

Unlimited Potential NFP, Inc.

— under the visionary leadership of **Tangela Thornton** — is reshaping the future for young women facing homelessness by providing not just housing, but hope, healing, and the tools to thrive.



unlimited potential nfp, inc.



BLACK PAGES
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Scan to Learn More about the Nation's First Youth Homeless Prevention Campus.





**BENFORD BROWN
& ASSOCIATES**
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Benford Brown & Associates

Benford Brown & Associates, LLC (BB&A) is a minority- and woman-owned Certified Public Accounting (CPA) firm based in Chicago, Illinois. Founded in 1996 by Alyssia Benford-Lee and Kimi Brown-Ellen, the firm provides broad services, including auditing, accounting, tax preparation, and small business consulting. BB&A works with clients in sectors such as nonprofits, healthcare, education, government, real estate, transportation, and food service.

8334 S. Stony Island Ave., Chicago, IL 60617

The firm prioritizes professionalism and quality, with partners maintaining a hands-on client approach. Core services include:

- Financial audits, reviews, compilations
- Internal audit and controls review
- Operational audits and business process improvement
- Cost recovery and grant compliance audits
- Audit readiness
- Forensic and fraud audits
- Accounting systems support and training
- Outsourced accounting staff
- Tax preparation, planning, and resolution

Operating from Chicago and Bolingbrook, BB&A's team of 11–50—led by Alyssia Benford, Kimi Ellen, and Timothy S. Watson—offers 65+ years of combined experience from Big Four and Fortune 500 backgrounds.

Contact Benford Brown & Associates today at (773) 731-1300 or info@benfordbrown.com to schedule a consultation and strengthen your organization's financial future.

BUSINESS CATEGORIES INCLUDED IN THIS DIRECTORY

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Fashion Designers
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Fences
Financial Service
Firearm Training
Fish & Shrimp Houses
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Food Products
Food Programs
Food Trucks
Foundations
Fresh Vegetable Gardens
Funeral Homes
Furniture
Garage Doors Repair
Gas Stations
Ghostwriters
Gifts/Gift Shops
Glass
Gourmet Ice Cream
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Government-State
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Hair Care
Hair Salons

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Health & Wellness
Health Products/Stores
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Nail Salon
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Shutters-Rolling
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Snow Plowing Service
Social Service
Sound & Music Producers
SPA
Substance Abuse Recovery
Substance Abuse-Meth
T-Shirt
Tailors
Tax Service
Technology Education
Technology Incubators
Telephone Service
Theaters
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Trophies & Plaques
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Welding
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Yoga



**BLACK PAGES
INTERNATIONAL**

REACHING THE NEXT GENERATION: YOUTH-FOCUSED MARKETING STRATEGIES FOR BLACK ENTREPRENEURS

Today's young consumers—especially Gen-Z and Millennials—are not just consumers; they're cultural creators and digital trendsetters. These generations expect more than a product—they want a brand story, purpose, and a community they can interact with.

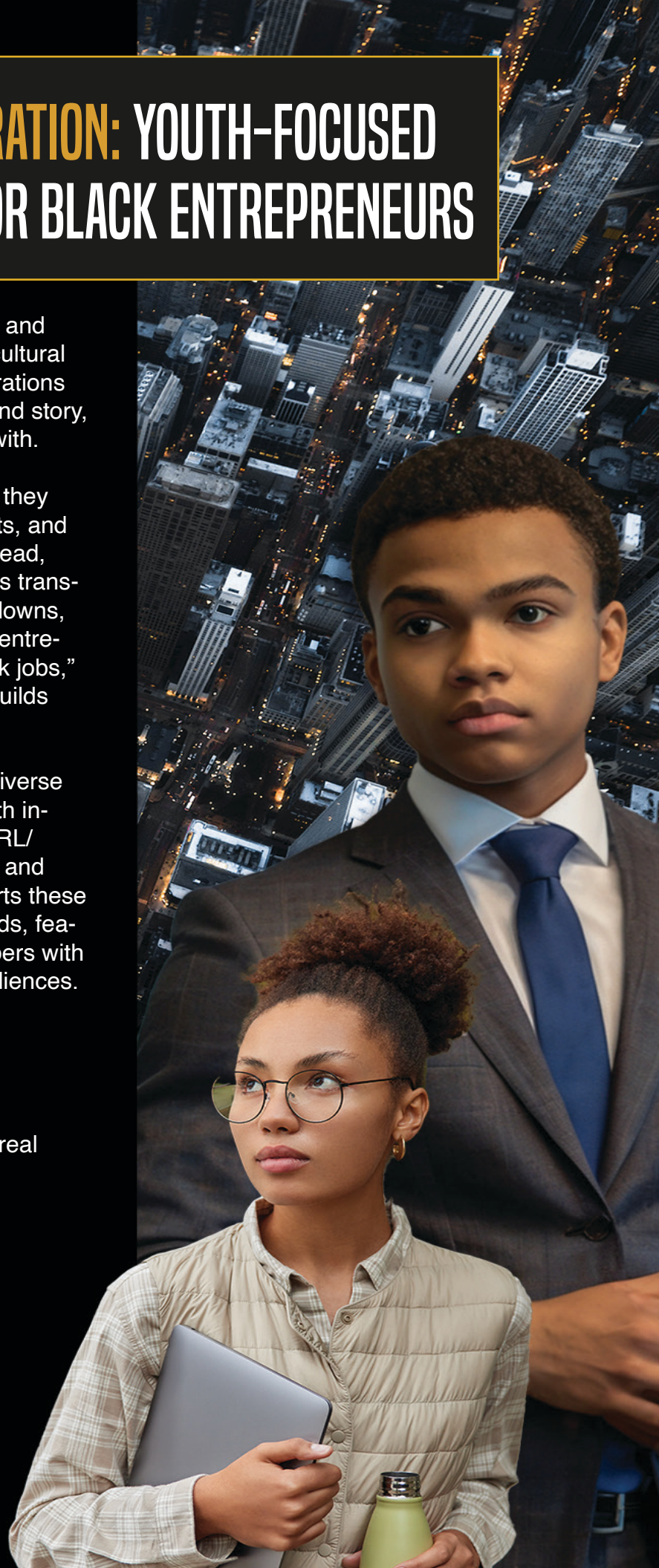
How do you reach them? Start with platforms they love: TikTok, Instagram Reels, YouTube Shorts, and emerging channels. Don't just advertise—instead, invite them into your narrative. Gen-Z respects transparency: show your day-to-day, the ups and downs, the real people behind your brand. For Black entrepreneurs, blending purpose (“supporting Black jobs,” “community uplift”) with high-quality content builds lasting bonds.

