

Our Mission Statement

The continual unification of as many organizations as possible starting at the local level and branching out to both the state of North Carolina and then the entire nation.

Spotlight

The Czar of Black Hollywood



Oscar Devereaux Micheaux

(January 2, 1884 - March 25, 1951)

By DonnaMarie Woodson



The best art is political and you ought to be able to make it unquestionably political and irrevocably beautiful at the same time.

— Toni Morrison —

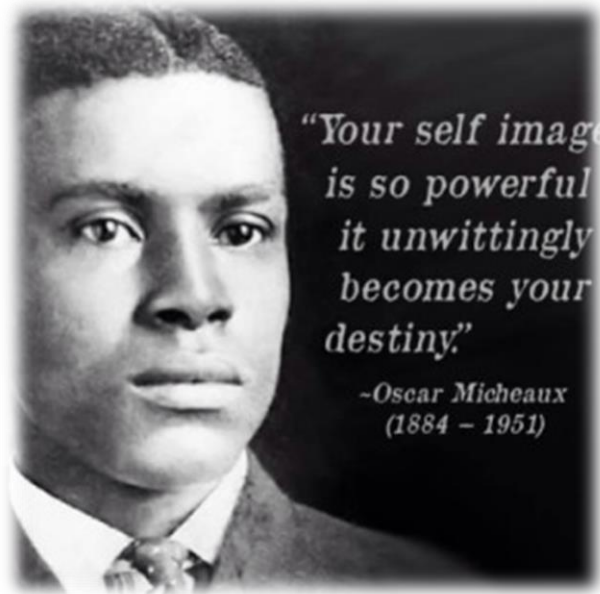
I've always been of the mind that Art is political. From Da Vinci to Marvin Gaye to contemporary artists of today, their platforms are a voice for the political climate of the day.

Oscar Micheaux is one of those artists who chose to use his platform to represent the African-American community with love, respect, compassion, and truth.

Not well known but an extremely important groundbreaker in the early days of cinema, [Oscar Micheaux](#) was a man ahead of his time. He was the most successful African-American filmmaker of the first half of the twentieth century and the most prominent producer of race films. He produced both silent films and "talkies" as a film director and independent producer of more than 44 films.

Before Spike Lee and John Singleton, there was Oscar Micheaux.

Micheaux's movies were a challenge to racial segregation and an alternative outlet for black moviegoers. He is thought to have written, produced and directed more than 40 films from 1919 to 1948.




In response to [D.W. Griffith's](#) outrageous and racist depiction of African-Americans in his landmark film "[The Birth of a Nation](#)" (1915) Micheaux produced "[Within Our Gates](#)" (1920). It is considered an important expression of African-American life in the years immediately following World War I when violent racist incidents occurred throughout the United

States, but most frequently in the South.

The film portrays racial violence under white supremacy, and

Micheaux's counter-narrative



—Features interracial cast, Within Our Gates follows a Southern black woman who, abandoned by her fiancé, travels to the North in search of funding for a black school in her home town, only to have her past come back to haunt her. The film explores racial tensions in the South through issues of miscegenation, rape, and, most controversially, lynching. Due to a particularly graphic lynching scene, Southern theatres would not book the film and it eventually disappeared for seventy years.

the lynching of black people. Produced, written and directed by Micheaux, it is the oldest known surviving film made by an African-American director.

Lost for decades, a single print of the film, entitled *La Negra* (*The Black Woman*), was discovered in Spain in the 1970s. In 1992, "*Within Our Gates*" was selected by the Library of Congress for preservation in the United States National Film Registry as being "culturally, historically, and aesthetically significant".



On his style:

Micheaux said,

"My results...might have been narrow at times, due perhaps to certain limited situations, which I endeavored to portray, but in those limited situations, the truth was the predominant characteristic. It is only by presenting those portions of the race portrayed in my pictures, in the light and background of their true state, that we can raise our people to greater heights. I am too imbued with the spirit of Booker T. Washington to engraft false virtues upon ourselves, to make ourselves that which we are not."



Cemetery in Great Bend, Kansas, the home of his youth.

His gravestone reads: "A Man Ahead of His Time".

Micheaux died on March 25, 1951, in Charlotte, North Carolina, of heart failure. He is buried in Great Bend





Click on this documentary for an overview of the life and accomplishments of the “Czar of Black Hollywood” – Oscar Micheaux

Micheaux's Works

- *The Homesteader* (1919). First feature length film by an African American
- *Within Our Gates* (1920). Response to D.W. Griffith's *Birth of a Nation*
- *Body and Soul* (1924). With Paul Robeson.
- *The Exile* (1931). First African American feature length sound film.



