

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Ladies First- PGAAMCC presents the County's first Black Arts Festival**

### ***Rated PG Black Arts Festival 2017***

As women of color strive for equal representation in the art world, mass media, and the workplace, PGAAMCC presents the Rated PG Black Arts Festival featuring musical performances, panel discussions, film screenings, and visual art by Black women throughout the Diaspora. Prince George's first ever women-identified arts festival will exhibit the multigenerational voices and images of Black women throughout local DMV communities and beyond. **The festival is a one-day event, which will be presented in conjunction with the opening of the *Tell the Truth About Me* two-part art exhibition show: *This Hair Deserves a March* and *Like Blood from a Stone*.**

#### **THE FESTIVAL:**

**The Rated PG: Black Arts Festival will take place on October 7<sup>th</sup> from 12pm-9pm at the Prince George's African American Museum and Cultural Center located in North Brentwood, the first African American township to incorporate in Prince George's County.** Festival events will explore beauty standards, identity, multi-generational traditions, sisterhood, and break barriers. The Festival will also feature artists, guest speakers, a Black-owned vendor market, food trucks, live performances, workshops, and more. The dynamic line-up of performers includes Ace Ono, Jennifer Falu, Joy Postell, Mo Browne, and Latraia Price; event DJs include Geena Marie and Tomi Yeyo. Special guests include State Attorney Angela Alsobrooks and Rhonda Dallas, Executive Director of Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council. Come join us for an inclusive celebration of the many facets of Black women and women-identified individuality, identity, and empowerment.

#### **THE ART EXHIBITIONS AND PROGRAMMING:**

Curator Yaya Bey presents *Tell the Truth About Me* exhibition series featuring two group exhibitions from 6 emerging women artists in the local community, opening officially the day of the festival on October 7th and remaining on display at PGAAMCC until January 31, 2018. Part 1 of the series features *This Hair Deserves a March* exhibit (front gallery) that artistically responds to the invasive images that programmatically push European beauty bias, featuring works by Lakela Brown, Alanna Fields, and internationally recognized and award-winning photographer Nakeya Brown. Part 2 of the series features *Like Blood from a Stone* exhibit (back gallery), an intersectional exploration of Black women identities, featuring works by Adrienne Gaither, Muse, and award-winning photographer and freedom fighter Shan Wallace. The Festival will also feature an exclusive screening of the first season of *195 Lewis* - a dramedy series about a group of friends navigating the realities of being Black, queer, and polyamorous in New York City. Following the screening will be a moderated discussion with film maker, Chanelle Aponte Pearson, and cast. Through film, sculpture, photography, painting, and mixed media, these profound artists are putting Black womanhood and identities in the forefront to empower and inform their

audiences. *Tell the Truth About Me* will also include monthly public programs focused on exhibition related themes and topics from (October 7<sup>th</sup>-January 31<sup>st</sup> 2018).

#### **THE VENUE:**

The Rated PG: Black Arts Festival activities will take place in our galleries, outdoor lot, and new outdoor performing arts venue. Our 4,000 square foot facility features historical exhibitions chronicling African American history in Prince George's County as well as 2 contemporary art galleries. The Festival will also include a Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Museum's newly designed outdoor performing arts venue, which features a stage, wooden patio, and seating for outdoor concerts and special events.

Prince George's African American Museum and Cultural Center (PGAAMCC) is a small, community-centered institution that presents large-scale dynamic onsite and outreach programs for residents throughout Prince George's County and the state of Maryland. Since opening its doors in 2010, the Museum's mission has been to celebrate and inspire the community through the cultivation, preservation, and presentation of the cultural and artistic contributions of African Americans in Prince George's County, Maryland. There is an artistic and cultural synergy in Prince George's County and the surrounding region, and we are working diligently to support its growth. Our space is a platform for youth, artists, entrepreneurs, film-makers, businesses, educators, and creatives. It is important to highlight the significance and preserve the stories of our community; Prince Georges County, at one time, had the largest population of enslaved African Americans in the state of Maryland, but today is a National model for Black mobility.

#### **MORE ABOUT PGAAMCC:**

Visitors can enjoy daily gallery tours of PGAAMCC's permanent collection *Sharing Our Stories: Treasures from the Museum Collection* and *Footsteps to North Brentwood*, which feature artifacts and historical documents that explore the African American townships, schools, business, and communities that were developed in Prince George's County. Our current art exhibitions, *Chocolate Cities: Group Show* and Culture Keepers Presents: *Chocolate Cities Youth Exhibition*, are about the history, legacy, and sustainability of African American urban enclaves in Prince George's County and Washington, DC; these exhibitions encourage discourse on displacement, cultural sustainability, economic growth, and the recognition of individual experiences and collective memory. PGAAMCC also leads education outreach programs to Prince George's County youth in grades K-12, which are currently serving over 4,000 Prince George's County Public School students annually. **For more information, please visit our website at [www.pgaamcc.org](http://www.pgaamcc.org)**