

History of Elm City Freddy Fixer Parade Committee, Inc.

Originating in 1962, the Freddy Fixer Parade is nationally recognized as the oldest Black American parade in the northeast. As such, it is incumbent upon our community to honor this distinctive heritage and to always remember to continue to pay homage to the founders, the late Dr. Frederick F. Smith, Edna Carnegie-Baker, and Dr. Charles Twyman. Their vision is one of collective solidarity toward the common goal of neighborhood beautification that culminates into a yearly celebration through the Elm City Freddy Fixer Parade. Securing our own legacy through this consistent, constructive and harmonious display of our cultural norms, values and ethics will be the impetus that conveys the story of our history we want told for many generations to come.

Accordingly, in December 2015, a group of civic-minded Greater New Haven community members set out to revitalize the Freddy Fixer Parade and established the Elm City Freddy Fixer Parade Committee, Inc. (ECFFPC). Incorporated in the State of Connecticut in 2016, ECFFPC is a non-profit organization under §501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code. To date, the committee is financially solvent and has met all financial obligations associated with the parades. The committee is also void of any litigations, lawsuits and/or tax liens against the incorporation.

The Elm City Freddy Fixer Parade Committee has made great strides in regaining the parade's glory over the past two (2) years. Last year's parade had the largest number of marching units seen since the year 2000, and consisted of 75 diverse marching bands and units totaling approximately 900 marchers. ECFFPC has also experienced an upswing in new interest as first time marching units included the impressive Ebony Horsewomen with accompanying horses (Hartford, CT) and the nationally known New Beginnings Drum & Bugle Corps of Harlem, N.Y. Of great significance and notability was the return of the New Haven Board of Education after a long absence from the parade day festivities. It was an honor and privilege to be entrusted with the care of the members of the New Haven Public School Bands and Marching Units from Jackie Robinson, King Robinson, Wexler Grant, and James Hillhouse as they marched along the 1.3 mile parade route. In addition, the parade route provides the largest audience and platform (venue) for African-American State and local politicians.

In ECFFPC's first year efforts (2015-2016), the Freddy Fixer Parade featured Jackie Robinson's granddaughters Faith, Raheli and Rachel Robinson of Tanzania, as they marched in the Freddy Fixer Parade on Dixwell Avenue, carrying a portrait of their grandfather, in recognition of Jackie Robinson's appearance as Grand Marshal of the Freddy Fixer Parade in 1972. In addition, at the vacant site of Dixwell Q-House, the parade committee set up a "Family Zone" on parade day that gave all spectators access to Bounce Houses, free hotdogs and hamburgers, face painting and other family filled activities.

Last year's parade day highlights included "The Fly Jock" Tom Joyner, nationally syndicated radio host, as the Grand Marshal of the parade. His presence brought out an estimated 6,000 spectators to the Dixwell Avenue community. Tom Joyner also sponsored and hosted a free community breakfast in partnership with Juan Castillo (Program Manager, WYBC-94FM Radio) in celebration of the parade festivity weekend. A Drill Team

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Officers 2017 - 2018

Petisia M. Adger, President
Diane X Brown, Vice President
Eula Ward, Secretary
Leonard Jahad, Treasurer
Krima Byrd, Vice-Treasurer
Jackie Hoyte, Sargent at Arms
Dexter A. Jones, Public Relations

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Elm City Freddy Fixer Parade Committee

Exhibition also followed the parade on a platform stage and bleachers erected on the vacant site of Dixwell Q-House. Drill teams freely preformed their stepping and precision drill prowess to the spectators that were gathered on Dixwell Avenue. Colleen Hines, 2016 Grand Marshal of the St. Patrick's Day Parade, also served as the distinguished Head Judge for the Freddy Fixer Parade. Kim Futrell, Community Outreach Coordinator for the City of New Haven Department of Arts, Culture and Tourism (DACT); Aleta Staton, New Haven native, professor, singer, actress, member of several boards and a community activist; and Clyde Stewart, retired lieutenant of the New Haven Fire Department and a 30 year member of the New Haven Firebird Society, likewise honored the parade committee with their presence as parade judges.

