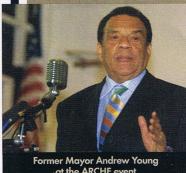


Atlanta's arts community was treated to an evening of "cultural fire" at the kick-off for the 2004 National Black Arts Festival. The benefit gala, held at the Georgia International Convention Center, included live multicultural entertainment, street performers, mimes, stilt-walkers and a live auction. Notable guests included Mayor Shirley Franklin, accompanied by her mother, Ruth White of Philadelphia; True Colors Theatre Company Founder and Artistic Director Kenny Leon (fresh from his stint as director of the smash Broadway revival of A Raisin In The Sun) sporting his signature tuxedo and sneakers, and WSB-TV anchor Monica Kaufman in full African regalia. The swanky affair included performances by Cuban-born composer Tania Leon and the Freddie Hendricks Youth Ensemble, but Kidsgym USA stole the show with an elaborate presentation featuring some pint-sized tumblers. \* Former Atlanta mayor and UN Ambassador Andrew Young, Morehouse College President Walter Massey and Interdenominational Theological Center President Michael Battle observed the 50th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education by taking part in another historic endeavor at Ebenezer Baptist Church. They joined in the official launch of the first phase of the Atlanta Regional Consortium for Higher Education's (ARCHE) Web-based educational project, "Atlanta in the Civil Rights Movement." The site, atlantacivilrights.org, highlights Atlanta's role in the movement and gives researchers access to special library collections and archives. —CHANDRA R. THOMAS "WE'RE JUST SITTING ON A GOLD MINE OF HISTORY HERE."

FORMER MAYOR ANDREW YOUNG
SPEAKING ON ATLANTA AT THE LAUNCH
OF ARCHE'S WEB-BASED EDUCATIONAL
PROJECT ATLANTACIVIRIGHTS ORG



NBAF Gala co-chairs Monica Kaufman and Kenny Leon



A stilted performer greets

guests at the NBAF gala.

WE HAVE NOT

ACHIEVED THE

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ORMER MAYOR **ANDREW YOUNG** EAKING ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BROWN V. BOARD OF

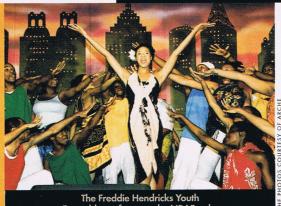
PROMISED LAND

A STRUGGLE

rmer Mayor Andrew Young at the ARCHE event

"WE SEE IT AS A NIGHT TO SUPPORT THE ARTS AND HAVE A PARTY TOO "

NBAF EXECUTIVE PRODUCER STEPHANIE
HUGHLEY ON THE ANNUAL BENEFIT GALA



The Freddie Hendricks Youth Ensemble performs at the NBAF gala.

Mayor Shirley Franklin

and Stephanie Hughley