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MAAFA REDEMPTION PROJECT

2022

IMPACT  
REPORT

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# Message from our Executive Director

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***"...so that  
we may  
repair and  
rebuild."***

Since the founding of our project, we've had the stated goal of creating a safe and healing environment for the young men we serve. As we reflect on another year of working toward this vision, we're grateful that the initial mission has become a movement to restore the entire community. Last year, we're proud to have instituted the Beautiful Seed Foundation, a sister program offering supportive services to youth and young adult Black and Brown women.

There's a looming renaissance in our beloved neighborhood, West Garfield Park, and we're proud that our work has become one of the many catalysts for community redevelopment.

If you haven't heard, our new headquarters—The MAAFA Center for Arts & Activism—has been awarded the "Chicago Prize", a \$10 million investment in neighborhood revitalization sponsored by the Pritzker Traubert Family Foundation. On top of that our newly minted space has been selected to receive \$1.5 million from the city of Chicago's Department of Planning & Development. These considerations are two among many promising signs that our time has come. Our young people persistently demonstrate that they are the answers to many of our city's challenges. Moving forward, our goal is to double-down on the belief that our young people are best suited to lead our city to better days. Consequently, we'll be offering more holistic leadership development, and family support services so that our neighborhood is built from within.

With faith and your continued support, we're set to realize the words in our mantra, to "repair and rebuild our city, one life at a time."

Onward,



# MISSION & VISION

*"We believe in the promise and genius of Chicago's most resilient youth & young adults, and we exist to educate and empower them to lead us to better days."*

## Direct Service Supports

### 1 / HOUSING

Dormitory-style support for the unhoused.

### 2 / EMPLOYMENT + WORKFORCE TRAINING

Stipend support, hard and soft-skill development and pathways into the workforce.

### 3 / EDUCATION + FINANCIAL WELLNESS

Remediation support for students seeking H.S. diploma, degrees and certificates. Financial education offered weekly.

### 4 / HEALTH + WELLNESS

1-on-1 and group Mental health support by licensed clinicians. Nutrition + Drug-use Education.

### 5 / SPIRITUAL LIFE COACHING + PLANNING

Character development and spiritual supports by a community of experienced ministers.

## APPROACH: DIRECT SERVICE + COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Based in West Garfield Park, a neighborhood with one of the lowest life expectancies in Chicago, the MAAFA Redemption Project's mission is to significantly improve the quality of life for resilient Black and Brown youth and young adults and their families.

MAAFA functions as a faith-based residential institute, offering spiritual life coaching/character-development, housing, employment, workforce training, academic enrichment, and a host of other wrap-around social services. **MAAFA's intended impact is both individual and communal; investing in the neighborhood's young people lays the foundation for a community reimagined and redeveloped.**



# IMPACT & HIGHLIGHTS

70%

OF THOSE RECEIVING EDUCATION SUPPORT GRADUATED WITH A H.S. DIPLOMA.

84%

AVERAGE PROGRAM ATTENDANCE RATE OF MAAFA + BSF.

85%

OF MAAFA FELLOWS COMPLETED PERSONAL LIFE PLANS (PLPS).

Since 2017, MAAFA has served over 175 young men, and has recently piloted programs to serve its growing number of alumni, as well as youth and young adult women. In 2022, MAAFA piloted the **MAAFA Alumni Program (MAP)**. Ten alumni were selected across MAAFA's five cohorts to participate in MAP, a workforce development initiative led by Greencorps Chicago. After 9 months, **60% of MAP young men received the requisite certifications to remain in green industry pathways** (i.e. Tree health/care, Ecological restoration, and Green infrastructure). MAAFA's hope is to scale MAP to serve 20 alumni per programmatic year.

In 2022 MAAFA also piloted its sister program, the **Beautiful Seed Foundation (BSF)**. BSF exists to help young women of color between the **ages of 12-25 recognize their greatness, utilize their gifts, and impact the world** positively through mentoring, global leadership opportunities, college access and readiness, and community service through a faith-based, social justice and empowerment lens. So far twenty-one youth and young adult women have received services by BSF.



# IMPACT CONTINUED



## 85%

RECEIVED 1-ON-1 MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT.



## 5.4K

MEALS DELIVERED TO WEST GARFIELD PARK RESIDENTS.



## 1.2

INCREASE IN PERSONAL GROWTH INDEX (PGI) FOR BSF PARTICIPANTS. PGI MEASURES HEIGHTENED SELF CONFIDENCE, SELF AWARENESS + PERSONAL GROWTH.