Consequently, the ECFFPC has received much accolades from community leaders, members and media outlets, alike, as represented by press coverage published and/or aired by the New Haven Register, New Haven Independent online newspaper, Inner City Newspaper, WYBC-94FM radio and WTNH8 news. Featured headlines entitled, *Freddy Fixer Spreads Sunshine on Dixwell*, *Freddy Fixer earns raves from New Haven parade goers*, *Freddy Fixer Regains the Glory*, *Freddy's Energy is Back*, *New Freddy Fixer Parade draws thousands in New Haven*, *New Freddy Assumes Clean-Up Mission*, *Teen Ambassadors De-Litter Newhallville*, and *Forum: New Haven Elm City Freddy Fixer Parade committee holding fundraisers*, touted the parade committee's achievements in overcoming financial and communal obstacles by setting into motion an infectious exuberance that has permeated the New Haven community. This energy that residents, organizers and supporters have brought to this campaign has been contagious and has resulted in an amazing amount of goodwill. (*Links to Aforementioned Articles Attached*).

Parade Grand Marshals

Parade Season	Grand Marshal	Honorary Grand Marshal	Parade Judges
2015 – 2016	Jesse "JHOP" Hardy Diane Brown Helen C. Powell Patricia Helliger	Faith, Raheli & Rachel Robinson Larry T. Young ⁱ Carol Suber Dorothy Daniley	
2016 – 2017	Tom Joyner Gramen Wilson		Colleen Hines Kim Futrell Aleta Staton Clyde Stewart
2017 – 2018	TBA		TBA

The annual estimated budget of the Elm City Freddy Fixer Parade Committee totals approximately \$30,000. Collaborations and sponsorships have been key to ECFFPC's financial stability over the past two (2) years of existence. In such time, ECFFPC has applied for and was subsequently awarded grants from Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, City of New Haven, and Department of Arts, Culture & Tourism. Financial sponsorships and other collaborations include partnerships with Howard K. Hill Funeral Services, Yale University School of Medicine, St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, McDonald's Restaurant, International Arts & Ideas, LT^{rs} Corner Bar & Grille, New Haven Firebird Society (Fraternity of Black Firefighters), Stetson Branch Library and WYBC-94.3FM radio. Additional funding was and will be raised through parade committee sponsored fundraisers that include, but are not limited to:

Elm City Freddy Fixer Parade Committee

Elm City Freddy Fixer Parade Committee Fundraisers

- 2nd Annual Black Tie Scholarship Gala honoring Community Members & Activists at Cascade's
- 2nd Annual Bowling Night at Amity Bowl Lanes
- Talent Showcase headlining Avery Wilson of NBC's The Voice (Hamden Native), and featuring Frank E. Brady (New York Lyricist), and Denise Renee (Aspiring Singer, New Haven Native, & '98 Hillhouse Graduate)
- 3rd Annual Community Health Fair in collaboration with Yale Medical School at Stetson Library
- Jazz Brunch featuring Rahsaan Langley Project
- Roller Skating Night at Roller Magic
- Prayer Brunch at High Praise Tabernacle
- Grand Marshal Reception at Elks Webster St. Lodge
- Fashion Show featuring Donald Carter's Fashion Designs at LT's Corner
- King & Queen Scholarship Pageant at Elks State St. Lodge 25
- Community Clean-Up: Freddy Fixer Teen Ambassadors – Newhallville & Dixwell

Proposed Elm City Freddy Fixer Parade Committee (ECFFPC), and International Festival of Arts & Ideas Collaboration

2016 – 2017 Elm City Freddy Fixer Parade Season

In keeping with our commitment to enhance community involvement and participation in the spirit of collective solidarity toward the common goal of neighborhood beautification, the Elm City Freddy Fixer Committee is proud to announce an additional new and exciting partnership with the International Festival of Arts & Ideas. This collaboration will conjoin the International Festival of Arts & Ideas' "*Dixwell Avenue Pop-Up Festival*" as an added feature on the day of the parade. The event will showcase staged performances from drill teams, visual & vocal artists, yoga & Zumba demonstrations, musicians, student ensembles, and theater. Various activities will also be stationed around the festival to include Chess Pursuits, Food Demonstrations, Activity Truck & Climbing Wall, Library Activities, and Cultural, Educational & Hobbyist Interests, just to name a few. This festival represents an enhancement on the ECFFPC's Family Zone conception seen during the 2016 and 2017 parades.

