



Ali Siddiq on Laughter, Life and Finding Connection

Ahead of his Custom Fit Tour stop at the Victoria Theatre on Oct. 1, comedian Ali Siddiq talks storytelling, fatherhood and the moments when laughter turns into medicine.

By RoShawn Winburn
Dayton Weekly News

Sometimes you know why something is funny before the comedian reaches the punchline. He mentions the look your mother gave you when you acted up in public. You laugh because you recognize it.

That was the idea I brought to my conversation with comedian Ali Siddiq ahead of his Oct. 1 Custom Fit Tour show at the Victoria Theatre. Siddiq complicated it. “Culture matters,” he agreed, “but a story told honestly enough can reach people who didn’t grow up where you did and haven’t lived your life.”

“I think that’s the best thing about me,” Siddiq said. “I haven’t written a joke in probably about eight years.”

Instead, he builds the people, places and circumstances until the humor comes out of the world he creates. Watching him feels like sitting on the porch while somebody tells you what



Ali Siddiq

happened.

It works. Vulture has called him “stand-up comedy’s most prolific storyteller.” This year his special Rugged won three Webby Awards, and My Two Sons won the NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Variety (Series or Special).

When I asked whether he ever has to explain cultural references to mixed audiences, he answered with a story about fishing.

“There was a white man with a swastika tattooed on his head, a Mexican man, a Black man, a Muslim man. All of them were fishing, and nobody was catching anything for hours. Suddenly one man

caught something, and we all jumped in.”

They celebrated together, because, as he put it, “There’s no racism in fishing!”

Good comedy finds that same common ground. Siddiq also rejects the idea that Black comedy has to fit a stereotype, pointing to Dick Gregory. Being funny isn’t enough. He wants people to leave with something.

Ask Siddiq when his career began and he gives you a date, not a year. He quotes December 4, 1997, without even thinking about it.

He learned the craft a few minutes at a time, opening, hosting and featuring in small rooms never meant for comedy, sometimes waiting two weeks to get paid.

“I am the poster child for perseverance and mental fortitude,” he said.

Today he produces his own specials and releases them free on YouTube, no network required. Yet, he knows being seen and being good are two different

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Sinclair’s Tartan TOPS Program Marks Milestone Years of Empowering Students with Intellectual Disabilities

Sinclair Community College’s acclaimed Transition Options in Postsecondary Education (Tartan TOPS) program continues to drive remarkable success in expanding educational and career pathways for students with intellectual disabilities.

Tartan TOPS is a 26-credit short-term certificate program that provides an educational and career pathway for students with intellectual disabilities. Through inclusive coursework and internships, students develop academic, employment, independent-living, and self-advocacy skills

that help prepare them for greater independence and meaningful employment.

“I was hesitant to join college at first because I had a hard time making friends and socializing,” said Andrew “AJ” Beeghly, a Sinclair Tartan TOPS student.

“I was nervous I wouldn’t be a successful college student, but I gained confidence through the Tartan TOPS Program. I have made the Dean’s List every semester of the program. I’ve enjoyed all the fun moments I’ve had and I hope to graduate and go for my associate’s degree after my time at Tar-

tan TOPS.”

Since its inception in 2021, the program has experienced extraordinary growth, expanding significantly from its original pilot cohort of just four (4) students. All total, Tartan TOPS has served 117 participants since 2021.

“Tartan TOPS is another great example of the value Sinclair provides to Montgomery County and our surrounding region,” said Dr. Lisa Mahle-Grisez, Vice Provost at Sinclair.

“As we talk about Sinclair’s role in pre-

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THE SESSIONS PERSPECTIVE

Before You Start a Business, Understand What Ownership Requires

By DJ Sessions

DJ Sessions, Founder of Sessions Lending Group (SLG)

In my last article, I asked a direct question: Who will own our neighborhoods?

I challenged us to think about owning more of the homes, businesses, and commercial properties in Dayton, Cincinnati, and Columbus.

But encouraging ownership without discussing what ownership requires would be irresponsible.

Starting a business can create income, jobs, and generational wealth.

It can also create debt, stress, and financial hardship when the owner is unprepared. That is the honest conversation we need to have.

Business Ownership Is Similar to Homeownership

Buying a home and owning a business may appear different, but the foundations are similar.

A homebuyer needs steady income. A business needs consistent revenue. A homeowner needs emergency reserves. A business owner needs working capital. A home requires maintenance. A business requires continued investment.

A mortgage application requires financial records. A business seeking financing needs accurate bookkeeping, tax returns, and organized documentation.

A homebuyer must understand more than the mortgage payment. There are taxes, insurance, repairs, utilities, and unexpected expenses. Business ownership works the same way. Gross sales are not the same as profit.

Revenue may look impressive, but the business must still pay taxes, insurance, payroll, employment-related costs, technology, marketing, professional fees, and other operating expenses.



What remains after those bills are paid is what truly matters.

An LLC Is Not a Business

ness.

Registering an LLC does not automatically create a successful business.

ness.

An LLC is a legal structure. A business

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Procurement Pathways Event



A Procurement Pathways event will be held on Tuesday, September 15, 2026, 5:30pm - 8:00pm. at the University of Dayton Arena | Boesch Lounge, 1801 S. Edwin C. Moses Blvd. Dayton, Ohio 45417. The event is open to all businesses and individuals interested in growing their networks and exploring new opportunities.

The event is designed to connect small businesses and entrepreneurs with valuable networking opportunities, procurement professionals, business

resources, and banking opportunities. It is hosted by the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce, The Dayton Region Minority Business Assistance Center, University of Dayton, Greater West Dayton Incubator, and the National Black MBA Association.

It will include a panel discussion highlighting practical strategies for building relationships with buyers, navigating today’s procurement landscape, and positioning your business for long-term success. The attendees will also have the opportunity to network di-

rectly with procurement representatives from leading public and private organizations seeking to expand their supplier networks.

Advanced registration is required. To register for the event, access the following link: <https://daytonareachamberofcommerce.growthzoneapp.com/event-calendar/Details/procurement-pathways-september-2026-1869635?sourceType=d=Website>.

For additional information or questions contact Natasha Sandella at 937-226-8269.

Dayton Branch NAACP Town Hall “Meet the Candidates Forum!”



The Dayton Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) will host a community Town Hall titled, “Meet the Candidates Forum,” on Monday, September 28, 2026, from 6:45 p.m. (or sooner) to 7:50 p.m. The forum will be held at Grace United Methodist Church located at 1001 Harvard Blvd., Dayton, Ohio 45406, and will also be broadcast live on the Dayton Branch NAACP Facebook page.

This event is dedicated to candidates running for the following Office’s:

- Representative to Congress - 10th District
- State Representative - 36th District
- State Representative - 37th District
- State Representative - 39th District
- County Commissioner
- County Auditor
- Judge of the Court of Common Pleas
- Judge of the Court of Common Pleas - Juvenile Division
- Judge of the Court of Common Pleas - Probate Division

The discussion will be

moderated by Tom Roberts, 2nd Vice President and Chair of the Dayton Branch NAACP Education Committee.

“This will be an excellent opportunity to hear first-hand from the candidates that are running for office,” said Roberts. Every election is critically important. The candidates elected this November will make decisions at the Local level that will affect our lives on a daily basis, said Roberts.”

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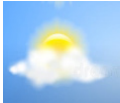


Around DAYTON

Miami Valley Weather

Saturday

Partly Cloudy
High 47
Low 74



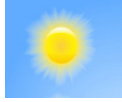
Sunday

Sunny
High 49
Low 75



Monday

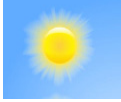
Sunny
High 50
Low 74



5 day Forecast

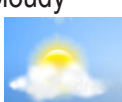
Tuesday

Sunny
High 56
Low 77



Wednesday

Mostly Cloudy
High 62
Low 79



"Unleashing Your Authentic Leadership"

Tuesday, October 13, 2026
6:30pm via Zoom

Join us for this informational session.

