SPMG

NOVEMBER 2026 ISSUE

PEOPLE MAGAZINE



BASEBALL • BUSINESS • LEGACY

HELPING OTHER PEOPLE EXCEL

The mission behind the man

TABITHA BROWN

More Than a Lifestyle Brand

JOSÉ ANDRÉS

Food on a Mission

BO PORTER

FROM THE DUGOUT TO THE BOARDROOM

How Bo Porter Built a Business Portfolio Around People and Purpose

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SPMG MEDIA

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLISHER

Welcome to our November issue. This month, we explore the people behind the accomplishments: their purpose, their perseverance, and the opportunities they create for others.

From Bo Porter's business journey to Wes Moore's public service, these stories invite us to consider what we are building—and whom we are helping along the way.

Thank you for being part of the SPMG PEOPLE community.

Gina Smith
Publisher, SPMG Media

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Leadership. Reinvention. Family. Service.

Discover the people turning personal ambition into opportunities for others.

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From the Dugout to the Boardroom: How Bo Porter Built a Business Portfolio

BO PORTER

> *"The ventures share a purpose: creating opportunities for people to grow."*

Bo Porter spent years under the lights making decisions, developing players, and bringing teams together around a shared goal. After playing and coaching in Major League Baseball, he was named manager of the Houston Astros. At 40, he was the youngest manager in the league. Leading a major league club reinforced a lesson he would carry into business: talent alone does not build a winning team. People, preparation, and culture do.

Today, Porter applies those lessons across a business portfolio spanning education, youth development, sports training, media, and fashion. **The ventures differ in what they offer, but they share a purpose: creating opportunities for people to grow.**

That purpose began taking shape in 1998, when Porter founded Bo Porter's Future All-Stars Baseball Development Academy. Its mission, "We Develop Champions," reaches beyond the field. Through baseball, Porter teaches young athletes the value of discipline, accountability, confidence, and leadership—qualities they can carry into the classroom, their communities, and their futures.



CORE
SPORTS, FITNESS & TRAINING CENTER



BO PORTER

Porter extended that commitment to education by founding Bo Porter Academy, a faith-based, college-preparatory private school for elite baseball players. The Academy takes a holistic approach to academic and athletic excellence, developing students' skills, character, and faith alongside their education. With plans to expand into additional cities, Porter aims to give more student-athletes access to an environment that challenges them to excel in the classroom, on the field, and in life.

CORE Sports, Fitness, & Training Center adds another dimension to that work, providing a space dedicated to athletic development and training. Together with Future All-Stars, it reflects Porter's belief that potential grows through instruction, consistent effort, and access to the right environment.

> *"The Academy takes a holistic approach to academic and athletic excellence, developing students' skills, character, and faith alongside their education."*



CORE
SPORTS, FITNESS & TRAINING CENTER







Porter's vision also reaches beyond sports. As founding president and CEO of CORE Multimedia Network, he is building a platform for film production and conversations about leadership, business, sports, and life. He also hosts and executive produces The Bo Porter Show, whose podcast launch featured Roger "The Rocket" Clemens, a seven-time Cy Young Award winner and one of baseball's most accomplished pitchers. The conversation was a major hit and an early milestone for a show that brings Porter's experience as a player, coach, broadcaster, and entrepreneur to guests from different walks of life.

"The conversation was a major hit and an early milestone for a show that brings Porter's experience as a player, coach, broadcaster, and entrepreneur to guests from different walks of life."

Bo and his wife, Dr. Heather Brown Porter, an accomplished orthodontist and owner of Dr. Heather Brown Orthodontics, founded CORE Clothing Collections together. The growing brand reflects their shared vision and adds another dimension to the Porter family's business portfolio.

Porter also serves in the MLB Commissioner's Office as Director of Coaching Development. It is a role that keeps him connected to the work of developing people at the highest level of the game, even as his businesses create opportunities well beyond baseball.

CORE
SPORTS, FITNESS & TRAINING CENTER



BO PORTER

Porter ties these ventures together through HOPE: Helping Other People Excel. As a first-generation entrepreneur, he wants to create meaningful opportunities for people and communities that have too often been overlooked. Whether he is coaching an athlete, expanding a school, or building a media platform, the question driving his work remains the same: how can this help someone else move forward?

Three lessons have guided him from the dugout to the boardroom: surround yourself with great human beings, remain a continuous learner, and become obsessed with the process that leads to success. Porter sees them not as slogans, but as standards to practice every day.

For all Porter has built in baseball and business, he considers his greatest accomplishment to be his life at home: being a husband to Heather, a father to their three sons—Bryce, Jaxon, and Jace—and leading his family with the same commitment he brings to every organization he builds. To Porter, success begins with the people closest to him.

His responsibilities have changed since his days managing in the major leagues, but his measure of success has not. Through every venture he builds, Porter remains focused on developing people—and giving them the tools to become champions.

"Three lessons have guided him from the dugout to the boardroom: surround yourself with great human beings, remain a continuous learner, and become obsessed with the process that leads to success."





"Through every venture he builds, Porter remains focused on developing people—and giving them the tools to become champions."