Authentic representation matters. Featuring diverse young voices in your storytelling, tapping youth influencers with community clout, and hosting IRL/virtual events make your brand approachable and memorable. Black Pages International supports these approaches by spotlighting youth-driven brands, featuring Gen-Z founders, and connecting members with social media workshops tailored to young audiences.

TIPS:

- Survey your youngest customers for their real preferences.
- Join relevant digital communities and talk with—not at—your audience.
- Use humor, style, and activism sparingly but strategically.

With the right approach, young customers don't just buy—they become your most passionate advocates.



ROBERT CHANDLER & SON



Chandler Family Roofing is a proud Black-owned, family-run company in Chicago, founded by Robert Chandler and co-owned by Daniel Chandler. Serving the Chicagoland area, they deliver top-quality residential and commercial roofing, from full installations to emergency repairs, using durable, weather-resistant materials built for the city's extreme conditions.

Robert's journey began working for others until an injury inspired him to start his own business. During recovery, he created and distributed flyers daily, laying the groundwork for success. Today, Chandler Family Roofing is known for quick, efficient, and reliable service, fair pricing, and dependable workmanship. Robert and Daniel remain committed to excellence, integrity, and community — building a strong reputation as trusted leaders in roofing with a mission to serve through honest work and lasting results.

Known for hands-on service, fair pricing, and dependable workmanship, Robert and Daniel are building a strong reputation as leaders in roofing — with a mission to serve their community through honest work and lasting results.

www.chandlerfamilyroof.com



The Late Lovell Rainge

Founder of Jiffy Lube Franchise

Lovell Rainge launched his first Jiffy Lube with brother Simon in 1984 on South

Chicago Avenue, then added a Halsted Street location with brother Rudolph. By 1995 he became sole owner, earning renown as a mentor whose integrity and compassion guided the business. Upon retiring in June 2017, he passed operations to son-in-law Anthony Mims.

John Stallworth

John's Hardware & Bicycle Shop



Since 1969, John Stallworth has successfully run John's Hardware and Bicycle Shop in Chicago's Englewood Community, attributing its 54-year longevity to exceptional service, respect, and strong community support. Embodying the motto "If we don't have it, you don't need it," the store operates with a commitment to meet every customer's need, open Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. John's journey in hardware began as a boy, working for local shops before purchasing and renaming Hank's Hardware at 24. Known affectionately as "John" or "Mr. John," he has served generations of families, maintaining a deep connection with customers, some of whom bought their first bicycle from his shop.

John has significantly impacted the Englewood community through his retail business and community service, including sponsoring annual Back-to-School Celebrations and Christmas Eve Dinners. His entrepreneurial journey includes John and Sons – General Contractor, established in 1977, a testament to quality and customer referrals. John's commitment to service is rooted in his faith, attributing his success to God, supporting his church, and prioritizing aid for the elderly.

John, married to Thorbest Stallworth, is proud of his two sons, Johnny and Eric, who are both ministers. His son, Reverend Johnny Stallworth II, now runs the hardware shop, upholding his father's legacy of service and community involvement.

