EARL MONROE
NEW RENAISSANCE BASKETBALL SCHOOL

The Dwyer

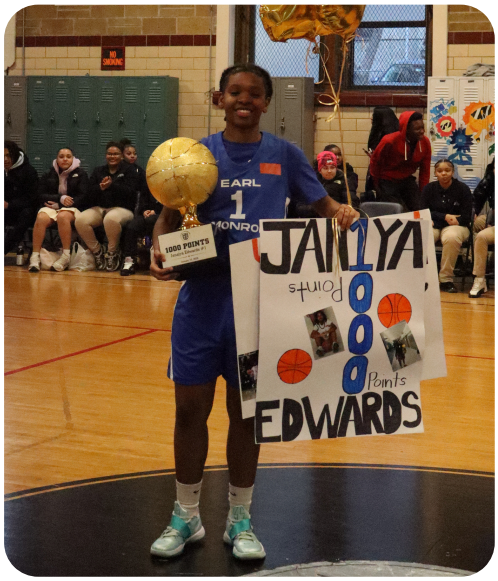
BLACK HISTORY MONTH EDITION

Vol. 2 Issue 3 February 2026

1000 CAREER POINTS FOR JANAIYA EDWARDS

FIRST EVER FOR THE GIRLS SQUAD







By Emeriall Lastra, Liz Robinson

BRONX - A pearl of school history struck on January 13th, 2026 when Janaiya Edwards, four-year letter varsity team member for Earl Monroe, knocked down an easy three to rack up 1000 career points. She is the first athlete to do so for the girls' varsity team.

"It wasn't a pressure thing when my coach told me," Edwards said. "He said to focus on the main thing, but in 11th grade he let me know I was close."

"Win games, win championships, win trophies, that was on my mind," Edwards said. "I have to make sure I am uplifted as captain so the team can be uplifted."

The team Edwards happened to play against that day was AECI2, a rival of the school. They usually give good competition.

"It was something I thought I would never do, especially in high school.

"It felt good to be supported by my team. "I want to get one more championship before I leave," Edwards said. "And I want to set a good foundation for the next team to come."

To players hunting down their 1000 points, she suggests: "Everything falls into place if you focus on the team, " Edwards said.

True to her dedication, Edwards celebrated by going to a SUNY Purchase girls' basketball game that school night.









WHAT'S INSIDE?

Top Left: Academic Honors Winners pose with their hard-earned custom jackets

Bottom Left: United Nations Assembly in Manhattan, AP US History

Top Right: Art by Chermia Lucas featured in new Mary J. Blige film

Bottom Right: Director of Operations Victor Rios and his New Year's resolutions

Academics celebrated at the Honor Roll Dinner

By Eric Vasquez

BRONX - A student's name on the honor roll speaks to many things about them, not just their grades. It speaks to their dedication and drive to be in class and be mentally present five days a week all semester. It also speaks to their resilience in the face of hardship.

Students who proved their abilities were honored over dinner and awards on February 12th, 2026. For their achievements, they were gifted a school-branded quarter-zip sweater.

"I make sure to speak out for myself when my grades are not right," Joseph Din, sophomore, said. "And use my sources and opportunities how I can," Din said.

Among the awards, including 3.5 GPA, 3.8 GPA categories, several students went above and beyond. For highest attendance, top of their class, and overall improvement, they were gifted custom KITH jackets donated by the National Basketball Association.

