

2019 Nominee

Marlon Griggs
Jacksonville

Laurie Berlin

From: llennox@flahum.org
Sent: Sunday, February 3, 2019 5:41 AM
To: llennox@flahum.org; lberlin@flahum.org; sseibert@flahum.org; dkelly@flahum.org; bbahr@flahum.org
Subject: Board Nomination Form
Attachments: 57905893_Marlon_Griggs_Resume.pdf; 57905894_Marlon_Griggs_Interest_Letter.pdf

Nomination Information:

Nomination type: I am nominating myself.

Recommendation Information:

I would like to nominate the following individual for the Florida Humanities Council board:

Nominator Name:
Nominator Preferred Email Address:

Nominee Name:
Nominee Email:
Nominee Contact Number:
Contact Number Type:
Nomination Comments/Remarks:

Candidate Information:

If applicable, name of person that recommended I submit my nomination:

Name: Mr. Marlon Griggs
Organizational affiliation, if applicable: EVAC Movement, Harvard University, City of Jacksonville
Address: 1841 Dancy St.
Address, line 2: Apt. # 1
City: Jacksonville
State: FL
Postal Code: 32205

Preferred Email Address: mbgriggs1@gmail.com
Contact Number: (310) 663-6044
Contact Number Type: Cell Number
Personal or Business Website:

Please write a brief summary highlighting your strengths and potential contributions to the Florida Humanities Board:

As co-founder of the EVAC movement, I work to bring an end to the violence, crime, and gang violence that disproportionately affect African-American youth through providing teens with positive exposure to the arts and humanities, thereby redefining the stereotype of black males from being "gang members" to "art connoisseurs" and "activists."

Please describe any experience you have had serving as a board member for any other organization. Indicate if you held any particular position on the board, or served on any board committee.

As a member of the Harvard Youth Advisory Board, I proposed and provided unique solutions to the increasingly prevalent rates of violent teen crime via the humanities. I also serve on the City Council Task Force on Crime Reduction and the United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth where I emphasize the importance of "art intervention."

Resume:

https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/2856014/57905893/474775901/57905893_marlon_g_riggs_resume.pdf

Letter of Interest:

https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/2856014/57905894/474775901/57905894_marlon_g_riggs_interest_letter.pdf

Support Letters:

Brandon Griggs

1841 Dancy St.
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February 02, 2019

To whomever it may concern,

As a high school student, activist, and social justice advocate, I have witnessed firsthand the traumatic impacts that the seemingly perpetual cycle of gang violence, crime, and drugs have had on our youth; youth who an overwhelming portion of are ethnic minorities that do not have access to opportunities or alternatives outside of engaging in criminal activity to support themselves and their families. As co-founder of the EVAC movement, our organization quickly found that that the solution lie not in legislation for "tougher policing" or promises by politicians to "crack down on crime," but rather, the humanities.

In fact, Plato's Allegory of the Cave, a renowned work of the humanities, was the inspiration for our name which, if you haven't noticed yet, spells "CAVE" backwards, symbolizing how we represent the "liberators" in the book, freeing students like the main characters who are chained in the darkness, from their individual caves of poverty, homelessness, or violence at home. Our proposal was unique, and essentially unheard of, but our efforts were tremendously successful, and by immersing teens in literature, the arts, and rhetoric, we gave them an outlet to channel their struggles into, rather than allowing it to drive them onto the streets.

I want to bring these valuable strategies to the table as a board member on the Florida Humanities Council, and use my personal experience, as well as that of many other students I have mentored and worked with to get underrepresented teens in particular involved in our efforts, because amid all the adversity they face, it is crucial they experience the cathartic effects the humanities can have.

In addition, I have led several successful initiatives and campaigns for bringing the humanities to at-risk youth as a means of intervention on a number of boards and committees at the

Harvard Graduate School of Education, Jacksonville City Council, and the United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth. My next step is to hopefully share the breadth of knowledge and experience I have with you all on this board, and give a fresh, new perspective on applications for the humanities in ways we could have never imagined. I look forward to working with everyone!

