

OUR MISSION & VISION IN ACTION



Nonprofit RootzGround & WingzFly aims to advance community engagement opportunities for youth and adults through cultural enrichment, the advancement of diverse learning through Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, & Math programming, education, and global initiatives that foster equitable access to resources for communities, especially underserved and under-resourced community members.



At RootzGround & WingzFly, we believe that educators need time to collaborate, create within community, share ideas, and uplift ideals. That's where the inspiration happens. We partnered with the Zinn Education Project for our Teaching for Black Lives curriculum study group that helps educators across Central Texas teach lesser known stories & histories that amplify Black lives, lived experiences, tribulations, and celebrations.

ADVANCING GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

Nonprofit RootzGround & WingzFly sponsored and collaborated with The Global Women Impact Alliance to put on a spectacular United Nations General Assembly side event in September 2024, and it was a tremendous success!



DR. SKYLLER WALKES PICTURED WITH DR. HAZEL DUKES & NCNW PRESIDENT & CEO REV. SHAVON L. ARLINE-BRADLEY, MPH, MDIV



In November of last year, global women leaders & their aspiring allies came together for international collaboration & meaning-making in London at Nations of Women. Global impact and spiritual health were widely addressed to ensure that our cups remained full as we committed to advancing this work. Dr. Walkes is with Her Excellency Abena Busia, Ambassador of Ghana to Brazil.

SCHOLARSHIPS CREATE MEANINGFUL OPPORTUNITIES



We provide scholarships! RootzGround & WingzFly alongside Dr. Elvin Holt's family are growing his namesake's scholarship to support even more Texas State University recipients! Honoring the late Professor Emeritus of English Dr. Holt with his beautiful sisters and the Calaboose African American History Museum Board members with our pledged support is a privilege.

OUR MISSION IN ACTION



RootzGround & WingzFly volunteered at the Disability Unite Festival on July 14, 2024, in NYC event in Central Park. Attendees received ample resources & the energy at the Disability Unite Festival 2024 was INSPIRING!



We also sponsored Columbia University M.S. in Sustainability Management recent graduate Mikayla Byfield, who was selected to present her talk titled, "Environmental Justice for Athletes of Color" at the Black Student-Athlete Summit 2024 in Los Angeles. Mikayla's presentation reached a national audience, where she encouraged athletes to use their platforms to advance environmental justice solutions in meaningful, non-performative ways.



We believe in creating meaningful, experiential learning opportunities for students. HBCU Southern University students, faculty, and staff visited the University of California in Los Angeles to explore health sciences graduate programs. Experiences can help make dreams tangible.

OUR MISSION IN ACTION: EMPOWERING YOUTH



RootzGround & WingzFly celebrates our partnership with NYC's Roads to Success organization! In that spirit, we organized a closed to the public museum art education experience for Roads to Success middle schoolers, and it was amazing! The learners had the entire Whitney Museum to themselves, where they were able to engage unique pieces of the Edges of Alvin Ailey exhibit with facilitated support from local artist educators. Learning in a museum alongside art encourages the imagination to make creative meaning of our world!



CLIMATE ADAPTATION AT THE UNITED NATIONS FAO WORLD FOOD FORUM



16 October 2024

World Food Day

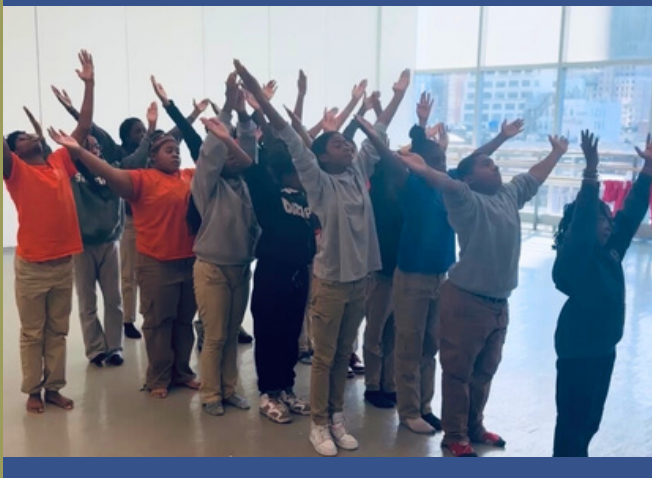


RootzGround & WingzFly was selected to participate in the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization World Food Forum 2024 in Rome, Italy. We engaged with world leaders to address food insecurity, and youth action; it was EMPOWERING! Youth were at the helm of climate action to address food insecurity especially among marginalized communities. This experience reinforced that every action can have a positive impact!

OUR MISSION IN ACTION



Investing in holistic education and achievement for youth requires supporting their exposure to and engagement with the arts! We do that with intention at RootzGround & WingzFly. We appreciate the Ailey Extension in NYC for a magical day of dance, teaching the youth of Roads to Success "Revelations" along with the history of Texas born trailblazing choreographer Alvin Ailey!



SUSTAINABILITY NEWS: FARMING & FASHION



PANELISTS: YI SU, ULAS OGRAK, KUMER DAS, & SKYLLER WALKES



We participated in the Horizon Summit on agriculture and sustainability in Monroe, LA in June 2024, where Dr. Skyller Walkes moderated PLENARY VI - Tech for Climate: Bridging AI, Carbon Credits, and Regenerative Farming for Sustainable Agriculture.

We also regularly collaborate with sustainable fashion designer Jianhui London, who creates jewelry and fashion using recycled materials that would otherwise be discarded and landfilled. Jianhui showcases & workshops at the Museum of Art & Design and all over the world.