Best Attendance
Sasha Harper
Kymani Cosme
Aniyah Reyes
Daniella Teresa Petriello

Overall Improvement
Sapdiel Paniagua

NHS Best Community Citizen
Samaris Abreu Alba

Top GPA By Class, Fall 2025
Evia Marie Berg
Zahriya Osbourne
Efe Nicholas Ukrakpo
Malia Davis
Leah F. Montalvo



Top Left: Nathaniel Goodwin, Tristen Floyd, Kevin Lampkin, Cherif Haidara. Kareem Logan. Mid-left: Evia Burg, Sasha Harper. Middle: Ishmael Ona, Aniya Reyes. Mid-right: Sapdiel Paniagua. Bottom left: Elijiah Torres, Mila Torres. Bottom Middle: Samaris Alba. Bottom right: Ryan Ramos, Stephanie Prowitt

Sharpening the mind and body with Victor Rios

Our Director of Operations on his training, New Year's resolutions, and motivations

By Ayden Chin-Edwards

Victor Rios, our Director of Operations at Earl Monroe, has a New Year's resolution different from others, one that will challenge his current limits as a full time director, father, and artist.

Rios' goal is to run a half and full marathon this year, but his main resolution overall is to focus more on his health and being more active.

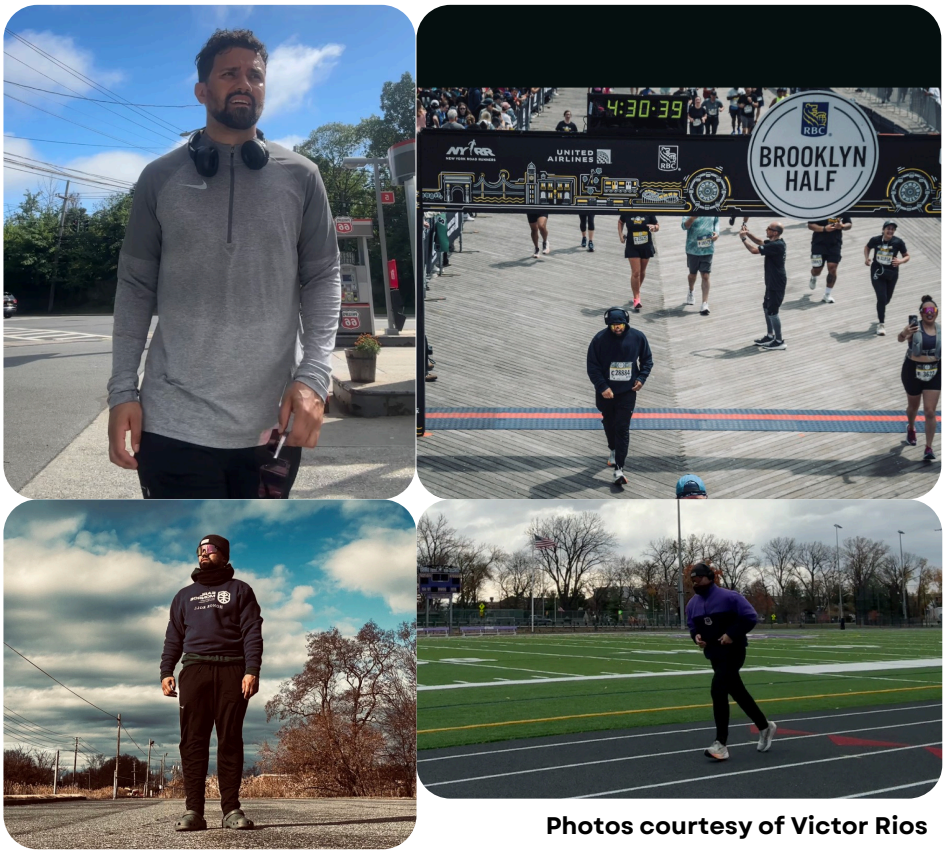
"So far, I've been running two to three times a week, five to seven miles. I've been working out consistently every week and I've gone to the gym three to four times per week," Rios said.

As his running gets better and more efficient, he looks to participate in the Brooklyn Half Marathon on May 16th. With only the full marathon left to get accepted to, Mr. Rios stays on track taking in all the benefits from being active.

"We have to keep our bodies active, you know, remain healthy, not only physically, but emotionally and in your brain." Rios believes mentality, as well as treating the brain like the beautiful thing that it is, requires challenge. He encourages others to also stay active to ultimately better their health because "you only live once so you have to do the best you can while you're here."

