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Haitian Network Group of Detroit  
**HNGD**

*Bèl Bagay Lakay*  
*{Beautiful Things from Home}*



The Haitian Network Group of Detroit presents

A Haitian Art & Crafts Festival

July 30-31, 2022

Riley Park

33113 Grand River Ave., Downtown Farmington, MI

Haitian Network Group of Detroit

# HINGD

Haitian Network Group of Detroit (HNGD) was founded in 1999 and acquired its US 501(c)(3) nonprofit status in 2003. The organization was designed with the following objectives:

- To promote Haitian culture and create a forum for Haitians and friends to network
- To facilitate communication between Haitians and other organizations in Detroit
- To contribute to the welfare of Haitians worldwide
- To advocate the expansion and improvement of cultural diversity in the metro Detroit area

In keeping with our commitment to promote Haitian culture in Michigan, HNGD is proud to present: **Bèl Bagay Lakay** ("Beautiful Things from Home" in Haitian Creole) in Downtown Farmington on July 30th and 31st, 2022. This 2-day outdoor event will give Metro Detroit residents an opportunity to sample, experience, and celebrate Haiti's uniqueness. For additional information, please visit our website:

[www.haitiannetworkdetroit.org](http://www.haitiannetworkdetroit.org)

Haitian Network Group of Detroit

P.O. Box 2106

60 East Milwaukee

Detroit, MI 48202

Please send inquiries to:

[info@haitiannetworkdetroit.org](mailto:info@haitiannetworkdetroit.org)



*Haitian Network Group of Detroit (HNGD)  
serves as a beacon to a vibrant community that  
is comprised of Haitians and supporters of  
Haiti.*

Since its inception, HNGD has supported a number of activities that have enriched Metro Detroit's multicultural tapestry. HNGD's numerous activities also extend into the philanthropic realm.

Most recently, in response to the devastation caused by an earthquake in the southern region of Haiti in August 2021, HNGD sprang and raised \$17,741 in a matter of months. That sum was distributed between organizations that were assisting communities in the affected areas. Additional information about this worthy effort can be found at [www.haitiannetworkdetroit.org](http://www.haitiannetworkdetroit.org).

HNGD has also joined the movement toward full recognition for Jean-Baptiste Pointe DuSable. Two hundred and forty years ago, this Black man who was originally from the city of Saint Marc (Haiti) founded and settled the area that is now known as Chicago. HNGD is currently managing a \$10,000 pledge in support of the construction of DuSable Park in the vicinity of Chicago's lakefront area.



**60 East Milwaukee  
P.O. Box 2106  
Detroit, MI 48202**

"L'union Fait la Force" - "In Unity there is strength" (Haiti's motto)

In July 2015, the Haitian Network Group of Detroit organized the first Haitian Arts & Crafts Festival in Farmington, Michigan. The event, by all accounts, was a resounding success. Thanks to the Bèl Bagay Lakay festival, a group of Haitian artists from back home and the diaspora had a unique opportunity to unite their talent and celebrate the beauty of Haiti.

2022 marks the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Bèl Bagay Lakay Festival. Through this event, HNGD has been able to highlight Haitian culture in a positive manner seldom seen in the media, assist Haitian artists in gaining additional recognition for their work, and offer Michiganders the opportunity to own an authentic piece of art or craft at a reasonable cost.

With this festival, Haitian art is not the only element of our culture on display; the authentic cuisine and music make the cultural exploration complete! Moreover, our warm hospitality continues to make it easy for diverse ethnic groups to stroll through the vendors' stalls and experience the *Ayiti Cheri* we know and cherish.

None of it would have been possible without the backing of the community, the volunteers, and the sponsors. I want to take this opportunity to thank them for their continued support and contributions to the success of the Bèl Bagay Lakay festival. Without their selfless involvement, the Bèl Bagay Lakay festival would not be the signature event that it is today.

On behalf of the HNGD Board and membership, I am extending a warm invitation to visit Downtown Farmington on July 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> and take a look at the *Beautiful Things* Haiti has to offer. I look forward to welcoming everyone to the 2022 Bèl Bagay Lakay Haitian Arts & Crafts festival.

Warmly,

Shirley Alcé Konaté  
President  
Haitian Network Group of Detroit

## Meet the Talented Artists & Artisans!

Following is a synopsis about some of the amazing artists and artisans who will be exhibiting at the fair.

