

For Immediate Release

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Exhibition Openings:

If I knew then what I know now and Mothership to the Ancestral Plane

North Brentwood, MD (May 22, 2018) – Prince George’s African American Museum and Cultural Center (PGAAMCC) is proud to announce our summer exhibitions. PGAAMCC presents a versatile, multi-generational group of artists in the exhibitions *If I knew then what I know now* curated by Yaya Bey and *Mothership to the Ancestral Plane* curated by our Education Curator, Synatra Smith, Ph.D. Join us on Friday, June 1st 6-9pm for the opening of this exciting exhibition series.

If I knew then what I know now is an exhibition about Black childhood. Curator, Yaya Bey introduces and questions how the nuance of digital media might have impacted the childhood, connection to Black culture, and the community to both the featured artists and our patrons. Bey presents works that combine installations, polaroids, and an open dialogue about re-imagining Black childhood. With access to cyber-communities and places of cultural affinity, Bey challenges our audience and asks if we are now more informed to navigate the intersections of Blackness? What does this collective consciousness mean for future generations? Artists include: Imar Hutchins, Josef Isaiah K., Things by Demetria, and Quinci Baker.

Mothership to the Ancestral Plane is an afro-futurist youth exhibition featuring art works created by students in PGAAMCC’s teen after-school program, Culture Keepers. After seven months of research and production, the students’ work demonstrates an afro-futuristic reality. These imaginings might be actualized as these young artists mature into adulthood, and technology continues to advance. The pieces were developed concurrently with the release of the Marvel film *Black Panther*, which provided an updated launching point from which the students could understand and execute the aesthetic.

Come join us **Thursday, May 31st 6-9 pm** for our annual *Culture Keepers Youth Conference* and exhibition preview. This youth-led conference is open to all ages and will feature dialogue on topics of art, social consciousness, technology, individuality, and cultural identity. Students enrolled in the Culture Keepers program are researchers and recipients of African American history, art, and culture. Each year, Culture Keepers engage in innovative projects that interpret Prince George’s African American history, art, and culture through dynamic visual and performing arts events, such as mural projects, cultural exchanges, and community forums. Featured Schools include: Suitland High School, Dr. Henry A. Wise Jr. High School, and Northwestern High School. Attendees of the Youth Conference will also experience an exclusive exhibition preview of *If I Knew then What I Know Now* and *Mothership to the Ancestral Plane*.

PGAAMCC is an art and history museum, cultural center, and community space doing groundbreaking work in the county and beyond. There is an arts and culture synergy in Prince George’s County, and we are working diligently to support its growth. We are creating a platform for youth through educational programs, connecting with local community advisors, and supporting local artists. We appreciate your support during this pivotal point of the Museum’s success.

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. PGAAMCC also leads education outreach programs to Prince George’s County youth in grades K-12, which are currently serving over 7,000 Prince George’s County Public School students annually. **For more information, please visit our website at www.pgaamcc.org**

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