LEGACY / LEADERSHIP / FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT

MELLODY HOBSON

A Legacy of Opening Doors

From financial uncertainty to a lifetime of expanding opportunity







> *"Help others understand money before money determines their choices."*

Long before Mellody Hobson became one of America's most influential investors, she learned what financial uncertainty felt like. Growing up on Chicago's South Side as the youngest of six children, she watched her single mother, Dorothy Ashley, navigate unpaid bills, utility shutoffs, housing insecurity and the daily calculations required to keep a family going. Those experiences did not simply shape Hobson's career. They gave her a lifelong mission: help others understand money before money determines their choices.

Her mother did not shield her from the family's difficulties. Hobson has described being included in conversations about expenses and learning early that a financial problem could not be solved by looking away. As a child, she even negotiated a payment plan for orthodontic care. The lesson was not that hardship was desirable; it was that knowledge, preparation and personal agency could create a way forward.

A LEGACY IN ACTION

- EXPANDS FINANCIAL LITERACY
- OPENS DOORS TO OPPORTUNITY
- BUILDS MORE INCLUSIVE WEALTH

Education opened another door. Hobson graduated from Princeton University in 1991 and joined Chicago-based Ariel Investments, where she had first interned while in college. Over the decades, she moved from young professional to president and, in 2019, co-chief executive officer alongside founder John W. Rogers Jr. Her ascent was remarkable in an industry where leadership and ownership have not always reflected the diversity of the people whose money is invested.

Her influence extended into some of America's most visible boardrooms. Hobson chaired DreamWorks Animation before its 2016 sale, served as chair of Starbucks and has been a director of JPMorgan Chase. Yet the larger story is not the collection of prestigious titles. It is how she has used financial expertise and institutional access to widen the circle of people who can participate in building wealth.

THE LEGACY CONTINUES

Creating wealth. *Expanding access.*

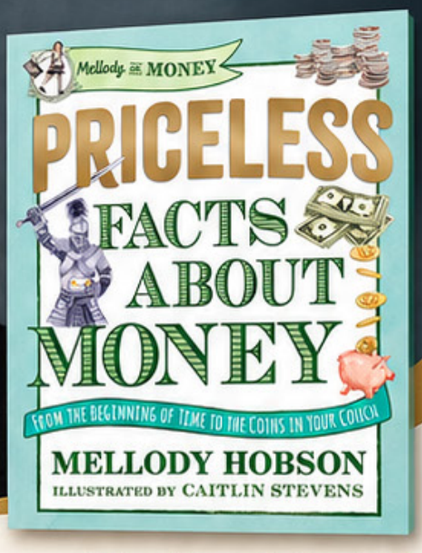
Changing what is possible.











Hobson has made financial literacy and opportunity central to her work.

That purpose is visible in Ariel Alternatives, which Hobson co-founded in 2021. Its Project Black initiative seeks to help minority-owned businesses grow into major suppliers for large corporations. The premise challenges a familiar limitation: promising companies need more than encouragement. They need capital, relationships, scale and a genuine opportunity to compete.

Hobson has also turned her attention to women's sports. She founded Project Level in 2025 to invest in a sector whose audience and commercial potential have historically outpaced its access to capital. In February 2026, Project Level announced a first close of $250 million in commitments, with investments including Denver Summit FC and League One Volleyball. For Hobson, opening the playing field is both an investment thesis and a statement about who deserves a share of future growth.

Financial literacy remains the thread connecting these ventures. Her illustrated children's book, *Priceless Facts About Money*, published in 2024, introduces young readers to the history and mechanics of money. It reflects a conviction that children should not have to reach adulthood before learning how spending, saving, credit and ownership work. Hobson has said she teaches her daughter, Everest, about everyday costs and financial choices—without wanting her to inherit the fear that marked her own childhood.

Her commitment to opportunity also reaches into arts and education. Hobson is co-chair of the Lucas Museum of Narrative Art and serves with organizations devoted to learning, culture and civic life. With her husband, filmmaker George Lucas, she supports philanthropic efforts that help expand access to education. Such work suggests a definition of legacy that extends beyond personal financial achievement: what resources, institutions and possibilities remain available to others because someone chose to build them?

In interviews, Hobson has spoken about coming to understand her mother's struggles with compassion, recognizing both the pain of those early years and the resilience they helped cultivate. That complexity makes her story more powerful. She does not romanticize insecurity; she works to make financial knowledge and economic opportunity more accessible.

Mellody Hobson's legacy is still unfolding. It can be seen in the businesses she helps grow, the young readers she introduces to financial literacy, the institutions she serves and the doors she works to open. Her journey from uncertainty to influence is a reminder that success matters most when it becomes a foundation on which others can build.

> *"Success matters most when it becomes a foundation on which others can build."*

HER NEXT FINISH LINE IS OWNERSHIP

How Allyson Felix turned a legendary athletic career into advocacy, entrepreneurship, and a new vision of power.





BY THE NUMBERS

- **11** Olympic medals
- **20** World Championship medals
- **Co-founder, Saysh** (2021–present)
- **IOC member** (2024–present)
- **USOPC Hall of Fame, Class of 2025**

Allyson Felix spent most of her life chasing time. The fractions of a second that decide medals one of the most accomplished athletes in the history of track and field. Across five Olympic Games and years of world championships, Felix built a record that stands as one of the sport's great monuments: 11 Olympic medals and 20 World Championship medals. She won with elegance, longevity, and discipline, moving from the 200 meters to the 400 and anchoring relay teams with the calm of a champion who understood both pressure and purpose.

