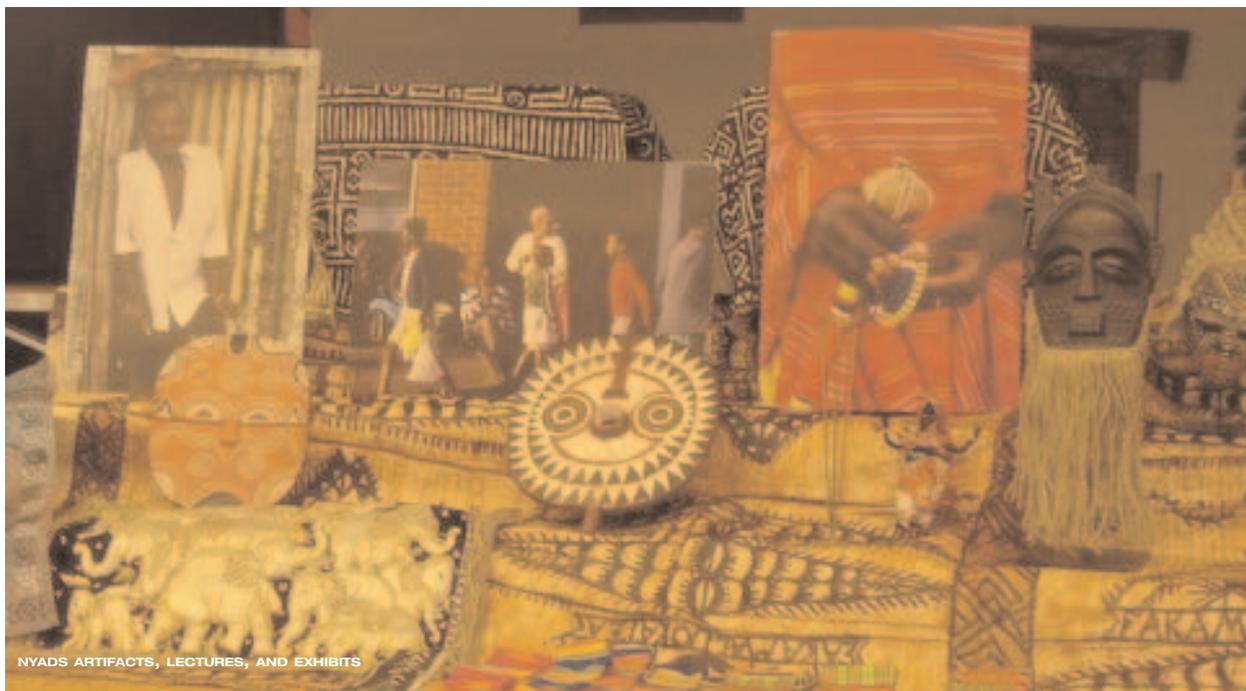




Sharing Stories from Our African American Community



Digital Griot Project™

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Cupertino, CA

A Living Histories Project of the Digital Clubhouse Network™





Digital Griot: Evolution of the African Storytelling Tradition

The griot (pronounced gree-oh) is part of a West African tradition of storytelling and oral history. The griot's role is based on the community's need to maintain its identity through shared ancestry and myths. In many communities, the griot, along with the king or queen, embodied the heritage and traditions of the community. Through their artistry, the griot was responsible for ensuring that people found meaning in their lives.

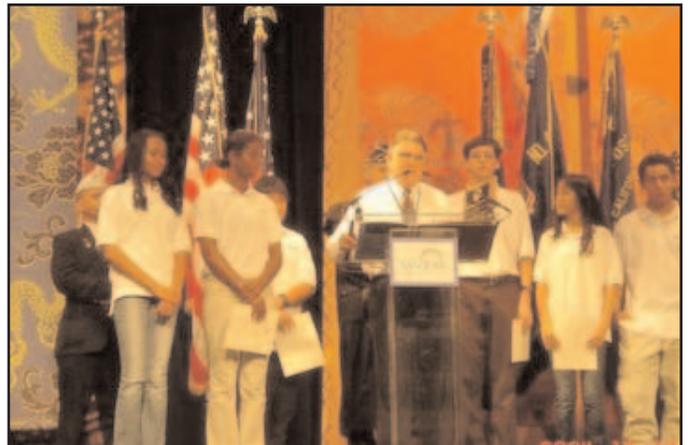
The primary vehicles for sharing information were storytelling, music and dance. One can say that griots were the first to incorporate multiple media in their craft. Their presentations were not only informative, but entertaining as well. Because of the artistry involved with their craft and the fluid nature of oral transmission of knowledge, the stories often took on a mythic quality that imbued the facts with communal importance. The African American experience continued the tradition of storytelling that provided entertainment and inspiration during slavery. Many of the tales were direct transmissions from African lore and others evolved into uniquely African American expressions.

