



MPBP, INC.
MOTHERS OF PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL PLAYERS INC.

Quarterly Newsletter | First Quarter

President Overview

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Many blessing in the new year. Hey, my sistas, I have missed you all. First, I must welcome with an open heart and arms to MPBP,'s newest members. Welcome to the SISTAHOOD. Returning members, you are the rock of this great organization; y'all ready to hit it again? Let's GO! Looking back on 2024, MPBP, Inc. had some remarkable milestones. Let's reflect on these memorable achievements:



- The year started off with increased membership, giving an opportunity for additional volunteers.
- The kickoff of the NBA All Star Weekend, Indianapolis, IN. meet and greet featuring guest speaker, Mark Tatum, NBA Deputy Commissioner. The night saw a full house of members and guest for the night. All Star weekend capped off with Alberder Gillespie, Central Region Director moderated panel discussion with NBA/WNBA vets Andre Iguodala, Al Harrington, Eddie Gill, and Joy Harris. Supported by Mays Family Institute of Philanthropy & Central Indiana Community Foundation held at Indiana University-Purdue University (IUPUI). Heart screenings in partnership with Play Heart Smart and sponsored by Health and Hospital Corp.
- Summer league, Las Vegas, NV hosted by the Western region lead by Fenise Yancy. No longer a rook, Fenise moved the needle on the organization exposing our capability to attract sponsorships. The Meet and Greet was filled to capacity resulting in the Recruitment/Membership Committee signing up new members. Keep aspiring Western Region.
- FINALLY! The 2024 National Conference – “Leaving Legacies, Elevating Generations.” This four-day experience offered many engaging, uplifting and inspiring moments. The conference offered members and guests an educational experience, in which we hope elevated, and empowered them to new heights about the potential of MPBP, Inc. (With industry experts including special guests Teri Jackson, Executive Director WNBPA, Angela Harrelson, aunt of George Floyd, GirlTrek, partnership social justice walk, free health screenings on George Floyd Square, NIL Forum with local AAU teams and parents supported by Merrill Lynch Financial Advisors, and special recognition of original MPBP, Inc. members Elizabeth Washington, Doris Webber, Ann Sealy and Sandra Jackson.)
- Comedy Records NY Fundraiser with NBA veteran John Sally and Def Jam Legend Hamburger
- Finally, St. Judes Walk/Run annual event topped off the year's activities.

As of this newsletter print we will be celebrating Black History Month. We pay homage to our ancestors who made the sacrifice for the privileges we partake in today. I challenge each and every one to stay engaged in connecting with history (encourage others as well). Great segway to the organizational agenda of continuing educational opportunities for the membership, pursuing entrepreneurial endeavors, growing our scholarship program, and giving back to the communities where we and our sons and daughters live, work and play. The growth potential of MPBP, Inc. is endless.

I close with, where do you fit into the blueprint of MPBP, Inc.? Fulfill the commitment you made in becoming a member. The following committees have essential openings: Fundraising, Recruitment/Membership, and PR/Communications. Contact our recruitment/membership director, Daynia LaForce, for more information on these positions.

INVEST

Newsletter Highlights

A Message the MPBP Inc. President

MPBP Honors

Black History Month

Special Thanks

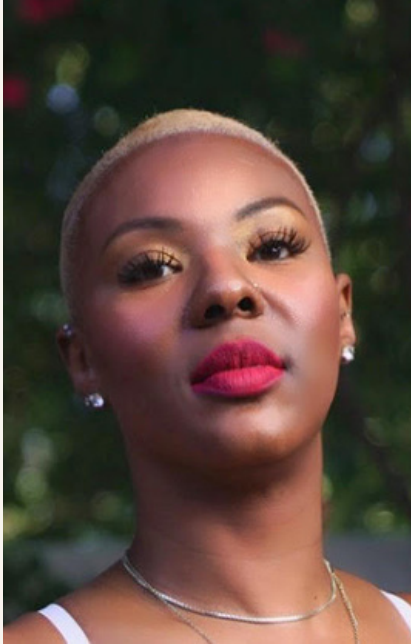
VICE PRESIDENT MESSAGE

BY LOUISE JACK, VP



The Lord has blessed us to enter our 29th year of existence.
It is not by accident, that we are here!
We are Blessed and Powerful Women!
We rose from adversity, but never forget our origin,
We learned from our past, and choose to keep going forward,
When our steps got heavy, we transformed,
pain and suffering into strength and wisdom.
We stumble, sometimes fall, but just as the sun always rises,
So does an MPBP, Inc., Woman.
As you enter this new year, don't forget your tools.
Intuition that guides your course,
Lift other women,
Love yourself,
Stand for loyalty,
and don't be afraid to seek Truth, even when it hurts!
Let's continue to, Make a Difference!

