Vizuri Kabisa 2019 Script

Vizuri Kabisa

University of San Francisco

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3:00 pm</td>
<td>Committee Setup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Place reserved signs for Fr. Paul, Brittany Shaff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Rope of rows for Faculty and Students/Stolers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Setup decorations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Place scrolls and award certificates on stage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:15</td>
<td>Grad Check-In Begins, 1st Floor of UC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:15</td>
<td>Faculty, Students, and Sponsors Arrive for check-in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Review flow of the program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:15</td>
<td>VK Volunteers to place programs national anthem on chairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:30</td>
<td>McLaren open for audience members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:50</td>
<td>Faculty, Student Procession</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>King James, Anderson Paak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8IDmv0MoxR8">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8IDmv0MoxR8</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:05</td>
<td>Opening Remarks, VP Wardell-Ghirarduzzi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:10</td>
<td>Host Opening Remarks by emcee, Shannon Gary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Black National Anthem (1:15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:20</td>
<td>Ebony Azumah, Undergraduate Student Speaker (2-5 mins)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:25</td>
<td>Awards Presentation, Janine Mixon (10 mins)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:35</td>
<td>Chipo Ashe, Graduate Student Speaker (2-5 mins)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:40</td>
<td>Dr. Mitchell Recognition, by Darrick Smith (2-5 mins)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:45</td>
<td>Stole Presentation of 2019 Graduates - Killian and Monica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:20</td>
<td>King James, Anderson Paak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8IDmv0MoxR8">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8IDmv0MoxR8</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Recessional, Shawn Calhoun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Graduates will follow Faculty/Staff (Led by Shawn Calhoun)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Shawn will guide the graduates out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The emcee will ask guests to wait until students have exited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Students will follow faculty and staff to the front steps of McLaren</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Closing and invitation into the reception</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Take Separate Group Photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Undergrad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Masters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Doctoral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Full Group Photo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Door Open</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4:15 pm: Grad check in ready

4:30 pm Spotify Music plays in the background and slideshow plays as guests enter complex and graduates are sitting with their stolers in first five-six rows on the left side. (BASE Reception Playlist)

4:40 pm Music is turned down by Erin. Golden, Killian, Robert, and Aisha organize students in the hallway/McLaren and have them line up in order.

***Music for procession cued and ready to play***

5:00 pm: Student and Faculty Procession King James (Anderson Paak) https://youtu.be/JYmVGrhLjnpM

Shannon: Good evening and welcome to the 23rd Annual Vizuri Kabisa celebration. I’d like to introduce Dr. Mary Wardell-Ghirarduzzi [Gear - Ah - Doo - Zee] Vice Provost for Diversity Engagement and Community Outreach, to bring greetings on behalf of the university. Dr. Ghirarduzzi.
Dr. Mary Wardell-Ghirarduzzi: Opening Remarks

Shannon: Thank you, Dr. Wardell-Ghirarduzzi [Gear - Ah - Doo - Zee]. Good evening, everyone. My name is Shannon Gary, I am the Associate Vice Provost/Dean of Students and your emcee for today’s program. On behalf of the Vizuri Kabisa Planning Committee, the Cultural Centers, and the University of San Francisco, we’d like to welcome all the graduates and their families and friends, faculty, staff, and peers to the 2019 Vizuri Kabisa Celebration. Today we celebrate the achievements of our African, African American, and Black graduating students.

On this day of celebration for us as people of African decent, we must take a moment to remember our history. We would like to acknowledge two vital pieces of history today: one, the forced transatlantic uprooting of our people and secondly, the forceful removal of the Indigenous from the land that we are standing on.
today. It's through this acknowledgment that reconciliation and healing can begin.

We as people with a long and proud heritage rooted in the continent of Africa stand in solidarity with the Ohlone (Oh-LONE-nee) people of the Bay Area through our collective struggle for liberation, demand for acknowledgment, and the pursuit of justice.

The relics of a colonial system built on the backs of Indigenous people and black people still exist to this day. In continued treatment of our people in the U.S.