The Digital Griot (DG) continues this tradition of storytelling using technology to convey its message. Computers, digital cameras and the Internet enable new dimensions of creativity and communication. The DG can research information from a wide array of sources within their community or from other communities worldwide. The technology can create amazing images or connect ideas in innovative ways. Furthermore, the DG is able to communicate with people almost anywhere in the world and thereby make available a virtually limitless audience. Through advanced communications, anyone can share their work and receive feedback that can inspire new ways of storytelling.

Silicon Valley is developing its own Griots through the efforts of the Digital Clubhouse Network™ (DCN). Students are using digital technology to learn more about their history and then produce multi-media presentations that bring this history to life. This process provides an engaging experience for the students to learn valuable skills. The presentations created by these students are informative and moving.

The community is invited to see and experience the presentations of these young people as they create the history of their own community.

Thank you for joining us for this evening's program!!
For more information on how you or your organization can become involved, please call Founder and National Director, Anita Long MackFarland (408) 481-0880 nyad@mindspring.com



Stories of Service

A project of the Digital Clubhouse Network™, a nonprofit organization dedicated to using the power of technology to build a better society.



PROGRAM

HP welcomes the Digital Griot Project™
 Sid Reel,
 Vice President
 Global Inclusion and Diversity
 Hewlett-Packard Company

Richelle Harris, Digital Griot Executive Producer 2005
 What is the Griot?
 Reading by Richelle Harris

Doug Henton, Chairman of the Board, Digital Clubhouse Network™
 The Vision of the Digital Clubhouse Network™

Anita Long MackFarland, Founder Digital Griot Project™
 Our Community Leaders, Our Mentors, Our Children

Lift Every Voice
 "The Black National Anthem"

Carrie Mayfield Stories
 Living with one bad decision that changed her life

Black Infant Health
 Culturally-sensitive case management and outreach

Diabetes Awareness
 Health education and counseling

We are pleased to honor the vision and achievements of Mr. John Tinsley Jr. this year's Digital Griot Man of Year Leadership Award. The purpose for the award is to recognize African America leaders who have made their mark in our local community and continue to contribute to our society.

We are deeply grateful to the following for supporting this year's Digital Griot Project™™:
 Adobe Systems, SBC, Michael Ballen, Santa Clara University, Bay Area Black Employee Forum of Hewlett-Packard Company, Iola Williams Senior Program Advisory Council, Eddie Tavares, NYAD's Artifacts, Scott Cornfield, Center for Nonprofit Media, Silicon Valley Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Denise Hadley, Rose Deslonde, La Juanda RE Denny, Kimberly Woods, Dionne Morgan, Sid Reel, Sidney Espinosa, Leon Beauchman, Joanni's Sacramento, CA, City of San Jose Councilmember, Nicholas Molle, and Melanie Molle.

Forrest Williams, City of San Jose City Councilmember; Sally Leiber, State Assembly; Anna Eshoo, U.S. Representative; Elaine Alquist, State Senate; and Warren Hegg, Founder and President, Digital Clubhouse Network™

Parents Helping Parents
 Empowering Families & Communities to Meet Children's Special Needs

Our Worlds are the Same
 The Center for Non Profit Media two stories of survival

Fly Program
 Fresh Lifelines for Youth

The Green Family
 A homeless family who stuck together

Julinda's Movies
 A Tribute to My Family With Love

Iola's Legacy
 Living History: A Woman Who "Got Things Done"
 Produced by Danielle Denny

"The Fight to Survive" by Henry LeMay
 Produced by Kandace White and Angel Reams

Sojourn to the Past
 Without memory there is no healing; without forgiveness there is no future

Digital Griot Man of Year Leadership Award.
 Mr. John Tinsley Jr.

