

BIPA Health Highlights

CELEBRATING 17 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

LOCATE • EDUCATE • NAVIGATE • ADVOCATE

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Visit us online at www. abipa.org and Facebook for virtual events and education sessions.

Call (828) 251-8364 to schedule ABIPA for your organization or church events.

Donate to ABIPA

Tax deductible donations can be made by sending a check to: ABIPA, PO Box 448, Asheville, NC 28802; or click the donation tab at www.abipa.org. Thank you for your support!

Thank you to our funding partners





BANK OF AMERICA 🦈













Buncombe County Service Foundation

Making the Invisible Visible

It is with great excitement that I announce the opening of an awesome translation of research through art.

By JéWana Grier-McEachin, Executive Director Photo: Pro16 Productions



Bringing together stunning artwork and visual design by WNC-based artists (Ann Miller Woodford, Ronda Birtha, Viola Spells, and Reggie Tidwell) with social science data and stories, this exhibit invites audiences into an often invisible history of our region. As Woodford states, "My emphasis has been on people who have dedicated their lives to humanity, but have been overlooked, ignored, and often forgotten.'

Deeply personal art is integrated with charts and quotes from the Heart of Health: Race, Place, and Faith in Western North Carolina project. Heart of Health is a three-year community-participatory research study that seeks to better understand the role and impact of race and racism on health through secondary data analyses and interviews. It is co-led by researchers from UNC Asheville, ABIPA, Sparrow Research, and community partners from around WNC.

One of our first findings was that much of the data on African Americans and drivers of health and inequities, for example, land and business ownership, have been suppressed due to small populations or other reasons. This collaborative research seeks to highlight

UNC Asheville professor of health and wellness, and one of the co-leads on the Heart of Health project.

JéWana Grier McEachin, executive director of ABIPA, co-lead on the Heart of Health project, and programming chair of exhibit partner The Links, Incorporated, remarked, "The gathering of data and translation of research through Black in Black on Black has been influenced by the connection of the artists, research team, and community advisory board. This sort of six degrees of separation between the research exhibit and active change agents through organizations in Western North Carolina is impactful and invaluable.

Black in Black on Black: Making the Invisible Visible will be on display in the John Cram Partner Gallery at the Center for Craft, located at 67 Broadway Street in Asheville, from September 6 through January 7, 2022. A virtual tour will be offered online.

National

Recovery

Month

and encourage responsible collection and use of data and stories," said Ameena Batada,

Visitors to the exhibit, both in-person and online, are invited to a multisensory and interactive experience, including paintings, photographs, narrative text, quotes and graphics, sculptural pieces, digital data visualization, and music. The exhibit also invites visitors to learn about the ways in which African Americans and others in WNC are working to reduce racism and build community through grassroots and organizational efforts.

Learn more about the exhibit, artists, and research at heartofhealthwnc.wordpress.com, annstree.com, thinlyfoldedegg.com, facebook.com/ZenobiaStudio, and pro16productions.com.

.....



forms. Recently we have had many deaths due

to overdose from drugs in our area. But, there

are many who have been able to seek the help

returned to the community to help others who

people who just need an ounce of support and

What most people do not realize, or may not

they need to make a full recovery. They have

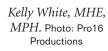
are dealing with a drug or alcohol addiction-

someone to be there when times are tough.

Recovery

by Kelly White, MHE, MPH, ABIPA Health Education Program Manager

Recovery is for everyone: every person, every family, every community ~ SAMHSA.gov



The month of understand, is that addiction is not just about September brings with taking and seeking drugs. Studies have shown that mental health plays a large role in why it the awareness for recovery and celebration of recovery in all most begin down the path to drug use.

How do we learn, as a community, to take away the stigma from those who are suffering from an addiction as well as those who are years into their recovery?

Begin by learning more about substance abuse and the foundation it is built on. Remember that mental health can be a preface, so be thoughtful in how you approach the



Ann Miller Woodford



Reggie Tidwell



Ronda Birtha



Viola Spells



Support for this project was provided by a grant from the Robert Wood Iohnson Foundation Interdisciplinary Research Leaders program. Interdisciplinary Research Leaders is a national program of the Robert Wood

Johnson Foundation led by the University of Minnesota.

Phillip Cooper: Recovering Out Loud!

I started smoking marijuana at the age

I began selling drugs in high school as well as experimenting with harder drugs.



I dropped out of college due to my addiction and committed serious crimes that landed me in prison for three and a half years. While in prison, I rededicated my life to Christ and got active in 12 Step Meetings.

Upon release from prison, I continued my routine with my church and recovery meetings. I am still here today, fighting for people and recovering out loud!

On January 16, 2022, I will have 13 years clean.

Consider donating your time and volunteering at some of the local meetings and events. This can allow you time to speak with others and find out how you can be of service.

Lastly, spread awareness as well as supporting information about recovery and what it means. This could include a celebration of life for those you may know who are in recovery.

We are reminded, during recovery month and beyond, that no one has to recover alone, regardless of the journey you walk, and, that we are all in this

ABIPA

56 Walton Street Asheville, NC 28801

Office: (828) 251-8364 Fax: (828) 251-8365

Mailing address: PO Box 448 Asheville, NC 28802

Asheville Buncombe **Institute of Parity Achievement**

ABIPA promotes economic, social, and healthy parity achievement for African Americans and other underserved populations in Buncombe County through advocacy, education, research, and community partnerships.

www.ABIPA.org