

# THRIVIN'

THE NEWSLETTER OF BLACK PR WIRE, INC.

March 2018

## Black Women Making History

Every March we celebrate women making strides, breaking barriers and making history in this country. They are our mothers, daughters, sisters and friends whose contributions to society have made an impact on the lives of many. This March, in recognition of Women's History Month, Thrivin is shining the spotlight on African American women who radiate #BlackGirlMagic in every way, shape and form.



Amy Sherald



Sonia Lewis



Karen Okonkwo

**Amy Sherald** is the artist behind the official portrait of former First Lady Michelle Obama. Chosen out of a group of 20, Sherald is the first black woman to paint a presidential piece commissioned by the National Portrait Gallery. Originally from Columbus, GA, Sherald received her MFA in Painting from Maryland Institute College of Art (2004) and BA in Painting from Clark-Atlanta University (1997), and was a Spelman College International Artist-in-Residence in Portobelo, Panama (1997). In 2016, Sherald was the first woman to win the Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition grand prize. In May 2018, she will present a solo exhibition at Contemporary Art Museum in St. Louis, MO.

**Sonia Lewis**, aka, the "Student Loan Doctor" is the founder of the first black-owned and woman owned student loan repayment company in the United States. Her company, The Student Loan Doctor, LLC was designed to educate people about student loan debt, provide assistance in making tangible action plans towards debt repayment, and to provide coaching around other personal financial decision-making, such as budgeting, home loans and ownership, and loan forgiveness programs. Lewis is also an author of three books and host of her own podcasts.

**Karen Okonkwo** is a Nigerian-American self-described "serial entrepreneur," who co-founded TONL, a premiere diverse stock photo company. As a content creator, Okonkwo struggled to find images that showcased the diverse backgrounds her audience represented, thus she joined forces with a New York-based photographer to develop TONL. Launched in August 2017, TONL's mission is to "transform the idea of stock photography by displaying images of diverse people and their stories around the world."

Amy Sherald, Sonia Lewis and Karen Okonkwo all have a seat at the table with the many African American women who have made their mark in history. Their extraordinary achievements and gifts to the world inspire us all.



## Top 10 Spring 2018 Fashion Trends

by Jolie O'Rourke

National Fashion Correspondent  
Black PR Wire, Inc.

This season, let's welcome spring with fresh, new and sensational styles that exude flavor, character, fun and style.

Here's a peek at my Top 10 choices for 2018 ...

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)



Black PR Wire, Inc. is a premier news distribution service center that delivers to the very core and pulse of the Black community. The company holds a comprehensive listing of over 1,200 Black-owned

publications and media, as well as provides services to social service and grassroots organizations and influential leaders throughout the United States and the Caribbean. Plus, we provide our services in

English and Creole. To find out more about Black PR Wire, Inc., call us toll free at 1-877-BlackPR or visit the website at: [WWW.BLACKPRWIRE.COM](http://WWW.BLACKPRWIRE.COM).

"There is POWER in the Wire... At Black PR Wire, we distribute the news our media can use!"

## POWER PROFILER: LATONDRA NEWTON SVP, CHIEF DIVERSITY OFFICER – THE WALT DISNEY COMPANY

Latondra Newton serves as Senior Vice President, Chief Diversity Officer of The Walt Disney Company, a position she has held since February 2017. She leads the company's strategic diversity and inclusion initiatives, which help Disney and its employees around the world tell stories that entertain, enlighten and inspire.

Newton comes to Disney after 25 years at Toyota, where she was most recently group vice president, Social Innovation, and chief diversity officer of Toyota Motor North America, and project general manager of the corporate citizen division of Toyota Motor Corporation. Newton oversaw Toyota's diversity and inclusion, as well as shared impact and environment sustainability

functions, and she led the Toyota Mobility Foundation, which was established in 2014 to advance the freedom of mobility for more people everywhere.

Latondra has been recognized as a leader in diversity and inclusion and business during her career. Automotive News named Newton a Rising Star Under 35 in 2000, and as one of the 100 Leading Women in the North American Automotive Industry in 2010. And in 2014, Linkage's Women in Leadership Institute gave her its "Passionate Champion Award".

Newton holds a bachelor's degree in management systems from Kettering University.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

This section is designed to keep you in the know and on the go. Check out some of the latest happenings in Black communities throughout the country this month.

**Alvin Ailey American Dance**  
Theater 2018 Tour  
March 2, 2018  
Norfolk, VA  
Ticketmaster.com






Gina Adams Courtney Adeleye Phyllis Anderson

**Black Enterprise Women of Power Summit**  
March 7 – 10, 2018  
Orlando, FL  
www.blackenterprise.com/  
womenofpowersummit




Kimberly Blackwell

**Charlie Wilson Live**  
March 9, 2018  
Columbia, SC  
Ticketmaster.com




**19th Annual Charleston Black Expo Economic Empowerment Summit**  
March 10, 2018  
Charleston, SC  
www.blackexposouth.com



Roland Martin



A. Randolph



Trombone Shorty



Smokey Robinson



Fantasia

**Jazz in the Gardens**  
March 17 – 18, 2018  
Miami Gardens, FL  
www.jazzinthegardens.com



Chaka Khan



Tasha Cobbs Leonard



Pieces of a Dream



Avery Sunshine



Walter Beasley




Joe



Anita Baker

**Miguel Live in Concert**  
March 27, 2018  
Atlanta, GA  
Ticketmaster.com



Miguel

**April Fools Comedy Jam**  
March 31, 2018  
Grand Prairie, TX  
Ticketmaster.com



Mo'Nique

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FOR A COMPLETE LISTING OF EVENTS, PLEASE VISIT [WWW.BLACKPRWIRE.COM](http://WWW.BLACKPRWIRE.COM)

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