



MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item 15(D)1

TO: Honorable Chairman Jean Monestime, and
Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: April 21, 2015

FROM: Harvey Ruvin, Clerk
Circuit and County Courts

SUBJECT: Nominations for Appointment
to the Children's Trust by the
Governor

Christopher Agrippa, Director
Clerk of the Board Division

It is recommended that the Board consider the nomination of candidates for the gubernatorial appointment to the Children's Trust to fill three (3) vacancies resulting from the term expiration of Maria A. Alonso and Miguel Balsera and the resignation of Trudy Novicki.

The Board of County Commissioners' adoption of Ordinance 02-247 provides for the creation of a thirty-three (33) member Children's Trust for the purpose of funding improvements for the children of Miami-Dade County in the areas of health, development, safety, parental responsibility, community responsibility and other necessary and important children's services.

Ordinance 02-247 also establishes that seven (7) members of the Children's Trust be appointed by the Governor of the State of Florida from a list of candidates recommended by the Board of County Commissioners. The County Commission is to submit to the Governor the names of at least three (3) persons to fill each vacancy.

The Office of the Chair has received nominations and expressed interest from the following individuals seeking to serve as a member of the Children's Trust:

1. Marla Stevens Alpizar
2. Miguel A. Balsera (Incumbent)
3. Kate M. Callahan, RN., Ph.D.
4. Dr. Joy J. Davis, NBCT, LCSW
5. Scherazade Daruvalla King
6. Alise Johnson Henry
7. Sharon Kendrick-Johnson
8. Annel S. Llanes, FRP
9. Anna A. Rambaran
10. Denis Rod

Attached is a ballot from which you are requested to make a selection of at least nine (9) nominees. The nine (9) highest ranking candidates will be forwarded to the Governor. Attached for your information and review are copies of the resume and/or letter of recommendation for each nominee.

CA/slm
Attachments

**Children's Trust
Nomination for appointment by Governor**

Vote (✓) for Nine (9)	
Marla Stevens Alpizar	<input type="checkbox"/>
Miguel A. Balsera (Incumbent)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kate M. Callahan RN.Ph.D.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Joy J. Davis NBCT, LCSW	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scherazade Daruvalla King	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alise Johnson Henry	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sharon Kendrick-Johnson	<input type="checkbox"/>
Annel S. Llanes FRP	<input type="checkbox"/>
Anna A. Rambaran	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dr. Denis Rod	<input type="checkbox"/>

Commissioner _____

(Please sign ballot)

Commission District Number _____

Marla Stevens Alpizar

EXPERIENCE:

Director, Education & Community Services Department, January 2007-Present.

The City of Hialeah is the fifth largest city in Florida, with a population of 230,000. Over 90% of the residents are Hispanic and many are recent immigrants to this country.

- Oversees department of 200 employees and 6 budgets totaling \$5.2 million.
- Oversees the Hialeah Public Libraries Division and City's Literacy program *Hialeah Reads*.
- Supervises *Creative Learning & Play*, academic and enriching after school programs and summer camps for children, and the *Young Leaders with Character Programs*, 21st Century after school and summer camp programs focused on character and leadership development for middle and high school youth.
- Supervises Office of Communications and Special Events which plans, coordinates, and executes City events; produces content for the City website and TV station; negotiates and maintains all City sponsorship agreements; and coordinates all media relations and social media.
- Supervises the City's Adult Centers and Therapeutics program for disabled adults.
- Coordinates and supervises all of the Mayor's education initiatives, and is the Oversight Committee liaison and advisor to the City of Hialeah Educational Academy Charter School.
- Leads department in efforts to design and implement major grant-funded programming, approximately \$2.5 million annually, which accounts for over half of the Department's budget.
- Led team which wrote and implemented The Children's Trust multiyear grants in excess of \$1 million per year for new after school and summer programs; the Department of Education 21 Century Learning Communities multiyear grants in excess of \$1.3 million per year for new after school and summer programs for middle and high school; and a multiyear grant for The Blue Foundation's *Embrace A Healthy Florida* initiative in excess of \$1 million to combat childhood obesity; as well as many smaller grants.
- Responsible for formation of many partnerships between the City and other government and educational entities, non-profits and business and community leaders with an annual value to the City and its programs of over \$250,000.
- Planned and created the Education & Community Services Department to bring together, expand, enhance and showcase educational services around the City.

Library Director, Hialeah Public Libraries, March 1999-January 2007

Along with many other services, the City maintains 6 municipal public libraries in order to provide high quality, local library and literacy services to its residents.

- Planned and managed \$2 million budget.
- Supervised and evaluated over 54 library staff in 5 municipal public libraries.
- Was responsible for recruiting and hiring of all library staff.
- Represented Library at City Council meetings, at all official functions, and with local media.
- Planned and opened 5 new e-Libraries in 7 years to serve city residents.

- Wrote and implemented Gates Grant for 26 additional computers, training, and software worth over \$100,000, doubling the JFK Library's public access computers and bringing the Internet and computers to the Curtiss Branch for the first time to bring the total computers from 15 to over 70 computers in the LAN.
- Wrote and implemented State of Florida Literacy Grant and obtained \$25,000 towards the hiring of a Literacy Program Director.
- Wrote and implemented Federal Library Services and Technology Grant of over \$83,000 in order to develop and implement a new Family Literacy program *Hialeah Reads* to begin to address Hialeah's 59% low level literacy rate.
- Planned and wrote application for a State of Florida Literacy Grant of \$25,000 towards an early childhood Literacy program *The Hialeah Reading Train*.
- Planned a Community and Technology Partnership Grant application of \$25,000 to set up a mini-library and technology center in a densely populated, remote area of Hialeah.
- Wrote long-range and annual plans for the Libraries.
- Wrote a system-wide Collection Development Plan and a Technology Plan.
- Responsible for enhancing Library-wide programming for all ages.
- Responsible for improvements in staff training at all levels.
- Developed new partnerships and outreach efforts to reach non-library users.
- Began a *Friends of the Hialeah Public Libraries* support group.

Librarian II, Hialeah Public Library, July 1996- March 1999.

- Implemented initial library LAN network.
- Expanded library network from 15 computers to 45 computers.
- Completed Universal Service fund paperwork to purchase network equipment and telecommunication services valued at over \$300,000 for only 28% of cost.
- Was a key planner for implementation of Internet access for the Library and the City.
- Took key leadership role in the planning and development of City's and Library's first Web site.
- Set up and maintained Library Network Security and Firewall for the City.
- Developed and conducted computer classes for over 300 City employees and trained Librarians as additional trainers.
- Supervised Reference Desk and all computer-related functions.
- Redesigned processing procedures improving efficiency dramatically.
- Trained staff in the use of the Galaxy Library Automation System and coordinated all automation issues with the vendor.

Field Support/Trainer, Gaylord Information Systems
Syracuse, New York, August 1994-June 1996.

- Trained academic and public libraries in the use of Galaxy library automation system including OPAC, Circulation, Cataloging, Acquisitions, Serials, Reports, System Administration, and Community Information modules.
- Trained over 30 libraries. Most training trips were 3-4 days in length. Traveled 50% of my time.
- Consulted with libraries during training to integrate the system into their workflow in the most efficient way possible.

- Acted as project manager for new Galaxy libraries coordinating timing for installation, data conversion, and training. Ultimately responsibility for assigned sites to make sure no detail was overlooked in the implementation of a new system.
- Developed refresher training - customized for each library and their needs.
- Developed training documentation and presentation materials.
- Provided special support of libraries in the first 6 months of system use by answering "how to" questions and periodically checking on their progress.
- Worked closely with Software Support Group Programming, Marketing, and Sales to meet the needs of over 100 academic, special, and public libraries on Team 7.
- Identified a critical customer need and took on as a special project a review of the Authority Control module. Consulted with intensive Authority Control users and wrote a report analyzing the current product and recommending future changes. Provided ongoing consultation to the Authority Control programmer and to Documentation and Testing during the rewrite and the beta test of the new module.

EDUCATION:

Master of Library and Information Science: August 1994 - GPA: 4.0
University of Texas at Austin - Emphasis on Special Libraries and Archives

Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and French: August 1991 - GPA: 3.5 Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge

HONORS:

Mary E. Cleveland Centennial Endowed Presidential Scholarship, UT
LSU Top 100 Scholarship
CODOFIL Scholarship at l'Université Catholique de l'Ouest, Angers, France.
T.H. Harris Scholarship, Louisiana State Scholarship
Dean's List, UT and LSU

MEMBERSHIPS & VOLUNTEER WORK:

City of Hialeah Delegate to the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Task Force for the Miami Dade County Public Library System, October 2013 - March 2014

Member of Hialeah Woman's Club, September 2005 – present

- Conducted weekly Mommy & Baby storytime at Curtiss e-Library, 2005-2006
- Volunteer for community service projects.

Volunteer Librarian, All Angels Academy, November 2005 – June 2006

- Provide professional librarian consultation and direction to the school library.

Co-Chair of Silver Ball fundraising event, All Angels Academy, 2009-2013

EESAC Committee, City of Hialeah Educational Academy, September 2008 – present

Chair, Curriculum Advisory Committee, City of Hialeah Educational Academy,
Summer 2008 - present

Board of Directors, South Florida Autism Charter School, September 2009 – June 2013

Board of Directors, Take Stock in Children, Spring 2011 – June 2013

1. What do you think are the needs of children and families in Miami-Dade County?

The needs of children and families in Miami-Dade County have been clearly and carefully identified by The Children's Trust. The work of The Trust in the creation of their needs assessment cannot be underestimated in designing services for children and families. In my own mind, what is important is the economic well-being of families; the health and well-being of children as they grow and learn; access to a high quality education for all in our community; and the provision of high quality, proven services to children, but particularly to groups who need additional services, such as to at-risk children and children with special needs.

2. What is your prior experience working on issues facing children and families in Miami-Dade County?

My experience in public service in Miami-Dade County dates from 1996. I have a proven record of taking an idea and getting it off of the ground. My strengths are planning, developing organization goals and frameworks, and in designing and implementing new initiatives. For the past seven years I have directed all of the City's education programs, including libraries, literacy, out-of-school programs, senior adult centers and the Special Population Center. Prior to this, I worked as a librarian, then as the library director in the City of Hialeah where I began the City's Literacy Program. This initiative has grown over the years to include effective literacy programs for children, for adults, and for families for a population for whom English-language literacy is a continuing barrier to success. Under my direction, the Library system grew from one main library and one small underutilized branch to a modern library system with five e-Libraries, an innovative concept providing each neighborhood with a technology-rich literacy center.

3. Why do you want to serve on this Board and dedicate yourself to the mission of improving the lives of children and families?

I want to serve the Board to promote the initiatives I have knowledge of: early childhood development, excellence in child care and out of school services, literacy issues, and services for children and adults with disabilities. I bring extensive administrative experience to Board service; I believe my input to the Board would be relevant and useful. If appointed to the Board, I would like to participate in efforts to streamline internal Trust processes and would contribute from the perspective of an administrator as well as a provider. Another goal that I would like to assist the Board in is building stronger collaboration between providers and I have extensive experience in community-based partnership building.

Miguel A. Balsera
2802 SW 139 Court
Miami, FL 33175
786-348-3881
Mrb0014@aol.com



Miami-Dade County, Board of County Commissioners
Office of the Chairman, Jean Monestime
111 NW First Street, Suite 220
Miami, FL 33128

February 5, 2015

Re: Children's Trust Governing Board of Miami-Dade County

Dear Chairman Monestime:

I would first like to thank the County Commissioners for their two prior selections in recommending my appointment to The Children's Trust Governing Board of Miami-Dade County. It truly has been an honor to serve on this Board, and in this capacity.

I have dedicated my life to serving children in this community and over the past eight years, I had the honor of serving on this prestigious Board. During that time, we have made great strides in improving the lives of the children in our community. While we all recognize there is still much work to do, I am hoping to be given the opportunity to work with this Board for what would be my final appointment so we can ensure several key issues we addressed during our strategic planning are accomplished.

My term will end this March; however, it is my strong desire to be reappointed, and with that, I am asking for the vote of the Commissioners to once again be considered in the selection process for this reappointment.

Again, I thank you for the opportunity and am very proud to have served on The Children's Trust Governing Board of Miami-Dade County.

If I can answer any further questions or provide additional information please don't hesitate to contact me 786-348-3881.

Sincerely,

Miguel A. Balsera

cc: Muriel Jeanty, Clerk of the Board, The Children's Trust

Enclosure

MIGUEL A. BALSERA

2802 SW 139th Court · Miami, FL 33175 · Tel: 305-227-0585 · Cell: 786-348-3881 · E-mail: mbalsera@dadeschools.net

EDUCATION

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY; FT. LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA

Doctor of Education

DISSERTATION: IMPROVING READING COMPREHENSION AMONG RETAINED STUDENTS IN THIRD GRADE

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY; FT. LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA

Master of Science Degree - Educational Leadership K-12

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY; MIAMI, FLORIDA

Bachelor of Science Degree - Elementary Education

EXPERIENCE

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Zelda Glazer Middle School; Miami, Florida Principal	2013-Present
Bent Tree Elementary School; Miami, Florida Principal	2009-2013
Tropical Elementary School; Miami, Florida Assistant Principal	2005-2009
Robert Russa Moton Elementary School; Miami, Florida Assistant Principal	2003-2005
Marjory Stoneman Douglas Elementary School; Miami, Florida Teacher/Administrative Assistant	2002-2003
Rockway Elementary School/West Little River Elem. School; Miami, Florida Teacher	1997-2002

HONORS AND LEADERSHIP

- Awarded United Way American Values Award
- Regional Center V 2008 Assistant Principal of the Year
- Miami-Dade County Public Schools 2008 District Runner-Up Assistant Principal of the Year
- The Children's Trust of Miami-Dade, Board Member (2007-Present)
- The Children's Trust of Miami-Dade Executive Committee, Committee Member (2008-Present)
- The Children's Trust of Miami-Dade Program Services Committee, Committee Member (2008-Present)
- The Children's Trust of Miami-Dade Youth Advisory Committee Mentor (2007)
- Chosen Mainstream Teacher of the Year for Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), 2000
- Selected to Who's Who Among America's Teachers, 2003
- Regional Center Five Assistant Principal of the Year Selection Committee Chairperson, 2004-2005.
- Universal Florida Pre-K Campaign Steering Committee Chairperson
- St. Brendan Catholic Church Youth Ministry Program Executive Board Member

ACTIVITIES

- Founded Friendly Falcons Community Service Club at Rockway Elementary
- Assisted in collection and distribution of annual Camillus House Holiday Toy Drive (2004-2007)
- Member of Dade Association of School Administrators
- Community Blood Banks of South Florida – One Gallon Donor (1997-Present)
- PTA Member (1997-Present)

Kate M. Callahan, RN., Ph.D.
2111 Tigertail Avenue
Miami, Florida 33133

March 4, 2015

Miami-Dade County Commission
Office of the Chairman, Jean Monestime
111 North West First Street
Suite 220
Miami, FL 33128



Dear Commissioner Monestime:

Please accept this letter and a copy of my C.V. as a formal request to be considered to fill one of the three vacancies on the Children's Trust Board of Trustees as a gubernatorial appointee.