"Humble, responsible, sharing, caring and blessed". That is Mr. John Stallworth! Black Pages International salutes John Stallworth for Building A Dynasty 2024-2032. John & Sons General Contractors • 7350 S Halsted • 773-483-7445

After Lovell's passing in 2022, his widow Irene upholds his legacy of exceptional service and professionalism. Black Pages International salutes The Late Lovell Rainge for Building A Dynasty 2024-2032. 8265 S. South Chicago Ave • Chicago, IL 60617 • 773-731-2500 10750 S. Halsted St • Chicago, IL 60628 • 773-821-4700



Kimi Brown Ellen, CPA-Partner

Kimi L. Ellen is the co-founding partner of Benford Brown & Associates, LLC and a licensed CPA in the State of Illinois. Over her 28-year career, she has provided audit, accounting, consulting, and tax services to a wide range of industries, including not-for-profit and government, manufacturing, telecommunications, and real estate.

Her expertise spans government and not-for-profit audit and accounting, student financial aid compliance, QuickBooks implementation and training, internal controls review, SOX compliance, risk assessment and management, as well as individual and corporate taxation.

Kimi is deeply engaged in advancing both her profession and her community. She currently serves as Vice-Chair of the Diverse Organization of Firms, Inc., sits on the Board of Directors of Access Community Health Network, and is Board Chair of the Southeast Chicago Chamber of Commerce. Her past leadership roles include serving on the Woman's Executive Committee and Government A&A Committee of the Illinois Society of CPAs; and as a board member for Imani Pearls Community Development Foundation, Bingham Human Services, and GameTime, Inc., as well as Treasurer of the Jack & Jill – Windy City Chapter.

She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Illinois Society of CPAs, National Association of Black Accountants, Institute of Internal Auditors, and National Association of Female Executives.

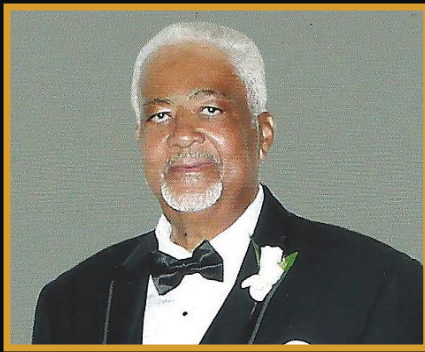
Kimi earned her B.S. in Accountancy from the University of Illinois.

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**BENFORD BROWN
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Bruce Abbey

Owner & Operator
of Abbey's Seal & Paving

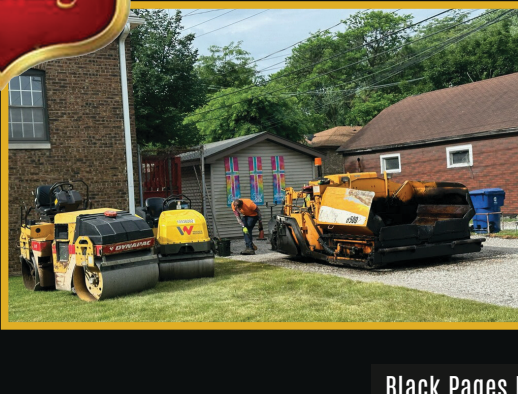
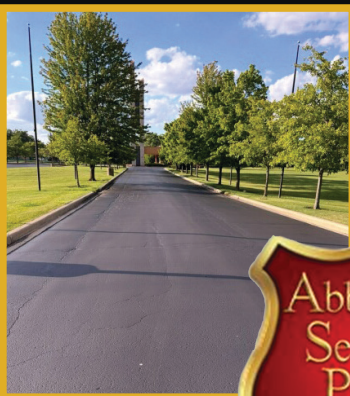
Abbey's Sealcoating & Paving Enterprises has been a family owned establishment since 1988. Our regard for customer satisfaction and our commitment to excellence has gained Abbey's Seal coating notoriety as a reputable company in the Chicago land area and suburbs. Our family tradition dictates that the customer needs come first. To achieve this goal, we offer flexible schedules to create the least amount of inconvenience to our customer's business and property. We are able to accommodate any commercial, industrial, or residential job, big or small.

We understand that proper maintenance and care of a paved surface only works to increase that value of your property and/or business. Well maintained care surfaces that have been seal coated or paved sends a message to your guests, visitors and/or clients that you care about their safety as well as the upkeep of your property. Abbey Sealcoating and Paving Enterprises promises to increase curb appeal for homeowners and will help to provide an inviting environment for business owners. We work to bring it all together.

We employ modern pavement preservation techniques while using stateof the art equipment to provide the ultimate service to our clients.

Our commitment to any job comes with a written guarantee.