But records, as lasting as they seem, do not tell the whole story. Felix's next act has been shaped less by the medals she collected than by the questions she began asking about power, protection, and who gets to own the future of women's sports.

Motherhood sharpened those questions. In 2018, Felix experienced severe preeclampsia and delivered her daughter via an emergency C-section. As she fought to return to world-class competition, she also spoke publicly about maternity protections after contract negotiations with her longtime sponsor revealed how vulnerable even the most decorated women athletes could be. Felix did more than defend her own value. She helped force a wider conversation about how women are treated when life, family, and career intersect.

> *"Felix understood that influence is important, but ownership can be transformative."*

That fight changed the direction of her career. Felix understood that influence is important, but ownership can be transformative. In 2021, she co-founded Saysh with her brother and business partner, Wes Felix, to build a women's specific footwear brand centered on performance, design, and the real needs of women. At the Tokyo Olympics, she raced in Saysh spikes, proving that the move from endorser to owner was not symbolic. It was operational, visible, and bold.

The shift matters because ownership changes the questions. Instead of asking whether women will be accommodated, Felix is helping design the standards herself. Saysh was created for women's feet, women's lives, and women's ambitions. From product development to brand message, the company reflects the idea that women should not have to squeeze themselves into systems that were never built with them in mind. For Felix, business is not a detour from legacy. It is legacy in motion.

Continued on page 11. »

Continued from page 10 »

BUILDING BEYOND THE TRACK

OWNERSHIP IN MOTION











THE FELIX IMPACT

- Co-founder, Saysh
- IOC member since 2024
- Most decorated track & field athlete



That philosophy can be seen in the details. Saysh's maternity returns policy acknowledges that pregnancy can change a woman's shoe size and responds with flexibility rather than penalty. It is a simple idea, but it carries the imprint of Felix's larger worldview: products and policies should respect women as whole people. The same belief that made her challenge inequity in sport now shapes the culture she is building as an entrepreneur.

Felix's life after retirement has become an exercise in expanding the lane for others. She serves on the Team USA Athletes' Commission and became an IOC member in 2024, extending her voice into the governance of sport. She is also using her platform as an investor, advocate, and founder to support women beyond the finish line. In every role, the emphasis is remarkably consistent: create structures that do not simply celebrate excellence, but sustain it.

There is also a deeply personal dimension to that vision. Felix often speaks about being a mother as central to the way she now defines success. Her family with husband Kenneth Ferguson and their children has given her a wider lens on achievement, one that values health, presence, and the freedom to build a life on her own terms. That perspective has made her business choices feel less like a pivot and more like a continuation of everything she represented on the track: preparation, courage, and grace under pressure.

> *"She is turning experience into infrastructure, advocacy into ownership, and personal victory into collective possibility."*

For years, Allyson Felix's greatness was measured in medals. Today, it is also measured in what she is building. She is turning experience into infrastructure, advocacy into ownership, and personal victory into collective possibility. Her next finish line is not a tape stretched across a stadium. It is a future in which more women create, lead, own, and profit from what they make. And in that race, Felix may be just getting started.

ACTRESS
AUTHOR
CHEF
ENTREPRENEUR
INFLUENCER
BRAND BUILDER

Building a Brand by Being Yourself

How Tabitha Brown Turned Authenticity, Purpose and Plant-Based Living Into a Powerful and Inspiring Brand



Tabitha Brown has a way of making people feel seen, encouraged and uplifted. With her signature phrase "Hello, friends!" and a message rooted in joy, faith and kindness, she has built more than a following – she has created a brand that reflects who she truly is.

What began as a viral video in 2020, in which Brown shared her enthusiasm for a plant-based sandwich, quickly grew into a national platform. Her warmth, humor and genuineness crepıaned with millions, opening doors to television, books, partnerships and her own product lines.



> *"I just want to be a blessing and show people that you can live a happy, healthy and purposeful life by being yourself."*
>
> — TABITHA BROWN

The Business of Being Tabitha

Brown has expanded her platform into a multi-faceted business that aligns with her values. She is the author of several bestselling books, including *Feeding the Soul (Because It's My Business)* and *I Did a New Thing*, which combine recipes, life lessons and practical encouragement.

Her food, lifestyle and wellness brand includes partnerships with major retailers and her own hair care line, Donna's Recipe, which she created in honor of her mother. The vegan, moisturizing products celebrate natural hair and self-care, continuing Brown's mission of helping people look and feel their best.

Brown also hosts a cooking show, has voiced characters in family programming and frequently speaks on well-being, intention and the power of positive living.







Love, Faith Family & Legacy

A Strong Foundation

At the center of Brown's success is her family, especially her 20-plus-year marriage to her husband, Chance Brown. The two met in high school, and Brown often shares that her mother predicted she would marry Chance. Today, she describes him as her best friend, biggest supporter and a key part of her journey.

More Than a Brand



For Brown, success is not just about business — it's about impact. Through her work, she encourages healthier living, financial wellness, self-love and a lifestyle rooted in joy. She uses her platform to remind people that they can make positive changes, no matter where they are in life.