Step into a fresh, practical conversation about what it means to lead with authenticity. In this engaging 60-minute virtual session, participants will explore how our values, experiences, and leadership style shape the way we build trust, influence others, and show up in moments that matter, while also finding the balance through each season.

Through reflection, real-world discussion, and simple leadership practice, attendees will leave with greater clarity, confidence, and a personal commitment they can apply right away.

For Zoom connection info go to
[NBMBAAdayton.org/events](https://nbmbaadayton.org/events)

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DML's Free Legal Programs

The Greater Dayton Volunteer Lawyers Project (GDVLP) and other county offices and organizations will host free programs at Dayton Metro Library in October:

Veteran ID Information Session, Monday, October 5, 5:30-6:30 pm, and Friday, October 23, 2-3 pm, Trotwood Branch: Representatives from Lori Kennedy's Montgomery County Office will discuss the Veteran ID Card Program, which ensures veterans securely record their DD-214 and obtain a valid form of state-issued identification that can help with obtaining healthcare, burial benefits, specialized loans, store discounts, and more.

Rent Escrow Informational Clinic, Tuesday, October 6, 3-5 pm, Main Library, Community Room A: Lawyers from the GDVLP will discuss how and where to place rent money in escrow when resolving issues with a landlord or seeking to recover a security deposit.

Divorce Clinic, Wednesday, October 7, 3-5 pm, Main Library, Tech Lab B: Receive a step-by-step guide to completing divorce paperwork online with the GDVLP.

Driver's License Reinstatement Clinic, Friday, October 16, 1-3 pm, West Branch: Attorneys from the Montgomery County Office of the Public Defender will meet with patrons to discuss barriers to obtaining a driver's license and strategies for reinstatement. This is a walk-in event, with sign-ups beginning at noon.

Protecting Your Future, Tuesday, October 27, 4-5:30 pm, Northwest Branch: Representatives from Lori Kennedy's

Montgomery County Office will highlight valuable programs and services available through the Recorder's Office: The Transfer on Death (which allows real estate transfer upon death) and the Veteran ID Card (which honors those who have served) programs and the Fraud Alert Notification System (which helps protect property owners against potential deed fraud). Registration required.

Ask a Lawyer, Friday, October 30, 10 am-3 pm, Main Library, Community Room A: Lawyers from the GDVLP will be available to answer patron questions about employment law, landlord/tenant issues, contracts and warranties, wills and probate, simple divorce issues, and debt collection. Appointments will be limited to 25 minutes.

For more information and to register if required, visit DaytonMetroLibrary.org or call the Library's Ask Me Line at 937.463.2665.

Focus on Your Finances at DML

Dayton Metro Library has partnered with Wright-Patt Credit Union to host a Finances in Focus series in October.

This four-week series will explore a different topic during each session. All sessions will be held on Thursdays from 6-7:30 pm, in The Center for Community Impact & Innovation at the Main Library. Registration is

required. Sessions: October 1: Discover your money habits and learn about behavioral economics. October 8: Build and manage a sustainable monthly budget. October 22: Gain confidence in understanding and managing credit while debunking common credit myths.

DML Celebrates National Hispanic Heritage Month

Dayton Metro Library continues offering a variety of programs for all ages in celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month (NHHM) in October.

Day of the Dead Crafts, Monday, September 28, 4-5:30 pm, Northwest Branch: Make skulls using milk cartons or paper plates while learning about this Mexican holiday. Teens

New Lebanon Branch Book Club, Tuesday, September 29, 10:30-11:30 am, New Lebanon Branch: Read Violeta by Isabel Allende, then meet to discuss. Adults

Homeschool Art Club: Lourdes Villagomez, Monday, October 5, 11 am-12 pm, Miamisburg Branch: Create a project inspired by the contemporary Mexican artist and graphic designer Lourdes Villagomez. All families with children are welcome.

Paper Cut Molas, Monday, October 5, 4:30-5:30 pm, Miami Township Branch: Molas are vibrant textiles created by the Indigenous people of Panama and Colombia. Make your own using construction paper. Grades 1-4

Amate Bark Art, Tuesday, October 6, 3:30-4:30 pm, Northmont Branch: Learn about this traditional Mesoamerican art form, created by Indigenous peoples of what is now Mexico, then create your own. Teens

Lotería! Draw Your Sto-

ry, Tuesday, October 6, -5 pm, Miamisburg Branch: Lotería is a Mexican card game with roots centuries old. Explore its cultural history, play a round, and then design your own card. Teens

Orgullo Mexicano: Celebrating Mexican Roots, Saturday, October 10, 2-2:30 pm, Wilmington-Stroop Branch: Enjoy performances of Mexican folkloric dances and learn a few steps. All Ages

Preschool Storytime, Wednesday, October 14, 11-11:45 am, Huber Heights Branch: Celebrate the month with stories, crafts, songs, and other fun activities. Ages 3-5

Paper Cut Molas, Thursday, October 15, 5-6 pm, Main Library, Teen Edge: Molas are vibrant textiles created by the Indigenous people of Panama and Colombia. Make your own using construction paper. Teens

Heritage Cooking for Health Workshop, Thursday, October 15, 6-7:30 pm, Miamisburg Branch: Explore traditional food practices that support well-being and healthy aging by preparing a plant-based recipe that demonstrates how a time-honored approach to cooking can support everyday health. Registration required – limited spots remain. Adults

Family Storytime, Tuesday, October 20, 5-5:45 pm, Trotwood Branch: Enjoy quality time with books, songs, and activities focused on Hispanic

heritage. Families Hispanic Heritage Month Cooking Workshop, Thursday, October 22, 6-7:30 pm, Huber Heights Branch: Prepare a Latin American plant-based dish by exploring key ingredients, flavors, and cultural influences. Registration required. Adults

Pantry to Plate Cooking Demo: Simple Meals from Everyday Ingredients, Wednesday, October 28, 3-4 pm, Northwest Branch: Learn practical techniques and leave with recipes to recreate at home that are simple, affordable, and satisfying. Registration required. Adults

Teen DIY: Build Your Perfect Plant-Based Burrito Bowl, Tuesday, November 3, 5-6:30 pm, West Branch: Learn to create a balanced and affordable meal by preparing fresh salsa and plant-based proteins, then building your own burrito bowl. Registration required. Teens

Preschool Storytime, Wednesday, November 4, 11-11:45 am, Huber Heights Branch: Celebrate the month with stories, crafts, songs, and other fun activities. Ages 3-5

For more information and to register, visit DaytonMetroLibrary.org or call the Library's Ask Me Line at 937.463.2665.

Nominate a Father for DML's 3rd Annual Event

Dayton Metro Library is seeking nominations for its third annual Flowers for Fathers: Honoring Our Heroes ceremony through Wednesday, October 14.

Community members are invited to nominate fathers and father figures who defy stereotypes and embody love, courage, and commitment to their families and communities. Nominees must reside in Montgomery County and may be of any race or ethnicity.

Nominations can be

made by visiting <https://bit.ly/4jfcyTh> and clicking on the form link.

Selected individuals will receive DML's 2026 Flowers for Fathers award on Saturday, November 14, 1-3 pm in the Bassani Theater Off Third, 3rd Floor at the Main Library. The event will also include an exclusive afternoon candlelight perfor-

mance headlined by Vibe 5 and Charles Oliver.

Flowers for Fathers: Honoring Our Heroes is supported by DML's The Center for Community Impact & Inclusion.

For more information, visit DaytonMetroLibrary.org. Questions may also be directed to the Library's Ask Me Line at 93.463.2665.

Love on The Westside Pt. 2

Hearing shots really became normal where I'm from.

Being tucked in abruptly by the sound of an unloading gun.

Maybe he got away if he got the chance to run. Or maybe my optimism is just as faint as the rest of the air left inside of his lungs.

The hood ain't take all my innocence, feeling as free as my one hand dangling riding my bike.

Drill teams were entertaining, but dreams of playing the drums only became real when them cannon's became my nick at night.

-1 bang followed by 2 more, you outta yo mind if you ain't getting outta sight.

Yellow tape or teddy bear memorials somehow became the dedicated plight.