We present you samples of their work; come view them in person and be amazed!



## Ancestral Memory, Struggle, and Vision in Haitian Art

Anthropology studies humans in all time and all places. It focuses upon human action, thought, and behavior; that is what is termed “culture.” Art is culture. Haitian art is born out of culture. It is up to us to decode the message wrapped in the systems of signs of the artists. Beyond the western distinction of “primitive” in contrast with “formal” art, this art reveals a way of life. It is the most fundamental dimension of Haitian art. What is essential in culture is its transcendental character through space and time. It is human experience handed down from generation to generation.

The artist is a craftsman who considers aesthetic effect in addition to, or instead of, the uses of his product. In the case of Haiti, aesthetics is complex because of the various sources of the cultural heritage. Haitian art also teaches the social customs and traditions of the country. It is primarily the Haitian popular culture that inspires the majority of Haitian artists.

The work of art is always rooted in the land where the people live, but never ends there, and never comes completely from the earth. The work of art is both otherworldly and inner worldly. Haitian art has both dimensions. It is image and also represents an ideal, which lies in the horizon and remains never completely accessible, penetrable, nor factual.

Haitian art represents a totality. It projects on Haiti a great dignity and a great sense of worth. It “stands today like a remarkable monument among an impoverished people who are by no means poor in spirit...”

Excerpted from ***Ancestral Memory, Struggle, and Vision in Haitian Art (2004)***

With the author's permission,  
**Dr. Guérin C. Montilus**  
Professor of Anthropology  
Wayne State University

# Roberson Zéphir

Roberson Zéphir was born in Pétiyon Ville, a city located in the western side of Haiti. Having been born into a family of artisans, early on he acquired the skills necessary to seduce his fans with a style that is unique to him, regardless of the medium that he uses to channel his talent: painting, shoemaking, or sewing.

Roberson's work is a fusion of art from the Kasai region and Haiti that resulted from a stay in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He also uses a special technique to transform leather, beads, exotic fabrics, and recyclable materials and enhances women's fashion by designing sandals, necklaces, purses, hats, and clothing items.



**ARTisANETWORK**  
International Artisans Goods

The **ArtisaNetwork** supports skilled artisans in various countries through preservation of local traditions, innovation techniques, and linkage to global markets.

They foster long-term relationships with international buyers and designers who collaborate with their artisan entrepreneurs to help educate the world about the importance of their craft traditions.

Their network includes over 3,000 artisans from communities in Haiti, India, Tunisia, Madagascar, Guatemala, Mexico, Cuba, Nepal, and France. Their team of experts offer a comprehensive range of experience in international business management, product sourcing/development, sales and marketing, and nonprofit project management.

Most of the work being presented at the 2022 Bèl Bagay Lakay Festival is from a group of artisans in Noailles, Croix des Bouquets (Haiti). The products are made from recycled oil drums and can be used for home decor as well as functional use. They will also include some accessories/jewelry/home gifts from various artisans in Port-au-Prince.



**ARTisANETWORK**  
International Artisans Goods



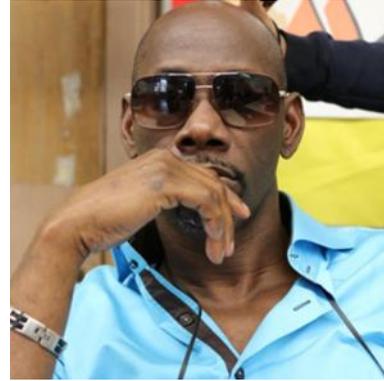
Shop with us at

**ARTisANETWORK**



# Samuel Augustin

Samuel "Sammo" Augustin has a Master of Fine Arts in painting and a Bachelor of Fine Arts and Drawing from Brooklyn College in New York City. He has taught painting and drawing for 20 years in New York City public schools. In addition to his experiences with students in grades 6 through 12, he developed special projects and built his studio and gallery.



The 20 years he spent working with students in the Artist-in-Education program were particularly formative. He worked with students all over the City of New York, not only teaching painting and drawing, but also developing large mural projects. In addition to teaching, he has been a studio artist for 28 years and shows regularly in New York, Connecticut, Detroit, and New Jersey.