• Preliminary Logistics and Funding

The venue for the Elm City Freddy Fixer Family Zone Festival would ultimately contain a rented large stage, rows of rented bleachers, and designated areas for all the various aforementioned listed activities and events. In addition, security for this event will be provided by the New Haven Police Department and overtime cost for the police would be funded by the ECFFPC and the International Festival of Arts & Ideas partnership. Non-sponsoring vendors that show interest in participating in this festival will be charged a vendor's fee by the ECFFPC and must be in compliance with the City of New Haven's Health Department and Building Department Permit & Licensing Center regulations.

• Proposed Location and Audience

- Potential Venue: TBA
- Date of Event: Sunday, May 20, 2018
- Set-up Time: 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Time of Event: 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- Estimated Community Participation: 2,000
- Target Audience: Families and Businesses
- Admission: Free to the Community

Elm City Freddy Fixer Parade Committee

Proven Track Record

The ECFPPC members have demonstrated that we can provide a successful “Family Zone” experience for participants of our community during and post parade, as previously validated during our past two (2) parades. Equally, International Festival of Arts & Ideas values the celebration of cultural expression and encourages the preservation of the African-American heritage and legacy. The underlying goal of Arts & Ideas is to bring people together in one place to increase international understanding, social cohesion, and celebrate diversity. For 22 years, the Arts & Ideas Festivals have delighted audiences with an outstanding mix of entertaining and inspiring programs. Together, we envision that the collaborative use of our resources in this joint venture, will afford this same opportunity to our African-American community, free of charge and in a safe educational venue large enough to accomplish our goal.

Enclosures: (Click on Link to view Articles)

New Haven Register Articles

- **Freddy Fixer earns raves from New Haven parade goers, 5/21/17.** <http://www.nhregister.com/connecticut/article/Freddy-Fixer-earns-raves-from-New-Haven-11311606.php>
- **New Freddy Fixer Parade draws thousands in New Haven, 5/15/16.** <http://www.nhregister.com/connecticut/article/New-Freddy-Fixer-Parade-draws-thousands-in-New-11333232.php>
- **Forum: New Haven Elm City Freddy Fixer Parade committee holding fundraisers, 4/20/16.** <http://www.nhregister.com/opinion/article/Forum-New-Haven-Elm-City-Freddy-Fixer-Parade-11332095.php>

New Haven Independent Articles

- **Teen “Ambassadors” De-Litter Newhallville, 7/19/17.** http://www.newhavenindependent.org/index.php/archives/entry/newhallville_youth_ambassadors/
- **New Freddy Assumes Clean-Up Mission, 5/25/17.** http://www.newhavenindependent.org/index.php/archives/entry/supreme_sultan_stallings/
- **Freddy Fixer Spreads Sunshine on Dixwell, 5/21/17.** http://www.newhavenindependent.org/index.php/archives/entry/freddy_fixer_parade1/
- **Freddy Fixer Regains the Glory, 5/15/16.** http://www.newhavenindependent.org/index.php/archives/entry/freddy_fixer_parade#cmt
- **Freddy’s Energy is Back, 4/12/16.** http://www.newhavenindependent.org/index.php/archives/entry/freddy_fixer_plans/

WTNH 8 News Coverage

- **Freddy Fixer Marches through the Elm City, 5/15/17.** <http://wtnh.com/2016/05/15/freddy-fixer-parade-marches-through-the-elm-city/>

Inner City Newspaper

- **Community Forum, 3/8-14/17,** <https://issuu.com/johnthomas45/docs/03-08-17>

ⁱ *posthumously