



## America's Black Forum Episode Synopsis

**Episode Number: 21-05**  
**Week of November 27, 2021**

This week on **America's Black Forum**:

### **Life After the George Floyd Murder**

In the wake of the George Floyd murder, people around the world protested against police violence. Voters in Minneapolis where Floyd was murdered, were recently asked if they want to create a Public Safety Department to oversee the Police Department. This week's episode will look at the outcome of the vote, we'll speak to people impacted by police violence in Minneapolis and hear their personal stories. We'll also hear from those opposed to making changes to the police. Interviews include: **Marnita Schroedl**, CEO of Marnita's Table in Minneapolis has been holding community dinners to bring people together to talk about issues, their differences and their similarities. **Andrea Jenkins**, Vice President of the Minneapolis City Council, represents Ward 8 which includes the intersection where George Floyd was murdered.

### **Maintaining the George Floyd Memorial**

The spot where George Floyd was murdered has turned into a lush, green memorial. Thousands have visited the spot. **Jay Webb** is just a regular guy who has taken it upon himself to care for the garden there. It's his passion. Jay says he wants to inspire the world to change. In addition to tending to the garden, he has a lot to say about what happened on May 25, 2020 and about police violence and systemic racism. **Angela Harrelson**, George Floyd's aunt, is at George Floyd Memorial several times a week, chatting with people, sharing hugs and tears with them...she calls it a Sacred Place for Healing.

### **Black-Owned Kids Lifestyle Brand**

EPIC EVERYDAY, Inc. was co-founded by two sisters, **Cara Johnson-Graves and Jenae Johnson-Carr**, who were frustrated with the inability to find images on merchandise that

reflected their children. They are wives, mothers and developers of a kids lifestyle brand that celebrates diversity. Their Happy Hues collection of book bags, totes and other items highlight diverse relatable characters with a variety of skin tones, hair textures, and styles familiar in the Black culture. EPIC EVERYDAY has a mission to inspire children to be **Empowered, Positive, Innovative, and Creative!**



## America's Black Forum Episode Synopsis

**Episode Number: 21-06**  
**Week of December 4, 2021**

This week on **America's Black Forum**:

### **Find our Missing: We all Deserve the Same Attention**

Find our Missing: We all Deserve the Same Attention will focus on the lack of national attention given to missing Blacks. Nearly 40% of missing persons are persons of color, but Blacks make up on 13% of the population. The Gabby Petito case has put a spotlight on the disparities in the search for missing people. In Oct. 2019, Kierra Coles disappeared from her Chicago apartment and three years later, she's still missing, with no leads, no answers and according to her mother **Karen Phillips**, no cooperation from the police. **La Shann Walker** shares the same sentiment. Her 21-year-old daughter Diamond Bynum and 2-year-old grandson King Walker, disappeared from a relative's home in Gary, Indiana. What these two mothers have in common is neither one of their cases received national attention or major resources. They want change, not only for their children, but for all missing Blacks.

### **Black Owned Drive-In Theatre**

Co-founders and husband-and-wife **Ayana Morris and Siree Morris** opened Newark Moonlight Cinema after seeing an opportunity while a pandemic plagued the world. Through the drive-in service, one of the few Black-owned theaters in the country, they were able to host over 20,000 cars during 2020. Today, the theatre is just as busy. People from all over Brick city take the drive to enjoy the Black themed movies and inviting environment four days a week.



## America's Black Forum Episode Synopsis

**Episode Number: 21-07**  
**Week of December 11, 2021**

This week on **America's Black Forum**:

### **Black Student Debt**

Is the student debt crisis a racial justice issue? Some experts and proponents of student loan debt cancellation believe so. Black and brown people are often required to have more education to get the same salaries and positions their white counterparts can get with less education but doing so comes at a high price. On average, black college graduates owe \$25,000 more in student loan debt than White college graduates and four years after graduation, 48% of Black students owe an average of 12.5% more than they borrowed. In this segment, we will investigate the black student debt crisis, how it is impacting black families, and what the Biden administration and other lawmakers are doing to address this issue. Interviews include: **Braxton Brewington**, of the Debt Collective and **Jalil Bishop**, Assistant Professor at Villanova University

### **Black-Owned Wine Brand**

**Chrishon Lampley** is in a lane of her own. After two decades in the wine industry, in 2013 Lampley ventured out and launched her own label, Love Cork Screw. Now her lifestyle brand can be purchased in major stores and food chains throughout the country, and Lampley says she's just getting started. In this segment we will discuss what it means to be a black female négociant in a profession dominated by white men and how she's pushing the boundaries to create a space of her own.

