

FREEDOM KNOWS ONLY ONE DIRECTION...
FORWARD!



64TH ANNUAL

Fight For Freedom Fund Dinner

SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2019 • FIVE O'CLOCK PM
COBO CONFERENCE CENTER
DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Rev. Dr. Wendell Anthony - President | Kamilia K. Landrum - Executive Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OFFICIAL PRESS STATEMENT

Media Contact:

LaToya Henry, (313) 447-6404

DETROIT NAACP BRINGS CELEBRITY STAR POWER TO THE 64TH ANNUAL FIGHT FOR FREEDOM FUND DINNER AS THE FREEDOM INSTITUTE PREPARES FOR FREEDOM WEEKEND 2019!

DETROIT (April 9, 2019) – The 64th Annual Fight For Freedom Fund Dinner promises to be one of excitement, high energy, and full of surprises. The stars will shine brightly on Sunday, May 5, 2019. We are pleased to announce a special red-carpet pathway for those attending the Fight For Freedom Fund Dinner. For many who have never had the red-carpet experience this is designed to make everyone attending feel special and important for this historic event. The red carpet will be held from 3:00 - 4:30 pm on Freedom Sunday.

We are pleased to announce that one of America's foremost journalists and White House correspondent will be in attendance to receive our very special Ida B. Wells Freedom & Justice Award. She is known for her piercing questions, unrelenting pursuit of truth and transparency. She has often been chided by the President of the United States as a trouble maker and has been told to "sit down" and ask no further questions in press briefings at the White House. She is an author, writer, and Washington D.C., bureau chief of American Urban Radio Networks. She is a political analyst for CNN and was named as the Journalist of the Year in 2017 by the National Association of Black Journalists. She has covered four presidential administrations. The recipient of this prestigious award is of course journalist April Ryan.

There will be no shortage of star power at this year's dinner. One of our very special guests is the recipient of the NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Actor in a Motion Picture. He has appeared in more than 100 films, including *Menace to Society*, *Dead Presidents*, *Next Friday*, *Friday After Next*, and *Ray*. He has played Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the film *Selma*, *Lord, Selma*. He guest starred in *Heat of the Night* and *Murder She Wrote*. He is also a philanthropist and an advocate for those in the criminal justice system. We are pleased to welcome television and film star Clifton Powell to the city of Detroit.

There is a great need to enhance involvement of young people and millennials in the struggle for social justice. We have a great appreciation for those artists like Akon, who will of course be the recipient of our W.E.B DuBois Freedom and Justice Award, but also others who are working to improve the quality of life in our community. We believe in ***Edutainment – Education for the head and Entertainment for the soul.***

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Special Guests and Awardees

He is a singer and song writer, nominated for Best Male R&B Vocals performance at the 2008 Grammy awards for his single *Woman*, 2009 Best R&B Song, 2011 Best R&B Album *The Love And War Masterpiece*, has appeared on the Tonight Show and Jimmy Kimmel Live, and has been compared to the likes of Marvin Gaye, Donny Hathaway, and Stevie Wonder. We welcome to Detroit hip hop, rock, neo soul star Raheem DeV Vaughn.

All of these individuals will be in attendance at the Fight For Freedom Fund Dinner and we also are excited that Raheem DeV Vaughn will perform at the special President's Reception following the dinner. Tickets are very limited to this and will be available on a first come, first serve basis. You must have purchased a ticket to the dinner to be eligible to secure a ticket for the President's Reception with Raheem DeV Vaughn.

Leading up to the dinner is Freedom Weekend, sponsored by the Freedom Institute for Economic, Social Justice, and People Empowerment. The Freedom Institute works in conjunction with the Detroit Branch NAACP and other community entities to present Freedom Weekend, scheduled for Wednesday, May 1st through Saturday, May 4th. One of the key events will be our **Dr. Ron Walters National Townhall on Power Economics**, focusing on technology and entrepreneurship. Detroit will be the site for industry leaders coming to present business opportunities - how to start your tech companies, entrepreneurship pathways for minorities and women looking for ways to enhance or begin a new business.

The panel will be composed of Dr. Paul Judge, inventor, entrepreneur, investor, Co-Founder of Pindrop, a company that sells phone, anti-fraud, and authentication services. He is a member of the Fortune 2016 40 and Under List, Top 100 Innovators Under 35, Black Enterprise 50 Most Powerful Players Under 40, and InfoWorld's Top 25 Chief Technology Officer. Also included is Denmark West, CIO of the Connectivity Ventures Fund, and partner of Connectivity Capital Partners, former president of BET Digital Media Division and Executive Vice President of MTV Networks. We are pleased to welcome Frederick Hutson, Founder and Developer of Pigeonly, printing electronic communications for inmates and mailings to be used for the United States Postal System, creating a communication and mail system while in prison, which grew to over 8 million pieces of mail, and facilitated about 8 million minutes of calls by the year 2015. His business venture assists prisoners and the postal system in communications and better receiving of mail through the prison system.

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These gentlemen coming from Atlanta will be joined by Dr. Marlo Rencher, Executive Director Cleary Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, creating new opportunities through Tech Town here in the city of Detroit; James Chapman, Director of Entrepreneurship Quicken Loans/Rock Ventures, Mark Shulman, Corporate Counsel Gayanga Co., dealing with construction and technology; and Monica Wheat, Managing Director of Backstage Capitol.

These individuals bring a wealth of knowledge and a clear pathway to opportunities, business, and economic development. They are coming to show you how to get it done. This will be held on Saturday, May 4th at 3:00 PM.

You may contact the Detroit Branch NAACP at (313) 871-2087 or visit detroitnaacp.org to secure your tickets, ads, or for information about this significant event.

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