#### **Festival Performers**

Tamkara Adun, Storyteller
Richard EzeAgu Akinyemi, Poet
Tyson Amir, Spoken Word Artist
Antoine Hunter, Dancer
Sabina Khan-Ibarra, Poet
Obafeyikemi Luther, Storyteller
Viet Mai, Spoken Word Artist
Funmi Oloyede, Dancer
Quyenzi Dang Pham, Poet

Dr. Natoschia Scruggs, Festival Speaker

#### **Production Crew**

Lyndale James, Virtual Production Director & Designer Alexis Macnab, Virtual Stage Manager



#### **About The Artists**



#### Tamkara Adun

Tamkara Adun is the Founder of Odúnìfé African language & History school, an online educational platform that connects learners of various African languages with qualified tutors on the continent. The school promotes the decolonization of language and reconnection to indigenous mother tongues by facilitating linguistic and cultural exchange across borders. We teach over 15 indigenous African languages. Tamkara has delivered workshops on Language, Cultural awareness, Diversity & inclusivity for various organizations. She is the author of the Children's book "Osasu & the Great Wall of the Benin Empire"



#### Richard EzeAgu Akinyemi

Richard EzeAgu Akinyemi has worked as a Financial Adviser and Investment Specialist for two Fortune 100 Firms for 14 years. He sat for and obtained the US SEC (Securities and Exchange Commission) licenses Series 6, 7, 24, 63 and 65. He also served as the Chapter Chair for SCORE – Service Corps of Resource Executives, a small business counseling service organized under the US Small Business Administration (SBA) and is a Board member at the Montgomery County Building Authority in Montgomery, Alabama.



#### **Tyson Amir**

Tyson Amir is an author, musician, educator, community organizer, and freedom fighter born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area. Tyson is the author of the books Black Boy Poems, the Black Boy Poems Curriculum and the founder/director of the Black Literary Collective and the revolutionary education firm Freedom Soul Media Education Initiatives. You can find out more about Tyson Amir at:

www.tysonamir.com and www.fsmei.org



#### **Antoine Hunter**

Bay Area native Antoine Hunter, also known as Purple Fire Crow, is an award-winning African-American, Indigenous, Deaf, Disabled choreographer, dancer, actor, instructor, speaker, Producer and Deaf advocate. He founded the Urban Jazz Dance Company and Bay Area International Deaf Dance Festival. Antoine has received the Jeanette Lomujo Bremond Award for Humanity, Isadora Duncan for Bay Area International Deaf Dance Festival, and SF King of Carnaval. Hunter serves on the boards of Dance/USA, BABDA and councils for CalArts Alumnx and Intrinsic Arts. <a href="https://www.RealUrbanJazzDance.com">www.RealUrbanJazzDance.com</a>



#### Sabina Khan-Ibarra

Sabina Khan-Ibarra is a writer, poet and an educator. She is a recent San Francisco State University Graduate with an MFA in Creative Writing, where she now teaches Creative Writing. She is currently working on her novel, The Poppy Flower and poetry chapbook, Crossing Oceans. She currently resides in Northern California with her husband and two children.



#### **Obafeyikemi Luther**

Obafeyikemi Luther is a Lifestyle Entrepreneur. Obafeyikemi started her career as an Event designer and manager and after a while felt her soul calling was in a hugely different space. She traded in the corporate world for her true purpose - highlighting social issues affecting women that often go undiscussed, creating a safe space for honest discussion and change and has never looked back. Whether she is cooking, hosting, connecting or designing, her messages are always true, always from the heart and always from real life experiences. Obafeyikemi lives between Lagos, Nigeria and London, England.



#### Viet Mai

Mr. Viet is a Social Innovation Strategist who helps groups build peace and design impact through culture and conversation. In addition, he is an independent educator and spoken word artist, Program Facilitator with the Village of Promise Collective Mentoring Program, Co-Founder of Vincii, Inc., Creator of The Likehearted Method, and a RISE San Diego Urban Leadership Fellow. For more info: <a href="https://www.vietmai.com">www.vietmai.com</a>.



#### **Funmi Oloyede**

Olufunmilayo Oloyede is the founder of Passion and Praise, an international music ministry with the mandate to rekindle true worship in the body of Christ. A trained computer scientist turned a Fashion Entrepreneur, she is a Creative Director with ERI.NOLA COUTURE, an outfit set to clothe her clients with glamour. Known as Funmi, she is a Music Minister and Lead Worship Coach who's versatile in traditional African Genre of music. She's also an author, leader, consultant and speaker both at local and international conferences.



#### **Quyenzi Dang Pham**

Quyenzi and her family came to America as refugees after the Vietnam War. She spent most of her summers as a child in the library; as a result, she developed a deep love for books and storytelling. Ms. Pham has been writing short stories, poetry, and tributes since she was a teenager. She is currently working on a novel and TV series to change the narrative of The Model Minority Myth and pay tribute to her own unique Vietnamese American experience. Ms. Pham is active in supporting many non-profits to empower marginalized communities and empower women.



#### Dr. Natoschia Scruggs

Dr. Natoschia Scruggs is an Assistant Professor of Global Studies at Providence College (Rhode Island). Over the years she has held positions in academia, at NGOs, and in government, including having served as principal advisor on research to Ambassador Susan Rice, Ambassador Samantha Power, and Ambassador Nikki Haley at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations. A member of Phi Beta Kappa, she has a PhD in African Diaspora Studies with a focus on global migration and emphasis on women, gender and sexuality from the University of California, Berkeley and was a Ford Foundation Fellow,

Rotary Ambassadorial Fellow, and Fulbright Scholar.