Black Pages International salutes Bruce Abbey for Building A Dynasty 2024-2032 Abbey's Seal & Paving · 7801 South Chicago Ave · Chicago, IL 60617 773-671-2772 abbey.enterprises@yahoo.com abbeysealcoatingpaving.com



Building Generational Wealth Through Black-Owned Businesses

Generational wealth turns today's hustle into tomorrow's inheritance. For Black entrepreneurs, that means protecting what you build and teaching the next owner how to grow it. Start with asset protection—form an LLC, write a will, and consider a living trust to simplify transfer and reduce taxes.

Reinvest profits into upgrades, new lines, or income-producing real estate so the business compounds value over time. Diversify revenue across products and platforms to cushion downturns. Prepare successors early: document processes, mentor a family member or key employee, and set milestones for a gradual handoff. Root your impact locally—hire in the neighborhood and support community causes—because goodwill drives referrals and resilience.

Picture "Lena's Prints": a shop that reinvested in technology, set up a trust, and trained the next leader years in advance; when the founder retired, the transition was seamless and jobs grew.

Ready to start? Use BPI to find attorneys, planners, and advisors who specialize in succession and legacy.

Tangela THORNTON

At the heart of Unlimited Potential NFP, Inc. affectionately known as The UP House is the passion and vision of its founder and CEO, Ms. Tangela Thornton—a woman whose deep compassion and unwavering belief in young people is transforming lives.

Having witnessed the struggles faced by youth aging out of foster care—many from her own community—Ms. Thornton made it her life’s mission to change the narrative. She knew these young people needed more than temporary shelter; they needed healing, support, and the tools to build self-sufficient futures.

With that conviction, she founded The UP House,

a safe haven for young women navigating housing instability. But Ms. Thornton dreamed bigger. She envisioned an entire campus where youth could access comprehensive services that would truly empower them to rise. Today, that dream is a reality.

The Youth Homeless Prevention Campus, a vibrant 7-acre, 149,000 square foot community space, is the first and only of its kind in the nation.

Under Mrs. Thornton’s leadership, the campus provides life skills training, education, emotional wellness programs, and a safe supportive community. For the young people who walk through its doors, the campus offers more than stability—it offers hope, purpose, and a pathway to independence. This is only the beginning.

“We have another campus set to open in fall of 2025, and another in spring of 2026,” says Ms. Thornton. “We are building partnerships to bring this model to every corner of the world, because every young person deserves the opportunity to thrive.”



CREATING A STANDOUT BRAND IDENTITY AS A BLACK ENTREPRENEUR

A strong brand starts with your story—your values, vision, and community roots. Choose a name, colors, and design that reflect that identity, then apply them consistently across all platforms. Build brand guidelines to protect your voice and style.

Ask: Is my mission clear? Are visuals cohesive? Does my digital voice match my values? Take inspiration from Roots and Rhythm Books, whose consistent, story-driven branding sets them apart. Use partners like Black Pages International to amplify reach and keep your brand authentic and memorable.

Your story deserves to shine. Start building a brand that inspires trust and pride. **Join Black Pages International, share your vision, and watch your business become a beacon in the community**



Featured on CBS News:



LARRY HUGGINS AND RIGHTWAY HUGGINS - BUILDING SUCCESS AND COMMUNITY IN CHICAGO

In the dynamic construction industry of Chicago, Larry Huggins, founder of Riteway Huggins stands out as a beacon of entrepreneurial success and community impact.

This Black-owned construction company has not only left its mark on the city's skyline but has also paved the way for greater diversity and inclusion in an industry historically challenging for minority-owned businesses.

Huggins' journey is a testament to perseverance and excellence. From humble beginnings, he has transformed RightWay Huggins into a respected player in Chicago's competitive construction market. The company's impact on Chicago's built environment is evident in projects spanning from the suburbs to the heart of the city, including work on the United Center, O'Hare expansion, and Stroger Hospital.

Rightway Huggins' success is particularly significant given the historical barriers faced by Black entrepreneurs in construction. Huggins recalls, "In the beginning, it wasn't easy. Not at all." His ability to navigate these challenges serves as an inspiration to aspiring Black entrepreneurs across sectors.

The company's commitment to quality and reliability has been key to its success. Collaborations with industry giants like Justin and McHugh Construction demonstrate Rightway Huggins' capability to deliver projects on time, within budget, and to high standards. This focus on excellence not only ensures repeat business but also helps break down stereotypes about Black-owned businesses in construction.

Beyond business success, Rightway Huggins plays a crucial role in community development. Huggins' daughters, Latoya and Maya, have learned from their father's example. Latoya has expanded the family's charitable initiatives, including "Christmas in the Wards," saying, "Larry is my role model."

Huggins' leadership extends beyond his company. As a successful Black entrepreneur, he serves as a mentor and role model, inspiring the next generation of Black entrepreneurs to pursue their dreams and overcome obstacles. As Huggins puts it, "I always gave back, in terms of African Americans."

The impact of Rightway Huggins on job creation and economic development in Chicago is significant. Its success translates into increased opportunities within the Black community, supporting other local businesses and contributing to overall economic vitality.

