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Press Release

HiiiWAV Unveils “Afro AI”: Empowering Black Creators with AI and AR Education

Oakland, California, September 18th, 2023 – Bosko Kante, an award-winning music producer, inventor, tech founder, and artist advocate, proudly announces “Afro AI”, a new program by Black creative focused music+tech incubator HiiiWAV launching September 21st, 2023.

About AFRO AI

What does it mean for black artists and creators to wield the power of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Augmented Reality (AR)? AFRO AI, created by HiiiWAV, seeks to answer this question in a deeply transformative way. Taught by a team of industry mavens including [Don Allen III](#), [Benin Saffo](#), [Lance Coleman](#), [Nicky Saunders](#) this 8-week masterclass, starting on September 21st, moves beyond mere technical instruction.

Imagine a world where AI serves not as an abstract concept but as an extension of the black artist's own creative toolkit. AFRO AI is designed with this ethos at its core, offering courses that marry technology and artistry, from AI-enhanced music composition to AR-infused art installations. The curriculum draws heavily from real-world experiences and inventive techniques, reflecting the ethos of HiiiWAV and Bosko Kante's own journey as an inventor and a musician. This ensures that participants not only gain proficiency in new technologies but also understand how to fold them seamlessly into their unique voices and messages.

Here, learning culminates in the AFRO AI Demo Day, a high-stakes showcase where artists pitch their AI-empowered projects for a chance to secure a \$10,000 grant. But more than that, Demo Day is a moment to shine the spotlight on the new narratives and paradigms that black creatives are setting—thanks to the blend of technology and culture that AFRO AI facilitates.

Grounded in the lived experiences of its participants and the immediate needs of the Alameda County community, AFRO AI is more than just a program. It's a movement

aimed at reshaping the discourse around black artistry and innovation. The skills gained here will not just create buzz but will engender a ripple effect, disrupting traditional models and establishing new norms for what black musicians, artists, and entrepreneurs can achieve in the realms of AI and AR.

About Bosko Kante

Bosko Kante is not just one of the world's top talkbox artists; he's an innovator and advocate who has made significant contributions to both the music and technology sectors. He has written and performed talkbox on Grammy-winning albums for artists such as Dua Lipa and Kanye West. Trained as a Mechanical Engineer at USC, Bosko invented the patented ElectroSpit ESX-1 mobile talkbox and its companion mobile phone app. His company, ElectroSpit Inc.'s award-winning instruments are used by world-renowned artists like David Guetta and Stevie Wonder.

The Birth of HiiiWAV

In 2020, [Bosko Kante](#), [Maya Kante](#), and [Miles Dotson](#) founded HiiiWAV to pass on the wealth of their experiences and resources to up-and-coming black musicians, creators, and entrepreneurs. As the President and Executive Director, Bosko's vision steers HiiiWAV's AI+XR+Music Incubator project. His robust network across the realms of music, technology, and social impact provides HiiiWAV invaluable connections to both emerging talent and industry leaders.

Mission & Objectives

HiiiWAV aims to transform the landscape of opportunities available to black musician-entrepreneurs. The organization runs an intensive 8-week accelerator program designed to nurture profitable, culturally rich, and socially impactful companies. The program directly benefits the residents of Alameda County, and plans are underway to expand their newly purchased permanent facility in Oakland, CA, to include a state-of-the-art music and film production studio, maker's space, and retail space for artists to showcase the products created in the HiiiWAV accelerator.

Impact and Achievements

Since 2022, HiiiWAV has hosted over 50 events and workshops, closely mentored 36 Black- Bay Area Artists, served 36 black creatives and six artist collectives, ranging in age from 18 to 45. These artists, all residents of Alameda County and surrounding Bay Area counties, received mentoring, studio time, and grants to grow their businesses. A

total of 27 new artist projects were created, along with two public art showcases. HiiiWAV also hosted 45 free events, attended by over 3000 people of all ages and identities, including songwriting workshops, art shows, concerts, artist networking events, movie screenings, book reviews, funding fairs, and educational panels. HiiiWAV was recognised as one of the 2023 YBCA 100 most impactful Bay Area nonprofits in addition to numerous awards such as Metas' XR Fund, Hewlett Foundation & Community Vision's PAAF Grant, FHL Bank's Ahead Grant, Kataly Foundation Grant, The Liberation Fund Grant, Elevate Initiative Finalist, and Bay-Area LISC Grant.

The Challenge and the Solution

The SF Bay Area boasts a burgeoning tech scene but has shockingly limited opportunities for black professionals in tech. HiiiWAV aims to bridge this gap through its groundbreaking training programs, like providing AI skills training, virtual reality headsets and organizing accelerator workshops in the metaverse. These efforts are designed to prepare the next generation of BIPOC creators for the world of AI, XR and Web 3.0 experiences.

Partnerships

In collaboration with partners like Runway.family, Uptima.Coop, and ZooLabs.org, HiiiWAV is working tirelessly to ensure the sustainability and growth of its programs. Additional support comes from the East Bay Permanent Real Estate Cooperative (EBPREC) and Meta (formerly known as Facebook), sponsors of the Afrofilterism project.

Bosko's Artist Statement

Bosko acknowledges the power of space in fostering creativity. He reflects on his journey from practicing trumpet in a small house to losing his studio during the Great Recession, only to rebound by founding HiiiWAV. The organization has raised \$3M to purchase a physical space and is creating virtual platforms for artists.

Call to Action

Join us in our mission to redefine the future for black musicians, creators, and entrepreneurs. For more information, visit hiiwav.org or contact bosko@hiiwav.org.

For media inquiries, please contact:

info@hiiwav.org

By sharing this information, HiiiWAV hopes to invite more artists, sponsors, and supporters to participate in a future where black musician-entrepreneurs can truly thrive.

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