**With partner ConTextos, MAAFA graduated 18 authors in 2022.** ConTextos "uses the power of literary and art education to promote healing and reflection, and to foster critical thinking and dialogue through personal storytelling." 12 Authors published individual illustrated memoirs as well as a compilation featuring the work of 18 authors.

**Sharing personal truths and (re)discovering talents and gifts, MAAFA Authors Circle was transformative for all involved--**authors, facilitators, life coaches and audience members at the publication event April 1, 2022.

**MAAFA is proud to also partner with Fish & Loaves, a ministry of New Mt. Pilgrim M.B. Church** dedicated to providing free fresh meals / produce to community residents. In 2022, 5,040 meals were distributed.



# COMMUNITY IMPACT



In 2023, MAAFA launched the “The Sankofa School of the Arts” (SSA), an arts institute for youth and young adults from the Westside of Chicago. In SSA’s Arts Institute, MAAFA will provide young people a broad education in the arts that reaches and motivates the whole student, and gives them access to resources to achieve their goals and gifts. MAAFA believes that this will be achieved through three areas of programming: Dance, Musical Theatre and Visual Arts. **MAAFA’s SSA will serve at least 60-75 young people.**

SSA will be housed at the **MAAFA Center for Arts and Activism, a recipient of the Pritzker-Traubert Foundation’s “Chicago Prize”**. The Prize was awarded to the Garfield Park Rite to Wellness Collaborative, an organization dedicated to revitalizing West Garfield Park. Partners include the MAAFA Redemption Project, Westside United, YMCA, Erie Hospital, The Community Builders, Breakthrough Ministries, New Mount Pilgrim M.B. Church, and Rush University Medical Center among others.

The collaborative will bring the **Sankofa Village Wellness Center (pictured above)** and a federally qualified health center to West Garfield Park where MAAFA + BSF youth and young adults can **access health services including a credit union, a hub of health services, and a social innovation space to cultivate small businesses.** The center will function as a catalyst for the redevelopment of the Madison commercial corridor and West Garfield Park writ large.

**\$10M**

AWARDED BY THE PRITZKER-TRAUBERT FOUNDATION'S "CHICAGO PRIZE".

**\$6M**

AWARDED BY THE STATE OF ILLINOIS AND CITY OF CHICAGO FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF "THE MAC".

**\$125,000**

AWARDED BY THE BLACKHAWKS FOUNDATION FOR SANKOFA SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS PROGRAMMING.



FROM THE TEAM BEHIND THE  
ACADEMY AWARD® NOMINATED DOCUMENTARY  
**MINDING THE GAP**

# ALL THESE SONS

CONCORDIA STUDIOS PRESENTS A CONCORDIA STUDIOS PRODUCTION "ALL THESE SONS"  
WRITTEN BY BING LIU AND JOSHUA ALTMAN  
DIRECTED BY BING LIU AND JOSHUA ALTMAN  
CASTING BY JENNIFER TEXEIRA, JOE BISHENKOVSKY, KING LIO, JOSHUA ALTMAN  
EDITED BY ZAK PIPER, KELSEY CAHO, BING LIU, JOSHUA ALTMAN  
PRODUCTION DESIGNER LAURENCE POWELL-JONES  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS NICKIE STOTT, JONATHAN SILVERBERG, DAVID TAYLOR, SWANN O'CONNOR  
PRODUCED BY BING LIU AND JOSHUA ALTMAN  
CONCORDIA STUDIOS  
CONCORDIA VENTURES



