



**niagara arts & cultural center**

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## ***Press Release***

**For Immediate Release: January 13th, 2016**

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**Byline/Heading:** "Call & Response" at the NACC: Part of the "I CAN SEE CANAAN LAND" 2016 Artists of Color Exhibition

**Date Of Event:** 5 PM, Saturday February 6<sup>th</sup> 2016

**Admission:** Free Admission

(Niagara Falls, NY) 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!

Join us on Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM for "Call and Response", an event is featuring storytelling, poetry, spoken word, a children's creativity station with several featured artists, and a live multi-media performance of "Butterfly Sky" by Michele Costa of theatre figuren, followed by a Q&A.

For this event we are looking for poetry and spoken word, we hope to facilitate an evening of open engagement, inspiration, and cultural discourse as people share their unique voices.

If you are interested in being a featured poet or speaker, please contact [Rachel@thenacc.org](mailto:Rachel@thenacc.org) or call our office at 716-282-7530 ext 7.

Thematic Suggestions for Poetry / Spoken Word: Freedom, African American Experience, Civil Rights, Salvation, Underground Railroad, Regional History and Heroes, Immigration, Emancipation, Juneteenth, Police Violence, Gun Violence, Great Migration, Freedom Crossing.

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:**

- 5 PM: Welcome
- 5:15 PM: Poetry & Spoken Word
- 6 PM: Performance of Butterfly Sky by Michele Costa of Theatre Figuren
- 6:30 PM: Q&A with Michelle Costa
- 7:00 PM: Closing Poetry & Spoken Word
- 8:00 PM: Gallery Closes

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!