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THOMAS M. ROACH  
Mayor

TEL: (914) 422-1411  
FAX: (914) 422-1395



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Contact: Frank Williams, Jr., Director, White Plains Youth Bureau  
Tel: 914-422-1378  
[fwilliams@whiteplainsny.gov](mailto:fwilliams@whiteplainsny.gov)

**FIFTH ANNUAL HARLEM FINE ARTS SHOW COMES TO WHITE PLAINS**

**White Plains, NY – March 22, 2016:** The Harlem Fine Arts Show Comes to White Plains will celebrate its 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Event, showcasing Artists and Authors on Tuesday, March 29 at the White Plains Library, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. The event showcases African American Artists and Authors from the New York metropolitan area. This year’s Special Recognition honorees will include the acclaimed R&B and Pop singing group Atlantic Starr and youth phenome Julius Rodriguez.

Featured Authors include: Flo Anthony, David Banks, Dr. Martia Goodson, Monica Michelle and Carol Hill Mackey.

**Atlantic Starr** began in Greenburgh, New York with trumpeter Duke Jones, drummer Porter Carroll Jr., bassist Clifford Archer, Percussionist and flutist Joseph Phillips, and three brothers: lead vocalist and guitarist David Lewis, lead vocalist, keyboards and primary songwriter Wayne Lewis and Trombonist Jonathan Lewis. The band’s membership eventually stabilized around Carroll, Archer, Phillips, the three Lewis brothers, lead singer Sharon Bryant, trumpeter William Sudderth, saxophonist Damoni Rentie and Koran Daniels. Throughout the late 1970s and early 1980s, Atlantic Starr scored a string of hits on the R&B and Pop charts, “When Love calls”, “Circles”, “Touch a four leaf clover” (Written by Wayne and David Lewis), “Am I dreaming” and “Send for me”. The Lewis brother’s went on to score huge success with The number 3 pop song world wide “Secret lovers“ followed by the number one song of the 1987 “Always” which scored #1 on the Pop ,R&B and adult contemporary charts world wide. Other hits include “Silver Shadow”, “Masterpiece”, “My first love’ just to name a few. While the band has changed members, Atlantic Starr continues to perform today and their music never grows old.

**Julius Rodriguez** is a 17 year old musician who began playing classical piano while teaching himself drums at the age of 4. He enrolled into the Manhattan School of Music Precollege Division where he studied classical piano, and currently studies jazz piano, drums, and composition. Julius has earned recognition from the Charles Mingus High School Festival and Competition, Downbeat Student Music Awards, NAACP ACT-SO

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(Academic, Cultural, Technological, and Science Olympics), the Next Generation Jazz Festival High School Competition, and the NFAA's Young Arts.

**Monica Michelle** is the author of her inaugural novel, *Lucky No.5*. Monica found her passion for writing in 1999 after developing a series of short stories for a popular social media website. Monica was also recently featured in *ESSENCE Magazine* as their Reader of the Month.

**David C. Banks** is the President/CEO of the Eagle Academy Foundation. He was the Founding Principal of The Eagle Academy for Young Men, the first school in a network of innovative all-boys public schools in New York City. As President, he is responsible for the successful leadership and management of the organization, which is charged with the replication of the successful Eagle model. David is the author of the book *SOAR: How Boys Learn, Succeed and Develop Character*. *SOAR* is a must read offering insight how we reshape our educational system for young men.

**Martia G. Goodson** is an American Historian specializing in American oral history. She is the author of *Church Ladies: Untold Stories of Harlem Women in the Powell Era*. She has also authored *Chronicles of Faith: The Autobiography of Frederick D. Patterson*, and has published numerous articles for academic and professional journals and magazines on black oral history. She is a former professor at Baruch College-CUNY; Dr. Goodson is the author of *New York's African Burial Ground*, an official guide to the Lower Manhattan colonial burial place of 15,000 enslaved Africans.

**Flo Anthony** is a multi-award winning journalist who has hosted the daily nationally syndicated radio show "Gossip On The Go with Flo," heard in over 20 markets. Flo is Author of the Black Expressions Bestselling Novel, *Deadly Stuff Players*. Flo is also the Publisher/editor in chief of blacknoir.nyc and writes a weekly syndicated newspaper column "Go with Flo," as well as a monthly column "Big Apple Buzz" in *Resident Magazine*. Flo is a pioneer in the newspaper world: the first African American woman to work in the sports department of the New York Post, as well as the first African American to work in the New York Post's Entertainment Department and on the paper's world renowned Page Six.

