



Father Ryan Arts Center

of Focus On Renewal

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Press Release

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Second Annual “A Celebration of African American Arts” at the Father Ryan Arts Center Offers Unique Blend of Culture, History and Community in February

McKees Rocks, PA, February 3, 2012 — The Father Ryan Arts Center is proud to present the second annual “A Celebration of African American Arts: Family, Friends and Community” honoring the African American experience with innovative and inspiring performances, presentations, entertainment and activities Sunday, February 19, 2012 from 12 pm to 8 pm.

Doors will open at noon with local food and craft vendors, including a Vegan and Caribbean menu provided by Ujamaa Collective, community awareness and advocacy tables, a hands-on arts experience for families and an art gallery exhibition. Beginning at 2 pm, join Masters of Ceremonies, Candace aka Hotep Walker and Leslie “Ezra” Smith as they highlight this year’s full day of performances featuring an emerging artists pre-show, followed by an eclectic showcase of established artists at 3 pm including Etta Cox, Langston Hughes Poetry Society of Pittsburgh, Mid-Atlantic Contemporary Ballet, Ibeji Drum Ensemble, a presentation on Africa by Ten Thousand Villages, all culminating in Actors Civic Theater’s staged-reading performance of “Another August” by new playwright Charlene Donaghy, a powerful story of loss and redemption set in post-Katrina New Orleans, followed by an uplifting grand finale by the East Liberty Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir.

Ticket provides admission to all events: \$10 for adults; \$8 for seniors age 65 and older and for children age 6 to 18; free for children 5 years and younger. In honor of Black History Month, the Gallery at the Father Ryan Arts Center will be open the entire month February (Tuesdays through Saturdays) with artwork by local and regional artists (see list below). All are welcome. For ticket reservations or more information, call 412.771.3052 or visit www.fatherryanartscenter.org.

Emerging Artists

Peace & Patience Girl’s Dance Troupe, Second Baptist Church, McKees Rocks, Lori Sloan, S.T.A.R. (Strong, Talented, Aspiring Rockers), Today’s Tomorrow

Gallery Artists (Gallery Show open the entire month of February)

Christopher Chapman, Willie Dawson, Isaiah Dent, Vanessa German, Charles Massie, Leah Miller Barb Owens, Ten Thousand Villages, Dolores Whittington

Performing Artists

Actors Civic Theater, Etta Cox, East Liberty Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir, Gerard Holt & Mid-Atlantic Contemporary Ballet, Ibeji Drum Ensemble, Langston Hughes Poetry Society of Pittsburgh, Ten Thousand Villages

Food & Fair

Ujamaa Collective – Vegan and Caribbean Cuisine, Celeta Hickman – Jewelry, Kyttie Seku – Home décor, Gina Lockhart – Reversible glass paintings, Tia Baker – Cultural arts & crafts, Margie Rose – Fashion, Victoria Quiroz – Oils and soaps, Lincoln Heritage Life Insurance Co.

Fun & Fellowship

“I Have A Dream” Wall interactive art – Guided by Brandon Jennings

Community Awareness & Advocacy: Sacred Health – Holistic health and healing, Focus On Renewal – Community support and services

Raffles & Door Prizes

About the Event

A Celebration of African American Arts at the Father Ryan Arts Center is an annual event that pays homage to the many talented visual and performing African American arts and artists throughout the Pittsburgh region. Created by Barb Owens and Isaiah Dent, McKees Rocks residents and local artists, this event strives to honor and represent the work, struggles and achievements of leaders and trailblazers in the African American community through artistic expression and imagery.

Committee Members

Barb Owens and Isaiah Dent, Co-chairs; Pat Moran, Father Ryan Arts Center director; Michele Betts; Pilar Brown; and James Critchfield

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Focus on Renewal (F.O.R.) is a non-profit human service agency that has served the McKees Rocks community for 40 years, and is nationally recognized as a model of comprehensive services to low-income people of all ages.

The Father Ryan Arts Center, a program of Focus On Renewal, is a multi-level facility in the heart of McKees Rocks committed to providing artistic education, enrichment and entertainment.