

MAY 2023 ISSUE | VOLUME 5 | U.S. \$3.50

C.O.B.S

CIRCLE OF
Boss SISTERS
DIGITAL COPY

KING'S COURT

ROBERT E. CORNEGY JR.
Founder of 610 Collective LLC.

ARTIST'S CORNER

NICOLE GIBSON
CEO/Founder of Nikkey
Creative LLC.

TECH TALK

DAWN NICOLE MCILWAIN
Co-Founder and CDO of
Skilldora

FASHION CORNER

TWANA MOORE
Owner of Personally She

WOMEN INNOVATORS

CYNTHIA WILLIAMS
Founder of Love from Afar and P.A.D.D.
(Parents Against Distracted Driving)

SPECIAL EDITION

CELEBRATING THE QUEENS
OF C.O.B.S MAGAZINE

BROOKLYN'S FINEST

Amira-Dior
Traynham-Artis
CEO/FOUNDER OF LANE 1 FOOTWEAR

FROM THE OFFICE
OF THE EDITOR AND CHIEF

HAPPY 2ND ANNIVERSARY C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE

DR. TREVI BOOKER PERSHAY



THE JOURNEY OF C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

First and foremost, I like to give God the praise and honor for blessing me with this incredible gift to write, inspire, create, and uplift women who are seriously on the rise to greatness. Before C.O.B.S. Magazine was birthed, we used to be called Women on the Rise (W.O.T.R). The subtitle was -The Plan, The Purpose, and The Pursuit Women's Conference. W.O.T.R - was geared to be an empowerment platform where I would invite C.E.O.s to inspire and motivate women to jump-start their businesses via Zoom. It was a lot of fun and an informational conference. I then decided to take W.O.T.R conference to different states; therefore, we changed the name because the assignment was different. We called it Grown Women Chronicles, where women can express their hurt as a way of healing. We would offer tissues, hugs, sisterhood, food, makeovers, and fitness classes. One day, as I was on Facebook preparing for my next seminar, I saw that there were so many women's conferences being offered, and we all shared the same audience. It was conference overload, and I had to get out of the barrel - don't get me wrong, there is room for all of us. I just wanted my room to look a little different from others. I have always been one of those individuals who think outside the box and have a problem with blending. The only thing I like to blend is my make-up. I was still trying to figure out what I should offer to black women; therefore, I went into prayer and put things on hold.

BACK TO THE FUTURE:

Over 30 years ago, I worked for magazines called Runner's World Magazine and Hearst Magazine (Cosmopolitan, Harper's Bazaar, and Good Housekeeping -to name a few of the publications). My destination was Working Mother Magazine. I was hired as an Executive Assistant for the sales team. I supported two heavy hitters' women, the C.E.O/Editor & Chief, and the Advertising Director. I learned a lot about what stories they wanted to share with their readers, demographics, sales, brainstorming sessions, and how to help other women beat all odds through some of the workshops they offered. However, I then moved from the front office to the back office, called the magazine production area. There I learned magazine layout, four primary colors in print, and digital designs, met with the editorial team weekly, worked with advertising agencies such as Proctor & Gamble, Colgate, Mars, etc. I was promoted to traffic manager for Working Mother Magazine. A year later, someone quit their position, and I was given that role to become the Production Manager for Success Magazine. I was the first black women manager for (a white male magazine). After spending ten years at Working Mother/Success Magazine, the market was hit hard in 1986, and I had no job. No one was hiring, and I had to become an Executive Assistant again. This time I went into investment banking. Investment banks were not interested in hiring me because of the magazine business of glamour (their definition). To build my platform, I had to temp for five years before I could land a permanent job and help provide for my family.

If God had told me 40 years ago that I would own my magazine (pauses), I would have been petrified, and out of fear, I would have talked myself out of it because I would not believe I could do something great like that. At the age of 60, I no longer put limitations on the possibilities of what God can do through my generation. I am just grateful that I get to live out whatever God has planned for me to the fullest. Live, Learn, and Love.

Dr. Trevi Pershay

Dr. Trevi Booker Pershay

C.O.B.S.
CIRCLE OF
Boss SISTERS

CELEBRATING 2ND ANNIVERSARY WITH C.O.B.S. WE'RE JUST GETTING STARTED



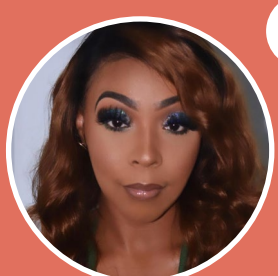
MEET THE C.O.B.S. TEAM



Trevi Booker Pershay - Editor-N-Chief
Trevi Booker Pershay is Editor-N- Chief and Founder of C.O.B.S. – Circle of Boss Sisters. Trevi wears many hats she is CEO & Founder of PDM Performing Arts Corp., Trevi Pershay Productions Inc, PDM Productions LLC and she is author of the book “A Different Type of Church Girl – The Battle of the Calling on Amazon. Trevi is also Senior Pastor of Restoration, Hope and Deliverance Center, mentor, dance teacher and she is known as Tyler Perry of the Hood and the Purpose Pusher.
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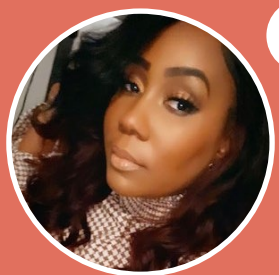
**Tinika Thomas
Co-Editor-N-Chief/Beauty Editor**
Tinika Thomas is CEO & Founder of Shay Beauty Consultants, she currently is Vice President on the Board of Directors for Trevi Pershay Productions, PDM Performing Arts as well as business advisor/manager to Trevi Booker Pershay. Tinika juggles many hats, she is a mom, soon to be wife, make-up designer and enjoys being with her 3-year-old grandson Cam.
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Arielle Pershay - Fitness Editor
Arielle Pershay wears many hats, she is CEO & Founder of Astar Dance Movement – which she choreography dances for weddings parties, dance competitions, music videos, and private parties. Arielle is the Artistic Director of PDM Performing Arts as well as a Music writer for Trevi Pershay Productions theater and movies soundtrack.
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Adonis Richards - Entertainment Editor
Adonis Richards is a writer, author, and poet from Schenectady New York. He has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and a Master of Arts in Education technology from SUNY Potsdam. After graduating from Potsdam in 2019, Adonis has dedicated his life and career work to education, community, and writing.
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Rodnisha “Nisha” Pershay - Hair Editor
Nisha Pershay specializes in taking care of weaves; therefore, you will have them for a long time. She is CEO & Founder of The Traveling Salon 2. Nisha holds down a full-time job with an investment company as well as she is Sound & Stage Manager for Trevi Pershay Productions Inc.
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**Muhammad Abdullah Khan
Designing & Magazine Layout Director**
Abdullah Khan is Computer Engineer, Adobe Certified Graphics Designer, TOP-RATED Freelancer, Designing and Magazine Layout Director of C.O.B.S. – Circle of Boss Sisters, Founder and CEO of Software House, worked with Multinational Companies i.e. Adobe, McDonalds, Forbes and now Providing Services all over the world.
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Happy Mother's Day!

To the best mom ever!

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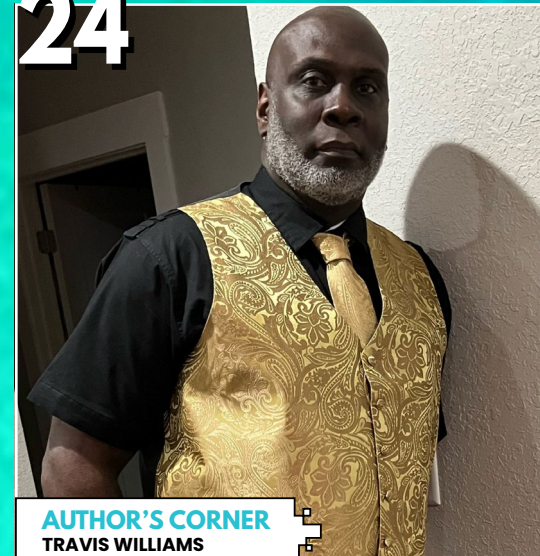
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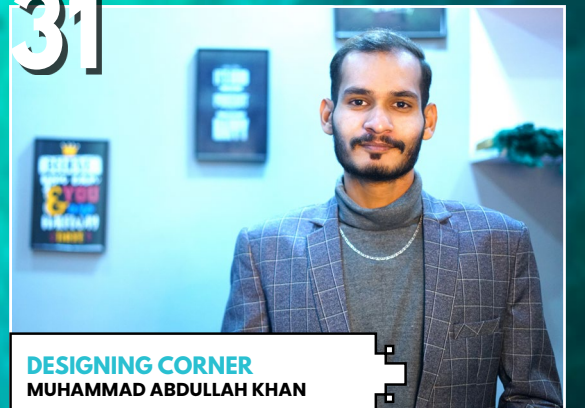
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AMIRA-DIOR TRAYNHAM-ARTIS

MEET CEO/FOUNDER OF LANE 1 FOOTWEAR

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Welcome to C.O.B.S Magazine. We are super excited to be interviewing Brooklyn's finest 14-year-old sneaker designer Amira-Dior Traynham-Artis. Amira is changing the game in the sneaker world. Thank you so much for doing this interview with us. Before we dive into your entrepreneurial journey, our readers would love to learn more about your younger years of growing up. Can you share your backstory?

