



Russell A. Hicks

Russell A. Hicks is a passionate business leader, committed educator and visionary for sustainable impact in communities around the world. Mr. Hicks is a social entrepreneur, and teaches social entrepreneurship to youth in order to deliver 21st Century skill-sets, business planning and the triple bottom –line business model (People, Place and Profit). He serves as owner and C.E.O. of Ebony Suns Enterprises, LLC, a sustainable consulting business that provides program development for schools and non-profit organizations and project management for emerging private-sector companies in the green economy.

Russell A. Hicks, originally from Chicago IL, graduated from Howard University in Washington DC with a B.B.A. in Business Management. Russell A. Hicks has over 15 years of experience in economic development and education. He has developed a brand for granting

students with access to higher education and connecting entrepreneurs to professional resources. His expertise includes business consulting, strategic planning, fundraising, accounting, leadership training and mentoring youth. Russell A. Hicks has trained over 500 youth, and served adult entrepreneurs in cities that include Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, Chicago, Atlanta, Washington DC, and throughout Greater Philadelphia.

His vested interest and future plans are in philanthropy, international business, real estate investment, and economic development projects in under-served communities in the United States and developing countries. He is initiating a social media website at www.ebonysuns.com, where youth and adult members have access to online classes, e-commerce, and crowd-sourcing opportunities for values-driven projects and sustainable ventures.

Russell Hicks recently was named one of Philadelphia's Most Innovative Entrepreneurs by the Philadelphia Daily News/Inquirer and one of Philadelphia's Most Influential 10 People to Watch Under the Age of 40 by the Philadelphia Tribune. His business, Ebony Suns Enterprises, LLC was awarded a \$20,500 grant from the Knight Foundation for Black Male Engagement in 2012. Mr. Hicks served as a Legislative Fellow in 2013 and is President of the Board of Partners of the Americas, Pennsylvania-Bahia Chapter.

He currently mentors over 30 youth entrepreneurs on a rotating basis through various green industry sectors that include eco-tourism, sustainable real estate, organic apparel design and merchandising.

Russell Hicks is also founder and head designer of Ebony Suns Fashions. Ebony Suns Fashions is a sustainable apparel company that provides organic designer lines to retailers and wholesalers online. Ebony Suns Fashions is a visual forum for art and culture and a vehicle for social entrepreneurship for youth via fashion and multimedia. The company serves as an industry source for cultural lifestyle apparel by empowering young industry professionals through fashion show fundraisers and plans for a design and distribution center.

Awards and Accomplishments

- Having over 15 years of performing arts and event coordination experience. He taught jazz, modern, tap, tumbling, hip hop and house dance to youth at Stairway to the Stars, located in the Chicago-land area, and assisted in the costuming and coordination of annual dance productions.
- Completed training classes at the Garment Industry Development Corporation and the M Shop in New York and basic sewing and design at Whitney M. Young High School.
- Assisted in the production and promotion of various fashion shows and theatre/dance performances while attending Whitney M. Young High School and Howard University.
- Served as Vice President of The Entrepreneurial Society, a student organization at the School of Business at Howard University for two years. Also, he was Human Resources Director of The Chicago Peoples Union at Howard University.
- Recognized as a “Future Leader of America” in a graduation video displayed at Howard University’s Milestone Ceremony at graduation in 2000.
- Committee member for the City of Philadelphia’s Minority Enterprise Development (M.E.D.) Week held in October 2003 and 2004 at non-profit organizations across Philadelphia.
- Certified National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) Instructor in 2004.
- Organizer for the 5th Minority Business Plan Competition in 2005 at The Enterprise Center in Philadelphia.
- Urban League of Philadelphia Leadership Forum Graduate of 2007.
- United Way Young Leaders Program Graduate for Board Training in 2007.
- American Cities Foundation Award for “Men Making A Difference” in 2007.
- Member of the Cambridge Who’s Who and the Philadelphia 12 Club professional networking groups
- Member of the Mayor’s Commission on African and Caribbean Immigrant Affairs in Philadelphia and its Business and Trade Committee.
- Board Member of the Young Friends Society of African Diaspora Institutions and Job Jump Starters for Teens from 2006-2008.
- Community College of Philadelphia’s New Choices New Options Community Leadership Award in May 2009.
- Young Entrepreneurship & Small Business Ambassador for Levantamos in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil in November 2009, and Business Leadership Representative in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil in November 2011 with Partners of the Americas, Pennsylvania/Bahia Chapter.
- Economic Co-Chair of 100 Black Men Philadelphia Chapter from 2009-2012.
- Planning Committee for the Sustainable Business Network of Greater Philadelphia’s Social Venture Institute Conference 2009-2012, serving as Co-Chair in 2010.
- Winner of 2012 Black Male Engagement (BME) Award from the Knight Foundation for \$20,500.

Ebony Suns Enterprises, LLC



***“Your Source for
Sustainable Business
Consulting”***

Company Bio

Mission: Ebony Suns Enterprises, LLC provides sustainable business consulting for emerging companies and program development for schools, churches and non-profit organizations.

Vision: To become a global leader for economic development in urban communities via micro-financing and social entrepreneurship programming that equip youth and youth adults with 21st Century skills and the resources to create wealth in order to impact their families and the communities in which they live.

C.E.O. and Principal Consultant: Russell A. Hicks serves as lead consulting partner and facilitator of client's success.