I have many qualifications that I think make me a unique candidate for this position. I was a child with seven siblings and my dad made \$9,000,00 a year feeding and clothing a family of 10. I worked hard to become a Registered Nurse and have been a nurse for over forty years. I am a well known community activist in Miami-Dade County, and have been fighting for the least of us since my arrival to Miami – four days after Hurricane Andrew. I was an ethics professor for over ten years. There are other skills and experiences you can read in my C.V.

As you can see from my C.V., I have myriad experiences working with families and children. I have been a Neonatal nurse and understand the needs of our tiniest citizens. I have worked with homeless children as Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Camillus Health Concern; I have worked with families and

community leaders as a member of the Public Health Trust working towards better access to care for families needing often out of reach health care.

I presently serve and have served for over four years, as a volunteer Civilian Panel Member for the Florida Foster Care Review. Through this role and experience, I am intimately aware of the special needs of Foster Care families and have made a positive difference in many of their lives.

As an independent business owner and not a children's service provider in our community I would never have a conflict of interest as I carried out my trustee obligations. Also, as a business woman I have a firm understanding of the finances and the fiscal responsibilities of this position.

I have the time treasure and talent to serve on this Board of Directors as I have presently termed out of other boards in which I was serving. I believe my talents and experiences are valuable and unique. My personal and professional experiences are geared towards becoming a team member of the Board of Directors of The Children's Trust. I know that becoming a member of this team I can with them, make a positive difference in the lives of the wonderful children and families with whom we live, work and play every day in our amazing but, often needy community. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kate M. Callahan". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Kate M. Callahan, RN., Ph.D.

Kate M. Callahan, RN, MPA, Ph.D.

KATE CALLAHAN
2111 Tigertail Avenue
Coconut Grove, Florida 33133
Phone: (305) 860-9226
Fax: (305) 860-0622
e-mail:katemarycallahan@gmail.com

EDUCATION

Trocaire College	A.S.	Nursing
University of Miami	BSN.	Nursing
Harvard University	MPA.	Healthcare Policy
Barry University	Ph.D.	Philosophy

Dissertation: A Qualitative, Collective Case Study
Examining Psychological, Emotional, and Spiritual
Experiences Regarding End-of-Life Care Decisions

AMA Education for Physicians on End-of-Life Care (EPEC)
Diploma in MBA Exchange Program in Spanish for Business -
ESAN Graduate School of Business, Lima, Peru.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE/EMPLOYMENT

1996-Present	THE HUNTINGTON CONSULTING GROUP Consultant: Strategy development, management consulting, staff education and training. Expert witness work regarding standards of Nursing Practice. From 2009 through 2010 Executive Director: South Florida Health Information Exchange (SFHIE) Managing a Health Information Exchange (HIE), assisting Hospitals in Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties through the work of the Board of Directors and other community stakeholders to facilitate access and retrieval of clinical data to provide safer, more timely, efficient, effective, equitable, patient-centered care.	Miami, FL
1999- 2011	BARRY UNIVERSITY Adjunct Professor. Teaching Ethical Foundations in Health Care and Healthcare Delivery.	Miami Shores, FL
2002 -Present	UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI SCHOOL OF NURSING Adjunct Associate Professor.	Coral Gables, FL
1999-2003	NOVA- SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY (NSU) Assistant Professor. Teaching Trends in Healthcare, Geriatrics and End-of-Life Care to medical students. Ethics, Responsible for program and partnership development between NSU's Geriatrics Department and community organizations.	Davie, FL

Kate M. Callahan, RN, MPA, Ph.D.

Dr. Callahan has earned a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Nursing (BSN) from the University of Miami, a Master's Degree in Public Administration (MPA) Majoring in Health Care Policy from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, and a Doctor of Philosophy Degree (Ph.D.) in Leadership and Adult Education from Barry University.

As a nurse for over 43 years, Dr. Callahan has practiced in New York, Illinois, California, and in Florida. Her career includes a myriad of clinical positions as well as many business experiences. Kate has the unusual experience of working in both the public and private sectors of the health care arena.

Presently Kate is a partner with The Huntington Consulting Group which is an organization specializing in Health Care Strategic Planning, Marketing and Sales, and Board Development.. Kate is a noted national speaker on the topic of End-of- Life care especially as it relates to Advance Care Planning. She is the Coauthor of the nationally acclaimed FIVE WISHES Advance Directive document which is being used by millions of Americans. As one of the first certified professors of Education for Physicians for End-of-Life Care (EPEC) in the United States, she assisted with writing the curriculum about EOL care for the Medical School at Nova Southeastern University where she served as an assistant professor teaching third year medical students Geriatrics and EOL care Kate also served on Florida's Governor Jeb Bush's End-of-Life Care Blue Ribbon panel.

Kate is an expert on the Standards of Practice and Laws for Nurses and serves as an expert witness in court cases pertaining to nursing.

Kate was the Executive Director of the South Florida Health Information Exchange, managing the South Florida Regional Health Information Organization (RHIO). She is also an expert on Standards of Practice and Ethics in Nursing and serves as an expert witness in Medical Mal Practice cases.

Kate recently served as a member of the Board of Directors of the International Women's Forum; she served as the Chairman of the Board Emeritus of the Camillus Health Concern and was a member of the Board Directors of Camillus House for fourteen years. She Chairs the Miami-Dade College Advisory Committee of the Institute for Ethics in Health Care. She also serves on the University of Miami's School of Nursing and Health Science's Nursing Advisory Council and she chaired the Capital Campaign for the Schools' new building completed in 2006. Kate served as the only clinician on the Board of the Public Health Trust (PHI) for over six years and she is a former Chairman of the Board of Miami-Dade County's Alliance for Aging (AAA).

Presently Kate serves on the Foster Care Review Panel (FCR) in Miami-Dade County reviewing with fellow citizen cases of children in the foster care system and making recommendations to the courts on the children's behalf.

In 1999 Kate was the recipient of the Women's Business Journal's Women of Power Award, and she was featured as one of Florida's 100 Women Leaders to watch in the "Miami Metro" Magazine. In 2003 Kate won the distinguished Alumna Award of the University Of Miami School Of Nursing. In 2006 she was the recipient of the American Red Cross Sara Hopkins Woodruff Chairman's Spectrum Award and, in 2008 she won the Community Service award from the Miami-Dade County Health Department. In 2009 Kate was elected to a seat on the Coconut Grove Village Council. Kate was one of the Finalists of the Chamber of Commerce Health Care Heroes award. In 2012 she won the Trocaire College Distinguished Alumna Award for her work in Nursing and Community volunteerism.

03/04/15

Miami-Dade County, Board of County Commissioners
Office of the Chairman, Jean Monestime
111 NW First Street, Suite 220
Miami, FL 33128

To the Honorable Chair, Commissioner Jean Monestime,

It is with great excitement that I submit to you, this letter of interest, for consideration to serve on the board of The Children's Trust. As a life-long resident of Miami Dade County, I have 25+ years of experience, working and volunteering with this community's children and families, in varying capacities.

Serving on the board would allow me the opportunity to greater utilize my expertise as an educator, counselor, social worker and community change agent. Please find attached, my resume which covers my work history, skills and community engagement, in greater depth.

I appreciate your consideration in this important and life changing appointment. To be able to positively impact the lives of our greatest resource (our children), is indeed an honor. I am hopeful that you will deem me worthy of such!

Sincerely,



Dr. Joy J. Davis, NBCT, LCSW



Joy J. Davis, Ed.D., NBCT, LCSW

2953 Northwest 64th Street •Miami, FL 33147

Cell: (305) 582-0746

E-mail: drj2005@comcast.net

Qualifications: **Twenty five years of experience as a Student Services Professional
*State and National Certifications in Education *Collegiate teaching
experience *Licensed Mental Health Professional *Community Change
Agent*

Professional Experience

Associate Faculty (2005-Present)

(Nova Southeastern University)

- Provide direct instruction in theory and practice to Master's level students in Mental Health Counseling and School Guidance Counseling. Courses taught: CGPY 510 Career Development, CGPY 685 Pre-Practicum Seminar, CGPY 525 Human Growth and Development.

School Counselor (1990-2005 & 2006-Present)

(Miami Dade County Public Schools)

- Implement Comprehensive School Counseling Model through academic, career and social/personal domains.
- Grade Level Counselor
- Provide individual and group counseling
- Provide consultation with teachers
- Test Chairperson responsible for school-wide test administration of national, district and state mandated tests: PERT, CELLA, FCAT, FSA, NAEP, TIMMS, etc.

Curriculum Support Specialist (2005)

(Miami Dade County Public Schools)

- Responsible for training, supervising and the appropriate implementation of the administration of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) for district. Liaison between Florida Department of Education and Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

Professional Experience (continued)

Clinical Social Worker (2001-2003)

(New Horizons Community Mental Health Center, Inc.) Miami, FL

- Provided psychosocial assessment and clinical diagnosis
- Responsible for Intensive Therapeutic On-Site Services
- Consultation with psychiatrist on treatment plans

Group Facilitator (1994 – 2008)

Miami-Dade College Miami, FL

(KIDS- Kids in Divorce Situations - Continuing Education - North Campus)

- Facilitated court-mandated counseling group for children of divorcing couples
- Provided counsel and consultation for divorcing parents

Education

Doctorate of Education Nova Southeastern University Ft. Lauderdale, FL (2003)

Major: *Educational Leadership*

Dissertation: *Promoting Student Services Personnel Involvement in the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test*

Graduate Certificate St. Thomas University Miami, FL (2003)

Center for Loss and Healing

Master of Science St. Thomas University Miami, FL (1995)

Major: *Guidance and Counseling*

Master of Social Work University of Georgia Athens, GA (1990)

Patricia Roberts Harris Fellowship Recipient

Bachelor of Social Work Fort Valley State University Ft. Valley, GA (1988)

Cum Laude

Associate of Arts Miami Dade College Miami, FL (1985)

Major: *Social Work*

Certifications and Licensures

Florida Department of Education

- *Educational Leadership*
- *Guidance and Counseling*
- *School Social Work*

National Board Teacher Certification

- *School Counseling – PK-12*

Florida Department of Health

- *Licensed Clinical Social Worker #SW 7386*
- *State Qualified Supervisor – CSW, MH and MFT*

Community Involvement and Memberships

Community Council 8 – Board Member - Miami Dade County (Elected - 2 terms)

- *Chairman*
- *Vice-Chairman*

Gladeview Homeowner's Association (7 Years)

- *President*
- *Vice President*
- *Secretary*

Citizens Crime Watch – Northside District (8 Years)

- *Citizen's Involvement of the Year Nominee (2012)*

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. (28 Years)

Leadership Miami – Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce

- *Class of 1999*
- *Facilitator 1999-2001*

Vitas Hospice (3 Years)

- *Volunteer*

Scherazade Daruvalla King

5808 Alton Road
Miami Beach, FL 33140
Phone: 617-320-6433
E-Mail: scherazadeking@comcast.net, sking@moguldom.com

March 1, 2015

Miami-Dade County, Board of County Commissioners
Office of the Chairman, Jean Monestime
111 NW First Street, Suite 220
Miami, FL 33128

RE: Governor's Appointment to The Children's Trust Board of Directors

Dear Mr. Monestime and the Children's Trust Board Selection Committee:

It would be a pleasure to serve the children and families of Miami-Dade County as a board member for The Children's Trust. As a seasoned executive, I have consistently had P&L responsibility and extensive fiduciary experience over my career, dating back to by days in audit and mergers and acquisitions at PriceWaterhouseCoopers. I am also the founder of the award winning Boston based nonprofit organization, Amplifyme, whose mission is to use the media arts to amplify the engagement of youth in action for positive change. Amplifyme actively advocated for more youth voice in the media as well as advocacy to improve how youth of color are represented in mainstream media coverage. Our programs were featured on ABC, NBC, CBS, MTV, CSPAN, and in numerous newspapers and radio programs (see press highlights attached). Amplifyme continues to have programs at Miami Edison Senior High School in Liberty City though I have moved into a new role. I am currently the SVP Strategic Initiatives at Moguldom Media Group, a multicultural digital media company recognized by the Inc. 5000, where I lead the organization's corporate social responsibility, public relations, and other key initiatives. In addition to launching corporate philanthropic initiatives, I also launched the CEO's personal private foundation focused on serving the needs of youth in Africa. I have held several board of directors roles over the years including current board posts at Greater Miami Youth Symphony and Church by the Sea.

However, the most important role that I hold that equips me to make an important contribution as a member of the board of The Children's Trust is my role as the mother of two amazing boys of color. My sons attend a public magnet elementary school in Miami and have unique learning needs that have given us great exposure to programs, events, and initiatives across the county.

By employing a collaborative approach, I have made significant contributions in the areas of strategic planning, communications, program management and evaluation, and community building. Training and experience in facilitative leadership enables me to move people towards common goals. I would be honored to represent and promote The Children's Trust and encourage it's growth and continued support. My skills coupled with my commitment to the supporting children and families in Miami-Dade county equip me make an important contribution to the work of The Children's Trust Board of Directors. I hope you will consider my application without reservation.

Sincerely,



Scherazade Daruvalla King



Scherazade Daruvalla King is the SVP of Strategic Initiatives of Moguldom Media Group, a leading global digital media and entertainment company that develops and leverages online brands and content across mobile, social, online video and film. Moguldom's portfolio of brands (ie., MadameNoire, Styleblazer, etc.) reach over 29 million monthly unique visitors and generate over 391 million monthly pageviews. King heads up all Public Relations, Branding, Corporate Social Responsibility, and Corporate Communication work. King recently launched a scholarship fund and is actively involved in all aspects of building a corporate culture rooted in exemplary corporate citizenship and high employee engagement. King wants Moguldom to be listed as one of the best places to work by 2016.

Previously, King was the President of Amplifyme, a national non-profit whose mission is to create a renaissance in the media arts that increases the engagement of all people in action for positive change. Amplifyme's work is at the nexus of civic engagement and the media and is carried out through media production, 21st century skills training, in school and after school programming, workshops and youth-generated activities that promote action, self-worth, responsibility, intergenerational respect and communication. AmplifyMe is a winner of Harvard Business School's Venture Philanthropy Award, the Netflix Empowerment Award at the Media That Matters Film Festival, UNICEF's Voices of Youth Video Competition, the national If I Had a Trillion Dollars Video Competition and has been showcased on MTV, HBO, ABC, NBC, CBS, as well as in major newspapers and radio stations nationwide. Amplifyme was chosen for recognition as a National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award (NAHYP) Finalist by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities and its partner agencies: the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Of 471 nominations from 48 states Amplifyme was selected as one of 50 finalists distinguishing it as one of the top arts and humanities based programs in the country. In 2010, Amplifyme began its national expansion by piloting programs in Miami.

