

*May 16, 2024*

*WBTT Rooftop*

*5-6:30 PM*



**Masala Giving Circle**

### *Who We Are*

*Welcome to the 2024 Masala Giving Circle Grants Awards Ceremony. Masala is that delicious blend of spices-the whole of which is richer and more amazing than the sum of its aromatic parts. Our circle has grown to over 115 diverse African American women who have a passion for giving back and helping others in the African American communities. By pooling our resources together, we enable our members to achieve a much more significant impact with their charitable giving than they might achieve on their own. Established in 2013 by our late Founder, Sheila Baynes, Masala has awarded grants and gifts totaling over \$250,000 to programs or services in various areas, including human trafficking, breast cancer, nutritious food, education and the arts. We are delighted to honor our 6 recipients who demonstrated through their programs that their goals align with Masala Giving Circle's. We hope you enjoy our program.*

### *Officers*

*President, Dale Booker*

*Secretary, Kathy Pinkett*

*Vice-President, Doris Johnson*

*Grants Chair, Dana Cunningham*

*Treasurer, Shirley Michaud*

*Program Chair, Dorothy Green*



## Rosalyn Walton Education & Enrichment Services, Inc.

Founded in 2016 to support the achievement of African American youth by providing equitable education resources and opportunities. The project receiving an award is the funding of technology needs of the Freedom Leadership Academy. This award will fund technology equipment, black history text books, IXL licenses and 4 laptops.

## United Community Centers

Founded in 1937 by local activist Minnie Rogers, Mary McCloud Bethune and Eleanor Roosevelt to provide a safe haven for recreation, cultural, social and educational activities serving youth in low-income neighborhoods of central Bradenton. The Project is STEAM Dreams which will provide funding of necessary resources, including computers and accessories, a 3D printer and interactive displays.



## The Multicultural Health Institute

Founded by Lisa Merritt with programs to educate, identify and test for diseases such as cancer, cardiovascular disease, COVID 19, diabetes, infant mortality, obesity, stroke, and other health issues affecting underrepresented communities. The project funded is a successive 8 week Healthy Living Class at Sarasota Housing Authority's two housing locations in Janie's Garden and Orange Ave.

## **Educational Consultants Consortium, Inc.**

Founded in 1955 by 4 retired Manatee County educators and 2 business men. They strive to maximize the chances of high school graduation and post graduate success. The project funded is Iron Sharpening Iron, a Summer Engagement Program. The project is a bridge between the close and start of the school year. Rising 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders are connected with summer employment, academic resources, workshops and activities that keep them out of potentially dangerous situations.



## **Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe of Florida Inc.**

Founded in 1991 by Nate Jacobs to promote and celebrate African American culture, heritage and talent in performing arts. The Project receiving an award is Stage of Discovery, an intensive 5 week summer theatre camp for 30 youth, aged 13-18, 90% whom are African Americans.



## **Sisters Sowing Seeds, Inc.**

Founded in 2015 by Monica Donley to support African American women and girls through personal development and mentoring programs. The project receiving an award is their Sisters in Schools Initiative. This is a 12 week after school program which will serve 25 African American girls in Booker Middle, Braden River and Lee Middle Schools. Their goal is to cultivate humility, integrity, character and to provide a safe place to talk, listen to others and support one another.





## MASALA MEMBERSHIP

Carolyn Anderson	Jean Talifierro Donaldson	Sarah Irvin	Mona Rankin
Connie Anderson	Charmaine Downie	Doris Johnson	Jaqueline Ray
Kim C. Artis	Robinette Drew	Irene Johnson	Towanda Redmond
Brenda Belisto	Dianne Earley	Irene Jones	Lois Lipscomb-Risacher
Shirley Bennett	Dorothy M. Fannell	Jacqueline M. Jones	Doricha Sales
Sonya Bethel	Kelly Fowler	Michele Jones	Dona Scott
May Black	Lonetta Gaines	Valerie Jones	Caryl Sheffield
Arletha Blackman	Barbara Gibbs	Avolon Joseph	Leslie Smith
Dale Booker	Geraldine Gibbs	Gail Lawrence	Victoria Smith-Murphy
Mary Braxton Joseph	Wanda Gilbert	Veleria Johnson	Charyl Spicer-Bryant
Uneeda Brewer	Reneè Gilmore	Vicki Lewin	Rosa Stanfield
Lawanda Britt	Margaret Gillia	Sherelle Matthews	Carolyn Syphax-Young
Diane Brown-Blair	Audrey Gordon	Eilene D. Maupin	Sheena Taborn
Francine Brown	Sharon Graham	Karen C. McDowell	Janet Taylor
H. Deon Brown	Debra Green	Sheila McKoy	Jewlette Thompson
Theresa Ann Brown	Dorothy Green	Mercidees McTeer	Joyce Thompson
Pamela Chambers-Logie	Pam Greer	Peggy Mezile	Marilyn Thompson
Lisa Charles	Eleanor Grier	Shirley Michaud	Earnestine Thornton
Mary Christian	Rosa Grillo	Shirley Miller	Lucille Tomkins Davis
Marie Colbert	Carol Hall	Phyllis Moran	Debbie Trice
Margaret Coleman	Margaret Harrison	Debbie Ortiz	Beverlyn Truehart
Harriet Cowan	Angela Hawkins	Nila Stovall Padarathsingh	LaRonna Underwood
Desiree Cross	Karimu Hill-Harvey	Kimberly Parris	Penny Walker
Linda Crump	Annazette Houston	Shirley Pickett	Phyllis Way
Dana Cunningham	Karen Hunter	Kathleen Pinkett	Winsome Wells
Pamela Curd	Margaret Hunter	Jeanette Planes	Denise West
			Joyce White
			Lois Wilkins
			Sheryl Williams
			Michelle Woodard
			Jackie Woods
			Carla Young

*Please visit our website [MasalaGivingCircle.org](https://MasalaGivingCircle.org) if you would like to know more about us. You can also find an application to join our wonderful organization.*

*A heartfelt congratulations to our 2024 Masala Grant Award Recipients!*