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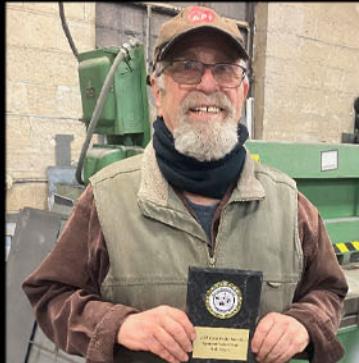
Entertainers & Musicians News

November-December 2025

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Detroit Entertainers & Musicians News

November-December 2025

Table of Contents

FOUNDRESS	5
KAILIMAI SR.....	8*
AWARDEES.....	12
JOURNEY.....	17
CLOWIN.....	29*

* = Republished

Editor in Chief: Adrienne Collins

Magazine Layout: Adrienne Collins

Photographer: Detroit EM News

Articles and various content may have been created with help from ChatGPT, an AI by OpenAI."

IN THIS ISSUE

All advertisements created by Detroit Public Schools Community District - Golightly Career & Technical Center

2018- 2023

Graphics Design Interns

Cover Design: Cortrez Brown

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Neal Morrison, Director, DPSCD GCTC

Michael Hanson, Educator: DPSCD GCTC

Leisha Duskin, Special Instructor, DPSCD GCTC

Photos: www.detroitemnews.com

The Staff of **Detroit Entertainers & Musicians News** feels it is our humbled duty to bring to you information that matters to you. We know that the needs of entertainers and musicians are not always the same as the audience we serve.

With that in mind, we'd like for you to know this is a publication owned and operated by entertainers and musicians.

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FOUNDRESS ADRIANNE COLLINS

*



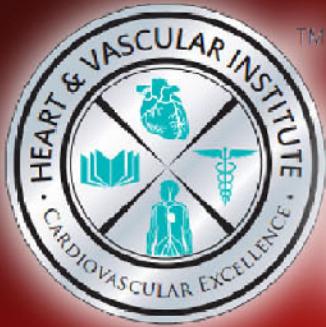
Season's Greetings:

As we close out the year 2025, we extend our sincere appreciation for the incredible partnerships have opened the door to an exciting new chapter with DETROIT ENTERTAINERS & MUSICIANS NEWS (Detroit EM News, L3C – www.Detroitemnews.com) and Elbow to Elbow, Inc., a Michigan-based 501(c)(3) organization providing an educational platform through computer-mediated communication.

Before making any decisions, after pivoting out of the Detroit Public Schools Community District (Partnership) we invite you to explore this issue, which reflects our comprehensive eighteen-year journey with DPS. Additionally, we share insights into my family's long-standing connection with the Ford Motor Company, as well as the established and well-recognized contributions of my immediate family members within the industry.

With that solid foundation, we encourage you to get to know us better, discover who we are, what we do, how to get connected/stay connected and how we can serve you and your community. Please send an email to: contact@detroitemnews.com





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Henry K. Kailimai, Sr.

(1882-1948)

'A Ford Hawaiian'

Centennial recognition

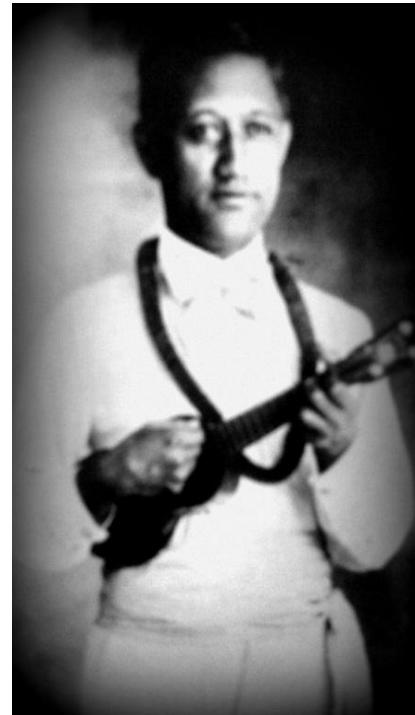
(circa, 2015)

We are pleased to bestow recognition, posthumously, for one hundred years of a life, the legacy and music of Henry K. Kailimai, Sr., (Henry K.). "On behalf of the late Henry K. Kailimai Sr. and his descendants, I am honored to receive "this" prestigious testimonial resolution to recognize our ancestor.

