

Statement of Welcome from IPAMA Board Chair John W. Daniels, Jr.

On behalf of the IPAMA Board of Directors, Holy Redeemer Institutional Church of God in Christ, and the Daniels family, welcome to the Institute for the Preservation of African American Music and Arts - IPAMA!

We are extremely proud to be here, and I am incredibly thrilled to represent the IPAMA Board as its chair. This extraordinary exhibit, honoring the legacy of Bishop Sedgwick Daniels, is the brainchild and creation of an exceptionally talented young visionary who was raised right here on the Holy Redeemer campus. Ryan Gray, whom we all know well, has brilliantly captured the essence of Bishop's belief in the limitless possibilities of what we could be as a city and community when we unleash ability and tear down obstacles to access and freedom.

When this building was originally acquired, no one could possibly have imagined it would transform into a national repository for thousands of artifacts from around the globe - all celebrating African American art and culture. Stories told here with and about America's multi-talented Black artists, musicians, and performers are rich and plentiful. To give you a glimpse of the critical importance of sustaining and safeguarding our history, before today's ribbon-cutting, internationally recognized fine artist Charly "Carlos" Palmer was here to tour and enjoy IPAMA himself. Charly's riveting image greets you as you enter through IPAMA's doors. He and his wife are both legends and I thought I'd share some history because it truly represents Bishop Daniels' vision and symbolizes his lifelong service to God and community. If we don't preserve it, it will be lost.

Palmer was actually born in Alabama but grew up in Milwaukee. Unbeknownst to many is his family's longtime membership with the Church of God in Christ including Charly's mother, a highly-respected servant leader. Charly's accomplishments are immense. He was commissioned to create the 1996 and 1998 Olympic posters, illustrated the cover artwork for John Legend's Grammy Award-winning *Bigger Love* album, designed the cover of the acclaimed Time Magazine "America Must Change" issue, and recently completed a project for the Green Bay Packers at Lambeau stadium. He's received numerous honors including the Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe Illustrator and 2021 Nieman Marcus Fine and + Fashion Visual Artist awards. But the story is even more compelling. Charly is now on tour having recently been selected to illustrate the U.S. Postal stamp for Constance Baker Motley. Keep in mind, lest we forget, it was Bishop Daniels who connected the dots with Judge Motley.

Dr. Gary L. Ford, Jr., the celebrated author of Constance Baker Motley's autobiography, traveled to Milwaukee at Bishop's invitation. Dr. Ford had met Judge Motley as a very young child, and later was indeed fortunate to be able to spend time with her when he was matriculating at Harvard University. That meeting inspired him to complete his dissertation with Judge

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Motley as his subject, the first African American woman to argue a case before the Supreme Court and the first to serve as a federal judge. She is most noteworthy as a stalwart for justice and the female lawyer of her generation advancing freedom for all. It is remarkably inspiring to know that Bishop Daniels had the foresight to bring Dr. Ford to Milwaukee to share this history, enrich the city, and strengthen the jurisdiction and state which he oversaw as establishmentarian, general board member, and jurisdictional prelate for the Church of God in Christ. Dr. Ford was an honored guest at Bishop's recent homegoing.

If you are a true historian, the significance of the following fact will not escape you. One of Bishop's closest friends was Attorney Marilyn Ford who studied under the tutelage of former associate justice of the US Supreme Court Ruth Bader Ginsberg. Attorney Ford and her husband are the legendary trailblazers who continue to fight for equity and equality on Wall Street and all legal battlegrounds. In addition to having an exceptionally successful son, her personal and professional journey is filled with amazing accomplishments and lessons learned. Not by coincidence, her father served as Bishop in the Church of God in Christ in St. Louis, and after his passing, his church became a part of Bishop Daniels' responsibilities. I could go on and on with facts and anecdotes, but if you are a real music lover, the next time you see Elder Madison, ask him about Attorney Marilyn Ford.

Today, as you enter the portal to IPAMA's vast array of artifacts, artworks, and music to explore its history, listen to its many tales, and discover pathways to culture, realize that this is just the opening chapter in the story that Bishop has inspired. In ways beyond measure, he has touched lives in a special, personal, Godly way.

As Charly Palmer expressed in the Time Magazine piece, "Art should change the temperature in a room. I've been on a mission through my art to sound the alarm for more than 25 years."

"I put all my focus, energy and love into us. I'm an extremist when it comes to the love of Black people."

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