King is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, where she received a degree in Business Administration. She began her career as a consultant with Pricewaterhouse Coopers (formerly Coopers & Lybrand) in Washington DC, specializing in mergers and acquisitions and later in the non-profit sector. She went on to start SDK Management, a consulting firm focusing on business planning, fiscal administration, and management training for domestic and international non-profit organizations. In 1995 King received the Teachers for Africa Fellowship, and an appointment as the Senior Lecturer in the Department of Business and Economic Studies at the University of Cape Coast, in Ghana West Africa. In addition to her teaching responsibilities, she provided strategic business planning for micro-enterprises to promote community economic development. Upon her return to the US in 1997, King began to shift from a business focus to one that integrates individual and societal components to promote transformative change.

King is also the president of The Power Company, a boutique firm that specializes in using the power of communications to increase and leverage constituency dialogue and participation for positive outcomes on pressing social issues. Her clients include Catalyst Miami, The Praxis Project, Health Resources in Action, Third Sector New England, JPNDC, Casa Esperanza, Progressive Communicators Network, Year Up, Citizen Schools, Freedom House, and many others.

Drawing from her rich life experiences, extensive travel, and work, King is able to appreciate the connections that we all share. By reframing the tragic events and circumstances of her childhood and integrating empowering, positive messages into her daily life, she was able to transform her own life and is now using empowering media messages to promote healing and transformation in the lives of many others. King's background gives her membership in many different worlds and the ability to connect and understand the sensibilities of various segments of society, which informs and strengthens her work.

King is currently on the board of Greater Miami Youth Symphony and Church by the Sea and has had numerous previous appointments. She is a wife and mother of two young boys and enjoys skiing, swimming, salsa, yoga, filmmaking and travel. She is a passionate speaker, educator, and believer in our ability to use the media arts to build community and promote positive change.

SCHERAZADE DARUVALLA KING

5808 ALTON ROAD, MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA 33140
617.320.6433/CELL | SCHERAZADEKING@comcast.net

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

- Resourceful executive, social entrepreneur, and consultant with an adaptive management style and proven track record of delivering measurable results for businesses, nonprofits and campaigns of conscience domestically and internationally for 20 years.
- Extensive experience in strategic planning, organizational development, growth strategy, branding and communications, project and program management, process improvement, and capacity building.
- Demonstrated ability to develop relationships, influence colleagues and peers, and mobilize stakeholders toward common goals and desired outcomes.
- Strategic thinker and trusted partner with ability to quickly assess issues, anticipate future needs, develop solutions, make good decisions and execute a plan. Strong aptitude for establishing structure in ambiguous environments while maintaining flexibility for creativity and innovation.
- Significant accomplishments in media, marketing and communications, program development and management for millennials and diverse populations, performance improvement, collaboration, teambuilding, outreach, corporate social responsibility, philanthropy, and community building.

HIGHLIGHT OF SKILLS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Leadership and Organizational Development

- Recruited and managed a diverse team of 13 visionary professionals with backgrounds in media, academia, film, music, advertisement, health, and law to effectively pilot and launch a 501c3 startup initiative addressing civic engagement and the media. Raised 100% of seed funding. Forged strategic partnerships with corporate, government, nonprofit, and academic institutions such as MTV, Harvard University, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, DHHS, NAMAC, State of FL, and State of MA resulting in over \$2.5M in grants and contracts.
- Spearheaded a portfolio of civic engagement projects that reflected the mission of the organization while cultivating a sense of community, excellence, professionalism, continuous learning, and high morale with our team of board, staff, artist, youth program participants, and volunteers earning us Harvard Business School's Venture Philanthropy Award among other accolades.
- Launched 3 successful social entrepreneurial ventures (one of which was sold) focusing on strategic business planning, change management, and social marketing and communications. In each case, revenues more than tripled in two years and continued to grow exponentially. Started a private foundation for a philanthropist.
- Served on several board of directors and elected to offices of Chair, Vice President, and Clerk while helping navigate change, reorganization, strategic and contingency planning, capital campaigns, etc.
- Successfully lead 2 three year strategic planning processes, 4 business planning processes, one naming process, and 10 logo, branding and visual identity processes. Supported numerous others.

Quality Improvement, Change Management and Capacity Building

- Led needs assessment and work process review of 100+ member accounting team in three offices resulting in a work redistribution strategy and a 35% gain in efficiency eliminating the need for redundant staff.
- Provided technical assistance to university officials in management, administration, proposal development and resource mobilization to improve operations resulting in USAID support.
- Consulted with Ghanaian small businesses and programs supporting microenterprise development to evaluate and improve business practices. Trained 10 entrepreneurs in management, marketing, and accounting.
- Performed planning, risk assessment, management recommendation letters, and internal control reports for client engagements. Provided effective solutions to weaknesses in internal controls systems.

Communications, Outreach, and Visibility

- Spearheaded branding, communications and social marketing strategies for statewide public health campaigns targeted to reach 500K millennials including adaptations for Twitter, Facebook, bus-wraps, tshirts, and other media.
- Provided development and visibility for emerging professional artists in music, film, and video to create messages that inform, inspire, and engage our citizenry in action for positive change. Media wins include MTV, HBO, ABC, NBC, CBS, Current TV, Free Speech TV, BNNTV, Boston Globe, Miami Herald, Baltimore Sun, Boston Herald, Boston Metro, Bay State Banner and many radio and community media outlets.
- Executive producer of numerous promotional videos for organizations airing on network and cable stations.

E X P E R I E N C E

MOGULDOM, Fort Lauderdale, FL

2014 – Present

Moguldom Media Group (MMG) is a leading global digital media and entertainment company that develops and leverages online brands and content across mobile, social, online video and film. Moguldom's portfolio of brands reach over 29 million monthly unique visitors and generate over 391 million monthly pageviews. Moguldom Media Group is obsessed with innovation and being ahead of the curve, and generally focuses on diverse, underserved markets.

Senior Vice President Strategic Initiatives (2014 – Present)

Provide leadership on a macro level across all Moguldom divisions in various cities across the globe to develop and implement innovative initiatives and that integrate to advance the organization's mission and vision. The SVP of Strategic Initiatives is creative, resourceful and enjoys working in an entrepreneurial environment that is mission-driven, results-driven and audience engagement oriented. The SVP of Strategic Initiatives has the ability to quickly assess issues, anticipate future needs, develop solutions, make good decisions and execute a plan. The SVP of Strategic Initiatives works independently and/or collaboratively on projects, from conception to completion, and handles a wide variety of activities and confidential matters with discretion while functioning with a high degree of autonomy.

- Lead a successful search process for the Chief Operating Officer, board of directors, and other high level mission critical positions. Assumed an "acting" role for key positions until they are staffed.
- Lead an internal audit of our new studios division that resulted in a reorganization, new leadership, revised budget per production, workflow redesign and process re-engineering. Very hands on with broad concepting, editing and film review. Associate Producer credits on some films.
- Head up all Public Relations, Branding, Corporate Social Responsibility, and Corporate Communication work. Engaged PR firms in the US and London to drive PR to amplify our corporate brand. Support our individual brands such as MadameNoire, Bossip, and Styleblazer with their PR efforts.
- Started the first Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives including a scholarship fund, paid time off policy for four annual volunteer days, and national nonprofit partners for volunteerism and employee engagement.
- Serves as the senior consultant to the CEO on the development and implementation of strategies for Moguldom and related entities. Establishes overarching objectives, ensure the necessary staffing, resources, and internal project management to achieve objectives.
- Incubate new projects and business models. Conduct feasibility studies, business planning, recruiting for key strategic imperatives.
- Identify disruptive and trendsetter ideas in digital media, digital marketing, advertising and entertainment by researching industry and related events, publications, and announcements; tracking individual contributors and their accomplishments.
- Serve as the President of the CEO's private foundation that provides funding to children's initiatives in Africa.

AMPLIFYME, Boston, MA and Miami, FL

2002 – 2014

Amplifyme is a national nonprofit organization that uses the media arts to amplify the engagement of all people in action for positive change. Signature programs weave music, video and online media production, civic engagement, social justice, media literacy/democracy, and youth development to promote empowerment, action, self-esteem, responsibility, and intergenerational respect and communication.

Executive Director (2002- Present)

Direct and facilitate all aspects of a multi-faceted national nonprofit organization with creativity, vision, and inclusion. Spearhead activities with the Board of Directors, staff, volunteers and partners that enliven and reflect the mission of the organization. Responsible for developing relationships with individual donors, foundations and the corporate community that provide the fiscal sustainability for the organization. Seek opportunities with legislators, advocates and others to deliver services needed by the community. Serve as a key spokesperson of the organization and is a prolific keynote speaker, presenter, panelist, and thought leader nationwide.

- Received a special commendation from the President's National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award committee as one of 50 exemplary organizations serving youth nationwide. Received Harvard Business School's Venture Philanthropy Award to grow Amplifyme to scale.
- Supervised the creation and implementation of four signature programs: 1) Youth Media Institute, 2) Empowerment Music Program, 3) Movement Pictures Video Program, 4) Electronic Community Media Program. Provided a space for ad hoc programs that enabled the organization to be responsive to current events in the media and pop culture, including televised youth programs, public service announcements, film shorts, conferences, apprenticeships, workshops resulting in enthusiastic media coverage and participation.

- Recruited, trained and managed a staff of 13 plus 30 volunteers and interns to achieve outstanding results. Facilitated and reported to a Board of Directors of 12 professionals and a youth advisory council.
- Served as producer and director of "Connect With Me," a film commissioned by the City of Miami Beach and showcased at the Colony Theater on Lincoln Road. Served as producer of "If I had a Minute with the President" a video created by middle school students to leverage influence on decision-making that affects them. This video was featured on the floor of the Democratic National Convention on CSPAN and on national television network stations. Since then the video has aired on the local ABC, NBC, and CBS affiliates with youth and staff guest appearances.
- Produced the video entitled "Diana" that a winner in the Media That Matters Film Festival in New York.
- "Voices of Youth" video was a top 10 finalist in UNICEF's global youth video competition.
- Created and pitched Youth Urban Update, a show that aired for two years on WHDH Channel 7 (an NBC affiliate) to empower youth in civic dialogue and public debate.
- Directed the subsidiary record label devoted solely to providing socially conscious and socially responsible music in various popular genres to the listening public. Released multi-genre compilation CD featuring artists such as Roger Miller, Bounty Killer, Souflege, Foundation Movement, Iyeoka Okowao, and 17 year-old spoken word artist Sofia Snow. Oversaw all production, manufacturing, distribution, and marketing efforts.
- Worked with producers and artistic directors to develop and manage artist's brand. Promote and manage artists to achieve the maximum visibility including CD release parties, concerts, radio and television appearances, and speaking engagements. Artist featured on HBO's Def Poetry Jam.

THE POWER COMPANY, Boston, MA

2003 – 2014

A full service communications boutique committed to turning on the power of nonprofits, socially responsible businesses, and campaigns of conscience to communicate their true voice and value to their communities.

Principal (2003- 2014)

Provide organizations with branding and communications services in print, web, audio, and video media that effectively engage their constituents. Manage a team of talented subcontractors. Clients include Catalyst Miami, JPND, The Barr Foundation, Third Sector New England, Health Resources in Action, The Praxis Project, Casa Esperanza.

NEXT GENERATION CONSULTING GROUP, Boston, MA

2000 – 2002

NGCG focuses on promoting positive social change through strategic planning, leadership and organizational development, evaluation, and social entrepreneurship to build healthy communities.

Senior Consultant (2000- 2002)

Spear-head initiatives in a range of clients from multi-state, multi-organization companies to community based organizations. Communicate and collaborate with management to implement change management strategy and align business processes and job design with best practice to insure maximum performance improvement. Clients include The Mentor Network and Whittier Street Community Health Center.

BOSTON MEDICAL CENTER, Boston, MA

1997 – 2000

Boston Medical Center is an extraordinary community of health care providers with a full spectrum of pediatric, adult and advanced specialty care. BMC is devoted to the proposition that every person, regardless of his or her social or economic circumstances, deserves the best health care.

Senior Planner and Senior Project Manager (1997- 2000)

Collaborated with management to set achievable organizational goals and determine strategies to reach them cost effectively. Served as Project Manager on several projects, like the Lawson Systems Implementation, that implemented these strategies including reorganization, relocation, and consolidation activities. Implemented a guiding coalition that developed consensus in the vision and strategy. Empowered work groups for broad based action. Designed training curriculum, manuals and programs such as job rotation, workshops, industry updates, etc. to promote employee development and quality improvement. Implemented effective performance management systems and motivational instruments.

- Developed Administrative Procedure Manual to help facilitate the flow of transactions and information through functional financial areas following the new systems implementation.
- Appointed to three key hospital-wide committees: Employee Recognition Committee, Diversity Committee and the Patient Satisfaction Committee. Established formal standards of service excellence and implemented a

coordinated series of initiatives to introduce, communicate, develop, measure, and reinforce exceptional service behaviors.

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST, Ghana, West Africa

1995 – 1997

UCC is a leading university with one of the foremost business schools in Ghana.

Senior Lecturer, Department of Economics and Business Studies

International Foundation for Education and Self Help Fellow

Taught principles of Management, Personnel Management, Business Communication, and International Business in classes ranging from 25 to 250 students. Contributed to the development of objectives and curriculum for the new Masters in Commerce Program.

SDK MANAGEMENT CONSULTING, Silver Spring, Maryland

1993 – 1995

Consulting practice providing domestic and international nongovernmental organizations (NGO's) with best practice management, process engineering, and fiscal solutions.

Management and Financial Consultant

Provided grant and financial management utilizing skills in organizational strategy and finance. Coordinated the competitive bidding process and negotiated contracts. Conducted workshops on various aspects of management including project planning, problem solving and decision-making, motivation and retention, group behavior, and diversity. Formulated and implemented solutions resulting in significant cost reduction and income generation. Clients include International Human Rights Law Group and Center for Justice and International Law.

COOPERS & LYBRAND, Washington, DC

1990 – 1993

Currently known as PricewaterhouseCoopers, the company has member firm offices in 757 cities in 151 countries. PwC US was named one of Fortune's '100 Best Companies to Work For' in 2009

Senior Associate - General Practice (1991-1993)

Planned and managed audit and consulting engagements in the non-profit, health care, government, banking, and communications industries. Prepared financial statements, consolidations, management recommendation letters, internal control reports and risk assessments. Compiled strategic information for new business development. Conducted presentations to partners, managers, and clients.

Associate – Mergers and Acquisitions (1990-1991)

Prepared analysis supporting leveraged buyout transactions. Performed due diligence for corporate mergers and acquisitions.

