

Black History Pride: Celebrating African American Artists, Authors & Creatives



**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**

2020 FOUR - PART SERIES

**Part I: Expressive
Literature · February 12**
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Part II: Theatrical Communication · February 15
1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Part III: Visual Literacy · February 26
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Part IV: Organizational Management, February 29
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Black Mayors - City of New Haven



John C. Daniels
1990 - 1994



www.UrbanGrants4Us.com
(203) 687 - 0548



Toni N. Harp
2013 - 2019



In 1926, Carter G. Woodson and Jesse E. Moorland launched a “*Negro History Week*” as a remedial measure to counter the historical narrative being taught that barely mentioned the contributions of Black people in textbooks sanctioned for use throughout the United States. Woodson chose the 2nd week in February to promote studying Black history as a discipline, because that week represented both Frederick Douglass’ birthday (February 14) and Abraham Lincoln’s birthday (February 12). Nevertheless, by the mid-1960s, only two Black people were mentioned in the most popular textbook for eighth-grade U.S. history classes. Yet, it was in that decade that colleges and universities across the country adapted the week into a month-long celebration on campuses (Zorthian, 2016). Thereafter and during the United States Bicentennial, President Gerald Ford recognized the observance of Black History Month, and prompted White Americans to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history” (Ford, 1976, ¶ 4).

References

- Ford, G. (1976, February 10). President Gerald R. Ford's Message on the Observance of Black History Month. *Ford Library Museum*. Retrieved December 15, 2019 from <https://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov/LIBRARY/SPEECHES/760074.htm>
- Zorthian, J. (2016, January 29). This Is How February Became Black History Month. *Time Magazine*. Retrieved December 9, 2019, from <https://time.com/4197928/history-black-history-month/>



Part I: Expressive Literature

*In collaboration with Stetson Branch Library
200 Dixwell Ave., New Haven, CT*

The *Expressive Literature* component of this project is an invitation to the members of the New Haven community to join us, as we share our stories, our histories and our heritage. Our personal stories, pictures and recollections about those who paved the way for this generation and the next, will unfold during this interactive workshop. Led by author Deborah Hare, her graphic novel, *Mixed Messages*, chronicles the history of Deborah Hare's slave ancestry and the stark skin pigmentation residue of the "*house Negro*" versus the "*field Negro*" historical divide. Hare's discussion and workshop of this visual memory collage book seeks to inspire young adults to read, write, share literature, fellowship, and encourage others in the joy of reading and writing. Workshop materials provided attendees during this session will be used to begin documentation of participants' own family histories. Participants are encouraged to bring along family photos, diaries, letters, news clippings and any other personal items for use in this workshop. This workshop session is free and open to all City of New Haven residents from ages 13 to adult.



Deborah Hare grew up on a farm in New Hampshire and then spent the 1970s in Brooklyn, where she studied art at the City College of New York. In 1980, Deborah moved to New Haven, where she taught English and theater at High School in the Community and Wilbur Cross High School, prior to her retirement in 2012.

BREGAMOS COMMUNITY THEATER



Part II: Theatrical Communication

In collaboration with Bregamos Theater
491 Blatchley Ave., New Haven, CT

Around the world, performance arts institutions have long held the belief that, in addition to teaching self-

expression, theatre and the performing arts teach society about itself, hoping to point out the attitudes and mindsets of current society. It can also be a tool used to educate people about their current conditions.

In concurrence, Urban Grants 4 Us will produce the reading of 2 original one-act plays that depict the issues relevant to urbanization within the City of New Haven. Written and directed by Javon Johnson, the plays focus on wealth disparity, social inequality and homelessness. Post-show *Talkbacks*, moderated by Javon Johnson, will offer discussions of the readings to further engage the audience.

- One Act Play – *Next Stop, Ellipses*: A wait at a New Haven, Connecticut bus stop turns into a lifetime of change for two men from two different places - 1:00 p.m.
- One Act Play - *The Pawn*: On the New Haven Green, two men playing chess from two different worlds are forced to interact with one another due to unpredictable circumstances - 3:00 p.m.



About the Playwright: Javon Johnson is currently starring in the role of Richard Hallsen (Butler) in Tyler Perry's TV hit series, *The Oval*, airing on BET, and has a recurring role as a police sergeant in Curtis Jackson's (50 Cent) upcoming TV drama series, *For Life*, airing on ABC beginning February 11, 2020.

