

Sidney Ellis to Lead Douglass Community Association

KALAMAZOO – Douglass Community Association’s (DCA) board of directors has named Sidney Ellis as the organizations new executive director effective October 22, 2018.

Ellis comes to DCA from serving as director of Mission Advancement for the YMCA of Greater Kalamazoo. Previously, he served as executive director of the Black Arts & Cultural Center and as video producer for Stone’s Church in Kalamazoo.

According to Ellis, “I’m excited about working with community members and collaborating with other organizations to build on a 100-year tradition of producing programming that equip our youth, adults and families of the Northside to help reach their full potential.”

“Mr. Ellis was the perfect choice to lead the Douglass into our next hundred years, not only because of his experience and skill set, but also for his connection to the Northside and the Douglass,” said DCC Board chair Richard Cherry. “Mr. Ellis wants to ensure that the Douglass maintains its role of being an anchor organization for the Northside community. Additionally, he wants to ensure that the Douglass is able to address the needs of our residents and to assist residents in reaching their goals and aspirations.”

Ellis currently serves on the boards of Heritage Community of Kalamazoo and Kalamazoo New Year’s Festival and formerly served on the boards of the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo, Northside Business Association, Western Michigan University Theater Guild, Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, Public Media Network and Black Arts & Cultural Center. He is a member of the Downtown Kalamazoo Rotary Club and is treasurer of the local graduate chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Ellis, a performing artist and video producer, is a member of Stones Church where he serves in the Video Ministry. He has also mentored local middle and high school youth for more than 25 years. He and his wife of 25-years, Renita, have two sons.

Ellis holds a bachelor’s degree and MBA from Spring Arbor University.

Founded in 1919, Douglass Community Association has the mission to ensure that effective, efficient, and quality opportunities are available for the development of families on the Northside of Kalamazoo. Its vision is for all youth, adults and families have the intellectual, physical and emotional supports needed to achieve full potential. The primary focus of the Douglass Community Association is the Northside of Kalamazoo.