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Bachelor in Business Administration

Texas Achievement Award Foster Parker Memorial Scholarship

Omicron Delta Kappa Honors

THE PARTNERSHIP INC., Executive leadership training program
for selected professionals of color

1999 – 2000

Facilitative Leadership Certificate, Interaction Associates

2001

NAMAC Youth Media Leadership Institute, National leadership training
and youth media industry field building

2004 – 2005

NAMAC Executive Director's Retreat and Peer Coaching Year

2006

Rockwood Leadership Institute, National leadership development
for media policy reform and coalition building

2008 – 2009

W.K. Kellogg Foundation Civic Engagement Learning Year

National program for civic engagement best practices	2008 – 2009
Managing in Turbulent Times, The Nonprofit Finance Fund	2008
Outcomes Measurement and Evaluation, Boston Capacity Tank	2009
Adaptive Leadership, Third Sector New England	2009

HONORS Harvard Business School Venture Philanthropy Award
 National Arts & Humanities Youth Program Finalist
 Rockwood Media, Communications, and Information Policy Fellow
 Teachers for Africa Award
 Teacher Recognition Award, University of Cape Coast

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES Board Member and Board Clerk, Boston Neighborhood Network Television (BNNTV)
 Board Member, Greater Miami Youth Symphony
 Board Member, Church by the Sea
 Board Chair, Amplifyme
 Past Board Member, Hope Church
 Past Board Vice Chair, Tracing Center for Slavery and the Nation
 Past Member, Boston Coalition of 100 Black Women
 Past Board Member, Lena Park Community Development Corporation
 Past Board Vice President, Ecumenical Social Action Committee (ESAC)
 Past Board Member, Greater Egleston Community High School

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS Member, Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce
 Member, The Commonwealth Institute
 Member, National Alliance for Media Arts and Culture (NAMAC)
 Member, Listen Up Youth Media Network
 Member, Progressive Communicator's Network

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SCHERAZADE DARUVALLA KING

Press Highlights

The Boston Globe

Saturday February 21, 2009

Thoughtful Approach GFORCE SCHERAZADE DARUVALLA KING

Black protesters in the united states and South Africa once used songs to promote their desires for racial equality. Scherazade Daruvalla King mines that concept in her efforts to get disenfranchised people engaged enough to push for the socioeconomic change they need to improve their lives

with music, television and the Internet full of messages mired in materialism, sexism, and racism, King tries to extend another message through her six-year-old nonprofit organization, Project: Think Different. Her company teaches youths how to create music, video and online media that make consumers more socially conscious. It also supports artists who create these more thoughtful products.

"There's so many of us that are not awake to our power, to our roles as co-creators of the world we want to live in," says Daruvalla King, 41. "We need to have reminders. We need to hear those reminders at least as many times as we hear the doom and gloom on Wall Street."

"Project: Think Different takes its message to schools such as Edwards Middle School in Charlestown and Madison Park High School in Roxbury, and colleges such as Berklee and Harvard. Its semester-long courses and after-school workshops cover an array of topics including "Freedom Songs: Linking Music, Spirituality, and Social Reform," and "We Interrupt This Message: Hip Hop as Media." The goal is to create a pool of video and music artists and business executives who will shape the messages the media put out.

Consider the lyrics of Lauren Coen's song "Get free": "We get lost in the images of everyday/they tell you what to think and they teach you what to way/Where are you in this mess? Are you like the rest?" The song appeared on the compilation CD "empowerment: the power to break you free," released by emPOWERment records, a business under Project: Think Different's for-profit arm, the Power Company. The record company is seeking submissions from New England artists for a second CD that will be released this summer.

The organization is already making inroads. The video "Denis," produced through Project: Think Different's Movement Pictures Video program, was shown on MTV. Another film, "Diana," won an award at the 2008 Media That Matters film festival in New York City.



Scherazade Daruvalla King's Project: Think Different teaches youths how to create music, video and online media that make consumers more socially conscious.

"So often, you'll hear the Kanye Wests and Nases of the world say, "Oh, this is the work that i really want to do, the socially conscious messaging," but the companies they're under contract with require that they make a certain number of mainstream oriented messages," says Daruvalla King. "We have demonstrated that socially conscious messages have at least enough of a following to create profitable careers."

VANESSA E. JONES

The Miami Herald

Thursday, September 29, 2011 - by Alexa Lopez

Documentary probes how social media use affects relationships

A New documentary, "Connect with Me" by Scherazade Daruvalla King, investigates whether communicating digitally, like via text messaging and Facebook, inhibits the development of formal relationships.

It seems like every week brings a new way to share information with the world. But if these outlets, like text messaging or Facebook, are used as replacements for face-to-face communication, some wonder if users are missing out on the real-life relationships.

In her new documentary, *Connect with Me*, which premiered at the Colony Theatre in Miami Beach on Sept. 22, Scherazade Daruvalla King studies the potential "digital divide" among people.

"We've all gotten to the point where we're talking less and using these in-the-moment technologies more," said Daruvalla King, the director and producer of the documentary. "My experience is that...it prevents us from communicating in real time while things are present for us and while the spirit... and the emotion are active."

Connect with Me exposes what technology-users of a variety of ages, backgrounds and occupations- including a middle-aged tattoo artist with a family, high school students, a DJ and a group of gamers- think about today's digital communication landscape.

The film, which was presented by the nonprofit organization Amplifyme, covers both the positive and the negative outcomes of living in a wired world. Amplifyme's purpose, according to founder Daruvalla King, is to "create and amplify socially conscious artistic media - such as music, film and online media - in various public venues and assist youth and adults to create media to educate, inspire, engage, and organize the broader public on pressing social justice issues." A branch of the Boston-based organization just recently opened in Miami Beach.

Connect with Me was funded with support by the Miami Beach Cultural Arts Council, the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs and the Nathan Cummings Foundation. The film's segments include in-depth personal accounts, random streets interviews and several short film submissions.

The interviews in the documentary explain how these digital platforms can serve multiple purposes: as a gateway to a global network of information, as a method of avoiding real life, as a place where one can create and identify for personal and entrepreneurial reasons, or even as a way to either openly or anonymously bully others.

Those featured in the film were either referred to Daruvalla King or, like the high school students from Miami Beach Senior High, were volunteers.

"We tried to choose different perspectives and generations for the documentary so that we could have a broader landscape in the issue," said Paola Poggioli, Amplifyme's program and operations manager.

One of Daruvalla King's inspirations for creating *Connect with Me* was the time she spent in Ghana in West Africa as a teacher. Daruvalla King, 44, said that she would be busy at home when neighbors would visit without prior notice - no one had a phone to announce their plans. And, she said, sometimes they would simply sit on the couch and pick up a newspaper.

"It's not about talking, it's about being together," she said. "It's not that we only connect when we have something to say. There was something about just being with each other even without talking that had value."

Daruvalla King believes that overusing and being dependent on communication technologies impede humans' ability to create communities. Pilar Carvajal, a working mother of two who was featured in the documentary, agrees.

The Miami Herald

“You have to be around people to be happy,” said Carvajal, 41. “We’re social beings; we have to be around others.”

Still, Daruvalla King said, these digital outlets can be tools – society just hasn’t been able to figure out how to effectively use them. For instance, Daniella Levine, the founder, CEO and president of the non-profit organization Catalyst Miami (formerly the Human Services Coalition), uses social media and technology as opportunities for accelerating positive change.

“What I loved about the movie and the process was that this is an important conversation that we’re not having as a society which is how social media alter our relationships,” said Levine, 56, who was featured in *Connect with Me*. But I think it’s really a huge benefit than a deficit. The net gain is that there is so much more information to share, so many more opportunities to connect with different people and different ideas, and to spark change in a positive way.”

Marlon Petzold, one of the several students from Miami Beach Senior High that was featured in the documentary, also thinks that using social media and other communication technologies have a positive aspect.

“You can connect with those who live far away, there are opportunities to meet new people and you are up-to-date 24/7 on what’s going on with your friends and family,” said Petzold, 18, who is now a freshman at Florida International University.

Marckenson Charles, another screening attendee, said he has mixed feelings about connecting digitally.

“The documentary confirmed what I already believed. I always thought social media was taking away from communication between people,” said Charles, 25. “It almost made me feel like deleting my Facebook because it’s this whole entire made-up world.”

Still, Charles, who is an actor, thinks these technologies do have their advantages. In fact, an agent from Los Angeles was able to track him down via Facebook after reading reviews of his performances.

But Karen Fryd, who attended the Thursday night screening of the documentary in Miami Beach with her daughter, thought the film raised awareness about being too dependent on technology.

“The media is overtaking people’s live and people are allowing it,” said Fryd 52. “I think it’s ridiculous to tell everyone what you’re doing every minute. When kids see it in context like that, there’s an understanding and it clicks.”

Amplifyme is in the process of planning future showing of *Connect with Me*, Daruvall King said. Visit connectwithme-themovie.com for upcoming dates.

The Miami Herald

Beach Buzz. Sunday, July 3, 2011

Filmmaker seeks 'hyper-connected' people

Amplifyme, a national nonprofit that uses media arts to engage people in action for positive change, is seeking creative film submissions about the effects of hyper-connectivity in today's society.

Submissions will be considered for inclusion in an upcoming documentary being produced by amplifyme. It's slated to debut Sept. 22 at the Colony Theatre, 1040 Lincoln Rd. in Miami Beach.

"The film will explore our connectedness in the current cultural landscape and its effect on our ability to feel meaningfully connected to others," explains amplifyme founder and executive director, Scherazade Daruvalla King.

She says the documentary (as yet unnamed) will focus on such ironies as "being hyper-connected yet feeling disconnected, using media to control our time yet feeling controlled by these media and having 'friends' we don't want to talk to."

The length and format of submissions can vary; cellphone, camcorder or other digital media will be accepted. First-prize winner will receive \$500; second-prize winner \$300 (plus film credits and promotional videos).

Founded in Boston in 2003, amplifyme received the 2007 Harvard Business School's Venture Philanthropy Award - and \$10,000 to expand its programs. The organization began its growth into Miami in 2009 and currently has an office in Miami Beach.

Daruvalla King says the nonprofit selected Miami-Dade County for its expansion because "while the area has traditionally low levels of civic participation, there is a strong support for the arts."

Additional financial support for the hyper-film comes from the Miami Beach Cultural Arts Council, the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs and private foundations.

For submissions, contact Paola Poggioli at paola@amplifyme.us. To learn more about the organization, call 786.453.2525 or visit www.amplifyme.us

Scherazade Daruvalla King Puts Upbeat in Pop Culture

There is no time like the present, and so Scherazade Daruvalla King didn't fret over not having a media arts background when she boldly set out in 2003 to shift the message in pop culture from the negative to the positive.

Instead, she relied on her deep business consulting experience to launch nonprofit Project: Think Different and for-profit the Power Company with subsidiary Empowerment Records to reposition music, film and video.

"You don't have to have everything perfectly ready to make a contribution," King says "I could have easily said I needed to go back to school to do this for work. Instead, I put one foot in front of the other and tried to do my best.

"You can do your part and then trust that the rest will be there," she continues.

"Living with that faith is probably the best thing I've brought to the organization."

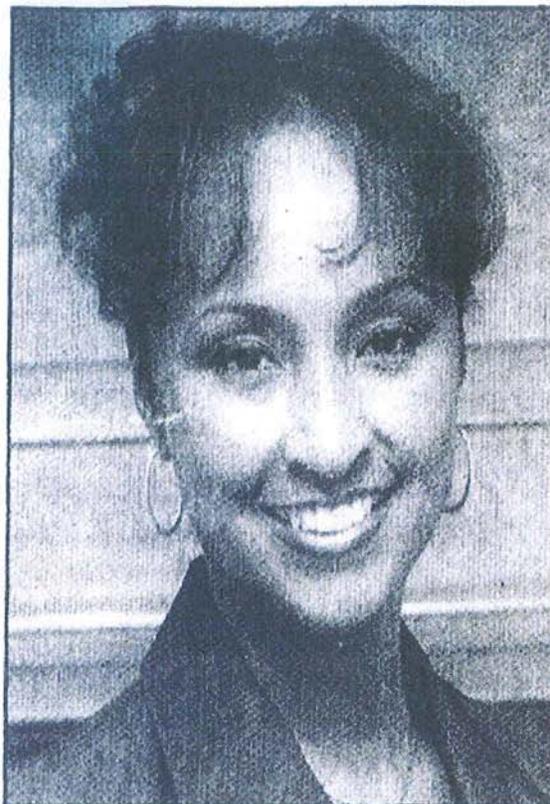
King's goal with both the nonprofit, as executive director and the for-profit as president, is to provide constructive engagement and change.

the 2006 compilation CD, "EmPOWERment: The Power to Break You Free," for example, diverts pop lyrics from sex drugs and violence to bring themes of activism, civic engagement and change agent to the mainstream.

But King isn't an artist and she wasn't well versed in the media industry. She also grew up in Texas experiencing familial violence, incarceration, depression and suicide along with pervasive and negative media messaging, and she knew how to turn that around.

"I realized early that there was so much being said about who I was and I could either listen to those messages or I could try to go deep inside and connect to what I knew to be true about who I was regardless of my color, my class, my station in life or where I landed when I was first born," she says.

In 1990, King began her career at accounting firm PriceWaterhouse Coopers, then Coopers & Lybrand, in Washington, D.C., first in mergers and acquisitions and then in general practice, where she worked on accounts for large non profits such as the Smithsonian and the National Gallery of Art.



Scherazade Daruvalla King is taking on big media with Project: Think Different and the Power Company

"Through my exposure to the nonprofit sector and my desire to make a difference, I got to thinking, how could I make more of a Difference in the world?" she says.

The answer being with visiting a friend who was working in Africa. She fell in love with the country and the development work being done there, and so, as soon as she was married, she relocated with her husband.

Along with teaching business at the University of Cape Coast in Ghana, King was also consulting on microenterprise, which had her working with artists who produced furniture, clothing design, and the like. "That was the way I got my feet wet in doing actual non-for-profit development work," She says.

When her husbands work brought them to Boston in 1997, King resumed management consulting. She also continued planning for large-scale social impact.

"I started thinking, where do you begin with shifting beliefs and behaviors? How do you get to the root of how people think about themselves and their ability to change and their hope for a better life if they do change? How do you get to where people believe that they can do it, that change is possible, that it can be good for them and they don't have to fear it?"

After 9/11, King took a hiatus from her consulting to pull together friends and references to begin creating some movement with a project – which led to acclaim – and then another project that also led to acclaim.

The first pilot project that was geared to youth, who aired their impressions of media messaging in a public service announcement on the Boston NBC affiliate. The second pilot project was a PSA for the Janitors for Justice campaign.

Strongly encouraged to continue, King was ready to launch a formal organization.

"We definitely deliberated about whether we should go the nonprofit route or the for-profit route," she says. "The economy was not doing well, but having the exposure that I had to philanthropy at Coopers & Lybrand and with my business background, I knew that this work didn't necessarily have to be done in a traditional way."

In 2003, the 501(c)(3) was formed and The Power Company Established. The idea was to provide clout with the for-profit to challenge the mainstream media business and deliver further on the mission with the nonprofit.

"We saw that if we wanted to be taken seriously as a media player that can be leverage and wield power, we needed to grow the for-profit along with the nonprofit to compete in the same kind of marketplace, to demonstrate that you turn a profit in media doing media well, and that's the ambition of The Power Company," King says.

The Power Company has grown organically with such clients as Casa Esperanza, Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corp. and Eastern Nazarene College, providing print, web, music and video services.

In a joint venture in 2003, Empowerment Records produced the Ayisha Knight CD "Until" and more recently, on its own, the empowerment CD noted earlier. Its videos have played on MTV. Artists have been showcased on

HBO, and work has aired on every major network as well as on cable.

Fund raising and particularly foundation support have enabled Project: Think Different to help artists develop their messages through workshops, media literacy, action training, apprenticeships, and audio and video production services with a staff of five. The for-profit operates solely with subcontractors.