Thank you, Detroit City Council and Madame President Brenda Jones. This validates his work, projects and history," states **Adrienne Collins**, Editor in Chief of Detroit Entertainers & Musicians News.

After 1915, revelations about Henry K.'s activities on the mainland place him at the forefront of Hawaiian music. He was an eminent Hawaiian musician and arguably, the most influential musical figure in Hawaii during the first quarter of the 20th century (Melbay.com/2004).

Click to view video of Henry playing ukulele,
<http://detroititemnews.com/index.php/articles/120-henry-k-kailimai-legacy>



Born and raised in Oahu, Hawaii, Henry K. Kailimai Sr. grew to become an accomplished musician, composer, engineer and teacher of music. His talent for writing songs and making music brought him island fame, ultimately, earning him international acclaim.

In 1915, before performing at the Pan Pacific Expo, the band was known as, "The Hawaiian Quintette." It was during that same year, when Henry K was selected to lead the Hawaiian Music Delegation. Shortly thereafter, the band became known as the **"Ford Hawaiian Quintet."** The members: Henry K. Kailimai, Sr., William Lincoln, Robert Waialeale, Gordon Piianaia and Frank Kema (Melbay.com).

Henry Ford, Sr., the automobile manufacturer and founder/president of the Ford Motor Company was so enraptured by Henry K's musical talents, he extended, Henry K an invitation to travel to Detroit, Michigan and become Ford's resident musician.



In 1915, one of his most famous songs, “On the Beach at Waikiki” was first presented at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco, California and later featured in the 1940’s Shirley Temple movie “The Young People.” And it was reputed to be the biggest money-maker of all Hawaiian songs in those days. It was also speculated that Henry wrote many more songs during his lifetime than he is given credit for. He wrote “Little Honolulu Lou,” “Sweet Brown Maid of Kaimuki,” “Paradise Isle” and again his most popular song, “On the Beach at Waikiki.”

As the patriarch on the mainland, Henry K. Kailimai’s musical legacy continues as evident by exceptionally talented well established entertainment industry descendants living in Detroit, Michigan:

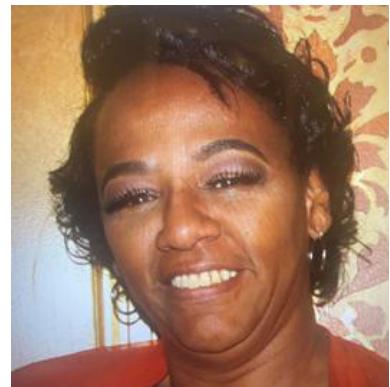
Leslie Nelson Ferguson, President, Detroit Metro Area Musicians & Entertainers Association (DMAMEA), renowned vocalist, actress, talent agent, artist development consultant, philanthropist and social entrepreneur possess an illustrious musical career performing background vocals for many musical icons including Aretha Franklin.



Keely M. Ferguson, (Leslie Ferguson’s daughter) an American recording artist, actress, dancer, writer and musician trained throughout grade school in dance, piano, and acting lessons. Throughout her career, Keely has worked with Big Sean, Marshall Mathers, Rihanna, Slaughterhouse, and recently completed an Asian and Australia tour with Demi Lovato, an American music icon and recording artist.



