


# LOUD. PROUD. BLACK.

**NO SILENCE. NO SHAME.**

*Celebrating 20 Years of Pride*

## OFFICIAL PROGRAM & AGENDA

*Hosted by Jackson Black Pride & My Brother's Keeper, Inc.*




WELCOME

# A Letter from Jackson Black Pride

Dear Friends, Family, and Community,

Welcome to the 2026 JXN Black Pride Health Summit!

This year's theme, **"Loud. Proud. Black."**, is a call to speak up, show up, and take up space for our health and our futures. This year, we celebrate **20 years of Jackson Black Pride**. For two decades, Jackson Black Pride has worked toward a healthier, more equitable Mississippi for Black LGBTQ+ people, and today's Summit carries that work forward.

Throughout the day, you'll hear from community leaders, health professionals, advocates, and artists on topics that matter to our lives, from HIV and STI prevention and mental health to religious trauma, financial literacy, protecting our homes, and allyship. We hope you leave with practical tools, new connections, and renewed energy to care for yourself and one another.

None of this happens alone. Thank you to our speakers and panelists for sharing their expertise, to our sponsors and partners for believing in this work, to our volunteers for giving their time, and to you for being here.

This is your space. Ask questions, share your story, and take what you need. No silence. No shame.

*With love and gratitude,*

**The Jackson Black Pride Team**

Jackson Black Pride & My Brother's Keeper, Inc.






A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

## Dr. June Gipson

**Chief Executive Officer, My Brother's Keeper, Inc. & Open Arms Healthcare Center**

Dear Friends, Partners, and Community,

On behalf of My Brother's Keeper, Inc. and Open Arms Healthcare Center, welcome to the 2026 JXN Black Pride Health Summit.

For 20 years, Jackson Black Pride has stood on a simple truth: Black LGBTQ+ people in Mississippi deserve to be seen, celebrated, and cared for. That truth guides our work every day, in our clinic, in our community programs, and in gatherings like this one.

Health is more than a diagnosis or an appointment. It is housing, income, safety, faith, and the freedom to be who we are without shame. That is why today's Summit brings together voices on prevention, mental health, financial stability, advocacy, and healing.

To our sponsors and partners, thank you for standing with us. To our speakers and panelists, thank you for sharing your knowledge and your stories. And to everyone here today, thank you for showing up, for yourselves and for one another.

Be loud. Be proud. Be well.

*With gratitude,*

**Dr. June Gipson**
Chief Executive Officer
My Brother's Keeper, Inc. & Open Arms Healthcare Center




SESSION LINEUP

# Morning Sessions

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM • Jackson State E-Conference Center

**9:00 – 9:30 AM**

OPENING

### Registration, Check-In & Community Resource Networking

Check in, pick up your materials, and connect with community partners and health resources.

**9:30 – 9:45 AM**

WELCOME • ALL ATTENDEES • BALLROOM

### Welcome to the Summit: Loud. Proud. Black.

A welcome that sets the tone for our 2026 theme: no silence, no shame, and showing up for our health.



**Dr. DeMarc A. Hickson**

Executive Director • Us Helping Us, People Into Living, Inc.

Dr. DeMarc A. Hickson is Executive Director of Us Helping Us, People Into Living, Inc., a community-based nonprofit with five offices in the greater Washington, DC and Baltimore areas working toward health equity for underserved communities. He previously served as Chief Operating Officer of My Brother's Keeper, Inc. and Open Arms Healthcare Center, and as an Associate Professor of Biostatistics at Jackson State University. Under his leadership, Us Helping Us became the first non-FQHC, Black-led nonprofit to be part of a Center for AIDS Research in the United States.

**10:00 – 10:40 AM**

MORNING TRACK 1 • E-INNOVATION COLLABORATORY ROOM

### Religious Trauma & Black SGL, Queer, Trans Wellness

A Delta Phi Upsilon & The BACH Group Collaborative

How religious trauma affects the health of Black SGL, queer, and trans people, and paths to healing. Also presented at 1:05 PM.



**Earl N. Benjamin-Robinson, DrHSc, CPH, FNAP**

Moderator • The BACH Group

Dr. Earl N. Benjamin-Robinson is a co-founder of The BACH Group, a New Orleans-based consulting firm dedicated to enhancing community and public health.



**Dr. Del'Rio Cole, DSW, LCSW-BACS**

Panelist • Educator, Therapist & Social Scientist • BACH Therapeutic Counseling Services

Dr. Del'Rio Cole is a licensed clinical social worker, educator, and psychotherapist whose work centers on mental health, identity, spirituality, and community healing. A former pastor, he created the Healing Sacred Wounds Model for religious trauma among Black LGBTQ+ and SGL communities and is an Associate Professor at the University of Kentucky.