King sees Project: Think Different growing substantially to eight on staff over this year and she's in the process of developing the infrastructure to support the next level of hands on work that she plans on taking national – quite a change from the starting out in her home for the first two years staffed with college interns until moving into the current Boston, Beacon Street office.

Over the next year and a half, King will be testing the national waters with staff in partner offices in New York City and Los Angeles doing collaborative work and building a presence. Already Project: Think Different has held a televised summit during which youth in both cities aired their reactions to the Imus and other media controversies at the time.

As well, countries around the world have contacted King but first she's concentrating on placing offices over the next five to eight years in key areas across the U.S., each with a local director so she can spend more time focused on strategy.

This year, King is gearing up for the fifth anniversary celebration with annual benefit event to take place in October.

She is also balancing family with her vision for expansion – she postponed this interview to deliver her second child. The fact that she was on the phone days later is a testament to her will and conviction.

"A lot of people think that media is reflecting our culture," King says. "We see that media can be a hammer with which to shape our culture and that's what we're doing, intentionally creating media that promotes the kind of culture of engagement and responsibility that we want to see."

The Boston Globe

Monday January 30, 2006

Aiming for an alternative hip-hop Berklee joins the movement encouraging new directions for rap.

By: **Adrienne P. Sammuels**
Globe staff

Berklee College of Music, in an effort to influence the direction of rap, is joining Essence magazine's Take Back the Music campaign, meant in part to encourage young artists who offer alternatives to the violent sex-laden lyrics found in some popular hip-hop music.

The school says the movement fits with its goal of bolstering the hip-hop curriculum, which already includes classes on using turntables and starting this semester, will feature a class that, in part, teaches students to think critically about the social impact of black music. The college will also screen and provide summer program scholarships to three teenagers who win Essence's hip-hop song writing contest.

"Berklee is the leading contemporary music institution in the world, so it should be interested in the values and the musical production that come about in popular music," said professor Bill Banfiel, a composer and author who is teaching the colleges new class, African Studies: the Sociology of Black Music in American Culture. "Hip-hop is so huge, it's so central...As an educational facility, Berklee would be interested in keeping a balance of the messages conveyed in hip-hop culture right now. That balance would seem to be in line with the things that any education facility would be about."

Essence, a magazine geared to black women, last January launched a massive vocal critique of the music industry for creating songs and videos that overwhelmingly portrayed black women as sex objects. Essence ran stories examining how the music affected young black girls, and the magazine also promoted positive hip-hop artists and sponsored public discussions with rap artists. The Publication's top editor said the intent of the campaign is to bring attention to positive forms of the craft.

Other schools, such as the all-women's Spelman College, made headlines last year when students protested hip-hop star Nelly's scheduled appearance for a campus charity event because of his song "Tip Drill," whose video depicts nelly swiping a credit card between a woman's buttocks. After hearing of the protest, Nelly did not appear for the Spelman performance



Bill Banfiel, a Berklee College of Music professor, is seeking to better balance the messages of hip-hop

On Saturday, Berklee is cosponsoring a "hip-hop empowerment summit" and freestyle showcase for young adults. The Roxbury event is part of an educational effort to encourage young artists and to remind them to think critically about their art.

The initiative has been endorsed by many in Boston's "underground," or grass-roots, hip-hop community — a range of artists and organizations who have been working for years to swing the pendulum their way.

If large institutions such as colleges and magazines are taking back the music, it means that the grass-roots groups have been heard on a higher level, several said.

"Artists here are very conscious and very concerned with real hip-hop that says something that may not be pretty, but reflects reality more than a party or a blin-bling thing," said Darcie Wicknick, a performer and cofounder of the Boston

The Boston Globe

hip-hop Alliance, a group that supports positive artists and community organizations. "There's a lot of positive strides happening in this city just because people want to make [others] aware that hip-hop can be used in a strong way."

Some artists and music historians contend that much of early hip-hop was socially conscious and more truly reflected the black experience.

"Black music has always been concerned with social responsibility," said Banfield, pointing to Marvin Gaye's classic Vietnam War-era song, "what's going on", "and why now with black music largely centered by market demands, on some market values, we have to critique that."

Part of that critique means examining what happened to other forms of hip-hop, such as the socially conscious lyrics of Public Enemy in 1988's hit "fight the power" or lighter raps such as "Parents Just Don't Understand" by Fresh Prince, who went on to become the Fresh Prince of Bel-Air and is now, simply, actor/rapper Will Smith.

"Many of us here on staff were raised on hip-hop — we love hip-hop," said Essence editor in chief Angela Burt-Murray. "To a large degree, hip-hop have been seen as one-dimensional for a while. We know hip-hop has a rich and broad landscape. We'd like to see a more diverse landscape."

Hip-hop at Berklee is not a new thing. The school has been teaching aspects of the music since 1999, when officials realized the art form was more than a trend. The introduction of such classes was as difficult as bringing rock music classes to the school, officials said.

Today's hip-hop classes teach anything from scratching and mixing records to the use of technologically advanced computer programs that create complex rap beats and sounds.

Teachers acknowledge that some of the "street gift" of hip-hop could be lost on a college campus, but that doesn't hurt a musician to at least be exposed to how the music is put together.

Banfield, whose focus is on the humanities, was hired last year to help the school flesh out its African studies subject area and eventually group many of the existing black music classes under a common umbrella so students would know where to find them.

The curriculum is popular, said assistant professor Mike Hamilton, who teaches hip-hop writing and production, both online and at the school.

"The first semester, the class filled up within the first week of registration," said Hamilton, also the music director for R&B's newest rising star, Ne-yo. "Everyone wants to know how I do it. I think they need to learn what is commercially viable, what's actually going to get them work."

When Hamilton dissects music in class, he tends to stay away from abrasive songs, though he won't censor a student who creates a song using raunchy words. After all, raunchiness sells records, he said. "On occasion they throw in the cuss word," said Hamilton. "If it fits there and helps to deliver the message better, more power to you."

Hip hop is not the only popular music to have a bout with the culture police, professors said. Heavy metal, disco, ragtime, and jazz all created controversy. The difference now, Banfield said, is that hip-hop is marketed to children, whereas the sensual dances of ragtime were directed at adults.

The Berklee/Essence conjunction is a sign of the times, said Scherazade Daravulla King, director of Boston's Project : Think Different, a Boston Group that featured positive hip-hop and spoken word.

"There's a convergence of all kinds of issues right now," said King, who hopes that Essence and Berklee will join with groups like hers to invoke a change.

"Essence as a media [organization] can't create a movement," said King. "The media needs to be connected to grass-roots efforts working to promote positive images and positive messages, and I think that's where it's kind of missing the boat... There are still plenty of hip-hop artists that are true to their roots and the history of the genre. We just need to work to amplify those records."

Adrienne P. Samuels can be reached at asamuels@globe.com

Tapping music's power to inspire social change

Fenway

**By Ron DePasquale
(Globe Correspondent)**

There's the commercial music that dominates pop culture. And then there's underground music made by striving artists who want to change things.

The gulf between the two is what Project: Think Different and Empowerment Records want to change.

Project: Think Different, which promotes alternatives to negative mainstream media, and its record label, Empowerment Records, will release the first compilation album, "Empowerment," sometimes after Jan. 1. The album features socially conscious local musicians and was prereleased last month at the Embassy club on Lansdowne Street.

"We want to use the power of pop culture to shift what's popular, to popularize engagement and activism," said Scherazade Daruvalla King, founder of Project: Think Different and Empowerment Records.

The album is heavy on hip-hop, featuring the Foundation, Lyrical, Shuman, Bio, Afro DZaK, Mingo, Heist, and funk/rappers Audible Mainframe.

"So much of hip-hop's origins were coopted and commercialized," Daruvalla King said. "Mainstream radio is not an appropriate reflection of what hip-hop initially was".

The "Empowerment" CD also features African/reggae musicians Soulfège, reggae artists Bounty Killer, punk legend Roger Miller (Mission of Burma), poet singer Iyeoka Okoawo, funk bands Velvet Stylus and Bambu, singer/songwriters Lauren Flaherty, Lauren Coen, and Melissa Li, rockers Hendrik Gideonse, Chris Mascara, and Sad Marvin, electronica artist Media Friend, and poet Sophia Snow.

For Daruvalla King, the album is the culmination of PTD's first three years and hopefully the first of many compilation CDs featuring artists with a message.

"Empowerment music is not feel-good music," King said. "The music tells the cold, hard truth, the ugly underside of reality, but it's also moving toward solutions.

"We're using music as a propeller that galvanizes people."

Musicians decide the time is right for protest songs.

Baltimore

Most mainstream pop artists seemed so tentative three years ago, slow to reflect in their music the anger many Americans felt about the nation's raggedy state of affairs. The Twin Towers had crumbled and thousands died, and President Bush had launched the war on Iraq. At the time, though, Toby Keith rocketed to superstardom with jingoistic songs like "Courtesy of the Red, White, and Blue (The Angry American)." And Bruce Springsteen landed on the cover of *Rolling Stone* and at the top of the charts with *The Rising*, an overly earnest, mildly comforting album that loosely addressed loss and grief after 9/11 but took no political stance.

To take direct aim at Bush and his policies then might have been career suicide for some major pop stars. Seemingly overnight during the spring of 2003, the Dixie Chicks became pop pariahs after lead singer Natalie Maines told a London audience, "Just so you know, we're ashamed that the president of the United States is from Texas." The trio's records were bulldozed, and many radio stations immediately yanked its music from playlists.

But in the past three years, the tide has turned. The Dixie Chicks have returned victorious. Their new album, *Taking the Long Way Home*, featuring the thinly veiled political kiss-off single, "Not Ready to Make Nice," sold more than half a million copies in its first week out late last month. Other notable acts such as Neil Young, Springsteen, Pearl Jam, Pink and the blues-funk-pop collective the New Orleans Social Club have all released albums bristling with protest songs. Young's latest album, *Living With War* on Reprise/Warner Bros. Records, is especially scathing with its lead single, "Let's Impeach the President." In it, he sings, "Let's impeach the president for lyin'/And misleading our country into war/Abusing all the power that we gave him ..."

Such a direct, politically pointed song probably wouldn't have been released by a major label three years ago. Why now? Where were these angry protest songs three years ago, five years ago?

Robb Hecht, a New York-based marketing communications strategist and director of the oft-cited business blog, *MEDIA 2.0*, suggests that it's simply a

matter of rock stars staying relevant during a time when Bush's approval ratings seem to tank by the hour.

"Rockers need to sell music, but many also need to stand for something," Hecht says. "So while in the past we had underground protest rock, we're starting to see many more mainstream rockers taking on political issues in order to gain more of a voice and presence in people's day-to-day lives. Hence, when rockers gain more traction in cultural topics, they inevitably gain more relevance, and they inevitably generate more sales of their music products."

Although Pearl Jam's "World Wide Suicide," Pink's "Dear Mr. President" and Young's "Let's Impeach the President" aren't No. 1 pop singles, each artist has garnered generally positive reviews and strong sales for his or her latest efforts. New CDs by the former two acts made debuts in the Top 10 on *Billboard's* pop album charts.

'A chilling effect'

But if protest songs may, in a way, be a more marketable trend now, for some artists, such inflammatory music could still hurt their careers.

"Performing artists are under enormous pressure to avoid material that may be deemed too controversial and too political for advertisers, corporate media outlets and government officials," says Kevin Howley, professor of media studies at DePauw University in Greencastle, Ind. "With this in mind, the industry's response to the Dixie Chicks incident is as telling as it is disturbing. The Chicks were demonized for a bit of concert banter, not for anything they sang about. ... Such intolerance for dissent has a chilling effect on other artists who are highly dependent upon the radio industry for airplay."

None of that seemed to hurt Kanye West. After his infamous "George Bush doesn't care about black people" remark during a live, televised Hurricane Katrina fundraiser in September, his album *Late Registration* went double platinum. His hit, "Gold Digger," hardly ever left the airwaves, and he picked up three Grammys in February. But West's timing was right on: The pop climate was beginning to open up to more pointed music

about the nation's affairs, especially after the government's perplexingly delayed response to the aftermath of Katrina.

"Audiences now have become used to not hearing artists utilize their art to make political statements," says Melissa Krodman, program manager of Project: Think Different, a Boston-based nonprofit organization that promotes civic dialogue and participation through the arts. "But once you have an artist like Kanye West who leads the charge, you have others who'll follow."

Calculated protest

Still, the current protest songs seem to lack the punch, the resonance they had in the '60s and early '70s. That's not a charge against the quality of today's protest music – necessarily. But classic "freedom songs" such as Bob Dylan's "Blowin' in the Wind," Sam Cooke's "A Change is Gonna Come" and Curtis Mayfield's "This Is My Country" and "We're a Winner" were connected to the Civil Rights movement. No such movement exists today. And the fact that the recent rash of protest songs by mainstream artists comes as Bush's approval ratings plummet seems a bit calculated.

"Artists have to make strategic choices when it comes to making protest songs, because they have to consider how their anger and passion may affect their career," Krodman says. "Artists are intuitive, and they're megaphones for the culture. But the conglomeration of mass media hasn't allowed the artists to push the envelope."

More so these days, marketability seems to determine what major pop stars say in their music, political or otherwise. It also seems to determine when they say it.

"I'm sure Neil Young was told by somebody at Warner Bros. that now it was OK to release *Living With War*, even if he may have had the idea to do it five years ago," Krodman says. "The more we have artistic expressions in the hands of those who are driven by money, we will hear less and less of artists speaking out and saying something of substantive content about what's going on around us."



July.11.2006

The power of music to engage

By Mike Mennonno

Music can name the unnameable," the composer Leonard Bernstein once said, "and communicate the unknowable." The shamanic power of music hit home recently when a friend introduced me to the indescribable Ryuichi Sakamoto, whose compositions — whether starkly minimal or ponderously layered — seem designed to rouse long-forgotten memories and hidden emotions. It's easy to take music for granted these days, to forget that it can conjure the very demons it seems meant to exorcise.

Music was not always the stealth force it has become, but a funny thing happened on the way to modernity. In Paris, about 1917, early avant-garde composer Eric Satie (best known for his haunting, minimalist "Gymnopédies") invented something he called "musique d'ameublement" — furniture music. One composition in this category was called "Wall-lining in a Chief Officer's Office." A couple years later, an enterprising Michigan entrepreneur, George O. Squier, patented "musik." The rest is history.

Whether driving around in your automotive ambient environment or plugged into your Pod, music (like St. Augustine's God) is everywhere — and nowhere — nowadays. Like the air we breathe, it usually goes unnoticed unless there's too much or too little of it. Once in a while, though, you find yourself captured by a song in the oddest places; in the condiment aisle at the supermarket, say. Suddenly choosing between peppercorn ranch and creamy parmesan while the Fifth Dimension's "One Less Bell to Answer" plays in the background is frighteningly poignant. You're having an existential moment. Yes, music is as powerful as ever.