MESSAGE FROM WESTERN REGION



Dear New Sisters of the Western Region,

It is with great excitement and sincere gratitude that I welcome you to the Western Region of MPBP, Inc.! You are now part of a vibrant sisterhood where Collaboration, Support, and Shared Purpose creates a strong foundation for our Collective growth

I am truly honored to have you join us, and I look forward to working together as we continue to uplift

each other and serve our communities. Your unique talents and perspectives enrich our region, and I'm eager to see how we will inspire one another and make a lasting impact.

Thank you for embracing this journey with us. Together, WE will build lasting bonds, share meaningful experiences, and achieve incredible things. WELCOME to the SISTERHOOD—I'm so glad you're here!

In Sisterhood and Service,
Fenise Yancy
Western Regional Director
MPBP, Inc.

MESSAGE FROM ATLANTIC REGION



Welcome to the sisterhood of Mothers of Professional Basketball Players (MPBP, Inc.). We are delighted to welcome you to a legacy that was started in 1996 by 23 phenomenal basketball moms. We are a sisterhood of moms lead by our Presiding President Linda Shanklin, who love and support each other as we navigate this world of professional basketball. It is our honor to have you join the family. We look forward to getting to know you, your sons, and daughters.

Our mission, which states, “We are a unique sisterhood of game changers, educating, and investing in the communities where our sons/daughters, live, work, and play.” We invest through charitable works and fundraising efforts to establish ourselves as a forefront 501(c) 3 organization.

Our organization is only as strong as its governing body and membership/sisterhood. Your skills, time, and investments are needed.

Thank you,
Barbarita Springer
Atlantic Region Secretary

MESSAGE FROM CENTRAL REGION



Hello Ladies, on behalf of the Central Region, welcome to the Mother of Professional Basketball Players sisterhood! We're super excited to have you with us. This is a place where we can all share, laugh, and support each other as we go through the wild ride of being a mom to a pro player. Whether you're here for advice, a little encouragement, or just to connect with others who get it, you're in the right spot. We're so glad you're here, and we are excited to welcome you to the sisterhood!

Alberder Hampton Gillespie, Central Region Director

MESSAGE FROM SOUTHWEST REGION



Welcome to MPBP, a sisterhood of esteemed and unique women. Many of you have dedicated years to basketball, and today, you stand at the pinnacle of all your hard work. You've entered a new phase of your life, one full of potential, and we are excited to share this journey with you.

As you begin this new chapter, we encourage you to tap into the wealth of knowledge that our experienced moms have to offer. Don't hesitate to reach out for advice or support. We are here to guide you and help you succeed.

Enjoy this new chapter but never forget to take care of yourself along the way. We've been in your shoes, and we understand how challenging this path can sometimes feel. Lean on us, trust in yourself, and bring your talent and energy to MPBP. Together, we will grow stronger.

Mary Ford, Southwest Region Director

MESSAGE FROM NORTHEAST REGION



Welcome to the MPBP family! A sisterhood like no other!

As Regional Director of the Northeast Region, I am so excited to have you all join our community of passionate and supportive moms, where we inspire, and celebrate each other!!

Whether you're new to the game or a seasoned pro, we're here to cheer each other on, share our experiences, create lasting memories all while building lasting friendships.

Thank you for making MPBP a part of your journey – We are Moms United as One!!

