

A close-up photograph of a person, likely of African descent, wearing traditional attire. Their body is covered in vibrant green body paint. They are wearing a headdress with a large, brown and white striped feather. In their hand, they hold a thick, reddish-brown metal chain. The background is a bright, out-of-focus sky.

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



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[PREFACE]



**THE MISSION OF
ASHÉ CULTURAL
ARTS CENTER IS
TO USE ART AND
CULTURE TO
SUPPORT HUMAN,
COMMUNITY, AND
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT.**

Our charge as issued by Mama Carol is, “to fly in leaps and gusts of provocation, instigation, inspiration and aspiration...to call for and exhibit the higher standards of justice, integrity, and kindness for all...to be brilliant concoctors of opportunity, creators of vision, navigators of BS, advocates of culture, and defenders of children...-to make real the majesty of dreams, to make plain the magic of being, to manifest the difference between perceiving and seeing!”

WHAT WE DO

Ashé’s innovative programming is designed to utilize culture in fostering human development and civic engagement. We maintain 5,000 square feet of gallery space, creating and preserving opportunities for the curation, exhibition, and commission of fine, folk, and fine-folk art of the African Diaspora. Producing over 350 music, theater, dance, spoken word, drum circles, and multi-disciplinary events a year, Ashé believes in art as a paradigm shifting call to action. As ecosystem builders, we host several local and national indie film series and symposiums and are currently developing alternative formats for the dissemination of our creative presentations.

WHERE WE ARE

Ashé maintains a high value, high profile real estate portfolio in Central City, a neighborhood where historic residents are being aggressively displaced. In understanding the impact and importance of Ashé’s ability to guide equitable development in our surroundings, we have engaged in strategic planning that allowed us to create a vision for leveraging and expanding our own real estate portfolio in order to increase our capacity to make place and to keep place on behalf of a community facing growing displacement, working on asserting our collective Right to Stay!

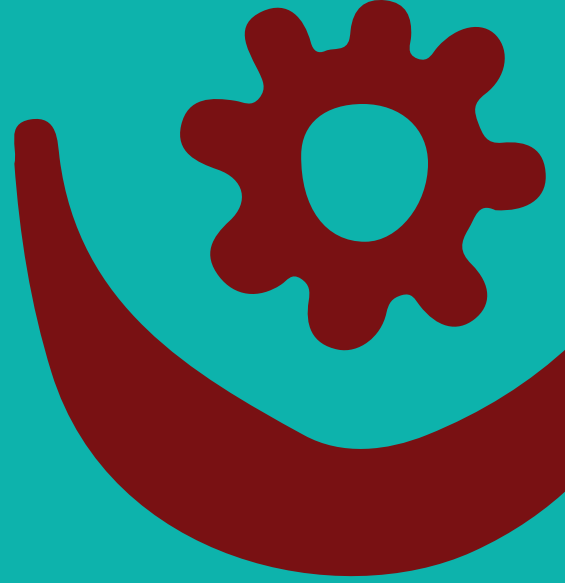








ASALI DEVAN ECCLESIASTES
CEO, ASHE CAC



[ASALI'S LETTER]



We submit herewith the Annual Report of Efforts of Grace, Inc./Ashé Cultural Arts Center for the 2020, fiscal year that ended December 31, 2020. This year marks the 22nd anniversary of the partnership formed by the institution's founders, Carol Bebelles and Douglass Redd. We are proud of our long and successful history. As we look to the future, we are committed to doing what's right for the long-term interest of Efforts of Grace, Inc., so it will prosper for another 20 years.

The past year, despite the obstacles of the pandemic, has been fulfilling and successful. We welcomed a new executive director, Asali Devan Ecclesiastes, who has considerable experience in artistic, community and economic development, and an understanding of the transformational power of culture and art. It is also particularly appropriate this year to pay tribute to the Board of Directors of Efforts of Grace, Inc., both past and present, who have contributed to the history of Ashé.

They are primarily responsible for the past achievements and growth of the institution through the years, and it is because of them, that you can share our confidence in the future. I also want to thank the members of the community that have been with us over the years: for your support, for your talent, time, and testimonies. Over the last year, we have raised more in donations, especially from individual donors. We deeply thank you for your partnership and friendship.

What is undeniable is that Efforts of Grace, Inc., is an institution that matters—now more than ever. We are working to drive progress in addressing threats like social inequity, economic insecurity, racism, and polarization. Ashé is joining grassroots leaders to solve problems that have not been solved through the national political process.