His abstract paintings are an amazing mix of abstraction and allegories with a unique message. They have been exhibited in galleries nationally including in the main lobby of the United Nations building in New York. His best known mural piece is an allegorical work depicting Haiti's destruction after the 2010 earthquake, and rebirth as seen through the eyes of nine Haitian artists.



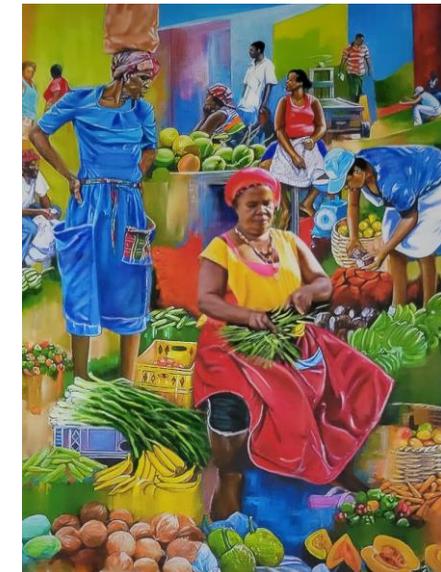
Samuel's work featured in "The Economist" magazine:  
<https://www.economist.com/prospero/2010/12/02/saying-merci>

# Jacques Toussaint

Born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, at a very young age, Jacques, whose artwork is featured on the 2022 Bèl Bagay Lakay festival signage, became interested in painting. A current resident of Quebec, he has participated in many art expositions in Canada, the United States, Europe, and Haiti. He draws his inspiration from his home country using the people and scenery.



Complete stories are told in the oil paintings that Jacques creates, mostly by the purity of color and the realistic nature captured in the eyes of his subjects. The paintings of Jacques Toussaint pay homage to man and womankind; always smiling and optimistic, willing to share his inner joy with the world. This artist takes it upon himself to find wonderment in everything. We can look upon his work as therapy for the soul.



# Gina Samson

Contact: [gsamsonart@yahoo.com](mailto:gsamsonart@yahoo.com)  
Website: [www.samsonart.com](http://www.samsonart.com)

Gina Samson's artwork reflects the rich cultural heritage and vibrant colors of Haiti and the Caribbean, as well as her experience as an immigrant in the New York City urban environment. After showing interest in the arts at a young age, she enrolled in her high school's art program and workshops, and participated in shows and competitions. She regularly exhibits in the New York Metropolitan area, and her work is featured in several corporate and private collections.

In her view, artwork reflects the importance of creation and imagination in everyone's life. Working primarily in painting, collage, and drawing, she aims to create works that incite reflection and bring to the viewer an appreciation of the pride, resilience, and cultural achievements across the African diaspora.

"While music is a frequent theme, the inspiration for my artwork is really the journey that brought us to today's experiences: the stories of survival, adaptation and resilience, and the example of African traditions and cultural heritage evolving in the diaspora and enriching the human experience. "

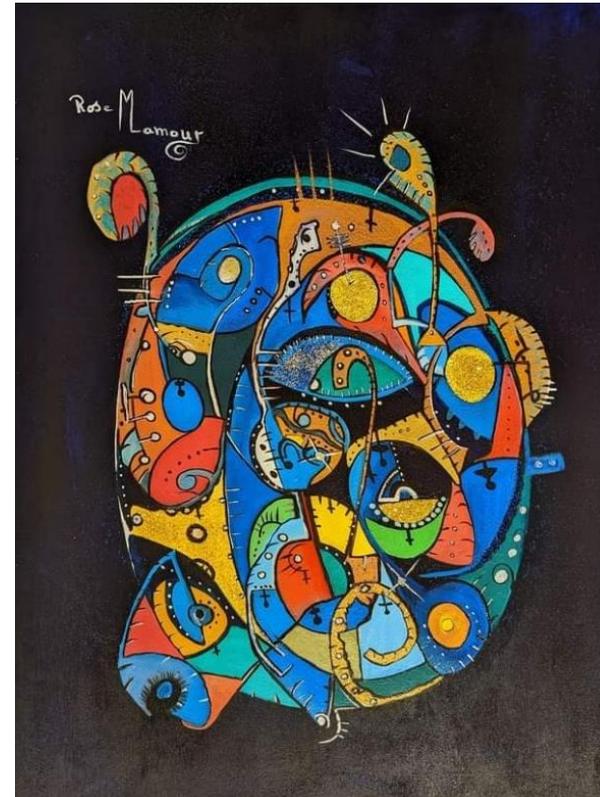
Currently, she produces acrylic paintings as well as mixed media works, where a combination of materials such as nut shells, fabric, acrylic paint, and other collage elements combine to evoke pictorial traditions.



