

CA-FAM III, Incorporated

CA-FAM III, Incorporated, located Gwynn Oak, MD's Forest Park Golf Community, is a tax-exempt, 501 (c) (3) corporation dedicated to empowerment through effective use of applied technology. The company, founded in Washington, DC's Ward 7 and a former [1996 – 2001] participant with The Greater Washington Board of Trade's Community Business Partnership/Washington, DC BusinessLINC Project, specializes in technology education; technology research; digital photography and videography; the design, management and implementation of internet websites with emphasis on community history, workforce, cultural and geneological research development; and training techniques with a definitive concentration on empowering youth and other populations, in inner-city, urban communities to close the digital divide.

CA-FAM III, a not-for-profit [505(c)3] entity, was organized in 1971 and has engaged in various disciplines, over its thirty-seven (37) year history.

Some of its primary disciplines and significant outcomes include:

- ❖ Exhibition of fine arts and traditional fine-arts crafts
- ❖ Newspaper and electronic publishing
- ❖ Internet navigation disciplines
- ❖ Humanities-based projects
- ❖ Cultural arts and geneological research discipline development
- ❖ Performing arts and media presentations
- ❖ Web page design and training
- ❖ Technology-based health education presentations
- ❖ Human resource and workforce development
- ❖ Information transference and documentation; and collections preservation and management

Founded in 1973 by vernard r gray, the organization has designed and implemented several projects in Washington, DC.:

Fides House Communications Workshop [1969 – 1975]

Fides Settlement House, a neighborhood hospitality house organized by a group of Catholic University of America sociology professors and students in the 1940's, supported by the Catholic Interracial Council of the District of Columbia and run by an order of Catholic priests. Fides House provided services, assistance, and educational help to people in the Shaw neighborhood in the District of Columbia.

The Fides House Communications Workshop trained Shaw community youth in the visual arts. The first year we trained a group of older teenage youth in photography, filmmaking and the "new" portable video technology and methods of arts program management and grantsmanship. By 1971, the teenagers we training younger children, managing the programs and securing funding for their programs. During our residency at Fides House, CA-FAM III was born.

Shaw Community Documentation Project (1975 - 1976)

Our first intergenerational project – blending the elder's stories with recording skills – creative writing, photography and videography – taught to youth. Our students, also, learned how to research histories of home ownership in the Shaw community which was in its initial stages of gentrification. Elders shared their life stories connecting the youth with a historical perspective unheard of previously. The youth produced a journal, *Looking at our History*, that summer. The Shaw Community Documentation Project was an official American Bicentennial project.

Miya Gallery [1976 – 2001]

Since its 1976 beginning, the Miya Gallery has exhibited the work of more than 200 artists/craftspersons, hosted the first “Men Who Cook” fundraising activity in the District of Columbia (1982), and is generally credited with significantly popularizing the decorative natural hair (braiding) design industry in this country during the early 1980’s. The Gallery closed in August 2001 after twenty-five years of service.

Black Arts Review/Palavra [1978 – 1982]

BAR/Palavra was our initial attempt at print publishing. Based on our experiences at the Miya Gallery and our activism in cultural related activities in Washington, DC – especially the initial stages of development of the downtown governmental & business center and shopping district – we researched and published about issues of development of the individual artist and the small, non-profit organizations created by them with an activist community service agenda.

Black Family Net Project [1998 – 2002]

An annual technology literacy demonstration, organized in 1998, conducted during the annual Black Family Reunion celebration hosted by the National Council of Negro Women on the National Monument Grounds in September. Between 5,000 to 10,000 attendees visit our pavilion.

ConnectDC2000 [2000 – 2004]

An inter-generational technology project, created in 2000, linking youth between the ages of 14 and 19 with senior citizens, 60 years of age and older, from diverse geographic and socio-economic neighborhoods and communities in the District of Columbia.

Through its unique design and focus, ConnectDC2000 incorporated multi-disciplinary technology training to bridge the digital divide among these community participants. In addition, the project focused on empowering participants, through internet training, to record oral histories of the senior residents and share these stories, with the broader community in our Nation’s Capital, through the design and development of multimedia programming for the Internet. The project explored preservation issues pertaining to family collections of significant historical materials, as well.

We have recorded more than 50 oral history interviews in the Washington-Baltimore region. We have plans to digitize the collection enabling internet access to some of the material. Most of the interviewees were artists and civil rights activists.

Based on its history and performance in regional and local communities, CA-FAM III developed a wealth of corporate and community-based strategic alliances to include, but not limited to the following:

- 21st Century Expo Group
- Basic Technologies International
- Bell Atlantic / Verizon
- COVAD Communications
- Digital Freedom Institute
- Fannie Mae
- Greater Washington Board of Trade
- Information Brokers, Inc.
- Marshall Heights Community Development Organization
- Metropolitan Washington Council of Governr
- Morino Institute
- National Council for Negro Women (NCNW)
- Potomac Electric Power Company
- The Washington Informer
- UNITEES
- Washington Business Journal
- Washington Gas Company