As Chicago evolves, diverse businesses like Rightway Huggins play a crucial role in shaping the city's future. Larry Huggins' journey from entrepreneur to industry leader showcases what can be achieved through determination, skill, and commitment to excellence.

Dorothy Tucker, a respected journalist, notes, "Larry Huggins lives his life with humility, in heart. And he's done so many amazing things." This sentiment encapsulates the essence of Huggins' impact on Chicago's business landscape and community.

In conclusion, Larry Huggins and Rightway Huggins represent more than just a business success story. They embody the potential for Black entrepreneurship to transform industries, create opportunities, and contribute to community development. As the company continues to grow, it not only shapes Chicago's physical landscape but also builds a legacy of inspiration for future generations of Black entrepreneurs. Huggins' story serves as a powerful reminder of what can be achieved when talent meets opportunity, and determination overcomes adversity.

**1030 East 87th Street
Chicago, IL 60619
www.ritewayhuggins.com
Tel: 773-734-1600**

**ALDERMAN RONNIE L.
MOSLEY:**

**ALDERMAN RONNIE
MOSLEY**

★★ 21ST WARD CHICAGO ★★

PROGRESS, INCLUSION, AND LEADERSHIP FOR CHICAGO'S FUTURE

Alderman Ronnie L. Mosley represents Chicago's 21st Ward—the city's largest and his lifelong community—after being sworn into City Council in May 2023 as its youngest elected member. Starting his public service journey at 14, Mosley has extensive experience in policy organizing, coalition-building, and civic engagement. As Vice-Chair of the Economic, Capital & Technology Development Committee and an active member of multiple key committees, he champions community-led strategies for systemic change and progress. Grounded by family, Alderman Mosley is dedicated to building a thriving, opportunity-rich 21st Ward for all residents.

Learn More: www.aldmosley21.com



Dudley Beauty School System of Illinois

dba/Dudley Beauty College Chicago

Founded in 1993, the school offers a range of disciplines, training licensed professionals in nail technology, esthetics, barbering, hair braiding, cosmetology, and educator certification, along with specializations in Trichology and Desiarology.

Absolutely this happens all under one roof, on the grounds located at 8501 South Green Street in Chicago, Illinois. The students and staff provide relaxing, healthful services while perfecting their craft as they complete their clinical and practical assignments. We believe that a loving, kind touch will spread the spirit of love and care for each other, making the world a better place to live. Many young people choose a vocational trade before, during and after a traditional four-education. We are here

to help professional in the beauty industry fulfill their dreams. With over 54 years of training from Dudley Beauty Corp and Dudley Products, Inc the culture and message remain the same. We are a company that believe that customer service is key. Our Theme, "Changing the world through cosmetology" is intended to go beyond our building, our community, our state, and our country. Join Us Today!!!



Black Pages International salutes Dudley Beauty School of Illinois for Building A Dynasty 2024-2032. Dudley Beauty School of Illinois • 8501 S Green Street • Chicago, IL 60620 Off: 773-488-5900 • Fax: 773-488-5272 dudleybeautycollegechicago.com

"CHANGING THE WORLD THROUGH COSMETOLOGY."

SPOTLIGHT PROFILES

Illuminating the Stories of Business Brilliance



Darrell Z. Qualls - President Chicago Area Autopsy Services Inc

The death of a family member is always a distressing time, whether sudden and unexpected or slow and painful. Family members are often at a loss as to the cause and circumstances of the death. Many of these deaths occur outside the hospital, perhaps at home or in a nursing home. While the Medical Examiner's Office occasionally assumes jurisdiction in non-traumatic cases, it does not have the manpower to evaluate all such deaths. Hospital pathologists are often reluctant to perform autopsies on individuals who die in that hospital's emergency room, or who die at home or in a nursing home if

the deceased was not previously a patient at their hospital, or if their family physician is not on that hospital's staff. Families seeking answers have often had no one to whom to turn.

Our goal is to perform a quality, academically based autopsy that inventories all pathologic findings present at the time of death and determines why the deceased died and why they died at that particular point. Our findings and report will be completely objective. Our task is to answer questions regarding the cause and circumstances of death,

rather than critique the quality or appropriateness of the care rendered.

Black Pages International salutes Darrell Z. Qualls for Building A Dynasty 2024-2032. Chicago Area Autopsy Services Inc • 600 Holiday Plaza Drive • Suite 535 • Matteson IL 60443 • 708 283-8200 • autopc25@aol.com • www.chicagoautopsy.com

Lawrence & Shirley Gibson Founders and Owners of Gibson's Citgo

Lawrence Gibson grew up in Gates, Pennsylvania. Jobs became scarce in the Pennsylvania coal country, so after high school Lawrence joined the U.S. Navy to see the world and after the Navy he moved to Phoenix, IL

Shirley Beckwith grew up in Robbins, IL. Lawrence and Shirley met on a blind date in 1953 and in July of the following year they married and made their home in Phoenix, IL

Ever the entrepreneur, Lawrence tried his hand at several businesses; a car wash, bar, fish & BBQ and a moving company. He later moved his family to Robbins, IL and there built a home and life until the early 1970's when Maremont Muffler planned to move their manufacturing plant. Unwilling to move, Lawrence and Shirley discuss their options. Lawrence, a reasonable mechanic, decided along with Shirley to partner with a co-worker to purchase the Shell station on the corner

of Halsted and Vincennes that was being sold and In 1973 they opened the Phoenix Shell Service station.

