

GTAAAC Newsletter

Greater Tulsa African American
Affairs Commission

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Next Meeting:
January 14 2025



**2024 GTAAAC
Members with TPS
Superintendent Dr.
Ebony Johnson at
November Meeting.**

December Events

1-23: Tulsa Botanic Garden of Lights, Tulsa Botanic Gardens, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

1: Soul Food Sunday Rooftop Party, The Boxyard, 5 - 9 p.m.

4, 11, 18: Build-A-Reader Storytime, Rudisill Library, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

5: Video Games After School, Brookside Library, 4 - 5 p.m.

5: FAFSA & OK Promise Workshop, Rudisill Library, 4 - 7 p.m.

6: Glow on the Green, Guthrie Green, 6 - 9 p.m.

7: Get in the Holiday Spirit Through Dance, Suburban Acres, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

7: Christmas on the Riverwalk, Jenks Riverwalk, 5 - 8 p.m.

8: Paws and Claus, Nothing's Left Brewery, 1 - 6 p.m.

19: Tulsa Club Jazz Night with Carmela Hill, Tulsa Club, 5:30 p.m.

27: Annual Kwanzaa Celebration, Rudisill Library, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Committee Updates

EDUCATION

The education committee invited TPS superintendent Dr. Ebony Johnson to the November commission meeting. Dr. Johnson shared updates about the Tulsa Public School District, including:

- *BIPOC currently account for 56% of staff members in the district.*
- *Black students are seeing higher numbers of suspensions and absenteeism rates than other students; the district is investigating root causes.*
- *Commissioner Love brought to the district's attention the number of Black students struggling to obtain driver's licenses, which causes run-ins with law enforcement; driver's ed will be returning to TPS.*
- *TPS is implementing a policy that all 8th graders must fill out Oklahoma's Promise - that money is not being utilized by TPS students.*
- *TPS is encouraging Black students to sign up for AP/IB courses as well as Gifted and Talented programs.*

Dr. Johnson also shared ways that GTAAAC can support TPS.

Microtransit Survey:



POLICY

The policy committee is working on a new transportation initiative. In collaboration with other commissions, the policy committee hopes to do something about the lack of transportation many North Tulsans (and Tulsans across the city) experience. More details are forthcoming. In the meantime, complete the Microtransit Survey linked at the QR code below the education section.

The committee also hopes to work more closely with the Beyond Apology Commission.

CULTURE & ENGAGEMENT

The culture and engagement committee will host their speaker at the January meeting.

HUMAN RIGHTS

The HRC hosted guest Dr. Rebecca Hubbard, the city's new Chief Mental Health Officer. More details on city-wide initiatives for mental health challenges forthcoming.