



EST.  1974

**DUKE ELLINGTON**

SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

THE EXCELLENCE  
OF ELLINGTON:  
AN EVENING WITH  
DAVE CHAPPELLE

—  
THEATRE DEDICATION AND UNVEILING  
MONDAY, JUNE 20, 2022



## PROGRAM

- Performance by Radical Elite Show Band
- Welcome & Acknowledgements
- Celebrating the Excellence of Ellington and its Alumni
- Remarks and Theatre signage Unveiling by Dave Chappelle

## MILLION DOLLAR CHALLENGE

Special thanks to our sponsors and friends for coming together to kick-off Ellington's Million Dollar Challenge—a campaign designed to close the funding gap so that we can keep art at the heart of our dual curriculum.

Our objectives are twofold: (1) Increase the individual and corporate annual giving that supports our operations; and (2) Increase endowments dedicated to funding Ellington's arts departments, similar to the Casey Foundation endowments for the Vocal and Instrumental Music Departments. Minimum initial endowment gift is \$50K from individuals or groups.

In the lead up to Ellington's 50th Anniversary, the Million Dollar Challenge puts Ellington on the road toward artistic freedom by laying the foundation for its financial success.

### HERE'S WHERE YOU COME IN:

**Alumni:** Commit to annual individual giving or pool resources to endow or fund your respective department.

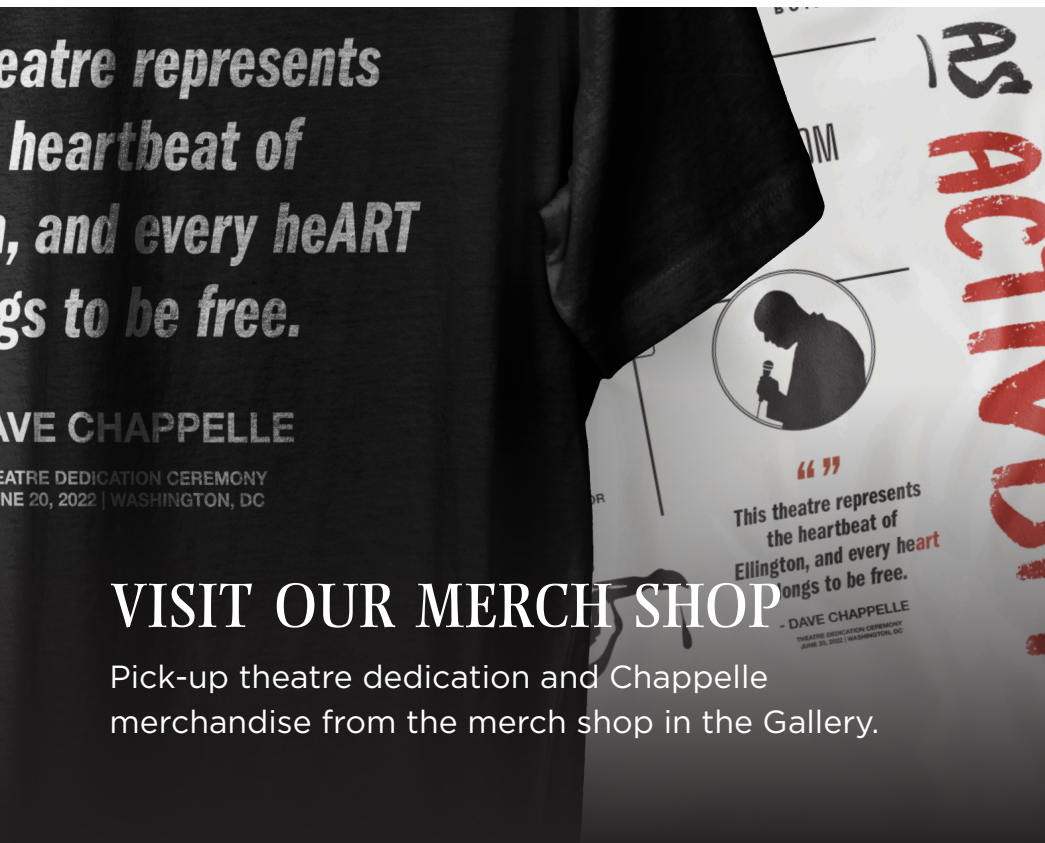
**Corporate Sponsors and Foundations:** Make a five year commitment to wholly fund the endowment of a department or support the funding of an existing endowment.