Some advice he gives to Earl Monroe scholars that seek to be more active and healthy, "try not to establish unrealistic goals. Let's start small with attainable goals like one month without eating sour patch kids, go for fruit, or one month without sugary drinks. As you start with the small baby goals and accomplish them, then that is going to help you accomplish bigger goals like going outside and running or walking for 20-30 minutes."

Mr. Rios's drive to be more healthy should inspire others and his accomplishments and goals will not go unnoticed.



Photos courtesy of Victor Rios

AP US History attends Model United Nations International Conference

Students from 130 countries met in Manhattan to practice global policy



Xavier Melendez, Leah Montalvo, David Loyola, Carl Hanson, Jared Quiza, Christian Hardy, Hawa Silya, Brooke Leon

Special To the Dwyer

BRONX - Three days, 130 countries, hundreds of students came to the Big Apple to exchange cultures and diplomacy in the National Model UN conference for high schoolers. Mr. Hanson's AP U.S. History took part to represent Earl Monroe.

Students attended mock diplomacy meetings, planned housing for refugees in Egypt, researched case studies, negotiated budgets and partnerships as if they were heads of state.

"When I first got there I felt out of place," Ayden Chin-Edwards said. "Researching how to provide adequate refugee housing for Egypt was difficult, but it was a good challenge to present it to the audience." That audience? A few thousand students and advisors from the world.

"We met people from Saudi Arabia, Italy, Morocco, Colombia," Christian Hardy said. "Got to meet the Honorable Chair and other members of the United Nations as well."

Carl Hanson, AP U.S. History and literacy teacher, and Susan Fraleigh, Executive Director, put together the trip for the students. "It was good to see our students hold their own on that stage," Hanson said. "It speaks to the caliber of students we have here."

Jacob Baker, president of the MUN, speaks highly of the conference. "Engaging in spirited debates and negotiations in the committee room has sharpened my public speaking and critical thinking skills. I have learned the art of diplomacy–understanding that effective communication is not about asserting dominance, but about building consensus. Working with our fellow human beings."

College Career Center

Special announcments:

Imonie Garcia commited to SUNY Old Westbury

Nyla Weathers, Devin Morant, Monica Barros accepted to the CIEE Summer Abroad Program, Rome and Paris

Samaris Alba accepted to the National Youth Leadership Forum: Law and CSI

Samaris Alba, Alani Rodriguez accepted to Bruce Beck Sports Broadcasting Camp

Monica Barros accepted to Harvard Medical School Precollege Online Program

Zahriya Osbourne accepted to SEO Scholars 8 Year College Career Readiness Program

82 Seniors accepted to 273 colleges

$1.7 million in scholarships (1 Year)

$6.6 million in four-year scholarships

Angeleisha Rogers brings her family's preacher energy to EMNRBS

The school's first music teacher energizes her classes to express themselves on their own terms







By Nathaniel Goodwin

Angeleisha Rogers has blessed us to be the first music teacher here at Earl Monroe, a class many students wish to take.

Her love of the trumpet, performing in the city, and music as a lifestyle is clear in her energetic classes.

The Dwyer sat down with her before break to get to know about where she comes from and what she has in store for the school's music program.

Beginnings

"My grandparents were very influential in my life. My grandparents were pastors, so it was me who gravitated to be the musical one. I played the piano when i was six, seven," Rogers said. "Just kind of banging out rhythms just doing my best up there with the church choir." She liked the piano, but when she experienced the trumpet?

"All I know is this older lady at the Church of God In Christ Conference in Memphis," Rogers said. "She had on this fly purple suit, hat, little glove, she was clean! She played the hymn 'I'll Fly Away.' I looked at my grandpa and I said I gotta have one of those. He thought I was being dramatic until he got me a trumpet my uncle had, and since then played through high school, went All State, college, and still making my noise."

Inspirations, Core Values as a Musician

At six, Rogers studied the way her grandfather swayed a crowd in his sermons.

