

THANK YOU!



We would like to express our deepest gratitude to all of you who joined us on Saturday, October 7, 2023, for our Ribbon Cutting and Historical Marker Unveiling Ceremony. It was a day filled with reflection, inspiration, and celebration, and we couldn't have done it without your presence and support.

[SEE FULL PHOTO GALLERY HERE!](#)

**IF YOU COULDN'T MAKE IT, HERE'S
WHAT YOU MISSED!**

HISTORICAL MARKER UNVEILING



Historical marker unveiling by honored guests, Mr. Gary Burke and Mr. Bill Radcliffe, who are direct descendants of the United States Colored Troops honored in the marker.

When the Tennessee Justice Center found this building and bought it to be our permanent home, we knew the neighborhood had an important history as one of the earliest Black communities in Nashville. The more we learned about its history, the more we realized that this whole area is hallowed ground. The more we learned, the more inspired we became and we wanted to share that inspiration with others. 'Cause we can all use some inspiration, right?!

The Lafayette Street Historical Marker honors the memory of the men and women whose courage and persistence through unimaginable injustice and hardship are a continuing source of inspiration to anyone today who strives to work for justice.

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Special thanks to Ms. Linda Wynn at Tennessee Historical Commission who guided us through the process of applying for and purchasing the historical marker and getting it installed.

Ronette Adams-Taylor, a former TJC Board of Directors member and part of Meharry's Office of General Counsel, shared insights on the historical marker and the proud history of Meharry College. We express sincere gratitude to Meharry for allowing us to honor the college's founding with this marker. The heroes depicted on the building include two distinguished Meharry graduates, Dr. Georgia Patton Washington and Dr. John Henry Hale.



RIBBON CUTTING



From left to right: Chef Xavier Winston, Ms. Gloria Tucker, Chef Sterling Wright(aka Mr. 100), Chef Brian Demonte Jones, TJC's executive director Michele Johnson, Mayor Freddie O'Connell, Council member Terry Vo, Council member Zulfat Suara, and Council member Clay Capp.

TJC was privileged to have the presence of numerous elected officials who have been steadfast in their support of our mission. Metro Council Member Terry Vo, Metro Council Member and former TJC attorney, Clay Capp, Metro Council Member Brenda Gadd, Metro Council Member at Large Zulfat Suara, Metro Council Member at Large Burkley Allen, Rep. John Ray Clemons, Former Mayor Bill Purcell, and State Senator Heidi Campbell, we thank you!

We would like to express our deepest appreciation to Ms. Gloria Tucker for delivering the invocation, and to our newly elected Mayor, Freddie O'Connell, for joining us and for his commitment to our community. Mayor O'Connell's dedication to Nashville's betterment resonates deeply with our mission, and we were truly honored to have him with us.



Mayor Freddie O'Connell speaks with Nashville residents at TJC'S ribbon cutting.



Michele Johnson, TJC Executive Director

TJC board chair, Jeff Gibson, introduced our executive director, Michele Johnson, as the driving force behind our vision for this building and its transformative potential. Her unwavering passion for justice and her remarkable leadership brought together hundreds of individuals from our community and generous donors from across the nation to turn that vision into reality.

"So many people have done and given so much to bring us to this day. I cannot possibly thank them all. We are humbled by the knowledge that those of us who work for justice today are coming late to the game, and that anything we hope to accomplish will only be possible because of all of the good trouble that so many people have made for generations before us in this amazing community."-- Michele

We want to acknowledge Frank Garrison, who has chaired the committee that raised the money to make this dream a reality. He and Amy's generosity inspired others to follow their example.

Also, we would be remiss if we didn't mention board member and former COO, Mika Moser, who took a leave from her executive leadership position at another firm to help manage TJC through the pandemic and the renovation of this building. She led the construction project through so many difficulties and tribulations, while also keeping TJC on track serving clients. This would not have happened without her.



Frank Garrison cuts the ribbon!

NASHVILLE SIXTEEN PANEL DISCUSSION



'Nashville Sixteen' members depicted on TJC 's mural(from left to right): Ms. Barbara Jean Watson, Ms. Lajuanda Street Harley, Mr. Marvin Moore-Williams. Historian: Ms. Linda Wynn(far right)



We were honored to have members of the Nashville Sixteen here with us, along with the prominent historian, Ms. Linda Wynn, to dedicate the beautiful mural by Charles Key on the side of the building. The mural memorializes the sacrifices made by those brave children and their families to move our city toward becoming the beloved community we all want it to be.

RESOURCE FAIR, BUILDING TOURS, & BLOCK PARTY



Once again, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to each and every one of you for being a part of this historic moment. Together, we are committed to a more just and equitable future for all!

[SEE FULL PHOTO GALLERY HERE!](#)

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