

THE EDISON ARTS FOUNDATION'S

# Tutus & Taxes

FUNDRAISING GALA

Saturday, April 27, 2024 at 6:00 pm

The Landmark Community Center

100 Louisiana | Missouri City, Texas 77489

2024  
HONOREES:

GRAMMY NOMINATED  
RECORDING ARTIST  
**MAJOR.**

MISS TEXAS  
**ELLIE  
BREAUX**

BLACK ANGELS COLLECTIVE  
DIRECTOR  
**CARMEN  
JONES-MARIGNY**



*Edison  
Arts Foundation*

A 501(C)3 non-profit fine arts organization

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Dear Sponsorship Supporter,

The Edison Arts Foundation will hold its 5th annual **“Tutus and Tuxes” Fundraising Gala**, Saturday, April 27, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., The Landmark Community Center, 100 Louisiana, Missouri City, Texas 77489.

The program will honor some of Houston’s prestigious, most notable artists and arts advocates, as well as highlight Edison Arts Foundation’s impactful programs and bold transformative feature endeavors.

Sponsorship support is requested at the following levels:

Family	\$10,000
Community	\$7,500
Arts	\$5,000
Principal	\$3,500
Supporting	\$2,500
Background	\$1,500



# Your Investment...

## FAMILY

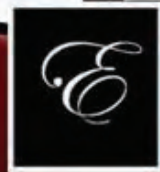
\$10,000

- One table of 12 at Gala
- Premiere recognition with logo on signage at event
- Premier recognition with logo in all media releases
- Social media exposure
- Full page ad in program book
- Gala recognition
- Web banner on Edison Arts Foundation website
- Eight tickets to yearly concerts and events

## COMMUNITY

\$7,500

- One table of 12 at Gala
- Recognition with logo on signage at event
- Recognition with logo in all media releases
- Social media exposure
- Full page ad in program book
- Gala recognition
- Recognition with logo on Edison Arts Foundation website
- Six tickets to yearly concerts and events



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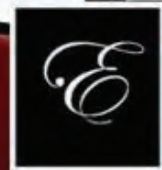
# Your Investment...

## ARTS \$5,000

- One table of 12 at Gala
- Recognition with logo on signage at event
- Recognition with logo in all media releases
- Social media exposure
- Half-page ad in program book
- Gala Recognition
- Recognition with logo on Edison Arts Foundation website
- Four tickets to yearly concerts and events

## VIP RECEPTION \$5,000

- One table of 12 at Gala
- Recognition with logo on signage at event
- Recognition with logo in all media releases
- Social media exposure
- Half-page ad in program book
- Gala Recognition
- Recognition with logo on Edison Arts Foundation website
- Four tickets to yearly concerts and events



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# Your Investment...

## PRINCIPAL

\$3,500

- One table of 8 at Gala
- Recognition on signage at Gala Event
- Recognition with logo in all media releases
- Social media exposure
- Half-page ad in program book
- Gala Recognition
- Recognition with logo on Edison Arts Foundation website
- Four tickets to yearly concerts and events

## SUPPORTING

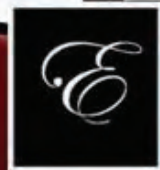
\$2,500

- One table of 8 at Gala
- Recognition on signage at Gala Event
- Company name in all media releases
- Quarter-page ad in the program book
- Gala Recognition
- Recognition on Edison Arts Foundation website
- Two tickets to yearly concerts and events

## BACKGROUND

\$1,500

- One table of 8 at Gala
- Recognition on signage at Gala Event
- Company name in all media releases
- Recognition in the program book
- Gala recognition
- Two tickets to yearly concerts and events



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## Your Gala Sponsorship will help:

- Support construction and development of our new Edison Cultural Arts Center!
- Provide scholarships for high-quality afterschool, out of school, community arts programs and deserving seniors..
- Continue The Edison Arts Foundation's commitment to Strengthening the Family, Bridging the Community, And Developing the Arts throughout the Fort Bend and Greater Houston areas.
- Continue to cultivate and prepare young dancers and creatives for career paths in the arts and give them the opportunity to expand their education.
- Provide cultural and performing arts programs to foster care children, grandchildren raised by grandparents, and low to moderate income disadvantaged youth and teens.



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# Edison Cultural Arts Center

“Family. Community. Arts.”

The Edison Cultural Arts Center is a unique community hub with the Arts at its core.

A mixed-use economic community revitalization development in Fort Bend Houston.

