

## **"In Loving Memory of Dr. Risé Dawn Jones**

A visionary leader, educator, and advocate for the Elgin community

Dr. Risé Dawn Jones (1966–2024) was a lifelong Elgin resident and tireless advocate for underserved communities. In 1996, she co-founded Hamilton Wings in honor of her father Charles with her mother Ann to empower youth through the arts, notably through SCORE!, an annual opera program written and staged by youth. A gifted opera singer, educator, and community leader, she championed equity, public health, and creative expression across generations. Her legacy includes service on numerous local boards, including ECC's, and a life devoted to cultivating belonging and justice through the arts.

This collage was facilitated by Hallie Sanclemente Morrison, a local Latinx artist-scholar and a mentee of Dr. Jones through Elevating Equity, an Elgin-focused grassroots grant-making program.

Created in community on January 4, 2025, during the Celebration of Life held at ECC, this artwork honors Dr. Jones's profound impact. Colleagues, friends, and family contributed to the vibrant background and messages surrounding her portrait. The dynamic background, featuring quadrants of blues and purples, mirrors the logo of Hamilton Wings, and represents the interconnected mosaic of collaboration, social justice, and fellowship that Dr. Jones nurtured throughout the Elgin community.

Through the arts, Dr. Jones transformed countless lives with her enduring mission to “create art, create community, and create new worlds of belonging, respect, and love.” — *Dr. Risé Dawn Jones*

**May the legacy of Dr. Risé Dawn Jones live on through the creativity, passion, and community-centered endeavors of Elgin's future young leaders."**