

Marquise M. McGriff, M.A.

Founder/Executive Developer of Club 1964, Inc.



Marquise is the Founder and Executive Developer of Club 1964, Inc., a Public Charitable 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization that advocates for Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCUs) through academic, social, and professional ventures that recruit scholars, develop leaders, and educate advocates. To date, the organization has Members ranging from HBCU Students and Alumni to Administrative Faculty and Staff across 20 states.

Marquise attended Florida Memorial University – the birthplace of the National Negro Anthem, “*Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing*” – where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Criminal Justice in July 2016. During his short but fruitful two-year matriculation, Marquise left no stone unturned; he served his institution locally, nationally, and internationally – most prominently as Freshman Class President, White House HBCU All-Star Student Ambassador, and as a Campus Ally on a Mission Trip to Israel. He was also the catalyst in establishing the FMU GRE Fee Reduction Waiver to assist graduating seniors with applying for graduate school.

In August 2016, Marquise started his Master of Arts (M.A.) in Higher Education at Lincoln University of Missouri. The program, with an emphasis in HBCU Leadership, is the first and only of its kind in the nation and Marquise was not only the youngest student in the inaugural cohort but one of the few to finish the pilot year at just twenty-one years old – an incredible feat for someone once labeled a “troubled child.” During his studies, Marquise was a Graduate Assistant in the Office of Student Development and Conduct. In August 2017, he was promoted from Graduate Assistant to Coordinator, joining the Staff as the Judicial Affairs Officer. In January 2018, he also joined the Faculty as an Adjunct Instructor and taught the Academic and Lifelong Success course.

In May 2018, he returned to Florida to bring his education experience and skills back home. Since returning, he has expanded his education portfolio to include international education. He was a founding Campus Coordinator, Program Coordinator, and University Guidance Advisor for Amerigo Education – an international education startup where he directly oversaw high school students from Brazil, China, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Russia, Spain, Ukraine, and Vietnam.

In April 2020, Marquise shifted full attention to developing the organization and is currently working with the organization’s newly appointed Trustees, Visitors, and Peers to reposition the organization to be a leading force in HBCU advocacy, education access, racial equity, and social justice. Amidst the ebb and flow of relaunching an evolving organization while navigating a global pandemic, Marquise found the time to self-publish his first children’s book, “The Dad I Had,” a book for kids and dads based on his relationship with his own father.

Marquise serves on the Board of Trustees for the National Association for the Preservation of African-American History & Culture (NAPAAHC) and the founding Advisory Board for the Florida Memorial University Social Justice Institute. He is also an Honorary Staff Member of the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges & Universities (WHIHBCU), the first-ever Vice President for Young Alumni Development of the Florida Memorial University National Alumni Association (FMUNAA), and an AmeriCorps Alumnus. He has completed educational and leadership fellowships in Miami with Breakthrough Miami, in Atlanta with the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame (NBCA), in New Orleans with Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCF), and in Washington, D.C. with United Negro College Fund (UNCF) and the Walton Family Foundation. He is an active member of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) and a registered Red Cross Volunteer certified in Disaster Preparedness. Marquise has spoken at the White House, been interviewed by CNN and the South Florida Times, cited in The Chronicle of Higher Education, published on HBCU Digest, and he’s visited 30 (and still counting) HBCU Campuses.

Connect with Marquise on LinkedIn at: [linkedin.com/in/marquisemcgriff/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/marquisemcgriff/)

Club 1964, Inc. - A Public Charitable 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization - Founded March 5, 2015

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