Brandon Griggs

Co-Founder, EVAC Movement

Marlon Griggs

email: mbgriggs1@gmail.com, phone: (310) 663-6044

ABOUT ME:

I am a high school sophomore, student activist, and advocate for "at-risk" youth who, like me, have lived in the epicenter of gang and gun violence in Jacksonville and experienced its traumatic effects. As a member of the Harvard Graduate School of Education's Youth Advisory Board, I represent Florida's youth and bring attention to problems like these that students face but aren't getting enough awareness. I also was elected to serve on the city council Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction where I propose further legislation on these issues, and the violence that has so deeply impacted me that not enough local politicians care about or have ever even experienced themselves. Other than that, I do a lot of work on the United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth and love to volunteer with the ACLU and my school's EVAC movement. In my free time I work as a youth prosecutor in the Duval County Teen Court program where I hear the cases of juvenile defendants and set them on the right path to help them avoid receiving a criminal record.

EDUCATION

Florida State College at Jacksonville (A.A.)
Robert E. Lee High School

Currently Attending
GPA: 4.0

WORK EXPERIENCE

Co-Founder

EVAC Movement

- We began as a group of African-American and minority teens from Jacksonville's worst neighborhoods who had been labeled as "gang members" and "criminals" by our community, and expanded from there, meeting with President Obama and the US Department of Justice, to address the constant police harassment and discrimination we as black males faced everyday.
- Succeeded in redefining the negative stereotypes against us and defying all odds, showing teens a positive example of youth doing great things as opposed to getting involved in criminal activity.

Elected Official/Board Member

Jacksonville City Council: Task Force on Safety and Crime Reduction

- I am one of 2 youth representatives selected to advocate on the behalf teens living in crime afflicted neighborhoods in Jacksonville.
- Proposed legislation and community solutions to lowering the rate of violent crime citywide.

Board Member and Diversity Spokesperson

Harvard Graduate School of Education: Youth Advisory Board

- Was one of 25 students in the nation selected to serve on the Harvard YAB, where I used my personal experience to bring attention to the issues our youth are facing, and propose solutions to them.
- Worked on multiple projects and led efforts to encourage diversity and inclusion in Jacksonville's schools.

Youth Representative

United Nations-Major Group for Children and Youth

- Contributed to and engaged in important policy processes at the UN, acting as a bridge between young people and the UN system in order to ensure their right to meaningful participation is realized.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Associate/Intern

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)

- Campaigned for the passage of Amendment 4, to restore the voting rights of individuals with criminal records in Florida.
- Solicited donations and support from local organizations, interacted with potential voters, and spoke to audiences at venues in Jacksonville about the importance of their right to vote.

Senate Page

The Florida Senate

- Worked under District 6 Senator Audrey Gibson on the floor of the Florida Senate as an advisor and assistant
- Mediated between senators and delivered, read, and managed paperwork/filings during senate procession

Youth Prosecutor/Attorney

Jacksonville Teen Court Program

- Represented troubled youth as clients in the Duval County civil citation program (Teen Court) for minor crimes and petty offenses.
- Was promoted to serve as a prosecutor for the State of Florida where I proposed necessary remedial punishment for juvenile offenders and set them on the right path to avoid their return to the criminal justice system.

Head Secretary/Chair of Issues Subcommittee

Mayor's Young Leaders' Advisory Council

- Served as an advisor to Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry on behalf of the youth community and Kid's Hope Alliance.
- Organized city projects, events, and initiatives to engage Jacksonville teens in their local government and prevent youth from getting involved in criminal activity.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Co-Host

Jacksonville MLK Awards Ceremony

- Provided live coverage of the awards ceremony for media agencies (News4Jax) and announced contest winners for 2,000+ attendees.
- Engaged the audience in the event, providing a historical background of Dr. Martin Luther King, and his significance today

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Nominee

Zi Phi Beta Community Pearls Award

- Was one of a select group of community activists, leaders, and changemakers nominated for the Community Pearls award, recognizing individuals who have had an impact on creating social change.

Invited Speaker and Panelist

Dreamweek Summit

- Selected to talk before an audience (400+) in a panel of guest speakers about improving our community, as well as answering questions about my social justice reform efforts.

<https://www.actionnewsjax.com/news/local/two-teens-applied-to-lead-jacksonvilles-new-crime-task-force/864652048>

<https://www.wokv.com/news/local/two-jacksonville-high-schoolers-chosen-for-harvard-teen-board/eFbASHJ63cCLOsNgXGPe2O/>

<https://www.actionnewsjax.com/news/local/winners-announced-for-action-news-jax-mlk-live-the-dream-contest/902418055>