#### OPEN ARMS FOOD PANTRY AND RESOURCE CENTER PRESENTS



#### LA BLACK HISTORY MONTH FESTIVAL

MICHELLE AND BARACK OBAMA SPORTS COMPLEX

FEBRUARY 19 2023

5001 OBAMA BLVD LOS ANGELES CA 90016 11AM - 6PM

LABLACKHISTORYMONTHFESTIVAL.COM

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### Greatness is defined by inspiration, action, kindness and generosity

Cedars-Sinai is proud to support the 2023 L.A. Black History Month Festival in both celebrating and supporting families in need through Open Arms Food Pantry and Resource Center.



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#### Schedule of Festival

11am Festival Kickoff with DJ Calloway

12p Lady Zhe (Violinist)

12:30 DJ Calloway

1p Wright Middle School (Drumline)

1:35p Black D3mon

1:50 Katonya Breaux

2p Dr. Randal Henry

2:15p Henry Brown

2:30 J. Boykin

3p Wadada, Ladee Dred, Queen Nzingha

3:50p Thompson Sisters of DreamGirls Hair

4p Health Forum Q&A

4:30p Odds Band

5:05p Boom Shaka, Mr.Suprize & RasKen



## Getting to Know.... Host Dr. LaShawn Denise Witt

Dr. La Shawn Denise Witt was born January 3, 1977. A native of Los Angeles, California, Dr. Witt worked in the field of education for over 18 years as an Assistant Principal, Principal, Middle School Teacher and Teacher on Special Assignment. Dedicated to her personal educational advancement, she has earned two Bachelor degrees from Loyola Marymount University in Biology and African American studies, a Masters degree in Education including her secondary teaching credential from Pepperdine University, administrative credential with special education leadership certification in the Masters of Education ISLA program from Loyola Marymount University, as well as a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Argosy University. In addition, she has completed graduate level courses in the Masters of Human Services and Personnel Counseling program at Mount Saint Mary's College. In 2017, she decided to step out on faith and live her dream of inspiring others and follow the steps that God called her to walk in. She coined her journey as, "The year of 40" and began strategizing to make her dream a reality.

A multi-entrepreneur, Dr. Witt owns Divine Diva Events (DDE), a wedding and special event business based out of Beverly Hills, CA with satellite locations throughout the country. It has always been her dream to provide clients around the country quality, trustworthy event planning at an affordable rate.

Over the course of her life, Dr. Witt has faced and overcome many obstacles that have shaped her into who she is today. In the spring of 2023, she will finally release her first book appropriately entitled, "The Diva Herself". In her book, she will discuss how being a silent rape survivor at age 15 contributed to abusive and failed relationships, poor handling of finances, long bouts of depression, struggling with validation and acceptance, and multiple attempts of suicide. She will share how her journey to "The year of 40" opened the door to walk into a more fulfilled purpose and produced her first Women's Spiritual Retreat under My Sister's Keeper. This retreat convened in May 2018 and celebrated diversity, spiritual experience, and healing of women from all walks of life. This event has led to many speaking engagements for women-based events around the country and continues today.

Dr. Witt has recently launched an initiative through My Sister's Keeper to fund transitional recovery homes in the city of Los Angeles. Her mission is to end homelessness for women, families and communities and assist with providing them with second chance opportunities in life and to restore self-sufficiency and dignity. She is currently in the beginning stages of overseeing a partnership merge to open transitional housing in Los Angeles under the umbrella "Charity House, LLC."

Rounding out her entrepreneurial talents, Dr. Witt recently launched an Educational Consulting business. This business will target school districts and provide strategic planning and professional development to schools experiencing teacher shortages, teacher retention matters, and assist in the execution of administrative retreats for executive leadership teams.

La Shawn is "The Global Strategist" and one of her mantra's acclaims God is within her she will not fail.

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### Getting to Know.... Co-Host THERESA KING

A New Orleans Native, Queen Theresa King is a World Peace Advocate, Singer, songwriter, music producer and Spiritual Oracle to many seeking world historical truths. Putting her messages in her music, she teaches the Spiritual Applications of the Spiritual Principles of love, while giving education and the knowledge of truth, helping people discover and release the power within them to conquer anything!

Queen Theresa is the recipient of the 2003 Outstanding Businesswoman of the Year Award from the American Businesswoman Association Long Beach Ca. Chapter. She received the Key to the City of Westwego Louisiana for bringing a 53ft trailer truck load to the city and serving 5 agencies who care for the underprivileged. She received the Community Pride Award from the late grate Congresswoman Juanita McDonald which was the 2nd she presented before her death. She has been honored by many Congressional, Senate, County and Local Community leaders. Queen Theresa was the 2021 Community Grand Marshall for the Orange County Black History Parade held in Anaheim California.

Understanding God while satisfying man has been a life-long mission for the Queen! With a church foundation through her mother, who also was a seamstress, and a jazz music guitar playing father, she has been a choir singer and song writer from the age 5. Fashion designing like her mother, she made her first short set at age 7, and in school won her first talent show in the 6th grade. She performed at the middle school Christmas concert and made clothes for the school fashion show! During this same time, she was feeding the needy and helping others with the church. At the age of 16, she became so popular that a special event was held in honor at the Mount Herman Baptist Church in Avondale La. called "This is Yor Life".

She married and moved to Long Beach California in in 1986 where she endured domestic violence at an unimaginable level! The process of overcoming it took her in the direction of helping other women to overcome the hardships that come with domestic abuse. She put all of her energy into the community through the school system where her children attended. She became the first Vice President of the Long Beach Head Start Program where she learned Executive Board Structuring. She eventually became an advisor to the 7th district city councilwoman, started the Jaguars football league, all while taking classes for Psychology, Human and **Business Development.** 

Queen has worked for the National Council on Alcohol and Drug Dependency program, servicing DCFS clients through their Family Preservation Program, Prop 36 and Adolescent offenders to improve their lives with her life coaching techniques. While with NCADD, she also continued with her community giving, establishing food and product resource distribution programs in local churches in LA and Orange Counties. She has planned many community events, concerts and festivals to promote love and light in the community. She is the founder of Eradicate the Hate Inc. A non-profit that services food banks and local community churches and agencies with food, product and resource services. She also runs TheresaKingSpeaks.com the place where you can get informed, and learn all about the Queen!



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