Curses surrounding our people fervently. No fathers in these homes so with growing up, it's always an urgency.

Children not knowing their opportunities, he dropped out & ended up with the wrong first degree.

Born with the odds against us so even, if we're innocent, we're guilty eternally.

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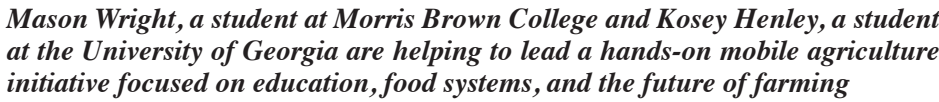
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Two Black Teens Launch Mobile Farm to Inspire the Next Generation of Agriculture Enthusiasts



represent a new generation of young leaders helping reshape how communities understand agriculture, food production, entrepreneurship, and emerging growing technology.

The Plant It Georgia Mobile Farm introduces participants to modern and traditional agricultural concepts through direct, hands-on learning. Programming includes aeroponics, hydroponics, aquaponics, indoor vertical farming, seed germination, plant nutrition, lighting, airflow, pest management, harvesting, food access, sustainability, and agricultural entrepreneurship. Rather than requiring participants to

travel to a farm, laboratory, or specialized training center, Plant It Georgia is bringing the learning environment directly to the community.

“Plant It Georgia powered by Equity for All and The Georgia Coalition for the People’s Agenda” was created to show young people that agriculture is much bigger than what they may traditionally imagine,” said Wright. “Agriculture includes science, technology, business, engineering, sustainability, food production, and entrepreneurship. The Mobile Farm gives people the opportunity to see that for themselves.”

The Mobile Farm is designed as a working classroom on wheels. Participants will be able to see live plants growing in vertical systems, understand how water and nutrients move through modern growing equipment, learn how seeds become mature plants, and experience the complete growing process from germination through harvest. Henley, through his role as Fellow, will support Plant It Georgia's educational and community programming while gaining direct experience in agriculture, leadership, outreach, and hands-on learning. The initiative is also designed to expose students to careers connected to agriculture that they may not have previously considered, including agricultural technology, environmental science, engineering, food production, agribusiness, sustainability, logistics, entrepreneurship, and community development.

Plant It Georgia has already provided agricultural learning experiences for youth, seniors, recreation centers, camps, apartment communities, college students, and families. The Mobile Farm will allow the organization to reach additional communities by

transporting growing systems, educational equipment, demonstrations, and instruction directly to participants. The organization is preparing a series of structured learning cohorts that will provide practical instruction in areas including plant science, growing systems, germination, nutrients, lighting, airflow, pest management, harvesting, food sourcing, and agricultural business concepts.

Plant It Georgia has received \$10,000 in startup support to help launch the Mobile Farm and expand its community-based agriculture education efforts. A major focus of the project is helping address the future of agriculture by introducing younger generations to farming, food systems, and agricultural careers in a way that is modern, relevant, and accessible. “We are not simply teaching people how to grow a plant,” Wright said. “We are helping people understand how food is produced, how technology is changing agriculture, and how they can become growers, scientists, entrepreneurs, innovators, and leaders in the food system.”

The Mobile Farm also reflects Plant It Georgia’s

broader commitment to connecting education with real-world experience. By placing college students, young leaders, and community participants directly inside the learning process, the initiative is designed to create pathways from curiosity to knowledge, from knowledge to skills, and from skills to opportunity.

About

Plant It Georgia is an agriculture and agri-tech education initiative founded by Mason Wright. The organization focuses on hands-on learning in aeroponics, hydroponics, aquaponics, indoor vertical farming, food systems, sustainability, entrepreneurship, and workforce development. Through mobile demonstrations, community programming, educational cohorts, fellowships, and practical growing experiences, Plant It Georgia works to make agriculture accessible to people of all ages while helping prepare the next generation of growers, innovators, entrepreneurs, and agricultural leaders. Follow the program on Instagram @PlantItGA

ease, drawing hundreds of healthcare professionals, researchers, patients, families, community-based organizations, leaders and advocates.

“We’re bringing together leaders in sickle cell disease research, clinical care, advocacy and community engagement to share knowledge, inspire action and drive progress for individuals and families affected by sickle cell disease,” said Regina Hartfield, president and CEO of the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America Inc. “As we embrace this year’s theme of hope, we look forward to fostering collaboration

and empowering attendees with the latest information, resources and strategies to improve lives and make meaningful steps toward a universal cure.”

Convention speakers and presentations will include:

- Dr. Payal Desai, director of the Sickle Cell Disease Enterprise at Atrium Health Levine Cancer Institute, will deliver the Charles F. Whitten, M.D., Memorial Lecture: “Bridging the Gap: Ensuring Lifelong Access to Excellence in Sickle Cell Care.”
- Dr. Adetola Kassim, professor of medicine in the division of hematology,

clean up flower beds, improve soil health, and prepare landscapes for a strong spring. Receive hands-on practice dividing perennials to manage overcrowding and rejuvenate plant growth. Registration required.

Garden Club: Compost, Friday, October 9, 4:30-5:30 pm, Wilmington-Stroop Branch: Make countertop compost containers and learn how to use fall leaves to benefit your garden.

Sustainable Saturdays:
Fall Plant & Seed Swap,
Saturday, October 17, 10-
11 am, Kettering-Moraine
Branch: Bring cuttings, di-
visions, propagated plants,
bulbs, or extra seeds to
share with fellow garden-
ers.

For more information
and to register if required,
visit [DaytonMetroLi-
brary.org](http://DaytonMetroLibrary.org) or call the Li-
brary's Ask Me Line at
37.463.2665.

logy and oncology at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, will deliver the Kwaku Oheh-Frempong, M.D., Memorial Symposium: "Stroke Awareness Through the Lifespan."

- Dr. Sophie Lanzkron, director of the division of hematology at Thomas Jefferson University, will deliver the Lennette Benjamin, M.D., Memorial Lecture: "Pain Management Redefined."
- Dr. Isaac Odame, director of the hemoglobinopathy program at the Hospital for Sick Children, will deliver the Global Perspectives on Sickle Cell Disease Lecture: "Perspectives on Sickle Cell Disease in Sub-Saharan Africa."
- Dr. Georges C. Benjamin, CEO of the American Public Health Association, will present a national advocacy update: "The Current State of Sickle Cell Disease in Today's Federal Government."
- Dr. Adetola Kassim, professor of medicine in the division of hematology and oncology at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, and Dr. Andrew Campbell, director of the Comprehensive Sickle Cell Disease Program at Children's National, will lead the "Summit on Stem Cell Transplant and Cellular Therapies: Where Are We Now?"

Additional convention events include exhibit hall presentations, advocacy lectures, educational workshops, medical reports, panel discussions, award presentations, social events, and an evening gala. Participants will have the opportunity

to connect and interact with healthcare leaders and professionals and gain new relationships, knowledge, and resources. Pfizer is the legacy sponsor of the national convention. Novo Nordisk is the visionary sponsor, and Agios is the diamond sponsor. To learn more and register, visit SickleCellDisease.org/annual-national-convention

Sickle cell disease is a rare inherited blood disease causing red blood cells to take a sickle shape, which leads to blockages that prevent blood from reaching parts of the body. As a result, people with sickle cell complications can experience anemia, jaundice, gallstones, stroke, chronic pain, organ damage, and premature death. No universal cure

exists.

About Sickle Cell Disease Association of America Inc. advocates for people affected by sickle cell conditions and empowers community-based organizations to maximize quality of life and raise public consciousness while advancing the search for a universal cure. The association and more than 55 member organizations support sickle cell research, public and professional health education, and patient and community services. Learn more at SickleCellDisease.org

For press inquiries, contact info@sicklecelldisease.org or (800) 421-8453

MONTGOMERY COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION



VA Eligibility Assistance

- Claims, pension, and benefits submission

Transportation Services

- Transportation is provided at no cost for medical appointments in Montgomery County including those requiring assistance with mobility devices

Legal Services

- No-cost legal consultations and estate planning for Veterans with our staff attorney

Emergency Financial Assistance

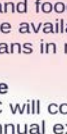
- Rent, utility, and food assistance are available for eligible Veterans in need

Dental Care

- MCVSC will cover the cost of an annual exam, cleaning, and fluoride treatment for Veterans without dental coverage

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SCAN FOR ALL 12 LISTINGS

THE SESSIONS PERSPECTIVE

Before You Start a Business, Understand What Ownership Requires... Continued from Page 1

must have a product or service, paying customers, reliable operations, financial records, and a plan for producing consistent revenue.