Today, we cannot deny the story of this land and its truth that is too often untold. Today, we gather on unceded, stolen Ohlone (Oh-LONE-nee) territory.

It is our responsibility to encourage the amplification of Indigenous voices as well as our own. Forever bonded in solidarity for our collective pursuit for reconciliation.
Let's please have a moment of silence as we acknowledge these two powerful injustices. (Pause 20 seconds). Thank You.

Shannon: We've gotten to know many of today's graduates through their involvement in student organizations, volunteer work, off-campus community involvement, and on-campus jobs. They are colleagues, friends and mentors and as sad as we are to see them go, we are even more honored to celebrate with them this evening. As tradition goes, we'd like to start today's ceremony with the Black National Anthem. Please rise.

***Erin to play anthem once everyone is standing***

Black National Anthem

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oejB706RXJ0)
Shannon: Thank you. Please be seated. We would now like to recognize the members of the Black Greek Letter Organizations, as well as Black student organizations, Greetings to the members of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. And Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc. Will members of these groups please rise and be recognized. (Applause)

We would now like to recognize the members the Black Student Union, African Student Association, Black Business Association, Ethiopian and Eritrean club, Black Rainbow Party, Black Nurses Association, Black Law Students, Sister Connection, and Brother Connection. Will members of these groups please rise and be recognized. (Applause)
A lot of planning and support goes into this event and we could not have done it without the help of our community partners and sponsors. Please join me in thanking our 2019 Community Partners and Sponsors: The Office of the Assistant Vice Provost for Student Engagement, Culturally-Focused Clubs Council, the Office of Development, Black Community Council, the Center for Academic and Student Achievement, the College of Arts and Sciences, The Leo T. McCarthy Center for Public Service and the Common Good, and the School of Management. (Applause)

***Ebony Azumah ready to take the stage***

Shannon: Before we move on to the next part of the program, we would like to have a moment of silence to acknowledge the passing of William "Bill" Edwards, emeritus professor of Sociology who passed on April 8. Bill was a long-time beloved community member who served as Associate Professor, former chair of Sociology, and NCAA Faculty Athletic Representative for
USF. He is remembered for his passion, story telling, wit and humor. (pause 20 seconds...). Thank you.

Shannon: I would now like to introduce Ebony Azumah (Ah-Zoo-Mah). A California native with Southern tendencies, Ebony Azumah, has learned to turn passion into connection and action. Ebony began her journey at USF as a business major. However, upon an eye-opening course in American politics, Ebony became impassioned around social justice and becoming an agent of change. As time went on, Ebony found community with the Black Student Union, the African Student Association and within her sorority, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Ebony has served in various leadership roles at USF including the BSU executive board, the Board of Trustees Committee for Student Life and within NAACP SF Youth Council as a College Mentor working with Black youth to help them become politically and socially involved in the Black community. Currently, Ebony is the
president of the Black Student Union, a role she credits for
opening the doors to the majority of the other academic and
leadership opportunities she has enjoyed. Ebony will graduate
with a Bachelor's Degree in Politics, and a double minor in
African American and Legal Studies. She will be moving on to
work towards a Masters degree in Business Administration and
hopes to own a business that creates economic, and social
opportunities for marginalized communities. She thanks her
father for always believing she was the best, her mother for
teaching her to be Army strong, her siblings for being her best
friends and, of course, Auntie and Uncle for being her NorCal
parents. Without all of their sweet, and tough love, she wouldn't
have been able to ripen into the plantain she is today.

Please welcome our undergraduate speaker, Ebony Azumah.

***(Applause and Ebony takes the stage. Shannon sits
down. Janine takes the stage.***
Ebony: Ebony speaks for 2 - 5 minutes

Shannon: Thank you, Ebony, for those inspiring and motivating words. Next we will be presenting the student and faculty awards. Vizuri Kabisa celebrates the accomplishments of students who have demonstrated learning both in and outside of the classroom. This year’s award recipients have been nominated by their classmates, and by faculty and staff of the USF community. Award recipients, when your name is called, please come to the stage to accept your award. I'd like to invite, Janine Mixon, Director, Graduate Student Affairs, to the stage present the awards.