**Carol Mackey** is the former Editor In Chief of Black Expressions Book Club, the largest direct-to-consumer book club for African Americans in the nation. Under Mackey's editorial leadership, Black Expressions was voted Best Book Club by the African American Literary Show for eight years running, widely recognized as a leading expert on African American literature. She has been named among the 50 Most Powerful African Americans in Publishing by Black Issues Book Review and has been featured in *Literary Divas: The Top 100+ Most Admired African American Women in Literature*, a compilation of biographies about African American women who have powerfully impacted America's literary history. Mackey sits on the board for the National Book Club Conference and the American Literary Awards Show. She is the author of the bestselling *Sistergirl Devotions: Keeping Jesus in the Mix on the Job*. Mackey was nominated for Best Female Author of 2010 and was voted the 2010 Breakout Author of the Year.

Among the visual Artists being featured are **Pat Brintle** (From Here to Haiti). The works of self-taught artist Patricia Brintle are vibrant and remind the viewer of her native Haiti. Brintle's approach to painting is varied; she does not follow any particular school but rather lets her rich culture guide her creative muse. Her paintings are infused with complex symbolism yet seem, at first glance, simple.

**Andrew Nichols**, born in Brooklyn, New York discovered that he had a gift of drawing at an early age. He began expressing himself through pencil on paper in elementary school. Andrew continued his education and art expression at Kingsboro Community College. It was during this time in his life that he developed a passion for oil on canvas. Andrew began to tour the region selling his original oils. He was soon displaying his artworks at the Jacob Javits Center, Pratt Institute and one man shows.

**AKASSA – Cheikh Assane Faye** started as a sand painting artist, which consists of applying various colors of sand on plywood to initiate paintings called “Sand-Paintings;” A New Art. This method of art is the fruit of long years of research of the Egyptian civilization through its hieroglyphs and through the European Rupestrian Art. After 12 years of experience at DECASA sand-painting Gallery in Dakar, Cheikh was presented with an opportunity to participate in several exhibitions that guided his first steps to open his own workshop named AKASSA (Wonderful). Today, the local workshop, AKASSA in Dakar, has become a traveling Gallery requested in many countries in the world.

**Jim Byrd-Nikosi Distinctive Imported Crafts** – While living and working in South Africa, Jim Byrd established close relationships with local crafts and worked to bring these unique pieces of African artworks to the international market. For his work, Jim and six other buyers were uniquely cited by the South African government for their support of South African crafters. Additionally, Jim is recognized by the South African Consulate in New York, as an importer of distinctive South African handmade crafts.

Over 200 Children enrolled in the **White Plains Youth Bureau’s After School Connection program** have been busy creating beautiful pieces of jewelry. Each piece is a one of a kind creation inspired by similar pieces created by youth at the Guga S’Thebe Ideas for Progress Community Center in Cape Town South Africa. The Youth Bureau children were able to see, hold and dissect original pieces of jewelry purchased at the center in South Africa. The children studied how the jewelry was made and created their own masterpieces adding their own personal stamps on them. On display will be a large array of necklaces, bracelets and other colorful pieces.

Music will be provided by **Cliff Lee Plus Three**. Cliff Lee Plus Three compose sounds ranging from the introspective blues tradition of Miles Davis and the tonal expression of Harry “Sweets” Edison. The music is emotional, intelligent, and lyrical. A contributor to feature film scores “The Best Man” and the comedy hit “Undercover Brother,” Cliff Lee can be heard on recordings with Billy Higgins, William Hardman and his brother, noted bassist Bill Lee, as well as various CD’s of his own quartet. His nephew Spike Lee is the well-known film director and Cliff Lee’s son, Malcolm, is an accomplished filmmaker.

**Rodney J. Reynolds**, President of RJR Communications, Inc., is the Founder and Publisher of American Legacy magazine and Executive Producer of American Legacy Television. The board game, *Know Your Black History*, will be available for purchase.

**The White Plains Harlem Fine Arts Show grew out of the Harlem Fine Arts Show. The Harlem Fine Arts Show is the largest traveling African Diasporic art show in the United States. Inspired by the Harlem Renaissance, HFAS provides a platform for African Diasporic artists and African American visual artist to exhibit and sell their work.**

*Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at the Youth Bureau  
Monday – Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
For more information contact the White Plains Youth Bureau, 914-422-1378.*

*The White Plains Harlem Fine Arts Show is sponsored in cooperation with the White Plains Youth Bureau, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Westchester Alumnae Chapter, the Harlem Fine Arts Show and the White Plains Public Library.*

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