



IN THE NAME OF LOVE – PART 2

Strength Reimagined: Black Men, Urban Pressure & Leadership

Sunday, June 28, 2026

11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Life Development University

4241 Crenshaw Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90008

RUN OF SHOW

10:15 AM – 11:00 AM

Registration & Community Connection

- Check-in
- Music
- Community Resource Tables
- Wellness Wall:
"What does strength mean to you?"
- Networking

11:00 AM – 11:15 AM

Welcome & Opening Remarks

Michelle Andrea Meshel Smith

Topics:

- Welcome attendees
- PTAFF mission
- Purpose of the In The Name of Love series
- Why Black Men's Mental Health Month matters
- Introduce community partners

Key message:

11:15 AM – 12:00 PM

PANEL 1

The Weight We Carry

Black Men, Mental Health & Emotional Survival

Discussion Topics:

- Emotional suppression
- Anxiety and depression
- Trauma normalization
- Masculinity expectations
- The pressure to always be strong
- Help-seeking barriers

12:00 PM – 12:15 PM

Audience Reflection Exercise

12:15 PM – 1:00 PM

PANEL 2

Leadership Under Pressure

Activism, Fatherhood, Community & Responsibility

Discussion Topics:

- Leadership fatigue
- Activism burnout
- Fatherhood
- Financial pressure
- Community responsibility
- Legacy
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"How do Black men lead while also protecting their own wellbeing?"

1:00 PM – 1:20 PM

Lunch / Networking / Resource Fair

Community tables

Partner organizations

Mental health resources

Photo opportunities

1:20 PM – 2:00 PM

Fireside Conversation

Redefining Strength

More personal and intimate.

Discussion:

- Vulnerability
- Failure
- Healing
- Relationships
- What strength means today

2:00 PM – 2:40 PM

Community Dialogue

Brotherhood Circle

Facilitated audience discussion.

Questions:

- What support do Black men need most right now?
- What does healthy masculinity look like?
- How can communities better support Black men?
- What does healing require?

Audience participation encouraged.

2:40 PM – 2:50 PM

Commitment Wall Activity

Prompt:

"One thing I will do to protect my mental health next month is..."

Participants add responses to the Wellness Wall.

2:50 PM – 3:00 PM

Closing Reflection & Call to Action

Facilitator:

Michelle Andrea Meshel Smith

COMMUNITY ACTIVATIONS

Wellness Wall

"What Does Strength Mean To You?"

Resource Fair (We would love to invite orgs to participate)

Mental health providers

Fatherhood programs

Employment resources

Community organizations