**Supporters & Friends:** Continue your annual contributions to Ellington. To make your tax-deductible donation today please contact Jackie Love-Baker at the Ellington Fund, [jl baker@ellingtonarts.org](mailto:jl baker@ellingtonarts.org), for more information or visit [www.ellingtonarts.org](http://www.ellingtonarts.org) to make your tax-deductible donation today.

## ABOUT THE ELLINGTON FUND

With the mission to support, promote, and empower the next generation of emerging artists, global citizens, and critical scholars, the Ellington Fund was established in 1979 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization to support the Duke Ellington School of the Arts (DESA) pre-professional arts education programming through fundraising and development efforts. While DCPS's management fee to Ellington covers the cost of a traditional high school academic program, it doesn't cover Ellington's arts component or the extended-day format of Ellington's program. As the costs of a rigorous, dual curriculum program steadily increase each year, Ellington needs significant private support to achieve the excellence our students deserve. Your support is essential to the success of Ellington's mission and we thank you for your generosity!

Please make a tax-deductible donation today by texting DUKE to (202) 932-9995.



## SPONSORS

We wish to express our deepest gratitude to all our sponsors for their steadfast support and generosity. Your commitment has laid the foundation for our Million Dollar Challenge and we appreciate your early acceptance!

### \$500,000 Diamond\*

- Dave Chappelle

### \$250,000+ Gold\*

- Sacks Family Foundation

### \$100,000+ Silver\*

- Ari Fitzgerald & Maria Carmona

\*(Commitment payable over 5 years)

### \$25,000+ Game Changers:

- DC Housing Finance Agency
- Kimsey Foundation
- Miner Anderson Family Foundation
- Saks Fifth Avenue

### \$15,000 Influencers:

- T-Mobile USA, Inc.
- Dr. Eliot and Sally Battle

### \$5,000 Friends:

- DC Office of Cable Television, Film, Music & Entertainment
- ServiceNow
- DC Lottery
- Industrial Bank
- Robert Daly, Jr. & Krishna Daly
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- Robert D. Horvath, Jr.
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### \$10,000 Supporters:

- Annette M. & Theodore N. Lerner Family Foundation, Inc.
- The George Washington University
- Lee's Flower Shop
- The Gersh Agency
- Abeer and Yousef Al Otaiba
- Brenda Morris & Terek Green

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A heartfelt thank you to our **Event Producing Team @ Ellington**: Principal Sandi Logan, Director Tracie Jade, and Producers Robin Y. Harris, Ken Johnson, and **Team Chappelle** Event Producer, Carla Sims.

**We especially want to acknowledge and thank** our committed team of board members, staff and consultants who contributed to making this event possible, especially: LaChenia Allen, Kathleen Buhle, Ajahmure Clovis, Charles Coward, Adarra Davis, Alicia deForest, Wanda Edmonds, Vincent Griggs, Candace Hall, Tyler Hoyle, LaWanda Hunter-Smith, Kieron Irvine, Leasha Julius, Jackie Love-Baker, Nancee Lyons, Jennifer Maguire, Alesha Martin, Veronica Martin, Winnette McIntosh-Ambrose, Dawn Naser, Reginald Cyntje, Alberto Segarra, Marie Smeallie, Tony Starnes, Nikki Sutton-Mackey, Ebony Vines-Jackson, Annie Whatley, Thom Woodward, and members of the DESA Jazz Combo and Radial Elite. Your tireless efforts are sincerely appreciated.



## DUKE ELLINGTON SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

Duke Ellington School of the Arts was established in 1974 by Peggy Cooper Cafritz and Mike Malone and it remains the only DC public high school to offer a dual curriculum encompassing professional arts training and academic enrichment. Nearly 50 years later, Ellington continues to nurture the next generation of scholar-artists and changemakers. Ellington has a 4-star rating and is one of the highest ranked public high schools in DC with 97% of students graduating on-time and 95% of graduates enrolling in institutions of higher-learning, often receiving 8-11 million in scholarships. Our students' deep commitment to the arts empowers them to succeed academically.