I've been thinking about the power of music and poetry since visiting Project: Think Different last week to see what they've been up to since the release of their locally

“Curiously, the less explicitly political art is, the more political it becomes”

produced hip-hop CD "Empowerment" late last year. "Entertaining Change" is both the means and the end at Project: Think Different, a media nonprofit that seeks to entice, encourage and empower marginalized communities using music, film and video. It's one of those organizations that is making a real difference in the lives of at-risk youths and communities in and around Boston by inspiring them to engage and create, rather than drop out and destroy. Project: Think Different helps young people who might otherwise not find their voice, and teaches them how to use it for good.

At a time when so much music is borne of nihilism and preaches violence, Project: Think Different borders on revolutionary. There is truth in the nihilism and violence, of course, but it's superficial. It's the easy truth. And as the poet Rilke once wrote to an apprentice: "We must hold to what is difficult." Telling unnameable truths — the deeper truth of our humanity, the mystery of all those category-defying unknowables we contain — is at times a political act. Curiously, the less explicitly political art is, the more political it becomes. That's because art is its own empire. Art defies subjugation, demands transcendence. The Hungarian poet Miklos Radnoti continued to write poetry in Auschwitz. Politics will always be a necessary evil. Art, now as always, is a necessary good.

November.10.2005

Boston's Progressive record label gives "EmPOWERment"

By Dave Hadden

There is nothing uncommon about the continued critique of mainstream rap music's negative influence on youth culture. There is however, something a bit more uncommon when a group of dedicated young people organize to offer an alternative.

That group is Project: Think Different, a local non-profit group using media as a tool to inspire social change. On Nov. 17, they release their first compilation album of local and regional artists entitled the "EmPOWERment CD".

Thursday, Nov. 17 also marks the date of the EmPOWERment CD's release party which will be held at the Embassy, where the artists featured on the disc will be performing live starting at 6 p.m.

In fact, because Project: Think Different's various projects involve a variety of media forms, they have created their own label on which to release music, Empowerment Records. This release further advances the label as a platform for Boston artists looking to use their music to stimulate both social reflection and action.

Since the first time Elvis shook his hips on television, popular music has continually tested the boundaries of accepted morality. However, when 50 Cent's "The Massacre," and Game's "The Documentary," among two of rap's biggest selling albums in the past year, both feature album art littered with guns, one can't help but conclude that there is a profound gap of priorities between the recording industry and those invested in the health and future of their community and the streets where hip-hop was born.

According to Melissa Krodman, program manager of PTD, the objective on the EmPOWERment CD is not to preach, but simply put out better, more inspired music. "People are going to think this CD is good, not just because these are 'feel good positive songs', but because the tracks have sick beats and clever lyrics."

And to those who look back with a smile at eras when artists like Public Enemy, Grand Master Flash and Marvin Gaye asked the questions important to us, the release couldn't come at a better time. "When you think about it, we so rarely hear the voices of the people in our communities," Krodman says.



(Above) Pete Shungu (aka Afrodzak) is the spoken word artist/emcee/trumpet player. (Below) The foundation with Ernesto Arroyo and Banjeh Brown. They all took part in the new CD, the "EmPOWERment," which brings social justice to the fore in this compilation album. The release party is Nov. 17 at the Embassy on Lansdowne St.



“When do we hear local artists on 94.5? I think a lot of music, while it often critiques society or highlights issues of importance, forgets to provide a solution as well. That’s what the ‘EmPOWERment CD’ aims to do.”

While the bulk of the album is inspired by hip-hop, there is certainly a wide genre representation, both local and national in scope. Contributors include Boston Music Awards nominees for Best World Music Act Soulfège, emcees Lyrical, Shuman, Bio and Mingo, reggae artist Bounty Killer, legendary punk icon Roger Miller, as well as 16- year-old spoken word artist Sophia Snow.

Since 2002, Project: Think Different’s many projects have revolved around the belief that social justice and progress is possible through people taking control of the messages around them. If the mainstream media is not capable of raising consciousness, then that role must be up to the community itself. For this reason, PTD has been offering assistance to anyone trying to cultivate their voice through video and music.

Iconic feminist revolutionary Emma Goldman once said, “If I can’t dance, it’s not my revolution.” She would be happy to know that the slogan of Empowerment Records is “Entertaining Change.” For tickets and information contact: Amelia at 617-557-9200 or amelia@projectthinkdifferent.org.



Sophia Snow, the spoken word artist for Project: Think Different's "EmPOWERment"

POWER play: Hub project promotes social conscience

Scherazade Daruvalla King, executive director of Project: Think Different, has a crazy idea: She thinks she can persuade commercial media outlets to promote urban music that doesn't shamelessly endorse sex, drugs and violence. But maybe King and her nonprofit teammates aren't bonkers. Socially progressive rappers such as Common and Immortal Technique are moving significant units around the globe; Boston acts such as Audible Mainframe and The Foundation Movement have kids from the South End to Cambridge embracing positive vibes.

Sunday at Harpers Ferry, Project Think Different will unveil its "emPOWERment: The Power to Break You Free" CD. It's a compilation of some of Beantown's most high-minded artists, including Lyrical, Soulfuge, Sophia Snow, The Foundation Movement, MC Exposition Iyeoka Okoawo, Velvet Stylus, Shu Man and Sad Marvin & Heist. King's objective was simple: Promote local talents whose lyrical content answer to a higher calling than most contemporary hip-hop.

"We really want to amplify the messages of socially conscious artists who have been doing this work since before we even started as an organization," King said. "We need to popularize a culture of engagement and action versus a lot of things that are currently being popularized. We're about shifting the pop culture. Making more mainstream the themes of activism, civic engagement. And empowering people to step fully into their roles as change agents."

Some contributions on "emPOWERment" directly address the negative messages Think Different hopes to counter. On "Neva Go Platinum," Boston rapper Mingo tells the story of an MC who compromises his gift to fit the thug stereotype. Trumpeting rhymesayer AfroDZak of the group Electric Collective takes a different approach: He smacks the powers that be for keeping kids ignorant and apathetic.

On "Thinking Cap," AfroDZAK rhymes "It's testing my patience, this mess in this nation, Where our kids get more brainwashing and less education, they leave mad children behind, never searching' for a remedy, and even those who ain't make it, ain't taught to think independently."

While looking to change the system, Think Different also Maneuvers behind enemy lines. The organization measures its success by how



STAFF PHOTO BY NANCY LANE
POPPING THE POP CULTURE BUBBLE: Members of Project: Think different, clockwise from left: Melissa Krodman, Chad Irvin, Scherazade Daruvalla King and Cara Lisa Powers

many outlets air its message — even if some of those outlets are largely responsible for the unenlightened state of music they're combating.

"We're working with MTV and some other outlets that perpetuate the mainstream culture that we're not for," King said. "We're demonstrating by working with them that there is a viable audience for this kind of music. We're creating change from the inside out and from the outside in."

Think Different program manager Melissa Krodman said that reaching young people who love negative, misanthropic hip-hop is the biggest challenge. "Socially conscious music proliferates in certain circles," she said, "but it's very difficult to get it heard outside of those circles. We get our message around through the Internet, by accumulating as many friends as possible through MySpace, by giving CD's out to various people in Boston, doing some street marketing and just trying to get the album visible as possible amongst the youth."

King said that while her short-term goal is to push the "emPOWERment" CD along with her organization's message of engagement, the long term objective is to eliminate the need for Project: Think Different all together.

"One day I would like to think that Project: Think Different will no longer need to exist," she said. "Hopefully we'll have a media that recognizes that it needs to be in alignment with our values for women, men, youth respect and diversity."

The Boston Globe

October 31, 2005

When teen dynamo talks, city listens

By Cristina Silva

The bickering volleyed back and forth for more than half an hour. Two groups of residents during a recent neighborhood watch meeting in the South End argued that they weren't being listened to. Between the shouting, it was difficult to make out what anyone was saying.

Jewel E. Cash Jr. listened silently. Finally she stood up.

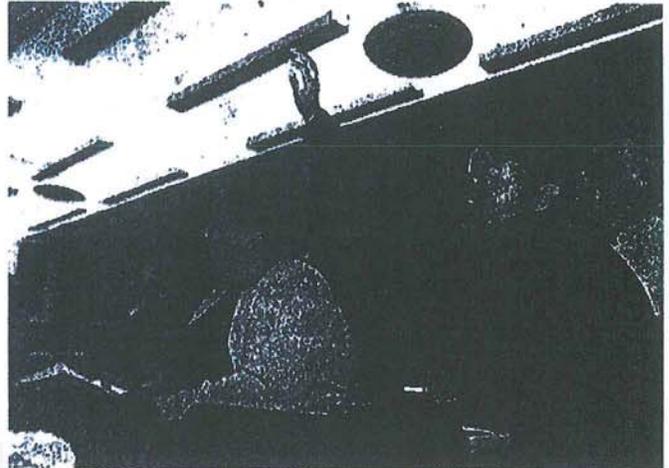
"I'm glad we got that venting off of our chests," she said. Then she urged them to move on. They did.

Cash is someone that people are listening to these days. A speaker to national audiences who sits on a half-dozen committees and community groups in Boston, she has contributed to discussions on education and public safety. In the confrontational universe of Boston's neighborhoods, she is seen as a voice of reason. She is also 16 years old.

A junior at Boston Latin Academy, her calendar includes meetings with Mayor Thomas M. Menino and engagements as a public speaker for groups such as Blacks in Government, Project: Think Different, and Teen Empowerment.

"I see a problem and I say, 'how can I make a difference?'" She said. "I was raised not to complain, but to be a part of the solution."

Cash has captured the attention of city councilors who have begun to encounter her at meetings, where she has swayed audiences. At the recent neighborhood



meeting in the South End, the group rallied around her proposal to launch a winter jobs program. It was Cash who, on behalf of students, recently persuaded the Boston School Committee to consider forgoing the longtime practice of locking tardy students out of class.

City Councilor Chuck Turner of Roxbury said he often runs into Cash at meetings across the city.

"People are just impressed with the power of her arguments and the sophistication of the argument," he said. "She has a power in and of herself."

The Boston Globe

October 31, 2005

City dynamo, 16, attracts attention, commands respect

Scherazade Daruvalla King, director of Project: Think Different, a youth advocacy group, said the organization has approached Cash about becoming a spokeswoman because of her "ability to empathize."

"She has the innate ability to really connect to the heart of an organization's mission and what they are about," Daruvalla King said.

Menino said simply that Cash is "everywhere."

"You can see when you look at her that she is just one of those young people who is going to be a real positive role model," he said. "She knows her subject."

"Cash was raised by her mother, a single parent, in the South End's Villa Victoria housing project. Before Cash could read, her mother began taking her to conferences and community events across Boston, she said. Her mother would tell her she could either ask a question at the event or write a five-page essay summarizing it."

"Her education started here," said her mother, also named Jewel Cash, pointing below her stomach. "It begins in the womb."

"Mother and daughter are often together. The younger Cash jokingly calls her mother her press secretary."

In the past two years, Cash! Has placed first in the Blacks in Government National Oratorical Contest in Washington, D.C.; helped organize Know Thy Neighbor 'hood, a community event sponsored by Team Empowerment that drew 200 South End residents this summer; and was appointed to the mayor's youth council.

She also joined the Boston Student Advisory Council, a citywide body of student leaders that reports to the Boston School Committee. Recently, she was elected by the advisory council to serve as youth representative on the School Committee.

Cash also mentors children in her neighborhood, volunteers at a local woman's shelter, dances in two troupes that she manages, attends weekly lectures at Harvard University, and is one of the core members of a South End neighborhood watch group.

"I can't take on the world, even though I can try," she said. "My goal now is making sure people in my community, young people, have what they need to make a difference for themselves."

Cash wants better education for Boston teenagers and wants her neighborhood to be safer. Despite her heavy involvement in the city, she sees no future in politics.

Instead, she wants to earn degrees in medicine and law. Her dream: opening a community center where she can provide therapy for children and physically injured animals.

"I don't want to get wrapped up in politics; it doesn't always seem honest," she said. "I'm moving forward but I want to make sure I'm bringing people with me."

Pals make more work tolerable

Good relationships, help ease troubles, giving the job meaning

Penelope Trunk

Here's some advice for those of you who don't like your job: Maybe your job is not your problem. Maybe it's you, not trying hard enough to make friends at work.

People who have a good friend at work are much more likely to be engaged in their work. Psychologists tell us that social relationships are the single biggest predictor of someone's happiness in life. And people with at least three close friends at work are much more likely to be extremely satisfied with their life.

These are some of the findings Tom Rath reports in his new book, "Vital Friends: The People You Can't Afford to Live Without." A longtime Gallup Organization employee who leads its workplace and leadership consulting worldwide, Rath draws on more than 5 million interviews conducted by the research and polling organization.

He is clear about what constitutes a good work friend: "If the person were gone, work would be less fun," says Rath. "We found that the word 'friend' is becoming a generic description, especially at places like MySpace and Friendster, where people have thousands of 'friends.'" The friend who can change your work environment is "someone you spend a lot of time in a relationship with. And you are probably making a difference in that person's life, too."

Nikhil Rajpal of Project: Think Different, a Boston group that aims to promote positive change through music and other media, identified a best friend at work immediately: "My friend Will and I go to lunch together every day. When work gets tough, the friendship makes it easier to get through the day. When one of us is stressed or has too much work, one of us buys the other coffee and we walk around and talk about it."

So shift focus a bit: Less analysis and pie charts, more casual conversations and long lunches. "People spend so much time trying to manage themselves. We need to focus more on building relationships," says Rath.

Formal education focuses on mastery of topic areas, and graduate school allows you to focus on your own interests. But "when it comes to improving our lives," writes Rath, "it's the energy between two people that makes a difference."



Cont from page G1

Rath has identified eight friendship roles. No single person can fill all these roles at once, and the fatal flaw people make in relationships is asking that of one person — often a boss or a spouse. Although some roles definitely fit a boss or spouse well.

A navigator, for example, is someone who is like a mentor. You don't need to have regular conversations, but when you do, they are very meaningful in your life. A connector is the type of friend made famous by Malcolm Gladwell in his book "The Tipping Point," for being able to give you a network. And a champion is a constant supporter who thrives on your accomplishments and happiness.

Don't get overwhelmed with the task. Three or four friends are enough to help you experience greater satisfaction.

Here are some steps to take: "First, find someone appropriate," says Heather Mundell, career coach and author of the Dream Big blog. "When I was in human resources, I had a lot of confidential information, so it was no surprise that I became friends with the executive assistant for the CEO, who also had a lot of confidential information."

On the Internet, where ranting is de rigeur, it would seem that half of all workers are surrounded by idiots. This way of thinking will not find you friends. So be open. "We like to think we can size someone up in 10 seconds. But often our opinions of people change over time," says Mundell.

Face-to-face time fosters workplace friendships. "If someone stops by your cube and says, 'Do you have few minutes?' it's nice if you do. Be a good listener," says Mundell. "Over time, problem-solving together and venting

The Boston Globe

BostonWorks July 23, 2006

will lead to building trust. You should stop by peoples' cubes and shoot the breeze, too."