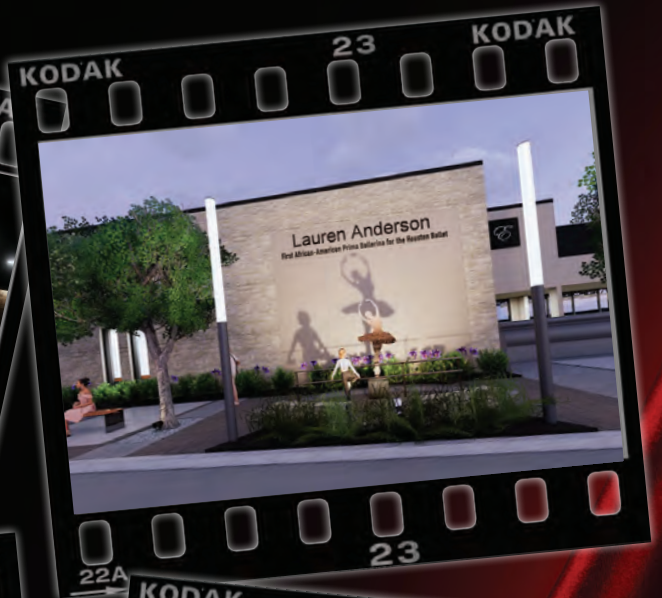
- Residential
- Retail
- Entertainment
- Educational
- Cultural and Performing arts

A place to live, learn, work, and play.

- Arts and culture programming
- Job creation
- Outdoor green space
- Youth development
- Affordable housing
- Quality healthcare
- Public art commissions









# Our Mission

Edison Arts Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit fine arts organization established for the educational and charitable purpose of producing and developing cultural and performing arts programs for children, adults, and families throughout the community.

## Slogan:

Strengthening the Family.  
Bridging the Community.  
Developing the Arts.

## Core Value:

Family. Community. Arts.







## About the Executive Director

# CHARITY CARTER

*2023 Top Influential Women of Houston  
FBAAD, Fort Bend Academy of Arts and Dance  
2016 Greater Houston Black Chamber of  
Commerce Pinnacle Award Recipient*

Charity Carter is a native of Houston, Texas and has been dancing and teaching for over 30 years. She is a graduate of Sam Houston State University where she studied dance under the direction of Dana Nicolay. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance, with a teaching certification in dance, and a minor in business, communication, and education. In 2007, she established FBAAD, Fort Bend Academy of Arts and Dance to provide traditional dance classes, Summer Dance Camp, and After School Dance Conservatory where she pioneered after school dance in Fort Bend Houston.

Throughout her career, Mrs. Charity Carter has cultivated arts education programs and fostered community outreach through contract partnerships with many local schools, school districts, organizations and more.

In 2013, Mrs. Charity Carter's commitment to family, community outreach, education and empowerment through the arts inspired her to create the Edison Arts Foundation, a 501 (c)(3) non-profit fine arts organization established for the educational and charitable purpose of producing and developing cultural and performing arts programs for children, adults, and families throughout the community.

In honor of her parents, Robert and Bertha Edison, The Edison Center- anchored by a 400-seat performing arts center will be a catalyst for equity with arts at its core.

Mrs. Charity Edison Carter credits much of her success to FAMILY- one of the three core values of the Edison Arts Foundation (Family. Community. Arts).



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# Community Impact



- **The Edison Arts Foundation** fosters arts education and community outreach programs. Through partnerships with Fort Bend ISD, Stafford ISD, many local schools, and organizations including the Julia C. Hester House, Happy Angels Learning Center, The Berrington School, West Orem YMCA & Texas Medical Center YMCA, The Imani School and many more; students receive quality in-school, out-of-school, and after-school fine arts and dance education, programs, and instruction.
- **The Edison Arts Foundation** has incorporated numerous programs including ANDance Jr. Company, S.T.A.R. Summer Theatre Arts Repertory, LABMC (Lauren Anderson Ballet Master Class) and AAA, Afterschool Arts Academy.
- **The Edison Arts Foundation** sponsors many cultural and performing arts collaborations with FBAAD, Fort Bend Academy of Arts and Dance to host workshops and Master Classes with the some of the most world renown dance and arts companies like the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, Dance Theatre of Harlem, Step Afrika, Houston Grand Opera, and Performing Arts Houston.
- **The Edison Arts Foundation** proudly curates a month-long Black History Celebration in partnership with the City of Missouri City. The UnCovering the Legacy Black History Month Celebration recognizes the achievements and advancements of Black Americans featuring music, theater arts, dance performances and more with authors, artists, schools and organizations from Missouri City, Fort Bend County, and the Greater Houston area celebrating the importance of our rich culture.



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ANDANCE  
JR. COMPANY



## Our Programs:

- Afterschool Arts Academy (AAA)
- Alice Nealie Dance Junior Company (ANDance Jr Co)
- Black History: UnCovering the Legacy Celebrations
- Lauren Anderson Ballet Master Class Series (LABMCS)
- Summer Theatre Arts Repertory (STAR)
- And More...









## GRAMMY NOMINATED RECORDING ARTIST

# MAJOR.

Known as MAJOR., Major Johnson Finley is a contemporary R&B singer and songwriter whose work is rooted in classic soul with a pop touch. Along with song-based albums like 2016's *I Am MAJOR.* and 2018's *Even More*, the singer also released projects centered around motivational messaging and pep talks set to music. In 2023, he returned to singing with the EP *The Hope of my Soul*.