From the beginning, public and private partnerships have supported the school, which in 2000 evolved into the Duke Ellington School of the Arts Project (DESAP), which includes DC Public Schools, The Ellington Fund, The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and George Washington University. This unique public-private partnership model, along with our passionate educators, has changed the lives of thousands of young people.

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## WELCOME LETTER FROM ARI Q. FITZGERALD

Born nearly fifty years ago out of the revolutionary and paradigm-shifting vision of its founders, Peggy Cooper Cafritz and Mike Malone, Duke Ellington School of the Arts has become an internationally recognized arts and academic institution.

Ellington has enriched the DC academic and cultural landscape in many ways:

- by excelling at its mission to provide a rigorous and challenging college preparatory and pre-professional arts and academic high school program to District youth who might not otherwise be able to benefit from such a program, while boasting a four-year graduation rate of 97 percent and a college or conservatory matriculation rate of 95 percent;
- through the work of its artist-activist alumni; another cohort of which graduated this past weekend, following in the footsteps of Dave Chappelle; and

- through its presence as a center of cultural excellence, hosting thrilling performances, thought-provoking art exhibits, insightful workshops, rich summer offerings, and other events that provide cultural and artistic enrichment for the entire DC region.

Despite these valuable contributions, Ellington is severely underfunded. Since 2010, the District of Columbia government has consistently refused to fully fund Ellington's dual-curriculum faculty, forcing these highly dedicated teachers to receive salaries and benefits that on average represent only 65 percent of what they would receive if they taught at less successful District public high schools.

While we will continue to seek increased government funding for Ellington, our past experience suggests that large amounts of private funding will continue to be needed if Ellington is to survive and thrive. That is why your support is so important. Ellington would not be a center of excellence without your support, and Ellington must continue to be a center of excellence.

On behalf of the Ellington Fund Board, I cannot thank you enough for your generous support. You're improving the lives of hundreds of District youth every year, and helping to spread the excellence that is Ellington across this vast country and around the world.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ari Fitzgerald". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Ari" and "Fitzgerald" being capitalized and prominent.

**ARI Q. FITZGERALD**  
PRESIDENT  
THE ELLINGTON FUND



## WELCOME LETTER FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL & PRINCIPAL SANDI M. LOGAN

We are living during a time when each of us has experienced unprecedented and challenging circumstances brought on by the global pandemic and the uncertainties that it brings to our daily lives.

During the summer of 2020, racial justice protests shed a light on structural inequalities and the world seemed to grow more polarized. We're still re-learning how to co-exist and interact with our communities but there is one thing that has always remained constant—the healing power of art, particularly when thinking about how artists have always helped us rise up during times of struggle and uncertainty. Historically, creative expression has been at the forefront of the many social movements that have shaped the world into what it is today. Artists are at the forefront of the fight toward a better, more equitable society because freedom of speech is the freedom to create. No matter how painful, joyous, ruthless, or compulsive it is to get it right, this artistic freedom enables us to reflect on our similarities, embrace our differences, and challenge the status quo to imagine a better world.