A logo, website, and social media page may help people see the business. They do not prove that the business works.

Before spending heavily on appearances, an owner should be able to answer:

Who is the customer?

What problem does the business solve?

Why will someone pay for the solution?

What does it cost to deliver the product or service?

How will the business consistently find customers?

How much money is

needed to survive the first year?

If those answers are unclear, the business is not ready.

Save More Than You Think You Need

One of the hardest lessons in business is that cash flow does not always arrive when the bills are due.

Business can be cyclical. Strong months may be followed by slow months. Customers may pay late. Equipment may fail. Taxes may be higher than expected. Hiring employees brings payroll taxes, insurance, benefits, and other employment-related costs.

I wish more aspiring owners were told to save more before opening their doors. A business can be profitable on paper and

still fail because it runs out of cash.

The goal should not simply be to launch. The goal should be to remain in business long enough to grow.

Starting and Buying Are Both Valid Paths

Some entrepreneurs will build a business from the ground up. Others may acquire an existing business with customers, employees, revenue, and operating systems already in place. Neither path is automatically easier.

A founder must prove that the idea works. A buyer must determine whether the existing business is truly as strong as it appears.

Before acquiring a business, examine its tax returns, financial statements, debt, payroll, contracts,

leases, licensing, customer relationships, and legal obligations. Ask why the owner is selling. Determine whether the business can operate without that owner.

Buying a business without proper investigation can be as dangerous as buying a house without an inspection.

Ownership Must Include a Long-Term Plan

Many owners work hard to build something but never decide what should happen when they retire, become disabled, or pass away. That is a serious mistake.

Business succession planning and estate planning should not be reserved for wealthy people or large corporations. Owners need written plans that explain who can operate, inherit, sell, or close

the business.

The same applies to real estate. If property is not titled and planned for correctly, the next generation may inherit confusion, conflict, unpaid taxes, or legal expenses instead of wealth.

Generational wealth requires more than acquiring assets. It requires protecting them and preparing the next generation to manage them.

Before You Start

Before forming another company, buying equipment, or spending money on branding, take these five steps:

Identify the customer and the problem you will solve.

Calculate startup costs and at least one year of operating expenses.

Separate personal and business finances.

Build a team that may include an accountant, attorney, banker, lender, insurance professional, and mentor.

Create a plan for growth, succession, and estate protection.

Business ownership can change a family and strengthen a community. But ownership is not only an opportunity. It is a responsibility.

We need more Black-owned businesses in our communities. We also need those businesses to be properly funded, professionally managed, financially organized, and built to survive.

Starting is worth celebrating.

Staying in business, creating jobs, and passing something forward is the real goal.

JUST LISTED

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Editorial & Comments

Ladies and Gentlemen

By: Carol Prewitt, President
Prewitt Consulting LLC, Civility an Etiquette Training



Two of your best friends in life will be a positive attitude and a confident image.

Why Dining Etiquette Matters

Dining etiquette is the basic rules and customs you follow while eating with others. Different cultures have their own twists, but knowing the general guidelines is key. Studies have shown that people who show good dining etiquette are seen as more competent and likable. This positive perception can lead to better job opportunities because good manners can make a lasting impression during business meals and interviews.

In the business world, dining etiquette (or table manners) can provide you great opportunities to establish relationships, negotiate deals, and make positive impressions. It can significantly impact your professional interactions.

Some key benefits of dining etiquette:

It builds strong relationships. Sharing a meal can create informal, relaxed conversations, helping to build stronger, more personal connections.

It creates a good impression: Proper table manners show professionalism, confidence, and respect, enhancing your image and that of your organization.

It negotiates deals. A dining setting can create a comfortable atmosphere for discussing business matters and negotiating deals.

Understands cultural differences. Respecting dining customs from different cultures is vital in a global business environment. Knowing how to handle different dining settings and glassware can make or break your impression and mastering it can boost your confidence and grace

Something to Consider: Resisting Discouragement

By: Brenda Cochran
Contributing Writer

Did you know that discouragement is a choice? Many might reply that because of the state of many states, cities, towns, refusing to be discouraged is not very easy these days. If you are feeling discouraged, it's because you've allowed yourself to feel that way. No one is forcing you to feel bad, so it seems that we all have to remember to hang on and do what's right in spite of how we are feeling.

There are many quotes and affirmations about the state of feeling discouraged. According to Cathy Burnham Martin, an American Author, voiceover artist, actress and former television anchor, "Discouragers are people that see the gloom in every room, the cloud on every silver lining, and the problem on every situation."

The meaning of discouragement can be found in the word itself – indicating the opposite of, or the absence of courage. The individual who feels this way is less confident, less hopeful, distressed and fearful, losing hope for the future or feeling down on him/herself with a poor sense of worth.

If you are experiencing any of these qualities, there are some things that you can do in order to cope with, and even resist and/or conquer discouragement. It would probably be helpful to know the causes of this condition.

An example is: suppose a friend promises to visit you, and delays for a day. This may bring about some disappointment, but not likely discouragement – unless the promise has been made, but broken on several occasions, over time, discouragement only increases as day after day passes and the hope for circumstances do not occur. Delay of a promise is at the bottom of these dejected feelings.

Additional causes of discouragement include the following: Fatigue from overwork or stress, facing endless difficulties or feeling frustration over too much to do; Loneliness or feeling neglected, Harsh supervision or discipline. This can apply to not only children, but to those relationships with adults who are difficult to deal with; Failures in the past; Fear of criticism or of failure; Illness or injury and weakness it brings; and Faith in God or your higher being.

This list seems lengthy, but just like there are causes, there are remedies for discouragement. The first is: 1) Getting better organized – which can be our time, our living space, or disorganization and clutter. If you are able to plan a realistic schedule of the work to be done and make sure your surroundings are free of clutter, this will definitely help. 2) Rest and providing recreation for your body and mind. If there is a challenge of a health issues, you need to do your best to maintain good health. Most, need a break, even if for a short span of time. Laughter also helps. Take some time to watch a funny show on television or taking the time to read f humorous book. 3) Looking for friends who are encouraging. Most of us need to work at making friends who will accept us as we are and who are a strength and encouragement type of people. In the choosing of friends who encouraging, you can remember to avoid friends who are bitter, friends who seem to like to criticize you, friends who seem to be needy or stingy or those who speak negatively about everything and everybody.

Although discouragement is a common malady, keep the causes and remedies in mind and remember to resist discouragement also through faith and through prayer.



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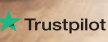
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Invitation for Bid

GD 26-54 Security Camera Maintenance & Repair

Due Date: 10/27/2026, 11:00 AM EST via OpenGov.

The Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority (RTA) is soliciting bids for Security Camera Maintenance and Repairs. RTA is seeking qualified security contractors to provide ongoing maintenance, technical support, repairs, and related services for RTA's existing electronic security system. Services will include support for RTA's IP camera system, access-control devices, key-control systems, security software, and other associated equipment. The successful contractor will also be responsible for providing software support, preventative and corrective maintenance, warranty-related services, and hourly rates for on-site work performed at RTA facilities throughout Montgomery County, Ohio.

If interested: <https://www.iredta.org/about/doing-business>.

Direct questions to mcollier@greaterdaytonrta.org.

Michelle Collier, Senior Purchasing Agent

Learn About Auto Loans at DML

Dayton Metro Library will host several sessions of Auto Loans 101: What Every Car Buyer Should Know, presented by Universal 1 Credit Union.

Patrons will learn how auto loans work, what lenders look for, and how credit impacts financing options. Participants will also walk through the auto loan process and learn about rates, terms, and steps to take before applying for a loan. Registration is not required.

