

# PROGRAM



Welcome - 1:30 p.m.

**Margaret Anne Tockarszewsky**  
Executive Director  
New Haven Museum



Introduction - 1:45 p.m.

**Iman Uqdad Hameen**

Iman is a retired New York City Public School educator and holds MS and BFA degrees. She has worked in New York for decades as an activist and organizer in several organizations around issues affecting the black community, education and society. Iman also provides volunteer support services to Urban Grants 4 Us, Incorporated.

Moderator

**Petisia M. Adger** - 1<sup>st</sup> black female assistant police chief in CT

Petisia is a New Haven native and founder of Urban Grants 4 Us, Incorporated to provide free grant writing services to grassroots organizations, and to give a voice to community organizations through community awareness forums, such as today's platform. She holds a MBA and BA.

Empirical research has finally given credence to what black professional women have always known throughout their careers—that black professional women lag far behind their white counterparts. Black women earn 21 percent less than white women, are less likely to be promoted, and have fewer opportunities to showcase their work. Therefore, it is imperative that we share our history and the trials and tribulations of our successes with the next generation of black women in order to secure their equitable access throughout institutions in the United States and Connecticut.

# "Black Women's Firsts" Panel Discussion

Presented by Urban Grants 4 Us, Incorporated



New Haven Museum, 114 Whitney Avenue, New Haven, CT

Saturday, March 7, 2020 · 1:00 p.m.

Petisia M. Adger  
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# ABOUT THE PANELISTS

## **Ina Anderson – 1<sup>st</sup> black female officer to serve on the Bridgeport Fire Department**

Ina serves as an ordained associate minister at the *Healing Place*; is owner and CEO of *Emerging Voices Production Company*; and a writer, director and producer of her own original stage works in Bridgeport, CT. Ina is a businesswoman, playwright, preacher, prayer intercessor, singer, encourager, teacher, and workshop presenter.

## **Esther Armand - past alderwoman/president of Sojourner Network of Democratic Women, CT**

Native of the Mississippi Delta, Esther has lived in New Haven for the past 30 years. In New Haven, she has served as an elected official on the board of alders, and worked in the Harp Administration as a policy analyst and legislative liaison to the board of alders. Esther is the president of the *Sojourner Network of Democratic Women's PAC of Connecticut* and holds a MA in Organizational Leadership.

## **Alisa Bowens-Mercado – Rhythm Brewing Co., 1<sup>st</sup> African American female brewer in CT**

In 2017, Alisa launched *Rhythm Brewing Co.*, and is the dance director and artist development liaison at *Alisa's House of Salsa* in New Haven, CT. She holds a Dance Masters Of America degree (DMA) and a Professional Teaching Certificate.

## **Diane Brown – 3<sup>rd</sup> black female branch manager in New Haven Free Public Library's 100-year history.**

Diane is a native of New Haven and holds a master's degree in Library Science and Information Technology. She serves on the Board of Directors for the International Festival of Arts & Ideas, Long Wharf Theater, Town of Hamden Arts Commission and Connecticut's Library Board.

## **Honorable Toni Harp – 1<sup>st</sup> woman and the 2<sup>nd</sup> African American to serve as mayor of New Haven**

A native of Salt Lake City, Toni has lived in New Haven for over 40 years. Her public service in elected office began as a member of New Haven's Board of Aldermen (served 3 terms); 21 years as the state senator for Connecticut's 10<sup>th</sup> District; and then mayor of New Haven (served 3 terms). Toni also holds a master's degree from Yale's School of Architecture.

## **Babz Rawls Ivy – editor-in-chief of the Inner-City News; and a radio personality on 103.5 WNHH radio**

Babz is a certified spiritual director under her ministry, *Path Illuming*; co-online editor/content curator of *Justice Imperative* blog; and an on-air radio personality on *The Electric Drum-WYBC 94.3FM* and her own internet radio show, *Lovebabz LoveTalk*. She holds MBA and MS degrees.

## **Tamiko McArthur, M.D. - 1<sup>st</sup> black female pediatrician owned New Haven Pediatric & Adolescent Medical Services**

A native of New Haven, Tamiko is a doctor of Medicine and started her New Haven private practice in 2006. She also owns *Oxford Pediatric Wellness (Oxford CT)*. In New Haven, Tamiko has served as a board of health commissioner and was appointed to the board of education in 2017.

## **Janette J. Parker - former Connecticut 95<sup>th</sup> District State Representative**

Before retiring in the 1980s, Jan was the owner of *Mother Goose Nursery and Kindergarten School, Inc.* and co-owner of *Janicheals Millinery Design*. She holds a business degree from Albertus Magnus College and is the wife of the late Henry E. Parker. Jan remains steadfast and committed to social justice issues - particularly those tied to the next voting cycle.