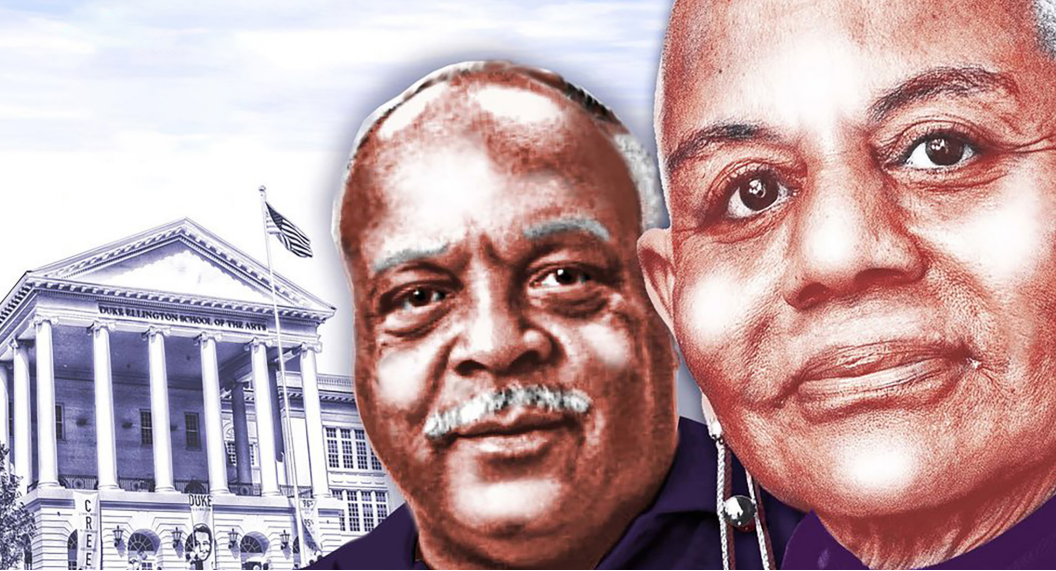
This year we celebrated the theme “Art as Activism” and studied artists and cultural leaders who came before us and fought to make the world a better place for the next generation. Our objective is to uplift conversations around artistic freedom and artistic responsibility. We asked our young artist-scholars: how can you use your voice to transform society, be change-makers, and create work that uplifts the most vulnerable? The fact that Duke Ellington School of the Arts exists at all is revolutionary. Founder Peggy Cooper Cafritz once said, “the goal for all our students is freedom from limitations.” She and co-founder Mike Malone believed that art was a tool for liberation, a way for the most vulnerable to realize the sky’s the limit. Our talented faculty and alumni are great mentors to our students and reminders of this.

I always like to remind my students, as well as my own children, that we’re standing on the shoulders of giants, so we must honor them in our daily actions. As we approach Ellington’s 50th anniversary, I’m reminded of the legacy of Peggy, Mike, and all the individuals who fought for thousands of District youth to learn and create in this building, surrounded by beauty and hope. By supporting Duke Ellington School of the Arts, you’re helping our past, present, and future students know that they too have the power to impact the world with their art for years to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandi Logan". The signature is fluid and cursive.

**SANDI M. LOGAN**

Head of School & Principal  
Duke Ellington School of the Arts



## MEET OUR FOUNDERS

In 1968, Peggy Cooper Cafritz and Mike Malone co-founded Workshops for Careers in the Arts (WCA), which later evolved into Duke Ellington School of the Arts. The Founders envisioned a new kind of learning experience—a place where District of Columbia youth, no matter their race, religion or socioeconomic backgrounds, could receive world-class arts training alongside rigorous academic instruction.

*“The new building will have a lot of things in it that we didn’t have in the beginning. These kids will be flanked by walls that they didn’t have and we are certain that they will make good use of it. The art they produce will continue to grow, and will continue to punch American culture upward. It will continue to produce those young people who come into these new flanks knowing that it is they who will be creating a culture that this country, this America needs. It is through their collaboration that we will mold and meld a new culture.*

—PEGGY COOPER CAFRITZ

### **PEGGY COOPER CAFRITZ (1947-2018)**

Peggy Cooper Cafritz was an avid art collector, civil rights activist, philanthropist, and educator. Cooper Cafritz grew up in Mobile, Alabama under Jim Crow and dedicated her life to breaking barriers and advocating for equitable access to arts and education.

Cooper Cafritz was a founding member of the George Washington University’s Black People’s Union and successfully fought to integrate the school’s fraternities and sororities. Cooper Cafritz served on the Executive Committee of the DC Board of Higher Education from 1972-1976. From 1979-1987, she chaired the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, and in 1993 President Bill Clinton appointed her to serve as Vice-Chair of the President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities.



Cooper Cafritz was a fierce believer in the transformative power of the arts and it was her hope that the theatre would be named after Chappelle and that he would use his platform to bring more resources and attention to the school.

### **MIKE MALONE (1943-2006)**

Mike Malone was a choreographer, director, and educator who inspired generations of performers by bringing positive portrayals of black life to audiences across the globe. He sparked a holiday tradition with his staging of Langston Hughes’s “Black Nativity: A Gospel Song Play” in the late 1960s. He graduated from Georgetown University in 1964 and received a master’s degree in French literature at Howard University in 1967.

