
Welcome to the
5
GRATITUDE
GALA
AND AWARDS
Celebrating
The Child Within
DREAM.
DARE.
DO.
11.07.26
Presented by
Google
MCC Institute for
the Culinary Arts
Fort Omaha
Campus
MCC
FOUNDATION
MCC
CHAMBER

Proud supporter of the MAC Chamber

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Google

THE PROGRAM

5:30 pm: Registration

6:00 pm: Cocktails and Silent Auction (Cash Bar)

7:00 pm: Dinner, Program and Live Auction

8:25 pm: Scholarship Presentations

8:45 pm: Awards Presentations

9:30 pm: Music and Dancing

THE MENU

SALAD

THE GARDEN OF WONDER

Grilled Baby Romaine | Grape Tomato | Queso Cotija | Pickled Cactus | Shaved Radish | Creamy Jalapeño Dressing

ENTRÉE

THE DARING GOLDEN ROOST

Pan-Roasted Chicken Thigh | Garbanzo Bean Purée | Confit Potato | Roasted Green Beans | Mole Amarillo | Guajillo Oil

DESSERT

THE DOERS' ÉCLAIR

Cinnamon-Infused Choux Pastry | Rich Vanilla Cream | Rich Chocolate

GRATITUDE GALA AND AWARDS

Welcome to the 2026 Gratitude Gala and Awards! Tonight marks a monumental milestone celebration: the fifth anniversary of both the MAC Foundation and the Gratitude Awards! Tonight's theme, "Dream, Dare, Do," celebrates the child within, honoring the journey of imagination, courage, and achievement. Tonight, our tables reflect those very ambitions, whether you are seated among our builders, creators, innovators, healers, leaders, or explorers, recognizing the members, volunteers, and community leaders championing equal economic opportunity for all.

Every child holds an extraordinary dream: to invent, to heal, to build, or to lead. Through the MAC Future Makers Campaign, we are collecting 1,000 gifts for local children, kicking off tonight and running through November 30.

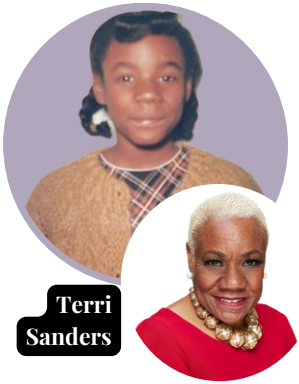
Your participation and support tonight directly powers MAC's core initiatives, including MAC Foundation scholarships, Suit Up, the MAC Xcelerator, Pitch Black, and Rising CEOs, empowering entrepreneurs and uplifting the next generation of leaders. We are thrilled to bring together our thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem for an unforgettable evening. Register to bid on silent and live auctions and be sure to sign the MAC BlackPrint for the Future. Thank you for being part of our mission, vision, and values.

Have a wonderful evening celebrating with us!

5 GRATITUDE GALA AND AWARDS

2026
Honorary Co-Chairs

GRATITUDE GALA 5 AND AWARDS



Terri Sanders



Mariette Achigbu



Gonael Gninivi

Dr. Enyo Abalekpor Gninivi

Fund MAC Now

THE AUCTION RULES

General Auction Rules

1. All sales are final. No refunds, returns, or exchanges will be permitted. Donors of items will not accept purchased items in exchange for other items.
2. Unless otherwise specified, all auction items and services must be used by October 6, 2027.
3. The values stated on your receipt are donor-provided estimates. The MAC Chamber and the Auction Committee do not guarantee the accuracy of these valuations.
4. For tax purposes, the deductible portion of your contribution is limited to the amount paid above the fair market value of the item. Please retain your receipt and consult your tax advisor.
5. Unless otherwise stated, sales tax is included on all physical items based on their fair market value.

Live Auction Rules

1. All bidders must be registered with their name, email address, cell phone number, and credit card through the MAC BetterWorld Auction Platform.
2. The Live Auction will be conducted by auctioneer Tim Schramm.
3. Bidders accept a bid by raising their hand when the auctioneer calls out the amount. A designated runner will record the winning bidder's name, registered mobile number, and bid amount.
4. Please note: Air transportation is not included in travel packages, and mandatory resort fees may apply.
5. All items are sold "As Is." While every effort has been made to accurately describe and catalog items, the MAC Chamber and MAC Foundation make no guarantees regarding descriptions, authenticity, provenance, or condition. No statement in print, online, or oral announcement shall be considered a warranty or representation.

THE AUCTION RULES

6. All sales are final. There will be no refunds or exchanges unless explicitly noted.
7. Payment Policy: All purchased items must be paid in full on the night of the auction. Accepted payment methods include Cash, Cash App, Venmo, PayPal, or credit card.

