



## Wendy Hilliard Bio

Wendy Hilliard has long been a major force in women's, Olympic, and community sports. She was the first Black to represent the United States globally, and she remained on the Rhythmic Gymnastics National Team a record-setting nine times, serving twice as National Team Captain. Wendy competed in 3 World Championships, the 1984 Olympic Trials and traveled to over 15 foreign countries. She was a 4-time U.S. National Team Coach and coached 1996 Olympian Aliane Baquerot Wilson. She is a Master of Sport, an honor for developing an Olympic athlete. In 2008, Wendy was inducted into the USA Gymnastics Hall of Fame.

In 1995, Wendy Hilliard became the first Black gymnast to become the President of the Women's Sports Foundation, the leading organization for women's sports issues.

Wendy's non-profit organization, the Wendy Hilliard Gymnastics Foundation (WHGF), has provided free and low-cost gymnastics for over 25,000 urban youth in NYC since 1996 and expanded to Detroit in 2016.

In 2011, Wendy was awarded the Rings of Gold by the U.S. Olympic Committee for helping children develop their Olympic dreams. She was the athlete representative for gymnastics to the U.S. Olympic Committee. She served on the Executive Committee of USA Gymnastics for over ten years as VP for Rhythmic Gymnastics and Athletes Council Chairperson.

Wendy has been a TV commentator for many sports and gymnastics events, including the Olympic Games for NBC Sports. She has also performed on numerous television shows and tours with the world's top gymnasts and appeared on Broadway in *Candide*.

Wendy was the Director of Sports for NYC2012, NYC's bid for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. As a member of the NYC2012 Senior Staff, her responsibilities included overseeing all sports and athlete matters, including over 2,000 Olympians and Paralympians worldwide who supported the bid. Wendy brought several international events to NYC, including the Freestyle Wrestling World Championships held at Madison Square Garden, the Archery World Championships, and the Fencing World Cup. She led the development of the NYC Triathlon, now a sold-out annual event.

In 2006, she designed, programmed, and directed the Gymnastics and Rock Climbing Center for Aviator Sports and Recreation, a multi-million-dollar, multi-sport complex in Brooklyn, New York.

Wendy serves on the Armory Foundation Board of Directors (Track and Field), Power Play NYC, and Black Women in Sports advisory boards. She was a founding member of the Sports and Arts in Schools Foundation (now New York Edge), Women in Sports and Events (WISE), and Antigravity, an international performance company.

Wendy resides in Harlem with her husband, Robert Mensah, and sons Kennedy (Howard University—Senior) and Bailey (Bowie State—Junior). Wendy studied Russian and Physical Education at Wayne State University and graduated from New York University with an honors degree and a BA in Broadcast Journalism.