

SoulVision®

M A G A Z I N E

**Vernā Myers:
Bringing Inclusion
and Equity to**

NETFLIX

March 2021

EDITORS NOTE

BK Fulton



Photo by Queon “Q” Martin

| “It’s time to take back cool.”

It’s time to take back cool. When I grew up, I played basketball and was given a pass by the “cool kids” who could not beat me in the gym. I was labeled “different” as I pushed to get my studies done and play ball. I also was nice with karate thanks to my cousin Toni Lee. My Mom and Dad were respected teachers and leaders in the community. Showing up, paying bills, taking care of your family and going to a place of worship on Sunday was also cool back then. It was what we did in my world. Somehow I feel like we let *cool* slip into the hands of the hoodlums. Nowadays, you are only deemed tough or cool if you look like you can beat people up or you act like a fool in the face of authority. That’s crazy! Standards are important. The baddest person at the club is not the one who can do the best twerk or breakdance, it’s the person who can hold down that 9 to 5 the next morning. The cool person is the one who has a bank account with something in it besides hope. The baddest people in the room are the people who, in spite of all the obstacles working against them, get up each day and goes out to face the world for their families. They make their house a home. That’s what’s up! That’s cool. It’s time to take back cool.

BK Fulton – February 2021 (continued)

Accordingly, in this issue celebrating powerful women, we highlight the incomparable Vernā Myers who's making diversity and inclusion a part of the culture at Netflix. We showcase creatives and designers Holly Byrd Miller, Robin Farmer, Sandrine Plante, and Benita Adams. In our Legends section, we celebrate the historical importance of Vice President Kamala Harris. All powerful women who know their worth and who are taking charge of their stories. Last, we close with Girls For A Change and a new dish from award-winning chef Katherine Thompson. Help us to celebrate the women who make the world go around. You get a new look when you have SoulVision!

“The baddest person at the club is not the one who can do the best twerk or breakdance, it's the person who can hold down that 9 to 5 the next morning.”

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Vernā Myers: Bringing Inclusion and Equity to Netflix



Photos by Laurie Bishop

| “Your life is a life no one has lived.”

Vernā Myers, the Vice President of Inclusion Strategy at Netflix, grew up on the west side of Baltimore, Maryland, during the wake of Martin Luther King Jr.’s assassination. It was a time of real social upheaval. “Baltimore burned like many other cities during that time, and I believe that instilled some kind of consciousness in me,” Vernā explains. “I hoped to be what King had dreamed. I spent a lot of time in Baltimore until I was 18 and was the beneficiary of so many things that changed after King’s assassination.”

The federal government created Pell Grants and started to allow Black kids to attend schools with better funding and materials and advanced curriculums. They developed enrichment programs and other enhancements designed to give students a chance to succeed. “I got to go to schools outside of my neighborhood and that gave me a certain kind of access and social capital,” she explains. “The new environments gave me an entrée into what was considered the ‘A-course’ of the time.” During high school, Vernā applied to only one college because she didn’t understand how the whole process worked. That school was Barnard College, Columbia University in New York City. She was going to be a writer, but as she began exploring her options (and was discouraged by her English professor who thought she was a B+ student), Vernā pivoted her focus to law.

Vernā Myers: Bringing Inclusion and Equity to Netflix (continued)



She also wanted to have a skill that would allow her to make the world better and at the same time be financially self-sufficient. In her opinion at the time, it would be hard for a writer to make money. Accordingly, she enrolled in Harvard Law School. “I was going to change the world,” she says. At Columbia, she was exposed to the history of her people. Cornel West was among the great minds to expand Vernā’s worldview. While she was a student, Vernā was the leader of the Black Students Organization at Columbia University. As she learned more about her history, she became a little dismayed that she was not taught this history early on in life. Her parents instilled in her a go-getter mentality but did not talk much about the struggles of overcoming systemic and individual racism and/or sexism. “I guess you don’t want to depress your children, right?” Vernā says.

She mentions how detractors will use programs like affirmative action, which were created to close the gap between minorities and whites, to discredit the hard work, dedication, and sacrifice people of color had to make to have a chance at success. “It catches you a little flat-footed when you realize you’re not just ‘Vernā’ but a ‘category’ to other people,” she continues. “A category that they associate with being a little less capable even though you’ve made it to the same institution. They are not willing to cut you the slack.” As she went through law school, she began to question who the legal system actually benefited. “I got to law school and started recognizing that the law is not how you change things, it’s really how the people in power maintain their power. That was a very difficult lesson for me,” she admits.