Silent Auction Rules

1. The Silent Auction opened on October 23, 2026, at 9:00 AM and will close on Saturday, November 07, 2026, at 8:00 PM (the night of the Gala).
2. Bidders must register online through the MAC BetterWorld Auction Platform. All bidding will be conducted electronically.
3. Each Silent Auction item will be clearly numbered and listed on the platform with its description and minimum bid amount.
4. Bids must be placed in increments equal to or greater than the specified minimum increase. Any bids below the minimum increase will not be accepted.
5. Each new bid must exceed the previous bid by at least the stated minimum increase in order to be valid.
6. Silent Auction tables at the Gala will be open for in-person viewing at 6:00 PM and will close promptly at 8:00 PM.
7. The highest bidder on each item at the close of the auction will be deemed the winner and will be notified via text message through the BetterWorld system.

SCAN TO REGISTER

THE RISING CEOS



Amira Jones - Amira's Delights - Summer Sprint Champion



Najah Valenti - Valenti Nails - Fall Cohort Champion

Metropolitan Community College
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WORKFORCE EDUCATION

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Expert-led courses designed for entrepreneurs and business professionals.

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Community College

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THE FINALISTS

This year's MAC Inclusion Leaders are:



B27

Represented by

Nancy Williams



CITY OF OMAHA, NEBRASKA
INCORPORATED FEBRUARY 2, 1857

Represented by

Mayor John Ewing Jr.



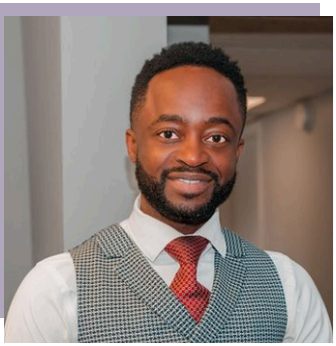
THE OMAHA STAR

Represented by

Teri D. Sanders

THE FINALISTS

This year's MAC Founder's Award Finalists are:



Yole Law Firm
— Attorneys & Counselors at Law —
Premiere Legal Advocates

Represented by
Dami John Oluyole



GREAT PLAINS BLACK HISTORY MUSEUM

Represented by
Eric Ewing



CAPTURE DCS
CAPTURE YOUR GROWTH

Represented by
Antonia Dorsey

THE FINALISTS

This year's MAC Champion Award Finalists are:



ervin&smith™

Represented by

Leanne Prewitt



KETV 7 abc OMAHA

Represented by

John Livingston



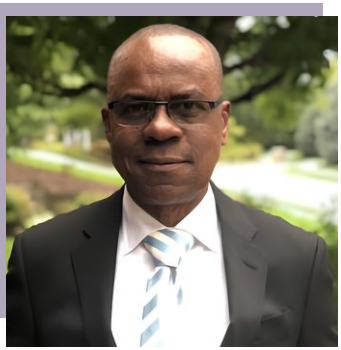
MCL construction

Represented by

Tony Fucinaro

THE FINALISTS

This year's MAC Small Business of the Year Finalists are:



EKEH LAW OFFICE

Represented by

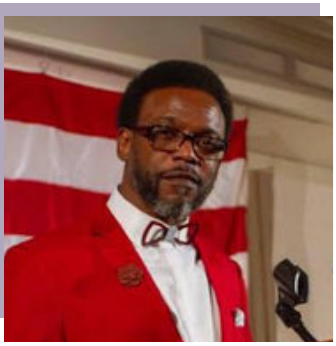
John Ekeh, Esq



STILL POPPIN GOURMET POPCORN

Represented by

Dr. Orlanda Whitfield



95.7 FM THE BOSS

Represented by

William King

THE FINALISTS

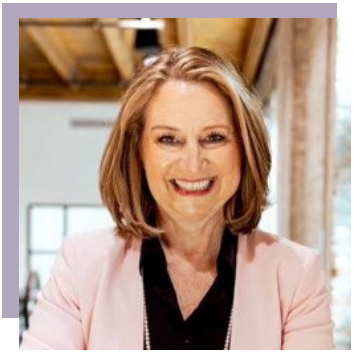
This year's MAC Philanthropic Star of the Year Finalists are:



WoodmenLife

Represented by

Denise M. McCauley



The Josh Place

Live. Belong. Thrive.

Represented by

Dr. Shari Strong



A-I-F-S

African Immigrant family services

Represented by

Adama Sawadogo

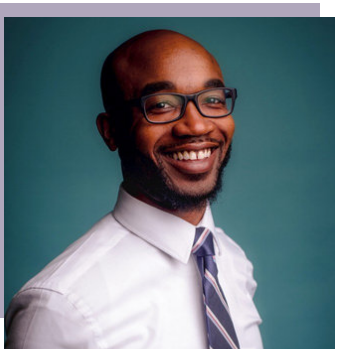
THE FINALISTS

This year's MAC Large Business of the Year Finalists are:



Associated Bank

Represented by
Ernest White



fnbo

Represented by
Johnny Nesbit



JPMorgan Chase & Co.