Adrianne Collins, serves as Editor in Chief of Detroit Entertainers & Musicians News and is President of Elbow to Elbow, Inc., a Michigan-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit specializing in computer-mediated communications. She is also a social educational entrepreneur involved with Detroit EM News, L3C LLC, and is a founding member of the Detroit Metro Area Musicians & Entertainers Association (DMAMEA). For over eight consecutive years, Adrianne has been dedicated to creating meaningful, positive news by highlighting both individuals and businesses. She produces, promotes, and hosts artist-to-artist red carpet video interviews during the annual Detroit Music Awards at the Fillmore Detroit Theatre. Additionally, she is recognized for her role in the concept, development, and production of the video for the 1970s R&B hit “Float On” by the group The Floater. Contact: editor@detroitemnews.com



Candace (a.k.a. Deekah) Reynolds, (Adrianne Collins' daughter) is a seasoned vocalist, guitarist, concert promoter, red carpet and guest hostess/ commentator for special events. Her voice has been compared to Tracy Chapman, Betty Davis and Janis Joplin. She has played venues throughout Detroit including the Artist Village and the 5E Gallery. She has worked with some of the area's most talented artists including RenCen, CoolBeanz, Nadir, and jessica Care moore's Black Women Rock Orchestra. In 2011, celebrating the roots of rock n' roll and people of color Deekah created "The Cosmic Slop Festival."

To hear Deekah or for more information about Cosmic Slop follow her on Twitter(@deekahwyatt).



William (BJ) Smith, A renowned musician, producer and songwriter as well as one of the pioneers of House and Techno music.

There are plans to further honor our extraordinary ancestry, as well as create an art exhibit for people of color with rich family legacies in Detroit, Michigan.

For more information, email us: Kailimai@detroitemnews.com.

BY: Adrianne Collins

Email: editor@detroitemnews.com or contact@detroitemnews.com

Columbia Music: "On the Beach At Waikiki"

Photos: Detroit EM News and [www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com)

Melbay (2004). Retrieved from:

https://books.google.com/books?id=eTFXgCFTHRIC&pg=PA6&lpg=PA6&dq=Hawaiian+Quintet+PPIE+Instruments&source=bl&ots=9K8_kN0eQy&siq=YQNKJAJ59bXyeqyP9PVQCx0C_lw&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwi8vuy67_rKAhUsn4MKhco6CAwQGAEI0jAE#v=onepage&q=Hawaiian%20Quintet%20PIE%20Instruments&f=true

Credits: Edison Archives – Greenfield Village, Burton Historical Library, Detroit News, Detroit Free Press, Hawaii and Hawaiian Musicians – An Illustrated History, Kanahele G.S.

Credits: 1988 California & 1990 Detroit Reunion Committees/Descendants of Henry K. Kailimai Sr., & Kailimai's resources/family union support organizations



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We extend our heartfelt gratitude to **James H. Cole Home for Funerals, Inc.**, the proud title sponsor of Detroit Entertainers & Musicians News (Detroit EM News, L3C LLC) for over 15 years. James H. Cole has consistently demonstrated a deep respect for life and creativity. As dedicated partners, they continue to offer substantial support, helping young people recognize and apply the valuable skills gained during their school years, while actively advocating for paid internships and social well-being.

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We appreciate the opportunity these sponsors and advertisers have given Golightly CTC and Detroit School of Arts students to showcase their videography and graphic designs skills honed within Detroit Public Schools Community District. Their sponsorship has played a vital role in positively impacting the community through Detroit EM News, L3C and Elbow to Elbow, Inc.'s educational platform and annual community events, including the Children's Costume Festival, Fun-E-fit Series, and the Back-to-School Talent Show. **BY:** Adrienne Collins



Photos: Detroit EM News





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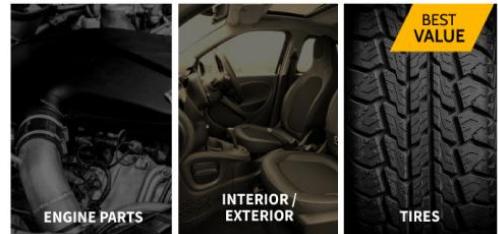
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Meet Adrianne Collins!