He also pursued a master’s degree in theatre education at Catholic University. In the late 1960s, he introduced theatre to District youth through his Everyman Street Theatre. In the early 1970s, he began teaching at Howard University and led the DC Black Repertory Dance Company until 1977. Mr. Malone helped introduce the black theatre movement to Washington DC, and he created institutions that trained young people in dance, drama, and the visual arts.



**SAMIRA WILEY**



**COREY HAWKINS**



**YAHZARAH**



**LAMMAN RUCKER**



**ARI LENNOX**



**ADAM SERWER**

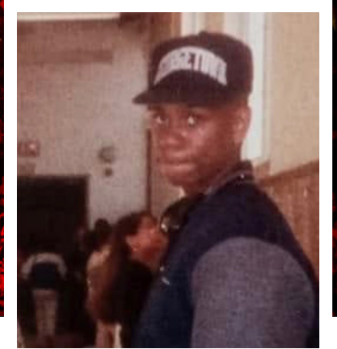
## REPRESENTING THE EXCELLENCE OF ELLINGTON

Ellington is a hub for excellence and innovation. Ellington alumni have achieved exceptional success in the arts and art adjacent fields across the country and many have gone on to win Grammy, Tony, and Emmy awards. Others have excelled in career fields to include law and education.

- **Quique Aviles**, DC poet, performer, and community activist
- **Christylez Bacon**, Progressive hip-hop artist
- **Amy Bormet**, Founder, Washington Women in Jazz Festival
- **Dior Ashley Brown**, Founder, DC Music Summit
- **Dave Chappelle**, Comedian, actor and producer
- **Maya Cunningham**, Fulbright scholar, ethnomusicologist, Africanist/African Americanist Micaela Angela Davis, Writer on African-American style, race, gender and hip-hop culture scholar, cultural activist, and Black music practitioner
- **Donnell Floyd**, Founding member of Go-Go band Rare Essence
- **Denyce Graves**, International opera mezzo soprano
- **Corey Hawkins**, Tony-nominated actor, *In The Heights* and *Straight Outta Compton*
- **Tracy Inman**, Dancer with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater
- **Sandra Jackson-DuMont**, Director of Education at MOMA

- **Tracie Jade Jenkins**, Executive Director at The Boris Lawrence Henson Foundation
- **Jamie Lawson**, Actress, *Batman* and *Farewell Amor*
- **Ari Lennox**, Grammy-nominated musician and composer
- **Jonathan McCrory**, Director of the National Black Theatre
- **Brenda Morris**, Attorney
- **Meshell Ndegeocello**, Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter, rapper and bassist
- **Jamilla Okubu**, Visual artist
- **Clifton Powell**, Actor and comedian, *Ray* and *Next Friday*
- **Lamman Rucker**, Actor, *Why Did I Get Married?* and *Greenleaf*
- **Adam Serwer**, Best-Selling author and CNN commentator
- **Sylver Logan Sharpe**, Soul, jazz, gospel & blues singer
- **Stan Squirewell**, Visual artist
- **Tony Terry**, R&B & soul singer
- **Samira Wiley**, Emmy-nominated actress, *Orange is the New Black* and *The Handmaid's Tale*
- **Ben Williams**, Grammy-winning bassist
- **Hank Willis Thomas**, Conceptual artist
- **YahZarah**, Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter
- **Maimouna Youssef**, Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter





## DAVE CHAPPELLE

Dave Chappelle is an internationally recognized stand-up comedian, screenwriter, television and film producer, actor and, most importantly, a graduate of Duke Ellington School of the Arts. Chappelle's trademark wit and sharp irreverent social commentary explores race, popular culture, sex, drugs, politics and fame.