-Wendy Sparks

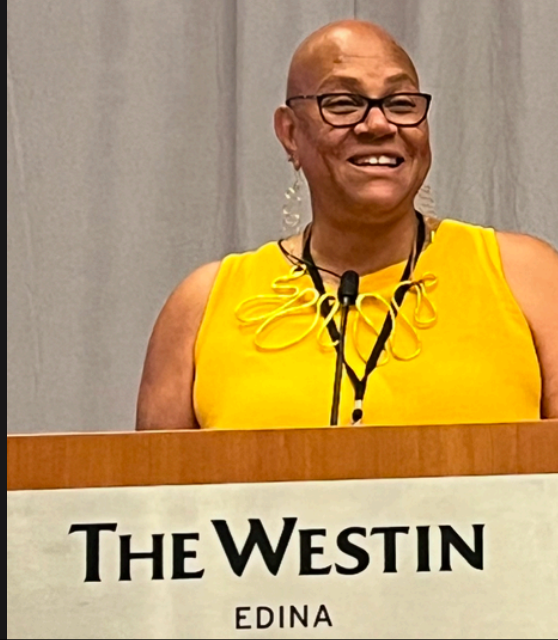
MPBP IN THE COMMUNITY



**95TH STREET SCHOOL
LOS, ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
SCHOOL SUPPLIES
STACY ADAMSWRIGHT -WESTERN REGION**



**VERNON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
PORTLAND, OREGON
BACKPACKS FOR BACK TO SCHOOL
GINA JOHNSON-WESTERN REGION**



NATIONAL CONFERENCE '24-MINNESOTA, MN





LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE '24



QUOTES TO LIVE BY



STACY ADAMSWRIGHT

IF YOUR DREAMS ONLY INCLUDED YOU, IT'S TOO SMALL.
-AVA DUVERNAY



CHERRY POWELL

WE LEARNED ABOUT HONESTY AND INTEGRITY - THAT
THE TRUTH MATTERS... THAT YOU DON'T TAKE
SHORTCUTS OR PLAY BY YOUR OWN SET OF
RULES...AND SUCCESS DOESN'T COUNT UNLESS YOU
EARN IT FAIR AND SQUARE.
-MICHELLE OBAMA



CAROLYN BREWER

BEING HAPPY IS A VERY PERSONAL THING-AND IT
REALLY HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ANYONE ELSE!!



LIZ BURGESS

GOD'S GOT ME!



SWISH CULTURES JORDAN & ASHTEN

Introduce yourself

Jordan Richard is the CO Founder , visionary and the CEO of Swish Cultures, a multimedia company created to connect and showcase the talents and stories of athletes, coaches, and agents (primarily in basketball) all over the world. Swish Cultures is unique because it is a black-owned business made by professional athletes and is the first platform to highlight overseas basketball. As the CEO, Richard plays a key role in content creation (including highlights, podcasts, merchandise, workouts, and exclusive content such as A Day in the Life), building creative strategies, tracking content performance, and seeking out opportunities for growth. Richard has had an incredible journey to get where he is today. He was an underdog and a late bloomer, growing 6'9 in two summers. He played basketball at California State University, Los Angeles (Cal State LA), a Division II college, because he hardly had any Division 1 (D1) offers. It was here that he began to make a name for himself, recording 10 blocks against California State University, Northridge, a D1 team. Richard's drive, passion, and skill, also earned him First Team All-California Collegiate Athletics Association (CCAA) with 4.5 blocks per game and he was named All-Team Block Leader for Cal State LA, holding the record for the most blocks in a season (129).



As a result of his performance in college, Richard went on to play basketball professionally overseas for six years in the following countries: Argentina, Bahrain, Dominican Republic, Finland, Israel, Italy, Japan, and Slovenia. While playing in Israel, Richard was named All-Second Team and block leader with 3.7 blocks per game. Richard also earned Defensive Player of the Year in the Dominican Republic and block leader in both Italy and Japan.

Due to the lack of coverage of professional athletes overseas, Richard taught himself how to edit and started creating his own highlights to add to his basketball portfolio. It helped open up doors for new work in his career. His work quickly caught the attention of other basketball players and even agents in need of highlights.

Ashten Smith-Gooden is the COO and co-founder of Swish Cultures handling day-to-day task and production to help the development and maintenance of the company. Ashten played DI volleyball at the University of California, Berkeley from 2014-2018. During her time at Berkeley, Ashten helped co-found the Black Student-Athlete Committee to help give black student athletes a safe space to talk about the intersectionality. She was granted the Walter A. Haas Jr. Community Service Award, Athletic Achievement Award and the ASC Scholar-Athlete of the Week. After graduation, Ashten decided to join her brother, Jordan Richard, to help with the growth of Swish Cultures. In 2019, Ashten went to get her Masters of Science in Entrepreneurship and Innovation from the University of Southern California to which she graduated in the Spring of 2020. In 2023, she became a Forbes 30 Under 30 Honoree. Alongside her feats, Ashten is also a Type-One diabetic.

