

ILYASAH SHABAZZ
Biography

“The example my parents set, both in and outside of our household, helped me understand that we all have a specific purpose in life-to give back to society.”

Ilyasah Shabazz has a life dedicated to four passions: 1) the continued growth and understanding of her Family Legacy; 2) Education; 3) Government; and 4) the enrichment and balance that Entertainment provides for a full life.

Ms. Shabazz is following in the footsteps of her parents, working to convey a message of self-empowerment to future generations. She is currently leading a team of individuals to resurrect the Malcolm X & Dr. Betty Shabazz Educational and Cultural Center at The Audubon.

Instilled by her father’s legacy to appreciate her rich heritage and having witnessed in her mother a never-ending perseverance and strength, she is indeed an insightful messenger.

Ms. Shabazz serves on the Executive Youth Board for the City of Mount Vernon, NY and is currently the Director of Public Affairs & Special Events in Mount Vernon. In the past, she has served as an official member of the United States Delegation, accompanying President William Jefferson Clinton on his historic tour of South Africa.

Ms. Shabazz was the Assistant Coordinator for the Office of Academic Affairs City University of New York, where she organized training programs to encourage higher education for inner-city high school dropouts. Her special projects include lecture presentations, programs preserving the legacies of her parents, local arts productions, freelance writing, and an interactive youth publication entitled, “The Way We Feel.”

She has both tutored and mentored at The New York State Division for Youth, Children’s Village, St. Cabrini Group Home, and the Big Brother/Big Sister Program. Ms. Shabazz has earned a Masters of Science degree in Education & Human Resource Development and a Bachelors of Science degree in Biology.

In addition to her educational and philanthropic pursuits, Ms. Shabazz has also had a varied career in the entertainment industry. She has served as Vice President for SME Entertainment, Director of Operations for KEDAR Entertainment, Coordinator of Promotions & Marketing for Pendulum Records (a Time Warner Division), Assistant Music Agent for William Morris Agency, and Production Assistant for 40 Acres + a Mule Film Works (a Spike Lee Production), and has also hosted and emceed several radio and entertainment features.

Ilyasah Shabazz believes that entertainment not only fosters a more balanced and harmonious lifestyle but can also serve as a powerful tool to reach and teach the young people of the world. She says, “Entertainment reaches a chord that evokes an International understanding.”