***Janine heads to the podium, April stands in the middle of the stage to hand student the award certificate***
Janine: Good evening! Our first award is the The Community Activism and Social Justice Award. This award is presented to an outspoken African, African American, or Black graduating student who has worked diligently on and off campus as an activist and has worked to promote an environment of change and social progress. This year’s graduate student recipient is Alexandra Catsoulis.

***Applause and Recipient walks to stage***

Alexandra was an intern at the California Labor Federation. A daughter of a union member and activist, she quickly became active in a series of campaigns that included gender rights at the workplace and the plight of Black Tesla workers in Fremont. When the internship ended, she was hired on staff as the Campaign Communications Coordinator, which provided her with
the opportunity to engage in several state-level campaigns

- advocating for labor rights. While in this role she advocated for the security and economic equity of immigrant women working in janitorial and hotel occupations, and continued her lobbying efforts in favor of Tesla workers facing racial discrimination. She stands out for her trajectory as a student and activist with a promising future advocating for economic equity in the Black community in particular.

- Please join me in congratulating Alexandra.

***April presents award***

Janine: Our undergraduate recipient is Justin Nkemere. Justin’s passion and work for social justice and community activism first started during his sophomore year when he joined the Esther Madriz Diversity Scholars living learning community. His work within that program aimed to not only learn about, but also

- educate others about activism and social change within
communities of color in America. He’s worked to combat the
educational inequality that low income students face in the
Fillmore through an organization called Children’s Defense Fund
Freedom Schools. He also worked with boys of color in
Bayview-Hunters Point through a non-profit called Urban Ed
Academy. He’s tried to do all he can to help bring about positive
change within his community and will continue to do so until he
can’t any more.

Please join me in congratulating Justin.

***Applause and April presents award.***

Janine: The next award is the Academic Leadership
Excellence Award. This award is presented to a graduating
African, African American, or Black student who has achieved
academically and consistently serves as a leader and role model.

This year’s graduate student recipient of the Academic
Leadership award is Fatimah Abdul-Khaliq.
Fatimah has shown academic excellence throughout her matriculation at USF by maintaining a 4.0 GPA, and successfully completing the dual degree Marriage and Family Therapy and Professional Clinical Counseling master’s degree program. She is one of the few students in her cohort to complete both degree requirements and was recently highlighted at her mental health internship with the San Francisco Unified School District as one of the strongest most helpful interns.

Please join me in congratulating Fatimah.

The undergraduate recipient of the Academic Leadership Award is Bereket Negassi. Bereket is an African, American, Eritrean father of 3 young children. He chose to be a nurse after watching the work of nurses caring for his mother who passed
away in 1997 with breast cancer. He states "I wanted to care for others, what I wasn't able to do for my mother." He discovered a tool (Afro-therapy, a therapy tool using African proverbs) that helps with social therapy. His dream is to open a cancer care clinic in a rural place in Africa that serves for free. Please join me in congratulating Bereket. (Bear a-ket)

***April presents award.***

Janine: The Suzette Degrange Rising Star award is presented to a freshman, sophomore or junior, Black, African, African American, or Black student who demonstrated leadership and service to the USF community in the spirit of the University’s mission. This year’s award recipient is Natalie Mills.

***Pause for Applause and recipient takes the stage.***

Natalie is an involved student who has a passion for helping people and furthering her knowledge in ways of activism and
community leadership. She has been a rising star since her time began at USF. She is open to dialogue about an social situation and has a gentle guiding spirit. She continues to grow in her community involvement on campus and is rising to become an amazing leader. Please join me in congratulating Natalie.

***April presents award***

Janine: Our next award of the evening is the Sankofa Award. Sankofa is the Ghanaian term for "looking back in order to move forward." This award honors a faculty or staff member who dedicates their experience, knowledge, time, and scholarship to Black, African and African American students. This year's recipient is Lionell Daggs III.