“I got to law school and started recognizing that the law is not how you change things, it’s really how the people in power maintain their power.”

But she couldn’t back out now. She was in debt and she needed to make something out of her degree. She landed a job at a predominately white law firm in Boston. She was the only black person there. “It was 1985 and I was breaking the color line,” she comments. Then there was change. In the law sector, there was an awakening for more racial diversity. She was asked to be a representative for her law firm to a committee working on increasing the representation of people of color in law firms. This caught the attention of older black male lawyers who had gone on to start their own practices. They asked her to join them and she did. She was able to do more at the smaller black-owned firm than in the larger white one. “You’re a cog in the wheel at most large firms and you’re kind of learning a skill but for years you are not necessarily getting the whole picture, the opportunity to make major moves or feel any ownership,” she explains. “I also realized I was working so hard just to make wealthy peo-

Vernā Myers: Bringing Inclusion and Equity to Netflix (continued)

ple (mostly white people) wealthier. That's fine for some folks, but it didn't seem worth it to me."

She recalls the small firm experience being very positive. The black partners invested in her success mentored her and gave her lots of opportunities to support black businesses and government initiatives to improve black neighborhoods. She was a mother and they were considerate and flexible with her schedule, but Vernā had a desire to be fully committed to motherhood and "...law is a demanding profession no matter what kind of clients you are serving or with whom you are practicing," she explains. She quit practicing law and started to look at new possibilities for herself. While taking care of her child, she began to read *Composing a Life* by Mary Bateson. The book tells the story of how five well-known and successful women got to where they are. "The book gave me the permission to make my own choices because my life is a life no-one has lived," Vernā says. "Knowing this, gave me so much freedom. That's what I started to do and that's what I've been doing ever since."

"You need to make choices that are right for you and be confident in where you are being led."

In the late 90s, Vernā founded The Vernā Myers Company (TVMC). The company helps organizations with their diversity and inclusion practices. Following her dream of changing the world, Vernā's diversity and inclusion work drives a global equity agenda. While Vernā believes she has made strides in her business, she will only see her work as complete when inclusion is the norm. "It is not inevitable yet," she says. "However, there are many people now pushing in the right direction."

As an author, Vernā finds a sense of accomplishment and success. She released her first book, *Moving Diversity Forward: How to Go from Well-Meaning to Well-Doing*, in 2012 and *What If I Say the Wrong Thing: 25 Habits for Culturally Effective People* in 2013. Her Ted Talk,

How to Overcome Biases? Walk Boldly Toward Them, has been viewed more than 3 million times. TVMC has also created numerous learning courses. She says it feels good to have created resources out there in the world that can directly help others. Her business and books have rewarded Vernā with financial success, which she has used to help others. She recalls writing a "fat check" to a friend in need last year. It was a moment that felt different for Vernā. "It's a sign when you know that you can give someone that kind of blessing and not blink," she says. "It is nice to know that your gift is going to have a substantial impact on someone's life."



In early January, Netflix released their first-ever inclusion report. It was humbling for Vernā Myers to hear all the positive reactions to what we are doing. "I was like, 'What if it is true what people say? That my voice is really inspirational,'" she says. "I am almost always surprised when people say what you said changed my life." She says within and outside of corporate America, there are still real systemic issues. "We say that you can get a job if you work hard, but we know that just isn't

Vernā Myers: Bringing Inclusion and Equity to Netflix (continued)

true when we have substandard schools and underserved and troubled neighborhoods,” she explains. “A person may say, ‘I would love to work there too, but how in the hell am I supposed to get the experience or the understanding, or the education necessary if the opportunity is blocked systemically? Who do I know who can give me access?’ Social capital isn’t everything but it’s a privilege that is not available to all, especially if they are first-generation in certain educational institutions or corporate workplaces.”

In her position at Netflix, Vernā leads a team that makes sure that representation and inclusion are a priority in the entire employee life cycle (hiring, onboarding, development, promotion, compensation, etc.). “The vision of the Inclusion Strategy Team is to equip every employee at Netflix with the consciousness, competence, compassion, and courage needed to be a transformative force for inclusion and equity in all of the spaces that they inhabit,” she explains.