Represented by
Terence Ross

THE FINALISTS

This year's MAC Volunteer of the Year Finalists are:



Comla B. Agbezouhlon



Cameron Herbert

biBerk
a Berkshire Hathaway Company



Gary Hein

AA WINDOWS 'N' DOORS INC.

THE FINALISTS

This year's MAC Nukunu Award Finalists are:



Huja Sange

fiserv.



Cameron Herbert

biBerk
a Berkshire Hathaway Company



Krystal Flowers

K.L.F. Consulting
ESTD 2020

THE FINALISTS

This year's MAC Waymaker-Courage in Truth Finalists are:



B27

Represented by

Tanya Ezui



University of Nebraska Medical Center

Represented by

Dr. Dele Davies



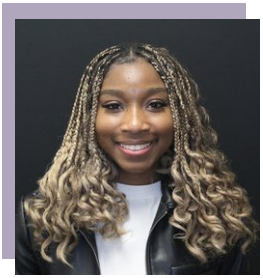
The Omaha Star

Represented by

Teri D. Sanders

THE MAC SCHOLARS

Pamela Abalekpor



A nursing student at the University of Nebraska Medical Center with hands-on clinical experience in intensive and surgical care. Pamela is receiving this scholarship in recognition of her dedication to improving patient outcomes and her strong commitment to community service, healthcare mentorship, and compassionate care. *(Dr. Emmah Muema Scholarship)*

Phillip Abutu



A Ph.D. student at the University of Nebraska Medical Center researching obesity, colorectal cancer, and HIV. Phillip is awarded this scholarship for his high-impact biomedical research, extensive healthcare background, and dedication to reducing health disparities in underserved communities. *(Google Scholarship)*

Chukwuma Adinchezor



A graduate student at the University of Nebraska at Omaha passionate about microbiology and gut health. Chukwuma is awarded this scholarship for his innovative scientific focus and drive to develop affordable treatments for chronic diseases to improve global health outcomes. *(Google Scholarship)*

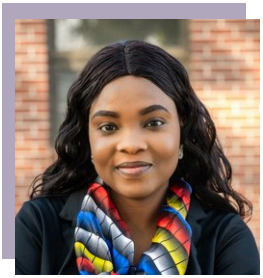
Casteria Agbeletey



A sophomore at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with strong academic versatility and leadership experience in civic engagement, debate, and performing arts. Casteria receives this scholarship for her academic versatility, leadership, and community focus as she pursues her career goals. *(Dr. Emmah Muema Scholarship)*

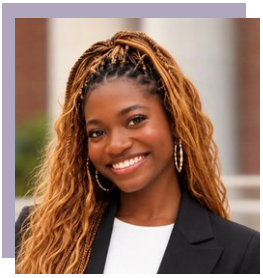
THE MAC SCHOLARS

Oluwatosin Alabi



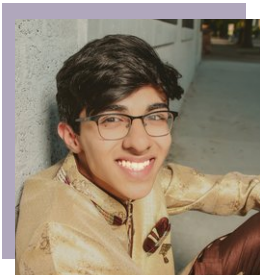
A doctoral student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln who holds a medical degree and extensive community health experience. Oluwatosin is receiving this scholarship for her research in youth mentorship and family health, highlighting her dedication to transforming public health outcomes. *(Google Scholarship)*

Kerenzia Amouzou



A political science major at Howard University with strong leadership experience in journalism, athletics, and civic engagement. Kerenzia is awarded this scholarship for her legal experience, civic leadership, and passion for pursuing a career in law and public service. *(Bland and Associates Scholarship)*

Aarya Bhatt



A chemistry major at Emory University and a recognized U.S. Presidential Scholars Program Candidate. Aarya receives this scholarship for combining top-tier academic excellence with medical research, student leadership, and community service. *(Dr. Matthew Omojola Scholarship)*

Sandra Bonnah



A Ph.D. student at the University of Nebraska Medical Center with expertise in global health research. Sandra receives this scholarship for her entrepreneurial initiative as founder of the Stem Fair Foundation and her commitment to advancing maternal and child health in underserved communities. *(Google Scholarship)*

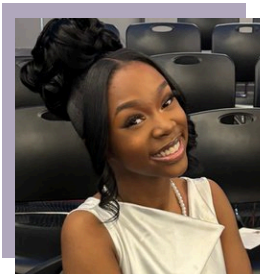
THE MAC SCHOLARS

Rhoshykee Bruns



A freshman at UNO studying engineering who ranked first in his graduating class at Stapleton High School. Rhoshykee is awarded this scholarship for balancing top-rank academic excellence with varsity athletics, student leadership, work experience, and community involvement. *(Paragon Scholarship)*

Brooklynn Freeman



A freshman at UNO and a prominent leader in speech and debate, drill team, and student activities. Brooklynn is awarded this scholarship for her exceptional school leadership and academic achievement. *(Lamson Dugan Murray Scholarship)*

Jerry Kahu



A Ph.D. student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln researching advanced methods to detect food allergens. Jerry receives this scholarship for bringing over a decade of professional food safety experience from Nigeria to advance public health and food safety research. *(Google Scholarship)*