The Legacy She's Building



Tabitha Brown's legacy is still in motion, but its foundation is clear: authenticity creates opportunity. By showing up as her true self, she has built a brand that uplifts, inspires and opens doors for others to do the same.

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FROM PHILLY ROOTS TO A NATIONAL BRAND

A Father's Name, A Son's Vision

How Derrick Hayes Turned Love, Legacy and Philly Flavor Into a National Cheesesteak Brand



For Derrick Hayes, Big Dave's Cheesesteaks is more than a restaurant — it's a tribute. The Atlanta-based entregreneur founded the fast-growing cheeessteak chain in honor of his late father, "Big Dave," whose work ethic, generosity and belief in people continue to fuel his mission.

Today, Hayes is the founder and CEO of Big Dave's Cheesesteaks, a brand known for authentic Philly-style cheeesteaks, bold flavors and a community-first mindset. With 12 locations and an ambitious plan to expand to 200 across the United States by 2030, Hayes is proving that purpose and profit can go hand in hand.

A Legacy on a Roll



The idea for Big Dave's came from a deeply personal place. Hayes wanted to create something that honored his father's name and the values he lived by — hard work, service to others and a commitment to family.

"This brand is my way of keeping my father's legacy alive," Hayes says. "He taught me what it means to work, to provide and to take care of people. Big Dave's is about more than food — it's about family, community and opportunity."



More Than a Restaurant

Big Dave's Cheeseteaks has quickly become a favorite for its signature cheesesteaks, fresh ingredients and welcoming atmosphere.

But for Hayes, the business is also a platform for impact. He is passionate about creating jobs, mentoring young entrepreneurs and investing in the communities where Big Dave's operates.

"We're building more than restaurants," he says. "We're building opportunities for people to grow, learn and be part of something bigger than themselves."

A National Vision

With a clear growth strategy and a loyal customer base, Hayes is focused on taking Big Dave's Cheessteaks nationwide. The goal is to reach 200 locations by 2030, bringing the brand's authentic Philly flavor and community-driven model to cities across the country.

"We're just getting started," Hayes says. "The vision is bigger than me. It's about creating a brand that lasts, that opens doors for others and that my father would be proud of."



> *"The vision is bigger than me. It's about creating a a brand that lasts."*
>
> — Derrick Hayes

The Big Picture

From a son's love and respect for his father to a business with national potential, Derrick Hayes is showing that legacy, purpose and great food can come together to build something truly lasting.



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FILM | CULTURE | VISION

Making Room for More Stories



How Ava DuVernay continues to expand the possibilities of filmmaking, justice-centered storytelling, and space for voices too often pushed to the margins.

Ava DuVernay has never waited for permission to tell a story. Long before she became one of the most influential directors in contemporary film, she was building a career in public relations, shaping narratives from the outside while quietly preparing to create her own. That path gave her an unusual vantage point: she understood both the machinery of media and the importance of who gets to stand behind the camera.

Her breakthrough came with *Middle of Nowhere*, which made history when DuVernay became the first Black woman to win the U.S. dramatic directing prize at Sundance. From there, she kept widening the frame. *Selma* brought fresh emotional power to the story of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the march from Selma to Montgomery, while *13th* fused history, policy and urgency in a documentary that challenged viewers to confront the architecture of mass incarceration.

What connects DuVernay's work is not genre, but purpose. She builds stories around people and institutions, asking audiences to look again at what they think they know. In her hands, cinema becomes both witness and invitation — a space to remember, to question and to imagine something better.

> "I believe that both art and justice require imagination."
>
> — Ava DuVernay



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ART | IMPACT | OPPORTUNITY

Beyond the Frame



How Ava DuVernay built a body of work that challenges systems, opens doors and expands what stories on screen can do.

DuVernay's influence reaches far beyond a single film. Through projects such as *When They See Us*, *Queen Sugar* and *Origin*, she has shown a remarkable ability to move between narrative drama, historical reflection and intimate character study without losing her moral center. Her work asks audiences to examine the structures around them while never losing sight of the human beings living inside those systems.