AMIR-DIOR TRAYNHAM-ARTIS:

Thank you for having me. I appreciate the opportunity to do this interview with C.O.B.S. Magazine. So I was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, in Tompkins Houses in Bedford, Stuyvesant. I began designing at about four years old when I would cut up fabric and make outfits for my dolls. My mother would design shoes and bedazzle them from their original look and send them back to the customer differently and with more style. While helping and watching my mom, it was then that I knew that I wanted to be a designer. Even though I would try at that younger age to do what I saw my mother was doing, and even though it didn't come out as good as hers, she still encouraged me to continue doing it. I was about six years old at that time. Over the years, I realized how much I loved art. I loved drawing, painting, and dancing to acting. I loved being able to express myself in any creative way.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Can you tell us about your business, Lane 1? Where did the name derive from? What inspired you to launch your sneaker line? What sets you apart from other sneaker brands like

yours?

AMIR-DIOR TRAYNHAM-ARTIS:

I live in a community that's considered underprivileged, Tompkins Houses in Bedstuy. I was looking out my window and looking at some of my friends playing ball and others just relaxing, and the name just came to me. No matter what you do, you stay in your lane. You remain unique and true to yourself. In the beginning, it was just something I felt was fun to do, and then my mom and I decided to focus on it and launch it for my 14th birthday. All Lane 1 shoes are handmade by master Italian craftsmen from pristine Italian leather. Each Lane 1 shoe is one-of-a-kind. Shoes are sent with free express shipping and free returns. If you don't love them, you can return and replace your shoes for free.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Can you walk us through the process of creating a line? What obstacles did you face, and how did you overcome them? Where do you find your inspiration?

AMIR-DIOR TRAYNHAM-ARTIS:

While creating a line, you must surround yourself with people who want you to win. My mother and management team works hard to make sure that I don't see the major obstacles and focus on being the creative side. My community is my inspiration.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

What did you value more about sneakers than your traditional footwear?

AMIR-DIOR TRAYNHAM-ARTIS:

So, I feel more comfortable in sneakers than I do in shoes. I like feeling relaxed and still being stylish at the same time. Sneakers, especially Lane 1s, you can wear with anything, whether that's casual, business, or even formal attire.



C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

What do you hope people feel when wearing a pair of your sneakers? Has someone ever criticized your work, and how do you handle it?

AMIR-DIOR TRAYNHAM-ARTIS:

I hope people feel comfortable first and foremost. I hope people feel inspired to be able to do what they love knowing my backstory. I want people to talk to one another about my brand and how great they feel when wearing Lane 1. Besides my mom, I'm my biggest critic. I realize now that I'm harder on myself than anyone else could ever be. As far as the general public, I use criticism to grow my brand. For me, accepting constructive criticism is about taking what someone says and not looking at it as hatred but as a growing experience.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

You were presented with a golden

opportunity. Can you please elaborate on what the opportunity was? How did you feel at that moment? How has this opportunity been a game changer for your business?

AMIR-DIOR TRAYNHAM-ARTIS:

My manager S.W. Roseburgh connected us with his network, Nathalie Dubois, who was inspired by my story and invited us to be part of the D.P.A. Luxe Gift Suite the week of the Oscars. I was so excited! I had lots of fun and had the pleasure of meeting some of the most talented celebrities. I was honored to use that experience as a way to grow Lane 1 as a business. We collaborated with Ger-nie New York and were able to offer the Oscar nominees our collaboration sneakers. It was an incredible opportunity, and I have made a lot of connections and sales since then.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Every entrepreneur has a secret to their success. As a young entrepreneur, can you share the ingredients that have helped the success of your business thus far?

AMIR-DIOR TRAYNHAM-ARTIS:

My secret ingredients that have helped so far are to be in touch with creativity, gain a support team, and have fun!

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

As an entrepreneur, it is essential to have a healthy support system. Who has been your greatest support through your journey? How has that support helped through moments of frustration?

AMIR-DIOR TRAYNHAM-ARTIS:

My mother has been my greatest support throughout my journey. My family and friends encouraged me when I felt frustrated about the journey.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

What's your advice for people who want to become a sneaker designer? What were some of your key steps to getting your business started?

AMIR-DIOR TRAYNHAM-ARTIS:

The first thing is a mindset and deciding to do something you've never done before. You also have to decide to continue on the journey whether people either like or dislike your creation. Some of the critical steps are having confidence in yourself and your artwork, researching, and finding others who know what you want to do.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

As a young entrepreneur, what adjustments have you made to your personal and professional life to balance your time between business, design, school, family, friends, etc.?

AMIR-DIOR TRAYNHAM-ARTIS:

My school taught me about time management and focusing on what's in front of me. I try to be present as much as possible in every area of my life. I also do my best to plan and schedule different events to participate in everything important to me.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

What direction do you hope to see your company going in the next five years? Is there any sneaker brand that you would like to collaborate with in the future?

AMIR-DIOR TRAYNHAM-ARTIS:

We see Lane 1 New York is in more outlets, and people can purchase the sneakers in person. We are still looking for investors for the brand and would like to inspire more youth to follow their dreams. Nike, Vans, and Converse are a few of the sneaker brands that I would like to collaborate with in the future.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Here at COBS Magazine, we share daily affirmations. What is your daily affirmation? Can you please share your company website and social media platforms so we can continue to follow you? COBS Magazine wishes you continued success.

AMIR-DIOR TRAYNHAM-ARTIS:

"My life is great because I woke up this morning. Your life is great because you woke up this morning too!" My social media handle on Instagram is Lane1nyc, and my website is lanelfashion.com



Lane 1

CYNTHIA WILLIAMS

MEET FOUNDER OF LOVE FROM AFAR- THE CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS FOUNDATION AND P.A.D.D. PARENTS AGAINST DISTRACTED DRIVING

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Welcome to Women Innovators. It is our pleasure to be interviewing Atlanta native Cynthia Williams. Cynthia is a Certified Teen Life Coach, mentor, instructor for PRIDE (Parents Reducing Injury and Driver Error), motivational speaker, Grief Recovery Specialist, and certified Mediator and General Conflict Resolution Specialist. Cynthia is determined to exercise and spread a message built on love. Can you share a little background about your upbringing?

CYNTHIA WILLIAMS:

I grew up in Milwaukee, WI, and was born the youngest of five where. I was raised in a Lutheran school from K-8th grade. I am a true product of a divorced family where I will always continue to heal from childhood trauma for the remainder of my life because I was so devastated by the split in our family. I didn't recognize that I suffered from that until I became an adult and parent.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Our condolences for the loss of your son. If you don't mind sharing, how did you get through those dark moments? What were some of the steps you had to take to begin going through your healing process?

CYNTHIA WILLIAMS:

Prayer and more prayer. I found myself finding the part of me that passed away when I closed that casket door. I began to no longer settle for anything. I changed therapists until I found the one that thoroughly understood the part of me that died with my son and was dedicated to helping me heal with the remaining portion of me that was beginning to break because of the pain of losing my firstborn child, that I birthed as a teen, was unbearably reachable daily. I had to first come to grips with needing help, and I couldn't do it alone. I then needed to find a balance with living again for my other children. I realized the battleground

to fight grief didn't include those that didn't want to or didn't know how to fight with me to keep my sanity. I fell in love with the things that put a smile on my face, like music, cooking, shopping, and raising my other children despite all of our pain and heartfelt trauma. I started doing things alone that allowed me to accept the new normal life I was given inevitably and remove the insecurities that came with the embarrassment of grief and constant sadness, crying, panic attacks, and severe depression.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Can you tell us about your inspiration and motivation for founding Love From Afar-The Christopher Allen Williams Foundation and P.A.D.D.? How do you envision these organizations growing or evolving in the future?

CYNTHIA WILLIAMS:

I chose the name Love From Afar for exactly how the title sounds; I will never be able to touch, talk to, hug, laugh, or cry with my son again, so I will forever love him from afar. I became certified in many areas to assist in the community epidemics that have plagued the generation that I am in and those that will come behind us. P.A.D.D. (Parents Against Distracted Driving) was created to bring together other parents that have lost a child or families that have lost a loved one to a car crash as a support system for one another and to help each other become accountability partners with one another throughout our healing process. I see this organization being recognized nationwide for standing by its mission statement and vision to empower youth to make more constructive decisions and empower more families to let go of the pain that has broken families and find the lost love and reunite for generations to come including all race, age, and gender.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

What are some of these organizations' main goals and missions, and how have they impacted communities or individuals so far?

CYNTHIA WILLIAMS:

The main goal is to empower adults to mentor and establish relationships



with family and close friends to break generational curses with those on their bloodlines first and then branch out into their communities because it is imperative to handle home first. I have impacted thousands of teens since this journey has begun, and just as many parents because I know their youth have shared our stories on the car ride home, at the dinner table, or in in-depth conversations.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

As a woman of color and leader in these organizations, how do you navigate and address issues of intersectionality and representation in your work?

CYNTHIA WILLIAMS:

One thing certain and for sure, grief work is what takes up most of my day and time, and as far as intersectionality is concerned, no matter your race or age, it is a thing every human can relate with and to is pain, and pain from the death of a child is so recognizable amongst those that have been affected. I recognize that pain in others and instantly become a team member of the healing process and share tools, techniques, and procedures to support the healing process with newcomers into this recasting world that doesn't have a direct title to it like a widow becomes after losing a mate.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

What message do you hope to convey through your advocacy and activism around safe driving and support for families affected by such tragedy?

CYNTHIA WILLIAMS:

I want families to ensure their newly driving youth are prepared to begin moving. That they are mature enough to handle such a responsibility of putting others and their lives in their hands; if you still have to discuss chores with your teens and have to remind them of their school work and responsibilities constantly, they are not ready to drive or catch a ride with someone that does not put all parties in the vehicle in safe care and out of harm's way. I would love to see corporations and the government consider grief as a much-deserved mental health issue that warrants just as much time off, healing, and attention toward bereavement as there is to maternity. If six weeks is a given time to have and welcome a child into this world, it should be just as much the same attention given to burying a child.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

How do you stay motivated and inspired to continue pursuing your passions and goals?