Throughout her life, Vernā has achieved so much. However, it’s the time when she stopped practicing law and felt uncertain about where she was headed that grounds her. “I said to myself, ‘You know if anyone gets to live a life of meaning, it is the people who work hard and make good decisions,’” she says. “You need to make choices that are right for you and be confident in where you are being led. Yes, I have meandered a bit; but journeys aren’t always linear. I was always pointing in the direction of MLK’s dream – inclusion, equity, and justice – while having joy, spending time with my child, and getting a chance to experience new things that built on my best self. I am grateful.” While there is still much work to be done, Vernā can say that she lives a great life of meaning. She is always thinking about how to make sure that all she has learned can help others to live their best lives.

To learn more about Vernā Myers and The Vernā Myers Company, visit their [website](#) and follow them on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

“Social capital isn’t everything but it’s a privilege that is not available to all, especially if they are first-generation in certain educational institutions or corporate workplaces.”

Sandrine Plante's Dedication to Her Ancestors



Sandrine Plante poses by her sculpture *Ma, Second Wife*. Photo by Grigor Khachatryan.

| “Keep the past alive.”

Through her sculptures, artist Sandrine Plante retells the story of her ancestors. “My work shows the history of our ancestors and of slavery in particular,” she explains. “I portray the kings and queens of Africa, and the rituals and beliefs.” At the age of 8, she discovered that clay could be used as a medium for artistic expression. Her parents encouraged her to be an artist and through the years, she practiced and has become a respected self-taught artist. After going to university to study art history, Sandrine was an apprentice to sculpturist Jean Chauchard and trained in the studio of the late Gigi Guadagnucci in Massa, Italy. As Sandrine continued to develop her skills, she began to discover her artistic style and voice. She would preserve the aesthetic of realism in her work. She would use “anatomic drawings” to understand the detail of the human body. Sandrine says she was mostly fascinated by the bones and the “incredible machine of man.”

Sandrine's devotion to her ancestor's history is a personal one. She was born in the Puy-de-Dôme department of France in 1974 to a mother from Auvergne, France, and a father from Réunion Island. At the age of 15, after researching about the island and her father's ancestry, Sandrine discovered she was a descendant of slaves. This would influence her to dedicate her art to the history of slavery from the 15th century to present day.

Sandrine Plante's Dedication to Her Ancestors (continued)



Sandrine Plante poses by her sculpture *Le Négrier*.
Photo by Grigor Khachatryan.



Clockwise from top left: *Saliou*, *Matika*, and *Strange Fruit*.
Photo courtesy of Sandrine Plante.

Her sculptures, born of clay and made of bronze resin, give context to the history of slavery. “They exist to prevent us from forgetting, to inform the young generations, to render homage in the most faithful way. I will not stop uttering this cry, as long as I – as a woman of my time in my country – have the possibility to do so,” Sandrine says.

Sandrine’s work has been exhibited in her home country and abroad. She also would like her work to make an impact in the United States. Sandrine will soon have five sculptures placed in the Legacy Museum in Montgomery, Alabama. “There is so much to tell,” she says. “I would like my work to be in museums all over. Museums are places of memory. I want to collaborate with artists committed to humanistic causes—directors, actors, singers, dancers, and stylists. Our story is much bigger than us and the message must be universal.”

To learn more about Sandrine Plante, visit her [website](#) and follow her on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). To purchase Sandrine’s work, visit la-galerie-maronages.com/boutique/.



Clockwise from top left: *The Cry*, *Marron*, and *Capturer*.
Photos courtesy of Sandrine Plante.