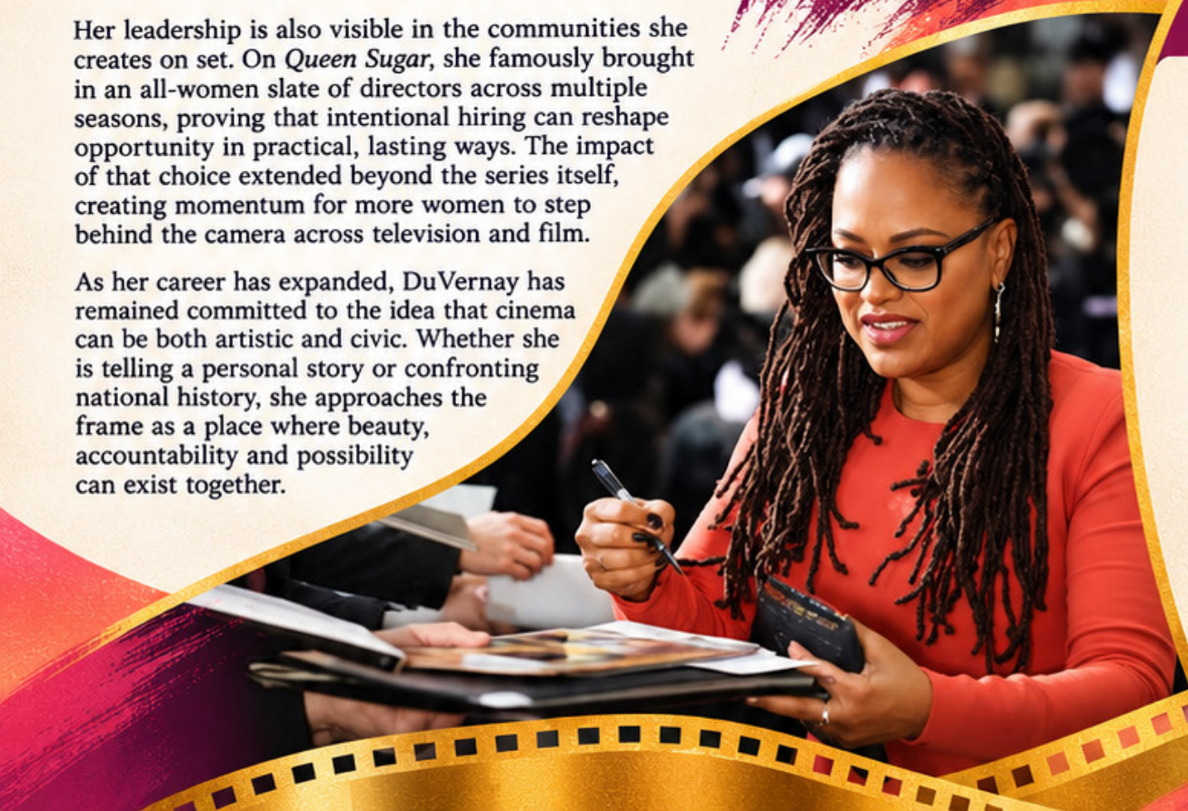
That same philosophy drives ARRAY, the narrative change collective she founded in 2011. More than a banner, ARRAY has become a platform for inclusion, advocacy and access, supporting artists whose voices have too often been overlooked in traditional film distribution and production spaces. In an industry that still narrows opportunity, DuVernay continues to make room for others by building institutions, not just credits.

Her leadership is also visible in the communities she creates on set. On *Queen Sugar*, she famously brought in an all-women slate of directors across multiple seasons, proving that intentional hiring can reshape opportunity in practical, lasting ways. The impact of that choice extended beyond the series itself, creating momentum for more women to step behind the camera across television and film.

As her career has expanded, DuVernay has remained committed to the idea that cinema can be both artistic and civic. Whether she is telling a personal story or confronting national history, she approaches the frame as a place where beauty, accountability and possibility can exist together.

> *"I'm interested in stories that insist we see each other more fully."*
> — *Ava DuVernay*





A Few Milestones

- First **Black woman** to win the U.S. dramatic directing prize at Sundance for *Middle of Nowhere*.
- *Selma* helped place her among the most influential filmmakers of her generation.
- *Queen Sugar* became the longest-running Black family drama series with 88 episodes across seven seasons.
- ARRAY continues to champion independent voices and narrative change.

The Next Chapter

DuVernay is back in the national spotlight with *14th*, her powerful documentary exploring the racial disparities in the U.S. criminal justice system. The film will screen at the San Francisco International Film Festival (SFFilm) on November 5, 2026, ahead of its theatrical release on November 27 and global debut on Netflix on December 4.

The project revisits urgent questions about incarceration, policing and the enduring impact of slavery in America — continuing DuVernay's commitment to telling stories that spark dialogue and drive change.



> *"The story of America is still unfolding, and there are more stories that deserve to be told."*
>
> — Ava DuVernay