CYNTHIA WILLIAMS:

I continue to expand my learning with workshops and training in my field to become knowledgeable about my expertise and the evolving changes in the world connected to it. I now have a mentor for my business and organization as it grows, and I continue to pray that G.O.D. sends those to me that are a part of my future to assist me with reaching my goals.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

According to your bio, you are also an author. Can you tell us about your book and the meaning behind writing it? What is the message you want to

convey to your readers?

CYNTHIA WILLIAMS:

"Concrete Soil" is the title of my first book; it is a memoir of overcoming grief, and "After My Daddy Left," which discusses the obstacles of overcoming childhood trauma, is the name of my second book. I turned my journal into my first book, where I hid that I suffered from being molested by my older brother and lived by sweeping it under the rug until my son died, and it was no longer the worst trauma in my life. I came off the porch (left home) much earlier than I was mature enough for, and it created a life I wasn't ready for but endured. I want to ensure my readers and followers no longer hide in their truth and begin to share their stories and testimonies for those suffering from their unspoken traumas and the insecurities that imprison their souls.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Can you talk a little about your role as an instructor for an organization called PRIDE (Parents Reducing Injury and Driver Error)?

CYNTHIA WILLIAMS:

PRIDE was a certification I received after trading with the G.A. Department of Transportation. At the same time, my daughter was a teen and becoming a new driver, and I wanted to make sure we were both aware of the rules and proper safety protocols while on the road.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

What have been some of the most valuable lessons you've learned throughout your journey, and how have they shaped your leadership style?

CYNTHIA WILLIAMS:

Mistakes are not failures and, in many ways, are some of the best lessons you could ever learn. Locate & Listen to those who are tenured in your field and get a mentor to walk with you and invest your first receiving funds in the staff that is S.M.E.s in the field that you don't specialize in that will assist with running your organization the proper way with the mindset to get the prestigious recognition.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

You have received numerous awards and commendations for your service. Can you share some of the awards you have received for your services? Is there one award that is special to you, and why?

CYNTHIA WILLIAMS:

Yes, what a blessing. I have received about 15 proclamations and citations

from mayors, state representatives, and council leaders around the country. I also received the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award as well. The most special award was being inducted into the Apex Museum in Atlanta as a Woman in History. The APEX Museum is the oldest Black History Museum located in the city of Atlanta. It was founded in 1978 by veteran filmmaker Dan Moore Sr. This summer, and I will graduate with an Honorary Doctorate in Humanitarianism for the work I have done over the past 17 years in honor of my beloved son Christopher Allen Williams.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

What continues to be your daily driving force? Can you please provide your website and social media platforms? Thank you for your time, and we wish you continuous success.

CYNTHIA WILLIAMS:

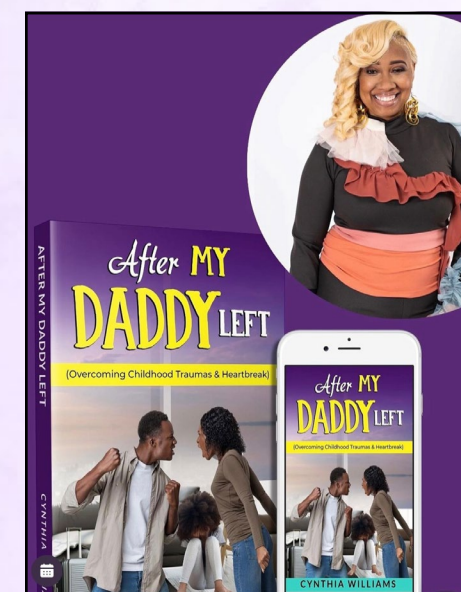
My children have endured the pain from the loss of Christopher in a traumatic way that I can't understand being a sibling to a best friend and brother. As I watch them preserve through life after his death, go through the ups and downs of grief, and grow through the pain together. We will forever turn our Tragedy into Triumph and ensure our coming generations will have a legacy to celebrate, cherish and evolve.

Website: www.lovefromafar.org

Twitter: @lovefromafar

Instagram: @lovefromafar

Facebook: Cynthia Cindy Williams



MAY ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL CELEBRATING THE QUEENS OF C.O.B.S MAGAZINE

BY: TREVI BOOKER PERSHAY

C.O.B.S Magazine would like to take this opportunity to celebrate the Queens who were a part of our journey for the last two years. These women have all succeeded in their own unique way and serve as an inspiration to Black women everywhere. With ambition and determination, they have made their mark on the world and demonstrated the power of their perspective branches of work. Our job is to continue celebrating their success and use it as motivation to achieve our own. By honoring and acknowledging the many outstanding contributions that Black women have made and continue to make, society can celebrate the beauty, grace, and power of Black femininity. It is time to recognize the excellence of Black women featured in our past issues of C.O.B.S (Circle of Boss Sisters) Magazine.

MAY ISSUE

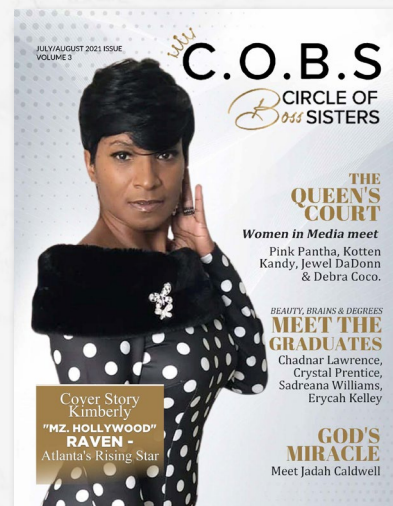
Premise Martin - Entrepreneur/BOSS of Pedilicious L.L.C./ Chief Creative Designer of the Patent Issued "Pedi Flop" Sandal

JUNE ISSUE

LaTonya Smiley
C.E.O. of Founder of Unbroken Global Ministries

JULY/AUGUST ISSUE

Kimberly "Mz. Hollywood" Raven
Author/Actor/Producer



SEPTEMBER ISSUE

Tiffany Winfrey - C.E.O. of T. Winfrey Designs Inc.

OCTOBER ISSUE

Kioka Tanksley
C.E.O. of Royalty Reigns Management

NOVEMBER ISSUE

Czhanell McCray C.E.O. of C'Her Sparkle Designs



DECEMBER ISSUE

Tracey Francis-Gordon
C.E.O. of POUT All Things Lips

JANUARY ISSUE

Melissa Harville Lebron
C.E.O./Owner of W.M. Stone Enterprises Agency Inc, E-Z North-east Motorsports Inc.

FEBRUARY ISSUE

Teamika Jeffrey
C.E.O. of My Dream Staffing

MARCH ISSUE

Aretha Taylor
C.E.O. of New Beginnings Outreach Program for Women



APRIL ISSUE

Meli'sa Morgan
C.E.O./Founder of Asilem Productions

MAY ISSUE

Robin S.
C.E.O./Founder of HEY GIRL HEY MUZIK LLC

JUNE ISSUE

Tameka Bland
CEO/Founder LIMITLESS

JULY/AUGUST ISSUE

Taylor Redd
C.E.O./Founder Rose Vodka



SEPTEMBER ISSUE

Dr. Chikera L. Marshall Founder of Exousia University School of Theology and Entrepreneurship

OCTOBER ISSUE

Melina Fuenmayor
Founder/C.E.O. of The Closing Signing Service

NOVEMBER ISSUE

Ashequka Lacey
C.E.O./Founder of Inspiring Jreams/Publishing L.L.C.

DECEMBER ISSUE

Alisa Bowen
C.E.O. of Rhythm Brewing Company



QUEENS SPECIAL EDITION

MEET A FEW QUEENS OF THE COURTS ARTICLES

The Queens Court articles are just as fundamental as the cover stories. Although we have over 20 Queen Court Articles to share, we could not put all of them but take a peek at the ones we highlighted. You can visit our website and see how we have grown as a publisher.

BERNITA CARSON

C.E.O./Founder of BMC Fintess



JEARLEAN TAYLOR

C.E.O./Influencer



ARIANA C. SMITH E.S.Q.

Owner and Managing Attorney
The A.C. Smith Law Firm



MAUREEN WASHINGTON

C.E.O. of Mobeauty Supply Vending



ANDREA MCKENZIE

C.E.O. of Andrea Unique



CHRISHONDA BENSON

C.E.O./Founder of Pretty Dope Society



MEET C.E.O.S UNDER 20

SERENITY PHINEX

Co-CEO of Serenity's Nail Polish



MAKAYLA SYDNEY

C.E.O. of Cookie Creations



MORGAN GRACE

C.E.O. of M&M Angels Inc

PAIGE WILSON

C.E.O. Founder of Polished by Paige



NISHA PERSHAY

HAIR TRENDS BY NISHA PERSHAY

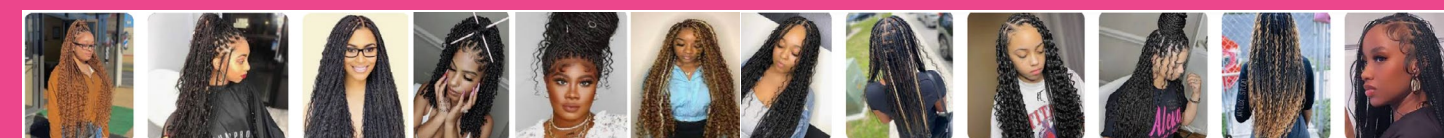
“NISHA’S PT.3 OF 101 HAIR TIPS, TRICKS, AND TRENDS FOR 2023”

One of the go-to styles for 2023 is protective styles, which can be done regardless of the seasons. They are always on trend. There are endless options for every person's preference, and you can keep it traditional with knotless braids and cornrows or consider the newest recreations. Let's get into what protective hair is and why it is essential!