What is Swish Cultures?

Swish Cultures is a basketball media company making media coverage equitable amongst NBA, WNBA, international, G-League, college and high school hoops.

Where did the name come from?

Jordan came up with the name. At first it was Hoop Cultures then transitioned it over to Swish Cultures.

Vision for Swish Cultures

The vision for Swish Cultures is to become the leading global platform that authentically showcases the culture, stories, and lifestyle of basketball, both on and off the court.

We aim to:

1. Redefine Sports Media: Create innovative, high-quality content that inspires, informs, and engages basketball fans and players worldwide.
2. Build a Global Basketball Community: Unite players, fans, and creators across continents by celebrating the universal language of basketball.
3. Empower the Next Generation: Provide opportunities and a platform for athletes, creators, and industry professionals to share their voices and talents.
4. Champion Diversity and Inclusion: Amplify underrepresented voices in basketball, including women, international players, and creators of color.
5. Set the Standard for Basketball Culture: Be the go-to hub for everything that connects the sport of basketball to fashion, lifestyle, and entertainment.

SWISH CULTURES JORDAN & ASHTEN

Our ultimate goal is to expand Swish Cultures into a multimedia powerhouse that transforms how basketball is experienced, celebrated, and shared with the world.

How are you making a difference in sports?

At Swish Cultures, we're making a difference in sports by amplifying the voices, stories, and achievements of athletes and the culture surrounding basketball. Here's how:

1. Authentic Storytelling: We bring a fresh perspective to sports media by showcasing the journeys of players on and off the court, highlighting the grind, culture, and community that shapes them.
2. Global Representation: We spotlight talent from around the world, giving a platform to overlooked players, leagues, and basketball movements that deserve recognition.
3. Community Building: By creating engaging content and events, we foster a sense of connection among basketball fans, players, and industry professionals, uniting them through the shared love of the game.
4. Empowering Creators: We collaborate with and elevate content creators, enabling them to tell their unique stories within the basketball space.
5. Elevating Women in Sports: We're dedicated to giving more visibility to women's basketball and inspiring the next generation of athletes, fans, and leaders in the game.
6. Innovative Partnerships: Partnering with the NBA, brands, and basketball organizations, we use creative content and events to bridge the gap between players, fans, and corporate entities, showcasing the vibrant culture of basketball in all its forms.

By focusing on storytelling, inclusion, and innovation, Swish Cultures is creating a lasting impact on the basketball world and inspiring the next wave of athletes and fans to be part of this dynamic community.

What advice would you share with an entrepreneur?

Entrepreneurship really focuses on passion, purpose, and a deep understanding of your "why" to stay aligned and motivated through challenges. Mastering your niche is essential—study your industry, audience, and competitors to stand out and offer unique value. Surround yourself with the right team and network—this really allowed for us to grow and connect in ways that accelerated our growth and helped us as founders.

Be adaptable and coachable, as success often depends on your ability to embrace change. Invest in building a strong, authentic brand that resonates emotionally with your audience. Also, consistency is key. Very cliché but true. Success rarely happens overnight, so remain persistent in your efforts to improve and grow. Last but not least, don't fear failure and never stop learning.

Fun fact about yourself

We are siblings and work so much that we don't realize how big our brand actually is getting.

MPBP HONORS: INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED BY STACY ADAMS WRIGHT, HISTORIAN



MPBP HONORS: TESSIE MUCIUS

I am Tessie Mucius, a passionate entrepreneur and the president of Trendzio, an online jewelry company that offers a range of stylish and high-quality accessories. I am married to Matthew Mucius and together we have two sons: Isaiah, who plays professional basketball for Sopron KC in Hungary, and Myles, who is currently in a post-graduate year with aspirations to play college basketball. I am based in Patchogue, NY, where I balance my professional life with supporting my family's athletic endeavors.

Please share a fond memory about your son Isaiah

A fond memory I have about Isaiah, was when he was at Wake Forest and made it on ESPN Sports Center Top 10, for making a game winning three to win the game against Charlotte.

How did you hear about MPBP, Inc.?

Gwendolyn Pickett

Share a fun fact about yourself.

I had a small part in the music video PMD Swing Your Own Thing, in 1994.



