

NYC Her Future



POWER PAGES

Table of Contents.

02. GREETINGS

Founding Executive Director
Nathifa Forde

03. NHF BEGINS!

Launch Event Highlights

04. MATERNAL HEALTH

MEternal Podcast
Legislative Breakfast on Maternal Health

05. NHF x MSK Corner

Black Girls Film Screening
MBSK Relaunch Event

06. OUT & ABOUT

Seeds of Fortune
City & State Economic and Workforce Development Summit
“Wit & Wisdom”: A Juneteenth Celebration & Socratic Seminar
Hispanic Heritage Month CityTalk Panel

07. BUILDING COMMUNITY

NYC Her Future Photo Gallery

08. PARTNERSHIP POWER MOMENTS

NYC Her Future x ATHLOS
Jump In Double Dutch Exhibition
First Partnership Roundtable
STARS CGI Welcome Breakfast

09. PERSONNEL UPDATES

Meet The Team
We're Hiring!

10. LET'S STAY CONNECTED

Speaking Engagement Requests
Partnership Proposals
Press Inquiries
Event Invitations

NYC Her Future

Greetings NYC Her Future Family,

Welcome to the inaugural edition of **The Power Pages**—a quarterly newsletter dedicated to uplifting stories, resources, and opportunities that fuel our collective mission. As you explore these pages, I invite you to join us in this work, whether through partnership, collaboration, or advocacy. Together, we can continue to build a future where every girl's power is recognized and celebrated.

As the late Dr. Hazel Dukes profoundly stated, *"If I can help somebody as I pass along; then my living shall not have been in vain."*

Her words remind us that our work is not just about what we do—it's about our commitment to empowering young women of color and creating a future where they are seen, heard, and supported.

Peace,
Nathifa Forde
Founding Executive Director
NYC Her Future



Nathifa Forde pictured with the late Dr. Hazel Dukes

NYC Her Future Launch Event



Our launch event was a meaningful and exciting gathering. It included engaging sessions on Health, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math), and Education and Workforce Development. Panel discussions covered important topics such as:

- Helping Young Women Access and Succeed in STEAM Careers
- The Importance of Health and Wellness in the Lives of Young Women

Together, we looked at the current challenges, explored ways to improve, and discussed new ideas for working together to support young women.

Special Thanks

We are deeply grateful to NYC Mayor Eric Adams, Deputy Mayor for Strategic Initiatives Ana L. Almanzar, Assemblymember Landon Dais, Councilmember Farah Louis, Commissioner and Chief Equity Officer Sideya Sherman from the Mayor's Office of Equity and Racial Justice, and NYC Her Future's Founding Executive Director Nathifa Forde. Their inspiring words helped set the stage for this important event. A big thank you to our panelists for sharing their time and knowledge. We also appreciate our event partners, including Pier 57 and Google for hosting us, and Afrikan Spot LLC, Bird and Branch, and LoLo's Seafood Shack for their support.

A Personal Note From Our Founding Executive Director

I stood five months pregnant at NYC Her Future's launch event nurturing my beautiful baby girl, Miss Zola Joy in my womb. It was a profound reminder that the mission is not just for today but we are planting seeds of hope that will grow into a flourishing tomorrow.

As I reflect on my journey, I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity to honor sisterhood and uplift young women on a larger scale. Zola Joy has already been hard at work, attending meetings and events with me!

Zola, which means "peaceful," exemplifies my hope and vision for all our city's youth: to be loved, to pursue wellness in every form, to take pride in their identities, and to embrace their potential.



NYC Her Future Featured Pillar: Maternal Health



NYC Her Future is dedicated to raising awareness about maternal health and womb care, especially for Black women. In a recent episode of iHeart Media's MEternal Health podcast, hosted by Coach Kenya Gipson, our Founding Executive Director, Nathifa Forde, discussed the challenges Black women face. These include biases in the healthcare system and the effects of "weathering the womb." This important conversation highlighted the need for better education, strong community support, and holistic care approaches during pregnancy and childbirth. Nathifa also shared how doulas and midwives of color play a vital role in providing personalized care and empowering women throughout their birthing journey.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Learning about your body is important for good health.
- Support from your community can help you have better experiences and outcomes.
- Midwives and doulas of color play a key role in making sure everyone gets fair and caring support.
- Speaking up and trusting yourself is important when visiting the doctor or giving birth