Protective hairstyles are any hairstyle that keeps your natural hair from exposure to the sun and heat, which helps with hair growth with proper care. The fantastic thing about protective hairstyles is you can up-keep styles for a month or two depending on how you take care of them; it all is up to your tolerance on maintenance.



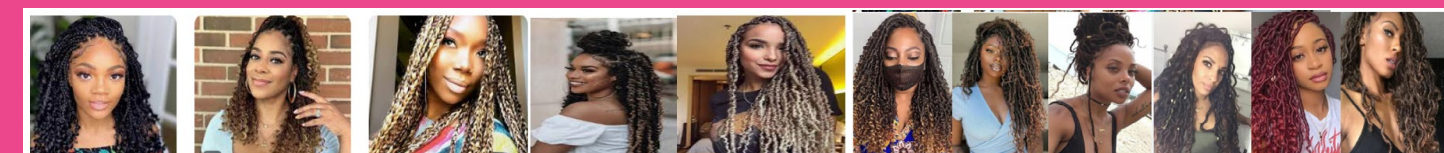
Here are some on-trend styles to try when considering any new protective style. These are a few styles that are popular for all, Boho knotless box braids or bohemian box braids, and to make your hair even, you be as creative with adding curls and hair accessories.



Cornrows are a popular and versatile protective hairstyle that can be worn on all hair types and lengths. The amazing thing about this style is there is no right or wrong way to wear them, and you can go straight back one, up do's, and even half-up and down. Whichever way you decide, it is a low-maintenance upkeep!



Another trending style is hippie braids; there's another name for bohemian box braids, which are just box braids with undone, wavy ends.



DAWN NICOLE MCILWAIN

MEET CO-FOUNDER AND COO OF SKILLDORA

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Welcome to C.O.B.S. Magazine Tech Talk. We have the pleasure of interviewing speaker, published author, and Philanthropist Dawn Nicole McIlwain. Dawn brings an unrivaled track record for helping world-class organizations deliver more business value and gain more outcomes in less time. Before discussing your business, can you please talk about your upbringing before entrepreneurship?

DAWN NICOLE MCILWAIN:

My upbringing is quite interesting. As the only girl with three brothers, my world was defined by my having something to prove; and because I had brothers, who were full of testosterone, aggressive and competitive, we always felt like we were competing with one another. That was the nature of our family. I was born in Springfield, MA, yet moved around quite a bit from city to city. We lived in San Diego, CA, from 1988-1991, where I wanted to be a movie star like everyone else. We would eventually settle in Jacksonville, FL, and by the time I was 23 and a mom myself, I could not wait to make my path and move to Atlanta, Georgia, where I wanted to be a soul singer. And so my upbringing was quite adventurous. I was always creative yet an entrepreneur at heart, and my exposure to many other races and cultures helped shape who I am today.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Can you tell us about your company and what is company's mission? What inspired you to focus on using AI technology for education?

DAWN NICOLE MCILWAIN:

Skilldora, which I'm a co-founder with my husband, is an AI Edtech company and accredited e-learning platform and app that provides professional certifications, recertification, and continuing education online courses using A.I. avatar instructors to teach. Skilldora's mission is to use the power of A.I. to deliver a new world of eLearning. Our business model was inspired by a good idea that fell flat on its face. In January

2022, I launched a new coaching program designed to teach professionals how to build their digital courses. The goal was, would take them through my course creation program & teach them how to develop & sell their online courses. By the end, each would have an online course to sell in the Skilldora marketplace, which was, at the time, a different version of Skilldora than what you see today. Let's just say that it didn't go as planned. Many professionals who signed up for the program did not finish their courses. Some reasons cited were... they didn't like the way they looked on camera, other reasons they didn't have the confidence or time to finish, and without those digital assets, Skilldora didn't have a business model. So we had to rethink the use of human subject matter experts and instead consider the use of A.I. avatars to present the programs that we intended to present anyway. And if you think about it, school systems and educational sectors face the same problem today with teacher shortages having more programs, students, and classes than there are teachers to present the information. This is why A.I. instructors are an excellent solution to consider for teacher shortage issues or accelerating learning loss recovery – this touches on an entirely different topic but also speaks to the same pain points that drove our current business model.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

How does your AI technology enhance the learning experience for students and educators?

DAWN NICOLE MCILWAIN:

For students, our AI-driven technology means that students can get the hot topic trending professional courses delivered 50% faster. Our A.I. technologies allow us to produce classes up to three times the speed of our competitors, which means learners can get topics that are relevant to their careers as soon as they need them. This also means learners can expect the same brand experience every time they take a Skilldora course. For educators, this also means A.I. instructors are not only a possibility, yet today they are a reality; one that also means college-level programs taught by A.I. Avatars can hold credentials and accreditation au-



thority. Skilldora made that possible as 1st in the world to accredit professional courses taught by A.I. Avatars.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

What challenges have you faced in developing and implementing this technology in schools and universities?

DAWN NICOLE MCILWAIN:

Skilldora has faced several challenges like any other startup. Some of the challenges we met at the onset were having a variety of A.I. instructors that looked like us. Believe it or not, there was not a wide variety of equitable A.I. digital instructors to work with when we first started this process. Along the way, we had to fight for equity in A.I. As a result, we were granted some opportunities to discuss what good black and brown digital representation looks like, which non-black programmers rarely think about until challenged. The other obstacle we faced as we were climbing and making history was people wanting to belittle what we were doing or not give us credit for being the first in the U.S. to release an online digital platform that uses exclusive A.I. avatars to teach online courses. Some podcasters who invited us to interview didn't want to say our tagline or title and give us credit in that way, seemingly minimizing our accomplishments. We also had people who posed as partners who leaned in, only to turn around and attempt to rip off our ideas; of course, we got legally involved. Lastly, when presenting this concept in the educational sector, which we anticipated would be our most significant opportunity, surprisingly, we quickly discovered we had a lot of work to do before we could even think about selling this as an

opportunity. Skilldora had to launch an educational tour explaining to educators what an A.I. avatar is, how this technology solution helps in the classroom, and how this is not designed to replace teachers yet instead extend the human experience, etc. I will tell you we are still actively driving that message forward.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Skilldora is redefining what "good" looks like in AI eLearning. Can you talk about your history-making announcement regarding your company? What did this announcement mean for your company?

DAWN NICOLE MCILWAIN:

Skilldora is the 1st Online learning Academy in the world to accredit professional courses taught by A.I. Avatars. For educators, this means college-level programs taught by A.I. Avatars can hold credentials and accreditation authority, giving a new possibility to how courses are created and delivered in the future, despite teacher shortages. This can lead to a more sustainable future in education.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

How do you ensure student data is protected and secured within your platform?

DAWN NICOLE MCILWAIN:

We Practice and Teach Ethics in A.I. Usage as an accredited eLearning platform. We're heavily regulated with a well-vetted privacy policy. At Skilldora, we believe that ethics should be at the forefront of all artificial intelligence (A.I.) development and usage. As such, we strive to incorporate ethical considerations into all aspects of our A.I. practices, from data collection to decision-making algorithms.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

In what ways do you see AI technology transforming the education industry in the coming years?

DAWN NICOLE MCILWAIN:

The A.I. revolution is not coming. The A.I. revolution is here, and the educational sector is one of those industries where it's being pioneered the fastest due to the underlying problem of teacher shortages & learning loss recovery efforts. Very soon, A.I. will be used in every aspect of education, from the way we create courses, to the way we develop exams, to the way we authenticate if a paper has been written by its original owner or plagiarized, to reading neurological signals to see how engaged/focused or not, students are. (This is happening in Asia today.)

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

How do you balance using AI with traditional teaching methods and human interaction?

DAWN NICOLE MCILWAIN:

It helps that I'm a certified agile coach and a previously globally accredited corporate trainer, program creator, and professional instructional designer. When I combine these elements, it's easy for me to understand what good looks like in this new A.I. era. Between this and ensuring that we build in emotional intelligence to compensate for the artificial intelligence, we balance the two.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Can you share any success stories or case studies of schools or universities that have successfully implemented your AI technology?

DAWN NICOLE MCILWAIN:

We are in the digital learning space as a Direct-to-Consumer eLearning app/platform that allows companies to license B2B our online certification programs. While we won't discuss our B2B client's private outcomes, we can share that our direct success story as a Direct-to-Consumer app is that we have hundreds of fast-growing subscribers and 5-star feedback from adult learners who've earned professional certifications. We have also established new B2B partnerships with S.H.R.M. and PMI-MN to position us as a recertification, a continuing education provider, and a partner to their networks.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

How do you stay up-to-date with the latest advancements in AI and machine learning as they relate to education?

DAWN NICOLE MCILWAIN:

We live, breathe and sleep A.I. We use A.I. in every capacity of our operations, so we're constantly assessing and looking for the best technology. We also teach through live conferences and other platforms, and there's something about teaching and producing that allows you to stay sharp.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

How do you create a healthy balance between work and personal life? What have been the most significant challenges that make a work-life balance work?

DAWN NICOLE MCILWAIN:

The reality is, I don't have a healthy work-life balance. I have a manageable and predictable balance, which is what I choose to do. I am in control of my priorities which change from week to week

based on family or business needs. I permit myself to focus on the greatest need at the given time, and that's what managed predictable balance means for me. I don't get into this business of saying you're going to do this for six months or you're going to do this for three months because the reality is life is constantly changing. I focus on what's most important right now, what's next, and what I can afford to worry about later until we hit our business goals and our vision. We'll probably be sacrificing and working extremely hard until we get to the point where we don't have to.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

What advice would you give to educators and administrators who hesitate to embrace AI technology in the classroom?

