

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

"The only thing that remains constant is Change!"

➔ The Future of Ensley

As a creative visionary, I can see Ensley's community future as a place for the following initiatives and programs.

- Clothing boutiques, holistic health care and emotional wellness services.
- Affordable Fresh Food Markets
- Academic and Workforce Programs for Adults/High School students
- Mentor programs for students of all ages
- Workshops on Financial Awareness, Business and Marketing
- Cultural Festivals that educate and celebrate the African American community
- A place for Artist to create and showcase various talents

➔ Impacting Ensley

As an advocate for the Arts and Education, I would like the EBA organization to host, find funding/grants and encourage programs specifically dedicated in the field of dance, music, choral and theatre. Historically, Ensley was known for several forms of the Arts.

However, it is important as a community to endorse, teach and highlight artists of various ethnic backgrounds. As the surrounding areas have produced integral individuals such as Angela Davis and Neil Carter we must continue to expose this generation and beyond to this

➔ Community Connections

Everyone in the neighboring communities, businesses and organizations must first come to a common objective and goals. Leadership has to be shared and compromises must be made. Short and long-term goals should be set by future endeavors based on qualitative and quantitative data. Lastly, surveys from various age groups must be used to gain knowledge and structure.

There is a heartbeat that can be found in community members, parents, students and other patrons. I believe that the revitalization of Ensley can save lives through new business, creative programs, educational outreach, sacrifice, diverse leadership, dedication and hard work. I believe that the Ensley community saved me. Therefore, I believe the future of the Ensley community and Downtown movement can save generations yet to come.



DR. GAYBRIELLE JONES-MASON

Interviewed by Jodi Edwards

As a young child, my father Rev. P.W. Jones was the preacher at Nicholas Temple AME Church. During the 80's, Nicholas Temple was located in the middle of the income based housing community referred to as "The Brick Yard". They called it the "The Brick Yard" because for several blocks in Ensley all you could see was small two story structures of red brick. For at least three years, our family worship and served the Ensley area.

As time went on my father was placed in other AME Churches. However, my oldest brother and I attended/graduated from Ensley High School (EHS). While matriculating academically at EHS, I played two instruments in the band, served as an SGA officer, and a proud member of the Drama Club, which was headed by my mentor Mrs. Yolaine Sykes. It is because of Mrs. Sykes that I found my way to a full scholarship in theatre at Grambling State University. During my tenure at Ensley, I learned several integral skills, which have guided and nurtured me.

I had role models such as Dr. Hines, who was then my EHS principal and now BCS Instructional Superintendent. Ensley High School was also home to the young mothers program. Real life exposure to teen pregnancy, gang activity and violence against one another motivated me. I began to have intrinsic motivation towards making decisions, work ethic, studying skills and my future. Lastly, Ensley High School taught me pride. At such a pivotal point in my life, Ensley High School gave me the tools needed to be a successful individual, role model to others and ultimately Dr. Gaybrielle Jones-Mason, EdD.