In 2007 until 2023, I volunteered at Golightly Career & Technical Center (GCTC), part of Detroit Public Schools (DPS) and it became one of the most fulfilling chapters of my life. Although I was unsure of the path ahead, I was deeply committed to building a better world advocating for secondary education.



Inspired by this conviction, I reached out to **Dr. Laura Royster, the Principal at GCTC.**



During our conversation, I spoke about my interest in volunteering for GCTC as well as her advice. I also mentioned our publication, DETROIT ENTERTAINERS & MUSICIANS NEWS (Detroit EM News), www.detroitemnews.com.

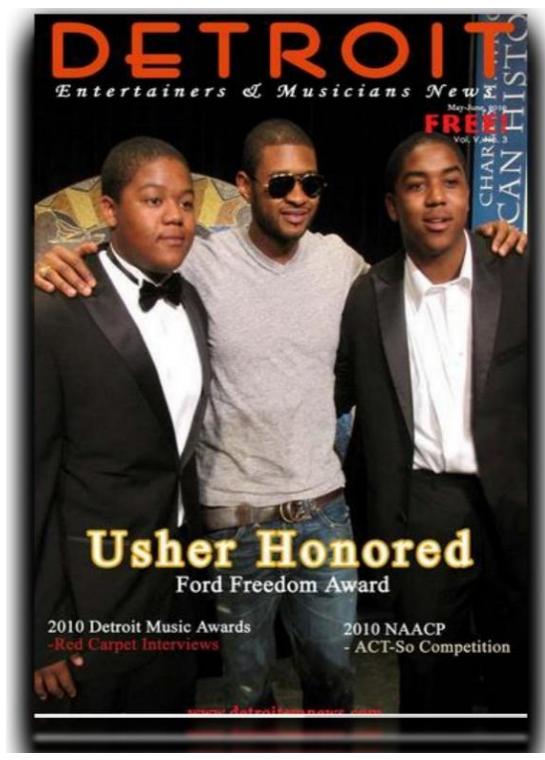
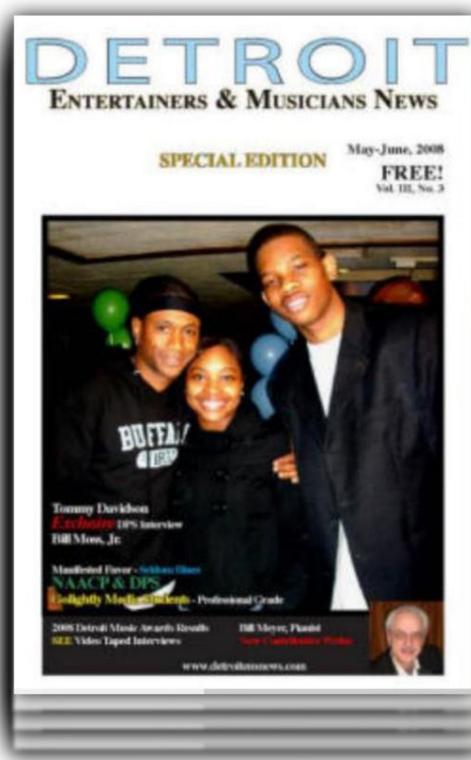
She listened and encouraged me to introduce myself to **Dennis Moore and Dana Hughes, Mass Media Program Managers** at GCTC. I acted on her referral, became a volunteer and soon an advisory board member at GCTC.



My volunteerism consisted of chaperoning field trips including the annual SkillsUSA Championship ceremony.

Wherever possible, I assisted as business owner providing technical support and wraparound services such as coordinating interviews, attending events and wrote revues for school sanctioned projects while DPS GCTC students created client advertisements and edited videos for Detroit EM News. All the interviews were exclusive video capture which ensured our youth (DPS students) had the opportunity to use their technical skills acquired at GCTC. Many of the venues on location were the Detroit Opera House and Detroit Music Hall located in downtown Detroit.

