

Vallejo is  
grateful  
for ...

## Askari Sowonde



**Place of birth:** Baltimore, MD

**Year arrived in Vallejo:** ~1986

**Occupation:** Event planner

**Language:** English

**What is your special talent?** Diverse event planner, photography, graphic design. Shy, strong, humanitarian.

**Special memory of Vallejo?** Unsung heroes and youth street fairs at the farmers' market. Most importantly, the birth of my glam babies.

**What is your favorite Vallejo community event?** City of Vallejo's Wednesday night event on the waterfront during Mayor Osby Davis's time.

**What is your favorite food or drink at a Vallejo establishment?** Philly Cheese steak and Yo Sushi's.

**What do you hope for yourself in the next 10 years?** Peace, joy and to continue to be BLESSED.

**What do you hope for Vallejo?** To see Vallejo grow with true diversity, equality and racial justice.

**What have you done during the pandemic to help others?** Continue to work behind the scenes for the betterment of all.

**What is one pandemic silver lining?** Knowing myself and my challenges. Recognizing as a dark-skinned African-featured, locked woman that still I RISE in the face of adversity with Pride, Determination and Resilience.

**What person in Vallejo do you really appreciate?** Liat Meitzenheimer. A true warrior who cares and fights for all with boots on the ground. Her words are her bond, followed by her deeds.