Sessions:

- Saturday, October 3, 12-1 pm, Main Library, Conference Room 1B
- Thursday, October 15, 6-7 pm, West Branch
- Friday, October 16, 4-5 pm, Electra C. Doren Branch
- Thursday, November 5, 6:30-7:30 pm, Burkhardt Branch

For more information, visit DaytonMetroLibrary.org or call the Library's Ask Me Line at 937.463.2665.

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Fax: 937-223-8872
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Sunday Worship.....10:45 a.m.
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Noonday Bible Study - Wednesday.....12:00 p.m.
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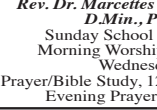


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Sunday Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m.
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Dr. Bridget D.
Weatherspoon, Pastor

Words in a Mirror

I am going through hardships,
Hardships I am going through.
But through every storm I face,
Christ will see me through.

Through every sorrow,
through every word reversed,
through every tear and every fear,
one truth remains clear:

I need God every day,
Every day, God I need.
When my heart is filled with sorrow,
He is the strength I need.

When life turns upside down,
and my words become a mirror,
I may reverse the sentence —
but my faith becomes clearer.

God is in Christ,
Christ is in us,
and we are in Christ.
In Him, I place my trust.

I need God every day,
Every day, God I need.
Through the darkness and the struggle,
He is all the light I need.

And when I have nothing left to say,
when every word has disappeared,
I will still call His name,
for in my darkest hour,
I know that He is near.

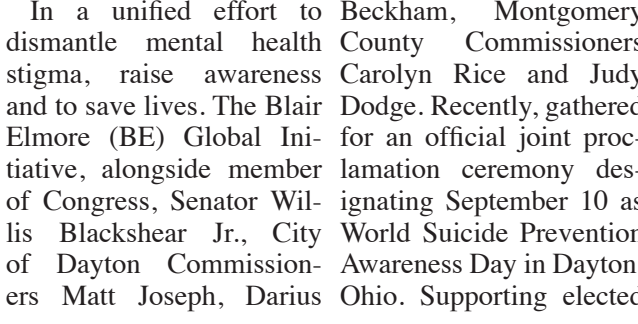
When hardships come and hope feels far,
when I cannot see the way,
I will trust in Christ my Savior,
and seek Him every day.

For life may turn my world around,
and reverse the words I say,
but Christ remains my cornerstone —
yesterday, today, always.

Written by Martel Kelly
Sponsored by Remind4you.com

Congressional Official Joins the BE Global Initiative to Proclaim World Suicide Prevention Awareness Day as September 10th

URGING COMMUNITY TO “START THE CONVERSATION”



timonials were shared about the legacy of Blair Elmore whom lost his life to suicide and is the inspiration of the founding of the BE Global Initiative.

"Suicide is a global public health issue, but it is preventable. As a connected community, we are breaking the stigma" said Coach Lee with the BE Global Initiative.

"By securing these official proclamations, our local government is sending a powerful message that mental health care is a priority, help and additional resources are readily available, and no one in our community is invisible or has to carry their pain alone, in shame, or isolation."

Bishop Ronald C. Todd II led a powerful prayer for hope, healing, peace and resilience. Followed by a moment of silence honoring survivors and remembering loved ones lost to suicide.

Leaders at the ceremony also emphasized the urgent call to action: "Let's start the conversation" by encouraging all attendees and residents to utilize this momentum to check in on family, friends and neighbors.

If you or someone you know is struggling, having thoughts of suicide, or experiencing a mental health crisis, immediate help is available. Call or text the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, which provides 24/7 free and confidential support.

officials Mayor Shenise Turner-Sloss, Commissioners Christopher Shaw, Darryl Fairchild and Mary McDonald also signed the Proclamations.

During the event, the City of Dayton, Montgomery County and State of Ohio elected officials and local leaders supported BE Global Initiative's mission to increase suicide prevention awareness, and to foster open environments where individuals feel heard, safe and supported.

Karina Cabrera, Miss Midwest Swimsuit USA and Ambassador for the BE Global Initiative hosted the historical event. Personal stories and tes-

In a unified effort to dismantle mental health stigma, raise awareness and to save lives. The Blair Elmore (BE) Global Initiative, alongside member of Congress, Senator Wilis Blackshear Jr., City of Dayton Commissioners Matt Joseph, Darius Beckham, Montgomery County Commissioners Carolyn Rice and Judy Dodge. Recently, gathered for an official joint proclamation ceremony designating September 10 as World Suicide Prevention Awareness Day in Dayton, Ohio. Supporting elected

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Jewels & Gems



2027

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For more information scan QR code, go to akadayton.org/cotillion or email akabhocotillion@gmail.com



Sinclair’s Tartan TOPS Program Marks Milestone Years of Empowering Students with Intellectual Disabilities...
Continued from Page 1

paring individuals for our regional workforce and creating pathways to opportunity, this is a story we should remember and be proud to tell."

Key Program Milestones and Success Metrics:

- Strong Retention: The program maintains an impressive 87.6% year-to-year retention rate.
- Graduation & Outcomes: TOPS has celebrated 59 program graduates. Among alumni, post-graduation outcomes include 25 individuals employed, 13 continuing their education at Sinclair, 1 pursuing education elsewhere, and 20 reporting other statuses.
- Expanded Credentials: In addition to their certificates, TOPS students have earned 29 additional credentials, including associate degrees (in Theatre Performance, Liberal Arts and Science, History, and Drawing) as well as specialized certificates such as Hospitality Reception and Service Specialist, Clinical Phlebotomy, and Video Production.
- Diverse Reach: Students and alumni range in age from 18 to 44, representing 8 Ohio counties, one international student, and one out-of-state student. Approximately 42% of participants were Pell Grant eligible.

"What makes Tartan TOPS so special is that our students are not simply attending Sinclair—



Andrew "AJ" Beeghly

they are part of Sinclair," said Dr. Jessica Minor, Chair of Education at Sinclair. "They are learning, working, building relationships, advocating for themselves, and discovering what is possible for their futures. These outcomes reflect the hard work of our students and the incredible commitment of the faculty and staff who believe in them. I am so proud of what we have built together and look forward to the continued success of our students."

For more information about the Tartan TOPS program, visit www.sinclair.edu/tartan-tops.

Applications for Fall 2027 are open. All prospective students are encouraged to submit their applications as soon as possible. Applications are accepted through March 1, 2027. Students are encouraged to apply by November 2, 2026 to be considered for early admission/early decision.

Food, Wine and a Taste of History: Flavors of Fall

Bison stew, blue cornbread, pawpaw pie and wines from Caesar Creek Vineyards will share the spotlight with Dayton’s Indigenous history when the Dayton Society of Natural History presents Flavors of Fall on Saturday, October 3, 2026, from 3 to 6 p.m. at SunWatch Village, 2301 W. River Road in Dayton.

The afternoon pairs today’s seasonal flavors with an opportunity to explore the lives of the Fort Ancient people who lived at SunWatch approximately 800 years ago. Between bites and sips, guests can tour the reconstructed village, explore educational displays and discover how the community’s residents lived and used the resources around them.

Open to the public, the open house-style celebration welcomes guests to arrive anytime during the three-hour event and enjoy the tastings and activities at their own pace.

Sample the Season

From hearty bison stew and bean soup to blue cornbread and Three Sisters salad, the food tasting menu offers a variety of flavors to explore. Guests can also sample an assortment of jerkies, frybread with maple and chili sauce, and a sweet finish of pawpaw pie.

Wine enthusiasts can look forward to two planned selections from Caesar Creek Vineyards featuring Dayton Society of Natural History branding: Ice Age Saber-Toothed Cat Chardonnay and Ice Age Mastodon Red Blend. Additional tasting stations will fea-

ture fall-flavored beers, apples and a variety of honeys.

Food and drink tastings are included with admission, giving guests the opportunity to sample a range of seasonal offerings throughout the afternoon. Full-size drinks will also be available for purchase at a cash bar.