"My grandfather was the greatest music teacher I ever had, and I dont even think he had a clue," Rogers said.

"I would watch this man sit up and preach and the way he preached, 'theres-uh, a little something on my heart, tu-day, for God,' like that is music!"

Her grandfather's energy and his integrity are what Rogers says is important in her music.

"I tell students and everybody that I work with to be good, do what you are supposed to do, and practice, but more than anything, have a good attitude and a good spirit. If you have that and you are effective, one day you are gonna get the call."

From mistreatment by male colleagues and professors, or slights from other trumpet players that couldn't hold a candle to her talent, she says her attitude remains her strength.

"I have gotten a lot of opportunities in my career for being at the right place at the right time and being good to people."

Looking Forward

"I am pretty excited about some of the things we have going. I am pleased with the progress so far. In September kids came in, most of them never touched a instrument ever in life, and by December we were able to stand on the stage. These kids read music, learned it, and were able to perform. That makes me feel really good, like I am doing something."

At the Christmas show, the classes played a drumline piece in a marching band style, a mix of snares, tambourines, and kicks. "Hopefully real soon I am able to start an official drum line for the school," Rogers said.

Her Playlist

"Louis Armstrong because he is the source. Roy Hargrove (he did a lot of crossover on a lot of that early R&B), Thelonious Monk, Kipper Brown. Right now, fresh on my list is gospel, Total Praise by Richard Smallwood, we are debuting that at the Coffee House coming up!"

You can catch Rogers drumming around the school, or at aboutme.com/trumpetessmusic.

IN RESPONSE TO ICE RAIDS, BLACK PANTHERS RESURFACE

Calls for community organization against systemic violence look to the 1960s communal programs

By Demetri Heastie, Nathaniel Goodwin

A resurgence of activism under the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense is emerging in response to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) rise in violence against United States citizens as well as other human beings.

Tactics of the 1960s Black Panthers are making a resurgence, including exercising the 2nd Amendment, carrying rifles weaponry to protect communities from unneeded violence between federal agents, police officers, and citizens.

The current movement has gained significant visibility in cities like Philadelphia following the death of Renee Nicole Good, Alex Pretti, and many more humans at the hands of ICE.

Although history may remember the Panthers as gun-toting militants, they actually did so much more. The Black Panthers benefited black communities by establishing over sixty "survival programs," most notably the Free Breakfast Program For Children. This program alone happened to feed 20,000 children in 36 different cities, feeding thousands of children, addressing the widespread and unaddressed food insecurity among black youth.









A historic photo of the Panthers' breakfast program, followed by modern Panthers protest with their community against ICE in Philadelphia. Photos courtesy of History.com and Yahoo News.

BRONX-BASED ARTISTS YOU HAVEN'T HEARD OF (YET)

The Bronx has a history of creative people who come from the Boogie Down, but the legacy continues today

By Kewayne Knight



Juan Ramirez, Jr. is a Nuyorican-Chapin Boogie Down Bronx born-and-raised native. He is an internationally produced, award-winning playwright, screenwriter, monologist, actor, director, filmmaker, producer, and poet. He is known for his acclaimed plays *Calling Puerto Rico* and *Riding Shotgun* as well as founding The Playpen Collective.



Lorraine Currelley was raised in Harlem, but most of her recent work involves the Bronx and the black community. She is a teaching artist, works in theater, performance, visual arts, writing, and literature, and photography. Moreover she is known for being an African American indigenous Gullah Geechee multi-genre writer. Her works include *Bronx Memoir Project VIII* and *From the Ancestors: Poems and Prayers for Future Generations.*



Adina Farinango is a Kichwa-Otavalo artist who uses art as an act of resistance, healing, and self-expression. Her art practice serves as a means to navigate and strengthen her own identity as an indigenous woman within the Kichwa diaspora. Her work centers around self-love and femininity through her indigenous roots, whether that is painting, graphic design, or illustrations.