BOOKS

Robin Farmer's Debut Novel Gives Youth Agency



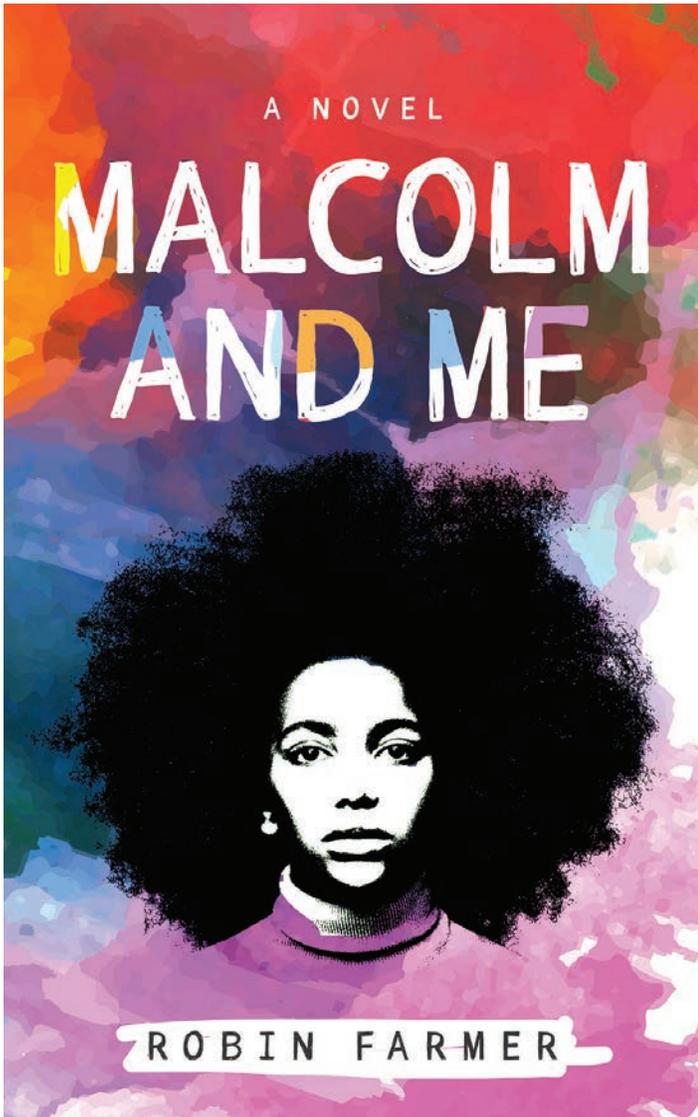
Photo by Clem Britt

| “Never let the dream die.”

At the age of 8, Robin Farmer told her mother that she wanted to be a writer. Growing up in Philadelphia, in the city “of brotherly love and sisterly affection,” she dared to dream about what that would look like. Now, decades later, she is an award-winning journalist and author who creates stories that center around youth and their ability to be agents of change.

Residing in Richmond, Virginia, she is proud to call the “Love” state her home. “It blows my mind that I have lived in Virginia longer than my hometown,” she says. Robin describes herself as an “emotional writer.” This means that characters jump off the pages and have thoughts and opinions of their own. “Creating stories that allow readers to walk in another’s shoes, especially a person who seems very different from them, energizes me,” she says. “Emotional truth transcends facts and engenders empathy.” While she says defining emotional truth can be difficult, readers will always find a connection that will allow them to identify with the story and the characters.

Robin Farmer's Debut Novel Gives Youth Agency (continued)



Malcolm and Me (SparkPress)

Robin's debut novel, *Malcolm and Me*, is a coming-of-age story about Roberta, a teenager who finds her voice and confidence in 1970's Philadelphia. She buries herself in *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* and uses it to cope with the realities of racism and family troubles. She emerges as an inspiration for youth to speak up and out. In a positive review from Kirkus Reviews, Roberta is described as a "thoughtful, resilient heroine."

Her next novel is in the planning stages and will involve a young teen who becomes an environmental justice activist. Robin is currently adapting *Malcolm and Me* into a TV pilot. Once the pilot is finished, she will pitch it as a television show or limited series. Robin originally wrote *Malcolm and Me* as a screenplay. Many years ago, she sent the original screenplay to Keke Palmer's agent who ended up rejecting the script. Fortunately, she did not let rejection stop her. She is adamant about seeing *Malcolm and Me* on "either the small or big screen (or both)" and will now adapt the novel into an even better screenplay. "The dream never died," she says.

To learn more about Robin Farmer, visit her [website](#) and follow her on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).

