

Giving our Youth the

WHOLE STORY

By AC Dunlap, Columnist | An Interview with Nora Musu



Understanding the essence of what it means to travel the road to freedom is something that Nora Musu and her family know all too well. Born to Liberian parents in Madison, WI, Musu was raised in Liberia, went to boarding school in England and spent much of her adult life in the U.S. She grew up in a well settled financial family, yet the exposure of racism and the fear of losing her freedom at any moment and being sent back to Africa was something that she lived with daily.



“I came to America 40 years ago with a perspective that I think many immigrants have,” said Musu. I knew who I was and had my own sense of self before coming, but what I found was that in America, as a Black woman, I was at the bottom, on the level of new immigrants who had just arrived. People let me know everywhere I went that I was on the bottom. I always assumed I mattered as a human but coming to America showed me something different.”

Learning to navigate life in the US was not easy, but over time, Musu has played an active role in educating others through her cultural influences, art and partnership with such organizations as the Civil Rights Tour of the South. As an advocate



NORA
standing in front
of her art

and supporter of the tours, she stresses the importance of experiences like this for our youth. “A lot of children don’t understand what it took to gain the freedoms we have right now. This tour helps them to see this. Young people need to know that black people got freedom in different ways. Wherever they were and however they got their freedom they were all striving for the same thing.”

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While Nora’s immediate family had a certain stature, she comes from a family line of individuals who fought for freedom and understands the importance of transferring the history message to the next generation. “Knowledge is power, and our youth have very impressionable minds. It’s important for them to know where they belong and their place in history. The tour gives them the opportunity to actually see history. It gives a different perspective, a sense of self.”

Musu’s heritage comes from Liberia, but her life in the US has engrained in her the desire to seek change and make sure that the next generation knows history and their place in America.

“You can’t have an America without a Black person. We physically and mentally built this country whether voluntary or involuntary, and our youth need to know it. You can’t tell the story without talking about Black people in this country. Not just Blacks as people who survived enslavement, but also as people who managed to be innovators and inventors in spite of the horrors and discrimination imposed upon them.”

Appreciative for the Tour experience and visionary Toni Bell, Musu encourages others to support the endeavor. “If anyone can support this tour financially, I would recommend that you do so. It is good for your children and yourself.”



NORA MUSU,
Activist, Artist, Investor