

Sylvester Brown, Jr.

December 2014 Calendar

Sylvester Brown, Jr., founder of a nonprofit organization, freelance writer and former award-winning columnist for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, was born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri. Prior to his position with the *Post-Dispatch*, he published *Take Five Magazine*, an investigative regional publication. The publication received more than 30 awards for its investigative series, general reporting, and Mr. Brown's political and social commentaries.

In December 2004, Mr. Brown's essay "Either Way, It's Missouri" was featured in the photo/essay book *Missouri 24/7* published by DK Books. He won the 2005 Terry Hughes Writing Award from the St. Louis Newspaper Guild, and the 2007 and 2008 "Best Column Award" from the Greater St. Louis Association of Black Journalists.

After leaving the *Post-Dispatch* in 2009, Mr. Brown worked with SmileyBooks in New York and the Resolution Project, a Chicago-based nonprofit. He served as a researcher and consultant with author Tom Burrell for the book, *Brainwashed: Challenging the Myth of Black Inferiority*.

In January 2011, Mr. Brown founded When We Dream Together, Inc. (WWDT) to promote a comprehensive vision of revitalized, self-sustaining urban communities; and to provide resources necessary to empower ordinary people to implement the vision.



In the summer of 2012, WWDT and the North Area Community Development Corporation partnered to enact Mr. Brown's "Sweet Potato Project," a year-round program aimed at teaching at-risk youth "do-for-self" entrepreneurial skills.

Mr. Brown has been a guest on the "O'Reilly Factor," Tavis Smiley's syndicated radio program, and on Al Franken and Michael E. Dyson's radio shows. Mr. Brown also was featured in a July 2005 segment of ABC's "Nightline," highlighting a community forum he organized featuring comedian and philanthropist Bill Cosby.

Mr. Brown, the father of four children and grandfather of two, lives in St. Louis.