Holly Byrd Miller Will Make You Look Your Best

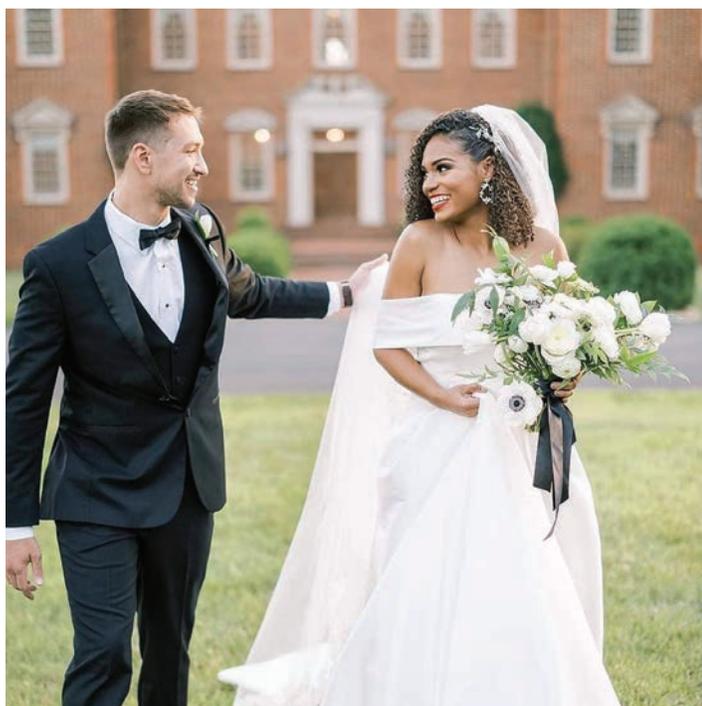


Holly Byrd Miller, CEO of Makeup by Holly. Photo by Nick Nelson.

| “Surround yourself with those as passionate as you are.”

Holly Byrd Miller is the CEO of Makeup by Holly (which does business as Makeup by Holly Beauty Partners). Holly describes Makeup by Holly as a “global team of brand and beauty experts.” Her team includes licensed hairstylists, certified professional makeup artists, personal wardrobe stylists, photographers, videographers, brand strategists, and social media strategists. “We consult, educate, and curate signature looks for professionals who aspire to perfect their executive presence and elevate their Brands,” she says. From personal to professional, Makeup by Holly helps women feel beautiful, confident, and empowered to take on the world.

Holly Byrd Miller Will Make You Look Your Best (continued)



*Hair and makeup by award-winning professionals
Makeup by Holly. Tiffany Sigmon Photography.*

Growing up in Tappahannock, Virginia, her parents taught her the value of consistency and hard work. Holly started her career in beauty by freelancing for luxury brands like Giorgio Armani Beauty, Yves Saint Laurent, Chanel, and Laura Mercier. She paid her dues and trained under revered makeup artists like Oprah’s current makeup artist, Derrick Rutledge. Holly eventually stepped out on her own to become a beauty entrepreneur. At first, Holly was doing everything on her own. She soon realized this wasn’t sustainable if she wanted her business to grow. So she began to delegate tasks to a team of capable professionals who were just as passionate about the style and glamour business. While starting her own business was a challenge in the beginning, entrepreneurship taught Holly to continue to take risks and trust in her instincts as a business owner. Her work has been noticed by those in the community and beyond. Recognitions and accolades include a feature in the bridal magazine *Southern Bride Magazine*, among others.

One of Holly’s services is a membership service that gives beauty professionals, videographers, and photographers an opportunity to expand their client base. No matter their location in the United States, they have an equal opportunity to work their talents. Holly is currently looking for ways to grow her services. “I am continuing to grow our global team members and strategic partners, to offer a boutique service for entrepreneurs seeking a comprehensive brand experience,” says Holly. Expanding her services, Holly has the opportunity to make a difference in women’s lives across the globe.



Some of the professionals a part of Makeup by Holly Beauty Partners (from left): Jacquie Lopez, Chi Reed, Anetra Byrd, Holly Byrd Miller, Raleigh Desper, Tierra Hickman Parker, Arianna Rose. Photo by Raleigh Desper.

To learn more about Makeup by Holly, visit their [website](#) and follow them on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).

Benita Adams: Moving on to the Next Step



Benita Adams at Black Diamond Weekend in November 2020. Photos by Will Hawkins.

“Make life changes to achieve your personal and professional goals.”

Benita Adams is a storyteller. “Stories help us understand what’s going on in our lives,” she says. “They help us get to know ourselves better and the journey we’ve traveled.” For almost a decade, Benita was a traffic reporter for WVEC-TV Channel 13. After a sudden departure due to management going in a different direction, she became fully committed to helping women in their second act.

Originally from Cleveland, Ohio, Benita has lived in Virginia Beach for 28 years. She has worked in media and communications for even longer. From TV news to producing and hosting radio shows, Benita has carved out a path for herself professionally. Since leaving her job at WVEC-TV in 2013, she has created her own TV show *The Second Act with Benita Adams*, works as a motivational speaker, and in 2015 released her first book, *Reinvent Your Life In The Second Act: A Guide For Women Who Dare To Achieve Their Dreams*.