Photos courtesy of Adina Farinango @adinasdoodles

CALLING ALL PERFORMERS
Coffeehouse and Open Mic

During Town Hall

March 6th, 2026

Performances by students, staff

Got bars? A song? A good story?
You get 4 minutes and a mic
Sign up in Room 12 and the Leap Year Room
REHEARSALS AFTER SCHOOL
STARTING MARCH 2nd, ROOM 12

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Nathaniel Goodwin

Graphic Design
Lizandra Robinson
Juliet Kanu

Sports Reporters
Joseph Mateo
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Photographers
Liz Robinson
Eric Vasquez
James Ennis

Feature Writers
Kewayne Knight

Advisor
Eric Vasquez

Printed By
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Berries of Poetry

In January, The Dwyer called for poetry submissions from the community. We are pleased to share with you the powerful words from our students.

LOVE

Love can and shall always be eternal,
like history's flame in the depth of the soul.
 A flame that passes through everyone
and can never be undone because it is a gift
from the heavens from the goddess of love up above.
The chills, the feels, the pounding in your chest
when you just know that it is love flaming in your chest.
Love is eternal love a flame in the dark,
that will never be broken

Heaven Sent

I've crossed the seas and climbed the peaks,
my spirit never bends or creaks.
I stand against the tyrant's reign,
and break the chains, again, again.

So let the world now stand in awe,
of the hero who defies all law.
For I am he, the bold, the free,
whose legend lives eternally

My strength unmatched, my will unbent, a force of nature,
Heavenly sent.
I challenge fate with every breath,
and laugh in the face of certain death.

I Miss You

I miss you I miss being around you
talking to you, your presence, your humor,
your personality good and bad and your pettiness
I miss exploring the real you I miss laughing with you,
I miss seeing your texts and making my heart drop
I miss wanting to confess to you I miss you
even if you don't feel the same I felt a connection to you
I felt connected to you in some way I valued you
which I don't usually do for other people
but you thought you could take the fact that I value you
you that I valued you over myself
Well you are wrong

River Stone

The crowd is a river of sound
that breaks against my shoulders.
I am a quiet stone at the bottom,
watching the current carry away
the wreckage of small talk.

There is a city inside my head,
paved with thoughts that don't need words.
I keep the windows shuttered
not to keep the world out,
but to keep the light within.
People mistake my silence for a wall,
but it is more of a library
shelves filled with the weight of observing
how a leaf turns, or how a voice cracks.

I am not hiding; I am simply
gathering myself back from the noise.
Each hour of solitude is a stitch
repairing the fabric of my energy,
until I am whole enough
to step back into the sun.

Racism

The line was drawn before we arrived,
Called history, called tradition, called law.
Some of us inherit keys,
Others inherit warnings.
Skin becomes a resume read too quickly.
Names are mispronounced, then dismissed.
A neighborhood is labeled "dangerous",
Until someone profitable wants it.
Equality is promised in speeches, whispered in classrooms,
Tested in courtrooms that close early.
We are told to work harder,
as if gravity were optional.
Statistics replace stories, sirens interrupt sleep
unevenly.
A hand on the shoulder means help for some, a threat for
others.
Still, voices rise where silence was expected,
History bends when pushed together.
Justice begins the moment we refuse to look away.

Flowers

Love is like a dead flower
One day you have amazing sunlight
Next is rain
You'll feel like a neglected plant trying to get
the sunlight
But can't
Love is a dead flower

The dirt is dry and cold
No water to hold
All my petals fall away
Like my heart when i was left with this pain

A Stillness

A vivid image in my head,
the memory of my aunt saying
it's time to pull it.
The result of my cousin
being on the wrong side of a
bullet.
I asked God why my family?
I thought it'd be better had
it been someone else but
would it?
His motionless body, devoid
of life.
The pain I felt comparable
to that of a knife.
Tears ran down my face that
I tried to confine.
Hurt that amounted to rife.
The room grew silent, heavy
with despair.
A stillness hung in the air.

