

MESSAGE

Fall/Winter 2025



InTheMeantimeMen.org

Annual Activations

February

National BLACK HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

June/July

Juneteenth/Black LGBTQ+ Pride Celebration

August

Black Gay Men's Wellness Month

September

Umoja Retreat

December

Anniversary Celebration
World AIDS Day



Programs and Services

Daily

Sexual Health
HIV Counseling and Testing
Linkage to STI Screening
Linkage to PrEP, PEP
Linkage to Care
Case Management/
Linkage Services

Weekly

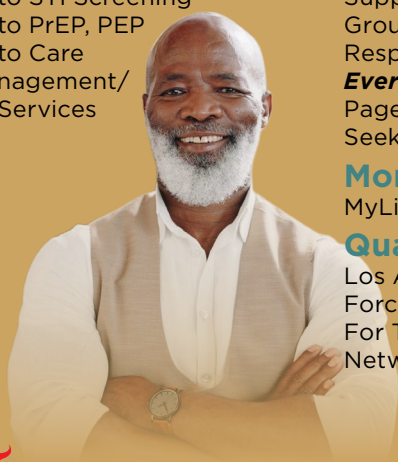
Every Tuesday: Brothers Reaching Brothers, Intergenerational Social Support Discussion and Networking Group Designed for Black Men Respectful of Sexual Orientation
Every Thursday: The First 164-Page, Big Book Studies, Open to All Seeking to Recover

Monthly

MyLife 2.0, Ages 18-39

Quarterly

Los Angeles Black Men's Task Force, Intergenerational Meeting For The Sages, Social Support/Networking



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A NEW CHAPTER OF LEADERSHIP

DR. LEON MAULTSBY, DBH, APPOINTED
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
IN THE MEANTIME MEN'S GROUP

BY ASHLEY DAVIS

In a time when community bonds feel more urgent than ever, In The Meantime Men's Group ushers in a new era of leadership with the appointment of Dr. Leon Maultsby as Executive Director. Originally from Orlando, Florida, Dr. Maultsby has called Los Angeles home since 2021 and is already deeply engaged with the city's Black LGBTQ+ community.

In August of 2025 In The Meantime Men's Group celebrated Black Gay Men's Wellness Month, I was present at the opening ceremony to witness a candid conversation with Dr. Maultsby and Jeffrey King, In The Meantime's founder, announcing the passing of leadership. The theme of brotherhood rose to the surface. I asked him to expand on the meaning of that word in his life.

"I have some really close friends who have become brothers to me," he shared. "During the pandemic and other hard times, I've seen the benefit of how I've been able to get through

because of the support of my friends. When you need to vent, cry, and give a praise report, it's a good feeling to have folks to call and hear you out."

That sense of connection and accountability—both personal and collective—drives Dr. Maultsby's vision for the organization. Although In The Meantime Men's Group is firmly rooted in Los Angeles, his commitment to embedding himself into the city's fabric has been intentional.

"Within the work that I've done at a previous non-profit and university, it became my mission to get involved in my community," he explained. "Attending local events to see who the organizations that were out here doing the work. I know building relationships has been critical. A few years ago, I joined the Commission on HIV as the Part C Commissioner, and that helped me get rooted and learn from those with lived experiences. Then I became the Co-Chair of the Black Caucus,

which really propelled me into being more community-facing—and I really enjoy being with community.”

It is precisely that dedication to relationship-building that will serve him well as he steps into his new role at In The Meantime. But leadership also comes with a recognition of the challenges ahead. When asked what he feels the community most needs in this political and social moment, Dr. Maultsby was candid:

“I think what’s needed right now is a rejuvenated community! In some aspects we are divided as a community and it shows. We know there is power in numbers, but that’s only when we are coming as a collective.”

For those just getting to know him, Dr. Maultsby describes himself simply and warmly:

“Leon is a Southern man who loves life! I am a Pisces—March, because that matters,” he added with a smile. “I’m an uncle and great-uncle, brother, and great friend. I’m deeply passionate about ensuring my people

are seen and valued. I’ve worked in different capacities—from residential mental health facilities and drug court programs to hospitals, non-profits, and universities. What keeps me rooted is that it’s always been about the people.”