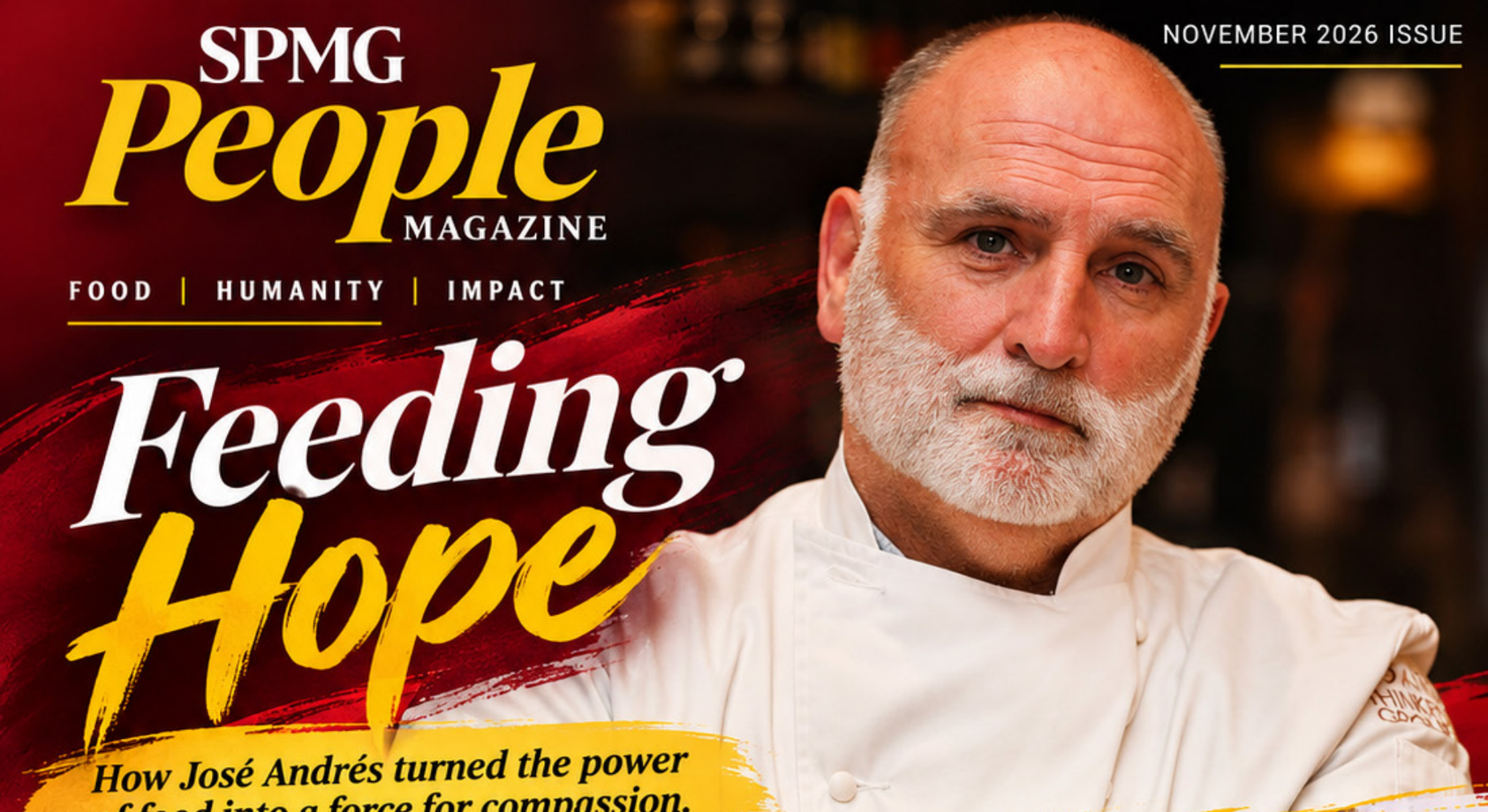
A Lasting Impact

Through film, television, mentorship and her ongoing ONWARD newsletter on Substack, DuVernay continues to inspire a new generation of storytellers. Her work is a reminder that when diverse voices are supported, the stories we see — and the world we understand — become richer, truer and more inclusive.

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FOOD | HUMANITY | IMPACT

Feeding Hope



How José Andrés turned the power of food into a force for compassion, action and global impact.

José Andrés is a celebrated chef, restaurateur, author and humanitarian whose work proves that food can do far more than satisfy hunger — it can restore dignity, bring people together and deliver urgent relief when it's needed most.

He is the founder of World Central Kitchen (WCK), a global nonprofit that describes itself as "first to the frontlines," providing meals in response to humanitarian, climate and community crises. From natural disasters at home to conflict and displacement abroad, WCK's teams continue to serve where the need is greatest, with ongoing responses including Central Florida flooding, Ukraine and Gaza.

Andrés's restaurant group also continues to grow, bringing his inventive, globally inspired cuisine to new audiences. Most recently, Bazaar Meat, his acclaimed steakhouse concept, is now open in Miami Beach, further expanding the reach of the José Andrés Group.

At the heart of it all is a clear and enduring purpose. The José Andrés Group says it believes in bringing people together through the power of food to inspire and empower change, one plate at a time — a mission that extends from its restaurants to communities around the world.

In recognition of his extraordinary humanitarian leadership, Andrés received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Joe Biden.



"Food can be a lifeline, a language and a bridge."

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FOOD | HUMANITY | IMPACT

NOVEMBER 2026 ISSUE

More Than a Chef

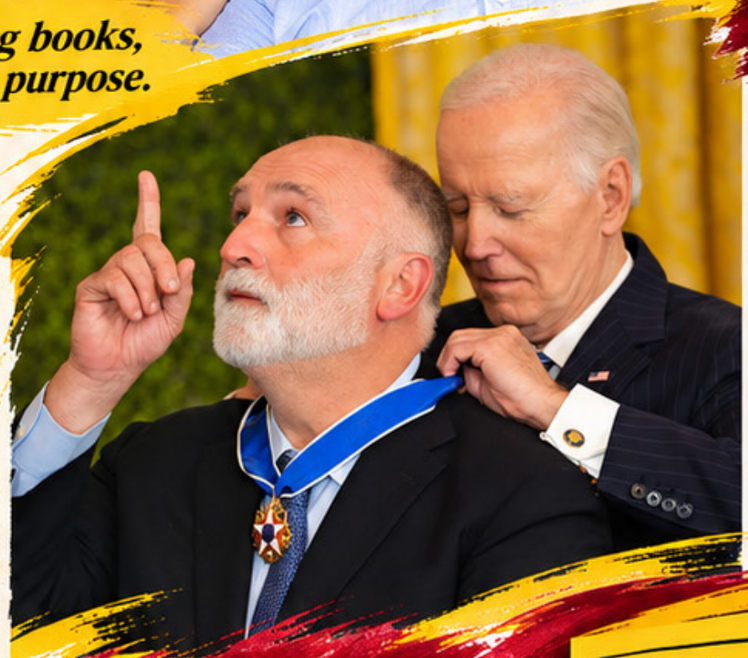
Building restaurants, writing books, speaking up, and leading with purpose.