Works Cited:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Czar_of_Black_Hollywood

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oscar_Micheaux

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Within_Our_Gates

Coalition of United Progressives-CharMeck

Editorial

What about the Minimum Wage?

By Tarik Kiley

July 27, 2018

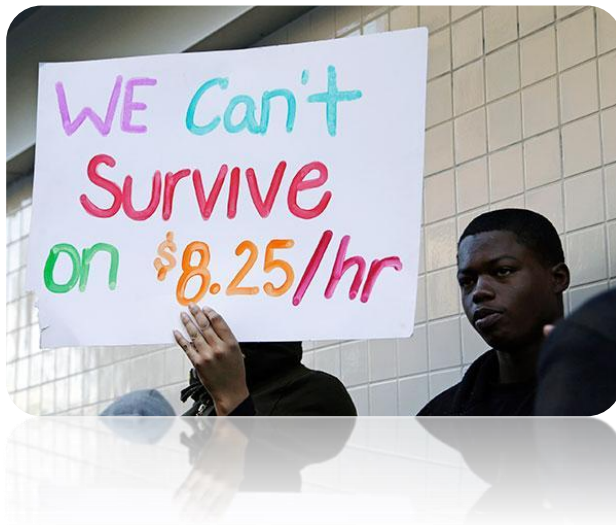


We all know the adage, “if you do not work, then you do not eat.” But, what happens when you work but you are still not able to eat? This is a metaphor for families who work

extensively, but still may not make enough money to survive on. As the middle class shrinks, many Americans are forced to pay more than 30% of monthly income on housing, making it unaffordable, and many must work more than 40 hours a week to make ends meet. So, today if you work, you still may *not* be able to eat.

Today, workers are paid starvation wages. Gone are the post WWII days, when a family could live off the income of the primarily male

bread winner. No, today, instead you are paid just barely enough—which amounts to a carrot on a stick being dangled in front of the nose of the proverbial donkey. Today, the “middle class” has to work harder and in increasingly unfulfilling environments in order to “pay the bills.”



Of course, the idea of increasing labor costs does not fall on deaf ears with me. I get it. Companies must keep costs low to turn a profit. This point is well taken. But, I do not believe that CEO's and top-level managers should make such a perverse amount of money more than workers.

Also, think about this, today companies want workers to come to work for them, fully trained. But, remember the good old days, where you could get on the job training? On the job training worked to help workers feel more fulfillment and more invested in the companies' mission, and more

competent, as well.



Listen, if the idea is that low skilled workers are so low skilled, that they cannot command a higher salary or wage, then providing training for the willing workers will give them the skills they need to be more valuable to the firm, and then they will “deserve” a

higher wage. Here I could digress into the failure of the school system to provide the economy with workers who are ready for the 21st century economy, but I will refrain from doing so.

It is not so much about paying people more for less work, it is about paying people for the value of the work which they provide. It makes

If raising the minimum wage increases prices, how come prices have continued to rise even though the minimum wage hasn't been raised in years?

It wouldn't have anything to do with corporate greed, would it?



sense for America to provide workers to industries who can command higher wages, not simply beg for higher wages. In other words, America needs to encourage upward mobility.

Also, it could be argued that upward mobility leads to a higher standard of living, and a higher

standard of living leads to a better quality of life. It is not so much that a higher standard of living produces happiness, but it could be said that a higher standard of living can produce luxury and leisure, which are desirable commodities within themselves.

The balance here is to increase the productivity and skill level of the work force, while paying workers what they are worth to the bottom line. In other words, Marx's surplus value. Although communism was a colossal failure, there is some merit to the idea that productive workers should be paid for their productivity.



When it comes to income inequality, the rich should not be punished for being rich, but they should also not keep the excess profit, without spreading the wealth and rewarding productive work.

Think about it, the workers who have greater disposable income, or cash on hand, for various leisure related purchases, actually benefit the economy by being able to spend more at various businesses which cater to their desires and wants.

So, this is my case for the higher minimum wage. People must have the money in their pockets to purchase the goods and services which the private sector produces. If no one can afford anything, and people are not rewarded for their work, then that is just as bad as paying too much in wages for poor quality work.