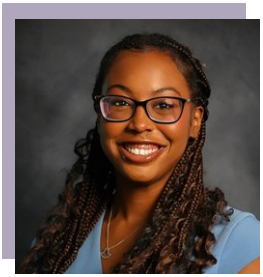
Balele Kanunde



A freshman at the University of Nebraska at Omaha with teaching experience, academic honors, and leadership in language studies. Balele is awarded this scholarship for her passion for education and commitment to community service. *(Dr. Emmah Muema Scholarship)*

THE MAC SCHOLARS

Nia Long



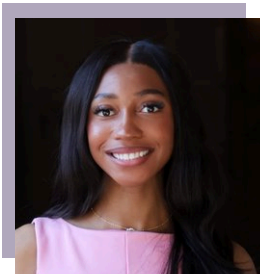
A political science major at Spelman College with experience in communications, marketing, and campus leadership. Nia receives this scholarship in recognition of her extraordinary civic dedication, having logged over 900 hours of community service while pursuing a career in law and public policy. *(Law Offices of Mariette Achigbu Scholarship)*

McKenzie Martin



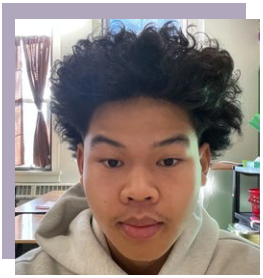
A freshman at the University of Nebraska at Omaha who leads in student government, cheerleading, and student activities. McKenzie is awarded this scholarship for her vibrant leadership, academic dedication, and active involvement in school and community initiatives. *(Bland and Associates Scholarship)*

Caroline McDonald



A sophomore at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln on the pre-law track. Caroline is awarded this scholarship for her leadership in debate, advocacy for inclusion, and commitment to advancing social justice through the legal system. *(Bland and Associates Scholarship)*

Maung Sar Myint



A freshman at the University of Nebraska at Omaha serving as varsity soccer captain and community volunteer. Maung receives this scholarship for his resilience, leadership, and dedication as he studies aviation to become a pilot. *(Doris Dossou Scholarship)*

THE MAC SCHOLARS

Nathan Robles



A freshman at Marquette University studying Economics and Finance with strong academic honors and over 250 community service hours. Nathan is awarded this scholarship for his student leadership and civic commitment. *(Bland and Associates Scholarship)*

Maurice Sherrod



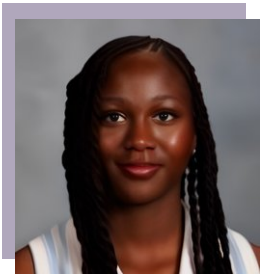
A freshman at Grinnell College ranking in the top 10% of his class and an AP Scholar with Honor. Maurice is awarded this scholarship for his achievements in STEM research, student government, environmental advocacy, and civic engagement. *(Dr. Emmah Muema Scholarship)*

Sierra Thomas



A high-achieving student at Loyola University Chicago, multi-sport varsity athlete, and community leader. Sierra receives this scholarship for her academic excellence and passion for social justice as she prepares to pursue a career as an immigration attorney. *(Law Offices of Mariette Achigbu Scholarship)*

Fenou Zinzindohoue



A freshman studying Political Science at the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota, a trilingual community advocate, and a Burke High graduate. Fenou receives this scholarship for her leadership in student advocacy, journalism, and debate. *(Doris Dossou Scholarship)*

It takes a tribe to produce the Gratitude Gala. We thank the Gratitude Gala committee members whose names appear later in this program and all those who donated terrific items for the live auctions and raffle.

Most of all, we are grateful to you because your presence here tonight will make this event a success and will support the work of the MAC Foundation and MAC Chamber.

CONGRATULATIONS!

The MAC Scholarships would not be possible without the support of these generous donors

Law Office of Mariette Achigbu **Dr. Matthew F. Omojola MD** **Dr. Emmah Mwema**

Doris Dossou

LIVE AUCTIONS

PACKAGE 1101: DREAM BIG, WORK PLAYFULLY ENTERPRISE DELUXE PACKAGE
$3,600 VALUE

MODUS COWORKING

- Step through the portal to professional magic and let your grandest ambitions take flight! With a 12-month Dedicated Desk Membership at Modus Co-working (valued at $3,600), you will unlock a magical sanctuary where creative sparks dance and modern amenities weave pure productivity. This enchanting haven is crafted for visionaries and bold dreamers eager to manifest their enterprise's next glorious chapter. **EXP: 12.31.2026**

- 12-month Dedicated Desk Membership at Modus Coworking

PACKAGE 1102 - DARE TO SHARE SMALL BUSINESS MEDIA MAGIC PACKAGE
$1319 VALUE

MIDLANDS business journal
AT WORK IN NEBRASKA & WESTERN IOWA

Cast a captivating spell over your audience and light up the town with your story! Designed to weave marketing enchantment for rising entrepreneurs, this bundle summons the power of the Midlands Business Journal. Spark instant wonder with a featured ½ page ad, a full year's subscription to track your kingdom's news, and a cherished commemorative magazine issue to treasure forever. **EXP: 10.07.2027**