Dr. Maultsby, the youngest of five children, earned his bachelor’s degree in psychology and master’s degree in healthcare administration from the University of Central Florida, later completing his doctorate in behavioral health at Arizona State University. Outside of work, he enjoys cooking (his signature macaroni and cheese), hiking, brunch, and traveling.

As he takes on this new role, it’s clear that Dr. Maultsby is guided by both professional expertise and personal conviction. In a city as vast and diverse as Los Angeles, he brings with him a call for unity, brotherhood, and the rejuvenation of community.

Ashley Davis is a Black woman and a Director of People and Systems.



Shawn Wilson, Ashley Davis, Jeffrey C. King, Dr. Leon Maultsby, and Gerald Garth

READY TO PLAY?

freeSTDcheck.org

AHF WELLNESS CENTER

2146 West Adams Blvd
(855) 783-2434

SCAN ME

AHF

A portrait of Dione Basquiat, a Black man with a beard, wearing a white long-sleeved shirt and a gold watch. He is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. The background is a dark, textured wall.

A WORD FROM THE ICON

CATCHING UP WITH DIONE

BY JEFFREY C. KING

I stopped to catch up with Pioneering Icon, Dione Basquiat. Dione is a founding member of the West Coast Ballroom scene in Los Angeles, California, where he founded the first house of Ferragamo.

Dione: In 1996, Ballroom was non-existent in California. We were trail-blazers at that time. We didn't know the impact that Ballroom would have moving forward. We did know that what we were creating was very special. We worked together to grow Ballroom and it felt more unified. It was an extension of our biological families and for others the families they never had. We operated like more traditional families. We sat down together for dinner, supported house members who were struggling with HIV, homelessness, and substance abuse. We created a home for those who had and for those who didn't have.

Jeffrey: As a bystander, I have witnessed and sponsored many Balls in my day, and I've met some of the most passionate and creative people

ever. One of the things that has drawn me closer to the scene is experiencing the level of commitment to the craft of Ballroom, starting with the Icons and moving along the ladder of legends and all. As a bystander, I've grown to view the actual Balls as unique platforms for creative expression at the highest level. This organic process for community building is a way to develop close ties to other likeminded people. I've always benefited from my conversations and connections with Icons like Dione. Dione's insight extends deeply within the scene while encompassing the broader Black and Black LGBTQ+ community. In The Meantime's programming has been greatly influenced by Ballroom culture and leadership. I asked him, how is the scene different and how is it the same?



Dione: Individuals in the various houses were closely connected, yet they got the assignment of relentless competition and, just as importantly, sportsmanship. I believe the scene is in the process of finding its way back to its core. While some of us are aging, newer and younger talent are still coming along. The Kiki scene has risen to a level of respect and a great place to start. I remember back in the day, how the battles were more intense for different reasons. House members were more cordial to each other, no matter what.

Jeffrey: Some categorize the Ballroom scene as a negative and sometimes violent space. Is that true?

Dione: The violence that exists today exists because of outside issues between individuals. This violence often plays out on the Ballroom platform. In the first few years of Ballroom there wasn't real violence. Violence existed outside of the scene.

I do agree that Ballroom members being called gang members is, however, a fair comparison."

Jeffrey: Wow! Tell us how you really feel! Well, Dione, as we close this conversation, talk a bit more about the state of Ballroom today.

Dione: The state of Ballroom today is like the blind leading the blind. Many of our younger members don't know what a healthy relationship is like. There is excessive trauma transference. In my opinion Icon Nicco Gorgeous Gucci, Icon Mother Devine Gorgeous Gucci, Icon Trey Basquiat, Icon Fe Garcon, and other leaders in the scene were and are effective in Ballroom because of what they learned from those who came before them. We took our roles as Mothers and Fathers serious. We held all members to a higher standard of living beyond the Ball. We encouraged them to go to school and/or to get a job.

