

**MODERN
WARRIOR**
EXPERIENCE



Towards Employment

presents

A WORK & REENTRY EXPERIENCE

Real People, Real Stories



October 28th, 2024 at 6:00pm

Cleveland Public Library, Hough Library Campus

In collaboration with the Cleveland Public Library.
Made possible with support from the George Gund Foundation.



Catholic Charities
**Fatima Family
Center**
DIOCESE OF CLEVELAND



**CLEVELAND
PUBLIC
LIBRARY**

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GUND
FOUNDATION**

Please note that photos and film will be taken.

PROGRAM

Welcome – Dr. Shenise Johnson-Thomas, Chief of External Relations & Development, Cleveland Public Library

Introduction: Modern Warrior Experience and Performance – Dominick Farinacci, Musician and Co-Creator, Modern Warrior Experience

The Storytellers:
Ronnie Cannon
Alisha Brooks-Hall

Work and Reentry: Jill Rizika, President & CEO, Towards Employment

The Storytellers:
Tracy Patton
LaTonya Cliff

Final Bows – Dominick Farinacci, The Storytellers, The Musicians

There will be one 10-minute intermission.

THE STORYTELLERS



2012 Towards Employment Alumni

Ronnie Cannon is a father, a community leader, a non-profit board member and serves on citywide initiatives. As a young person, Ronnie made a decision that influenced the trajectory of his life, and this experience continues to shape his actions, to the benefit of many. He came to Towards Employment in 2012 and advanced steadily – he is currently a member of the Towards Employment leadership team, serving as the Senior Manager of Community Engagement.



2023 Towards Employment Alumni, BJA/RISE Program

Alisha Brooks-Hall is a young mother almost through college, on her way to becoming a social worker. As a graduate of one of the pre-release programs that Towards Employment offers, she started her second career journey while incarcerated. Alisha's goal is to help people returning home from prison to create networks and find resources, so they can find strength to get back up and move forward.



2012 Towards Employment Alumni

Tracy Patton's experiences battling addiction and returning from incarceration fuel her commitment to community and to other women struggling with addiction. After graduating from Towards Employment and starting a career pathway in hospitality, she found her way to providing direct assistance to women addressing mental health and dependency. She is currently a Substance Use Disorder Counselor, a Quality Mental Health Specialist, a Smoking Cessation Specialist and the founder of Survived To Live For Women In Recovery.



2023 Towards Employment Alumni, BJA/RISE Program

LaTonya Cliff is a Case Manager at Towards Employment working with young men and women, hoping that they can learn from their experiences and find the strength and connections needed to build a career. She knows firsthand how trauma, violence and abuse can lead to bad decisions and chaos. Her life and career journey provide a foundation she uses to provide council, understanding and inspiration.

ABOUT

Dominick Farinacci

Dominick Farinacci served as ambassador to Jazz at Lincoln from 2013-2015 in Doha, Qatar, working to further integrate music into communities around the world in culturally collaborative ways. He is a 2022 recipient of the Cleveland Arts Prize, an honor previously awarded to author Toni Morrison, and Cleveland Orchestra conductors George Szell and Franz Welser-Möst. Dominick graduated from The Juilliard School in 2005 launching his career in Japan with a prolific run of twelve albums, later releasing four more globally. He has performed around the world and has been recognized by The New York Times as “a trumpeter of abundant poise.” He was a featured guest on ABC’s Good Morning America and is a TED Speaker. Dominick has been profiled in Vanity Fair, and music icon Quincy Jones says of Dominick’s accomplishments in performance, recording, education & advocacy, “This kid is 360 degrees!”



Modern Warrior EXPERIENCE Team Members

Dominick Farinacci, Trumpet / MWE Creator
Emmett Murphy, Director
Shenel Johns, Vocal
Richard Johnson, Piano

Jordan McBride, Bass
Gabe Jones, Drums
Steve Madden, Production Manager

TOWARDS EMPLOYMENT ALUMNI ADVANCEMENT COLLECTIVE

The TE Alumni Advancement Collective is a chance for Towards Employment graduates to keep Growing, Connecting, Learning, Sharing and Advancing.

Grow Your Voice: First – vote! Then ... explore how your voice enriches our community. Find out about local policy priorities and match your voice to the things you want to change. Strengthen communication skills and build your personal toolbox for effective storytelling.

Connect to Community: Volunteer for a service-based organization – see how these organizations provide no cost resources and support for the betterment of our community.

Learn About Leadership: Discover what service on a board, advisory council, or committee means. Become a catalyst for change in your community.

Share your voice with TE: Join a Board committee or advisory session to provide feedback and insights to enhance TE programs and services.

Advance with Professional Memberships: Research and find membership and involvement within a professional network – an organization that supports your continual professional development and achievement of career goals.



Learn more about TE’s Alumni Advancement Collective!
Scan the QR code to visit our website.



After the performance, we would love to hear from you!



After the performance, please take a moment to scan the QR code to complete a brief survey to help us understand more about the impact of this performance.

Thank you!



Towards Employment

Towards Employment is a Cleveland nonprofit that champions the potential of every person to succeed in a rewarding career today, while working to create a more equitable and inclusive workforce for tomorrow. Using a proven WorkAdvance model, we increase Clevelanders' chances to advance by providing skill development for in-demand jobs, comprehensive supports that address the social determinants of work, extended career coaching, and direct connections to employers. Founded in 1976, Towards Employment has helped over 208,000 people prepare for jobs, navigate employment obstacles and secure long-term careers.

LEARN HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT A CHANCE TO ADVANCE

Toward Employment's capacity campaign to provide more career connections for Clevelanders. Scan the QR code or visit TowardsEmployment.org/ChanceToAdvance



MODERN WARRIOR EXPERIENCE

Dominick Farinacci and US Army Veteran Jaymes Poling created the national touring production Modern Warrior LIVE, an immersive music and narrative experience that chronicles Jaymes' journey through three deployments in Afghanistan and subsequent transition back home. As the production provided a catalyst for meaningful conversation about stigma, mental health, post-traumatic growth, and resiliency, Farinacci and Poling began to see many through lines that connected veteran stories to those of returning citizens or people with involvement in the criminal justice system. Stigma can create barriers to communication that leave many feeling isolated and unable to share their struggles. The Modern Warrior EXPERIENCE, a collaborative program that uses the model for storytelling Farinacci created in their Modern Warrior LIVE production, strives to tear down those barriers to communication, allowing individuals to share the unfiltered reality of their journey, and in doing so carve a path for others, hoping for a better tomorrow.

*Learn More about
Modern Warrior
EXPERIENCE*