- ½ page ad
- 1 year subscription to Midlands Business Journal
- One commemorative magazine copy

PACKAGE 1103: WHISPERS OF THE AZURE SUN: ANTIGUA LUXURY ESCAPE
$4,200 VALUE



Escape to a realm of sun-dappled wonder and coastal alchemy at The Verandah Antigua – Exclusively Adults, an all-inclusive tropical oasis tucked within 30 acres of whispering palms and ocean breezes. Whisk yourself away for up to 10 enchanting nights in a Waterview Suite (double occupancy), where turquoise waves, decadent banquets, five sparkling pools, and soothing spa elixirs dissolve every worldly care. Airfare not included. Whether you seek a quiet starry-eyed rendezvous or a joyful journey with kindred spirits, this sun-kissed paradise promises pure island enchantment and carefree delight. **EXP: 06.30.2028**

- Up to 10 nights in a Waterview Suite for 2 guests (up to 3 suites available) – valued at $1,400 per suite
- Full access to resort amenities, dining, beverages and activities (supplemental all-inclusive fee of $160 per person/per night required)
- Bonus certificate for a luxury stay at Los Establos Boutique Resort, Panama
- ***Note: Minimum 7-night stay required; air transportation not included***

PACKAGE 1104: ENCHANTED CLOUD FOREST ODYSSEY TROPICAL PANAMA SOJOURN
$4,350 VALUE



Unveil the fairytale mysteries of the cloud forest at the mesmerizing Los Establos Boutique Resort in Boquete, Panama. Nestled 4,000 feet above the ordinary on an emerald-green coffee plantation, this secret hideaway casts a spell with breathtaking views of the majestic Barú Volcano and secret garden trails. Your sojourn grants a plush sanctuary for up to 3 rooms (double occupancy) for up to 10 enchanted nights per room. Awaken to crisp mountain breezes, sip artisanal elixirs, and watch nightfall dance across your private patio surrounded by nature's grand tapestry. **EXP: 06.30.2028**

- Up to 10 nights of accommodations at Los Establos Boutique Resort (up to 3 rooms, double occupancy)
- Daily dining, beverages (including alcohol), and one daily activity per person (with nightly supplement)
- Access to adventure walks, gardens, and panoramic mountain views
- Exclusive Bonus: Your Certificate also includes an extra stay at the 5-Star Hammock Cove, Antigua.
- ***Note: A nightly all-inclusive supplement of $165 per person, per night (plus tax/service) applies. Airfare not included. Minimum 7-night stay required.***

PACKAGE 1105: STARLIT CARIBBEAN SERENADE: ST. JAMES'S CLUB SANCTUARY
$3,600 VALUE



Step into a storybook world of Caribbean magic at the legendary St. James's Club & Villas. Set upon a secluded 100-acre tropical peninsula, this glamorous haven invites you to drift along sapphire tides and soft alabaster sands in blissful abandon. Your dreamy journey unlocks six shimmering pools, delicious seaside feasting, playful water adventures, and starlit evening festivities — weaving a harmonious tapestry of island calm and vibrant joy. **EXP: 06.30.2028**

- Premium accommodations for up to 3 rooms (double occupancy)
- Up to 10 nights per room
- Resort amenities including dining, beverages, and activities (supplement applies)

- Exclusive Bonus: Your Certificate also includes an extra stay at the 5-Star Los Establos Boutique Resort, Panama.
- ***Note: A required nightly all-inclusive supplement of $150 per person, per night (plus tax/service) applies, covering all meals, beverages (including alcohol), and resort facilities. Airfare not included.***

RAFFLE PRIZES

Raffle tickets for the following prizes are $5 each, available at event registration and during cocktail hour.

$50 Taco Bell Gift Card
$50 Taco Bell Gift Card
2 free tickets to Pitch Black 2027 ($270 value)
2 free tickets to the 2027 Gratitude Gala ($270 value)

SILENT AUCTION

Rules: Silent Auction will be open from Monday, November 10th, 2025 at 12 am to the night of the Gala, Saturday, November 22nd at 8 pm. You may submit your bid online at https://macfoundationinc.betterworld.org/auctions/gratitude-gala-2025-silent-aucti. Winners will be announced after the live auction ends.

PACKAGE 101 FAIRWAY DREAMS & SCHEELS STYLE: WOODLAND HILLS GOLF EXPERIENCE ($250 VALUE) – STARTING BID: $50

Get golf-ready in style at Scheels, then step onto the pristine fairways of Woodland Hills Golf Course for an unforgettable day of championship-caliber play! Perfect your swing, drink in stunning scenic views, and enjoy premier hospitality on a magical day out on the greens.

