

Press Release

For Immediate Release: January 13th, 2016

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**Byline/Heading: "Freedom Crossing" at the NACC: Closing of the "I CAN SEE CANAAN LAND"
2016 Artists of Color Exhibition**

Date Of Event: 2 PM, Sunday February 21st 2016

Admission: Free Admission

About the Event:

(Niagara Falls, NY) Visit the Niagara Arts & Cultural Center (NACC) on Sunday, February 21st at 2 PM for "Freedom Crossing" at the NACC. The event will celebrate the closing of our "*I Can See Canaan Land*": 2016 Artists of Color Exhibition with dance performances, poetry, and lectures as we announce the opening of our permanent Underground Railroad Exhibit.

The event will begin at 2 PM with a free master dance class taught by the African American Cultural Center, open to anyone ages 12+ and sponsored by Niagara Falls (NY) Chapter The Links, Incorporated. For those who will not be attending the dance class are invited for a tour of the NACC & "*I Can See Canaan Land*": 2016 Artists of Color Exhibition.

At 3:30 our main program will begin, with poetry readings by Jessica Thorpe & Pricilla Hill, and a presentation of Niagara Falls history of the Underground Railroad. Following the lecture we will present an award honoring exhibition director and curator Ray Robertson. The event will close with the "History of Dancing & Drumming", a performance and lecture by the African American Cultural Center.

About the Exhibit:

The Niagara Arts and Cultural Center (NACC) is proud to announce the opening "*I Can See Canaan Land*": 2016 Artists of Color Exhibition, to run January 22 through February 21, 2016 in the Main Gallery of the NACC, 1201 Pine Ave, Niagara Falls, NY 14301. During the 2016 Artists of Color Exhibition: "*I Can See Canaan Land*", the NACC is hosting a series of events this January & February celebrating African American History & the Underground Railroad!

The "*I Can See Canaan Land*": 2016 Artists of Color Exhibition is curated by Jessica Thorpe & Ray Robertson and features works by WNY Artists. It is envisioned as a comprehensive representation of the African American experience from the historical, contemporary and personal perspective. The exhibition features art by Betty Pitts Foster, Cheryl Gorski, Cornelia Dohse-Peck, Dejuan Hunt, George Pagano, Michael Beam, Michele Costa, Phyllis L. Thompson, Richmond Futch Jr., Tim Maloney, and Youssou Lo. The exhibition will also feature selected art by Jessica Thorpe, selected art by Ray Robertson, and a display of art from Ray Robertson's personal collection.

Schedule at a glance:

2/3:15	Master Dance Class	4:15	Poem by Jessica Thorpe
3:30	Welcome by Jessica Thorpe, Poem by Priscilla Hill	4:30	Award Presented to Ray Robertson
3:45	Lecture on Underground Railroad by Ms. Eva Doyle	4:40	Intermission
		5/6	History of dancing and drumming Performance

The Niagara Arts and Cultural Center (NACC) mission is to promote arts and cultural experiences. Located in downtown Niagara Falls, NY, the former Niagara Falls High School is designated as an historic building and is located less than a mile away from the famous Niagara Falls.

The building was built in 1924 and is registered with both the state and federal government as a protected, landmark building of historic importance. Currently the NACC is home to over seventy visual and performing artists and contains two art galleries and two theaters. Saved from demolition in 2001, the NACC continues to offer opportunities for cultural engagement to visitors from all over the world!