Benita Adams: Moving on to the Next Step (continued)



Benita is currently working on creating a podcast called *Your Second Act, What's Next?*. The show will revolve around people who are moving to the next phase of their career and life. What keeps Benita motivated is her passion for helping women live a life full of passion. “I give them resources and tools to look their best and make life changes to achieve their personal and professional goals,” she says. “I want them to consciously design their second act.”

Benita also has a communication branch of her business called Benita Adams Communications Coaching. She’s working on expanding its corporate training program. She is hopeful that she will have the opportunity to travel and host motivational speaking events once it is safe to do so. “I absolutely feel energized when I’m speaking to a group of people who are ready to make changes in their lives,” she says.

To learn more about Benita Adams, visit her [website](#) and follow her on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).

CHEF'S CORNER

Chef Katherine Thompson



Photo by Kelli Scott

“Authentic and a delight to make, these homemade cookies are an after-dinner favorite.”

Chocolate-Dipped Italian Cookies

Course: Dessert

Cuisine: Italian

Prep Time: 45 minutes

Cook Time: 15 minutes

Total Time: 1 hour (yields 4 dozen cookies)



Photo courtesy of chef Katherine Thompson

Chef Katherine Thompson is co-owner of [Thompson Italian](#) with her husband, chef Gabe. Thompson Italian specializes in “inventive Italian” dishes that the whole family can enjoy. Thompson Italian is located in Northern Virginia at 124 N. Washington St., Falls Church, VA 22046.

Ingredients:

- cookie dough
- 9 oz unsalted butter, room temperature
- 1 1/3 cup confectioners sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 3 egg yolks
- 2 egg whites
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 2 1/2 cups all purpose flour
- 2 1/2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 2 cups bittersweet chocolate chips
- 4 tsp shortening or vegetable oil
- Rainbow sprinkles (nonpareils)

Equipment:

- Pastry Piping Bag
- Large Star Tip (Ateco 849)

Preparation:

1. In a mixer with a whisk attachment, combine the butter, confectioners sugar, and salt together on medium low speed until the ingredients come together.
2. Increase the speed to high and beat for 5-7 minutes, pausing to scrape down the sides of the bowl frequently.
3. The mixture should look fluffy and pale in color. Add the egg yolks, egg whites and vanilla extract. Beat together on medium high speed for 2-3 minutes.
4. At first the mixture may look curdled, but it will quickly come together to look homogenous. Again, be sure to scrape down the sides of the bowl several times.
5. Remove the whisk attachment and replace it with a paddle attachment. (If using a hand mixer, there is no need to change the beaters.) Add the flour and cornstarch.
6. Mix on low speed until the dry ingredients are fully incorporated. Transfer the mixture to a piping bag fitted with a large star tip.
7. Line 2-3 cookie sheets with parchment paper. Pipe out cookie dough into 2 1/2” length cookies. If necessary, use a paring knife or scissors to cut the dough at the end of each cookie.
8. Transfer the tray of raw cookie dough to the freezer for at least 30 minutes. Continue piping and freezing the remaining cookie dough.
9. Freezing the dough helps retain its shape while baking. Meanwhile, preheat oven to 350 degrees.
10. Place the cookie sheet with frozen cookie dough directly into the oven. Bake for 12-15 minutes or until light golden brown on the edges. Remove from the oven and cool completely.
11. Melt chocolate chips and shortening or oil in microwave on medium power until melted. Stir together. Dip cookies halfway into the melted chocolate. Shake off excess chocolate.
12. Place on a tray lined with parchment paper or wax paper. Before the chocolate hardens, sprinkle the chocolate generously with sprinkles. Place dipped cookies in the refrigerator for 3-5 minutes, or until the chocolate is set and cookies can be easily removed from the parchment paper. Store in an airtight container at room temperature.

Girls For A Change: Making Our Girls a Priority



Angela Patton, CEO of Girls For A Change. Photo by Kim Brundage. Photo by JolyeToi Photography.

| “Be there for them in the long haul.”

Each month we highlight a community program that aligns with the values of SoulVision Magazine. We believe engaging with one’s community is critical to fostering positive change in the world.

Girls For A Change (GFAC) was created with the goal to help girls of color to succeed from the 1st through the 12th grades. Based in Richmond, Virginia, GFAC has been nationally recognized as playing a vital role in preparing young girls for an increasingly digital world. “We truly make sure our girls are seen, heard and celebrated by having a tiered approach to our program,” says Angela Patton, CEO of Girls For A Change. “We start early, stick with them and stay with them until they experience success.”