Includes:

- 2 VIP Gift Certificates to Woodland Hills Golf Course ($200 value)
- $50 Scheels Gift Card

PACKAGE 102 – OLD MARKET MAGIC: LUXURY STAYCATION & GRATITUDE GALA EXPERIENCE ($445 VALUE) – STARTING BID: $85

Whisk yourself away for a relaxing downtown getaway in a King Bed room complete with overnight parking at the Hilton Garden Inn Omaha Downtown/Old Market Area, paired with an exclusive invitation to the festive Gratitude Gala!

Includes:

- 1-Night King Bed Stay with Overnight Parking ($175 value)
- 2 Tickets to the Gratitude Gala ($270 value)

PACKAGE 103 – CURIOSITY & WONDER: FAMILY DISCOVERY PASS ($168 VALUE) – STARTING BID: $50

Unlock an extraordinary family adventure filled with curiosity, hands-on learning, and interactive discovery! Step back in time at The Durham Museum and spark imaginative wonder at the Omaha Children's Museum for a magical journey through history, culture, and play.

Includes:

- 2 Complimentary Family Day Passes to The Durham Museum ($100 value)
- 1 Family Admission Package to Omaha Children's Museum ($68 value)

PACKAGE 104 – LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION! PERFORMING ARTS SHOWCASE ($260 VALUE) – STARTING BID: $75

Experience the thrill of live performance and immerse yourself in the pinnacle of Omaha's arts scene! From the breathtaking vocal power of Opera Omaha to world-class stage productions with Omaha Performing Arts, this showcase delivers unforgettable nights of drama, music, and enchantment.

Includes:

- 2 Tickets to Opera Omaha ($198 value)
- 2 Tickets to an Omaha Performing Arts event ($62 value)

PACKAGE 105 – URBAN ELEGANCE GETAWAY & GALA ($520 VALUE) – STARTING BID: $95

Treat yourself to a sophisticated urban escape at the luxurious Omaha Marriott Downtown in the heart of the Capitol District, paired with an exclusive invitation to the annual Gratitude Gala! Immerse yourself in modern elegance, upscale amenities, and a sparkling evening out.

Includes:

- 1-Night Weekend Stay at Omaha Marriott Downtown ($250 value)
- 2 Tickets to the Gratitude Gala ($270 value)

PACKAGE 106 – SOMMELIER SECRETS: PRIVATE WINE TASTING PARTY FOR 20 ($600 VALUE) – STARTING BID: $150

Host an extraordinary evening of elegance and discovery with a private, sommelier-guided wine tasting class for up to 20 guests! Guided by expert connoisseurs from Total Wine & More, you and your guests will journey through world-class wine regions, discovering exquisite flavor profiles in a fun, celebratory atmosphere.

Includes:

- Private Wine Tasting Class for up to 20 guests ($600 value)

PACKAGE 107 – METRO MAGIC: EZVOY TOUR & AFROFEST VIP EXPERIENCE ($425 VALUE) – STARTING BID: $105

Discover the hidden gems, rich history, and vibrant sights of the metro area with an exciting, custom-guided EZVOY tour, then feel the extraordinary energy of Afrofest 2027! Explore Omaha in style and immerse yourself in one of the region's premier cultural celebrations.

Includes:

- EZVOY Omaha Surrounding Tour Experience ($300 value)
- 1 VIP Pass to Afrofest 2027 ($125 value)

PACKAGE 108 – FESTIVAL GLOW: VIP PAMPERING & CULTURAL CHARM ($320 VALUE) – STARTING BID: $75

Pamper yourself with a luxurious beauty upgrade, then take center stage at spectacular cultural celebrations! Featuring indulgent beauty treatments from Nouvelle Beautee, premium lifestyle products from Afrolese, and exclusive VIP access to Afrofest 2027, this package offers the ultimate self-care and festival magic.

Includes:

- Nouvelle Beautee Luxury Gift Certificate ($150 value)
- Afrolese Premium Lifestyle Gift Certificate ($45 value)
- 1 VIP Pass to Afrofest 2027 ($125 value)

PACKAGE 109 – RUNWAY GLAMOUR: AFRICAN FASHION WEEK VIP FOR TWO & FINE WINE ($290 VALUE) – STARTING BID: $65

Step into a world of vibrant culture, rhythmic music, and high-fashion glamour! This dazzling package gives you exclusive VIP front-row access for two to African Fashion Week 2027, paired with two bottles of fine wine to celebrate in style.

Includes:

- 2 VIP Passes to African Fashion Week 2027 ($250 value)
- 2 Bottles of Fine Wine ($40 value)

PACKAGE 110 – FIRESIDE SOIRÉE: PRIVATE IN-HOME WINE TASTING EXPERIENCE ($250 VALUE) – STARTING BID: $65

Transform your living room into an intimate tasting parlor! Savor an exquisite, private wine tasting experience guided by an expert sommelier from Wines for Humanity for you and up to 18 guests.

