

Black Future House Announces Second Annual Three-Day Event

Panels, entertainment, and culinary events come together for three inspiring days just steps away from SXSW®

(AUSTIN, TX) – Black Future House is an event series based in Austin, TX and founded by Lauren Washington, Victor Abijaoudi II, and Waziri Garuba to build a truly collaborative community of Black futurists. The spring 2024 event is a three-day festival featuring impactful panels, unique performances, and elevated activities. The second annual Black Future House, a collaborative effort to highlight future-forward thinking and discussion, is taking place during SXSW® from March 8-10. The three-day experience will be packed with impactful conversation, culinary and art experiences, and carefully curated workshops for futurists in the creator, entertainment, sports, and tech spaces. The highly anticipated event will take place March 8-10, 2024 at 1211 E. Cesar Chavez Street.

“We are thrilled to welcome so many incredible thinkers, artists, and leaders for three full days of programs,” said Lauren Washington of Black Future House. “By bringing together futurists and attendees from around the world, we hope to inspire and spark great ideas across industries and culture.”

Black Future House is proud to be sponsored by Vaseline®. As part of its multi-city Mended Murals initiative, Vaseline® will be in Austin hosting a panel discussion on Saturday, March 9 to discuss the future of representation and skin health equity. Mended Murals is part of Vaseline®’s long-standing goal to make skin health more accessible and equitable through resources like Seemyskin.com. *See My Skin* was created in partnership with HUED and VisualDx, as a first-of-its-kind platform designed to



search conditions on skin of color and connect patients with physicians who understand their skincare needs.

“Without proper care or resources, murals that were once a vibrant reflection of the culture and people in their communities fade over time. The same need for care is true for our skin,” said Kevin Tolson, Head of North America Strategy & Chief of Staff, Personal Care at Unilever and Black Future House panelist. “Through Mended Murals, we worked with local artists to restore their murals, and with every mural restored, we are providing funds to support a local health clinic in that city. We’re proud to be part of Black Future House, because the future of skin healthcare must revolve around skin health equity.”

Black Future House is also sponsored by Black Ambition, which was founded by visionary recording artist, philanthropist, and entrepreneur Pharrell Williams. Attendees will have the opportunity to purchase products from Black Ambition Prize winners at the on-site retail store and submit video

applications to join the next cohort.

The event, which is free with registration, aims to create a space to spark collaboration and foster community across several industries.

Confirmed speakers to date for Black Future House include:

- Melissa Bradley, 1863 Ventures
- Arlan Hamilton, Backstage Capital
- Jeff Jenkins, Chubby Diaries
- Elaine Welteroth, Award-Winning Journalist & NYT Best Selling Author

Panels and activities include:

- Reel Talk: Shaping the Future of Culture in Film and Media, presented by UDAY Studios
- The Global Impact of Hip-Hop Culture on Brands and their Bottom Line, presented by Rock the Bells
- An interactive art exhibit, culinary demonstrations, live music, and more

For more information and program updates visit <https://www.blackfuturehouse.com/>.

8 Educators Named Recipients of President’s Associates Teaching Excellence Awards

University of Texas At Austin News

AUSTIN, Texas — Eight faculty members are being recognized for their work as educators and have been named recipients of the annual President’s Associates Teaching Excellence Award for the 2023-2024 academic year.

The award recognizes the University’s educational innovators who demonstrate exceptional undergraduate and graduate teaching and engage with curriculum reform and educational innovation.

“Our faculty members play a transformational role in the lives of our students and prepare those students to impact the world,” said President Jay Hartzell. “Consistent excellence and innovation in teaching distinguish our faculty and help us attract students of the highest caliber. Congratulations to these outstanding faculty members and thank you to the President’s Associates for recognizing the value and importance of their work.”

The awards are made possible by contributions from the President’s Associates — friends of the University who are committed to advancing education and research at The University of Texas at Austin. Each recipient will receive a monetary award of \$5,000.