A Lasting Influence on Dining

José Andrés's influence extends far beyond the kitchen. Through the José Andrés Group, he continues to shape contemporary dining with a bold, global perspective and a deep belief in food's power to bring people together. The restaurant group says it believes in bringing people together through the power of food to inspire and empower change, one plate at a time.

The group's momentum continues to grow: two José Andrés Group restaurants in Las Vegas recently received Michelin honors, and Bazaar Meat in Miami Beach is now open, adding a striking new chapter to its acclaimed portfolio.



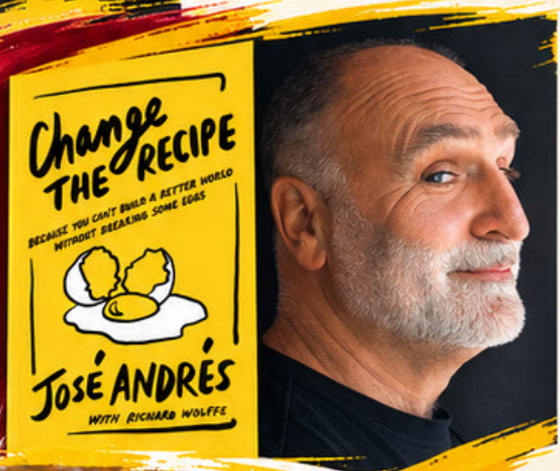
KEY MILESTONES

- TWO RESTAURANTS IN LAS VEGAS RECEIVE MICHELIN HONORS
- BAZAAR MEAT OPENS IN MIAMI BEACH
- AUTHOR OF *CHANGE THE RECIPE* AND *SPAIN MY WAY*
- AWARDED THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM

An Author and Public Voice

Andrés is also a celebrated author, including the widely read *Change the Recipe* and Spain My Way, books that blend food, travel, and a call to think more broadly about the world we share. Beyond the page, he has built a powerful public voice around generosity, curiosity, and civic engagement, urging people to stay informed, get involved, and use whatever platform they have to make a difference.

> **"Food brings people together to inspire and empower change, one plate at a time."**



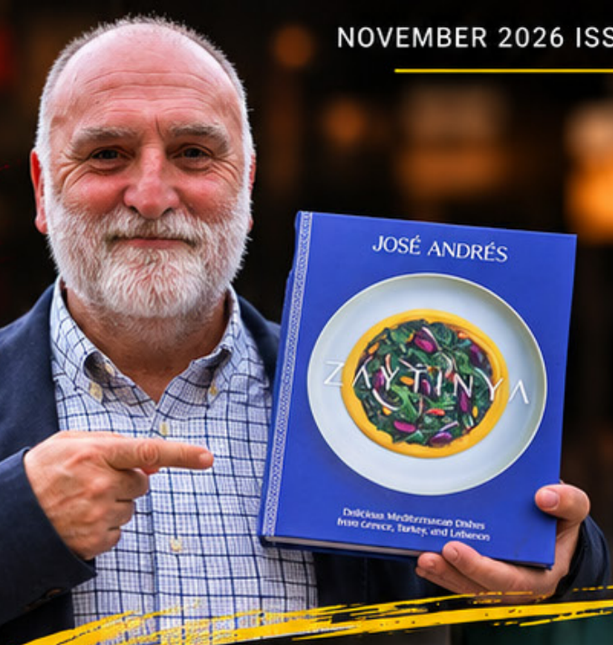
A National Honor for Humanitarian Leadership

That impact was recognized with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, which celebrated Andrés's extraordinary humanitarian leadership — from providing meals in the wake of disasters to standing with communities facing conflict, hunger, and displacement around the world.



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The Frontlines of Compassion



How José Andrés proves that food can be immediate relief, cultural connection, and lasting leadership.



First to the Frontlines

World Central Kitchen describes itself as "first to the frontlines," providing meals in response to humanitarian, climate, and community crises. Its ongoing responses, highlighted on the WCK site, include Central Florida flooding, Ukraine, and Gaza — bringing nourishment, stability, and hope when people need it most.

People Power, Real Impact

The organization is powered by supporters and volunteers around the world, a global community that turns compassion into action. José Andrés has turned emergency food relief into a model of rapid, dignified action — delivering not only meals, but also a sense of care, respect, and humanity in the hardest moments.

A Larger Legacy

Andrés' leadership is about urgency but also human connection, seeing food as a bridge across cultures, communities, and borders. His legacy joins culinary excellence with public service, showing how a chef can influence global change — on the plate, in a crisis zone, and in the lives of countless people.

