



INTOUCH

My Heritage Connecting Experience

Article by AC Dunlap

Throughout my career I have witnessed the transformation of youth right before my eyes, ignited by knowledge and experience. None has been more personal than the transformation of my daughter through her experience with the Heritage Tours of the South.”

Sheri-Lynn Wynn, Capital Kids Enrichment Program and City Leaders Academy Program Director has spent her life as a creative forward thinker. As a mother of two daughters, she has provided experiences that educate, empower, and build relationships that have prepared individuals for success.

Wynn’s desire to know more about her African American heritage while educating her daughter and providing a bonding experience would bring her to the trail of the Heritage Tours of the South.

“As an African American woman, I wasn’t all the way in touch with my heritage,” said Wynn. “I had lived into my 30’s and had not known history. I was intrigued with what the tour had to offer and wanted to educate my daughter as well. Because I had just booked a trip to Napa Valley, my daughter didn’t really want to go on the tour, but we are both glad we did.”

Through her experience on the tour, Wynn’s daughter would go on to attend and graduate from an HBCU, both becoming advocates for what she called, “a life-changing experience.”

“There were many takeaways from our experience with the tour.

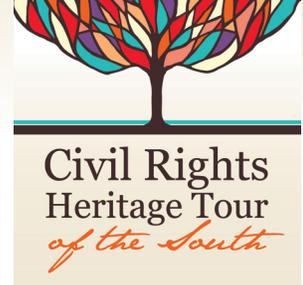
In school, history’s taught one way, but there is a whole plethora that you do not learn, especially as African Americans. To see the struggle that others went through for me to exist today brought a completely new revelation. It not only showed the past, but also brought to light our future. For me, I realized from this experience that

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WITH SHERI-LYNN WYNN,

Capital Kids Enrichment Program and City Leaders Academy Program Director Columbus, Ohio



I have a greater audience of young people whose eyes I must open. For my daughter, it provoked her to seek her own cultural experience, but also stirred her to desire to go back as a chaperone.”

The experience shared by Wynn and her family is not an isolated moment, but a staple that resonates with every individual who has taken the tour.

“One of my city leaders went on the trip. She was a shy kid, but I could see in her eyes that she was on fire, in a good way. When she came back, she was so excited because she was not just given information, but time was taken to process things to makes she had understanding. She

attended a school that didn’t teach African American history and when she returned, she challenged the administration. This experience ignites something in you. I enjoy seeing the wow moments.”

Preparing herself to again to take the tour, Wynn is excited about exposing a completely new group of youth to this life-changing encounter. “I am excited about this year and this group. There are so many

things to see, but I am thankful to Toni and Napoleon Bell, our tour guides. They make a great team, provide a friendly and safe environment and are opening the eyes of so many about the value of our history today.

Believing in the vision and impact of the Heritage Tours, Wynn raises funds to make sure other youth can have a real time history experience of African American history.



BETHANY AND SHERI-LYNN, at the King Center, Day 2 of the Tour Atlanta, GA



BETHANY CAFFEY

Sheri-Lynn’s daughter publicly shares her Heritage Tour testimonial