As an educational platform, students created client content while building the Detroit EM News brand as a good news outlet and training ground. DPS students helped some of the world's most famous artists to promote online and in print including, "Shirley Ceasar – Gospel Legend," "Neyo & Usher - R&B Royalty" and comedians, "Tommy Davidson" and "Gary Owen."





These experiences opened doors to other vocational programs at GCTC, including finance, the call center, culinary arts, computer technology and graphic designs.

Just as phenomenal, amid my first decade at GCTC, our outreach extended to the Detroit School of Arts and Cass Technical High School, under the watchful eyes of DSA Program Manager, Beverly Morrison-Green and Dr. Lisa A. Phillips, Principal at Cass Technical High School. However, it was Mrs. Morrison-Green's referral of media arts students which contributed immensely to the production of content for diverse projects.

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During that time, Oh Boy, Oberto! offered with Marc Webber, Marketing Director, American Powerboats Association (APBA), the opportunity to propose the creation of a **maritime program** within DPS.



DPS students were invited down in the pits to interview hydroplane boat drivers, crew and family members of the APBA and the Detroit River International Powerboats Association (IPBA).









**Adrienne Reynolds (Collins) &
Liz Heaney – Heaney Plumbing & Heating, Major Advertiser**

Then, without warning and as recorded, in 2009 – 2016, DPS experienced a mass exodus of students from DPS. “With a 50% decline in the number of students served more students attend charter schools than the public system <https://againstthecurrent.org/atc182/p4650/>).”

Unfortunately, timing was not the best with the oversight of emergency managers for DPS looming.



**Robert Bobb, Emergency Manager, DPS
& Adrienne Reynolds (Collins)**

However, all of these efforts contributed to the establishment of the capstone for Detroit EM News which became the capture and sharing positive news while demonstrating industry specific skills transferred by DPS educators to their students.

Since 2010, many DPS students created full-page print and online advertisements for clients of Detroit EM News. We also shared and wrote good news (known as “meaning making news) about educators, students and viewers of Detroit EM News. In so doing, we record and edit video segments, while staying laser focused on our slogan, “The Entertainer’s Written Word.”

We also offer students an opportunity to go on location and experience real world opportunities like the festivities at the ***Detroit Music Awards***.



Since 2008 and ending in 2019, Detroit Entertainers & Musicians News hosted Artist to Artist Red Carpet Interviews during the annual Detroit Music Awards festivities at the Fillmore Detroit, compliments of Kathy Vargo and Terry Koggenhop, Detroit Music Awards Foundation.





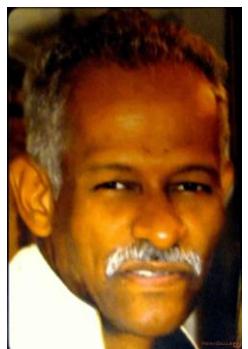


Tanisha Bronaugh, M.Ed.

These events increased the opportunities for youth to demonstrate their videography and other vocational skills while sharpening their interpersonal abilities. Our platform helped students obtain exposure to a credentials process during the interview procedures which enhanced their knowledge transferred by DPS educators.

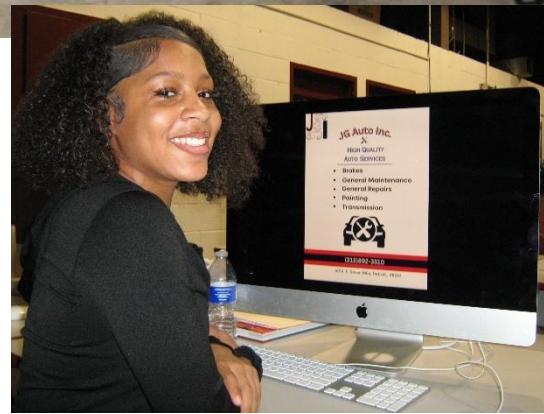
Observing their talents and skill levels strengthened my dedication to supporting the Detroit Public Schools system. I started writing articles to highlight the academic accomplishments of both faculty and students in our publication. During that time, the mass communications program, along with several other courses were eliminated at GCTC.