Explore the History Beyond the Tasting Table

The experience extends beyond the menu. SunWatch’s reconstructed village and archaeological discoveries offer a window into the homes, daily lives and knowledge of the Indigenous community that occupied the site centuries before European contact.

"Many people think of SunWatch as a museum or an archaeological site, but first and foremost it was a home," said Jill E. Krieg Stover, Head Curator with the Dayton Society of Natural History.

"People lived here, gathered here, shared meals, and shared their lives with one another. Flavors of Fall is an opportunity to bring people together in this place again, using food as a way to connect with each other and with the generations of people who called SunWatch home."

Throughout the afternoon, staff-led demonstrations and educational displays will highlight tools, pottery and food-related materials, connecting visitors with the skills and resources that supported life at SunWatch. Casual village tours will offer opportunities to ask questions and explore the site’s history.

Educational games and a chance to meet Bowie, the screech owl, will round out an afternoon of food, discovery and fall fun for visitors of all ages.

Event Details

When: Saturday, October 3, 2026, from 3 to 6 p.m. Guests may arrive anytime during the event.

Where: SunWatch Village, 2301 W. River Road, Dayton.

Tickets: \$35 for ages 13 and older; \$15 for children ages 3–12; free for children ages 2 and younger.

Included with admission: Food and drink tastings, animal encounters, educational games and casual village tours. Full-size drinks are available for an additional charge.

Ticket purchases: Visit the Flavors of Fall event page for tickets and additional information. Online sales close at 3 p.m. on Saturday, October 3. Tickets will also be available on-site.

Parking: Free on-site

parking is available.

Weather: The event will take place rain or shine.

About SunWatch Village and the Dayton Society of Natural History

SunWatch Village is a National Historic Landmark and archaeological site in Dayton dedicated to preserving and sharing the history of the Fort Ancient community that once occupied the site.

Through its reconstructed village, interpretive center and educa-

tional programming, SunWatch connects visitors with archaeology, Indigenous culture, and conservation. The Dayton Society of Natural History operates SunWatch Village and the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery, providing learning experiences that engage visitors with natural history, science and nature while future generations.

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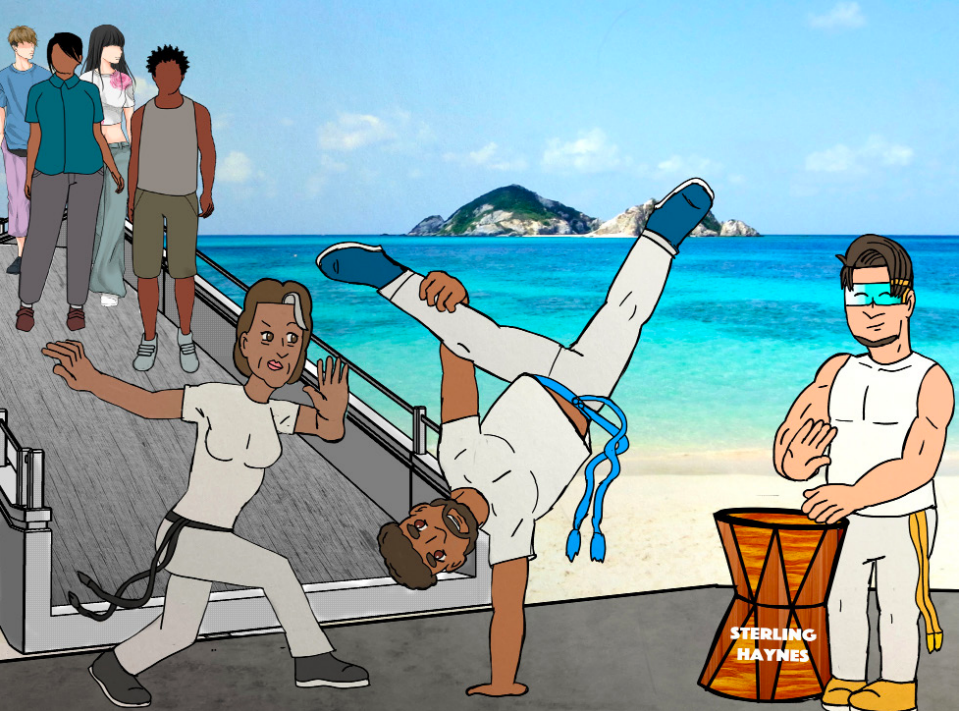
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Arts & Entertainment

Capoeira



Cartoon characters Babette, Maurice, and Jayden are created by Sterling

By Professor Sterling Haynes

A musical crowd gathers in a circle. Beats from drums and tambourines vibrate the air. Clapping singing and dancing to rhythms. Energized by the anticipation, two capoeirist cartwheel into the center.

Competing with spinning kicks, leg sweeps, and handstands. Somersaults, flips and complex maneuvers delight the crowd. The contactless game ends with a firm handshake and nods of respect. This was an example of a game of Capoeira called Jogo.

Capoeira is an Afro-Brazilian martial art and game that includes

elements of dance, acrobatics, music and spirituality. Capoeira de Angola is the traditional style of capoeira from Angola Africa. Regional Capoeira is a reformed style with Brazilian influences.

In colonial times the practice of Capoeira was brought from Angola to Brazil. Disguising fighting techniques as dance, and folk music to defend themselves against slavery. Capoeira is known for flowing acrobatics. A signature technique is called the Ginga, a rocking step. It keeps the capoeirist in a state of constant motion to attack and defend.

Mestre Bimba opened the first capoeira school in Bahia Brazil in 1932.

He established guidelines for practicing it as a martial art. Capoeirist wear white uniforms to show respect and discipline. A belt ranking system displays the practitioner skills. Aluno are students and Mestre are masters.

In 2014 The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) internationally respected the marital art. Capoeira continues to foster community and cultural exchange through classes, events, and community.

Resources
Capoeira by Liz Gogery, UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage, smithsonianmag.com

DML Welcomes American Scare

Dayton Metro Library will host American Scare: Author Talk and Q&A with Robert W. Fieseler on Saturday, October 3, 2-3:30 pm, in The Center for Community Impact & Innovation at the Main Library. Fieseler, author of American Scare: Florida's Hidden Cold War on

Black and Queer Lives, will discuss his book, which tells the story of how the Florida government destroyed the lives of Black and queer citizens in the 20th century.

American Scare has received numerous awards, including being named a Kirkus Best Book of 2025 and earning the Stonewall

Book Awards – Israel Fishman Nonfiction Honor Book designation.

DML's The Center is sponsored by Wright-Patt Credit Union.

For more information and to register, visit DaytonMetroLibrary.org or call the Library's Ask Me Line at 937.463.2665.

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Chicago Tribune

OCTOBER 6-11

DAYTON LIVE.ORG | Schuster Center

Ohio Arts & Council

Ali Siddiq on Laughter, Life and Finding Connection... Continued from Page 1

ent things. The grind gave him his foundation.

Asked to define success, Siddiq used one word. "Happiness." Then he said it again. "Happiness is the ultimate success in this business."

"I am happy. I am grateful. I am content," he said.

He doesn't expect to ever feel he's made it. That, he suggested, would mean he was done. "Comics don't retire, we die."

Fatherhood runs through his newest special, My Father, which premiered on YouTube in June and has passed 4 million views. In it he explains, "I'm a responsible man because of my Momma. I'm a good man because of my Daddy."

Siddiq spoke with me from his daughter's restaurant in Houston. Fans once knew her as a competitive swimmer. Today she is a mother, a chef and a restaurant owner.

"I'm a softer parent than I was parented by," he said. "I'm not parenting in survival mode."

In the 10th grade, his daughter told him she didn't want to swim anymore. She wanted to be a chef. "I put everything into what she wanted to be," Siddiq said.

Sitting in her restaurant, he put it this way, "I see generational wealth. That's a generational happiness."

When Laughter Becomes Medicine

At meet-and-greets, people tell him things he

ALI SIDDIQ

MY FATHER

AVAILABLE NOW!

YouTube

@alisiddiqcomedy

could never learn from the stage. Some found his specials during deep depression or grief.