Born in Denton, Texas, he was raised in Houston, graduated from the city's High School for the Performing and Visual Arts (following the likes of Robert Glasper and Beyoncé), and subsequently attended and graduated from Berklee College of Music. Finley's career kicked into high gear after he signed with Harmony Samuels' B.O.E. Music Group. He released his debut album for the label, *I Am MAJOR.*, in 2016. A single taken from it, "Why I Love You," earned the admiration of Stevie Wonder and Patti LaBelle (the latter of whom performed it in concert) and peaked at number five on Billboard's Adult R&B Songs chart. This success was followed in 2017 with another number five Adult R&B Songs placement in the form of "Honest," a remix of "Why I Love You" featuring Shaggy and Rock City, and the artist's third charting single, "Spend Christmas with You." In 2018, second proper album *Even More* featured guest spots from KAS, NSTASIA, and old-school powerhouse Andre Troutman. For the next few years, MAJOR. focused on stand-alone singles and non-traditional releases. Among these were 2019's *The Lyrical Breakdown: Readings by MAJOR. & friends* (a collection of metered, spoken-word renditions of normally belted-out tunes), 2021's *MAJOR.HOPE Motivations* (sermon-like spoken messages of perseverance and strength set to gentle musical backdrops), and 2022's *MAJOR.HOPE Pep Talks* (themed pep talks with unobtrusive beats behind them). In 2023, MAJOR. released *The Hope of My Soul*, a six-song EP of mellow, gospel-tinged soul-pop that occasionally hit on a country twang.



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MISS TEXAS 2023

## Ellie Breaux

Ellie is a Houston native and in 2023 graduated from the University of North Texas, graduating with a degree in Marketing with a focus on Fashion. At UNT, Ellie was a part of the North Texas Dancers and served as their Social Chair.

She currently works as a Spokesperson/Brand Ambassador for multiple brands.

Additionally, Ellie is a professional model and works consistently with Terry Costa, Sherri Hill, Impeccable Pig, and Landry Kate, to name a few.

She has a pet cat named Fendi and is a huge fan of sloths.

Ellie entered her first pageant in 2020 and secured the title of Miss Keller 2020/21. From there, she competed for the crown of Miss Texas, placing 2nd runner-up and walking away that year with over \$9,000 in Scholarships. She is now Miss Texas 2023 and won over \$21,000 in scholarships.

Ellie recently competed in the Miss America competition. Winning fitness and gown awards giving her \$6,000 in scholarships. On the finale night, Ellie placed first runner up giving her an additional \$7,000 in scholarships totaling \$13,000.



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BLACK ANGELS COLLECTIVE DIRECTOR

## Carmen Jones-Marigny

Carmen Jones, a versatile dancer and performance artist, was born and raised in Houston, TX, and began dance training at age 5. She graduated from The High School for the Performing and Visual Arts as a dance major, attended Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's summer intensive on scholarship at age 15, received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in dance from Adelphi University in Garden City, NY and continued professional training at The Ailey School after being accepted into the Independent Study program from Summer 2015 to Spring 2016. Throughout her dance education, Carmen has worked with the likes of Lauren Anderson, Priscilla Nathan-Murphy, Sandra Organ Solis, Sharon Wong, Flavio Salazar, Melanie Person, Melvin Meyers, Caridad Martinez, Hollie Wright, Charla Genn, Elizabeth Roxas and other dance personnel from Houston Ballet, Hope Stone, Inc., Martha Graham Dance Company, Houston Metropolitan Dance Company, Joffrey Ballet, and Paul Taylor Dance Company.

Upon completion of her training in New York City, Carmen returned to Houston and auditioned for Harrison Guy, artistic director of Urban Souls Dance Company. She was hired and joined the company where she danced for 3 seasons, performing in productions including "Music That Should Be Danced", "I Found God", and the 37th Annual Black College Dance Exchange. During her time with the company, she worked with notable choreographers including Walter Hull, Richard Freeman, Jr. and Harrison Guy.

In 2018, Carmen joined the cast of "Dancin' in the Streets: The Motown and More Revue" and performed for audiences of thousands for 2 consecutive seasons. She then went on to perform with recording artist Tobe Nwigwe in his first solo production of "Tobe from the Swat Live" and made her commercial video debut in Tobe's 2018 release of "Wavy". In that same year, Carmen was hired as a dancer by Saint Heron for Solange Knowles' 2019 film entitled **When I Get Home**, where she met and worked with choreographers Andrew Winghart and Maya Taylor. Currently, Carmen serves as the choreographer for the lead role of "Clare" in the Houston's Urban Nutcracker production for the 4th consecutive year and as the exclusive choreographer for Tobe Nwigwe and lead dancer with the artists' touring company, The Black Angels Collective.



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## For Tables and Tickets:

**Table Price:** \$750 | **Tickets:** \$100

## For Sponsorship & Donations:

EDISON ARTS FOUNDATION

1959 Texas Parkway

Missouri City, Texas 77489

[www.edisonartsfoundation.org](http://www.edisonartsfoundation.org)

**Charity Carter**

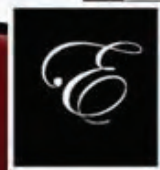
President

713-459-4929

**Crystal Edwards**

Event Coordinator

832-388-1039



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