

SUSTAINING VOICES FROM THE BATTLEFRONT:

Community Grounded Cultural Arts Organizations @ 30

a project of
The Caribbean Cultural Center/African Diaspora Institute
Hosted by New York University's Tisch School of the Arts

June 8th and 9th, 2007

Agenda

Preamble: The struggle for cultural rights and cultural equity is linked to the struggle for political and economic rights and integral to the quest for human rights. These struggles are meaningless if we do not protect our Mother Earth.

As a way to assess the current state of the movement, including its present problems and opportunities, the convening will focus on the historical efforts to end racism and achieve cultural equity, concentrating on the historical link between art and social justice and how new leaders are enacting this powerful history.

Overall theme: What do culturally grounded organizations that have reached their 30th anniversary have to celebrate? How can this work be sustained into the next 30 years?

Friday evening from 6:30-8:30 PM: (Cantor Film Center, 36 East 8th Street, Room 101, New York, NY 10003)

Welcome by Mary Schmidt Campbell, Dean, Tisch School of the Arts

- Based on a commissioned research paper, Key Note speech by Dr. Jack Tchen, Associate Professor of History and Director of Asian/Pacific-American Studies, NYU. (30 Minutes)
 - To track the community grounded cultural movement that began in the 70s and compare its trajectory to the evolution, in broad terms, of like-minded political and social justice movements. In an age of increasingly conservative federal public policy, Dr. Tchen will document and assess gains made in affirmative action, Roe vs. Wade, immigration reform, voting rights, among others. He will describe present threats to these gains, which in the case of the arts were epitomized by the culture wars of the 90s.
- Respondents: Claudine Brown and E'vonne Coleman Rorie (10 Minutes Each)
 - To discuss how the culture wars of the 90s impacted the leadership exerted by the NEA and the philanthropic community on cultural diversity in the 80s.

- Audience discussion led by Dudley Cocke and Marinieves Alba (60 Minutes)

Saturday from 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM: (Cantor Film Center Room 36 East 8th Street, Room 101, New York, NY 10003)

- Welcome and Introductions led by Olga Garay and Dr. Marta Moreno Vega: 9:30-9:45 AM
- Artist Presentation, Marc Bamuthi Joseph: 9:45-10:15 AM
- Artist Presentation, Bernice Reagon Johnson: 10:15-10:45 AM
- Break: 10:45-11 AM
- Session 1: 11:00 AM-1:00 PM
 - Three person panel followed by questions and answers, C. Daniel Dawson, Dudley Cocke, Amalia Mesa Bains-moderated by Olga Garay
- Lunch 1:00 to 2:30 PM (on your own)
- *Incarceration Nation*, Artist presentation (Nick Szuberla) 2:30 to 3:00 PM
- Session 2: 3:00-5:00 PM
 - Three person panel consisting of new leaders discussing the future of the field from their perspective- followed by questions and answers Thenmozhi Soundararajan, Marinieves Alba, Nick Szuberla-moderated by Monthina Williams

Topics to be discussed in the morning and afternoon sessions include:

- What is the vision/where is it now?
- Leadership and succession
- Class issues/access to wealth (especially as it pertains to the sustainability of the culturally grounded arts movement)
- How do we continue the quest for Social Justice and Cultural Equity into the future?
- How do we include, learn and grow multi-generational understanding and collaboration?
- How do we invite people from other fields (environment, law, economics) to join the struggle?
- How do we infuse our work with a global perspective?
- Where do the culturally specific institutions that are following the institutional model fit into the picture?

- Wrap-up/Next Steps led Dr. Marta Moreno Vega: 5:00-5:30 PM

Saturday from 5:30-6:30 PM (Tisch School for the Arts COMMON ROOM @ 721 Broadway)

- Reception (heavy hors d'oeuvres)
- **Saturday from 7:30-10 PM**

Harlem Stage at The Gatehouse

150 Convent Avenue
at West 135th Street

Presents

Randy Weston in
Harlem Stride

Harlem Stride, Harlem Stage's new jazz series, launches with Randy Weston, one of the world's foremost pianists and composers, in a special tribute to James Reese Europe, a pre-eminent figure in music in the early 20th century.

Please call the HS box office directly at 212-650-7100 and give the code SVBC. Special group discounts for Conference Participants: \$30.

OR

Saturday at 8 PM

651 Arts and Dance Theatre Workshop
At Kumble Theater for the Performing Arts

1 University Place,
Long Island University

Present

Marc Bamuthi Joseph
Scourge

Acclaimed poet Marc Bamuthi Joseph uses hip-hop, spoken word, and live music to explore the narrow space between history, myth and speculation, in this ultra-contemporary look at Haiti in its 200th year as a sovereign nation.

Please call 718-488-1624 or log onto www.651arts.org and use code DSC2. Special group discounts for Conference Participants: \$15.

The Conference Hotel is the Marriott Brooklyn Bridge, which is located at

333 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201. As an out of town registrant you will be offered the hotel group rate of \$269 per night plus tax, depending on availability. **You must make reservations by May 11 in order to receive this rate.** We encourage you to make your reservations as quickly as possible in order to obtain that rate.

To register at this the Marriott Brooklyn Bridge please hotel reservations call: 1-718-246-7000 and say you are with the Caribbean Center