



# February, 2025 NEWSLETTER

## *Remembering Dr. Risé Dawn Jones*

On December 7th, 2024, Hamilton Wings lost our Executive Director, Dr. Risé Jones. Dr. Jones, was a beloved family member, friend, colleague, mentor, and advocate for young people in the arts.

She touched countless lives with her infectious joy, unwavering dedication, and her remarkable ability to foster collaboration and creativity within our community. Dr. Jones will be greatly missed, but her legacy will continue through the countless lives she has touched.



## **Dr. Risé Dawn Jones Day - January 4th, 2025**

On December 18th, 2024, the City of Elgin delivered a proclamation declaring January 4th, 2025 as Dr. Risé Dawn Jones day.

Cousins, Alma Buckner and Jessica Seymore Washington were present to accept the honor along with several friends to witness the tribute.



# A CELEBRATION OF LIFE



January 4th, 2025, family, friends, colleagues, students and the community came together to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Risé Dawn Jones. The service was held at Elgin Community College's Art Center in the Blizzard Theatre. Tributes were paid by word, song, dance and art. Risé's generosity, love and joy for the community, and children of it could not be matched; as expressed by all who attended and shared their stories.



# WHAT'S NEXT FOR HAMILTON WINGS

## SCORE! - Students Creating Opera to Reinforce Education

Our SCORE! students first session back in the New Year was held on Friday, February 7th. Students will be working to create, develop, and produce their own original opera production in June, 2025. Our first session back was spent remembering Dr. Jones through poems, letters, movement, an ofrenda and more. We are excited for the weeks ahead and this program as we lead up to the June performance!



## Girls in Motion

*~Building self-esteem and awareness in young girls~*

In collaboration with Washington School, we will be continuing the Girls in Motion program this coming March/April, 2025. Girls in Motion extends the regular classroom core curriculum into the after-school environment for girls through a variety of interactive arts-based strategies. We focus on self-esteem and body awareness; including fitness instruction with a Certified Personal Trainer, dance and movement specialists.



## Executive Director Position

The Interim Executive Director Position is currently being filled by Mrs. Deanna Cates, as the Hamilton Wings' Board of Directors works towards the search for a suitable candidate to assume the role of Hamilton Wings Executive Director in the very near future.

We are so grateful and thankful for teachers, families, volunteers, and the community for their engagement and commitment to Hamilton Wings. We truly appreciate your donations, time and support in *giving our children the wings to soar!*

[Donate to Hamilton Wings](#)