Find an office that encourages friendships — the structure of workspaces, the quality of common areas, the size of the well-stocked fridge — all these factors contribute to making an office full of friendships. Rath found that you are three times more likely to have a close-knit workgroup if the physical environment makes it easy to socialize.

Shared vision and values also encourage friendship. This situation is probably most common at a nonprofit like Project: Think Different. "Everyone is linked together based on a passion for what we're doing," says Rajpal. "We all have a strong desire to change messages in pop culture."

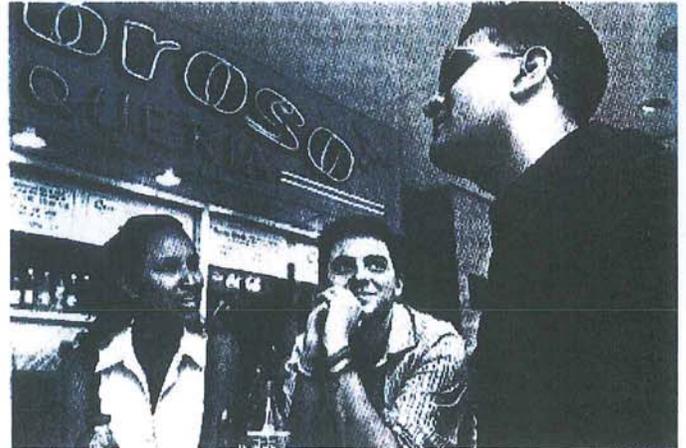
What if you're shy? You still need friends. When you find someone you are interested in, the most important thing you can do to make a connection is to let that person know you are in need of a friend, says Sonya Hamlin, author of "How to Talk So People Listen: Connecting in Today's Workplace." No friendship happens unless one person takes a risk by extending an invitation. You can be that person.

Try memorizing a script to make approaching someone easier. "Don't say, 'We ought to get together sometime.' This is not meaningful because you don't know if the person would like to or not." And with no suggested time, the meeting might never happen. Try saying, "I really enjoy talking to you. We should have lunch sometime. What about tomorrow?"

This is going to be a big change for most people. Not many people focus on making friends at work. But without a best friend at work, Rath says, you are not very likely to be engaged in your job. So maybe you should put aside advice about finding the perfect job by searching want ads for your calling.

Instead, look for a job and an office that facilitate relationships; friendship is your calling.

Instead, look for a job and an office that facilitate relationships; friendship is your calling.



Nikhil (right) and co-worker Will Cady often turn to each other when faced with a work difficulty. Above: They hang out with boss Scherazade King at lunch. Below: Rajpal and Carolyn Little during a meeting



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200 East Las Olas Boulevard • Suite 1500 • Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

954.499.7979 • fax 954.499.7969

www.bressler.com

Alise J. Henry

direct: 954-430-7822
ahenry@bressler.com

March 5, 2015

Sent via UPS

Miami-Dade County, Board of County Commissioners
Office of the Chairman, Jean Monestime
111 NW First Street, Suite 220
Miami, Florida 33128

Re: The Children's Trust Open Board Positions

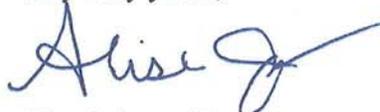
Dear Chairman Monestime:

Please accept this letter and resume as my application for a Board position with The Children's Trust. I have lived in Miami for more than 20 years and have a proven track record of public service and advocacy which should serve the Trust well.

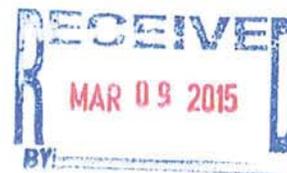
My volunteer experience includes working with several local non-profit organizations such as Educate Tomorrow, the Junior League of Miami, Lotus House, and Big Brothers Big Sisters. I also served for several years on the Board of the Junior League of Miami, where I was honored twice with the U.S. Presidential Points of Light Volunteer Service Award as well as with the Leadership Award in 2008. Lastly, I have both volunteer and fundraising experience that I believe will assist the Trust in its mission of supporting the local community.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (786) 223-8417, or by email ahenry@bressler.com, if you have any questions or would like any additional information.

Very truly yours,



Alise Johnson Henry



Alise Johnson Henry
1170 NE 102nd St
Miami Shores, FL 33138
ahenry@bressler.com
w) 954-430-7822
c) 786-223-8417

**EMPLOYMENT
EXPERIENCE:**

June 2010-present

**BRESSLER, AMERY & ROSS,
Counsel, Fort Lauderdale**

Represent brokerage firms, financial advisors and corporations in litigation matters before FINRA, and in state and federal courts. Represent brokerage firms and financial advisors in regulatory investigations. Conduct final hearings and trials. Draft briefs in arbitrations and in federal and state courts. Conducted more than 100 mediations and settlement conferences. Litigate all aspects of discovery including expert witnesses, subpoenas, depositions, motions to compel, and electronic discovery issues.

March 2007-June 2010

UBS FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.

Director, Associate General Counsel, Fort Lauderdale

Litigation Counsel, Represented UBS and employees in arbitration proceedings before FINRA and before state and federal courts. Respond to regulatory inquiries from SEC, FINRA and state regulatory authorities. Counsel management and Financial Advisors as to legal risks and regulatory risks.

Regional Counsel, Primary Counsel to Regional and Branch Management teams. Counsel Management and Financial Advisors as to regulatory and legal risks, compliance and industry developments. Trained employees regarding compliance issues, firm policies, and on legal and regulatory matters. Investigated and recommended discipline for employees, drafted U-4 registration filings, reviewed subpoenas, trust and other legal documents.

March 2003-March 2007

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Senior Trial Attorney, Southeast Regional Office, Miami

Responsible for the litigation, negotiation and trial of securities regulatory actions on behalf of the Commission. Represented the Commission in multiple actions including securities fraud, Ponzi schemes, issuer offering frauds, accounting frauds, Internet stock touting, "pump and dump" schemes, viatical settlement schemes and broker dealer actions in federal court and before Administrative Law Judges.

December 1997-March 2003

ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY, Akerman, Miami

Represented corporations and municipalities in various federal and state courts. Litigated various business disputes including claims for fraud, actions under the private and federal securities acts, breach of contract, shareholder disputes, banking disputes, regulatory disputes, receiverships, Title VII and employment actions. Conducted hearings, bench and jury trials. Drafted appellate briefs in both federal and state courts. Conducted numerous settlement mediations and agreements.

July 1994-December 1997

LAW CLERK, United States Chief Magistrate Judge William Turnoff, Miami

Drafted judicial opinions and bench memoranda in hundreds of civil, commercial and criminal actions at the federal level for the United States District Court. Drafted orders resolving discovery disputes, motions to dismiss, motions for summary judgment, motions for attorney's fees, motions to intervene, and post-trial motions. Assisted judge in conducting civil trials and hearings. Responsible for administrative management of more than 200 cases. Supervised and organized summer program for interns.

Jan. 1990-July 1990

Production Assistant, Cable News Network, The Capital Gang Show, Washington, D.C.
Researched political issues, booked guests, selected video, formulated story ideas, and wrote promotional announcements for nationwide talk show. Assisted show hosts, Pat Buchanan, Robert Novack, Mark Shields and Al Huntin preparing for live broadcast.

May 1988-Sept. 1988

INTERN, United States Senator Lawton Chiles, Washington, D.C.
Researched health issues, scheduled press events and interviews, wrote press releases, assisted in organization of national conference on commission's report.

EDUCATION:

May 1994

Admission to the Florida Bar

May 2001

Roll of Solicitors for England and Wales

Admitted into the Northern, Middle and Southern Federal Districts of Florida

Jan. 1991-Dec. 1993

University of Florida Law School, Gainesville, Florida

December 1993

Awarded Juris Doctorate with Honors

Articles Editor, Research Editor, Florida Law Review

Research Assistant for Professor Juan Perea

Aug. 1986-Dec. 1989

Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee

Awarded Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

Reporter for School Newspaper

Disc Jockey for WRVU Radio Station

**ADDITIONAL
EXPERIENCE:**

Recipient of the U.S. Presidential Points of Light Volunteer Service Award (2006, 2007)

Prior Board Member of the Junior League of Miami

Vice President of Fund Development, Junior League of Miami (2009)

Recipient of Junior League of Miami Leadership Award (2008)

Leadership Miami Graduate

Fundraising Committee for Miami Shores Presbyterian Church School

Guest lecturer at the University of Miami School of Law

Counsel in various published court opinions

Martindale Hubble AV rated

REFERENCES:

Brian Miller, Akerman

Teresa Verges, Professor, University of Miami

Wes Holston, Bressler Amery and Ross

Brett McNaught, CEO of Educate Tomorrow

Katie Arriola, Former President of Junior League of Miami

PUMPS, PEARLS, & PORTFOLIOS, INC.
(Welfare to Work- Helping Those in Need)

P.O. Box 557412
Miami, Florida 33143
305-772-7001
Sharonjohnson99@msn.com

March 6, 2015

Miami-Dade County, Board of County Commissioners
Office of the Chairman, Jean Monestime
111 NW First Street, Suite 220
Miami, FL 33128

Dear Chairman Monestime:

I would like to express my interest again in applying for a position on The Children's Trust Board of Miami Dade County, FL.

I have been a long time employee of the Department of Children and Families for many years in various positions that dealt with children and families. I enjoyed helping to improve the quality of life for children in Miami Dade County.

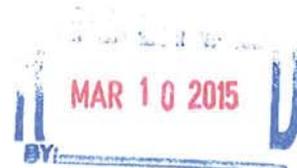
Over the past few years and present, I have worked with several organizations that involved children such as the: Chapman Partnership for the Homeless, Carrfour Housing, PP&P, Inc., Grand for Grands, One World Learning Center, Junior League of Miami, South Miami Commission for Women, Miami Dade Commission for Women, Alliance for Youth and more in the communities. Working with these organizations provided me an opportunity to interact on an intimate level to provide life skill trainings, counseling, provide clothing and toiletries, and transportation to ensure basic everyday needs for children and to advocate for them.

I have received several awards in reference to working with children in communities namely from Miami Dade County, Girl Power, Women's History Coalition, Young Women's Preparatory Academy, Alliance for Youth, Continental Society, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Top Ladies of Distinction and more.

I am dedicated to working with children because their future is at hand and they need to be guided to ensure themselves a prosperous and worthy livelihood to bring about progress and well being for themselves and surroundings.

Sincerely,


Sharon Kendrick-Johnson
CEO/ Founder



6200 SW 62nd Place
South Miami, Florida 33143
(305) 661-2052 (h)
(305) 772-7001 (cel)
(sharonjohnson99@msn.com)

Sharon K. Johnson

PROFESSIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Skills: Facilitation. Human Relations. Cultural Diversity. Research, Analysis, and Evaluation. Grants/ Contract Management, and Grant Reviewing. Professional Trainer/ Strength-Based Facilitator. Organizational and presentation skills. Strategic Planning/ Benchmarking. Strength in management of projects. Management and coordination of programs, resources, activities, referral and collaboration, and event planning. Creative curriculum design. Sound reasoning and planned outcomes. Certified Supreme Court Mediator. Human Resources/Personnel experience. Volunteer Management. Educator's Certificate 155188.

COMPUTER SKILLS

MS Word, Access, Internet Browser, Microsoft Publisher, Excel, Outlook, Front Page, various spreadsheets, and PowerPoint. Typing speed – 60WPM

EXPERIENCE

8-2008 to present	Miami Dade County Public Schools	Miami, Florida
5- 2011 to 5-2012	Miami Dade College-North Campus	Miami, Florida
Student Success Coordinator	School of Business	
11-2010 to 5-2011	Miami Dade College-North Campus	Miami, Florida
Program Coordinator	School of Business	
11-2007 to 2-2008	Martin Luther King Jr. Leadership Academy	Miami, Florida
Teacher	Miami Dade Economic Advocacy Trust	
1-2006 to 6-2006	Miami Dade College	Miami, Florida
College Recruiter	InterAmerican Campus	
10-1997 to 8-2005	Department of Children and Families (DCF)	Miami, Florida
Supervisor - TANF SAMH Program		
8-1995 to 10-1997	New Horizons Community Mental Health Center, Inc.	Miami, Florida
Clinical Director/ Substance Abuse Coordinator		

EDUCATION

University of St. Thomas – Master of Business Administration, Non-Profit Management
Minn., MN

Nova Southeastern University
Completed 3 years toward the Ph. D. in Conflict Resolution
Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Rollins College - Master of Science, Criminology
Winter Park, FL

Bethune Cookman College - Bachelor of Science, Sociology
Daytona Beach, FL

Vitae

Sharon Johnson

Mediation Executives Group
Certified Supreme Court Mediator #6886CF

Ocala High School- Ocala, Florida
Bethune Cookman College, B.A.- Daytona Beach, Florida
Rollins College, M.A.- Winter Park, Florida
Nova Southeastern University - Doctoral studies in Dispute Resolution

Training:

Practicum I, II, and III
Law Firm of David Roemer
Miami, FL
“Worker’s Compensation, Personal Injury cases”

Mediation Training
Nova Southeastern University-Ft. Lauderdale, FL
“Roommate, Neighborhood, Community Disputes”

Community Mediation
Nova Southeastern University-Ft. Lauderdale, FL
“Advanced Mediation Techniques”

County Mediation
Broward County Courthouse-Ft. Lauderdale, FL
“Commercial, Civil cases”

Commercial, civil, domestic cases
Broward County Courthouse-1997
Ft. Lauderdale, FL

“Family Mediation”-Certified by the Supreme Court of Florida-1997

“Child Custody, Divorce, Domestic Disputes”
Dade County Courthouse-Family Mediation Division-1998
Miami, FL

Parenting Training
Miami, FL -2003

Ethics, Mediation Training
Miami, FL – 2003

Vocational Rehabilitation Mediation Training
Ft. Lauderdale, FL - 2004

Conflict Resolution Training
Miami, FL – 2004

Peer Mediation Training
Miami, FL – 2004

Agape Women's Rehabilitation Center
Miami, FL – 2004

Homeless Assistance Center
Conflict Resolution Skills for Better Living
Miami, FL- 2007-2010

Boys to Men Leadership Academy
Neighborhood and Community Disputes
Ocala, FL – 2008-2009

Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church
Conflict Resolution Skills
Neighborhood/ Community Disputes
Miami, FL – 2010 -2012

Continental Society, Inc.
Conflict Resolution Skills
Community Disputes
Miami, FL – 2010 -2012

Miami Dade College
Conflict Resolution Skills
Neighborhood/ Community Disputes/ Roommate Disputes
Miami, FL – 2010 -2012

South Miami Commission for Women
Conflict Resolution Skills
Neighborhood/ Community Disputes/ Board Room Disputes
Miami, FL – 2010 -2012

Facilitation:

Village of Wellington-West Palm Beach-1997
Wellington, FL
“Environmental Mediation”

City of Hollywood-1997
Hollywood, FL
“Environmental, Cultural Diversity”

St. John AME Church
Facilitation
Neighborhood/ Community Disputes
Miami, FL – 2010 -2012

Affiliations Past and Present:

SPIDR-Society of Professionals in Dispute Resolution
Florida Academy of Professional Mediators
Broward County Mediators
NIDR-National Institute of Dispute Resolution
Leadership of South Dade
Batten Fellows

Annel S. Llanes, FRP
16126 SW 65th Lane
Miami, Florida 33193
(786) 346-8940
Email: Allanes@vpl-law.com

March 6, 2015

Office of the Chairman, Jean Monestime
Miami-Dade County, Board of County Commissioners
111 NW First Street, Suite 220
Miami, FL 33128

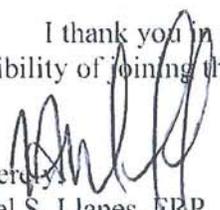
Re: Gubernatorial appointee - Children's Trust

Dear Chairman Monestime:

I am writing to express my utmost interest in the gubernatorial appointee position available with the Children's Trust. Attached please find a copy of my resume for your review and consideration. I am a Florida Bar registered Paralegal and former Guardian Ad Litem with the Department of Children and Families.