MPBP HONORS: JACKIE ALLEN

My name is Jackie Allen. I was born in Rio Pedres Puerto Rico, but grew up in a small beautiful Caribbean Island called St. Kitts. I am a proud mother of six children, with one daughter and five sons. I have been in the healthcare business for over 20 years. I worked as a LPN, and a paramedical examiner. For the past two years, I have been running my own business called, Unique Touch Mobile Phlebotomy. My passion for my career, and now being a NBA Mom, my commitment to cheer and watch my son pursue his dreams, on and off the court. My love and resilience are evident in all aspects of my life from the clinic to the stands. I am also a grandmother, and it is the most wonderful feeling ever.

My son is Jonathan Isaac and he plays for the Orlando Magic, as a power forward. He's in his seventh season. Drafted number 6 overall, in the 2017 draft.

Fun fact about my son, he is very playful and a high spirited person. My funniest memory that we shared, was when he had to do his interview for the draft.

I heard about MPBP, Inc. from previous member Mrs. Patti Hibbert, who encouraged me to join and experience a sisterhood of like minded individuals in the same situation.

I enjoy giving back to communities and the leadership we have when we get together as one unit.

The best advice I can give a new Mom of a professional basketball player, based on my experience, is to trust the process. There will be many changes and challenges that we have to adjust to. But, supporting our sons and daughters is most important, even if they make decisions we are not happy with. Most importantly, trust God in all things and understand that everything happens for a reason.

A fun fact about me, is I love to read and dance, when no one is watching.

MPBP HONORS: INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED BY STACY ADAMS WRIGHT, HISTORIAN



MPBP HONORS: PEARL ANNETTE FISHER

I am Pearl Annette Fisher, of Little Rock, Arkansas. I have worshipped at Eighth Street Missionary Baptist Church (North Little Rock, Arkansas) for over 56 years. Currently singing in ESMBC choir over 45 years. Pastor Jameel Wesley.

I started my MPBP, journey in 1997. I have served as Vice President as well. My MPBP, Inc. Mission statement: Encourage, Empower, & Elevate. What I like most about MPBP, Inc. Is the camaraderie. Being in an organization with purpose, sisterhood, purpose for the community and fellowship. My fondest memory as a MPBP, Inc. member was each gathering or meeting, they had a special meaning. The other fond memory was taking mothers from the community of Kansas City, shopping at Walmart. We had a budget, the mothers shopped for things they needed.

I am a mother of three. Our family is a basketball family. My son ((and the reason I am a MPBP member today) is Derek Fisher. He was drafted in 1996 to the Los Angeles Lakers, retired after 18 years. A little known fact is, "I was not new to this, but true to this." My oldest son Duane Washington Sr. was drafted in 1987, by then, the Washington Bullets. He has played both, NBA/CBA-EuroLeague, and retiring after 13 years. I also have a daughter , DeAndra Fisher Milner, that played basketball in Jr. High and High School. She was befittingly given the nickname Charlsetta Barkley.

Fondest memory of my son Derek Fisher, was 2004, game 5 of Western Conference Semi-Finals. Derek hit the game winning 0.4 second shot in San Antonio, Texas. Afterwards he sprinted off the court. I immediately opened my front door, because I knew he was running home to tell me all about it.

The journey continues. Two of my grandsons are currently playing overseas. Duane Washington Jr., Euroleague, Serbia/Mozzart. Played for: Indiana-Pacers, Phoenix-Suns, and the New York-Knicks. Setric Milner Jr. played for NBA San Antonio Spurs Summer League, and Korisliga, Finland Karhu Basketball.

Words of wisdom

"Continue to love and respect each other. Accept each other for who we or they are."

Fun fact about me, I love to dance and sing.

DON'T FORGET ABOUT YOU

AMERICAN HEART HEALTH MONTH & NATIONAL WEAR RED DAY

Let's do our part to put our health first, as we work towards a world free of cardiovascular diseases and stroke. Heart disease is the No. 1 killer worldwide, and stroke ranks second globally. Even when these conditions don't result in death, they cause disability and decrease a quality of life.

As women, we have to be proactive in changing the statistics and narrative, in regards to our health and cardiovascular disease. *According to the American Heart Association, cardiovascular disease is the No. 1 killer of women.*

National Wear Red Day, is about more than wearing red. The first Friday in February, we wear RED to be seen, to be counted, to be heard. Women carry a heavy load and our role in the world, family, community, workplace and beyond. We want to be armed with knowledge, educate, share and support others to be armed as well.

