



# A Letter from the Founder of Saving Ourselves Symposium

## *Marvell L. Terry II*

Greetings:

For the first time, I am welcoming you to the annual Saving Ourselves Symposium as an onlooker and participant. A participant that happens to be the founder and curator of this sacred space and not the host.

In reflection, vision can happen with or without you. I had a vision, I carried it out to the best of my ability, and I knew when it was time to pass it on. In all of our work, may we have the wisdom and foresight to know when it's time to allow someone else to carry your vision forward. The Southern AIDS Coalition has attempted to keep the original flavor of the conference, while also adding their UNIQUE spices to it – thank you SAC for your hard work on this and for honoring the original vision.

Finally, I dedicate this space to that initial Memphis planning committee that saw enough in me at 26 to follow me and support my vision. Before there were rideshares, committee members gave so much of themselves by picking people up from the airport and ensuring people felt welcomed -thank you. Thank you to those community members that carpoled and showed up everywhere when I was the host. Finally, to my mother, thank you for pushing me to be bold and better; not perfect, but better.

Sincerely,



**Marvell L. Terry II**