BIOGRAPHY

YEWANDE AUSTIN
President and Founder

From M.T.V. and B.E.T. to the historic Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Yewande’s internationally acclaimed music has sung universal truths about issues that many artists shy away from — poverty, religion, war. While moments performing with the Black Eyed Peas, Enrique Iglesias, India Arie and Sean Paul are memorable, it is her work as an award-winning lecturer and social activist that has become perhaps her greatest achievement.

Founded by Yewande in 2004, the Global Institute for Diversity and Change’s (formerly the Change Rocks Institute) programs are committed to bridging the gap between cultural understanding, leadership excellence and social justice across the globe. As an honorary Cultural Ambassador to the United States Embassy (Malawi, Africa), her message of solidarity continues to foster critical relationships between America and our global community through the transformational power of music. When she’s not lecturing, Ms. Austin’s humanitarian organization, the Change Rocks Foundation, produces music-based empowerment initiatives from Africa to the Americas where extreme poverty threatens the lives of millions of vulnerable children every day. As an M. A. candidate in Ethnomusicology at the prestigious University of Sheffield in England, her research is dedicated to uncovering our profound connection between music and socio-economic transformation. It is this inspiring commitment to humanity that has ignited a global movement.