**Aphrodite Morningstar**

Panelist • Performing Artist & Advocate

Aphrodite Morningstar is a proud Black transgender woman, performing artist, creative visionary, and advocate in Jackson, Mississippi. A headliner at Shade Pub & Nightclub, she brings her "Divine Not Disposable" platform and outreach work with Awakening Love to conversations on religious trauma and healing.




SESSION LINEUP (CONTINUED)

# Morning Sessions

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM • Jackson State E-Conference Center



### Tanyun Montage

Panelist • Executive Director, Brothers Amongst Brothers of Jackson

Tanyun Montage is a Flora, MS native, an ordained minister for 6+ years, and an advocate for Jackson's Black trans community. Co-founder of Eta Iota Mu Fraternity Inc., he is a seasoned male impersonator pageant titleholder, including Mr. Southern Royalty 2025–2026.



### Scott Tennon

Panelist • Licensed Cosmetologist & Image Specialist

Scott Tennon is a licensed cosmetologist and image specialist with more than 25 years in the beauty and personal care industry, now a Salon Manager for a national salon franchise. He believes professional hair care builds confidence, self-expression, and well-being. A proud alumnus of THEE Jackson State University.

**10:00 – 10:40 AM**

MORNING TRACK 2 • E-LOGISTICS COLLABORATORY ROOM

## Foreclosure Prevention: Protecting Your Home and Future

Current and future homeowners will learn about their rights as homeowners and how to avoid foreclosure in Mississippi.



### Marnesha Atkins-Johnson

Presenter • Paralegal, Economic Justice Campaign • Mississippi Center for Justice

Marnesha Atkins-Johnson is the paralegal for the Economic Justice Campaign at the Mississippi Center for Justice. A native of the Mississippi Delta, she began volunteering with the Center while still in high school. Her work focuses on foreclosure prevention, community engagement, and sharing financial knowledge.

**10:00 – 10:40 AM**

MORNING TRACK 3 • CALIFORNIA ROOM

## Trans 101: Identity, Understanding & Allyship

A foundation in trans identities and language, and how to show up as an informed ally.



### Love Latonia

Presenter • Founder/Executive Director, Awakening Love MS

Love Latonia (she/her/hers & Goddess) is a multifaceted intersex woman of trans experience and the Founder/Executive Director of Awakening Love MS. For 10 years, she has advanced trans justice, health equity, leadership, safety, and liberation across Mississippi and beyond. Love began her community-service career in 2016 as an HIV Prevention Counselor and Tester with Brotherhood Inc. That same year, she graduated from the Monica Roberts Freedom School's "Owning Our Power" Black Leadership Cohort and founded Awakening Love MS, which provides holistic health services, leadership development, education, housing support, mental wellness resources, and job-readiness training for transgender, nonbinary, and gender-diverse communities and their allies. On August 1, 2025, Love opened Mississippi's first trans-led Drop-In Center, and in 2026 she received the Monica Roberts Trailblazer Award at the National Trans Visibility March in San Juan, Puerto Rico.




SESSION LINEUP (CONTINUED)

# Morning Sessions

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM • Jackson State E-Conference Center

**10:45 – 11:25 AM**

MORNING TRACK 4 • CALIFORNIA ROOM

## Prevention, Your Way: PrEP, PEP & DoxyPEP

Presented by Open Arms Healthcare Center

A guide to today's HIV and STI prevention options and how to choose what fits your life.



### Kristie L. Anderson, PhD-c, LNC, CFNP, MSN, RN

Family Nurse Practitioner • Open Arms Healthcare Center

Kristie L. Anderson is a Family Nurse Practitioner at Open Arms Healthcare Center in Jackson, providing primary and chronic care. A Jackson State University graduate, she holds graduate degrees from Alcorn State University and is pursuing a PhD in Nursing Leadership at The University of Southern Mississippi, with research focused on combating the HIV epidemic through PrEP. She owns Anderson Quality Consulting, LLC, a legal nurse consulting agency.



### C. Rashad Pollard, CCMA, HIVPNC

PrEP Coordinator • Open Arms Healthcare Center

C. Rashad Pollard is a healthcare professional and HIV prevention advocate with 8+ years of experience in community outreach, HIV prevention education, and linkage to care. As PrEP Coordinator at Open Arms Healthcare Center, he works to break down barriers, reduce stigma, and make prevention services accessible. His message: Prevention is personal, and everyone deserves options that work for them.

**10:45 – 11:25 AM**

MORNING TRACK 5 • E-INNOVATION COLLABORATORY ROOM

## Reset & Restore: A Mental Health Relaxation Presentation

A mental health presentation with practical tools to manage stress and protect your peace.



