



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **MISS BLACK OREGON PARTNERS WITH LOCAL KOMEN AFFILIATE ON AFRODITE, A BREAST CANCER EDUCATION EVENT**

**June 24, 2019, Portland, OR** – *Afrodite*, being held on Wednesday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, is an event intended to uplift the African American professional community regarding breast cancer awareness, research, and volunteerism, in collaboration with the platform of Miss Black Oregon US Ambassador 2019. The theme is a play on words, uplifting the African American woman, breast cancer survivor, and professional as a supreme being that is involved in the fight against this healthcare issue in the African American community.

Arya Morman, Miss Black Oregon US Ambassador 2019, first approached the local affiliate of Susan G. Komen a couple of months ago. With a family history of breast cancer, she wanted to find a way to share with her community of young African American professionals what she has learned about the disease and supporting those closest to her. Komen jumped at the opportunity to co-host an event with her and Rooted, Inc. “Arya’s family story is compelling and her enthusiasm for this topic is contagious. We are excited to help her share information about breast cancer with her community,” remarked Cindy Fletcher, director of programs at Susan G. Komen Oregon & SW Washington.

Arya Morman chimed in with, “I am so grateful to have the opportunity to share my Rooted healthcare passions with Susan G. Komen Oregon & SW Washington. It is our shared vision that aligns our efforts. I am looking forward to connecting all healthcare communities and communities of color with the Action pillar and work towards achieving the bold goal to reduce the number of breast cancer deaths by 50% by 2026.”

*Afrodite* is being held at Century Bar, from 6:30-8:30 pm, on Wednesday, July 10<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome! Pastor Renee Ward, herself a survivor of triple negative breast cancer, will moderate a panel of experts that include, from Legacy Health, Dr. Nathalie Johnson and Dr. Cynthia Aks, and, from OHSU Knight Cancer Institute, Dr. Gordon Mills. The panelists will talk about their respective roles in the breast cancer journey, clinical trials, and how community members can be engaged and learn more.

Registration is free but requested in advance. Those who register online prior to the event will receive a raffle ticket for premium-level raffle prizes. Find more information and register online at [komenoregon.org/afrodite](http://komenoregon.org/afrodite).

**Photo attached. Suggested caption:**

- Arya Morman, Miss Black Oregon US Ambassador 2019, with the Susan G. Komen Oregon & SW Washington team.

**About the Miss Black Teen US and Miss Black US Scholarship Pageant**

The Miss Black International Pageant, formally Miss Black US Ambassador Pageant, is a program of Ambassadors of Change Inc., which exist to give a once in a lifetime opportunity to black women globally. These women are a rising voice in the community that seeks to make a difference, by providing educational forums and events that focus on health disparities, poverty, violence and major issues plaguing black women of the diaspora globally. They are role models not only for young black women but to all women around the world. Ambassadors of Change partner with key political figures and international initiatives to bring support to their efforts and platforms. To learn more about the pageant and how to support our state contestant visit:

[www.thembiapageant.com/product-page/arya-morman-miss-oregon](http://www.thembiapageant.com/product-page/arya-morman-miss-oregon)

**About Susan G. Komen Oregon and SW Washington**

In 27 years, the local organization has funneled \$19.7 million into programs that prioritize the importance of improving and building on the quality of life for survivors, emphasize the value of early detection and screenings, as well as financial assistance for access to treatment. Another \$12.4 million has been dedicated to local cutting-edge research. More information is available at [komenoregon.org](http://komenoregon.org).

**About Susan G. Komen**

Susan G. Komen is the world's largest breast cancer organization, funding more breast cancer research than any other nonprofit, outside of the US government, while providing real-time help to those facing the disease. Nationally, since its founding in 1982, Komen has funded \$2.9 billion in funding to research, screening, education, treatment and psychosocial support programs serving millions of people in more than 30 countries worldwide.

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