### **Taking Ballet to a New Level**

Hiplet (Hip-Lay) is a fusion of two completely different dance styles – ballet and hip hop. **Homer Hans Bryant** has taught ballet since the 1980s and created Hiplet in 2007 as a way to bring new energy and students to his classes. These students, mostly African American,

are exposed to and learn classical ballet, with a hip twist. Hippet has also given these young dancers a chance to express their creativity in a way the classical ballet industry ordinarily shuns. Hippet performance videos have gone viral, the group has received praise from traditional ballet critics and recently made an appearance on the hit show "America's Got Talent."



## America's Black Forum Episode Synopsis

**Episode Number: 21-08**  
**Week of December 18, 2021**

This week on **America's Black Forum**:

### **A Look at HBCUs - What More Needs to be Done?**

Historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) have been in the news lately, and the news has been good. They've received hundreds of millions of dollars in donations and more attention from Congress, but is this enough? Thurgood Marshall College Fund President and CEO **Harry L. Williams** and Winston-Salem State University student **Sharandica Midcalf** weigh in on this.

### **Roller Skating with Legendary Skater Calvin Small**

In the early 70s Chicagoan **Calvin Small** and his friends became trailblazing roller skaters with an innovative skating style that was artistic yet graceful and fluid. They called it J.B. Skating. J.B. signified the type of music they skated to – the smooth R&B songs of James Brown and other artists like him – music with the perfect beat, it created the perfect background for their skating routines. For nearly 50 years, Calvin has witnessed how J.B. Skating has influenced and inspired skaters all over the world. This now legendary roller skater is excited to see how a new generation is shining a light on skating's influence on black culture and building upon his foundation to take J.B. Skating to a whole new level.

### **All Black Team will Climb Mt. Everest Next Year**

The Full Circle Everest Expedition, a group of 9 skilled African-American mountaineers will climb Mount Everest in 2022. The goal is to introduce the outdoors and mountain climbing to a new generation of African-Americans. Climber **Eddie Taylor** is a Boulder, Colorado

high school teacher and member of the Full Circle group. He says in addition to making history, he hopes to bring more diversity into the outdoor sport.



## America's Black Forum Episode Synopsis

**Episode Number: 21-09**  
**Week of December 25, 2021**

This week on **America's Black Forum:**

### **Mississippi and Covid**

Mississippi recently overtook New Jersey as the state with the highest per-capita death toll from Covid-19. Who's dying, who's getting vaccinated, and what are the underlying health factors contributing to covid deaths? More than 1-thousand Black Mississippians who died from Covid had high-blood pressure and nearly 800 had diabetes. **Dr. Victor Sutton**, Director, Office of Preventive Health and Health Equity, Mississippi Department of Health and **Michelle Owens**, Deputy Director of Nursing, Jackson Hinds Comprehensive Health, offer their opinions.

### **Former Beauty Queen Making Her Mark**

28-year-old **Arekia Bennett** is an up-and-comer in the world of Mississippi politics. Arekia is Executive Director of Mississippi Votes, a group young people who are working to engage more young Mississippians in the state's electoral process. They have added thousands of young people to the Mississippi voting rolls, and hope to begin grooming young candidates. The former Miss Black Mississippi says Mississippi Votes strives to empower young Black Mississippians with the tools they need to effect change in their communities.

### **History Lesson in Every Cup**

Husband and wife team **Catrice and Jakyra Hixon** turned a vision into a dream when they opened Melanin Cafe. Not only is this a place to get a warm or cold beverage, but according to Catrice, each drink is named for a lesser known Black contributor or landmark. A dose of history with each cup makes this Opelika, Alabama cafe a unique blend of coffee and culture.