Through my professional career and community involvement, I have acquired a vast array of skills and experience that will make me an excellent contributor to the Children's Trust organization. My legal background as well as my analytical skills would offer a great contribution to the organization and increase its ability to reach its goals.

I thank you in advance for your time and consideration and I look forward to the possibility of joining the Children's Trust organization in the near future.

Sincerely,

Annel S. Llanes, FRP



Annel S. Llanes, FRP

16126 S.W. 65th Lane, Miami, Florida 33193 • annelsanchez@ymail.com • (786) 346-8940

Summary

Highly ambitious and successful senior level investigative paralegal and business executive. Detail oriented individual who is driven to exceed performance and productivity expectations. Adept at supervising, leading and managing simultaneous projects and personnel. Extensive experience and knowledge in an array of areas including but not limited to investigations, civil litigation, complex business litigation, corporate, health care, insurance coverage, white color crime, securities\antitrust, large multiparty litigation, marketing, administration, communications and management.

Experience

Senior Litigation Paralegal – VER PLOEG & LUMPKIN, P.A (7/2012 – Present)

- Review and analyze document productions including electronic discovery.
- Prepare written summaries, memorandums and reviews of productions.
- Handle all aspects of voluminous document management and electronic discovery.
- Manage all electronic documents including but not limited to large volume of documents via various databases.
- Conduct investigations including but not limited to regarding expert and character witnesses
- Subpoena documents and review of all incoming documents and responses to such
- Prepare written investigational reports
- Prepare drafts of pleadings, motions and briefs
- Prepare written medical summaries, chronologies and medical reviews
- Oversee assignments and overall production of assignments
- Prepare client status reports
- Extensive legal research
- Prepare presentations of exhibits for the use at trial, depositions, mediations and hearings
- Review and analyze financial records and prepare written findings
- Participate in case management conferences and make suggestions on same
- Review and analyze various case details and documents as investigative efforts to determine course of action and case management plan
- Management of E-discovery projects

**Paralegal Specialist – OFFICE OF THE U.S ATTORNEY
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE c/o JHT
(6/2008-2/2011)**

- Conduct investigations and prepare investigation materials for possible fraud
- Trial preparation, assistance and attendance
- Review and analyze health care data \claims and statistics in order to determine and establish fraud
- Financial analysis \ review, analyze and report on various financials in order to assist AUSA and Federal Agents
- Prepare drafts of Indictments, Prosecution Memorandums and various Motions
- Assist and prepare attorneys for debriefings and investigation interviews of witnesses and targets
- Extensive legal research in support of various documents
- Extensive investigative research on defendants and healthcare companies through various sites in order to assist and aid AUSA and Federal Agents
- Review, analyze, interpret and prepare reports on various undercover recordings of defendants
- Translations and transcription of various documents and recordings
- Preparation presentations of exhibits for the use at trial

**Senior Litigation Paralegal – KUBICKI DRAPER, P.A.
(2/2006 – 6/2008)**

- Extensive trial assistance and preparation
- Review and analyze financial records as well as prepare written reviews of same
- Prepare written medical summaries/chronologies and medical reviews
- Corporate securities and internal investigations and compliance assistance
- Prepare written deposition summaries
- Handling of property, construction, medical malpractice, contract and risk management cases
- Extensive legal research
- Prepare written drafts of memorandums, pleadings, reports, reviews and pleadings
- Conduct document inspections and prepare written reports on same
- Prepare written status reports to clients and insurance companies
- Claim Summaries / Reports

Case Manager - BERNSTEIN & MARYANOFF
(8/2001-2/2006)

- Responsible for reviewing and analyzing complete medical records
- Responsible for all public relations with clients and third parties, case management, analysis, problem solving, presentation, communication, writing skills and settlements both pre-suit and litigation
- Intense investigative and research analysis of defendants and witnesses; specialized in DUI, assaults, rape premises, reckless and careless driving
- Responsible for all negotiations between third parties, first parties, medical facilities Recommend and consult appropriate actions and present results to management and clients
- Analyze, consult and recommend marketing strategies to increase cash flow and work productivity.
- Review and manage the work product produced by others from the above activities

**Education &
Achievements**

Florida Bar Registered Paralegal
State of Florida Licensed Private Investigator (renewal)
State of Florida Certified Notary
State of Florida appointed Guardian Ad Litem (former)
Former chapter secretary of Women In eDiscovery
Recognition Award- F.B.I. (2009)

Special Skills

Fluent in English and Spanish, both verbal and written
Type 65 + WPM
Computer proficiency includes but is not limited to Microsoft Office, Summation, Word, Excel, Power Point, Microsoft Access, Trial Works, Concordance, QuickBooks Premier, Quicken, Excel, Client Profiles, Power Point, Attorney Information Management, GroupWise, LIONS, PACER, Sanctions, ALS, Westlaw, Lexis Nexis, IPro, Live Note, CMS, Time Slips, Juris, Law Drill, Time Wise, Worksite, Aderant, Case Logistix, CaseNotebook, CaseMap, Legal Key and extensive web searches.

Anna Ashley Rambaran

11402 SW 242 LN, Homestead, FL 33032

ARambaran77@gmail.com

Cell: 786-346-1980

Miami-Dade County, Board of County Commissioners
Office of the Chairman, Jean Monestime
111 NW First Street, Suite 220
Miami, FL 33128

RE: Governor's Appointment, Gubernatorial Appointment, 03/05/2015

Dear Search Committee,

I'm contacting you in regards to the gubernatorial appointment position at Children's Trust, advertised in the Children Trusts newsletter. Please take a look at my attached resume for a detailed look at my skills and experience. The depth of experience I can offer will contribute to your leading industry position. I'd love the opportunity to help take The Children's Trust to the top of the field.

My relevant qualifications include my Master's in Criminal Justice. Also of note is my most recent position as Auditor for Silver Vase. In this role, I was responsible for training new employees, auditing for errors and run reports for the sales team

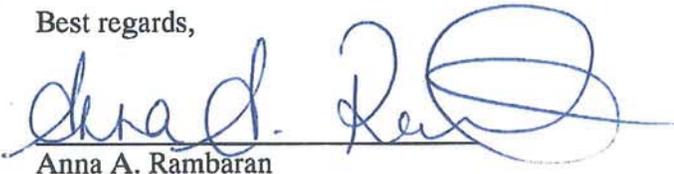
My educational background has given me a solid understanding of the Justice System and the Juvenile Justice System. And my on-the-job training has given me the opportunity to implement my education to field through auditing and safety inspections. I am eager to apply my training as to this organization.

I'd be happy to provide greater detail about my skills and experience during an interview. Please call me at your earliest convenience.

I am very interested in meeting to review your needs and possible solutions I could bring to the table.

Thank you, in advance, for your consideration.

Best regards,


Anna A. Rambaran



Anna Ashley Rambaran

11402 SW 242 LN, Homestead, FL 33032
ARambaran77@Gmail.com
Cell: 786-346-1980

Profile

Criminal Justice Professional offering versatile management skills and proficiency in Microsoft Office programs and Photoshop. Strong planner and problem solver who readily adapts to change, works independently and exceeds expectations. Able to juggle multiple priorities and meet tight deadlines without compromising quality.

Skills

Surveillance Skills:

- Office Management
- Records Management
- Database Query
- Spreadsheets/Reports
- Event Management
- Calendaring
- Travel Coordination
- Executive Support
- Surveillance Expert
- Bilingual Spanish/English

Computer Skills:

- MS Word
- MS Excel
- MS PowerPoint
- MS Outlook
- MS Access
- MS Project
- PhotoShop
- Lightroom
- Windows

Experience

2009-2013 Kmart Miami, FL

Loss Prevention Associate

- Surveillance via CCTV or Physical (Sales Floor)
- Handle Shoplifters
- Run Safety Reports
- Conduct Safety Audits and Shrink Audits
- Handle Customer and Associate Accidents
- Trained new Loss Prevention Officers

2013-Current Silver Vase Orchids & Bromeliads Inc. Miami, FL

Sales Auditor/Marketing Auditor

- Audit daily sales (Database Query, Spreadsheets & Reports).
- Take Pictures and enhancing them through Photoshop & Lightroom programs
- Conduct Inspections for Safety Audits through the State of Florida.

Education

2011 Keiser University Miami, Florida

Associate of Arts, Criminal Justice

- Relevant Coursework: Criminology, Introduction to Corrections, Introduction to Law Enforcement and Criminal Law
- Dean's List: 4.0 GPA

2010-2012 Keiser University Miami, Florida

Bachelor of Arts, Criminal Justice

- Relevant Coursework: Communication and Writing for CJ Professionals, Criminology, Juvenile Procedures, Victimology, Private Security, Protective Services, Criminal Justice Management, Criminal Justice Evidence and Procedures
- Dean's List: 4.0 cumulative GPA

2013-2014 Keiser University Graduate School Pembroke Pines, FL

Masters of Arts, Criminal Justice

- Relevant Coursework: Seminars in Criminal Justice, Corrections, Security, Court Systems and Child Welfare.
- Thesis Completed on the subject area of The Correlation of Juvenile Behavior and Violent Crime.
- Magna Cum Laude: 3.8 cumulative G.P.A.

2013

Professional Development

Photoshop Specialist

Organizations

2011

Guardian ad Litem

Miami, FL

- Advocating for Abused Children
- Working in the best interest of the child for a healthy and stable home

2013

T.A. (Teacher's Assistant)

Miami, FL

- Teaching students that have trouble understanding History, English and Criminal Justice at Florida International University under Professor Wannetta Whittaker
- Along with grading papers and answering questions for students I also helped high school students with subjects that are a challenge to them.

Denis Rod

A graduate of Miami Dade College and the University of Miami, Miami, Florida, Denis Rod has his degrees in Education, Clinical Psychology and Cultural Anthropology. Denis Rod has served for over 35 years our community and he has served it very well. He is an active participant at the county and the city level. He is very well known to the constituents of Miami's District 4 - every last Thursday of the month you can find Denis Rod holding town hall style meeting in his district. He constantly and relentlessly toils for the underprivileged and the needy. And is frequently an advocate for their causes.

He loves "his" South Florida. a place that he calls home. He is a certified COP (Citizen on Patrol) and is active in his area. He has always been a strong supporter of our Public Library System and our Public School System working throughout his career to improve the services they give to this community. After all, as he often says: "the children are our future and we have to make sure that they achieve their highest potential."

In our Public School System and in the Public Library System, in addition to often speaking in front of community groups, government committees, both Miami and Miami-Dade commissions, he has spoken in on radio and television in favor of our schools and libraries and improving their system. He has personally donated over 1,000 books to the Miami-Dade Public Library.

Denis Rod spent over 15 years teaching in our Public School System. After he left the school system he has helped the children of the schools in need by one on one tutoring till the present. He has been a firm advocate for bettering our schools and helping our teachers obtain materials needed to better teach the children. He also wholeheartedly believes in the after school program. Towards this end he is an Executive Board Member of American Children's Orchestra for Peace (ACOP) and has served in different community boards that help our children and young people.

Dr. Denis Rod

305-244-2708 ♦ drdenisrod@yahoo.com

Denis Rod has served on many the boards of the City of Miami: Project A.I.S.P. (Arts Instructions for Special Population), City of Miami Planning Advisory Board (as a member, and Co-Chairperson), Code Enforcement Board, and City of Miami Waterfront Advisory Board. Currently, he is a board member of Office of Economic Development and International Trade (formerly The Jay Malina International Trade Consortium), Miami-Dade County, representing District 7, and CareerSource South Florida Board representing Mayor Carlos Gimenez.

Among his many philanthropic works are the donation and distribution of children bicycles for charity sponsored by Ocean Bank and the Latin Builders Association. He worked from 1989 – 1995 in Habitats for Humanity in Homestead and in Overtown. Denis Rod is an active participant of the Latin Chamber of Commerce Holiday Food Distribution and in St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Charity. In the 70's he was a member and past president of Miami Dade College's North Campus Amigos Club, an organization formed by the College to help with the acclimatization of foreign students to our area.

His exceptional service to his community and his willingness to help all his fellowman are an example for all to follow. Miami-Dade County Commissioner Bruno Barreiro recently spoke of Dr. Rod by saying *"his leadership in our region is an example to all and a goal that all should strive for."*

In his little spare time he loves to ride horses, read and bicycle. He loves to travel and has visited many countries. A 47 year resident of the City of Miami, Denis Rod has spent his adult life giving back to the community he loves.

Denis Rod's influence in the well being of people in all corners of the county **is** felt by anyone who seeks his help. His constant toils for the underprivileged, the ill, the needy and the unemployed is very well known in this city. He not only goes the extra mile to

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help others, he takes them there personally! He is one of those rare individuals who care and works efficiently and effectively to build our community. He is truly an example to all.

• Addendum •

These are some of the recognitions bestowed on Denis Rod...

Denis Rod has received a Tribute from the State of Florida by then President of the Florida House of Representative, Marco Rubio.

Denis Rod has received Proclamations from the cities of Miami, Hialeah, Sweetwater, West Miami, South Miami, Miami Beach, Florida City among others.

Denis Rod received the Southern Command Citizens Medal.

These are some of the recognitions bestowed on Denis Rod...



CHINA LATIN AMERICAN TRADE CENTER 中国拉丁美洲贸易中心

2710 NW 24th street
Miami, Florida 33142 USA

Tel: 305-636-0902
Fax: 305-636-0910

www.chinalatam.com
joechi888@yahoo.com

Chairman Jean Monestine
Board of County Commissioners
111 NW FIRST Street Suite 220
Miami, Florida 33142

January 21, 2015

Dear Chairman Jean Monestine,

It is our great pleasure to recommend Denis Rod in his quest for a position on the board of the Miami Children's Trust. He truly cares about our community and has been active for many decades in countless community endeavors.

For over 20 years, we have known him to be extremely concerned about our community's children health and emotional wellbeing, their education, their safety and their becoming productive members of society.

We ask you to support his quest because in doing so you will be helping to contribute immensely to the wellbeing of our community.

Sincerely,

Joe Chi

Executive Director

China Latin American Trade Center
www.chinalatam.com
<http://www.miamidade.gov/business/international-consulates.asp>

- "We would like to recommended Denis Rod for a Miami Dade County Proclamation for his work with District 2 in the area of Melrose"