T.H.

I am Tristyn, proud son of
Imari, from a fearless land
where bright stars glow above.
With the courage of a lion and
a heart rich with honor, I do
not tremble before darkness,
for my spirit is unshaken.
I stand for truth, for justice
and strength, defending what is
right and walking in light. I
have conquered the field and
mastered the pen
the greatest young hero
to step on this stage.

I Am

I sit under the sky,
No noise but the wind.
The trees do not judge me.
The sun does not ask questions.
Out here,
I am just me.
The earth reminds me
I am part of something bigger.

Twin

When I was at my lowest I had the bros
I cherish my bros like my own family
They taught me to be better when I was wrong
I love my brothers

When my brothers have a problem, we solve it
That's just what we do, even though we're not blood
After-school exploring life to the fullest
They are my brothers

The Name

Kind like flowers
Artistic powers
Reliable source
Loveable force
Amusing muse.

Magnificent soul
Ambitious goals
Trustworthy personality
Optimistic possibility
Special touch.

Alice

Brown hair, brown eyes, porcelain skin, cherry lips,
Hourglass body.
Hearing her name made my blood effervescent.
Her name was Alice.
My Alice to my wonderland.

I dreamt of her every night.
I dreamt of a land where I can be free.
Where no fairies were judging me.
Not being judged because I was gay.
Where we can have our happy ever after.
And run away.
Soon the Dragon's flame found us.
The floral sighting soon turned into ash,
transforming the fantasy into reality.
My friends fired lasers because of my truth.
Was I some weird mutation?
Was I cursed at birth?
Why was I made for this earth?
For shaming me
Or how my parents forsaken me.
But with Alice, I knew my destiny.

Mom

My mother is the lady that gave me reason.
She looked at me with eyes full of love and care.
Anything wanted or needed was given.
My first love my mom.
My mother has always hustled her business.
I can't stop until my mom is in a house.
As the main man here everything I do I do with her
in mind.
She moved to Spain just to give me a good life.
She gave me joy in this life of sadness, mom.
I love you for life.

Like a Shadow

Put down the trust you gave too fast
Close the door on the people who smiled and lied
Remember the moments of when they crossed the line
and how you stayed quiet to keep things calm

That made you feel empty as if something was missing
it was like walking around with a heavy weight in
your chest
that feeling followed you everywhere like a shadow
and your strength felt distanced away as if i did
not belong to you anymore

I claim back all my power from you
From all of the doubt and hurtful moments
how you tried to break what taught me how to fight
I turn that pain into strength

Gravity

You are not fireworks
You are gravity.
Not loud,
Not sudden,
But constant.
Even when I drift,
You pull me back
Without a sound.
Planets do not question
Why they stay in orbit.
They just know
Where they belong.

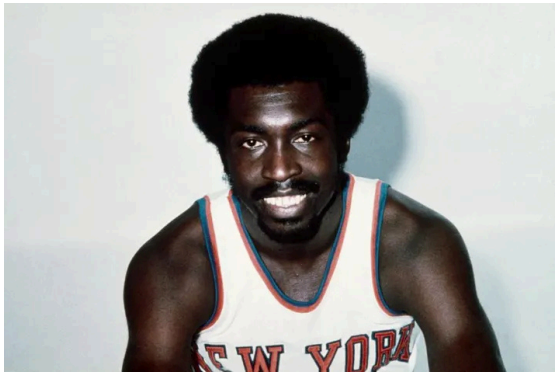
Hustlers

The best teacher in life is your own experiences
None of us know who were are until we fail
By failing I mean hardship
Hardship fuels your hussle
Hardship fuels the vision when we set our eyes on
something we want we go hard
You go hard for the love of that thing
Never settling but setting your goal high
Setting you eyes on what you want is like a
addiction
When you get it you get rushed by every emotion
A state euphoria
That you have gained the midas touch
Once you run it up once you can do it again
The things they said to us when we didnt look like
them
We were fuel by the mate
Like a fresh gas tank
This is for the hussler
This is for the people getting what they want
How they want and when they want it

CELABRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

EARL "THE PEARL" MONROE

BY JULIET KANU



Our very own Earl Monroe was an African American basketball player who played during the late 1960's. During this time, black men navigated through intense struggle against systemic racism.