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#### About The Co-Hosts



#### Alexis Macnab

Alexis Macnab is an artist and educator with a background in physical theater, contemporary dance, and puppetry. Macnab also produces and directs multi-media interactive installations, bringing together artists across discipline to explore a theme, and site-responsive performance which has been produced in Chicago, New York, and Los Angeles. Macnab teaches movement, performance techniques, and directing, served as Assistant Professor of Theater Arts & Dance at Sonoma University, and taught at The California Institute of the Arts, The New

York Film Academy, California State University Long Beach, and Oberlin College.



#### **Edidiong Obot**

Edidiong Obot is a first generation Nigerian–American with strong cultural ties that impact her community and influences cultural awareness. Edidiong is an internationally recognized speaker who has spoken on various platforms including South Africa's Dream Academy Leadership Summit where her talks range from grassroots organizing to empowerment and leadership. Edidiong was recently recognized in the 2021 African-American Marketing Association's 50+ Black Market on the Rise in Influencers and Media Innovators Category. In addition, she was honored as being amongst the Top Rising Africans Star Award Under 40 by the Young African Professionals. Edidiong is

an alumna of Texas Southern University where she obtained a Bachelor's of Science in Chemistry and a Master's of Science in Environmental Toxicology.





#### **About The Production Team**



#### **Lyndale James**

Virtual Production Director & Designer

Lyndale is an Event Production Specialist with over 20 years experience in meticulously crafting events ranging from intimate concerts to large scale national and regional festivals. Lyndale's combination of technical and analytical knowledge, tried and tested methods and passion for cultural and creative development ensures that his clients receive comprehensive, customised and innovative service. Lyndale is the founder and Managing Director at Oaktreez Inc,

and in this capacity, spearheads the company's endeavours. He is qualified in Management, IT & Communications, Arts & Cultural Enterprise Management and is a member of the World Fixer global network as an events producer.

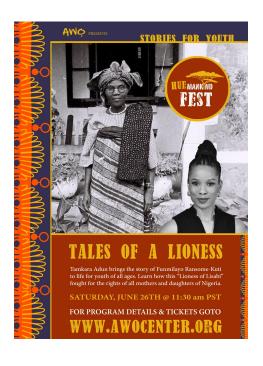


#### Alexis McNabe

Virtual Stage Manager

Alexis Macnab is an artist and educator with a background in physical theater, contemporary dance, and puppetry. Macnab also produces and directs multi-media interactive installations, bringing together artists across discipline to explore a theme, and site-responsive performance which has been produced in Chicago, New York, and Los Angeles. Macnab teaches movement, performance techniques, and directing, served as Assistant Professor

of Theater Arts & Dance at Sonoma University, and taught at The California Institute of the Arts, The NY Film Academy, California State University Long Beach, and Oberlin College.





#### About Us

#### **HUEmankind Fest**

When the stories of individuals or groups are incomplete, our narratives of *HUEmanity* become inaccurate, recycling many social inequalities. AWO's programs spotlight, educate, and galvanize people to express their unheard stories so that more inclusivity and representation becomes the new collective narrative and social norm within local communities.

Re-affirming our oneness and shared *HUEmanity*, AWO's **HUEmankind Fest** connects people from many diverse backgrounds through interactive celebrations featuring black, indigenous, and ethnic performing arts, as well as, workshops and social hackathons that invite Los Gatos and Santa Clara County parents, families and youth to experience self-understanding and community kinship across color, class and culture.

The **HUEmankind Fest** is also an annual celebration of AWO's year round programs, featuring and highlighting interactive social engagements that build collective tolerance, inclusion, and representation through pluralistic perspectives and cross-cultural experiences. Spotlighting the local trends emerging from our programs throughout the year, AWO's small group conversations through salons, forums, webinars, and workshops is now growing into larger collective conversations seeking global understanding and greater systemic social change.

#### AWQ: Skin. Color. Race.

AWO, producer of **HUEmankind Fest**, is a nonprofit organization that collects, unpacks and distributes the unheard stories of people based on their skin color in order to change existing social narratives people have about themselves and their local communities so that more inclusion and more representation can take root in schools, neighborhoods, workplaces and institutions. Throughout the year, AWO also offers inspiring programs and community workshops that bring people together across

racial, cultural and economic divides to unpack and share a vast array of different human experiences, as well as, create new opportunities for collective upward mobility. AWQ was founded in 2020 by African immigrant Folake Phillips, a Yoruba princess from Osun State in Nigeria, in response to the death of George Floyd and the national street protests that erupted for Black Lives Matter in the midst of the US COVID-19 pandemic. AWQ is the word for *skin* and also *color* in the Yoruba language of Nigeria.

#### **MISSION**

We unpack the different shades of Huemanity for a more inclusive and representative world.

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Tumi Ajibola, *Board Chair* Kelly Phillips, *Board Member* 

#### **STAFF**

Folake Phillips, Founder & Executive Director Yafonne Chen, Development Director

#### **ADVISORS**

André V. Chapman, Founder & CEO, Unity Care Chike C. Nwoffiah, Founder & Executive Director, Silicon Valley African Film Festival & Creative Ambassador, City of San Jose Walter Wilson, CEO, Silicon Valley Minority Business Consortium

#### **CONTACT US**

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