



# BLACK MARRIAGE DAY

TWO DAYS OF EVENTS CELEBRATING  
THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN FAMILY

PRESENTED BY THE CHARLES H. WRIGHT MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND MARRIAGE RESOURCE CENTER

FRIDAY, MARCH 25

**Opening, Multipurpose Room, 6 pm**

- WELCOME BY DR. KENYA AYERS, CREATOR/ HOST OF THE “PRESCRIPTIONS FOR HOPE” RADIO PROGRAM, EDUCATOR AND MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER
- TOGETHER AS ONE, AN ENSEMBLE OF MARRIED COUPLES, PERFORM TO “EVERY TIME I CLOSE MY EYES” BY KENNY “BABYFACE” EDMONDS (CHOREOGRAPHY BY SONDR A JACKSON, SPIRIT OF THE MOMENT)
- KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY JAMIL MUHAMMAD, DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS, WEDDED BLISS FOUNDATION, FEATURED ON CNN’S “BLACK IN AMERICA 2”



**Reception, Rotunda**

**Photo/Essay Contest**

- COUPLES WILL BE ABLE TO HAVE THEIR PHOTO TAKEN BY KENNETTE LAMAR OF ANNISTIQUE PHOTOGRAPHY. THEY CAN THEN SUBMIT THAT PHOTO ALONG WITH A FULLY FILLED-OUT CONTEST ESSAY FORM HIGHLIGHTING THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO A TEAM OF EXPERTS WHO WILL JUDGE A WINNING PAIR IN EACH CATEGORY:

**Most Enduring** - For a couple married at least 10 years and still passionate about one another.

**Overcomers** - For a couple that has faced, and beat, great hardship to stay together.

**Most Bountiful** - For a couple that, together, has four (4) or more children (not to include blended marriages).

**Against The Odds** - For a couple currently facing hardship, yet staying together in spite of it all.

**Most Romantic Proposal** - For an officially engaged couple (marriage date must be set, and location booked).

**Couple of the Year** - Taking into account such factors as how this couple met, how long they have been married, what they have overcome to be together, their enduring passion and the well-being/success of their children.

*\*Winning couples will receive dinner and an overnight hotel stay and massage at MGM Grand Detroit's IMMERSE spa; dinner for two at Andiamo Detroit; a wedding planning package; a \$500 gift card to Meijer; dinner for two at Forte Restaurant in Birmingham; retail gift cards and other prizes.*

*The Black Marriage Day registration and contest entry form can be downloaded from this link: <http://chwmuseum.org/images/stories/pdf/BMD-registration-form.pdf>. The form should be filled out and brought*

to the opening reception on March 25 if couples want to participate in the contest. Forms will also be available at the museum up to and on that Friday. Photography provided by Kennette Lamar of Annistique Photography



## SATURDAY MARCH 26

### Registration & Opening Remarks, General Motors Theatre, 11:30 am

- WELCOME BY DR. KENYA AYERS, CREATOR/ HOST OF THE “PRESCRIPTIONS FOR HOPE” RADIO PROGRAM, EDUCATOR AND MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER
- SCREENING OF THE DOCUMENTARY, “HAPPILY EVER AFTER: A POSITIVE IMAGE OF BLACK MARRIAGE,” FOLLOWED BY A FACILITATED DISCUSSION. VIDEOS WILL BE ON SALE AFTERWARD IN THE MUSEUM GIFT SHOP FOR \$19.99

### Breakout Sessions, Classrooms

#### **A Sessions, 2 pm**

- How To Know if You’ve Found “The One” - For dating couples considering marriage (Kim Brooks, author, and president, Driven Enterprises, LLC )
- Building a Beautiful Wife (C. Ptolemy Pruden, author, “Building A Beautiful Wife”)
- Enhancing your Marriage through Conversation (Annie Ayers, retired Detroit Public School principal)

#### **B Sessions, 3 pm**

- Man as Priest, Provider, Protector (Aaron Hopson, author and executive director, Gems from Joy)
- Is Your Financial Foundation Firm? (Glinda Bridgforth, owner, Bridgforth Financial & Associates LLC, and author, “Girl, Get Your Money Straight!” and “Girl, Get your Credit Straight!”)
- The Myths of Living Together vs. Marriage (Christina Dixon, vice chair, board of directors, Marriage Resource Center)

### Strolling Reception & Finale, Classrooms, 5 pm

*\*Hosted by the Marriage Resource Center*

- STROLLING RECEPTION
- VOW RENEWAL CEREMONY
- BALLROOM DANCING

➤ ANNOUNCE AND AWARD WINNERS OF THE PHOTO/ESSAY CONTEST

➤ DANCE OF LONGEVITY - ALL MARRIED COUPLES WILL START ON THE DANCE FLOOR AND, PERIODICALLY BEING ASKED FROM THOSE MARRIED THE LEAST AMOUNT OF TIME TO THOSE MARRIED LONGEST, WILL LEAVE THE FLOOR UNTIL THE LONGEST-MARRIED COUPLES ARE THE LAST DANCING

*\*Music and ballroom dance instruction provided by DJ Chuck, owner, DetroitDJ.net*

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