A few years later, Lawrence and Shirley bought their partner's share and became sole owners of Phoenix Shell. In 1978, they redesigned the business to become a gas station and mini-mart, becoming one of the first (if not the first) gas station to sell liquor in Cook County. In the early 1980's, a new franchise agreement was made and the business was incorporated and became Gibson's Mobil.

The business thrived but under a new franchise and building. Mobil pulled its signage and the decision to redesign and rebuild with a new franchise agreement in mind was entertained. Gibson's old building was demolished and in 2003 Gibson's Citgo is born. The store continues to thrive thanks to the loyalty of the citizens of Phoenix IL. Fifty years of doing business and at one point living in Phoenix has brought about deep friendships and a



family atmosphere unduplicated anywhere. Gibson's Citgo is one of the few Black, family owned gas station mini-marts in Illinois.

As the anchor of "Downtown Phoenix," Gibson's Citgo plans to exist as long as the Village exists, if so blessed by God. Black Pages International salutes Lawrence & Shirley Gibson for Building A Dynasty 2024-2032. Gibson Citgo • 15221 S Halsted Phnx • 708-596-5085

Shirley Gibson made her transition Oct. 1, 2024. She was lovingly surrounded by Mr. Gibson and her children. 2 Corinthians To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.

OFFICERS FRENCH & COOLEY: LEADING CHICAGO'S NEXT GENERATION OF RECRUITS

Officer LaDonna Q. French

I am a proud product of Chicago, raised on the South Side in Auburn Gresham. My educational journey began at Clara Barton Elementary School, continued at Hyde Park Career Academy High School, and led to a Bachelor's Degree from Northern Illinois University and a Master's Degree from Keller Graduate School.

Before joining the Chicago Police Department, where I've served for over 7 years, I spent 15 years in Corporate America as a Financial Analyst, Supplier Relations Manager, and Product Manager. While many didn't understand my transition to law enforcement, it remains one of the best decisions I've ever made.

Throughout my time with the CPD, I've worked in several units, including the 007th District (Englewood), Community Safety Team, Vehicular Hijacking Task Force, Internal Affairs, Community Policing, Special Events, and now Recruitment and Retention. My journey from Corporate America to CPD is a story I'm proud to share.

Officer Shareeda Cooley

I am excited to join the Recruitment and Retention Unit at CPD as I'm natural leader and self-motivated individual. I grew up in Dolton, IL, graduated from Thornridge High School, and earned a degree in Mathematics and Early Childhood Education from Chicago State University.

I am a mother of four and I reside in Chicago's Southside. My career began as a drive-up teller at LaSalle Bank ABN AMRO (later Bank of America). I then joined MB Financial as a floating teller in 2004, quickly rising to a top customer service representative.

In 2009, I became a teller supervisor at First Midwest Bank, and in 2016, I was promoted to Branch Manager in Hammond, Indiana. With my extensive experience in leadership and customer service, I am passionate about aiding incoming candidates for the CPD, ensuring they are well-prepared and supported in their roles.



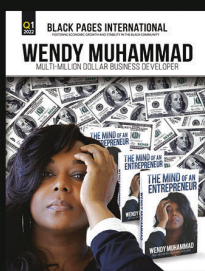
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CMS TROPHIES & PLAQUES

Martin Redd & CMS Trophies: Celebrating Excellence on Chicago's South Side

CMS Trophies and Plaques, Inc. is a family-owned, Black-owned business proudly serving Chicagoland for over 30 years. Founded by CEO Martin W. Redd, the company began in the basement of his South Side home, moving to its first storefront in 1989 on East 75th Street. Over time, CMS expanded its showroom, operated a South Loop location, and in 2020 moved to its current Woodlawn address at 606 E. 61st Street.

Specializing in designing and manufacturing awards of excellence, CMS produces 85% of its products on-site, ensuring qual-

ity and personalized service. Its national clientele includes government and religious leaders, athletes, entertainers, and community members. Customers appreciate the time and consultation CMS provides to ensure each award is “just right.”

The business is run by Martin, president and CEO, alongside his wife, Patricia Redd, marketing director, and their daughter, Alanna, business assistant. Patricia, Martin's wife of over 40 years, is a retired educator who served in Catholic and public schools, including as the first lay principal of St. Sabina School and founding principal of Alain

Locke Charter Academy. Her organizational and marketing skills have been key to CMS's growth.