DAWN NICOLE MCILWAIN:

Adapt and embrace A.I., even if it is in small ways or becomes obsolete. Fighting against it is not going to make it go away. Instead, understanding it and learning where it can complement and supplement gaps are the way to approach A.I. Become an A.I. ally, not an adversary. As an adversary, your fight will come to an end; as an ally, your opportunities will be endless.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

What direction do you hope to see your company going in the next five years? What continues to be your driving force throughout your journey? Can you please share your company website and social media platforms for us to continue to follow? Thank you for taking the time to talk to us, and COBS Magazine wishes you continuous success.

DAWN NICOLE MCILWAIN:

To be the U.S. frontrunner in sustainable A.I. eLearning. **Thank you for having me.**

Website: <https://myskilldora.com/>
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/skilldora>
LinkedIn: Skilldora



BEYONCÉ ENDS PARTNERSHIP WITH ADIDAS

BY ADONIS RICHARDS

The 32-time Grammy award-winning artist Beyoncé Knowles-Carter and the German athletic company Adidas have decided to part ways after a five-year partnership. The Partnership ended after Beyoncé and Adidas had “creative differences” with the brand direction and a loss in sales throughout the five-year Partnership. Beyoncé is stated to look forward to regaining control of her brand and moving forward with the Ivy Park collection.

Beyoncé’s athletic clothing line Ivy Park started in 2016 and entered a partnership with Adidas in 2018. The Partnership began when Beyoncé gained 100% of her brand and moved past her 50-50 partnership with previous co-owner Topshop. According to reports, the brand underperformed and had a 50% dip in sales in 2022. The unfortunate downturn in sales ultimately led to the two sides deciding to leave their Partnership, although there are reports that the brand will still release catalogs it designated for 2023.

Although an unfortunate turn of events, this gives Beyoncé complete control over the brand once again and potentially an opportunity to rebrand with another new company. The singer is said to be working with other brands at this time, which could bode well for the progression of her ever-elusive brand. An all-inclusive size collection can garner interest from all of her fans, despite the lack of sales over the years. As time passes, the brand may grow into something that coincides with her stardom as she shops for the right fit.

With the Renaissance Tour beginning to prepare in May, it seems that an Ivy Park brand announcement could be delayed. Yet, still, there is room for speculation and intrigue that could help develop the clothing line’s interest and collection over time. With Mrs. Knowles-Carter, the possibilities are endless for the future and Ivy Park.

SOURCES:

CHARLES GUERIN/ABACA/ZUMA PRESS – Image Credit

Beyoncé and Adidas wall street journal

Hollywood reporters Beyoncé and Ivy Park



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ROBERT E. CORNEGY JR.

MEET FOUNDER OF 610 COLLECTIVE LLC.

“CAN ANYTHING GOOD COME OUT OF BROOKLYN?”

COBS MAGAZINE:

Welcome to COBS Magazine King's Court. We are delighted to be interviewing New York native Robert E. Cornegy Jr. We are grateful that Robert has taken time out of his busy schedule to interview with us. Robert believes deeply in the value of personal and regular client communication as part of an effective partnership. We will be discussing his various in the community and abroad. Can you give us a little background about your upbringing?

ROBERT E. CORNEGY JR.:

Thank you for the opportunity. I am a native of New York City, and I am the son of the late Dr. Robert E. Cornegy, Sr. My father was the pastor of Mount Calvary Baptist Church in Bedford-Stuyvesant, and my mom Ellen J. Cornegy is the First Lady of Mount Calvary Baptist Church. I played center for the Andrew Jackson High School and was recruited by both Temple University and Syracuse University before playing back center for St. John's University's 1984-85 Final Four team. I later graduated from Mercy College in Dobbs Ferry, New York, with a bachelor's degree in Organization Management. I have had the opportunity to play professional basketball in Israel and Turkey. Following my basketball career, I earned a master's degree in Organizational Management from Mercy College. I returned to Bedford-Stuyvesant and, with an increased awareness of the mental health issues and drug use in the community, became a Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselor. I later opened the Cornegy Resident

treatment center for chemically dependent men in Bedford-Stuyvesant.

COBS MAGAZINE:

Can you tell us about your vision for starting this business?

ROBERT E. CORNEGY JR.:

I am the principal and founder of 610 Collective LLC. My company is a full-service MWBE-certified consulting firm specializing in Social Equity Canabis, Affordable Housing, Real Estate Development, and Equity in Health Care, small business, and MWBE Capacity Building. I guide all of 610 Collective's client strategy and interactions and specialize in applying his tactical and strategic expertise to solve complex government issues.

COBS MAGAZINE:

How has your background helped shape the most effective solution's to your client's problems?

ROBERT E. CORNEGY JR.:

My background in Legislation and Public policy, as well as my advanced degree in Organizational Management, has allowed me always to see the people, places, processes, and resources that can offer the most effective solutions to client's problems. I also have extensive experience developing communications programs and leveraging relationships to advance policy objectives.

COBS MAGAZINE:

You also have served time in the New York City Council. Can you tell us about your term, how long your term was, and what you demonstrated?

ROBERT E. CORNEGY JR.:

I served two impactful terms in the New York City Council and was the first black speaker of the New York City Council. The two-term tenure demonstrated my skill in leadership and commitment to service. I have also served as the



Chair of the Council's Committee on Housing and Building, Chair of small business, Chair of the Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Task Force (M/WBEs), and a member of the Budget Negotiating Team. I was also named Democratic Conference Chair of the New York City Council and consistently ranked in the top ten percentile for substantive Legislation produced.

COBS MAGAZINE:

In your first term, you were amongst the top 10% of sponsored Legislation, leading in bills and initiatives. Can you tell us about some of these bills and initiatives?

ROBERT E. CORNEGY JR.:

Yes, that is correct. Here is a list of some of those bills and initiatives.

- A lactation bill mandated dedicated rooms for nursing and breastfeeding mothers in the public building throughout the five boroughs.
- The Kalief Browder Bill calls for the Department of Corrections to provide vocational and educational programming, therapy, and ser-

vices to those detained or incarcerated on Rikers Island longer than ten days.

- Commercial tenant anti-harassment and neglect legislation, offering protection against criminal landlords by creating a private right of action for commercial tenants facing harassment and allocating \$3.6 million to cover the legal costs associated with fighting unscrupulous property owners.
- Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) and the Disabled Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE), which is part of the Rent Freeze Program, an effort to increase affordable housing in NYC.
- Workforce Disclosure Bill that requires certain contractors working on city-funded projects to disclose records on the nature of their workforce, including the certification of the contractor as a minority-owned or women-owned business enterprise.

COBS MAGAZINE:

You also sponsored a bill to co-name a block in Brooklyn. Can you share the story about this bill?

ROBERT E. CORNEGY JR.:

Yes. I also sponsored the bill that co-name the block on Stuyvesant Avenue between Lexington Avenue and Quincy Street, "Do the Right Thing Way," after the iconic 1989 movie Spike Lee directed and shot on that block. It was the first time a New York City Street was named for a work of art rather than a person or institution. Mr. Spike Lee also contributed to my run for Brooklyn Borough President.

COBS MAGAZINE:



Between 2012-2014, you were involved in the partnership and development of programs. Can you elaborate further?

ROBERT E. CORNEGY JR.:

Yes, in 2012, I served as a delegate to President Obama at the Democratic National Convention. That same year I also became District Leader/State Committeeman for the 56th Assembly District. I was also part of the Taskforce to Combat Gun Violence, delivering recommendations to reduce gun violence in NYC to the NYC Council Speaker. In 2013, I partnered with Attorney General Eric Schneiderman to invest \$20 million in funding the Homeowner Protection Program (HOPP) and launch the Foreclosure Rescue Scam Protection Initiative. Then in 2014, I developed the Chamber on the Go program in partnership with the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce to provide mobile support services to small businesses.

COBS MAGAZINE:

What fun facts may our readers not know about you?

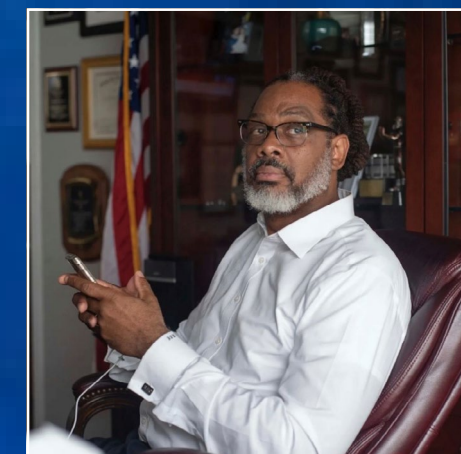
ROBERT E. CORNEGY JR.:

I am a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., where I am noted for my seven-foot frame and long dreadlocks wrapped in a bun. I was the tallest member of the New York City Council, standing at 6ft 10 inches. From March 2019 to October 2019, I was the Guinness World Records holder for the World's Tallest Politician. Still, this title has since been conferred upon North Dakota Insurance Commissioner Jon Godfread, who is just over one centimeter taller.

COBS MAGAZINE:

What are you most proud of during your journey and as you continue?

ROBERT E. CORNEGY JR.:



I am proud that I continue to maintain dynamic relationships on the City, State, and Federal levels. I believe deeply in the value of personal and regular client communication as part of an effective partnership. Through my determination, compassion, my acute attention to detail, I have triumphed in many arenas from my early career in sports. As I mentioned before, this included my trip to the final four with St. John's University and playing professionally abroad for a decade in Israel, Turkey, Spain, France, and Columbia. I am proud of owning and operating a male mental health facility—a blended family of six children. I am a pragmatic and energetic leader, from community building to politics. From effective healthcare outcomes to real estate development and everything in between, I see the bigger picture to help my clients tighten their focus, develop sustainable plans, and navigate government successfully. I am proud to be an MIT fellow and lecturer at Brooklyn College and Columbia.

