

# AT HOME **HARRISON** N.

*February 2019*



**A publication of the life, culture and times of Harrison Neighborhood**

AND REMEMBER...

1. Thank you
2. You're Special
3. Change starts with a conversation

HARRISON

ATHOM

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BE BLACK  
BE PROUD

LEARN  
TO  
TEACH  
YOURSELF

MALCOLM X

MALCOLM X

X

ballot

RESPECT  
OUR HISTORY

*My Path to Freedom by Keegan Xavi  
February 2020*

*About ten years ago, I quit a toxic job and received a year of unemployment benefits. That year changed my life. I had time to regroup and think about what work I wanted to do that really made me happy and began to accept small job offers doing art workshops with youth. In addition, my career as a visual artist began to flourish with several collage exhibits, two film credits, and a newfound love for watercolor painting.*

*One year my tax preparer looked at me and the evidence of all the random gigs I had done that past year and said "Do you know you're self-employed?"*

*I was like "what?" because I was shook. Then I felt a combination of pride and excitement to realize I had somehow survived a year without working for any entity other than....myself. That was the first time I had felt so free.*

*Now it's been a decade of being self-employed and looking at my past I am eternally grateful for every job I ever had working for someone else because it taught me how to give that same energy to myself. The hardest part was facing the chronic fear of the unknown - when the next gig was going to arrive, when will my invoices get paid, how long am I really going to be able to pull this off for before having to go back to "a real job", etc. Facing my internal fears and doubts has revealed an inner resolve I did not have ten years ago. And the opportunities never stopped flowing.*

*My most recent accomplishment I'm most proud of is being commissioned for artwork for an album cover. The album is the musical score to the Netflix documentary "Who Killed Malcolm X" by hip-hop legends Prince Paul and Don Newkirk. The album is called "By Every Means Necessary" and will be released in May 2020.*

# Kenya McKnight

Founder of the Black Women's Wealth Alliance and "Da Hive"  
Co-Working Space

## **What's the importance of the Black Women's Wealth Alliance?**

It provides Black women with a space to learn, grow, and build on their prosperity as individuals and as a collective through a cultural lens. Black women get to show up and be themselves. BWWA has been around since 2014. We started as a group of 20 black women trying to figure ourselves out financially, share resources, and think of ways to improve our community wealth. Out of those conversations BWWA was created. We've been able to partner with micro grant organizations, so we've granted to date close to \$300,000. This year we gave out 71 grants alone to black women who are students, professionals, and entrepreneurs. We've helped people get homes, businesses and further their education. We have paid so much to invest in black women's knowledge and capacity to move forward.

## **What's Da Hive and the importance of having it on the Northside?**

Da Hive is a co-working and education space that intentionally centers on providing Black women with a clear pathway to access networks, education and a space to incubate and grow economic prosperity. If it can happen here, it can happen anywhere and it has to happen here first! Because this is where the struggle is but this is also where the potential is. This is where the BWWA was born. It was those 20 women, 18 were Northsiders, who helped shaped it. And, it's about building up the assets of the Northside and the economic value. And so it starts here.

## **What can we expect from Da Hive and how do we get involved?**

What we haven't done was really create a pathway for black women to be consistently connected to BWWA, and a space for them to continue building capacity. So after you attend a workshop or training with BWWA, then what? We don't have a lot of spaces to incubate our aspirations in, so Da Hive is intended to be a space where Black women can come, grow their knowledge, skills, and network but also do their work, have their meetings and just be. It's a space to grow and keep themselves connected to their goals and each other. We'll restart in March 2020 with our new location. You'll actually just be able to show up because it isn't just a co-working space. We'll have a little deli as well. So, it'll be a space that folks want to be in.

*To stay in touch with the Black Women's Wealth Alliance and Da Hive developments, visit [bwwa-us.com](http://bwwa-us.com)*

# Da Hive





*Photo by Bobby Rogers*

# KWEY

*Interview by Awa Mally*

Producer, DJ, Event organizer, Founder of Samambo

## **How did you get your start?**

Long story short i've always been musically inclined even as a toddler and i've been involved in various music related things. As a teenager I was put into FruityLoops and that's when i started making beats. Those beats maybe 6 or 7 years later turned into me having performances and that's when i picked up DJing and from there i started throwing parties. My most popular series isn Samambo which aims to bring people together.