### Sharita Stover, LCSW

Presenter • Co-Founder, Mind Ok

Sharita Stover is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and proud Jackson State University graduate. Co-founder of Mind Ok, which provides holistic behavioral health and psychotherapy, she also serves homeless veterans as a HUD-VASH Lead Case Manager. A former medical social worker, she is an Infant Family Specialist and Endorsed Reflective Supervisor.

**11:45 AM – 12:00 PM**

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE • ALL ATTENDEES • BALLROOM

## Making a Difference Doing Respectable and Meaningful Art

Live at the 2026 Health Summit.



### MADDRAMA

Performing Arts Ensemble • Jackson State University • Founded 2004 by Dr. Mark G. Henderson

MADDRAMA is a performing arts organization at Jackson State University, founded in 2004 by Dr. Mark G. Henderson. Dedicated to excellence in the performing arts, the group has performed across Mississippi and in states from Michigan to California, and has shared the stage with Vanessa Bell Calloway, Cornel West, Irma P. Hall, and more.




SESSION LINEUP

# Afternoon Sessions

12:00 – 3:00 PM • Jackson State E-Conference Center

**12:00 – 1:00 PM**

THE GILEAD LUNCH PANEL • LUNCH INCLUDED • BALLROOM

## No Silence, No Shame: HIV Care, Prevention & Maternal Health

12:00 – 12:15 PM Moderator introduces each panelist
12:15 – 1:00 PM Panel discussion

Grab a plate and pull up a seat. Our featured panelists get honest about health, community, and what it takes for us to thrive.



### Tambra Cherie

Moderator • Television & Radio Personality, 97.7 The Beat of the Capital

Tambra Cherie is a nationally recognized television and radio personality, host, moderator, and author, heard weekdays from 10 AM to 2 PM on 97.7 The Beat of the Capital. An original cast member of OWN's Belle Collective (Seasons 1–6), she has appeared on Lifetime, TV One, Scripps News, and Dish Nation.



### Dr. Mauda L. Monger, PhD, MPH

Panelist • Founder & CEO, The SHE Project, Inc.

Dr. Mauda L. Monger is a public health leader with 20+ years advancing HIV prevention, care, and health equity for Black women across the Deep South. She directs UMMC's Center for HIV Research, Education & Policy and founded The SHE Project. A Jackson native and three-time HBCU graduate, she is known as "Dr. DIVA."



### Dominique Grant

Panelist • HIV Advocate & Speaker

Dominique Grant is a Mississippi native, HIV advocate, and speaker. Living with HIV since 2015, she broke her silence in 2024 to challenge stigma and encourage women to reclaim their voices. Featured in *Beyond the Diagnosis*, she created HER EndZone, a women's empowerment experience.



### Dr. Nakeitra L. Burse

Panelist • Founder & Executive Director, Six Dimensions

Dr. Nakeitra L. Burse is Founder and Executive Director of Six Dimensions, a Mississippi nonprofit improving maternal health outcomes for Black women. A public health leader for 15+ years, she advocates for Medicaid Expansion and Postpartum Extension, serves on the MS Maternal Mortality Review Committee, and produced the film *Laboring with Hope*.

**1:05 – 1:50 PM**

AFTERNOON TRACK 1 • E-INNOVATION COLLABORATORY ROOM

## Religious Trauma & Black SGL, Queer, Trans Wellness

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**1:05 – 1:50 PM**

AFTERNOON TRACK 2 • E-LOGISTICS COLLABORATORY ROOM

## Financial Literacy

Practical tools for budgeting, credit, and building long-term financial stability.



### Jason Quin, RICP

President & CEO, Jason Quin Insurance & Financial Services, Inc.

Jason Quin, RICP, is President and CEO of Jason Quin Insurance & Financial Services, Inc., operating two State Farm agencies in Pearl and Madison, MS. With 20 years in insurance and retirement planning and 26 in real estate, he helps families and business owners build and protect wealth. His agency ranks in State Farm's top 2%. Proud Jackson State University graduate.




SESSION LINEUP (CONTINUED)

# Afternoon Sessions

12:00 – 3:00 PM • Jackson State E-Conference Center

**1:05 – 1:50 PM**

AFTERNOON TRACK 3 • CALIFORNIA ROOM

## Advocacy in Action

How to use your voice to push for the policies and resources our community needs.



### Valencia Robinson

Executive Director, Mississippi in Action (MIA)

Valencia Robinson is a community advocate, nonprofit executive, and social justice champion serving as Executive Director of Mississippi in Action (MIA), with a focus on reproductive justice, sexual and reproductive health, HIV, and LGBTQ+ civic engagement. She is committed to amplifying the voices of underserved communities across Mississippi and leaving a lasting legacy of service.

