A one-act play by Beth Duda
With original spoken-word poetry by Cedric Hameed

Produced by
The Patterson Foundation
in partnership with
Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe

As part of HONORING & ONWARD, the 10th Anniversary celebration of The Patterson Foundation
HONORING & ONWARD is a celebration of The Patterson Foundation’s decade of impact through people, organizations, and communities while continuing to connect, learn, share, evolve, and strengthen its efforts to realize shared aspirations.

A LOOK BACK: HONORING THE FIRST DECADE

On January 6, 2010, The Patterson Foundation launched in Sarasota, Florida, under an unfettered charter to do good and do it well, while enlisting the expertise of a diverse group of consultants supported by agile staff. Through its nine initial Legacy Initiatives honoring Dorothy Patterson and the Patterson family’s legacy, The Patterson Foundation honed its innovative approach to making a difference in our world — focusing on strengthening the impact of people, organizations, and communities that are working toward fulfilling shared aspirations in ways that encourage diverse participation and foster opportunities for these changemakers to learn, share and evolve with one another. A decade and 25 additional completed and ongoing initiatives later, The Patterson Foundation honors those who have embraced and strengthened their impact through this approach while pursuing further opportunities to continue these collaborative efforts in its ongoing journey.
A Message from the Director

History provides powerful examples of ordinary men and women with different opinions and agendas coming together to produce positive change.

In 1863, the height of the Civil War, two men met for the first time. Though both resided in the North, their ideological differences were stark. One, a radical with a fiery spirit, called for immediate change and racial equality. The other was more cautious. While opposed to slavery, he was a patriot intent on preserving the Union.

One man was black, a famous abolitionist, the most photographed man of his time. The other was white, an embattled president who won his election with 38.9% of the vote, the poorest showing by any winning presidential candidate in American history.

Lincoln and Douglass provide inspiration and hope. Their love of country and their willingness to connect with each other to build respect and understanding set the example for us who aspire to a better tomorrow.

Beth Duda, Playwright and Director
Michael Krebs. Krebs has portrayed Abraham Lincoln in film and presentations throughout the United States since 1994, offering insight to the 16th president’s life and times. Krebs is a native of Freeport, Illinois, and former company member of New American Theater in Rockford, Illinois. He was cast as President Lincoln in 2016 for NBC’s sci-fi series, Timeless following his 2014 film, Field of Lost Shoes. His appearances include the televised 150th Anniversary First and Second Lincoln Inaugural reenactments in Washington DC, presentations at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, the Gerald Ford Presidential Library, Hoover Presidential Library, Chicago History Museum, Gettysburg, the New Salem, Illinois Historic Site, the Harold Washington Library, and an extended run in Chicago. Krebs presented Abraham Lincoln at Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum during the international simultaneous reading of Gettysburg Address in 2009. Past credits include a presentation in Library of Congress’ Lincoln’s Virtual Library in 1998, and live broadcast of the Galesburg Lincoln-Douglass Debate in 1994 on C-SPAN. In 2014, Michael was invited by The Patterson Foundation to participate in the national dedication of Patriot Plaza at Sarasota National Cemetery.

Joel PE King. King is a native of East Saint Louis. Graduating from SIU Edwardsville, Joel attained a BA in Studio Arts with a minor in music and theater. King is an entrepreneur, performer, writer, director, and producer. His production company, JPEK CreativeWorks was established post college and has had great success in creating quality, courageous, socially driven stage plays. King has received three city proclamations, two cover stories (Riverfront Times and Zoom Magazine) and a groundswell of support for his stage works: Real Life, Issues of Love and Stand Your Ground. King’s theatre credits include, Amen Corner, The Color Purple, The Sam Cooke Story and Knock Me a Kiss at Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe, Spunk, Raisin in the Sun, Colored Museum, Immigrant Project, In the Blood, Dutchman, Big River, Damn Yankees, Bubblin Brown Sugar, Real Life Hip Hopera (performed at Westcoast Black Theatre and other theatres across the country), and Complacency of Silence for which he received a Kevin Kline nomination for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Musical. King has attained leading and supporting roles in independent films and television.
Cedric Hameed. Cedric is a fierce arts advocate and believes that local, national, and global change can be accomplished through expression. Evidence of his philosophy can be seen in the students and parent voices of Visible Men Academy. A native of Schenectady, N.Y, Cedric grew accustomed to using words as an escape from his harsh realities. He never realized it would be the blueprint to creating a life-changing platform. “Poetry saved my life, literally! I see the world in metaphors and similes. And, when you can see in the abstract, you can create. I can see the world we can all create!”

Beth Duda. Before joining The Patterson Foundation as the Director of the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, Beth Duda had more than two decades of experience as an actress, playwright, teaching artist, and director. Ms. Duda developed and taught a variety of classes for children and adults as Director of Education at Florida Studio Theatre, including the VIP Performing Arts Program for Special Needs Children. Ms. Duda has written, co-written, and conceived several one-act plays, including Rumpelstiltskin, a modern twist on a classic tale, Pinocchio, The Frog Prince, Rap-Punzel, and Jack and the Enchanted Beanstalk. Her full-length play, Up To Home, was a semi-final selection at the Eugene O’Neill Theatre Center, and a selected play for the Richard and Betty Burdick Festival of New Plays at Florida Studio Theatre. Acting credits include Beauty and The Beast, Invasion of Privacy, Nunsense, Nunsense II, The Sound of Music, The Music Man, Dracula, She Loves Me, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, The Merry Widow, New Moon, and many additional shows at The Golden Apple Dinner Theatres in Sarasota and Venice. Her directing credits include Blackbird, Playmakers, and multiple editions of UNDER SIX, the compilation of winning plays written by elementary school students for Florida Studio Theatre. She initiated the theatre’s outreach program, intent on reaching children who cannot normally attend the theatre—children at the poverty level or below.
CENSUS 2020 EDUCATION
As a way to strengthen our region and foster wide participation around the 2020 Census, The Patterson Foundation is working to educate individuals in Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota counties on the importance of this once-in-a-decade opportunity. Through Aspirations Journalism, The Patterson Foundation and the Herald-Tribune Media Group will provide coverage that encourages people to participate in the 2020 Census and chart their community’s path forward.

TO LEARN MORE:
thepattersonfoundation.org/census-education

STEPPING FORWARD BOOK CIRCLES
As an investment in our community through the Aspirations to Actions Initiative, The Patterson Foundation brought Rich Harwood back to the region to discuss his new book, Stepping Forward. In conjunction with the author’s visit, The Patterson Foundation is supporting registered book circles throughout our region, and anyone in Sarasota, Manatee, Charlotte, and DeSoto county can join or lead a Stepping Forward book circle. Learn to Turn Outward. Be inspired as Rich shares his time-tested principals and philosophy used in 50 U.S. states and in 40 countries on how communities can uncover shared aspirations.

TO LEARN MORE:
thepattersonfoundation.org/aspirations