Key Career Milestones:

- **Drafted in 1967 to the Baltimore Bullets.**
- **Rookie Year (1967-1968) won NBA Rookie of the Year, averaging 24.3 points**
- **and scoring 56 in one game.**
- **Traded to Knicks in 1971.**
- **Won the NBA title with the Knicks in 1973.**
- **Retired in 1980 after 13 seasons.**
- **Inducted to Hall of Fame in 1990.**
- **The Earl Monroe New Renaissance Basketball School (EMNRBS) opened in September 2021 in the Bronx, NYC, welcoming its first class of freshmen**

Earl Monroe became the icon he is today because of the past adversities he had endured.

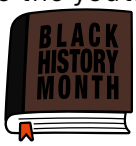
Earl Monroe attended Winston-Salem State University, a historically black college . During the 60s, black men had to work two times harder to even get in that position. His story represents black excellence influencing the next generations and all the students of Earl Monroe New Renaissance Basketball School.



BLACK HISTORY IN THE BRONX

Black History in the Bronx was built through art, music, and style. Black history in the Bronx is a story of migration, cultural vibrancy, and community building. Black History in the Bronx includes African Americans and West Indians together seeking better opportunities, with the rise of vibrant jazz/music, the creation of hip-hop, and important figures like civil rights advocate Rev. Wendell Foster. The Bronx has left its mark on black history forever.

Some of the Bronx Natives that have flourished in the music/entertainment industry have been Cardi B, A Boogie, Kerry Washington, and DJ Funk Fresh. These four represent the type of talent the Bronx can produce. All four of these icons have given back to their community in ways like free concerts, donations, as well as advice to the youth.











These individuals represent the grit and excellence that define the spirit of the Bronx.

BLACK CINEMA





RYAN COOGLER'S SINNERS

***Sinners* deeply impacted the Black community with its powerful, unique lens on Black history, spirituality, and resilience. The movie using vampire horror as a metaphor for systemic racism and cultural exploitation, which sparked many conversations about Black identity and reclaiming narratives from tragedy to empowerment.**



ALICE WALKER'S THE COLOR PURPLE

"The Color Purple" impacted the Black community by sparking intense debate over its portrayal of Black men and abuse, the movie became a powerful symbol of Black female sisterhood and healing, validating the often-silenced experiences of abuse and offering hope for overcoming trauma through shared strength and self-discovery. The movie brought up the topic of different adversities that black women had faced in the past. The movie also shows how powerful sisterhood is to the black community.



CHALLENGING NARRATIVES: SPEED DOES AFRICA!



IShowSpeed (Darren Jason Watkins Jr.) completed a 28-day tour of 20 African nations in January 2026, including Nigeria, South Africa, Egypt, Kenya, and Ghana. His tour went viral for showcasing his high energy streams, his cultural experience, the massive crowds. The tour challenged stereotypes, showcasing vibrant, modern African cities to a global audience.

Our new home: interview with the architects of the new building

Special to The Dwyer





Holly Wolf, Carl Hanson, Sonja Gracy, Susan Fraleigh, Santiago Vazquez, Laurie Lindenbaum, Henry Myerberg, Abbe Klores, Chermia Lucas, Kimberly Murphy tour the new building. Truss system example.

BRONX - With less than a semester away from moving into the five-story mint condition school, you might be looking for a peek into the completed work of ESKW Architects and their associates. Holly Wolf (Partner and architect) and Kimberly Murphy, architect on this project, sat down with The Dwyer about the school's unique features.