Works Cited

<https://minimum-wage.procon.org/>

<https://democrats-edworkforce.house.gov/imo/media/doc/FactSheet-RaisingTheMinimumWagelsGoodForWorkers,Businesses,andTheEconomy-FINAL.pdf>

Announcements



Democrats of N. Mecklenburg Monthly Meeting

Thursday, August 2, 2018 7:00 PM

MAGNOLIA WOODS

12125 STATESVILLE ROAD

HUNTERSVILLE, NC 28078

(SHARED DRIVEWAY WITH CAROLINA VETERINARY SPECIALISTS)

CLICK HERE TO RSVP

Invision Diagnostics and Birdsong Brewing Co.

Women's Health Day at Birdsong!

Saturday, August 4, 12:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Birdsong Brewing Company

Charlotte, NC 28205

(Bring your breast gal friends out for day of mammograms and connect with women's healthcare community leaders, all while drinking at your favorite brewery! To schedule a mammogram in advance, please follow this link: <https://tup3qsshyg.timetap.com/>.

However, walk-ins are welcome!)

Announcements



Democratic Women of Mecklenburg County

Paint the Town Blue Fundraiser Gala
Thursday, August 9, 2018, 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM
Temple Israel
Providence Road 4901
Charlotte, NC 28226

Puerto Rican Cultural Society of Charlotte

Puerto Rican Festival 2018
Saturday, August 11th 12:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Symphony Park
4400 Sharon Rd
Charlotte, NC 28211

North Mecklenburg Progressives Monthly Dinner

Speaker: Chaz Beasley, Representative for NC House, District
92 on the history and status of I-77
Tuesday, August 14th, 2018 at 6:30 PM
Famous Toastery
12715 Conner Dr., Huntersville

Announcements



Latin American Chamber of Commerce of Charlotte

Meet the Candidates 2018

Tuesday, August 21, 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM

4305 Monroe Rd.

Charlotte, NC 28205

Senator Jeff Jackson's Gameplan Phone Bank

Advent CoWorking

933 Louise Ave, Suite #101, Charlotte, 28204

Purpose: Targeting voters in flippable districts across the state and letting them know there's an election this November 2nd.

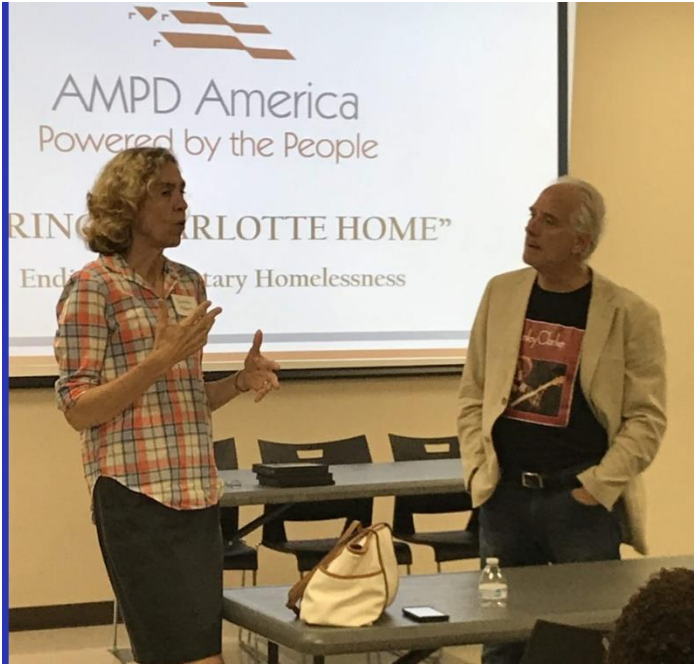
- They've got a great challenger running in a competitive race who deserves their support as a voter and a volunteer.
- This challenger could be one of the keys to unlocking the governor's veto which would dramatically shift the political landscape.

Sign up here <http://www.jeffjacksonnc.com/gameplan-phone-bank>



Please submit your group events to donnamarie93@gmail.com by the 15th of the month for inclusion in the Announcements.

Happenings Gallery



(Former Mayor Jennifer Roberts, Joel Segal, 'Bring Charlotte Home' Meeting. Glencie Rhedrick, Linda Schragar, Cynthia Perry, DonnaMarie Woodson, Gordon B. Daniels, Immigrant Vigil/Rally)

The Executive Corner:

Executive Director - Jade X. Jackson

Rev Rodney Sadler, Joel Segal, DonnaMarie Woodson

Coalition of United Progressives-CharMeck Chronicle

Editor: DonnaMarie Woodson

Contributor: Tarik Kiley

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