"You ain't even imagine when you first start this business that you would be some sort of medicine for people," he said.

One encounter stays with him. A man and his daughter approached after a show. The man's wife, a fan, had been murdered only weeks earlier, Siddiq recalled. The family already had tickets, and they came anyway, leaving an empty seat between them.

He is taking that further. In April he released From Inside, a conversation with inmates filmed

in a county jail. It isn't comedy. It's about accountability, choices and not going back.

When Siddiq takes the Victoria stage, somewhere in that theater may be someone carrying a weight he'll lift and never hear about.

Nearly 30 years after December 4, 1997, he knows laughter can be entertainment, connection, and sometimes, it becomes "some sort of medicine for people."

Ali Siddiq: The Custom Fit Tour comes to the Victoria Theatre on Thursday, Oct. 1. Tickets and show information: AliSiddiq.com.

EbonNia Gallery

1135 W. Third St. Dayton, OH 45402

Gallery Hours Tues- Fri 11am-5pm or by appt

In the Spirit of Family

Artwork by Derrick Davis: 2020 Kariw Spirit #144

Artists: Bing, Audrey & Derrick Davis

Artists Reception Sun Oct 4th 2:00pm-4:00pm

Project Coordinator /Graphic Design Nia Davis

SHANGO CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN ART AND CULTURE

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The Contemporary Dayton Announces The Dayton Studio Tour and After Party

The Contemporary Dayton is excited to announce the Dayton Studio Tour, taking place Saturday, October 10, from 11 am–4 pm. The community-wide event invites the public to visit artists in their studios and experience the creative spaces where art-work is made.

Studios throughout the Dayton area will participate in the self-guided tour, offering visitors an opportunity to meet artists, see works in progress, learn more about their practices, and connect directly with Dayton’s vibrant arts community.

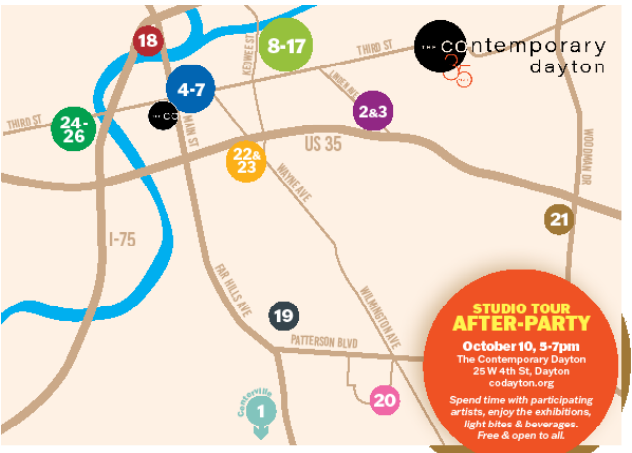
A digital map of participating studios, available on our website, will help visitors plan their day and create their own tour route. Whether exploring one studio or several, attendees can experience the breadth of artistic practices and creative communities throughout the Dayton area.

“Artists are at the heart of Dayton’s creative community, and the Studio Tour offers a different way to experience their work,” said Heather Jones, Interim Director and Chief Curator of The Contemporary Dayton. “Opening studio doors gives the public a chance to see where and how artists work, have conversations with them, and build connections that extend beyond the gallery.”

The day will conclude with a Dayton Studio Tour After Party at The Contemporary Dayton from 5–7 pm. The celebration will bring participating artists and members of the community together to share their experiences from the day and continue the conversation around Dayton’s creative community.

The Dayton Studio Tour is free and open to the public. Visitors are encouraged to explore the map in advance and plan their own route.

Dayton Studio Tour
Saturday, October 10, 2026, 11 am–4 pm
Studios throughout the Dayton area; see digital map for details and locations



STUDIO TOUR AFTER-PARTY
October 10, 5-7pm
The Contemporary Dayton
25 W 4th St, Dayton
codayton.org
Spend time with participating artists, enjoy the exhibitions, light bites & beverages. Free & open to all.

Dayton Studio TOUR
Saturday, October 10, 2026
Open Studios. Local Art. Real Connections.

11am-4pm • free & open to all
The Contemporary Dayton is proud to present the 2026 Dayton Studio Tour, offering the community a unique opportunity to visit working studios, meet local artists, and experience the creative process firsthand. The tour reflects our ongoing commitment to supporting and celebrating the artists who make up our community while creating meaningful opportunities for connection between artists and the public.

SPECIAL THANKS:
ARTIST IMPACT WORKING GROUP
Karen D. Brame, Dan Cleary, Lori Daugherty, Scott Davis, Amy Deal, Amy Dolan, Judith Huacuja, Jeffrey Cortland Jones, Hannah Kasper, David Leach, Teresa Olavarria, and Rodney Veal.
2026-2027 OPERATING SUPPORT DONORS
The Charles D. Berry Foundation, CultureWorks, The Dayton Foundation, The Charles F. Kettinger Foundation, The Virginia W. Kettinger Foundation, The Montgomery County Arts & Cultural District, The Ohio Arts Council, and our Members.

Free and open to the public

Dayton Studio Tour After Party

Saturday, October 10, 2026, 5–7 pm

The Contemporary Dayton, 25 W. 4th Street, Dayton, Ohio

Free and open to the public

For the complete list of participating studios and a digital map to plan your route, visit <https://codayton.org/events/dayton-studio-tour/>

Participating Artists:
African American Visual Artists Guild (AAVAG)
Black Palette Art Gallery (James Pate)
Michelle BonDurant
Matthew Burgy
Bill Cunningham
Darty Art/Lori Daugherty

Willis Bing Davis Art Studio

Amy Deal

Jamaal Durr

Gretchen Durst Jacobs

Elemental Studio (Jen Perkins and Brian Mathus)

Figment Studio

Hot Glue Studio (Jess LaCava, Leslie Sells, Neireida Trujillo, Jan Tuss)

Judith Huacuja

IMME & More (Toni Dunbar)

Hannah Kasper

Erica Keener

MADE Studio & Shop

The Mosaic Institute/Jes McMillan

Marsha Pippenger

Bob Rhoades

Hadley Rodebeck

Kate Santucci

Sarah Shanks

Bruce Soifer

Selected UD Painting Students

SPECIAL THANKS TO

OUR ARTIST IMPACT WORKING GROUP

Karen D. Brame, Dan Cleary, Lori Daugherty, Scott Davis, Amy Deal, Amy Dolan, Judith Huacuja, Jeffrey Cortland Jones, Hannah Kasper, David Leach, Teresa Olavarria, and Rodney Veal

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2026-2027 OPERATING SUPPORT DONORS

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GALLERY & CoSHOP HOURS

Wednesday–Saturday 11 am–6 pm

Closed Sunday–Tuesday ALWAYS FREE & OPEN TO ALL

ABOUT THE CONTEMPORARY DAYTON

Advancing art for the community and a community for artists since 1991.

The Contemporary Dayton is the region’s contemporary art center. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit, The Contemporary Dayton produces and presents ART EXHIBITIONS, ARTIST TALKS, and PUBLIC ART by local, national, and global creatives and makers, and is ALWAYS FREE & OPEN TO ALL.

As a non-collecting art center, The Contemporary Dayton is one of 45 non-collecting art centers and museums across North America that specialize in presenting modern and contemporary art.



Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, is one of my favorite cities of all time! I love the big city urban elegance and modern vibe it offers. I recently stayed there in a short-term rental at the Cork Factory Apartment complex in the strip district. The luxury apartments are renovated from an old cork factory and sit right on the Monongahela River.

The property is stunning with a swimming pool, gas grills, fitness center, pool tables, and sleek modern sitting areas inside and outdoors. An amazing experience with the river glistening and offering a cool vibe.

There is a new restaurant right across the street from the Cork Factory apartments called Artia’s. Serving delicious food, interesting cocktails, and a view of the city.

The Bourbon Maple Glazed Pot Roast with smashed redskins, vegetable gravy was comforting and yummy. Paired with a California merlot, the perfect meal.

Pittsburgh is a walkable city, and the Pittsburgh Regional Transit is free to ride.