Nonetheless, Dr. Royster and the late **Stewart Davis**, (Musician w/Back Stage Pass) Special Instructor, COMPUTEC @ GCTC, suggested I introduce myself to the managers of the graphics design program, who later invited me to join their advisory committee. Reflecting, I am grateful I accepted their invitation which blossomed over eighteen years providing an opportunity to showcase the skills DPS educators successfully impart onto their students.



This eye-opening experience has become the enduring success of Detroit EM News, L3C LLC. The way it operates alongside its sister entity, Detroit Entertainers & Musicians News DBA made possible affordable advertising crafted by DPS students. This unique educational collaboration over the past nineteen years has become a bedrock that has maintained significant value to our students, sponsors, advertisers, and supporters.

Between 2015 and 2023, Detroit EM News received recognition from DPS GCTC with a plaque which is currently on display in the Comerica Bank Atrium inside the foyer of GCTC. Detroit EM News was recognized as a business partner where students acquire hands-on experience utilizing our collective educational collaboration; Detroit EM News, L3C LLC, Elbow to Elbow, Inc. a 501c3 and DETROIT ENTERTAINERS & MUSICIANS NEWS.



In 2012, five (5) Pershing High School seniors received a \$500 Socially Accountable or Socially Responsible Scholarship, during a community event presented by DETROIT ENTERTAINERS & MUSICIANS NEWS. This huge event was sponsored by Bazzi Oil & Gas Co. held at CITGO Service Station at 7 Mile East & Mound Road.

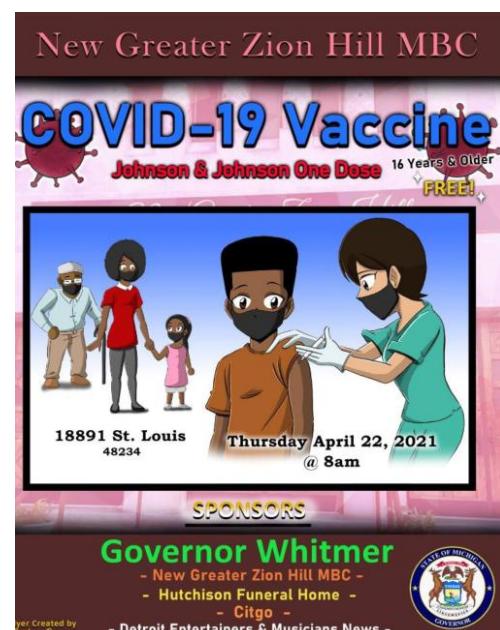
Our methods vary but they are student driven. Therefore, in 2010 – 2023 students produced graphic designs for advertising campaigns while earning an hourly wage funded by DPS and Grow Detroit's Young Talent (GDYT). Our initiative overtime evolved into a comprehensive work-based learning program which served secondary and post-secondary students.

This summer, Intern Cortrez performed as a graphics instructor for a youth program with Elbow to Elbow, Inc. Currently, he attends Central State University and freelances as a graphic designer for Detroit EM News.

Cortrez began his internship with us while attending Golightly CTC in 2019. Throughout 2019 and until COVID19 pandemic was eradicated, to raise awareness about the critical importance of safe distancing, hand washing, and mask-wearing Cortez developed storyboards for Detroit EM News.

In 2020, Cortrez became a DPS graduate and program completer at GCTC. For his efforts, he qualified and was awarded two (2) scholarships: a \$40,000 Award from Center for Creative Studies and a \$10,000 Award presented by the Michigan Chronicle.

That shared, we invite you to transition with us as we morph into a fully-fledged **positive news** publication for mature audiences. *BY: Adrienne Collins*





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