



## Board Members

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May 9, 2024

Dear Heart & Soul community,

It is with great sadness that I inform you that Heart & Soul's Executive Director Ophelia Mattox passed away suddenly on Tuesday, May 7.

Ophelia's light, humor, vision, skill, and dedication carried Heart & Soul forward since she joined the organization in August 2022. Her leadership inspired us to explore new ideas for the future and to connect deeply with each other in the present. Our hearts are shocked and aching as we come to terms with this unexpected loss.

Though hurting, the Heart & Soul community will come together to carry Ophelia's legacy forward. Programming will resume on Monday, May 13. Until early June, the Heart & Soul management team (Amaal, Brenda, Ebony, Luz, and Patrice) will run the organization as the board identifies the next steps. We are fortunate the management team members have both the skill and the willingness to helm the ship through these unfamiliar waters.

At this time, Ophelia's loved ones have requested privacy. She is survived by her husband, son, mother, siblings, and a large community of friends, coworkers, and other community members touched by her light. We hope we can all allow those closest to her the space to grieve privately.

Aligned with our organization's values, Ophelia was so clear about the importance of wellness and community. Please lean into our community for support. In the face of this terrible loss, we hope you will remember and use the tools that support your wellness. To remember Ophelia together, please feel welcome to join the Wednesday, May 15 Virtual Drop-In hours via Zoom or reach out to our management team. We plan to celebrate Ophelia's life in-person and will notify the community when that event is scheduled.

Our strength is in our community and our connection. Today, I am thinking of Ophelia's hope for the future, of all the things she aspired to do and all the dreams she had already made real. I hope you will make time to remember Ophelia with us and celebrate the big and small joys she brought into your life. May we all live with the same purpose and compassion she embodied each day.

Sending you each warmth and care in this difficult time.

With my deepest condolences,

Briana Evans  
President  
Heart & Soul Board

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