A five-minute walk from my short-term rental at the Cork Factory is a big fresh market. The fish mongers

were wearing white coats and selling fish. A garden center is attached with fresh fruits, plants, herbs, and produce.

Across town is The Carnegie Museum of Natural History, a natural history museum. It was founded by Pittsburgh industrialist Andrew Carnegie in 1896. Housing some 22 million specimens and featuring vignettes with full sized polar bears, antelope, grizzly bears, and dinosaur skeleton exhibits.

There are several floors to visit and rock collections from all over the globe. I really liked the cafe on the main floor, wine by the glass, salads, unique sandwiches, and pastries at great prices. You can eat outside and watch the water falls that spring up from the ground. Waterfalls are all over the exterior of the museum and along with a lifetime of memories.

I also went to the Bird Aviary, which is the largest in America. Very educational and bird shows indoors for the entire family.

There are rare birds on exhibit and interactive events with a separate ticket price.

There is a small cafe in the lobby of the Bird Aviary with sandwiches and

soft drinks.

Absolutely no shortage of restaurants in downtown Pittsburgh, Pa. a mecca of bars, pubs, and fine dining establishments. With live bands on weekends and evenings, along with pop up fairs.

Rivers Casino is located in the North Shore district of Pittsburgh and features a 400,000-square-foot gaming and entertainment. It’s beautiful and offers great restaurants with something for everyone as far as food choices. Another walkable property near museums and public transportation.

The city has turned old factories into museums, boutiques, and apartments; I truly admire this type of innovation and preservation.

The Monongahela River, sometimes referred to locally as the Mon, is a 130-mile-long river on the Allegheny Plateau in north-central West Virginia and Southwestern Pennsylvania. Monongahela is a Native American term from the Unami (Lenape) language meaning "falling banks".

Celebrate Dolly with 9-5 Screening at DML

Dayton Metro Library will celebrate the legacy of Dolly Parton with Dolly Day: 9 to 5 Film Screening on Friday, September 25, 6:30-8:30 pm, in the Main Library’s Eichelberger Forum.

9 to 5 (1980, Rated PG)

is considered by many to be Parton’s breakout film. Co-starring Jane Fonda, Lily Tomlin, and Dabney Coleman, the film follows three female coworkers who take on their chauvinistic boss, leading to plenty of laughs and mem-

orable mischief.

This program is for adults and requires registration. For more information and to register, visit DaytonMetroLibrary.org or call the Library’s Ask Me Line at 937.463.2665.

SCORE Workshop at DML

Dayton Metro Library has partnered with SCORE of Greater Cincinnati and Dayton to host a series of nonprofit workshops through November.

The first workshop will be held Friday, October 2, 10 am-12 pm, in The Center for Community Impact & Innovation at the Main Library and will focus on strategic nonprofit planning.

Presenter Brian Wentzel, Strategy Director for Dayton Children’s

Hospital, will discuss the following topics:

Who should be involved in planning?

What steps are in the strategic planning process?

When should the plan be updated?

How should the implementation of the plan be monitored and corrective actions taken?

Wentzel, with more than 15 years of healthcare industry experience, will provide specific examples of critical situations non-

profits should consider during planning. This session is ideal for board members, founders, and executive directors who want to develop a clear plan to ensure that their organizations are successful and sustainable. Registration required.

The Center at DML is sponsored by Wright-Patt Credit Union. For more information about this workshop and to register, visit DaytonMetroLibrary.org or call the Library’s Ask Me Line at 937.463.2665.

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HALL OF FREEDOM
Awards

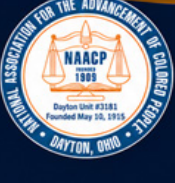
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Eastway Behavioral Healthcare Partnership Helps Montgomery County CIT Co-Responder Program Earn Statewide Blue Line Award

A six-year partnership between Eastway Behavioral Healthcare and the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office that brings behavioral health professionals alongside law enforcement during mental health crisis calls has earned statewide recognition.

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Co-Responder Program received the Blue Line Award at the 2026 Law Enforcement Training Symposium. The award recognizes law enforcement agencies that demonstrate innovation and develop practical solutions that improve daily police work while positively impacting their communities.

While the award was presented to the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, the recognition specifically highlighted its ongoing partnership with Eastway Behavioral Healthcare and the role Eastway's behavioral health specialists play in the program's success.

Through the program, a Montgomery County Sheriff's deputy responds alongside an Eastway behavioral health specialist to calls involving individuals experiencing mental health

or substance use crises. Once deputies establish that a scene is safe, the behavioral health specialist can focus on de-escalating the situation, assessing the individual's needs and helping determine the most appropriate next steps for care.

At the center of Eastway's involvement are Kathy DeBos and Marlene Ortiz, Eastway employees who serve as the program's two CIT Co-Responders. DeBos and Ortiz work directly alongside law enforcement, bringing behavioral health expertise into situations that might otherwise be handled primarily as law enforcement calls. Their work can include assessing an individual's immediate mental health and safety needs, helping de-escalate a crisis, identifying appropriate treatment options and connecting individuals and families with hospitals, behavioral healthcare providers and other community resources.

Their role also continues after the immediate crisis has passed. Co-responders conduct follow-up with individuals, often within 48 to 72 hours, to help them navigate referrals, maintain connections to treatment and access other resources that can reduce the likelihood of another emergency call. They also

build relationships with other behavioral health professionals, hospitals, schools, peer recovery specialists and community organizations to help residents get the support that best fits their needs.

DeBos and Ortiz are supervised by Kimberly Vogel, Eastway's Director of Adult Recovery Services, providing clinical leadership and support for Eastway's ongoing participation in the initiative.

The results demonstrate the impact of combining behavioral health expertise with law enforcement response. In 2025, the program assisted 510 Montgomery County residents. Twenty percent of referrals were connected to or maintained in community treatment programs, while 55% were connected with a local hospital through emergency or voluntary admission. Most notably, the program helped 98% of the residents it served avoid incarceration.

The recognition reflects an approach designed to address the underlying behavioral health needs that may be driving a crisis rather than relying solely on a traditional law enforcement response. Montgomery County Sheriff Rob Streck has credited the partnership with Eastway with helping connect individuals to ser-

vices they need instead of having mental health calls result in incarceration.

"For six years, our partnership with Eastway has continued to grow because both organizations are committed to helping people in our community," said Montgomery County Sheriff Rob Streck. "This award recognizes the dedication of the deputies, co-responders and behavioral health professionals who have made this program what it is today."

The feelings about the partnership are mutual.

"We are incredibly proud to be part of a program that demonstrates what can happen when behavioral health professionals and law enforcement work together with a shared goal of helping people," said Lesley Brose, President and CEO of Eastway Behavioral Healthcare. "Kathy and Marlene are often meeting people during some of the most difficult moments of their lives, and they bring compassion, experience and behavioral health expertise to every interaction. Their work, supported by Kimberly and our partners at the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, is helping people get connected to care while creating safer, better outcomes for our entire community."

The partnership began in 2020 as Montgomery County faced a significant increase in calls involving people experiencing behavioral health crises. The model combines the safety and emergency-response capabilities of law enforcement with Eastway's behavioral health expertise, allowing deputies and clinicians to contribute their respective areas of training and experience.

The approach has since expanded beyond individual crisis calls. The co-responder program works alongside other community resources, including partners responding to the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline and Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS), creating additional connections between emergency response and the behavioral healthcare system.

For Eastway, the Blue Line Award provides statewide recognition for a collaborative model that puts behavioral health ex-

pertise closer to people when and where they need it.

"Programs like this recognize that a mental health crisis often requires more than one kind of expertise," Brose said. "By working together, we can help create safer interactions, connect people with treatment and support, and give individuals and families a better opportunity to move forward."

About Eastway Behavioral Healthcare

Eastway Behavioral Healthcare is one of the Miami Valley's largest private, not-for-profit providers of mental health, substance use, housing, employment and educational services. Eastway serves adults, children and families throughout Montgomery County and beyond through a comprehensive network of behavioral healthcare and community-based programs.

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