Before she became CEO of GFAC, Angela founded Camp Diva, a summer program that provided camp activities with an emphasis on STEAM (science, technology, arts, and math), and other social and life skills for young girls. The program was founded in 2004 to honor Diva Mistadi Smith-Roane, a five-year-old who died in a firearm accident earlier that year. In 2013, Camp Diva merged with GFAC, based in California, and Angela was named CEO of the organization. Transforming Camp Diva into one of the many programs that GFAC provides, Angela was pivotal in honing the focus of the organization on girls of color, specifically black girls. “We see black girls as the greatest resource on the planet,” she says. “But unfortunately, black girls also are too often one of the most wasted resources.” Since taking the position of CEO, Angela and her team have created programs that have expanded GFAC beyond Central Virginia.

Girls For A Change: Making Our Girls a Priority (continued)



Girls For A Change prepares their girls for an increasingly digital world. Photo courtesy of Girls For A Change.



Girls For A Change prepares their girls for an increasingly digital world. Photo courtesy of Girls For A Change.

GFAC's Girl Ambassador Program is a workforce program that follows the girls through all four of their high school years and provides them with hard and soft skills that will prepare them for post-secondary life.

“We see black girls as the greatest resource on the planet.”

The program works with employers that will provide internships for the girls before they graduate high school. “It gives the girls an idea of what is available and possible for them when they become adults,” Angela says. “A lot of times we don’t think about a job in politics or how we can work in a creative job at a company like Capital One.” The girls are linked together with mentors who take the time and effort to get to know the girls and understand where they are coming from. “We want them to get paid. We want them to understand their worth

Now that being virtual is the new norm, Angela is working to scale GFAC’s programs to meet the needs of more girls virtually. Angela is also planning how the organization will operate post-COVID. “I am thinking about expanding to more cities in the South,” she explains. “I know there are so many cities that could benefit from something like Girls For A Change.” After her girls graduate high school, Angela says they will always have their support. Angela continues to look for ways GFAC can assist the girls even beyond the initial scope of the program. This means providing scholarships and support when they launch a business or get a job in adulthood or after graduation. “I want Girls For A Change to be there for our girls,” she says. “I want us to be in it for the long haul.”

To learn more about how you can support Girls For A Change, visit their [website](#) and follow them on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).

LEGENDS

Vice President Kamala Harris



Photo by Celeste Sloman/Redux

By Allyson Edge

In a time that has been historical in more ways than one, we must acknowledge the great significance of the current White House administration. Specifically, noting the position Kamala Harris holds as the first woman and the first person of African American and South Asian descent elected as the Vice President of the United States.

To put the magnitude of this accomplishment into perspective, the year Harris was elected marked the 100th anniversary of women gaining the right to vote and twenty-seven years since Carol Moseley Braun became the first black woman to be elected to the U.S. Senate. It is no secret that women, specifically black women, have had it harder than most especially when it comes to electoral politics. Some would say this is long overdue.

Vice President Kamala Harris (continued)

Vice President Harris holds both the qualifications and the passion to serve the people of the United States. She is a daughter of immigrants from Jamaica and India, who pursued their educational careers in the U.S. Their student activism largely influenced Harris's career in politics. Harris also is a graduate of Howard University, one of the leading historically black colleges and universities. She was elected the first woman District Attorney of San Francisco and was later elected as the first woman of color to serve as California's Attorney General. During her time in office, she pushed for marriage equality, justice in human and drug trafficking cases, and worked to protect our climate and the Affordable Care Act. Her familial background also led her to advocate for the rights of immigrants.

In the Vice Presidential debate with former Vice President Mike Pence, Harris said, "And I think Joe has asked me to serve with him because he knows that we share, we share a purpose, which is about lifting up the American people."

Kamala Harris has built her entire career with the goal of helping improve the lives of the American people. This includes all people regardless of race, gender, socioeconomic status, etc. While in office, President Biden and Vice President Harris plan to reduce health care costs, rebuild the economy, support the nation's educators, improve racial economic equity, and make comprehensive policies that represent all Americans. Vice President Harris's selfless work and role in bettering our country for future generations cannot and will not go unnoticed. Her presence will continue to inspire all young women to do the same.

**"While I may be the first woman in this office, I won't be the last."
– Kamala Harris**