[Listen to full episode here](#)

NYC Her Future's Founding Executive Director, Nathifa Forde, participated in NYU McSilver's Saving Lives, Shaping Policy Legislative Breakfast on Black Maternal Health. She joined a panel of elected officials to discuss important legislative successes and future priorities for Black maternal rights. The panel also featured New York State Senators Samra Brouk and Lea Webb, Assemblymembers Rodneyse Bichotte-Hermelyn and Michaelle Solages, and New York City Councilmember Farah Louis, who shared their personal experiences with childbirth and maternal health.



A full recording of "[Saving Lives, Shaping Policy](#)" can be found [here](#)

NYC Her Future Partnership Spotlight: My Sister's Keeper



Since the start of the My Sister's Keeper (MSK) program, our Founding Executive Director, Nathifa Forde, has been a proud advocate and supporter. After launching NYC Her Future, we have worked to strengthen our partnership even more. Here are a few highlights from our 2024 partnership moments:

"Black Girls" Film Screening:

- In partnership with Never Whisper Justice and NYC Public Schools, NYC Her Future hosted a screening of Black Girls, a powerful documentary that shares the inspiring stories of six women of color. The film explores important topics, including maternal health for women in sports. Following the screening, MSK young women took part in a meaningful discussion on cultural identity, self-care, wellness, and the beauty of diversity.

District 29's My Brother's & Sister's Keeper (MBSK) Relaunch Event:

- We had an amazing time celebrating at Queens College's Colden Theatre! Our Founding Executive Director, Nathifa Forde, spoke to a crowd of 750-800 students, over 200 parents and guardians, and 100 district staff and vendors about the power of community and civic engagement. Special guest speakers included: Dr. Frank Wu, President of Queens College, Dean Bobbie Kabuto, Dean of Education at Queens College, Lieutenant Governor Antonio Delgado who delivered an inspiring keynote address. We are proud to continue our partnership with MSK and look forward to creating more opportunities to empower young women.

NYC Her Future Out & About



Nathifa Forde, our Founding Executive Director, had the honor of delivering the keynote address at Seeds of Fortune's "College Prep Leadership" event at Columbia University. She spoke to an audience of 100 motivated high school students from across New York City. During her speech, Nathifa shared her personal journey, valuable insights, and practical advice on preparing for college and unlocking their leadership potential.

NYC Her Future's Chief of Staff, Natalia Diaz, shared her insights at the City & State Economic and Workforce Development Summit during the panel discussion on "Advancing Economic Development and Workforce." Natalia emphasized how New York City can promote equitable economic development and improve infrastructure by supporting policies, programs, and partnerships that help young women and girls of color succeed.

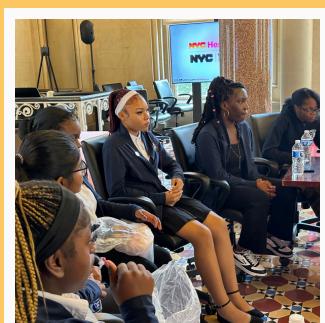
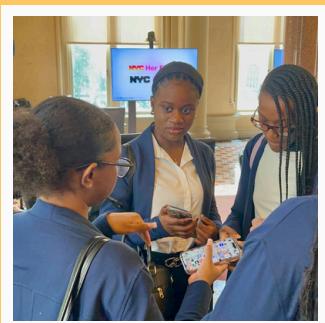


NYC Her Future's Founding Executive Director, Nathifa Forde, was honored to join a panel at the Meyer Levin School of the Performing Arts for "Wit & Wisdom: A Juneteenth Celebration & Socratic Seminar." The panel featured Assemblymember Monique Chandler-Waterman, Jeff Lindor, Founder and CEO of The Gentlemen's Factory, along with educators and students. Together, they explored the historical importance of Juneteenth, discussed racial equality today, and highlighted how education can advance social justice.

The Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) hosted a special panel to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. Hispanic leaders from New York City government shared their personal stories and talked about their work to support diversity and representation in the city. The panel included: Commissioner Louis Molina, Department of Citywide Administrative Services, Commissioner Manuel Castro, Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, Lisa Flores, Director and Chief City Procurement Officer, Mayor's Office of Contract Services, Commissioner Vilda Vera Mayuga, Department of Consumer and Worker Protection and Natalia Diaz, Chief of Staff, NYC Her Future.



NYC Her Future Building Community



click each picture to see more!



NYC Her Future Partnership Power Moments



Athlos held its first-ever all-women's track event in New York City, bringing together 36 of the fastest women in the world, including Olympic champions. This exciting event highlighted the incredible talent of women athletes and reinforced Athlos' mission to ensure their stories are told and celebrated.

NYC Her Future is proud to support partnerships that work to close the pay equity gap across all industries, especially for women in sports. We were thrilled to invite young people to experience this historic event and be inspired by these amazing athletes.

NYC Her Future partnered with the Young Men's Initiative, Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church, Ms. K's Dance Academy, Swagga Jumpers & Loop Squad, and several Black Greek Letter fraternities and sororities to host an exciting Double Dutch exhibition and competition! In addition to the fun and friendly competition, we organized a back-to-school drive to support families in the Bedford-Stuyvesant community. A special thank you to our amazing partners, including NYC Grows, Brooklyn Tea, Vitamin Water, EmblemHealth, and the NYPD officers from the 81st precinct, for their generous support and participation.



Sports Training And Role-models for Success Citywide Girls Initiative (STARS CGI), a City Council-funded program that empowers young girls and gender-expansive youth through sports, arts, literacy, leadership training, advocacy, and career exploration, hosted a welcome breakfast. This special event provided an opportunity for the 10 coalition partners to meet with our Founding Executive Director, Nathifa Forde, and learn more about her vision for NYC Her Future. We are excited to collaborate with STARS CGI and its partners to continue creating meaningful opportunities for young people across the city.

NYC Her Future proudly hosted its first Partnership Roundtable, bringing together leaders from various sectors to address the unique challenges faced by young women and girls of color in New York City. This gathering encouraged meaningful conversations, cross-sector partnerships, and the development of actionable strategies to create impactful programs and policies that support and empower young women. A heartfelt thank you to our NYC Her Future community, dedicated partners, staff, and volunteers for making this event a great success.



Meet The Team.



NATHIFA FORDE

FOUNDING
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



NATALIA DIAZ

CHIEF OF STAFF



FATIMA DOSSO

DIRECTOR OF
PARTNERSHIPS &
COMMUNICATIONS



PATRICE BROWN

PROGRAM
MANAGER, SPECIAL
INITIATIVES AND
EVENTS

Leading our office is not just a role; it's a commitment to uplifting the lives of girls and young women of color, paving pathways for their dreams to flourish. As Maya Angelou said, 'I'm a woman phenomenally. Phenomenal woman, that's me.' Together, we create a future where every voice is heard and every ambition is realized because we are phenomenal beings.

I am honored to have a seat at the table and contribute to the conversations seeking to ensure equity for young women and girls of color in New York City. Young women and girls across NYC are brilliant and powerful. I am excited to be on a team dedicated to ensuring they have opportunities to learn, grow, and be successful by their own definition.

As a woman of Haitian and Ivorian descent, I am passionate about equity for young women and girls of color in New York City because I've seen firsthand the transformative power of opportunity when it's equally accessible. I am dedicated to ensuring that young women and girls thrive, and have the ability to bring their unique perspectives, talents, and leadership to the forefront.

NYC Her Future work represents a powerful movement dedicated to uplifting and empowering Black and Brown women across the city. It's about creating opportunities, fostering confidence, and ensuring that women from all backgrounds have the support they need to succeed. This work not only inspires but also strengthens communities by amplifying voices, breaking barriers, and building a future where every woman can thrive.

**JOIN
OUR
TEAM**

We're Hiring!

APPLY HERE: Senior Advisor

Let's Stay Connected.



Email: hello@herfuture.nyc.gov for:

- Press Inquiries
- Event Invitations
- Partnership Proposals
- Speaking Engagement Requests