ROOTZGROUND & WINGZFLY BOARD OF DIRECTORS



LaMarriol Smith, M.P. Aff.

Board member LaMarriol Smith is a seasoned professional in public relations, strategic communications, social media development, crisis communications, publication management and production, website management, public affairs, higher education administration, speech writing, public speaking, reporting and project management. She spent much of her career in positions in higher education and government service. She also is a Texas Municipal League Leadership Academy Fellow and former president of the Texoma Chapter of the American Association of University Women. Smith earned her bachelor's degree in journalism from Baylor University in Waco, Texas, and her master's degree in public affairs from the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas in Austin.

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Gerry Altamirano

Board member Gerry Altamirano is the Senior Manager for Workplace Diversity at AMN Healthcare, leading DEI initiatives and overseeing 10 Employee Resource Groups. Previously, he was a DEI Strategist at Tangible Development in New York, where he assessed and enhanced clients' DEI strategies. He also served as Assistant Dean and Director of the Disability Resource Center at the University of Florida, focusing on disability inclusion and accessibility.

Gerry lives in Dallas, TX, and is active in community leadership. He has served as Vice President on the Board of Directors for REACH, which supports people with disabilities, and is on the Board of the regional LGBTQ+ Resource Center. He holds a BA in Psychology from UT Arlington, a Master of Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling from UT Southwestern, and is completing a doctorate at the University of Florida. His research focuses on the impact of Employee Resource Groups on professional identity and social responsibility.

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Dr. John H. Richburg

RootzGround & WingzFly Board member Dr. John H. Richburg is the Gustavus and Louise Pfeiffer Professor in Toxicology and Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies at UT Austin's College of Pharmacy. He also holds an affiliate professorship in Dell Medical School's Department of Oncology. Previously, he led the Division of Pharmacology and Toxicology, the Center for Molecular and Cellular Toxicology, and NIH/NIEHS-supported toxicology training programs.

Dr. Richburg actively supports diversity in science through various programs, including co-directing NIH R25 programs and mentoring for NIH/GM MBRS. He has helped develop UT's LEADER, BOOT, and Early Career Fellowship programs to recruit and retain underrepresented trainees. His research focuses on the molecular and cellular mechanisms by which environmental and chemotherapeutic agents disrupt male reproduction, aiming to predict and prevent human reproductive health risks. Dr. Richburg's work has received nearly continuous NIH funding for 27 years, totaling approximately \$12 million.

ROOTZGROUND & WINGZFLY BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Ameerah McBride, Esq.

Board member Ameerah McBride, Esq. is the Founding Partner of Trenton Makes Law, LLC, a boutique law firm based in Trenton, NJ representing clients in labor and employment disputes. Ameerah's past experience includes serving as the inaugural Chief Diversity Officer for the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy (AURA) where she led the organizational strategy for equity and inclusion.

Prior to joining the AURA corporate office, Ameerah served as the Chief Diversity Officer, Title IX Coordinator and Director of Equity and Inclusion at Texas State University as well as Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Equal Opportunity & Access and Chief Diversity Officer at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh in Oshkosh, WI.

A graduate of Clark Atlanta University, Ameerah is a proud HBCU alum and serves as a board member of numerous community based organizations.



NEWSLETTER

Fall 24 _ Winter 25

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WHAT'S NEXT? FILM FEST LOADING...



THE SOULS OF BLACK STORYTELLERS Film Showcase

**SATURDAY | JUNE 14, 2025 |
GREENPOINT, BROOKLYN, NY**

INTERNATIONAL FILMS
INDEPENDENT FILMMAKERS
AWARD-WINNING DOCUMENTARIES
DIRECTOR Q&A SESSIONS
SPECIAL SCREENINGS
A CULTURAL EXPERIENCE

FOLLOW US AT
@ROOTZANDWINGZLLC
FOR MORE INFO

RootzGround & WingzFly presents, "The Souls of Black Storytellers Film Showcase!" Happening on Saturday, June 14, 2025 in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, New York!

Join us for a day of film screenings with independent film makers, award-winning documentaries, director and film producer Q&A sessions, and an above all, art community elevating experience!

PROGRAMS, WORKSHOPS, A SUMMER FILM FESTIVAL & MORE! STAY TUNED...



THE SOULS OF BLACK STORYTELLERS

ROOTZGROUND & WINGZFLY PRESENTS,

A DIASPORIC SHOWCASE:
"THE SOULS OF BLACK STORYTELLERS,"

AN INTERACTIVE FILM FESTIVAL FOCUSED ON
ELEVATING LESSER-KNOWN CREATIVE VOICES
AND THEIR JOURNEYS OF UNVEILING TRUTHS
THROUGH DIVERSE STORYTELLING.

THE SHOWCASE WILL CENTER ON THE MULTIPLE
EXPERIENCES OF BLACK IDENTITY AND
RESILIENCE, EXPLORING THEMES OF AFRICAN
AMERICAN HISTORY, POST-COLONIAL
INDEPENDENCE IN AFRICA, ACTIVISM, AND
LIBERATION MOVEMENTS FROM SCHOLARS AND
STUDENTS WITHIN INSTITUTIONAL SPACES.



RootzGround & WingzFly presents, "The Souls of Black Storytellers Film Showcase," an interactive film festival focused on elevating lesser-known creative voices and their journeys of unveiling truth through diverse storytelling. The showcase will center on the multiple experiences of black identity and resilience, exploring themes of African-American history, post colonial independence in Africa, activism, and liberation movements from scholars and students within institutional spaces.