Bringing awareness about the seriousness of life changes that women experience is an area that should not be overlooked, because each woman is different and she may have different symptoms and their experiences may vary. Pregnancy, motherhood and menopause are a few of the life changes that can increase the risk of heart disease. Identifying the things that put us at risk, then doing something about it is key. We all deserve to live a long, happy and healthy life, but we must to do the work.

The American Heart Association's encourage us to focus on two major areas, Health Behaviors and Health Factors. The behaviors & factors are used to assess cardiovascular health.

LIFE'S ESSENTIAL 8, WHICH CAN CREATE HEALTHY HABITS FOR WOMEN.

1. Embrace healthy eating: Meal prep, juicing, try new recipes.
2. Move your body: Exercise, walk, run, stretch, or dancing. Do something that you enjoy.
3. Quit tobacco
4. Sleep: Get at least eight hours
5. Watch your weight
6. Control your cholesterol: Check- ups, self testing, diet
7. Control your blood sugar: Diet, check-ups, diet, self testing
8. Blood pressure-Check-ups, self testing, diet



MPBP, INC. TRIVIA

1. What year was Mother's of Professional Basketball Players, Inc. formed?
2. How many original members were there?
3. How many regions are there?
4. What are the region colors?
5. How often is the National Conference for MPBP, Inc.?
6. Where will the next National Conference be held?
7. When are elections held?
8. What are MPBP, Inc.'s social media platforms?
9. What is our Mission Statement?

Answers:

1. 1996
2. 23
3. 5 (Atlantic-Southwest-Central-Northeast-Western)
4. Green/Red/Yellow/Orange/Purple
5. Every 2 years
6. Houston, Texas
7. Every 2 years
8. Facebook & Instagram
9. The mission is to support the communities and make a difference in the lives of those where we and our sons and daughters live, work, and play.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



This year, we honor and recognize, Madam C.J. Walker, born Sarah Breedlove, December 23, 1867, near Delta, Louisiana. Her parents were enslaved and recently freed, and Sarah, who was their fifth child, was the first in their family born-free.

Sarah married Charles Joseph Walker, renamed herself Madam C.J. Walker. With \$1.25, she launched her own line of, homemade hair care products for Black women, “Madam Walker’s Wonderful Hair Gower.” She made a fortune and is known as the first female self-made

millionaire. Her inspiration to create her hair care products came when she suffered from a scalp ailment, which resulted in hair loss.

Madam Walker and her husband traveled around the South and Southeast promoting her products and giving lecture demonstrations of her “Walker Method,” involving her own formula for pomade, brushing and the use of heated combs. Eventually, Madam CJ Walker established laboratories to manufacture cosmetics and train sales beauticians.

Walker’s reputation as an entrepreneur was matched by her reputation for philanthropy. She donated generously to educational causes and Black charities, funding scholarships for women at Tuskegee institute and donating to the NAACP, the Black YMCA, and dozens of other organizations that helped make Black History.

Self Made: Inspired by the Life of Madam C.J. Walker



A SPECIAL THANKS

YOUR MPBP INC. NEWSLETTER TEAM



STACY ADAMS-WRIGHT

MPBP INC. WESTERN REGION SECRETARY

I'm the mother of three, two sons and one daughter.
I have four grandsons and one granddaughter.

My oldest son, Dorrell Wright, a 13 yr NBA Veteran.
My son, Delon Wright, is in his 10th season,
currently playing for the New York Knicks.

My position on the board is Historian. I collect and
record the history of our wonderful organization and
moms. I also led in organizing the MPBP Inc.
newsletter. It all started with my love for
photography.

Please periodically check out our website for great
news and updates.

Fun Fact about me: Captain of 40+ Double Dutch-
Inglewood, CA.



TATYERRA MIKELL

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Hi, I am Tatyerra Mikell, a Chicago native
that fell in love with LA living. I am a creative
storyteller focused on creating positive
representations of Black girls and women.
With ten years of experience as a
communications and marketing professional,
working in spaces dedicated to creating a
better world for children, I realized my
passion for children's media. That led to a
career at Sesame Workshop, the creators of
Sesame Street, and writing my first
children's book, *The Birthday Princess*. I am
focused on utilizing my skills as a storyteller
and marketer to amplify Black girls'
experiences in the kidlit world and other
media platforms.