We are setting big goals to address these threats and to create major, high-impact initiatives in the community. These goals include strengthening Ashé's commitment to the community by making sure that the history of the culture is fortified, working to become a place keeper in the City of New Orleans, developing digital programming to increase participant access to the programs and opportunities that will be offered by Ashé. We are also working to expand our audience reach and brand, so that we can attract more individual donors and stakeholders.

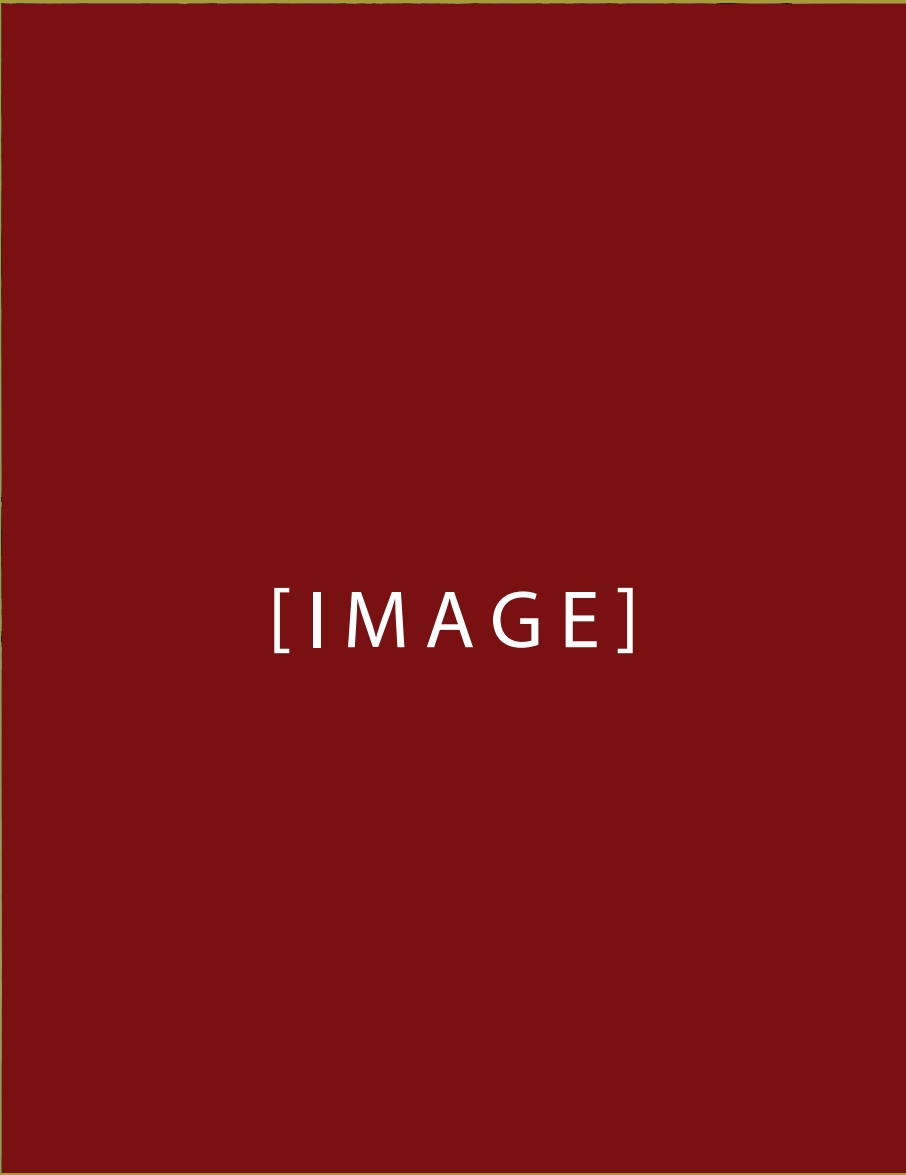
The future is bright! Knowing that as an institution, Ashé must continue to not only exist but thrive!

The staff and Board of Directors are working on imaging what is possible for now and the future. There is no doubt that Ashé provides uncontested value in the City of New Orleans, and we will work to balance the cultural and real assets to expand our footprint within New Orleans.

We will continue to fulfill our mission of thriving abundantly without compromising its commitment to African Diasporic culture, community and economic prosperity.

Thank you for your support!

Dr. Beverly Guillory Andry
Efforts of Grace, Board President



[IMAGE]

**DR. BEVERLY GUILLORY ANDRY
EFFORTS OF GRACE, BOARD PRESIDENT**