Includes:

- Private In-Home Wine Tasting Event Certificate for Up to 16–18 Guests ($250 value)

PACKAGE 111 – TIMELESS TREASURES: FAMILY PORTRAIT & FINE ART STUDIO EXPERIENCE ($1,090 VALUE) – STARTING BID: $275

Capture timeless family magic with a masterfully crafted studio portrait session and bespoke fine art collection by Megan Michael Photography, creating cherished heirlooms to adore for generations.

Includes:

- Family Portrait Gift Certificate ($1,090 value)

PACKAGE 112 – ENCHANTED CHRISTMAS IN JULY: SUMMER SANTA MAGICAL PORTRAIT EXPERIENCE ($749 VALUE) – STARTING BID: $185

Treat your little ones to a whimsical storybook portrait session with Santa in the summer at Megan Michael Photography studio in Gretna, NE, capturing pure childhood wonder and magic!

Includes:

- Summer Santa Portrait Certificate ($749 value)

PACKAGE 113 – WOODLAND WHISPERS: FOREST CANOPY ESCAPE & PICNIC WINE ($70 VALUE) – STARTING BID: $20

Immerse yourself in nature's calm with a serene afternoon exploring the lush trails and forest canopy of Fontenelle Forest, paired with a selection of fine wines for a picturesque outdoor retreat.

Includes:

- 2 Guest Passes to Fontenelle Forest ($30 value)
- 2 bottles of fine wine ($40 value)

PACKAGE 114 – STAGE & SPOTLIGHT: THE ROSE THEATER FAMILY SHOWCASE ($80 VALUE) – STARTING BID: $20

Treat your family to world-class theatrical performances at The Rose Theater for an enchanting afternoon or evening of stories brought to life on stage.

Includes:

- 4 Admission Tickets to The Rose Theater ($80 value)

MAC CHAMBER Google GRATITUDE GALA AND AWARDS

PACKAGE 115 – BOTANICAL ENCHANTMENT: LAURITZEN GARDENS & WINE RETREAT ($100 VALUE) – STARTING BID: $25

Stroll through beautiful floral displays and serene garden sanctuaries at Lauritzen Gardens, complemented by two bottles of select fine wine to unwind after your day of botanical exploration.

Includes:

- 4 One-Day Admission Passes to Lauritzen Gardens ($60 value)
- 2 bottles of fine wine ($40 value)

PACKAGE 116 – SIP THE SEASON: PITCH BLACK VIP & WINTER VELVET WINE ($320 VALUE) – STARTING BID: $45

Gain exclusive VIP entry to the celebrated Pitch Black event, honoring excellence and vibrant community leadership, paired with a festive holiday wine collection to toast the season in warmth and style.

Includes:

- 2 VIP Tickets to Pitch Black ($270 value)
- 4 bottles of Jolly Holly Holiday Wine ($50 value)

PACKAGE 117 – SIP THE SEASON: STARLIGHT SPARKLE WINE & LATE-NIGHT BITES ($75 VALUE) – STARTING BID: $20

Raise a glass to the holidays with four bottles of smooth, flavorful Jolly Holly wine paired with a Taco Bell gift card for late-night cravings. Whether shared by the fire or enjoyed with friends, this collection brings cheer and sparkle to every moment!

Includes:

- 4 bottles of Jolly Holly Holiday Wine ($50 value)
- 1 Taco Bell gift card ($25 value)

PACKAGE 119 – PITCH BLACK & LATE-NIGHT BITES ($295 VALUE) – STARTING BID: $95

Enjoy VIP access for two to the Pitch Black Cultural Gala celebrating community, innovation, and leadership, paired with a late-night bites gift card to top off an inspiring evening out!

Includes:

- 2 VIP Tickets to Pitch Black ($270 value)
- 1 Taco Bell Gift Card ($25 value)

PACKAGE 120 – SOULFUL GLOW: COMFORT & BOTANICALS ($295 VALUE) – STARTING BID: $85

Indulge in comforting soul food flavors paired with handcrafted botanical skincare for the ultimate cozy self-care escape.

Includes:

- 2 VIP Tickets to Pitch Black ($270 value)
- 1 Taco Bell Gift Card ($25 value)

PACKAGE 121 – WHIMSICAL GALLERY WONDERS: KANEKO EXPERIENCE ($175 VALUE) – STARTING BID: $50

Explore boundary-pushing exhibitions in Omaha's historic Old Market district with a full year of gallery exploration at KANEKO, paired with a curated art book and signature plush collectible.

Includes:

- 1-Year KANEKO Household Membership Voucher
- Jun Kaneko Collector's Art Book
- Signature KANEKO Plush Tanuki

WITH GRATITUDE

It takes a tribe to produce the Gratitude Gala.

We thank the Gratitude Gala committee members whose names appear later in this program, as well as all those who donated the amazing items for the live and silent auctions and raffle.