Jeffrey: Thanks for sharing some of your thoughts with me, Dione. My final questions: Has Ballroom been appropriated? Are outsiders using the Ball scene in ways that are disrespectful to the scene?

Dione: Ballroom is trending; it is not appropriation when Ballroom people are involved in the process and implementation. Celebrity and even agency fundraising balls are OK. Race doesn't matter. None of this diminishes the sacredness of the scene. It in fact extends its reach into the broader society. It elevates the scene.

Jeffrey C. King is a Community Social Architect and Founder of In The Meantime Men's Group, Inc.

In The Meantime Men's Group 28th Anniversary Celebration

December 13th, 2025

5pm til 10pm

Casa Vertigo

1828 Oak Street,
Los Angeles, 90015



Ebony Lane

**In The Meantime Men's Group
proudly honors Ebony Lane,
with the Lifetime Achievement
Award for her enduring impact
and legacy!**

Performances by Gia Banks and Savannah Garcia!





EBONY LANE

MEET IN THE MEANTIME'S LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT

BY JEFFREY C. KING

Ebony Lane, LA's First Lady, emerged on the scene in the early 90s, working in the historic Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Mall, a Los Angeles historic community landmark. Ebony's transitioning became more than a personal choice to take control of her life and to live her truth out loud. Her visibility and voice became and remain an act of revolution and affirmation for those seeking to be free.

For many years, we witnessed how she owned *Ebony Lane*. This local and nationally recognized makeup artist and cosmetic expert would not be denied.

"One day I decided that I would no longer hide who I am, but rather I would stand in my whole truth. I've educated and mentored thousands of people to help them better understand our Black LGBTQ+ community. I'm mother (Motha) to thousands. My children are not only LGBTQ+ but also include straight, cisgendered people as well. I've come

to realize that many of our allies face similar challenges in their day-to-day lives. While helping beat my cisgender sisters' faces and lashes, I've helped them with advice on how to navigate life as a Black woman."

In the early 90s Ebony hosted shows at the Caper Room in Inglewood on Market Street. She later hosted Los Angeles's premier female impersonator shows at Club Lingerie featuring some of the nation's most exceptional drag performers.

Working with Icons like Dione Basquiat and the legendary Jewel Thais-Williams of the historic Catch One, Ebony has hosted numerous events and fundraisers for the LGBTQ+ community. Partnering with her community brother, the late great Ivan Daniel, she graced the stages of First Fridays and Metro Wednesday in the heart of West Hollywood. Working closely with Ivan, Ebony helped pave the way for Black and Urban communities to take root in the



once racist West Hollywood venues.

Ebony Lane continues to be a focal point for many struggling with their identity. Her mere presence in community and social media spaces challenges oppressive systems that would seek to silence the voices of women like Ebony. Ebony's persistence, bravery, and conviction has provided comfort to those who aspire to be FREE.

Today, Ebony has expanded her merchandise empire, while dominating the social media spaces. Her sassy slogans are used across the globe. Yes, Mother Is

Giving Excellence, clipping the girls as only Ebony can.

Today Ebony continues to recreate herself and remains a trendsetter and leader in her community. Yes, Mother is giving a 5, 6, 7, 8 set and clipping the girls, on the dead home girls. Her legacy, style, bravery, and conviction will live on for years to come.

This year, In The Meantime will present Ebony Lane with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