## **How would you describe what you are for those that don't know?**

As a producer I make electronic hip hop, rnb but it's influenced by a wider range of music. Same with my DJing style - I like to play things from Hiphop, house, garage, r&b and more. I like a variety. Samambo is an event, party, space to bring Black people together to celebrate Black music.

## **Any advice on juggling it all?**

Prioritizing is mad important. Plan. Schedule. Making sure you're doing things in a sequence and not all at once.

Never be afraid to take breaks.

Don't overthink- overthinking makes the juggling feel worse and you end up in a space that makes getting things done difficult.

## **Is this a good place for creatives?**

Yes, because Minneapolis has a strong sense of community. When it comes to working with others or bringing people together, it's not easy but if done right people will come out and support.

As a producer, Minneapolis has a rich culture of music and most people here have a large amount of talent, you can find any kind of musician here.

## **What advice do you have for artists, creative and entrepreneurs?**

Slow and steady wins the race. It's never a race. The process of honing your skill and developing that and falling in love with that process should come first.

Collaborate, everyone knows something you don't know.

Learn the business side of your own craft and others.

Allow things to come naturally.

Save money.

## ***Keep up with them:***

*Follow him on Instagram and music streaming platforms under 'Kwey' for his music and upcoming shows.*



**Ricki Monique**  
Artist, Co-founder of Tangible Thoughts

*Interview & photo by Awa Mally*

## **How did you get your start?**

Tangible Thoughts is something Zania and I started because we wanted to see more spaces that were loving and not petty. We also wanted a place for Black people to go that was for us, we don't always like going into other spaces so you might as well make your own. With music, I always liked music and wrote little songs as a kid. Never shared them with people or just shared them with my family but through tangible and seeing so many people inviting time into their art form, it inspired me to start taking myself seriously.

## **How would you describe what you are for those that don't know?**

Partially, I'm an organizer, just organizing events and bringing people together, a space setter, someone who goes into spaces and creates spaces where there's no top or bottom, everyone can just exist and enjoy themselves without having to be a VIP.

My music is more so giving a voice to black girls that aren't always bad bitches, we get ghosted sometimes, we be sad sometimes, we have our moments. But then we can be bad bitches sometimes, but it's not everyday, I wake up everyday like I'm the baddest thing and people are paying for me all the time, it's not like my music is more so expression, release and giving myself and people who relate to some of the situations I had.

## **Any advice on juggling it all?**

When you wanna do something, you just do it. I'm really trying to push myself to invest time and energy into the things I enjoy doing. I also know that it's going to have an impact on someone outside of myself. That also makes me want to work harder. A piece of advice would be to surround yourself with people that are like-minded, something my mom would say is that "if you wanna meet people, go do the things you like to do" and through doing that you're going to meet people you'd like to meet.

## **How would you describe the creative and entrepreneurial scene in the twin cities?**

It can feel very doggy dog or this person's winning so that must mean I'm losing, but it's changing drastically. People are helping each other more, working together and collaborating. There is this energy that all of us feel. We know that we are about to make a big impact in Minnesota and the creative/entrepreneurial scene is becoming more close knit and collaborative.

## **Is this a good place for creatives?**

If someone's trying to start something, start a movement or be a part of a community that is growing rather than joining something that is already going on, I would say yes, Minnesota is the place to be. But I'm also a believer that you can make anything happen no matter where you are. You can make things dope, fun and great no matter where you are. It's all about if you have the energy and spirit to do it.

## **What advice do you have for artists, creative and entrepreneurs?**

Take your time and use your time. Don't let the media make you feel like you have to release or show everybody everything.

Keep up with them:

You can support Ricki by following her music and journey under 'Ricki Monique' on Instagram, Soundcloud, Apple Music, Spotify, Amazon and Youtube. Tangible Thoughts happens monthly you can find out about their events through Instagram: [@rickimonie](#) [@zania\\_s](#) [@tangiblecollectivemn](#)



# Tangible Thoughts

...

OPEN MIC NIGHT  
& VISUAL ART SHOWCASE

WHEN: SATURDAY,

MARCH 28TH

7:30-10 PM

WHERE: A-MILL ARTIST

LOFTS PERFORMANCE

CENTER

We send our gratitude to the funders and leaders of ArtPlace America, and Redeemer Center for Life for being stewards of Harrison neighborhood, and to all our readers who digest our creative produce.



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