Products: The consulting and training programs ES Enterprises, LLC offer its clients are modeled to deliver measurable outcomes, 21st Century skill-sets, and provide wealth creation vehicles on-site and online through sustainable programming, revenue sharing opportunities, and social media/e-commerce. All products incorporate values-driven business principles and intergenerational professional development centered on leadership, mentorship and business ownership.

Program scope and locations can be customized per contracts with non-profit organizations, churches or schools. As an additional resource, prerequisite or follow-up courses and industry-specific workshops are also available on-site and online via www.ebonysuns.com

Partner Organizations, Schools and Churches: Established reputation and relationships with The Enterprise Center (YES/PGP/CDC), West Philadelphia Financial Services Institution, Opportunity Industrialization Corporation (OIC) of America, Upstart Legal, 100 Black Men Philadelphia, Urban League of Philadelphia, Youth Angel Scholars, Christian Men, Inc, Center of Peace Church, Enon Tabernacle, Sharon Baptist, Saint Martin Porres in Chicago;

United Way, Partners of the Americas, Mayors Commission of African and Caribbean Immigrant Affairs, Haitian Professionals of Philadelphia, The E3 Centers (Education, Employment, Empowerment), The Kappa House, Travels Aids Family Homeless Shelter, Life Outside The Streets, College Bound, Amir Shiraz, Inc, Career Consciousness, Sneaker VILLA, World Ventures, Organo Gold, Legal Shield, Prudential Financial;

Howard University, Community College of Philadelphia, Temple University, University of Pennsylvania, Drexel University, Cheney University, Germantown High School, Freedom Charter Schools, Universal Communities Schools, Mastery Charters Schools, and Communities in Schools.

Pricing Structure: Standard consulting fees are \$150 per hour for workshops, strategic planning sessions, project management and program administration. Eight-week social entrepreneurship program curriculum and implementation cost \$5,000. Monthly payment arrangements can be customized to fit the client's need and budget for programs. Negotiations for comprehensive programming and ala carte industry services are based on project scope and long-term contracts, per organization.

Also, ask about annual memberships at www.ebonysuns.com for individuals and organizations.

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Russell A. Hicks of Ebony Suns Enterprises, LLC Impact Youth Through Social Media and Entrepreneurship

PHILADELPHIA—Russell A. Hicks is a social entrepreneur, and teaches social entrepreneurship to youth in schools, churches, and non-profit organizations. Mr. Hicks is lead mentor and facilitator of OIC of America’s Future Leaders Advancing Self Help (F.L.A.S.H.) program, captured on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b5WgKB-Hrv8>. He also serves as co-chair of Economic Development with 100 Black Men of Philadelphia.

His business, Ebony Suns Enterprises, LLC was recently awarded \$20,500 from the Knight Foundation through the Black Male Engagement Challenge in 2012. He also was recognized by The Philadelphia Tribune as Philadelphia’s Most Influential 10 People to Watch Under 40 and was named one of Philadelphia’s Most Innovative Entrepreneurs by the Philadelphia Daily News/Inquirer in 2013.

Through his consulting practice that he delivers on-site and online, his leverage is providing a triple bottom line to his clients and web-site members, and helping them turn their network into their net-worth. Ebony Suns is committed to delivering sustainable solutions to socio-economic issues that pledge urban cities like Philadelphia. Mr. Hicks believes that when there are no jobs available in local communities, you must create jobs for yourself and others to grow and sustain wealth.

“In a green economy, ‘going green’ means more than recycling and doing good things for the environment. It is the application of core values and the principles of business entrepreneurship—including risk-taking and ingenuity—to social causes. It can be defined as the Triple Bottom Line – ‘People, Place, and Profit.’

“Social entrepreneurship is the work of a social entrepreneur. A social entrepreneur is an entrepreneur who engages in business seeking both financial and social return. Going ‘green’ means making ‘green’ while doing good with your ‘green,’” says Hicks, a Chicago native, who received a B.B.A in Business Administration from Howard University in 2000 and was selected as a “Future Leader of America.”

Russell A. Hicks is owner and operator of Ebony Suns Enterprises, LLC. Please visit the website www.ebonysuns.com for more insight to the light.

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Press Acknowledges in 2012

- The Philadelphia Tribune “Social Media Entrepreneur Helps Young Men Succeed” article in Business Section on January 31, 2012 issue



<http://www.phillytrib.com/businessarticles/item/2538-social-media-entrepreneur-helps-young-men-succeed.html#itemCommentsAnchor>

- The Philadelphia Examiner “Interview with Russell Hicks – Transforming Communities Through Entrepreneur” article on February 21, 2012 issue
<http://www.examiner.com/article/interview-with-russell-hicks-transforming-communities-with-entrepreneurship>
- The City Papers’ “A Million Stories” article in the April 19, 2012 issue
<http://www.citypaper.net/news/2012-04-19-philadelphia-voting-machines.html>
- Howard University Magazine feature in Summer 2012 edition, on page 28
www.howard.edu/howardmag/pdf/HowardMag_Summer_2012.pdf
- Collaborate Blog Site’s “PHILLY STUDENTS ORGANIZE FLASH MOB IN WEST PHILLY – OVER 50 IN ATTENDANCE, NO ARREST” ARTICLE
<http://collaboratephilly.com/profiles/blogs/philly-students-organize-flash-mob-in-west-philly-over-50-in>
- The Philadelphia Tribune’s Philadelphia’s Most Influential Award for 10 People to Watch Under 40



<http://issuu.com/phillytrib/docs/mostinfluential>

- Mt Airy Times Express, edition of the West Oak Lane Leader, page 7, October 5, 2012 issue (Philadelphia)