Program layout by Kristen Lohnes Johnson, Graffik Dezine (650) 493-4383.





This year's Scholars had this to say about the Digital Griot Program:

I learned many things from the Digital Griot these past few Saturdays, like how to use a digital camera and a video camera, and how to move pictures from a digital camera onto a computer. But the thing I liked the best was writing my bio and saying it in front of a crowd. The Digital Griot program has helped me improve my interviewing skills. I like this the most because in the future, I might interview someone and I will know what to do because of this program.

Tiffany; Age 10

During my time in the Digital Griot program I have learned many things about technology, the world and myself. This program has taught me how to interview a person as well as set up equipment (cameras, videotapes, recorders, microphones and other things.) Now I have been able to connect with the other part of me that LOVES technology! Finally, I know how to take better photos. This experience might let me be a photographer some day. All of this is letting me know how important technology is in the real world. I will cherish this for the rest of my life. Thank you.

Briani; Age 11

While I was in the Digital Griot program I learned how to use a tripod. I also learned more about digital cameras and how others sources of technology can be used. The part I liked most was writing my biography. I also enjoyed participating and listening to the interviews. Doing a biography about myself made me realize who I am and how I can do better to achieve my goals and aspirations. Right now I feel a little less nervous when I speak in front of a crowd because we practiced how to make ourselves better speakers in the Griot program, by saying our goals, life aspirations, inspirations and achievements.

Vivian, Age 13

The Digital Griot was a wonderful experience. Many other girls and I got the chance to handle technology in many ways. I felt a new world open for me. I don't usually get these kinds of chances to handle this amount of technology at home. It's not every day I get to handle a tripod or a digital camera; but the Digital Griot allowed me to expand my abilities in technology and push my aspirations to the next level. I learned a great deal about how to use and care for all kinds of cameras and how to be creative with them. Now, I know how to shoot from different and surprising angles. I think that was the best part—learning about the different techniques used with technology. If there's one thing I'm sure of, it's that this is one experience I'll never forget!

Bernice; Age 10

I had a lot of fun at the Digital Griot. I learned to speak in front of a group without shaking. I learned how to interview people properly. When you interview you want to talk loud and look at the person you are interviewing. I had a great time learning the African American anthem "Lift Every Voice and Sing." Out of all this fun I would have to say the best parts were interviewing people and learning how to make a story board. This was a great experience. Not only because of the new things I learned, but also because I was able to meet new people.

Biana; Age 14

This will be the second movie I've produced with the Digital Griot. Movie making is very interesting to me. Because of this experience, more and more I get the feeling I really can become a famous movie director, and tell stories that will inspire and help the community.

Jilliane Ann Jackson; age 16.

Few of us ever have the opportunity to tell our story. Fewer still have the blessing or the means to preserve and transmit that story to future generations. The Digital Griot Project™ is changing all that. Our stories are being told; our stories are being shared our stories are being saved for our children's children to enjoy.

...Because when it's all said and done in order to know where you're going, you have to first know where you've been.

- National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc., Silicon Valley Chapter -



2005 Digital Griot Young Ladies Using Technology



The Pathfinder Science, Math & Technology (P:SMT) Scholar's program brings together young women in the 4th through 7th grades, from African American or African descent, for the purpose of educating and exposing them to math, science and technology fields.

Each year, the Silicon Valley Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc. (NCBW) engages these young ladies in a rigorous and competitive application process. Grades, community involvement, poise, articulate speech, enthusiasm, and a genuine desire to learn are essential to being selected. Once selected, finalists must interview with a panel of judges. Winning Scholars receive scholarships to attend science, math or technology camp on a university campus over the Summer break.

P:SMT alumni are then eligible to participate in P:SMT-II, a year around program, designed to further

enhance their interest in math, science and technology based career fields.

The Digital Griot Project™ is one of our most exciting P:SMT-II activities. The girls have an opportunity to learn about interviewing techniques, oral story telling, audio and video recording, storyboarding, and digital movie making. Over the course of eight weeks they are inspired to define their personal aspirations and inspirations as well as describing their accomplishments. This is a hand-on learning experience.

Even more importantly, our scholars have the opportunity to interview and learn from Seniors, living legends in our community, whose life stories are nothing short of inspiring. The interaction between generations is an important part of the Griot.