Known for craftsmanship, reliability, and service, CMS Trophies and Plaques is one of the largest Black-owned businesses in the area.

Hours: Mon–Fri 12–6 PM; Sat 10 AM–1 PM; closed Sundays.

Website: cmstrophies.com

Facebook:

[@CMSTrophiesPlaquesAwards](https://www.facebook.com/CMSTrophiesPlaquesAwards)



NETWORKING, MENTORSHIP & STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS: FUELING BLACK BUSINESS GROWTH IN CHICAGO

How Collaboration, Community, and Connected Events Drive Opportunity for Black Entrepreneurs

In Chicago, successful entrepreneurship relies on more than great products—it thrives on relationships and purposeful connections. For Black business owners, networking, mentorship, and strategic partnerships are essential to bridging gaps in knowledge, resources, and opportunity.

Organizations such as the Chicago Urban League, Black Pages International, and initiatives like Shop Black Saturdays create vital platforms to amplify voices, exchange expertise, and tap into new markets. Peer-to-peer and mentorship programs connect

experienced founders with emerging entrepreneurs, fostering collaboration and accelerating growth.

Community engagement is now a cornerstone marketing strategy. Local expos, pop-up markets, and #ShopBlack events offer direct customer access while deepening trust and visibility. Participation in city-sponsored business programs and accelerators like nextONE can lead to investor introductions, supplier agreements, and media coverage.

Strategic alliances—whether between complementary small businesses or across industries—allow owners to

share resources, co-market, and expand reach without large expenses. These networks aren't just a business tactic; they are a lifeline for sustainability, innovation, and collective economic power.

Ready to grow your business through connection? Join Black Pages International and tap into a network of partners, mentors, and community events designed to help you thrive in Chicago's competitive market.

AI PROMPT CHEAT SHEET

10 PRACTICAL PROMPT EXAMPLES DESIGNED FOR ENTREPRENEURS AND SMALL BUSINESSES

ChatGPT Prompts (Business & Marketing Focus)

“Write a 100-word About Us page for my new Black-owned café in Chicago, highlighting our community roots and specialty drinks.”

“List 7 creative ways to promote my grand opening using social media and local partnerships.”

“Draft a motivational speech for a Black entrepreneurship panel on legacy-building.”

“Generate a Q&A for first-time customers interested in our online business directory.”

“Rephrase this LinkedIn post to sound more professional and engaging for corporate partners.”

“Summarize three recent trends in digital marketing for small businesses.”

“Create an outline for a blog post on ‘How to Apply for a CDFI Loan.’”

“Role-play a customer asking about our wellness coaching service, and respond as the business owner.”

“Suggest five taglines for a campaign championing local Black-owned restaurants.”

“Edit this event invitation to be warm, concise, and action-driven.”

Canva AI Prompts (Design & Visual Content)

“Generate an Instagram square graphic for a ‘Shop Black’ campaign using bold purple and gold colors.”

“Design an event flyer for a Women in Business networking brunch—include flowers and empowering text.”

“Create a logo for a new wellness and nutrition coaching brand, featuring green leaves and a sun.”

“Produce an infographic showing the steps to listing a business in Black Pages International.”

“Make a promotional Facebook cover photo for a grand opening sale.”

“Draft a professional LinkedIn banner that celebrates small business week.”

“Create a visual quote card for Juneteenth with uplifting, modern graphics.”

“Develop a ‘Thank You’ postcard template for new clients.”

“Design an event invitation for a Black Entrepreneurship Awards Gala—keep it sleek and celebratory.”

“Mock up a printable coupon for a ‘Refer a Friend’ deal, branded with our logo.”

Microsoft Copilot Prompts (Productivity & Data)

“Summarize this week’s top customer service emails and highlight any urgent issues.”

“Draft a PowerPoint presentation for our business pitch, including key stats and team bios.”

“Analyze last quarter’s sales by product and recommend top sellers to feature next month.”

“Rewrite this email to our accountant to be clear and professional, including all September invoices.”

“Create a calendar invite for a Black Pages partnership launch event with a detailed agenda.”

“Generate a list of last month’s social media posts with their engagement rates in Excel.”

“Update our customer list in Outlook and group by city and purchase history.”

“Draft an internal newsletter summarizing upcoming events and recent business wins.”

“Reformat these weekly meeting notes into clear action items, responsible parties, and deadlines.”

“Schedule a recurring task every Friday to review our marketing analytics dashboard.”

Grok (xAI) (Research & Data)

Scan recent headlines and summarize major news affecting Black-owned businesses in Chicago.

Analyze and report on trending topics in entrepreneurship from the past week.

Suggest “hidden gem” Black-owned brands in Chicago based on sentiment and reviews.

Generate questions for an upcoming business podcast featuring solo founders.

Identify the most popular hashtags among Black entrepreneurs this month.