For the cafeteria, dedicated soundproofing materials were a must. "Cafeterias in school design are always terrible," Murphy said. "Holly has been brilliant. [the student] dining center is going to be so quiet, you will love it." Wolf said that she takes inspiration from universities, where lunch is a calmer cafe rather than a loud and busy cafeteria.

The gym, designed to be the heart of the school on the first floor, came with its rewards and its challenges. "It is the showpiece of the whole school," Murphy said. "To put it hidden on the top floor seemed like a bad idea."

Traditionally, schools in New York City put their gyms on the roof, for an obvious reason: "You can't have columns going through the basketball court," Murphy said. Instead, the team used a truss system that supports classrooms on the floors above the gym.

Showing off the arena is one thing, but security is another reason the gym belongs on the first floor. "We find that the more open you provide the space to be, the more secure it actually will be and the more ownership or responsibility people take for the space," Murphy said. Hallways and classrooms windows look down into the gym that make it the school's communal space.

"The classrooms are on the upper floors. The gym and lobby are on the first floor," Murphy said. "It really starts to separate the public and the private, so that if people come in, there is security there and the students on the upper floors. The lobby is very open. We have found that if you open something up with glass so that both sides can see in and out it creates less issues."

Wolf also mentioned their commitment to light, both sunlight and interior lighting. While sunlight spills in classrooms and hallways, classrooms are lit intentionally. "It is a softer light," Wolf said. "Classrooms are lit from above and below. This has been found and researched to support learning. You have to give it to your school leaders, you will notice the difference from the hard and bright lighting most schools use."
Doors open in August 2026.

LUCAS FEATURED IN MARY J. BLIGE LIFETIME MOVIE

By Lizandra Robinson

BRONX - Chermia Lucas, one of Earl Monroe's permanent substitute teachers, has two paintings featured in *Mary J. Blige Presents: Be Happy.* The film premiered on February 7th, 2026 on the Lifetime Channel.
"It felt wonderful to have the opportunity to showcase my work. The film takes place inside of a gallery, so there's a space for me to be in. It makes sense for the film. My work was able to get its own shot center shot," Lucas said.
Her work, to the right, focuses around the celebration of black life, dignity, and family ties.

"When I got to high school and I took art classes, I was copying what I saw in magazines, But I realized it was all European actresses and European music artists. And I was like, wait a minute. Why am I painting that? And so I painted people of color. And then, as I painted people of color, I started to notice the marketing of products. Who they cater to, who cartoons who cater to. When I became a mother I said I needed to paint my kid. He needs to see himself and what he looks like in storytelling."

One of her pieces featured in the film is of her mother and father. "I did lose both of my parents. It was my dad first, then, I lost my mom at 22, so when I painted them both it really was connecting a moment for me. I wanted to feel them in the presence of celebrating them and not really focusing on the happy grieving, you know what I mean? So music was played. I lit candles. I was filming the process and it just was so rewarding. I put myself there with them."

Lucas also paints different expressions of love. "There was lot of women in my family, so those moments, those nurturing moments that I saw in photographs," Lucas said. "Maybe it wasn't a bunch of hugs and kisses, but you know it was in how you were put together. You know what I mean, it was how your house was furnished. It was what you did on the holidays, fixing a plate of food. It was their way of being able to love.
"Now, I am a mother. I have my three kids and it is important for me to lay the foundation for them to feel, not just look loved and cared for, but feel loved for. So we paint together."
You can see Lucas' art on the Lifetime app and chanel when the movie is playing, or catch her doodling in between periods in her notebook.
See her art at chermiaamourart.com.









Making History Daily

The Dwyer would like to share our favorite photos of the year so far, to stay true to our theme for this issue. We wanted to give you, dear readers, knowledge about Black history to empower you, but also to never forget: our history as a community is being made every day in these halls. Take a breath, be grateful for the people you hold close, and, as our beloved Ricardo Spence reminds us daily, you are the future leaders making history right now!

The Dwyer Staff



