# Rose Marie Lamour

## Artist's Statement:

My work contains references to Vodou, music and the cultural heritage of my community - the true spirit of those disenfranchised. I avoid direct references to the political in my work, in part, for the sake of my own mental health. My personal experiences have made it essential that I amplify the humane within a system that often operates like anything but.



# Martine Chateigne

## Simplement Marcha - Tout en crochet

« Simplement Marcha » Boutique d'artisanat haïtien spécialisée dans les articles en crochet. Fondée en Mai 2009.

« Simplement Marcha » Haitian handicraft store specializing in crochet products. Founded in May 2009.



Artisanat en crochet

[simplement\\_marcha@yahoo.com](mailto:simplement_marcha@yahoo.com)

[marcha1961@yahoo.com](mailto:marcha1961@yahoo.com)

Facebook : Simplement Marcha

WhatsApp : 50938307948

# The Jacmel Arts Center

**Mission:** Serving as an inclusive space for the exhibition, education, production, and promotion of arts and culture in the Jacmel region.

**Overview:** The Jacmel Arts Center grew out of a collective movement of artists that had been working together under the name FOSAJ since 2003. These artists united together in an effort to reinvent themselves and breathe new life into the once-vibrant arts scene of the city known as Haiti's artistic capital. Operating in the historic Boucard & Co. building, which was severely damaged in the earthquake of 2010, the artists recommitted themselves to restoring the space as a formidable hub of Haitian artistic innovation. By repairing the wounds of the past and coalescing being a dynamic new vision for the future, the artists charted a new path towards rebuilding the active arts institution that it is today. It is now a space by artists, for artists, both visual and performing, to gather, inspire one another, and create together. They are using their craft and vision to reimagine the power of art to liberate Haiti's people.



## Programs:

- GALLERIES - Exhibiting and selling work from over 40 professional, local artists representing a diverse range of styles and voices.
- BOUTIQUE - Featuring the highest quality handcrafted items from local artisans that you won't find anywhere else!
- ART SCHOOL - The city's leading institution in arts education and the formation of the next generation of inspiring Haitian artists.
- COMMUNITY COLLABORATION - Partnering with local dance, theater, and arts groups to achieve more effective results for our creative community.
- CULTURAL EXCHANGES - Working with international partners to bring Haitian art to the world and global perspectives into Haitian art.
- SPECIAL EVENTS - Celebrating Haitian culture through special events designed to expose the public to the deep well of local talent the surrounds them.



[www.jacmelartscenter.com](http://www.jacmelartscenter.com) / [jacmelartscenter@gmail.com](mailto:jacmelartscenter@gmail.com)

# Christelle Chignard Paul

## Atelier Calla

Based in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Atelier Calla has emerged from the imagination of entrepreneur Christelle C. Paul back in 2007. Though she had a full-time job at the time, her mind was set to make this dream a reality. Creating original collections bi-annually and participating in local shows sponsored by Vital Voices, she carved her way and made her name and reputation as a local designer and a reference for the horn and bone jewelry market in Haiti.



In 2011, after the devastating earthquake, it was all or nothing, and she opted for all and opened a full-time workshop on October 10, 2011. Atelier Calla production was immediately on the international market with Macy's *Heart of Haiti* Project and Urban Zen, growing ever since. Thanks to the support and training provided by institutions like the Artisan Business Network sponsored by the Kellogg Foundation, USAID program, Leve and Caribbean Export, our artisan group and director has had the opportunity to receive the tools to be relevant in the international market.

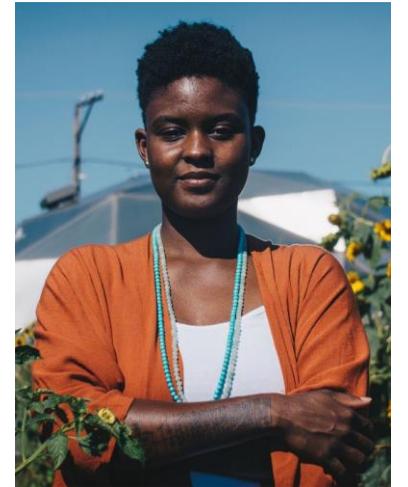
With 10 years of experience under our belt, we are proud to count amongst retailers and wholesalers, companies such as TO THE MARKET, a reference in responsible sourcing for private label. Today with more than 30 artisans involved in the production, we are one of the largest horn manufacturers in Haiti.