***Applause and recipient takes the stage.***

Lionell brings together his scholarship, practice, and leadership to campus life. He creates respectful boundaries, drawing work and meaning grounded in community, and empowering students
to their fullest capacities. He asks key questions that promote movement towards the Jesuit mission and tradition. On any given day, one can walk into his office spaces and bare witness to how he leads by example. Please join me in congratulating Lionell.

***April presents award***

Janine: Please join me in congratulating all of our awardees one more time. (Applause)

***Shannon and Chipo ready to take the stage; Janine return to seats***

Shannon: I would like to now welcome our graduate student speaker for this evening, Chipo (Chee-pee) Ashe to the stage. Chipo is graduating with a Masters in Counseling Psychology with an emphasis on Marriage and Family Therapy. Chipo is a wife, mother of two amazing children, and soon to be published, author. She is passionate about working with trauma within the black community and plans to become a therapist. Chipo
currently works in a program at Sacramento City College called Umoja, which focuses on the retention, graduation, and transfer of students of African descent. While working for this program, she received guidance from mentors to apply to USF, based on the work she was doing at Sacramento City College. Chipo plans on continuing her education and focusing on neural psychology.

**Chipo: delivers 2 -5 minute speech**

*** Darrick Smith gets ready to take the stage.***

**Shannon: Thank you Chipo for those inspiring and motivating words. Next we will recognize and honor Dr. Patricia Mitchell. I would like to invite Dr. Darrick Smith to the podium.**

**Darrick Smith: XXXXXX**

**Shannon: Thank you Dr. Smith and congratulations to Dr. Mitchell.**

**Shannon: We will now recognize the graduating class of 2019.**

**Will graduates and their stolers please line up side-by-side in**
front of Robert and his volunteers. For our stolers, please allow your graduate to receive their certificate before you stole them. After you place the stole, please pose with the graduate for a quick photograph before returning to your seat. I would now like to welcome Monica Njoku (en-joe-koo), Assistant Director, Development Communications, and Killian Roach, Senior Research & Prospect Management Analyst, to present this year's Vizuri Kabisa graduates.

Monica: Thank you, Shannon. I now have the pleasure introducing our 2019 graduates. Graduate, when I say your name, please come onto the stage with your stoler. Audience, please hold your applause until I have read the names of our graduates and their stolers. Let us begin.

***Robert will collect the name cards one row standing at a time, in standing order with their stolers and hand them to Monica to read.***
Presentation of stolers

- Monica will read the names of the graduates their major and minor.

- As graduate is taking the picture Monica will read of the names of the stoler. Stoler will take the stage, place stole on student, student and stoler will pause for photo then head down the stairs.

***Shannon takes the stage. Erin to cue closing music.***

Shannon: Graduates, on behalf of the Vizuri Kabisa planning committee we welcome you into the USF Alumni family, now 115,000 grads strong. There are many ways to keep in touch with USF including becoming a member of the Black Alumni Society. As a member, you can connect with us on social media, donate your time and experience as a mentor for the Alumni Mentor Program, volunteer for our one of our many days of service, or attend one of our regional events. USF is here to
support you in your endeavours and to keep you informed, and engaged, with the African American community, both on and off campus. As we conclude our program, we ask that friends and family remain seated until the graduates have processed out of the room.

We'd like to invite all of our graduates to follow Shawn Calhoun to process directly outside onto the stairs of McLaren for our group photo. From there, our event photographer will take the initial photos, and following their completion, all parents and friends are welcome to take photos on your own devices.

Parents, we ask that you please wait for the graduates to exit before you leave your seats.

Thank you again for joining us this evening for the 2019 Vizuri Kabisa Celebration. Let's give one more round of applause to our outstanding graduates.

***Pause for Applause.***
Thank you for your time and have a wonderful evening.

- Erin plays music: King James, Anderson Paak

https://youtu.be/JYmVGHljnpM