Map out competitor activity in the beauty or wellness sector.

Monitor for local events, expos, or grants relevant to small business owners.

Track sentiment around your brand and recommend ways to improve perception.

Aggregate customer feedback from various channels into a strengths & gaps report.

Predict upcoming consumer trends in urban retail for Q3.

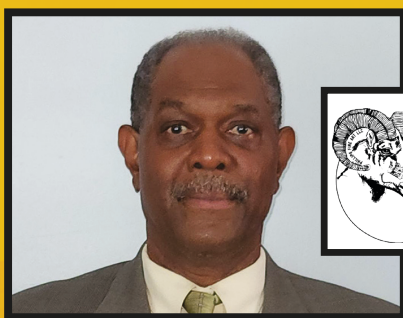
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Clifford Gerald Phillips

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A professionally taught artist who has received national and local recognition as an artist. Clifford has had his art work featured in the Chicago Defender. His works have been on exhibition in galleries and his talent has been sought

out by many. Clifford took his first art class at the Art Institute of Chicago (summer arts program) while he was in elementary school. He studied Mechanical Drafting at Bowen High School. He was later employed as a Mechanical Draftsman for Western Electric and Bloomer-Fisk Corporation. He took drawing classes at Kennedy-King College in Chicago and he trained under the renowned artist Dr. Charles White.

He worked at the Chicago Daily Defender as a Graphic and Production artist; and later he went on to work for the Chicago Tribune, where he became the Operations Manager for their Advertising Creative Division. He retired after 28 years

of employment. He also held the position of Art Director for the Indigo Mega paper.

Clifford Phillips founded Phillips Fine Art to harness his artistic talents in acrylics, pencil, and charcoal, drawing inspiration from travels in Europe and Africa. His art seeks to inspire appreciation for the planet's beauty. He credits his success to God, self-discipline, and his family's support.

Black Pages International salutes Clifford Phillips for Building A Dynasty 2024-2032 Phillips Fine Art LLC • 938 N Austin Blvd • Oak Park, IL 60302 / 708-205-4072 • Cliffglo58@att.net • www.PhillipsFineArt.com



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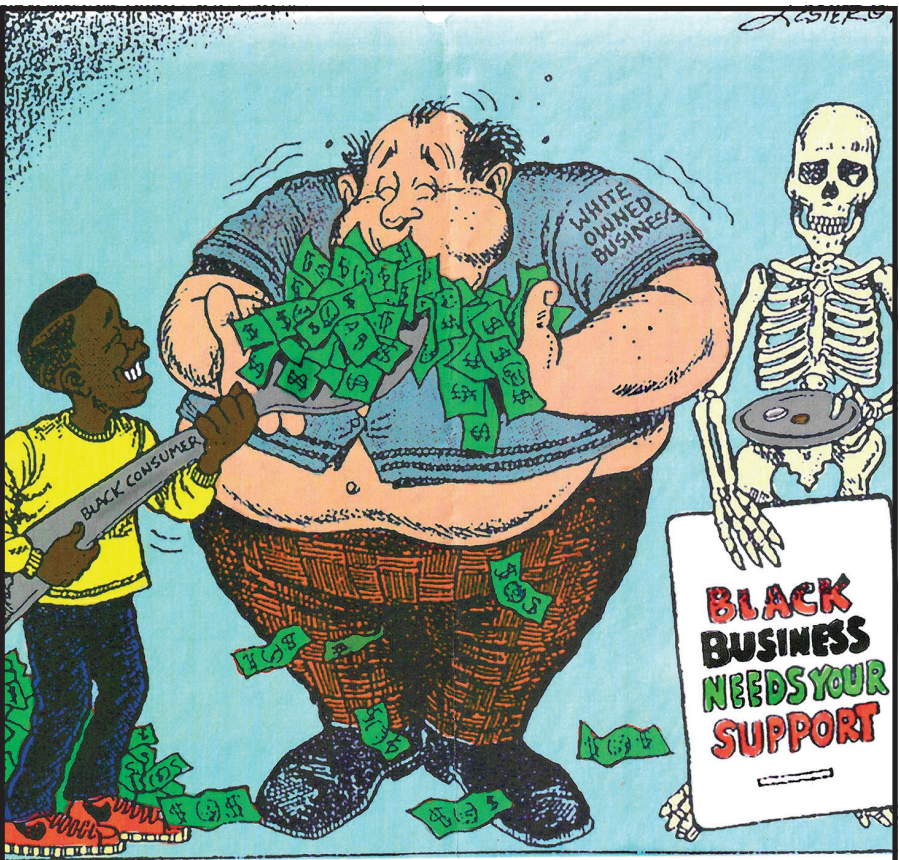
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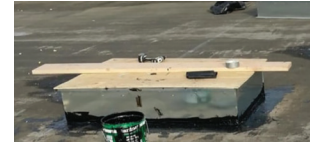
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