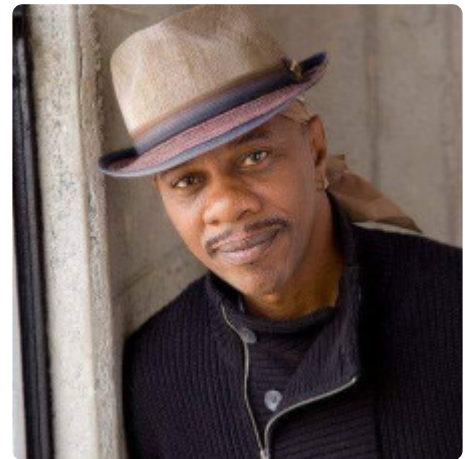


Torrence Brannon-Reese, Acclaimed Vocalist, Educator, and Social Justice Advocate, Named Community Fellow for UCLA-CDU DANA Center for Neuroscience and Society

During Torrence Brannon-Reese's fellowship, he will collaborate with Grammy-winning artist Esperanza Spalding.

Torrence Brannon-Reese, a celebrated vocalist, educator, and social justice advocate, has been selected as a Community Fellow at the UCLA-CDU (Charles Drew University of Medicine & Science) DANA Center for Neuroscience and Society. His fellowship begins on October 1, 2024, with an initial term of one year, and the possibility of renewal for a second year.



During the fellowship, Torrence will collaborate with neuroscientists to explore innovative methods of understanding music's profound impact on the brain and human behavior, particularly among young people. This groundbreaking research aims to illuminate how music influences mental, emotional, spiritual, and cultural development across diverse demographics.

As part of the initiative, Torrence's renowned gender-specific life mastery and mentoring programs—*See a Man Be a Man* and *Princess 2 Queen*—will partner with UCLA and CDU. Guided by his award-winning curriculum, *Da Root*, these programs focus on nine essential life themes: spirituality, culture, career, education, economics, politics, health, family, and personal responsibility. Through the fellowship, these programs will benefit from cutting-edge neuroscience research, further enhancing their impact on youth in the community.

Additionally, Torrence's visionary project, *Music Saved My Life*, will play a pivotal role in harmonizing the intersection of music and neuroscience. International in scope, the project explores how music inspires and uplifts individuals across all ages, genders, races, political beliefs, and spiritual backgrounds.

One of the highlights of his fellowship will be his collaboration with Grammy-winning artist Esperanza Spalding. Together, they will design creative initiatives that leverage the transformative power of music to inspire the human spirit and profoundly influence brain function and behavior.

This fellowship marks a significant step forward in understanding music's role in human development, with Torrence Brannon-Reese at the forefront as a cultural preservationist, musician, and innovator.

Short BIO

Affectionately known as Torre`, Torrence Brannon-Reese draws deep inspiration from his birthplace, New Orleans, Louisiana—a city renowned for its rich cultural heritage, resilience, and as the birthplace of jazz. An honorably discharged Air Force veteran and a USC graduate (MSW, 2017), Torrence's life is a harmonious blend of creativity, leadership, and social advocacy.

After arriving in Los Angeles in the late 1980s, Torrence quickly made his mark, becoming Student Government President at LA Southwest Community College. But his influence extended far beyond the campus. A true Renaissance man, Torrence is a poet, guitarist, writer, mentor, educator, and passionate social justice advocate. As the Founder and CEO of the distinguished nonprofit *FA-MLI, Inc.* (Foundation for Arts, Mentoring, Leadership, and Innovation), he has empowered communities through the transformative power of arts and education.

Torrence's musical talents shine as co-founder of the internationally acclaimed a cappella doo-wop/soul group *Street Corner Renaissance*, where he serves as lead and background vocalist, choreographer, and showcases his impressive five-octave vocal range. His artistic versatility spans genres and mediums. He is a charter member of *The Delfonics Experience, featuring Norman Carter*, and is frequently sought after to lend his distinctive voice to movies, documentaries, and commercials.

In 2002, Torrence launched his solo career with *Torrence BRANNON & his Everything with Soul (New Orleans Style) Band*, performing original compositions like "Shrimp & Grits" and "You Know I Love You," which capture the essence of his New Orleans roots and musical soul.

Beyond his musical talents, Torrence Brannon-Reese is recognized as one of the key architects of the *Leimert Park Black Arts Village Cultural Renaissance* in Los Angeles. Since 1992, he has collaborated with cultural icons such as *Horace Tapscott, Barbara Morrison, Billy Higgins, Dwight Trible, and Kamau Daa'ood* to shape the vibrant artistic community of *Leimert Park*. His efforts to co-name *Crenshaw Blvd. as Malcolm X Blvd.* are a powerful testament to his unwavering commitment to social justice—an unparalleled achievement in Los Angeles history.

Torrence is completing two books set to be published in 2025, further expanding his legacy as an artist, educator, and social justice advocate.

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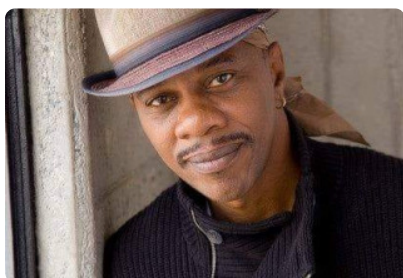
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Torrence Brannon-Reese



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