Most of all, we are grateful to you because your presence here tonight is what makes this event a success and supports the work of the MAC Foundation and MAC Chamber.

Emcee

Waverly Moore – KETV

Gratitude Gala Committee Members

- Karine Sokpoh
- Doris Dossou
- Fidele Mienso
- Djifa Gnonouglo
- Darrell T. Black
- Folly Gninninvi (Chair)
- Comlan B. Agbezouhlon
- Euloge Sekle, Dr.
- Matthew Omojola
- Albert Kate
- Tiffany Gamble

THANK YOU

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The MAC Foundation, Inc. connects, empowers, and elevates underrepresented entrepreneurs. In partnership with the MAC Chamber, we champion economic opportunity and growth for all. Your support directly fuels our key programs:

- **Suit Up:** Prepares youth and young adults for career success through workforce readiness, professional attire, headshots, and mentorship.
- **Rising CEOs:** Empowers teens (ages 14–19) affected by economic disparities with leadership, tech, and entrepreneurial skills.
- **MAC Xcelerator (MAC-X):** Accelerates startups with funding, coaching, and hybrid mentorship.
- **MAC Foundation Scholarships:** Provides $1,000 awards to underrepresented students pursuing degrees in Accounting, Finance, Law, and STEM.
- **Pitch Black Competition & Conference:** The Midwest's flagship business expo and live pitch event, awarding over $85,000 in capital and technical support to emerging founders.

MAC CHAMBER Google GALA GRATITUDE AND AWARDS

GRATITUDE AND AWARDS

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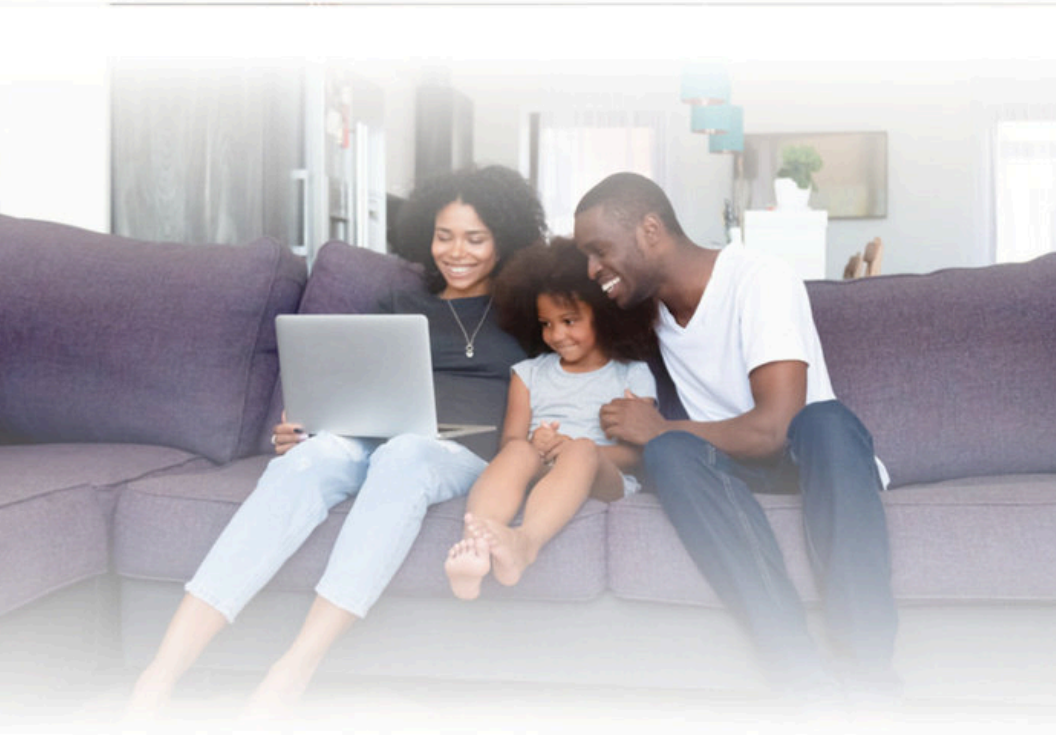

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Non-Profit Membership $150 - $350/year

Business Membership $150-$1000/year

Membership amounts determined by Company Size

At the MAC Chamber, membership is a gateway to growth, connection, and influence. Here's what we offer tour members:

Connect & Lead

- Network with influential leaders and mentors at exclusive events.
- Enhance skills through workshops and seminars.
- Influence public policy and regional initiatives.

Grow Your Business

- Enjoy directory listings, spotlight features, and priority referrals.
- Access member-only capital opportunities, advertising and marketing channels.

Save & Succeed

- Benefit from discounts on events and sponsorships.
- Leverage our mailing lists to expand your outreach.

Build Impact & Credibility

- Showcase your brand and community commitment.
- Partner in driving economic growth and attracting top talent.

Register Your Business

Contact us: info@midlandsafricanchamber.com or call (402) 881-0343

www.macchamber.com


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