COBS MAGAZINE:

Thank you for taking the time to do this interview. Can you please share your company's website and social media platforms with our readers? We wish you nothing but continuous success.

ROBERT E. CORNEGY JR.:

Thank you for the opportunity. My company website is www.610collective.com. My social media platforms are:

Instagram: @rcornegjr

Twitter: @rc4bk

Facebook: Robert E. Cornegy Jr.

LinkedIn: Robert E. Cornegy Jr.



TINIKA THOMAS

INSIDE TIPS FOR EVERYDAY MAKEUP ROUTINE – REGARDLESS IF YOU ARE A NEWBIE OR EXPERIENCED IN THE MAKEUP WORLD.

4 TIPS FOR GETTING YOUR SKIN READY FOR THE SPRING AND SUMMER MONTHS...

As we transition from winter to spring and summer, it's essential to take a few extra steps in your skincare routine to ensure your skin stays healthy and glowing. Just as we change our wardrobe to reflect the season, we must do the same with our makeup routines. The same products you use during the winter months will not work for the spring and summer months, and I am here to provide you with some options. Here are some tips:

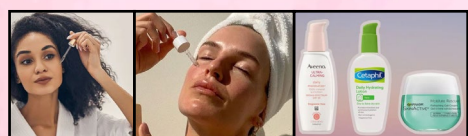


1. EXFOLIATE REGULARLY:

During winter, dead skin cells can accumulate on your skin, leading to a dry and dull complexion. To combat this, start by exfoliating your skin 1-2 times weekly. This will help remove dead skin cells and reveal fresh, glowing skin.

2. HYDRATE, HYDRATE, HYDRATE!

As the weather warms up, our bodies lose more water through sweat and increased activity. To keep your skin hydrated, drink plenty of water and use a moisturizer with SPF during the day. This will protect your skin from harmful UV rays and prevent premature aging.

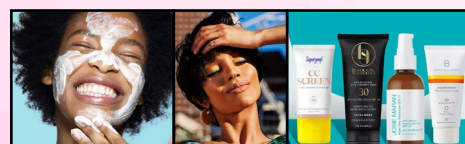


3. USE LIGHTER PRODUCTS:

During the spring and summer months, heavier creams and lotions can feel too heavy on the skin. Switch to more lightweight products, such as gel-based moisturizers and serums, to keep your skin feeling fresh and light.

4. PROTECT YOUR SKIN:

Finally, don't forget to protect your skin from the sun! Wear a hat and sunglasses when you're outside, and apply sunscreen with at least SPF 30 daily. This will help prevent sun damage and keep your skin looking youthful and healthy.



WITH THESE SIMPLE STEPS, YOU CAN GET YOUR SKIN READY FOR THE SPRING AND SUMMER MONTHS AND ENJOY BEAUTIFUL, GLOWING SKIN ALL YEAR ROUND.

LSU STAR ANGEL REESE IS BREAKING MOLDS WITH HER CHARISMA AND CONFIDENCE

BY ADONIS RICHARDS

The LSU Tigers may have found a gem in the tough, passionate forward Junior of Angel Reese. Hailing from the DMV, Angel Reese has made a name for herself in women's basketball and all sports with her massive persona and game-to-match. She has set a precedent for women's sports with her trash talk and the confidence to not back down from the nay-sayers. And that willingness to be herself has brought her all the way to the top with a 2023 NCAA championship and an impressive NIL deal.

Shortly after claiming the National Championship, LSU's Star forward Angel Reese cashed in big with her NIL deal. The Bayou Barbie has now acclaimed more than \$1.3 million in name, image, and likeness, according to On3. After her NCAA tournament run, she reportedly reached over 3.6 million social media followers. The young passionate women's college basketball star is maximizing her talents on and off the court to reach stardom and set a precedent for women's sports overall.

Reese plays the game with a swagger and confidence that is revealed on the court daily, and she is known for her skill and ability to trash-talk with the best of them. Reese started her collegiate career in Maryland as the number 2 freshman in her class. After two up-and-down seasons at Maryland, she decided to move on to LSU where she blossomed into the star she always was.

Averaging 23 points and 15.4 rebounds per game this season, Reese led the lady Tigers to their first NCAA Championship in late March against Iowa. The plays of her and a few others have given women's basketball some much-needed notoriety, notably with the women's national championship game acclaiming an average of 9.92 million viewers, making it the most-watched women's college basketball game ever.

Reese's stardom has also come with controversy, mainly with her being a black woman who isn't afraid to be herself in front of cameras. Many critics have addressed Reese's behavior on the basketball court as un-sportsmanlike or worse. Yet Reese wears her crown like the champion she is and continues to play the game her way. "This is for the girls that look like me," Reese stated in an interview after winning the National title. Reese is setting a precedent for black women in all facets.

That it is okay to be you, and you can be a winner and a class act while expressing yourself and showing your flair. The spark has gotten her so much acclaim, and why we continue to ride the wave that the Bayou Barbie has created.

SOURCES:

People.com/sports/Lsustarangel-reese

SI.com/college

On3.com/nil/news

Photo credit to Kevin Jiraj of USA Today



TRAVIS WILLIAMS

MEET AUTHOR OF LIBERTY CITY

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Welcome to the Author's Corner of COBS Magazine. We are pleased to interview author Travis Williams, better known as "Trab," in his county of Dade, Miami. Travis believes we have to look at our conditions, where we are going, and what changes need to be made to start that revolution within ourselves. We are excited to learn about your journey to becoming an author but first, can you give us a little background about yourself growing up?

TRAVIS WILLIAMS:

Thank you for the opportunity. My name is Travis Williams. To some, I am better known as "Trab," and I was raised in the middle-class area of Liberty City in Miami. I grew up in Liberty City when my parents moved from Overtown. My family was the first African American family on the block of Northwest 67 Street and 10th Avenue. I am the youngest of eight siblings. I attended Holmes Elementary and Edison Park Elementary, then transferred to Little River Elementary because my dad's income changed. I attended Miami Northwestern Sr. High School, where I played on their basketball team. I played basketball my first year and was voted Most Improved Player. Later in my senior year, I won second-team All-City, now called All-Dade Team. After graduation, I attended Miami Dade Community College (New World Center), now known as (Wolf-son Campus).

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Can you tell us about your book? What inspired you to delve into the topic of racism and social issues in your writing? What is the message you want to come across to your readers?

TRAVIS WILLIAMS:

Yes, my book's name is Liberty City. Liberty City is about the East and West sides of Miami. When visitors come to Miami, they automatically flock to places like South or Wynwood. In my book, I wanted to highlight some of the good things about Liberty City that still exist, like the excellent black soul food and seafood restaurants that offer good food. Liberty City still has mom-and-pop corner stores and a couple of its own black clubs. I also wanted to talk about the segregation between black and white families. The black families lived on one side, and the white people lived on the other, separated by a wall. I was inspired to write this book because I felt you have to know where you come from to know where you are going. I had an early encounter with racism at an early age where; during those times, there was just so much separation. As a young child, how do you comprehend this type of environment? I wanted my readers to understand that Miami and South Beach weren't always accessible vacation areas for black people. When I was growing up, black folks weren't allowed to come to South Beach without a work permit from Miami Beach, or they would be harassed. Entertainers were allowed to entertain but weren't allowed to stay on Miami Beach. Most of them would return to Liberty City after performing to stay in the hotels with Liberty, which today most of those places are considered historical.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

What inspired you to become a writer, and how did you develop your unique voice and style?

TRAVIS WILLIAMS:

I became inspired to become a writer because I wanted to reach



the black youths in the neighborhood. I wanted to be the vessel that could offer them words of encouragement that would reach their mindsets. I did not want them to make some past mistakes as I did and throw their lives away to the system where there is much greater they can achieve in this world. You had single moms working through their blood, sweat, and tears to raise their children and keep them protected, and I didn't want the system to benefit these mothers' hard dedication.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Do you feel the word racism is a vague term for the systemic oppression of Black people in America?

TRAVIS WILLIAMS:

Racism is insufficient if looking back to the beginning of time to the present day. Look at all the turmoil our race has endured and still going through until day because we have received any reparations. I witness other individuals from other countries come to our lands and don't have to worry

about paying taxes, housing, and sometimes even getting jobs. I see being able to obtain loans to be put in positions to live the American dream that black people built in this country. As African Americans, those same resources are not being offered to our communities to uplift our families and our business.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Do you feel that it is essential to teach about race and racism to people who don't know or want to know? How can this make a difference in today's society?

TRAVIS WILLIAMS:

Yes, I think getting the blood off your hands is essential. It's like any other thing not teaching your child that the snake is dangerous by experience. We must explain to them the difference between Race and Racism because they will experience it in their lives at some point. It's up to them to grasp the concept and process those experiences. If they level the playing field in today's society, we could advance to another level.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Your book has been described as a powerful call to action. What kind of action do you hope readers will take after reading Liberty City?

TRAVIS WILLIAMS:

I would like to see the communities come together as a whole and reinstate the family values in our neighborhood. Growing family values were important in our communities, and it seems we no longer hold the same values. I liked to see the district support our black-owned businesses and more children graduating to become successful entrepreneurs. Let's start buying back our blocks, building significant businesses, and creating jobs for our people within our communities.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Your writing style is very conversational and engaging. How do you balance making your writing accessible to a wide audience while still addressing complex and sensitive topics?

TRAVIS WILLIAMS:

When you have conversations or dialogue with open-minded people, they can understand the trials of how society has been creat-

ed. But, a systematic mindset will close their minds to knowing why the world is the way it is today.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

In this book, you have spoken publicly about your own experiences with discrimination and prejudice. What advice would you give to others who may be facing similar challenges?