# Alexandra Antoine

Alexandra Antoine is an interdisciplinary visual artist and cultural apprentice based in Chicago, Illinois. Her work acknowledges the influences of her Haitian culture and interest in portraiture, food, farming, and physical labor in traditional artistic practices of the African diaspora.

She honors the different forms and functions of her work in the process of her vision coming into fruition.

She received her Bachelor's in Fine Arts and Arts Education from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and her work has been exhibited nationally and internationally.



Alexandra Antoine  
Visual Artist // Farming // Food Research  
Currently: Artist-in-Residence at Legler Library (Chicago, IL)  
Website: <https://www.alexandraantoine.com/>  
Instagram: @alexandra.antoine

## Fatimah Charles

Based out of Michigan, Fatimah Charles is a Boston-born 29-year-old artist whose current main focuses are on perfumes, drawing/paintings, and studying different forms of spirituality and energy work. She appreciates quite a few topics and cycles through them at different points in her journey.

Having a father from Trou du Nord, Haiti who loves the traveling business and a mother from Woburn, Massachusetts who is a healer and holds a BFA in illustration most certainly created inspiration for Fatima.

She grew up in a mixture of identity around groups of many similarities and interests, and finds her own style to be eclectic and fluid. She enjoys studying how people communicate, different knowledge ideas, and exploring different lessons and experiences in life.



## Kettly Gousse Constant Myrtho Mercier

Myrtho (Minou) and Kettly (Kiki) are two sisters with a passion for crafts. Both born and raised in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, they share a common passion, and decided to focus on the creativity that they inherited from their Mother and Grandmother.



This year, they mostly worked on a variety of bags, both colorful and unique. They enjoy spending time working on their crafts, and found this hobby to be a wonderful therapy, bringing them limitless joy and peace.



## Pascale Millien-Faustin

Pascale Millien-Faustin (Choublak Kreyòl) fèt Pòtoprens. Li se pitit M. Mona Anglade ak Reveran Jean-Elie Millien. Li fè etid elemantè ak segondè li Ayiti, li fè klas inivèsité li Etazini. Li rete Connecticut, kote li travay nan domèn sèvis sosyal, administrasyon ak biznis. Pascale genyen diplòm nan Jerans ak yon bakaloreya nan Syans Imèn. Li se yon manm djanm legliz Saint John's Episcopal Church of Bridgeport.

Nan ane 1986-87 yo konsa, li kòmanse pran kou kreyòl nan Sosyete Koukouy Miyami, kote li te tou patisipe nan Seksyon Dans, Koral ak Teyat. Nan ane 1990, Pascale te fonde branch Sosyete Koukouy Konektikèt la ak yon gwoup jenn ki te byen dinamit. Depi jou fondasyon branch Sosyete Koukouy Konektikèt la, li se Direktè epi Koregraf Seksyon Dans lan. Pascale te Redaktè Bòbèch: Jounal Sosyete Koukouy Konektikèt (1991-1992). Prezidan Jeneral Sosyete Koukouy Konektikèt Stamford (1993-2000). Apre sa, li vin Prezidan Branch Sosyete Koukouy Bridgeport la.



Jounen jodi a, li se Prezidan Biwo Santral Sosyete Koukouy, Prezidan Haitian Women Association of Connecticut, li se fondatè epi direktè adjwen Anacaona Youth Enrichment Program. Li se manm Redaksyon Pawòl Kreyòl, Revi Literè Sosyete Koukouy. Li se manm HAPAC (Haitian American Professional Association of Connecticut), manm Haitian Heritage Awareness Month Connecticut epi manm Komite Konsiltatif Akademi Kreyòl Ayisyen an.

Pascale travay ak anpil atis nan pou fè pwomosyon lang ak kilti Peyi Ayiti ak zouti kiltirèl tankou festival liv, konferans, pwezi, ekspozisyon atizana, kou penti, kou kreyòl, konkou, defile mòd, manje ayisyen, elatriye. Pascale kontinye ap travay danble ak jenn kou timounn nan diaspora a ak lespwa pou li grave richès kilti Peyi Ayiti nan kè yo.

