

## WELCOME! To The NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner

DIGITAL PROGRAM

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## Freedom Fund 2024

### Schedule of Events

Social Hour — 4:30-5:30

**Seating** — **5:30** 

**Welcome** — **5:45** 

Dinner & Keynote — 6:00

**Awards** — 7:00

Concert — 8:30









#### Freedom Fund Dinner

The Freedom Fund is a fundraiser that brings together NAACP members and the community to support the work of the NAACP - both locally and on a national level.

It is an annual event that hasn't been held since 2020 due to the pandemic. We are excited to have you here as we bring back this long-held tradition and make positive change in our community.

## What is the NAACP?



#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination. The Duluth Minnesota Branch embodies the mission statement of the National NAACP by working to bring unity in our local communities.

#### **VISION STATEMENT**

Our vision for the Northland is one with equitable opportunities for people of African heritage and other marginalized communities.

For more information, including how to join a committee, visit: https://duluthnaacp.org/about



#### About the Speaker



#### CONSCIOUS LEE

George "Conscious" Lee, a dynamic speaker and content creator, engages with critical socio-political issues through provocative content. Overcoming adversity to achieve academic success, Lee combines his expertise in African-American Studies with a passion for educational entertainment, impacting a wide audience across social media platforms.

Recognized with awards and featured in major publications, he fosters awareness and transformation, connecting across generations from TikTok users to baby boomers.

#### **About the Bands**



#### THE GEMSTONES

AfroGeode began as a solo project by Diona Johnson, upon finding what she describes as her "musical soulmates" she expanded her sound to include a full band now known as AfroGeode & The Gemstones which consists of keys (Courtney Ellian), bass (Emanuel Eisele), electric guitar (Josh Nickila), and drums (Ian Hopp). The band spans genres in the form of reimagined jazz-influenced covers as well as originals. The band has classical training and roots in Jazz; their most treasured genre's include Jazz, Funk and Soul.

#### **About the Bands**





#### NUR-D

One of the fastest rising stars in Minnesota's music scene, Nur-D burst onto the stage in 2018. Imagine the soulful sounds of Bruno Mars or Childish Gambino, the powerful energy of Chance the Rapper, the pop culture punchlines of an episode of "Community," all rolled up into a show that everyone can enjoy à la The Fresh Prince. Performing alongside national acts like MisterWives, Ludacris, Tyler The Creator, and the Grammy Award-winning Minnesota Orchestra, Nur-D is well on his way to becoming a household name!

Designated Best New MN Artist in 2019 by Citypages, he headlined the 2020 "Best New Bands" show at First Avenue, was an honoree for the 2021 National Philanthropy Day (University of Minnesota), awarded 2021 Best Live Concert by Citypages, and voted the 2022 Best Musician/Local Artist by Twin Cities Collective. Nur-D brings an explosion of energy every time he hits the stage!

With nine full-length projects, each with their own flair to his discography, Nur-D has something special for any occasion. Whether you're going out on the town with "Take My Picture," bopping to "Collide," channeling flirty energy with "All My Friends Are So Hot," or you just want to "Strut" your stuff, don't be afraid to ride the "Black Wizard Wave" and celebrate yourself! Work through "The Storm" of everything going on around you, kick it with "All of That," let "HVN" ring with community and uplift you, leaving you feeling "Glorious!"

Nur-D is a breath of fresh air in the Hip Hop world, and fans are feeling the same. Boasting a fervent fan base across the US and around the globe, if you haven't heard the name Nur-D yet, you certainly will soon. It's easy to see why many people are calling Nur-D the next big thing out of Minnesota!

Connect with Nur-D at https://nurdrocks.com Instagram: @nurdrocks Twitter: @nurdrocks TikTok: @nurdrocks



#### IGNITE, EMPOWER, TRANSFORM

Ignite Empower Transform is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

#### MISSION STATEMENT

Operate from a profound commitment to a diverse community by providing comprehensive social, entrepreneurial, and cultural elements in the upper midwest region.

#### VISION

Cultivating economic safe spaces and services that empower generational success and wealth.



#### Economic Empowerment Center

### RATIONALE FOR THE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT CENTER

The clear need for a center for social and cultural activities for BIPOC was the inspiration for this project. This Economic Empowerment Center will be a space that brings together resources and services for BIPOC into one convenient location. It is being created as a response to the socioeconomic inequities and lack of inclusivity present in Duluth, MN for BIPOC communities.

# Treedom Fund 2024 Sponsors















































Thank you to all of our incredible sponsors!