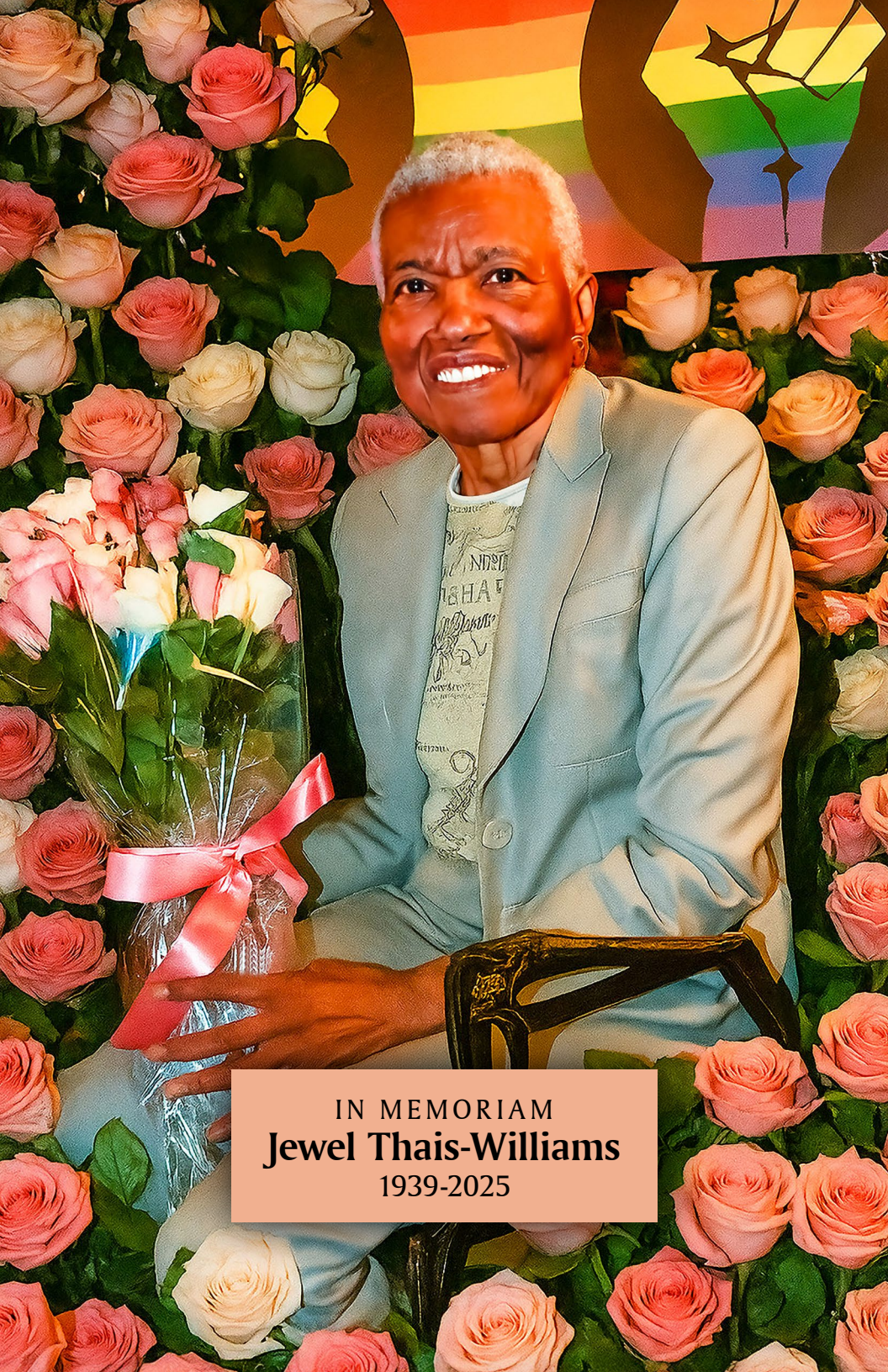
Jeffrey C. King is a Community Social Architect and Founder of In The Meantime Men's Group, Inc.

UMOJA (UNITY) RETREAT 2025

September 2025

Community powerbrokers came together to elevate the energy of the Pirate Stone and our Four Tenets, UNIFICATION, RELAXATION, REVITALIZATION, and AMPLIFICATION. A thoughtfully selected group of community leaders manifested FREEDOM in a time when the world around us is reeling. We basked in the magnificent gift of truth-telling and affirmation. We affirmed that "We Are One." This year's empowerment retreat anchored and elevated holistic wealth and prosperity. As Black men (respectful of sexual orientation), we amplified our commitment to our individual and collective healing. We ascended the desert of Palm Springs with a unified commitment, to share from the overflow.





IN MEMORIAM
Jewel Thais-Williams
1939-2025