Chappelle could always make people laugh. Once he realized the power of his natural talent, he set some ambitious goals for his art. As a 14-year-old student at Ellington, Chappelle crafted his stand-up comedy act out of the realities of his life growing up Black in the nation's capital. Racism and racial division became his main targets, and he approached them with an outrageous irreverence that often shocked his audiences into laughter. Though Chappelle's approach has earned him as much criticism as success, he refuses to tone down his style or dilute his point of view in order to make his comedy "more acceptable." As a result, he has gained fame and success on his own terms, and has become especially popular with young audiences who appreciate his sly social commentary and aggressively smart and satiric humor.

Recognized as one of the greatest comedians of all time, Chappelle was awarded the prestigious Mark Twain Prize for American Humor from the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in 2019.

Chappelle's work in stand-up comedy, writing, producing, and acting has earned him more than 30 nominations and awards in television and film for projects that include his groundbreaking sketch comedy television series, *Chappelle's Show*, guest appearances on *Saturday Night Live*, and his 4x Emmy Award-winning comedy specials. In audio content, Chappelle has won the Grammy Award for Best Comedy Album three years in a row, 2018 through 2020. In 2017, Netflix cited *Dave Chappelle: Collection 1* as the most-viewed comedy special ever on their network. Chappelle has performed more than 2,000 concerts worldwide in the past five years, selling out shows within minutes of their announcements.





## MUMU FRESH

Mumu Fresh (also known as Maimouna Youssef) is a critically acclaimed singer, Emcee, songwriter, activist, workshop facilitator and audio engineer. The Grammy-nominated artist has been called a “quadruple threat” by The Roots’ Black Thought, a musical “Quasar” by Indie rap legend TechN9ne, & “groundbreaking” by Oscar-winning artist, Common.

A 2003 graduate of Duke Ellington School of the Arts, Mumu Fresh is committed to ‘Art Activism’ and has used her music to bring awareness to important social issues. Additionally, she has performed within the US prison system, and for the Congressional Black Caucus, I.M.A.N. Central in Chicago, The W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Ford Foundation, The Indigenous People’s Movement and other organizations. Mumu Fresh is a global citizen, musical healer, cultural philanthropist and a community pillar.



## WYNTON MARSALIS

Wynton Marsalis is a world-renowned trumpeter, bandleader, composer, and a leading advocate of American culture. He presently serves as Managing and Artistic Director of Jazz at Lincoln Center and Director of Jazz Studies at The Juilliard School. Wynton is the music’s chief advocate, philosopher and performer who is called upon at ceremonial occasions to place events in their proper historical context. To that end, he is a principal speaker in several vital documentaries on jazz and American culture and has written many relevant essays on jazz-related topics.

Born in New Orleans, Louisiana in 1961, Marsalis started playing trumpet at 6 years old. He began formal studies at age 12; at 15, he played the Haydn Trumpet Concerto with the New Orleans Philharmonic and entered The Juilliard School at 17, soon thereafter joining the legendary Art Blakey & The Jazz Messengers.

Marsalis has been called the “pied piper” of jazz and the “Doctor of Swing.” Since his recording debut in 1982, he has released 110 jazz and classical recordings and won numerous awards—both significant and trivial. He regularly performs in the most prestigious concert halls and also loves to play and jam in the most inconspicuous local clubs. Over the course of his tenured career, he has mentored and taught too many artists to name.

Marsalis’ core beliefs for living are based on the principles of jazz: individual creativity (improvisation), collective cooperation (swing), gratitude and good manners (sophistication), and stubborn optimism (the blues). Wynton believes that music possesses the power to elevate the quality of human engagement for individuals, social networks and cultural institutions throughout the world.

## AND THE WINNER IS...

Don't miss the chance to have some fun and support Ellington at the same time by participating in our silent auction. View our list of auction items and place your bids online! Bidding is open and you'll have until Friday, July 1 at 7:00 pm to place your offers on some amazing items. Items include a replica of the Theatre signage autographed by Dave Chappelle, vacations and get-aways, concert tickets and much more.

- Visit our auction by scanning the QR code below.
- Browse the Silent Auction and choose from the many great items you'd like to bid on.
- Place your bids on selected items.
- You'll be notified on your smartphone if you've been outbid. You can then decide if you want to "up the ante" with a new bid.
- The winning bidder will be notified and we will arrange for you to receive your item.

## SCAN TO CHECK OUT OUR LIVE AUCTION & START BIDDING



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