

The M Street Project: Honoring Legacy. Growing Community. Building Futures. Together.

Hilyard Robinson. Marnique Heath



Hilyard Robinson (1899-1986):
M Street High School graduate, Howard University professor, early modernist architect and AIA Fellow, advocate for socially conscious design through projects like Langston Terrace Dwellings, Tuskegee Army Airfield, and multiple Howard University buildings.



Marnique Heath:
STUDIOS' Board Chair and Principal, AIA Fellow, DC Historic Preservation Review Board Chair, UVA BS, and M Arch; focused on civic stewardship and advocacy for underrepresented communities.

A project of the Perry School Community Services Center
The Perry School Community Services Center honors its M Street High School legacy showcasing this historic pioneer and one of DC's contemporary Black leaders.



Learn more at perryschool.org
Help us share these stories, serve our community, and restore this historic landmark into a beacon of hope for today and our future.

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Nannie Helen Burroughs
Melissa L. Bradley

Nannie Helen Burroughs (1879-1961): M Street High School graduate, entrepreneur founded the National Training School for Women and Girls. Trailblazing leader, orator, suffragette, and activist who spent her career combating racism, sexism, and classism.

Melissa Bradley: Entrepreneur who founded multiple companies including 1863 Ventures, supporting New Majority entrepreneurs. Bradley is a professor, investor, philanthropist, and advocate for social entrepreneurship, and inclusivity.

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Dr. Iona Rollin Whipper

Nicole Lynn Lewis

Dr. Iona Rollin Whipper (1872-1953): M Street High School graduate, one of the first African American female physicians. Whipper first opened her DC home for unwed mothers, then raised funds necessary to establish the Ionia R. Whipper Home to care for them. The Home still exists and now serves abused, abandoned, and neglected girls.

Nicole Lynn Lewis: Former teen mother who put herself through college to become a powerful advocate, author, and educator. Ms. Lewis earned a masters and honorary doctorate, and founded Generation Hope where she fights to empower teen parents and their children to go to college and achieve economic opportunities.

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Anna Julia Cooper
Ramona Hoage Edelin

Anna Julia Cooper (1858-1964):

M Street High School teacher and principal, fourth Black woman to earn a PhD. Sociologist, speaker, and author of "A Voice from the South," one of the first articulations of Black feminism. Known as one of the most prominent African-American scholars in US history.

Ramona Hoage Edelin, Ph.D.:

Academic, activist, and leader. Edelin is credited with introducing the term "African American". She has led two national and two local organizations over 45 years of service.

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Carter G. Woodson

Judge Rohulamin Quander

Carter G. Woodson (1875-1950): M Street High School teacher. Born the son of former slaves, he became the second Black American to earn a Harvard PhD. Serving as professor and Dean at both Howard University and West Virginia State University, Woodson identified the absence of any study of Black history and addressed it by co-founding ASALH and creating Black History Week.

Rohulamin Quander: Retired Senior Administrative Judge, native Washingtonian, and Howard University graduate (B.A., J.D.) authored four books celebrating 350 years of Quander Family history. Notably, several ancestors graduated from M Street High School, including sisters, Nellie and Susie Quander. An ardent civic advocate, he now guides tours of Greater D.C.'s historic sites.

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Charles Hamilton Houston



Charles Hamilton Houston (1895-1950): M Street High School graduate and trailblazing American lawyer. Harvard Law graduate, he was the architect of dismantling segregation. He mentored Thurgood Marshall and as the NAACP's first special counsel, shaped pivotal civil rights cases. His legacy endures as a champion for a fair and inclusive society.

Odunayo Durojaye



Odunayo Durojaye: Trailblazer in law and diversity: First place scholarship winner of Washington Bar Assoc. Charles Hamilton Houston Essay Competition. Georgetown Law standout: Thurgood Marshall Regional Moot Court Champ and Georgetown Law Journal's first Senior Diversity & Inclusion Editor. Former Law Clerk for D.C. Court of Appeals Senior Judges and currently an Associate at Hogan Lovells US LLP.

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