**1:55 – 2:40 PM**

GENERAL SESSION • ALL ATTENDEES • BALLROOM

## Reset & Restore: A Mental Health Relaxation Session

A guided relaxation to pause, breathe, and recharge before we close out the day.



### Maya Morris

Presenter • Entrepreneur & Yoga Instructor • Split Rebel Yoga • Protect Your Peace Studios

Maya Morris is an entrepreneur, yoga instructor, and community wellness advocate making wellness more accessible in Jackson. She opened Split Rebel Yoga, the first Black-owned yoga studio in Jackson, and founded Protect Your Peace Studios, creating spaces for movement, mental wellness, recovery, and community.

**2:45 – 3:00 PM**

CLOSING • BALLROOM

## Closing Remarks & Community Resources

Final remarks, key takeaways, and community resources to take home.




INTRODUCING THE OPEN ARMS SELF-TEST

# Pick Up Your Kit!

Stop by the **Open Arms booth** today to grab a self-test kit and take care of your health on your own terms.

## HOW IT WORKS

STEP 1

### Pick Up

Grab a self-test kit from the **Open Arms booth**.

STEP 2

### Register

Scan the QR code **on your kit** and register it **before** you test.

STEP 3

### Test & Mail

Take your test, then mail it back with the return label. We'll let you know when your results are ready.

DON'T LEAVE WITHOUT YOURS

**Find the Open Arms Booth**

Open Arms HEALTHCARE CENTER

WWW.OAHCC.ORG

**Questions? Ask a member of the Open Arms team.**

Open Arms Healthcare Center • 805 E. River Place, Jackson, MS 39202

*Loud. Proud. Black.*




WITH GRATITUDE

# THANK YOU

*to our sponsor*

GILEAD

## Gilead Sciences

Thank you to Gilead for powering Jackson Black Pride 2026. From Testing for Tickets to the Gilead Lunch Panel and the Gilead Tailgate, your support helps us bring health, connection, and celebration directly to our community. We are grateful for your commitment to a healthier Mississippi.

*Loud. Proud. Black.*




WITH GRATITUDE

# THANK YOU

*to our sponsor*

Open Arms
HEALTHCARE CENTER

## Open Arms Healthcare Center

Thank you to Open Arms Healthcare Center for being a true partner in care. From hosting Testing for Tickets to leading today's session on PrEP, PEP & DoxyPEP, you meet our community with compassion and expertise every day.

*Loud. Proud. Black.*




WITH GRATITUDE

# THANK YOU

*to our sponsor*

## My Brother's Keeper, Inc.

Thank you to My Brother's Keeper, Inc. for co-hosting Jackson Black Pride and for its long-standing commitment to the health and well-being of our community. Your leadership makes this Summit possible.

*Loud. Proud. Black.*




WITH GRATITUDE

# THANK YOU

*to our sponsor*

Center for Black Equity

## Center for Black Equity

Thank you to the Center for Black Equity for supporting Jackson Black Pride 2026 and for championing Black LGBTQ+ communities and Prides across the country.

*Loud. Proud. Black.*




WITH GRATITUDE

# THANK YOU

*to our sponsor*

Avita PHARMACY

## Avita Pharmacy

Thank you to Avita Pharmacy for supporting Jackson Black Pride 2026 and for helping make care and medication more accessible to our community.

*Loud. Proud. Black.*




WITH GRATITUDE

# THANK YOU

*to our sponsor*

## US HELPING US PEOPLE INTO LIVING

### Us Helping Us, People Into Living

Thank you to Us Helping Us, People Into Living for supporting Jackson Black Pride 2026 and for helping welcome our community to today's Summit. Your work for Black LGBTQ+ health inspires us.

*Loud. Proud. Black.*




WITH GRATITUDE

# THANK YOU

*to our sponsor*

## Alchemy

Thank you to Alchemy for supporting Jackson Black Pride 2026 and for investing in the health and well-being of our community.

*Loud. Proud. Black.*




WITH SPECIAL GRATITUDE

# SPECIAL THANKS

*to our host city*

THE CITY WITH Soul
JXN
MISSISSIPPI

## Visit Jackson

A special thank you to Visit Jackson for celebrating the City with Soul and for welcoming our community to Jackson, Mississippi.

*Loud. Proud. Black.*




YOUR VOICE MATTERS

# TELL US HOW WE DID

*2026 Health Summit Feedback Survey*

Thank you for spending the day with us. Take a few minutes to complete our **short survey** and tell us what worked and what we can do better next year.

## SCAN WITH YOUR PHONE CAMERA

Open your camera, point it at the code, and tap the link.

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*Loud. Proud. Black.*