## GLOBAL IMPACT

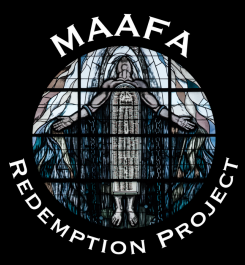
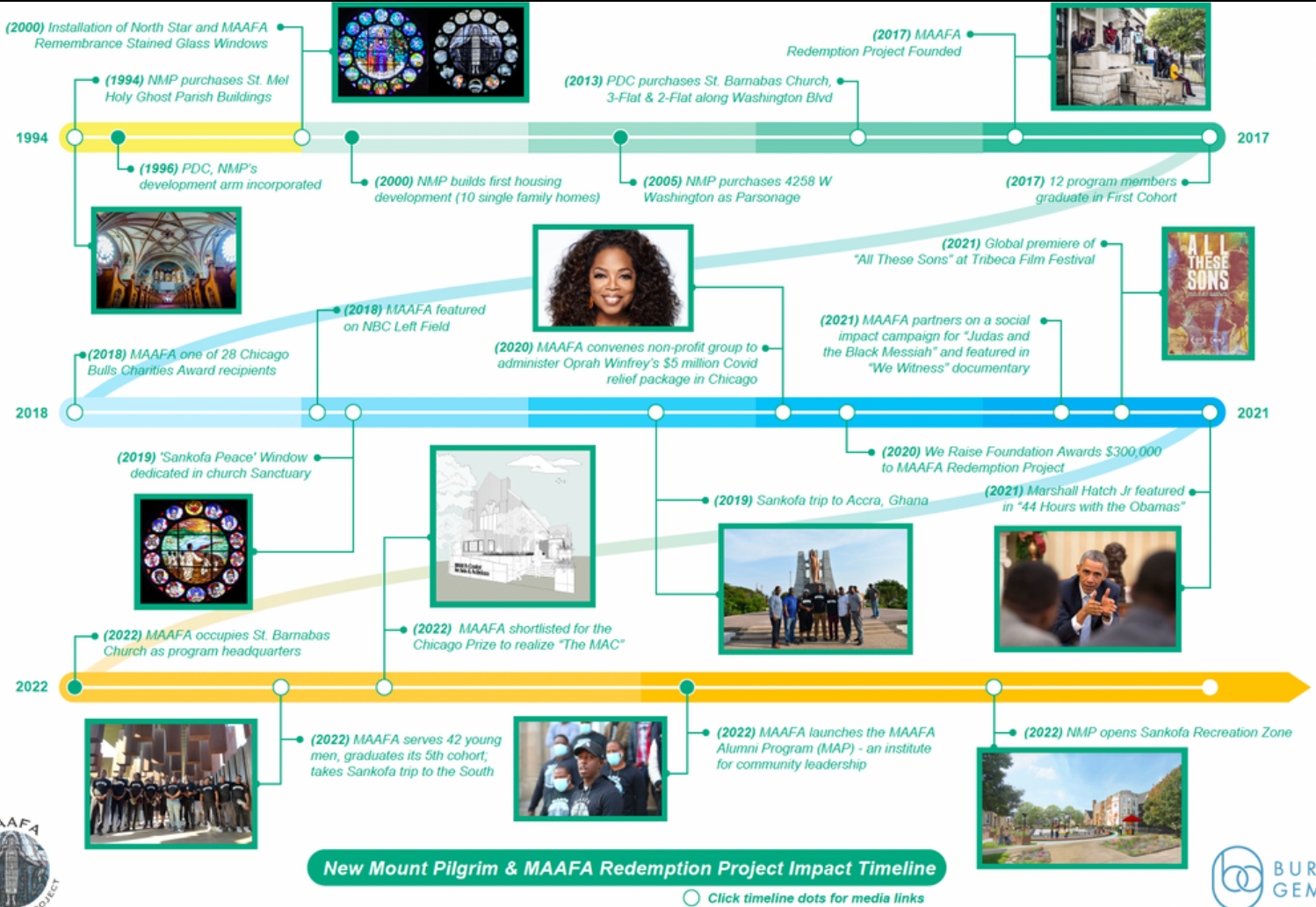
In 2023 "All These Sons", a documentary featuring the work of the **MAAFA Redemption Project, Chicago CRED and the Inner-City Muslim Action Network (IMAN)** was released on all major platforms.

Trailing the experience of MAAFA second cohort Fellow Shamont Slaughter ('19), and the experiences of two others as they matriculate through IMAN, the film "witnesses these young men doing the hard work to examine their rationales and fears, often revealing the deep trauma that feeds the cycles of violence..." (*Tribeca Film Festival, 2021*).

Produced by Concordia Studios and created by noted filmmakers Bing Liu and Joshua Altman, "All These Sons" has been invited to festivals in **New York, Denver, Crested Butte, Bentonville, Chicago, Milwaukee, London, Zurich, Amsterdam, and Ireland, and has won more than six documentary film awards.**



# Impact Timeline



# Our Team



**DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS  
DEAC. ROBERT ERVIN JR**



**DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH  
MALCOLM DAVIS**



**DIRECTOR OF  
FAMILY WELLNESS  
DEAC. JEROME DOWDY**



**DIRECTOR OF TUSKEGEE -  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
DEAC. DEWAYNE MCCLAIN**



**MANAGER OF ALUMNI  
PROGRAMS  
QUENTIN HARRIS**



**DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI  
PROGRAMS  
LIFE COACHING  
REV. MICHAEL DOWDY**



**FISCAL MANAGER  
JESSICA PURNELL**



**DIRECTOR OF BEAUTIFUL  
SEED FOUNDATION  
KENYA JOYCE PENDLETON**



**OFFICE MANAGER  
ROCHELLE SYKES**



**DIRECTOR OF FINANCE  
SHENITA THOMAS**



# Our Partners

