

In the Name of Love: A Black Love Healing Series

2026

Part 1: Black Love, Caregiving & Partnership
Under Pressure

Part 2: The Price of Activism: Mental Health &
Leadership Under Pressure

“PTAFF 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY PROGRAMMING”

MAY & JUNE 2026

PRESENTED BY
PTAFF

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INTRODUCTION

Black love/relationships has carried families, communities, and generations often under extraordinary pressure, economic stress, and racial trauma. Black men are experiencing rising mental health challenges.

Black women are carrying unprecedented emotional labor. And yet, culturally safe spaces for honest healing conversations remain rare.

In the Name of Love: A Two part Black Mental Health Series is a culturally grounded convening created to hold space for honest dialogue, reflection, and reconnection between Black men and women. This event is designed to restore emotional literacy, partnership strength, and leadership wellness. Guided by art, story, and compassion, this gathering invites participants to explore how love survives and how it can be strengthened when care, responsibility, faith, and resilience collide.

This is not a conversation about what's broken. It is a gathering about what is possible when Black love is allowed to breathe.



MICHELLE ANDREA MESHEL SMITH

About the Series

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In The Name of Love is a two-part, community-centered mental health initiative produced by PTAFF in May and June 2026. Designed to address critical gaps in emotional wellness within Black communities, the series integrates clinical insight, cultural competency, artistic expression, and facilitated dialogue to advance mental health equity in Los Angeles.

Black families and leaders often carry disproportionate emotional labor navigating caregiving demands, economic pressure, systemic inequity, and community responsibility while facing persistent stigma around therapy and emotional vulnerability. These pressures directly impact relationship stability, leadership sustainability, and long-term community health.

This initiative responds with structured, culturally grounded programming:

Part I – May (Mental Health Awareness Month)

Focus: Black relationship wellness, caregiving fatigue, and emotional literacy within families and partnerships.

Part II – June (Black Men’s Mental Health Month)

Focus: Black male vulnerability, emotional suppression, and the psychological cost of activism and leadership under sustained pressure.

Each convening will include:

- Licensed clinician participation
- Facilitated small-group dialogue
- Leadership roundtable discussion
- Direct connection to culturally competent mental health resources
- Impact data collection and post-event reporting

Event Activities

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PART 1

MAY | MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

DESCRIPTION

AN INTIMATE, CULTURALLY GROUNDED GATHERING CENTERING:

- BLACK LOVE UNDER PRESSURE
- EMOTIONAL LABOR & CAREGIVING FATIGUE
- COMMUNICATION BREAKDOWN & REPAIR
- HOW BLACK WOMEN AND MEN CAN BUILD EMOTIONAL SAFETY TOGETHER

KEY PROGRAM ELEMENTS

- CURATED SHORT FILMS BY BLACK FILMMAKERS
- MODERATED CONVERSATION ON LOVE & MENTAL HEALTH
- WORKSHOP: LOVING BLACK MEN WELL
- GUIDED MEDITATION & REFLECTION + AUDIENCE INTEGRATION

PART 2

JUNE | BLACK MEN'S MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

DESCRIPTION

A POWERFUL GATHERING CENTERING BLACK MEN'S EMOTIONAL HEALTH, VULNERABILITY, AND LEADERSHIP CAPACITY.

THIS EVENT REDEFINES STRENGTH AS EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE, NOT SUPPRESSION.

PROGRAM INCLUDES:

- OPENING ARTISTIC INVOCATION
- EMOTIONAL LITERACY PANEL
- FACILITATED BREAKOUT CIRCLES
- LEADERSHIP & MENTAL HEALTH ROUNDTABLE

THE PRICE OF ACTIVISM - LEADERSHIP UNDER PRESSURE

INSPIRED BY:

A FIRST-RATE MADNESS

DESCRIPTION:

A HIGH-LEVEL ROUNDTABLE EXPLORING HOW EMOTIONAL DEPTH, MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS, AND VULNERABILITY IMPACT LEADERSHIP IN BUSINESS, FAITH, POLITICS, AND COMMUNITY ACTIVISM.



Event Venue

South Los Angeles | Location Confirmed Upon Sponsorship Commitment

In The Name of Love will be hosted in South Los Angeles, strategically located to ensure accessibility for residents within Council District 8 and surrounding neighborhoods disproportionately impacted by mental health disparities.

The selected venue will be an intimate yet scalable community-centered space designed to support safety, dialogue, and resource activation.

Neighborhood Target

South Los Angeles (Council District 8 and adjacent communities)

Priority outreach to:

- Local residents and families
- Community leaders and organizers
- Faith leaders
- Healthcare professionals
- Young professionals and caregivers

Projected Attendance

- 125–150 participants per event
- 250–300 total attendees across the two-part series
- Diverse cross-section of community members and leadership voices

Venue Capacity

- Seating capacity: 150–175
- Flexible seating configuration to allow:
 - Theater-style opening program
 - Breakout reflection circles
 - Leadership roundtable discussion
- Dedicated space for on-site mental health resource activation

To ensure a high-quality, clinically respectful experience, the venue must support:

- Professional audio system with handheld and lavalier microphones
- Projection capability for short film screenings and visual presentations
- Private breakout areas for facilitated small-group discussion
- Space for community partners and mental health resource tables
- Event documentation (photo/video capture for reporting and impact documentation)

The venue will be selected not only for accessibility and capacity, but for its ability to foster psychological safety, warmth, and meaningful engagement — because environment plays a critical role in mental health-centered work.



Event Committee



MICHELLE "ANDREA MESHSEL SMTH

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



TBD

CLINICAL ADVISOR



TBD

CLINICAL ADVISOR



TBD

ARTIST CURATOR



TBD

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

List of Artists

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POET



FILMMAKER



ARTIST

Project Timeline

MARCH

Sponsorship
Secured & Venue
Lock

APRIL

Speaker & Artist Lock

MAY

Part 1 Event

JUNE

Part 2 Event

JULY

Impact Report

Let's Make an Amazing Event Together!

2026

Join Us in Strengthening Black Mental Health & Leadership Sustainability

Schedule a Meeting

Contact Us:

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