President’s Associates Graduate Teaching Excellence Award Recipients:

- **Dawna Ballard**, Associate Professor, Department of Communication Studies, Moody College of Communication
- **Elizabeth McCracken**, Professor, Department of English, College of Liberal Arts



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President’s Associates Teaching Excellence Award Recipients:

- **Jonathan Partridge**, Assistant Professor/of Instruction, Biology Instruction Office, College of Natural Sciences
- **Jennifer Austin**, Associate Professor of Instruction, Mathematics, College of Natural Sciences
- **Sarah Angulo**, Associate Professor of In-

struction, Department of Psychology, College of Liberal Arts

- **Patricia García**, Associate Professor of Instruction, Department of English, College of Liberal Arts
- **Ken-hou Lin**, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, College of Liberal Arts
- **Aaron O’Connell**, Associate Professor, Department of History, College of Liberal Arts

Why Texas Needs Bipartisan Support to Address Immigration Now

By: *Texas State Representative Vikki Goodwin*

(TEXAS) - As Texans, we find ourselves at the epicenter of an immigration crisis that has long simmered on our doorsteps, only to boil over in recent years. The complexity of this issue, intertwined with economic needs and humanitarian concerns, demands solutions far beyond the political gamesmanship we’ve grown accustomed to from our state leaders. The time for rhetoric has passed; what we require now are actionable, thoughtful policies that address the root causes and long-term implications of migration. In this light, the Dignity Act, proposed by Congresswoman Veronica Escobar, emerges as a beacon of pragmatic hope.

The Dignity Act isn’t just another piece of legislation; it’s a comprehensive blueprint for addressing the multifaceted challenges of immigration and border security. By proposing to more than double the visa cap and allowing families to apply as a single unit, the Act acknowledges a fundamental truth: our economy is starving for workers, with over 8 million job vacancies unfilled. It’s a direct response to the failure of Congress to create new legal pathways for migrants, a failure that has persisted for nearly four decades.

Moreover, the Act’s proposal to establish “In-



Country” Processing Facilities represents a revolutionary step forward. By allowing potential migrants to apply for work visas in their home countries, we can dismantle the dangerous networks of cartels and coyotes, offering a safer, legal alternative to the perilous journey many undertake to reach our borders.

But perhaps the most groundbreaking aspect of the Dignity Act is its balanced approach to border security. With a proposed \$35 billion investment, the Act seeks to end the ineffective “catch and release” policy, replacing it with humanitarian campuses for those who bypass legal entry procedures. This approach not only ensures a more secure border but does so with an eye towards the dignity and humanity of migrants.

Critics may argue about the feasibility of such comprehensive reform, or whether it’s too ambitious in its scope. Yet, the Dignity Act stands as a testament to what can be achieved when we move beyond partisan divides. With bipartisan support, including backing from nine Republicans and the endorsement of organizations ranging from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to UNIDOS and LULAC, the Act is

a rare piece of common ground in a sea of contention.

Texas, more than any other state, bears the direct impact of our current immigration system’s shortcomings. Our communities witness firsthand the human cost of inaction, the economic implications of labor shortages, and the societal fractures that emerge from divisive rhetoric. It’s time for our leaders, both in Texas and across the nation, to recognize that the status quo is unsustainable.

The Dignity Act offers a path forward that respects the need for security, acknowledges the economic benefits of immigration, and, most importantly, upholds the dignity of those seeking a better life. As Texans, and as Americans, we must rally behind this legislation, urging our representatives to support it. Only then can we begin to heal the divisions that have long plagued our immigration debate, paving the way for a more prosperous, inclusive future.

In the end, the Dignity Act isn’t just about policy—it’s about what kind of country we want to be. Do we choose the path of division and stagnation, or do we embrace a future built on the principles of dignity, compassion, and pragmatism? For the sake of Texas, and for the nation, let’s choose wisely.