

**Administrative Committee**

Shai Sizer – Executive Assistant

**Afrikan American Youth Achievement Committee**

Sonya Kittles – Director

**Entertainment Committee**

Jimmie Highsmith, Jr. – Director

**Marketing and Promotions Committee**

– Director

**Public Relations Committee**

Diane Sheffield – Manager

**Finance Committee**

Eric Kittles– Chief Financial Officer

**Events/Program Committee**

– Coordinator

**Volunteer Committee**

– Coordinator

**Health Project Committee**

– Coordinator

**A.B.O.V.E.**

*“Strengthening Our Community Through  
Arts, Culture and Education”*

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Pan Afrikan Festival



Youth Achievement Program



P.O. Box 1236  
Webster, NY 14580  
Phone (585) 935-1068  
Website: <https://panaffestival.org/>  
Email: [info@panaffestival.org](mailto:info@panaffestival.org)

# WHAT IS A.B.O.V.E.?

A.B.O.V.E is an acronym for Achieving and Bringing Our Vision to Excellence.

A.B.O.V.E is a non-profit corporation founded by Sonya A. Kittles (President/CEO.) and was established on January 10, 2006.

## OUR PURPOSE...

The purpose of establishing this organization is to build unity, pride and self-esteem among Afrikan Americans living in Rochester and Western New York by means of cultural education and awareness and to foster a sense of cultural unity among all people of Afrikan Diaspora.

It is our belief that this unity, pride, and self-esteem will increase the quality of life in our community in an effort to reduce crime in our neighborhood and promote self-worth.

## OUR VISION...

To enhance knowledge of culture by providing materials and tools which reflect the history and heritage of individuals of African descent.

A.B.O.V.E is dedicated to making a difference in the community for both young and old. We are currently in the process of developing a program to restructure our youth, teaching them to embrace education and rise above the challenges that surround them daily. The youth in our community are crying out for

attention...for help which is displayed in the senseless acts of violence that is taking over our streets and our neighborhood. We plan to develop a mentoring program that will provide self-esteem, guidance and support to these young individuals.

We plan to create a variety of events and social gatherings that encourages community involvement and allows us to celebrate our heritage and cultures. Some of the proceeds raised from these events will go toward our Youth Achievement and Social/Emotional wellness programs in collaboration with the Boys and Girls Club of Rochester and to provide food insecurities to those in need via collaboration with the Open Door Mission.

## OUR MISSION...

To be a recognized leader in the community for implementing successful and strategic methods of social, economic and educational empowerment and ultimately making a positive impact in the lives of our people and community as a whole.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Chocolate & Jazz Fundraiser – May 14, 2022
- Real Men Do Cry Conference – June 18, 2022
- Pan Afrikan Festival – August 6, 2022
- Afrikan American Youth Achievement Scholarship Ceremony – June, 2023

- Red, Black & Green Ball – TBD

For donation information and/or information regarding these events, please contact us.

**(585) 935-1068**

## OUR BOARD...

Sonya Kittles, Founder/CEO

Shai Sizer, Executive Assistant

Diane Sheffield, Public Relations Mgr.

Jimmie Highsmith, Jr., Entertainment Dir.

Eric Kittles, Chief Financial Officer