TRAVIS WILLIAMS:

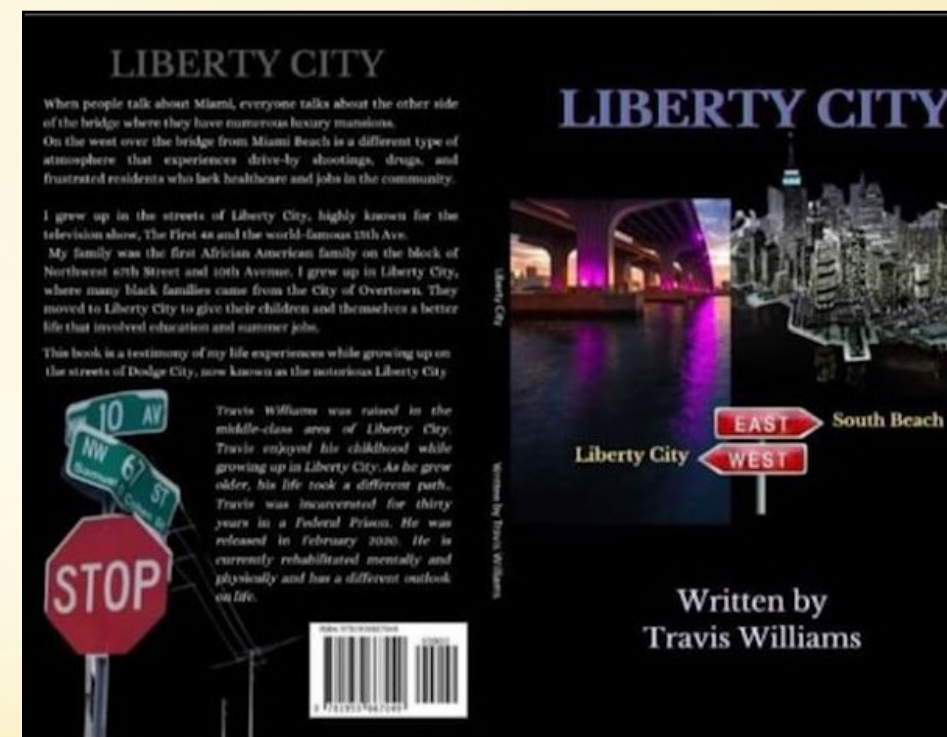
I have experienced different forms of racism. I experienced racism while buying a drink from a store after one of our basketball games. I remember the store owner telling us your money is no good here, and they wouldn't sell us something to drink. I remember encountering a white woman on the elevator, and they would always clutch their purses so tight. I also remember selling candy, and the little girl opened the door to yell the n-word at me. Through all these experiences, I have learned how to take the high road. Hold your head up high and learn to walk away from the situation or incident without engaging in unnecessary nonsense. People are taught hatred and are not born with it in their hearts. I want people to understand it's not, but it's them.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Can you share with our readers any other upcoming projects or books you have coming up? Can you share where your books are available for purchase and your social media platforms for our readers to continue to follow? We wish you continuous success!

TRAVIS WILLIAMS:

I have another book coming out this year called A.B.C. My books are available for purchase on Amazon.com or Barnesnoble.com. You can follow my social media pages: Facebook: Travis Williams Instagram: @original_miamiboys



TWANA MOORE

MEET OWNER OF PERSONALLY SHE

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Welcome to COBS Magazine Fashion Corner. We are delighted to be interviewing owner Twana Moore. Twana Moore is a former educator of 16 years turned full-time e-commerce brand owner and coach. Can you tell us about your childhood before entrepreneurship?

TWANA MOORE:

Before entrepreneurship, I was an educator for 16 years. I was a school counselor for six years. I taught English as a Second Language for two years and was an assistant principal for eight years. I worked as a high school assistant principal when I started Personally She.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Can you tell us about Personally She? What is the story behind the name? How do you describe your style of clothing? Who are your targeted consumers? What statement do you want your clothes to make to the average consumer?

TWANA MOORE:

Personally, She is an apparel brand that helps Black women feel seen through dope statements that empower and represent them. Our products have statements like, "Dope by Default," "Always Bet on Black Women," and "Humble & Hella Confident." I created Personally She so that Black women could be proud of being their authentic selves, whether that's a little bougie or a little boughetto. So, the name represents women expressing themselves personally.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

What inspired you to enter the fashion industry, explicitly designing inspirational clothing and t-shirts? How do you come up with the messages or designs for your products?

TWANA MOORE:

I love a good statement tee! I found myself wanting a shirt with a particular saying, and I would do a Google search to see if I could find a shirt that

said what I had in mind. After several attempts at finding different statements and not finding the one I was searching for, I decided to start creating them myself. I thought if I wanted a t-shirt that says this, surely others would, too. I had no idea how accurate that would turn out to be.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

How was the shift from a familiar territory as an educator to becoming a designer full-time? What were your biggest fears making the transition?

TWANA MOORE:

Oh my goodness! Transitioning to full-time entrepreneurship has been interesting. It's challenging to go from consistent, reliable income to not, lol. I gave myself too much freedom at the beginning of my full-time entrepreneurship journey. That was the whole point of quitting my career. Working when I want to work and not when someone else tells me to. I learned that type of freedom was not good for me. I found myself not starting my workday until about noon, yet I wanted to be done by 4:00 pm when my husband got off from work. It just wasn't feasible. I'm also a very "go with the flow" type of person, which wasn't working, either. I have been almost three years in, and I'm STILL trying to keep a consistent routine.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

In your bio, you mention your community Girl Code: W.I.N. Do you mind elaborating on Girl Code: W.I.N.?

TWANA MOORE:

As a t-shirt brand owner, I got D.M.s all the time from other t-shirt brand owners, asking me questions about how to grow their Instagram, how to start a t-shirt business, and how to get more sales. So, in 2020, I started offering that assistance as a service. I didn't just want to be a coach, and though, I wanted to create a community for other women in e-commerce. So, in comes Girl Code: W.I.N. Through this community, I help other women grow their online stores. The thing I'm most proud of, though, is the community Girl Code: W.I.N. Society, where we come together once a week to learn, brainstorm, and work on our businesses.



The ladies in the community look out for each other, share resources and tips, and, more importantly, encourage one another. It's a beautiful thing to witness.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

In your opinion, what skills are necessary to be a successful fashion designer? What are some trademark elements that shine through your collection?

TWANA MOORE:

I don't consider myself a fashion designer. I am not designing the clothing. I wish I were that talented. I'm just really good at coming up with super relatable statements that help Black women feel seen. Most of the design ideas I come up with come from regular conversations I have with friends or my business crew. In this space (statement t-shirts and apparel), it's essential to be unique. Some people get into it and steal designs from others, but that won't get you very far. You have to find your lane and rock with your creativity. That's how you stand out and build a brand that people love.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Starting a business requires a lot of commitment, blood, sweat, and tears. What have been your most significant challenges since starting your business? How to learn to maneuver through those obstacles?

TWANA MOORE:

My biggest challenges have come from being a full-time entrepreneur. Depending on this income, paying my bills can be stressful. I also have Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (A.D.H.D.) many times. I am ALL over the place. Holding myself accountable the same way a previous boss would hold me accountable has had its challenges, too. I'm much more likely to disregard a deadline I set for myself than one that's assigned to me by a team member or supervisor. I'm still getting more discipline, which is sometimes hard to do with A.D.H.D.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

What has been the biggest lesson you have learned since launching your line?

TWANA MOORE:

My biggest lesson has been not putting all my eggs in one basket. I continue to learn this lesson because it's so easy for me to return to it. When you have one particular traffic source that's doing well and bringing in a lot of revenue, it's hard not to put all your time and effort into that source. But, if something happens and that traffic source stops performing the same way it once was, you find yourself scrambling to figure out where sales will come from. I can't say that I've completely learned that lesson just yet.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

With inflation looming and the cost of goods and services continuing to rise,

how do you stay motivated, encouraged, and creative during these difficult times as a designer?

TWANA MOORE:

I'm going, to be honest. It can be challenging to stay motivated and encouraged when things are not going well. For example, my sales are currently down 46% compared to last month. It's rough and can be very discouraging. But I have a great group of business besties, and we encourage one another and share tips and tricks to try and help keep each other motivated. I also recognize that this is just a moment which shall pass.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

What does the future hold for your brand? How do you think it will evolve or change? How do you think fashion will change soon?

TWANA MOORE:

My goal is to be a lifestyle brand representing our messages on more than just apparel. I have already begun to add lifestyle and household items such as blankets, mugs, and cell phone cases. Your t-shirt doesn't have to be the only way you can make a statement.

C.O.B.S. MAGAZINE:

Do you have any words of encouragement or advice for people wanting to start a brand or work in the fashion industry? Lastly, can you please share your clothing website and all your social media platforms for our readers to connect with you? COBS Magazine wishes you continued success.



TWANA MOORE:

My advice to those who want to start a brand, if that is indeed what you want to do, don't let anything stop you from doing it. You have no idea where it may take you. It will be hard! You will want to quit, but don't! You owe it to yourself to go after your dreams! You can find Personally She on the most popular social media networks. We are @personallyshe on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and TikTok. You can check the website at www.personallyshe.com. Thank you so much for this opportunity.

Personally She



NICOLE GIBSON

MEET CEO/FOUNDER OF NIKKEY CREATIVE LLC

C.O.B.S MAGAZINE:

Welcome to COBS Magazine. We are delighted to interview artist Nicole Gibson. Nicole's artwork challenges that societal view by showcasing the beauty, power, and sensuality of black women, black femininity, and how desirable black womanhood is. Before discussing your business, please give us a little backstory about your upbringing.

NICOLE GIBSON:

Thank you so much for having me. My name is Nicole (Nikkey Creative). I was born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri, and my grandmother raised me alongside my six other siblings. Once I graduated high school, I attended community college for Graphic Design; shortly after, I graduated from The Art Institute with my B.F.A. in Graphic Design.