Part III: Visual Literacy

In collaboration with Stetson Branch Library
200 Dixwell Ave., New Haven, CT



Art exhibitions promote better understanding of our collective heritage and foster dialogue, curiosity and self-reflection. Without such venues, it is conceivable that we, as a community, could be at risk of losing the tangible

links to our past. The *Visual Literacy* component of this project offers an ideal opportunity for vendors to showcase products and services to a highly targeted audience in the City of New Haven. Confirmed presentations and displays of featured art exhibitors, photographers, crafters and creatives include, but are not limited to:



•*Dolls of Beautiful Shades* by Nancy Jean-Baptiste will be on display at the exhibition. Nancy wants people to know that dolls of color are important and can be a tool used to boost self-confidence.



•*Chanelle Diaz* is a 29 year old serial entrepreneur & proud mother of a 2 year old daughter. She is the owner & operator of Skin Tight Beauty Bar & an independent travel agent for Millennials Making Boss Moves.



•*Ebony McKelvey*: Ebony B. is a creative personality who passionately blends art and life. She is a professionally trained lifestyle photographer best known for the impressive capture of life and special moments.



•*Katro Storm*: A true son of New Haven and a force of positivity, Katro's painting style has been described by Ely Center of Contemporary Art as "*full frontal figuratism*." His unmistakable technique employs layers of drips and tonal modifications, creating an active surface in which figures seem to emerge (Ely Center of Contemporary Arts, 2009).

Part III: Visual Literacy - Continued



• *Brooke Jones*: The custom of watching women make beautiful vibrant items during Brooke's formative years, led her to explore the origins of traditional craft and the interaction of colors. She is most at home working with minimalist shapes and bold colors when creating beautiful yet useful quilts, afghans and wearable accessories. Brooke lives and creates in New Haven.



• *Shaunda Holloway (Sekai)* is painter, printmaker and writer. Born in New Haven, CT, her published pieces appeared in *ESSENCE*, *CT Post*, *Inner-City*, & in *Stand Our Ground Poems* for Trayvon Martin and Marissa Alexander. Exhibition of paintings and prints have been displayed throughout the East Coast and in New Delhi, India.



• *Enolda J* is a published author, and has been writing poetry since she was a little girl. She truly loves to write and her book, "*My Art of Letting Go*," is currently on sale. Writing has changed Enolda J's view of the world and has aligned her with finding her true self.



• *Lauren Simone Publishing (LSP) House*, founded in 2016, is a publishing company birthed by two sisters, Olivia **Lauren** John and Alyssa **Simone** John. Their mission is to publish the works of diverse authors and illustrators, thereby creating literature for all to enjoy.



• *Rodney Dabney*: Contemporary photographer with a hip-hop edge, Dabney's eye for detail brings realism to vogue images reflective of African American culture and lifestyle.

Part IV: Organizational Management Workshop

Funded through the Neighborhood Leadership Program of



The **COMMUNITY** Foundation
for Greater New Haven

Urban Grants 4 Us recognizes that inner-city grassroots organizations are competing in a market that is already saturated by corporations vying for a small pool of available corporate, foundation and state funding. In an effort to offset the disadvantages presented to businesses already engaged in social change, an organizational management workshop has been tailored to address those issues germane to these underserved establishments.

As such, all artists, authors and creatives who participated in any portion of *Black History Pride: Celebrating African American Artists, Authors & Creatives* series, will be afforded an opportunity to attend a no-cost 6-hour organizational management workshop. Upon completion of this workshop, participants will walk away with an action plan that draws from specific tools learned over the course of the day.

The objectives of the workshop are to provide guidance and tools that will empower the participants to take actionable steps toward augmenting their respective organization's long-term effectiveness and financial stability. The workshop will focus on topics such as: Writing Business and Grant Writing Proposals, Planning Strategies, and Collective Pooling of Financial Resources through Collaborations and Partnerships.

Urban Grants 4 Us, Incorporated

www.UrbanGrants4Us.com

UrbanGrants4Us@gmail.com

(203) 687 - 0548

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Petisia M. Adger

Petisia has 15 years of experience in research and grant administration, providing services to various review panels, developing competitive proposals and teaching materials for such agencies as Department of Justice, New Haven Police Department and various community organizations. She also holds a M.B.A. and B.A. from the University of New Haven and Albertus Magnus College, respectively.



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