Pascale Millien-Faustin se fondatè Éditions Anglade, li otè Seri Liv Eli, Ann Aprann Ansanm ak Tim Tim Jaden Kreyasyon.

Meet Other Inspiring Exhibitors  
Bringing the Essence of Haiti to our  
Community!



Image source: <https://www.thoughtco.com/geography-and-overview-of-haiti-1434973>

## Carmina Mevs Laitmart Farm



Being featured at this year's festival is *C-Pique*, an all-natural hot sauce made of peppers grown at the Laitmart farm. Laitmart is a fruit and vegetable farm located 70 miles from Port-au-Prince in Marmont, Hinche, in the central area of Haiti.

Laitmart was founded and established in 2000 by Franz Mevs, and began operations in 2001. In 10 years, he produced more than 14 varieties of fruits and vegetables. Laitmart covers over 200 acres and employs modern farming techniques. Franz created an artificial lake to store rainwater and introduced the drip irrigation system to overcome the naturally dry climate of the region.

Laitmart supplies restaurants, hotels, the marketplaces of Port-au-Prince and its surrounding areas, thereby supporting the development of tourism in Haiti. Everything is 100% organic, free range, and GMO free, and the three main focuses of the farm are responsible farming, environment preservation, and community outreach. The farm's main goal has always been to develop the land and create profitability for the people of the region, as well as protecting the environment.



## Jennifer Berkemeier Avek Ou

Jennifer Berkemeier is the Founder and President of Avek Ou ("with you" in Haitian Creole), a nonprofit that supports the FEJI youth transition home in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The children at Avek Ou have been placed there because they have no other place to go, and are typically escaping homelessness, abusive situations, trafficking, and gang activity.

They are placed there by the IBESR / Haitian social services in collaboration with our local Haitian Directors. These children, ages 6-16, receive basic medical care, education, food/nutrition, security/safety, and life opportunities, with the ultimate goal of social reintegration (placing them within a stable, supportive, permanent family situation). Our home also offers art and education opportunities to children in the surrounding community, giving them access to learning and knowledge that they otherwise would not have.



"Imagine if everyone in the world had access to opportunity" is our favorite inspirational idea. Together, with our loyal donors and followers, we are building a community of hope and strength in Haiti, one child at a time.

<https://www.avekou.org/>

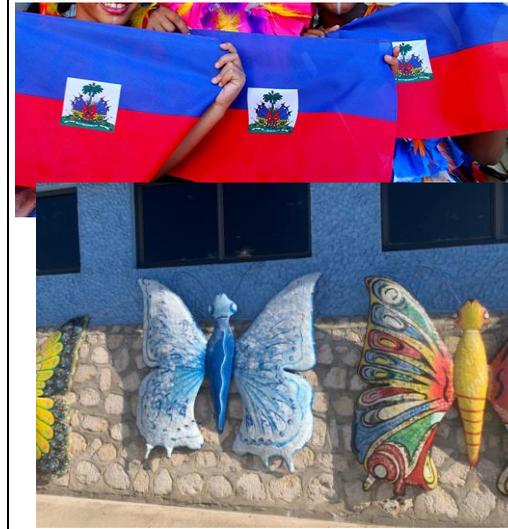
# Carline Dugué

My name is Carline Dugue and I am a first-year medical student at Wayne State University School of Medicine. In 2009, I first came to the United States to pursue my undergraduate degree in chemistry at Kalamazoo College. I graduated in 2013 and returned to Haiti to pioneer a peace project in the orphanage I was raised in.

Ever since I lost my father at a young age to a preventable disease and witnessed others from my community succumbing to similar illnesses, I have made myself a promise to become a doctor so I can help heal, educate, and train community members about such preventable conditions and how to stay healthy.

I also have a strong passion for learning about hair and skin-related conditions that affect black sisters and that has been the inspiration behind my new company Marabou International. The company's goals are to empower black women, support Haitian farmers, and encourage Haiti's prodiksyon nasyonal.

Currently, I make hair treatments with lwil maskriti and ayurvedic herbs to combat hair loss as well as soap that helps common skin issues experienced by black women. Here is a link to our website: <https://marabouinternational.com/bio>.



## Ayiti Cheri!