C.O.B.S MAGAZINE:

Can you tell us about your business? What is your inspiration behind your art, and how do you incorporate messages about Black femininity?

NICOLE GIBSON:

Nikkey Creative LLC. started nine years ago in my hometown of St. Louis, Missouri. Since childhood, I have always been the super creative one in my family. I attended The Art Institute of St. Louis, majoring in Graphic Design and earning my Bachelor of Science in Fine Arts. During college, I began to paint, and one day I decided to post one of my paintings on Facebook, and it went viral, which inspired me to consider selling my artwork. My goal during college was to graduate with my B.F.A. and start a job at an advertising agency. However, things quickly took a turn, and shortly after my painting went viral, I decided to become an entrepreneur.

My business took off when I began to receive orders to create new paintings, inspired by my vivid imagination & requested commissions from customers. I had to quit my job at the time to keep up with the demand. Almost eight years later, I'm still living through my passion daily! I am happily married to an amazing woman, Patrice-Lou, an advanced practice registered nurse, who motivates and inspire me daily to achieve my highest potential. I enjoy creating, inspiring, and touching many lives with my art. The inspiration behind my art comes from black women. This includes every mother, sister, friend, cousin, auntie, and everybody. My art is truly centered on the true existence of black women. I include messages about black femininity through the way I create my paintings. With the big, fluffy hair, the curls, the coils, and the roots, I make sure I add softness to reflect that regal black femininity.

C.O.B.S MAGAZINE:

What do you hope to achieve with your art, and how do you want to impact the mainstream culture's perception of Black women?

NICOLE GIBSON:

I want to change the worldview on how they see black women through my art. I want my art to empower black women. I cannot tell you the number of black women who have commented, emailed, or sent me a message via social media, sharing their stories about how my art has changed their life and view toward themselves. Of course, I would love to contribute to how our culture perceives black women in mainstream media. That's why I share a lot of my work on social media to bring awareness to Black culture through my art.

C.O.B.S MAGAZINE:

Can you talk about any specific experiences or

messages that influenced your art and your perspective on Black femininity?

NICOLE GIBSON:

There is a particular view on how the world looks at black women. The world views black women as a strong force that can take on anything that can help anybody and save everyone. That said, I love to create art showcasing the softer side, the more feminine side, and the more vulnerable side of black women. My art sends a message saying we don't have to be that strong force for everyone. We can be feminine, live in luxury, and be happy. We could be the ones that experience the softer side of life.

C.O.B.S MAGAZINE:

How do you balance the need to raise awareness about Black femininity and the desire to create visually stunning pieces of art?

NICOLE GIBSON:

I like to enjoy the creative process, and at the same time, I have a specific vision and goal in mind. All of my art is centered on glorifying black women, which will always bring balance and unity to my work.

C.O.B.S MAGAZINE:

How do you engage with your audience, and how do you see your art affecting people's attitudes towards Black women?

NICOLE GIBSON:

I engage my audience by listening to what they want to see through my work. One thing about my audience is they're very vocal about my art, which I love! My work has affected the attitude and views towards black women positively. My art gives those who aren't black another set of eyes to look into our world and see us for who we truly are. I also wanted to add that my art is filled with color and vibrancy, and so are black women.

C.O.B.S MAGAZINE:

How do you stay empowered and motivated despite the negative stereotypes and barriers that Black women face in society?

NICOLE GIBSON:

I stay motivated and inspired because I have a mission regarding my artwork. I am going to change the world with my art, and no negative stereotypes or barriers are ever going to stop me. My Black people inspire me every single day of the week to keep going, despite any type of view this world has towards us.

C.O.B.S MAGAZINE:

How do you envision the future of art and its potential to spark positive change in society?

NICOLE GIBSON:

Art has been around for centuries and will forever be a strong tool and force capable of changing world views. Art is one of those things that can bring a positive message across without having to write or speak words.

C.O.B.S MAGAZINE:

What has been the most challenging aspect of creating art that challenges Eurocentric beauty standards? Can you share an example of a black female artist who has successfully challenged Eurocentric beauty standards?

NICOLE GIBSON:

I don't find it challenging to create art that challenges the Eurocentric beauty standards. I will always create art that represents black women in



a positive light. Now I will say there is a challenge with comes to putting black art in art galleries. Art galleries are so used to the same Eurocentric art being displayed in the art world, so when a black artist steps into the art gallery world with black art, showcasing black beauty and black women, that raises a challenge.

C.O.B.S MAGAZINE:

What advice would you give to other Black female artists who want to use their art to challenge beauty standards and break stereotypes?

NICOLE GIBSON:

My advice to other black female artists is just to do it! Create from your heart, Create with Passion Create without having any type of standards on your creativity. This will allow you to create from your heart.

C.O.B.S MAGAZINE:

At COBS Magazine we adore affirmations. Would you mind sharing your daily affirmation that you make applicable to your everyday life? Can you please share your company website and your social media platforms? Thank you for your time, and we wish you continuous success.

NICOLE GIBSON:

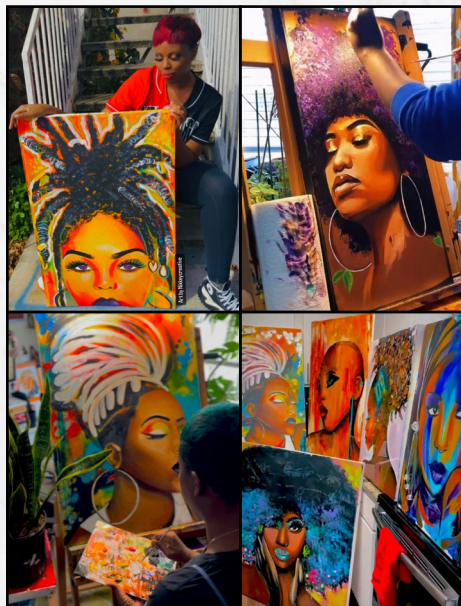
One of my favorite Affirmations: I AM DRIVEN BY PASSION TO FULFILL MY PURPOSE. My social media platforms are:

NICOLE GIBSON: -- My website is www.nikkeycreative.com

Instagram: Nikkey Creative

Tik Tok: Nikkey Creative

Facebook: Nikkey Creative Art



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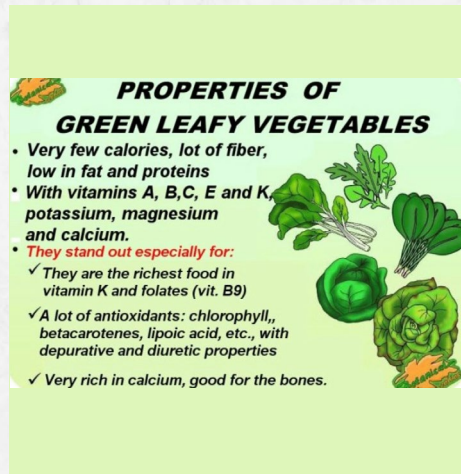
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ARIELLE PERSHAY

THE BENEFITS OF GREEN FOODS FOR YOUR BODY

When it comes to the benefits of green foods for your body, numerous advantages come with consuming a diet rich in green veggies and fruits. One significant benefit is that these foods are excellent sources of essential vitamins and minerals, including vitamin C, iron, potassium, and calcium. They're also loaded with fiber, which is vital for maintaining healthy digestion. Green foods are packed with essential vitamins, minerals, and important nutrients for maintaining a healthy body.



In addition to being nutrient-rich, green foods are often low in calories and fat, making them an excellent choice for weight management. Green foods are also high in antioxidants and are known to help reduce the risk of chronic diseases such as heart disease, cancer, and type 2 diabetes. They are rich in fiber, which can help keep you full and satisfied throughout the day and aid in digestion.

 Cucumber 15 cals	 Celery 15 cals	 Spinach 21 cals
 Zucchini 16 cals	 Broccoli 33 cals	 Green beans 30 cals
 Arugula 28 cals	 Jalapeño 28 cals	 Brussel sprouts 42 cals



So what are some examples of healthy green foods to add to your diet? Leafy greens such as spinach, kale, and arugula are great options, as are cruciferous vegetables like broccoli and Brussels sprouts. Other options include avocados, zucchini, green beans, and kiwi fruit. Incorporating these delicious and nutritious foods into your diet can support your body's natural healing processes and make you feel fabulous from the inside out.

Additionally, many green foods contain chlorophyll, which can help detoxify the body and boost immune function. Adding greener foods to your diet can help improve overall health and well-being and may even help you live longer. Regarding the pH scale, which measures the acidity or alkalinity of different substances, green foods tend to be alkaline. This means that they have a higher pH level than acidic foods, which can help to balance out the body's natural pH levels to prevent issues like inflammation and joint pain.



SO IF YOU'RE LOOKING TO BOOST YOUR OVERALL HEALTH AND WELLNESS, INCORPORATING MORE NUTRIENT-DENSE GREENS INTO YOUR DIET IS AN EXCELLENT PLACE TO START. INCORPORATING MORE GREEN FOODS INTO YOUR DAILY MEALS CAN BE EASY AND DELICIOUS, AND YOUR BODY WILL THANK YOU FOR IT IN THE LONG RUN!

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ABOUT OUR BUSINESS

I am Abdullah Khan, CEO/FOUNDER of Maklion Creations, We are Graphic Designing Company providing our Services Worldwide on Freelance Marketplaces like Fiverr, Upwork, Freelancer and on Various Social Media Platforms. We are doing this work for more than 4 years and really love to deliver beautiful Graphic Designs to our Customers all over the World.

OUR SERVICES

- Printing Design
- Packaging Design
- Magazine Design
- Newsletter/Booklet Design
- Complete Branding
- Social Media Design

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