



Newsletter, JUNE 2022

Vicki Meek:

Whether Commissioner, grandmother, artist, momma bear, activist or “just” a Black woman in America ... she does not play! Except at playtime, that is. Vicki is a Philly girl, born and raised. But she is also a Dallas woman, and a citizen of the world.

I first met her in 1997 when Ronnie Jessie, then in charge of the Dallas Neighborhood Touring Program, suggested I ask her about a place to rehearse. My company was able to rehearse there, and perform there too. For her fiftieth birthday, Vicki wanted to sing, dance, and play the piano. I was named as choreographer, and we worked with a song by Donny Hathaway. It was wonderful!

When her retirement from the City of Dallas was about to happen, I realized that I was there for her entire tenure as Manager of the South Dallas Cultural Center (SDCC). And as I write this, I think of Jared Brown who was in my company at that time, and is now a professional in Switzerland; Solomon Espie who brought so many dancers to the SDCC and nurtured them; Layla Brent is now dancing in *The Lion King*, and Lacy Brent is with Pegasus Contemporary Ballet; and to Kaleb Smith, who is graduating on 5 June! Those are just a few of Vicki’s babies, a few that I interacted with. Of course, at her retirement ceremony, Beckles Dancing Company performed a new work in her honor.

These days Commissioner Meek serves on the Arts and Culture Advisory Commission of the City of Dallas Office of Arts and Culture. In addition, her “At What Point Do We Disappear?” can be seen at the Talley Dunn Gallery until 2 July, here in Dallas. Please click <https://talleydunn.com/project/vicki-meek/> for more information on this awesome person!

Upcoming Events

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| 6 Jun – 1 Jul | Loris Anthony Beckles will be teaching summer camp at SDCC |
| 17 Aug | Fundraiser for Lesley Snelson |
| 27 Aug | Sammons Jazz Children’s Concert |
| Nov (TBA) | Sweatt Dallas Dance Festival at South Dallas Cultural Center |

Mr. Smith Graduates



Kaleb

I have had the distinct pleasure of watching him grow over the past seven or so years! From a little skinny chap in board shorts to a fully grown person with huge potential. I remind him to work hard and take good care.

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Beckles Dancing Company is a component of ARGA NOVA DANCE, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.