> ***"Food is immediate relief, but it's also a bridge — between people, cultures, and a better future."***

Why His Story Matters Now

In a world facing more frequent crises, deeper division, and growing uncertainty, José Andrés' story is a powerful reminder of what's possible when talent, compassion, and action come together. He shows that food can feed more than hunger — it can bring people together, respond to crisis with dignity, and build a more hopeful, connected world.



Leadership, Service and the Responsibility to Deliver

WES MOORE

Maryland's 63rd Governor, Wes Moore's life story has been defined by service and opportunity.



Born in Takoma Park, Maryland, on October 15, 1978, Wes Moore's life has been a powerful testament to resilience, service and the transformational power of opportunity. After his father died when he was three, his family moved to the Bronx before returning to Maryland when he was 14—a journey that instilled in him early the values of perseverance, family and community.

Moore attended Valley Forge Military Academy and College, then earned a degree from Johns Hopkins University, where he made history as the first Black Rhodes Scholar in the university's history. He later earned a master's degree from Oxford University, deepening his commitment to leadership, service and expanding opportunity for others.

He went on to serve his country in the U.S. Army, deploying to Afghanistan with the 82nd Airborne Division, an experience that strengthened his belief in service, sacrifice and the responsibility to leave others with more opportunities than they had before.

After his military service, Moore became a bestselling author, including *The Other Wes Moore*, a groundbreaking book that explores the diverging paths of two men with the same name and the life-changing impact of opportunity, support and strong communities.

Today, as Maryland's 63rd governor and the first Black governor in the state's history, Wes Moore is turning a lifetime of experience into action—working to create a more opportunities-rich Maryland for all its people.

> "I've always believed in the power of opportunity—and in our responsibility to create it for others."



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Service, Family & Forward Motion



From the battlefield to the classroom, from nonprofit leadership to the Governor's Mansion, Wes Moore's journey is driven by service, opportunity, and the people who ground him.

Wes Moore's leadership is rooted in a lifelong commitment to service, a belief in the power of education, and a deep sense of responsibility to expand opportunity for others. From his military service to his work as an entrepreneur, nonprofit leader, best-selling author, husband, and father, Moore's journey reflects a consistent throughline: using his experiences to build a more inclusive and opportunity-rich America.



SERVICE & PURPOSE

Moore's path to public service began in the U.S. Army, where he served as a paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division, including a deployment to Afghanistan. The discipline, teamwork, and perspective he gained in uniform deeply shaped his view of leadership and responsibility. After his military service, Moore was selected as a White House Fellow, a highly competitive program that gave him a front-row seat to how policy, people, and purpose can come together to solve real challenges and create lasting impact.

> "Service has taught me that opportunity isn't a privilege for a few—it's a promise we can keep for many."

OPPORTUNITY IN ACTION

Moore has spent his career turning opportunity into action. He founded BridgeEdU, a nonprofit that helps underserved high school students navigate the transition to and through college, offering the guidance and support that can make the difference between a dream deferred and a degree earned. He later served for four years as CEO of the Robin Hood Foundation, one of the nation's most influential anti-poverty organizations, where he led a bold effort to distribute more than $600 million to programs and partners working to lift families out of poverty, expand economic mobility, and create stronger, more resilient communities.

A VOICE FOR EQUITY — AND A FAMILY AT HIS SIDE

Moore's bestselling books, including *The Other Wes Moore* and *Five Days*, bring his personal story and broader national conversations about race, equity, and opportunity to life with clarity and urgency. They challenge readers to confront the barriers that limit potential and to imagine a more just and inclusive future. Through it all, his greatest source of strength is his family — his wife, Dawn Flythe Moore, and their children — who ground him, keep him focused on what matters most, and remind him daily of the why behind the work: a better, brighter tomorrow for every child, in Maryland and beyond.





The Work Ahead



As Maryland's 63rd and first Black governor, Wes Moore is focused on what comes next—more opportunity, stronger communities, and a brighter future for all Marylanders.



EXPANDING OPPORTUNITY

Governor Moore is creating new jobs, building new pathways to employment, and ensuring more Marylanders can access work, wages, and wealth—so every person has a real shot to get ahead.

INVESTING IN PEOPLE

His administration is strengthening public education and elevating apprenticeships—giving students, workers, and career changers the skills and credentials to succeed in a changing economy.

BUILDING A STRONGER MARYLAND

The 2025 session delivered the RAISE Act, which establishes the Maryland Office of Registered Apprenticeship Development and new supports for apprenticeship expansion, while also advancing efforts to support business growth and long-term economic strength.

> *"Opportunity isn't an abstract idea—it's a responsibility we have to each other."*



THE BOTTOM LINE

From a life shaped by service and opportunity, Wes Moore is leading a Maryland that works for more people—one defined by jobs, skills, stronger schools, growing businessses, and a renewed commitment to service and shared success.



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THE PEOPLE WHO CHANGED THE MAP

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Deb Haaland
Historic New Mexico governor win

Gina Hinojosa
Texas governor upset

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Historic Minnesota Senate victory

James Talarico
Texas Senate flip

Jon Ossoff
Georgia Senate reelection

Abdul El-Sayed
Michigan Senate breakthrough

Josh Turek
Iowa Senate flip

Adam Hamilton
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10 PEOPLE. ONE HISTORIC ELECTION.

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