

Verizon
Up To Speed Live
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>> ANDY: OUR NEXT STAYCATION ROADTRIP DESTINATION TAKES US TO THE HOME OF THE BAD BOY PISTONS, THE FIRST MILE OF CONCRETE HIGHWAY, THE FIRST FOUR-WAY, THREE-COLOR TRAFFIC LIGHT, AND THE WORLD'S FIRST TRAFFIC TUNNEL BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. BUCKLE UP, FRIENDS, AND LOSE YOURSELF. WE'RE CROSSING 8-MILE ROAD INTO THE MOTOR CITY! WE'VE COME A LONG WAY SINCE THE MODEL T AND YES, WE ALL KNOW ABOUT THE FAST CARS HERE IN THE 313, BUT METRO DETROIT RESIDENTS ARE ALSO ENJOYING VERIZON'S 5G HOME INTERNET WITH SPEEDS UP TO ONE GIGABIT PER SECOND. AS A FORMER DETROITER, MYSELF, I CAN TELL YOU, THERE ARE PLENTY OF LOCAL FAVORITES TO CHECK OUT. THE RIVER WALK ALONG THE DETROIT RIVER IS THE PERFECT PLACE TO ENJOY DOWNTOWN. THEN THERE'S BEAUTIFUL BELLE ISLE.

AT 987 ACRES, IT'S THE LARGEST ISLAND PARK IN THE UNITED STATES. ALSO, JUST OUTSIDE OF THE CITY, YOU'LL FIND TONS OF AMERICAN HISTORY AT THE HENRY FORD MUSEUM. AND HOW ABOUT THE THRIVING MUSIC SCENE THAT STARTED HITSVILLE, USA, MOTOWN RECORDS. DETROIT IS NO STRANGER TO POPULAR MUSIC WITH BIG NAMES LIKE ARETHA FRANKLIN, BOB SEGER, JACK WHITE AND EMINEM ALL COMING FROM THE MOTOR CITY. BACK IN THE DAY, DETROIT WAS KNOWN AS THE PARIS OF THE MIDWEST.

SPEAKING OF INTERNATIONAL CITIES FROM MOTOWN TO SIERRA LEONE, DETROIT-BRED MURALIST SYDNEY JAMES SHOWCASES HER TALENTS ACROSS THE GLOBE LIKE MANY OF THE OTHER ARTISTS WE'VE FEATURED ALONG THIS JOURNEY. SYDNEY IS USING HER ARTISTIC VOICE TO GENERATE CONVERSATION AND CHANGE.

>> MY NAME IS SYDNEY G. JAMES AND I AM A VISUAL ARTIST/MURALIST FROM DETROIT. THE LAST FIVE, SIX YEARS HAS BEEN KNOWN TO FOCUS ON BLACK WOMEN, SPECIFICALLY. I PAINT US HOW I WANT PEOPLE TO SEE US. PEOPLE ARE ACTUALLY TAKING THE TIME TO SEE WHAT WE'VE BEEN FIGHTING FOR AND TALKING ABOUT FOR ALL OF

THESE CENTURIES. THESE YEARS. BLACK ART IS TRENDING. WE GOTTA CATCH ON TO THIS TREND BEFORE IT GOES AWAY. IT SHOULDN'T GO AWAY UNTIL THESE LAWS CHANGE, POLICIES CHANGE, AND PEOPLE'S BEHAVIOR TOWARDS OTHER PEOPLE CHANGE.

IN 1992, A MAN NAMED MALICE GREEN WAS MURDERED HERE IN DETROIT AT THE HANDS OF POLICE. AN ARTIST NAMED BENNIE WHITE JR. HAD PAINTED AT THE SCENE OF THE CRIME, A MURAL OF MALICE GREEN. AND... AGAINST COMMUNITY'S WISHES, A FEW YEARS BACK, THE MURAL AND THE BUILDING THAT IT WAS ON WAS DEMOLISHED. AFTER GEORGE FLOYD WAS MURDERED, THE STORY OF MALICE GREEN RESURFACED AND AT THE END OF THE ARTICLE, IT REVEALED THAT THE ORIGINAL MURAL WAS DESTROYED AND AFTER READING THAT, I DECIDED TO PAINT ONE OF MY OWN.

THE NEXT DAY, I POSTED A GO FUND ME AT 1:30 P.M. FOR \$10,000. I RAISED IT IN TWO AND A HALF HOURS. WHAT WE DIDN'T USE, I DONATED IT TO BLACK YOUTH POWER 100. THOSE FUNDS WENT TOWARDS THE PROTESTERS WHO HAD GOTTEN ARRESTED. MY PAINTING IS MALICE AS A MONUMENT AND HE'S HOLDING A SCROLL LISTING OVER 1,000 NAMES OF POLICE VICTIMS. I NEEDED TO MAKE IT AND... I FEEL LIKE WE, THE PEOPLE, NEEDED TO HAVE IT AND IT NEEDED TO BE DONE.

WHEN TOURISTS COME TO DETROIT, THEY DEFINITELY GO TO EASTERN MARKET TO SEE ALL THE MURALS. THERE'S SOMETHING TO SEE IN ALMOST EVERY CORNER. IF I RECOMMEND ONE PLACE TO EAT, I'D SAY ROCK CITY EATERY. THE CHEF'S GOAL WAS TO HAVE A MENU THAT WOULD MAKE ANTHONY BOURDAIN PROUD. WE EAT THERE SO MUCH, YOU COULD LITERALLY TELL THEM THAT SYDNEY SENT YOU. I'M UNAPOLOGETICALLY DETROIT. DETROIT IS INNOVATIVE. IT'S A PLACE OF COMMUNITY. YOU HAVE THE BEAUTY AND THE GRITTY. IT'S JUST DOPE. IT'S UGLY PRETTY. HOW CAN YOU NOT BE CREATIVE IN SUCH A LOVING AND CULTURAL SPACE.

>> ANDY: WHEN SYDNEY ISN'T CREATING, SHE CAN BE FOUND AT THE WISE DECISION. TWD IS A LOCAL PERFORMANCE AND WELLNESS CENTER HELPING DETROITERS STAY IN TUNE WITH THEIR BODY AND MIND. GREAT TO SEE SYDNEY CONNECT WITH HER CITY IN A MEANINGFUL WAY. THAT'LL DO IT FOR US TODAY, IN DETROIT. WE'LL SEE YOU AT THE NEXT STOP ON THE MAP. OR PERHAPS... THE GLOBE.