



For four incredible years, and three operating seasons The Naptown African American Theatre Collective Inc. or as we are affectionately known NAATC has been an ever-evolving force in the Indianapolis arts ecosystem and beyond. We are immensely proud of what we accomplished together.

As Indy's first Black owned theatre registered with the only union for professional actors and stage managers, we accomplished what many Black artists and organizations before us, laid the groundwork for and dreamed of.

NAATC provided paid, equitable, professional theatre opportunities to residents in Indianapolis and across the nation, both on and off the stage. We prayed, we took risks, we failed, we learned, and we grew—faster than we ever imagined, and more than we have the capacity to operate sustainably.

From our first season, "A Neaux Day," to "Cementing Our Legacy" in our second season, you stood with us to the very end. Our third season focused on "Freedom Reimagined..." through arts education, community partnerships, and staged readings, was a testament to our enduring mission, vision, and values (naatcinc.org). We introduced a world of theatre to people that had never been done, were innovative, creative, optimistic, and bold.

We are proud of how our Education for All Program, granted by 16 Tech Community Corporation Grant covered 8 classes and six disciplines; each class was taught by talented, local, regional or nationally recognized playwrights and an award winning Tony artist.

Through this free opportunity and many others, we're honored that we had the opportunity to educate, equip and empower our arts community. Ultimately, this program helped make dreams come true, grew professional capacity and challenged the norm in Indianapolis.

To our sponsors who believed in our mission, thank you. Your support allowed us to raise hundreds of thousands in funding for our programming over the last four years. All of that funding was poured directly back into our community of veteran and new artists who worked for our organization. Showing funders that investing in Black led entities is not only possible it's necessary to reflect our growing and diverse population in Indianapolis.

To our amazing board that has held us down, mentored, advocated, and championed this work, thank you for all you've sown into Indy's First Black Equity Theatre.

To every actor onstage, artist behind the stage, and our volunteer fam, thank you for joining us on this journey.

As NAATC closes this chapter, we close it with our heads held high. We are proud of what we were able to raise to support the hiring of over 70 artists as a brand new organization, with no former funding experience or connections. We will cherish the memories of connecting with our multicultural, intergenerational audiences, and all the amazing things we learned on this journey together making meaningful art.

Indianapolis, Naptown, thank you for an incredible four years to serve you, push you to excellence. Our hope is that our legacy of celebrating the beauty, power and humanity of Black stories continues on through each and every one of you.

With Gratitude,
LaKesha Lorene, Ms. Latrice and the NAATC Board