

**For Immediate Release**

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**#TeamNatural Weekend  
An Unconventional Museum Hosts Hair Festival**

**North Brentwood, MD (July 2, 2019) – Prince George’s African American Museum and Cultural Center (PGAAMCC)** has a whole weekend to empower the beauty and aesthetic diversity of Black women throughout the Diaspora. Shining light on Black hair is our way of reclaiming our roots and evoking a sense of pride upon those who need positive models of Blackness. The Black aesthetic has a history of oppression, triumph, survival and evolution. Together we invite all to a celebration of the infinite styles of natural Black hair.

PGAAMCC is an unconventional institution bringing diverse perspectives and dynamic discourse to Prince George’s County. We are A Home for Black Excellence and that means celebrating all that is Black culture. This July we are celebrating Black hair, the cultural symbolism, psychology, history, and self-care. We go above and beyond to provide a full scope of the Black experience. These events are designed to inspire, uplift and engage our local black communities. We are unique in that we take art, culture and are innovate ways to talk and share cultural experiences.

In 2019 we are recognizing the Black aesthetic as an American cultural phenomenon, the most appropriated, and one of the most lucrative businesses. Recognizing our freedom of expression, the power in individuality, and identity, we invite all to celebrate with us. We are going beyond the conventional purposes of a museum and really connecting with people and surrounding communities. We are fearless and bold.

We are ‘gathering our edges’ for a fun filled event and celebration of #TeamNatural. We are innovators of culture and generate platforms programs that continue to see our contributions. The #TeamNatural Weekend will have a fashionshow, a play, live entertainment, visual art, health and wellness workshops and more! Friday July 19th is Art Therapy Night, Saturday July 20th we will feature Supernatural Play and Natural Hair Festival, Sunday July 21 we will host our monthly Sunday Scholar Brunch Hair Talk.

*Prince George’s African American Museum and Cultural Center is a rich and celebrated treasure of the Gateway Arts District and model for cultural origination, brining attention, prestige, and business development to the local North Brentwood, Prince George’s County Community. Through public events and exhibitions PGAAMCC explores the Black experience within a variety of contexts – history, arts and culture, social justice, identity, religion, spirituality, faith, folk tradition and customs.*

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**Our events include:**

**July 19th Art Therapy with Vanessa Williams and friends:**

Friday kicks off Art Therapy Day, which includes workshops centered around expression, health, wellness, and mindfulness practices that target our communities of color.

The evening concludes with a Jazz Vesper under the summer sky with the featured exhibitionist, artist, and singer, Vanessa Williams.

### **July 20th Supernatural Festival:**

Saturday is the official #TeamNatural Hair Festival welcoming Black artisans and vendors, Hair & Makeup Demos and Mythbusters, and Tasty Food options; 1pm-5pm, with artisan vendors, natural hair workshops and myth busting hair demos with Maryland Holistic Hair, Designer Nailah Clay, and Natural Hair Expert Candace Kelley, Founder of Curl Prep Natural Hair Solutions.

All leading up to Supernatural: The Play, which touches on the intricacies of black women's diverse hair experiences. Supernatural: The Play is one of the most talked about contemporary plays of our time. Set in none other than Brooklyn, New York in Bed-Stuy at various natural hair events, Supernatural is a funny and insightful look at Natural Hair journeys. The play explores the lives of seven women who are forced to confront their hair and themselves. Filled with stories of triumph, these women are guaranteed to make you laugh and will inspire you to think about what God gave you. This is one Natural Hair event with soaring testimonies you don't want to miss!

### **July 21st Sunday Scholar Brunch:**

Join us as we close out #TeamNatural weekend! Enjoy an afternoon of breaking bread with fellow knowledge seekers, justice fighters, and social champions. This ticketed event includes brunch catered by Chef Teo and a presentation and community conversation by this month's featured scholar, Dr. Afiya Mbilishaka.

Lecture: Dr. Mbilishaka will discuss her practice and research of, "PsychoHairapy," where she uses hair as an entry point for mental health services in beauty salons and barbershops, as well as through social media.