The Knicks recognized Davon Russell as the September 2020 City Spirit Award recipient. Davon is the President of WHEDco, a community development nonprofit organization with the mission of providing families in the South Bronx with access to vital resources to foster the development of healthy and vibrant neighborhoods. Starting at WHEDco over 20 years ago, Davon was a part-time after school teacher. He has been a lifelong educator and mentor who believes in the transformative power of the arts.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Davon has focused on fostering housing & food security, providing quality child care and resources to the South Bronx community and essential workers, nurturing small impacted businesses, and facilitating distance learning for hundreds of children. Under Davon’s leadership and continuous efforts at WHEDco, tens of thousands of youth have grown up in enriching environments with a network of nurturing adults and education professionals for mentorship. Youth in WHEDco’s programming go on to attend high performing high schools and colleges and to become leaders within their communities, often exceeding expectations. Davon has created and implemented WHEDco’s early childhood and youth programs, spearheaded inclusive staff meetings and retreats, and overseen WHEDco’s operations and programming. All of his efforts build upon the organization’s mission in community development. In addition, Davon was appointed to sit on the NYC Department of Education’s Community Education Council.

In recognition of Davon’s continuous efforts, the Knicks donated $5,000 to WHEDco.

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