

APOLLO 85

The Apollo Theater Presents Apollo Uptown Hall: Harlem's Culture – Past. Present. Future.

Moderated by *Spectrum News NY1* Anchor Cheryl Wills,
WBLS' Imhotep Gary Byrd, and *New York Amsterdam News'* Herb Boyd

Panel Discussion to Feature Members from Harlem Arts Organizations Including
Apollo Theater, Dance Theatre of Harlem, National Black Theatre,
The African-American Day Parade and HARLEM WEEK, Inc.

Thursday, August 15, 2019

7:00 p.m.

Free and Open to the Public

(Harlem, NY – July 16, 2019) – On Thursday, August 15 at 7:00 p.m., the **Apollo Theater** in partnership with **Spectrum News NY1**, **WBLS**, and **New York Amsterdam News** will present ***Apollo Uptown Hall: Harlem's Culture – Past. Present. Future.*** The panel will gather thought leaders from some of Harlem's most influential arts organizations to celebrate milestone anniversaries in the Harlem arts community and discuss the roles these cultural organizations will play in either preserving traditions or advancing change. The event is free with RSVP.

Moderated by **Spectrum News NY1** Anchor **Cheryl Wills**, **WBLS'** **Imhotep Gary Byrd**, and **New York Amsterdam News'** **Herb Boyd**, the discussion will feature a panel of thought leaders from the Harlem arts community including, **Apollo Theater's** Executive Producer, **Kamilah Forbes**; **National Black Theatre's** CEO, **Sade Lythcott** and Director of Theatre Arts, **Jonathan McCrory**; **Dance Theatre of Harlem's** Executive Director, **Anna Glass**, and Artistic Director, **Virginia Johnson**; **The African-American Day Parade's** Chairman, **Yusuf Hasan**; and **HARLEM WEEK Inc.'s** Chairman, **Lloyd Williams**, and Board Member, **Donna Walker-Kuhne**, with music by **WBLS'** **Kool DJ Red Alert** and a performance by **HARLEM WEEK** singer **Keia Johnson**.

The event will close with a performance by the **Brooklyn United Marching Band** and a special presentation by **Keisha Sutton-James**, granddaughter of Harlem politician **Percy E. Sutton**.

Apollo Uptown Hall: Harlem's Culture – Past. Present. Future. is free and open to the public, but RSVPs are mandatory at: <http://apollotheater.org/uptownhall>.

About Apollo Uptown Hall

The Apollo Theater continues to be a gathering place and “town hall” for local community residents as well as people from all across New York City. This led to the creation of *Apollo Uptown Hall*, which creatively and uniquely weaves panel discussions, video, texting, and live performances to enhance and develop an interactive forum for the community to discover and/or address key issues. For more information, visit www.apollotheater.org.

About Apollo Theater

The legendary Apollo Theater—the soul of American culture—plays a vital role in cultivating emerging artists and launching legends. Since its founding, the Apollo has served as a center of innovation and a creative catalyst for Harlem, the city of New York, and the world.

With music at its core, the Apollo’s programming extends to dance, theater, spoken word, and more. This includes special programs such as the blockbuster concert *Bruno Mars Live at the Apollo*, the world premiere theatrical reading of Ta-Nehisi Coates’s National Book Award-winning *Between the World and Me, 100: The Apollo Celebrates Ella*, the annual Africa Now! Festival, and the New York premiere of the opera *We Shall Not Be Moved*. The Apollo is a performing arts presenting organization that also produces festivals and large-scale dance and music works organized around a set of core initiatives that celebrate and extend the Apollo’s legacy through a contemporary lens; global festivals including the Women of the World (WOW) Festival and *Breakin’ Convention*; international and U.S.-based artist presentations focused on a specific theme; and Special Projects, multidisciplinary collaborations with partner organizations.

Since introducing the first *Amateur Night* contests in 1934, the Apollo Theater has served as a testing ground for new artists working across a variety of art forms and has ushered in the emergence of many new musical genres—including jazz, swing, bebop, R&B, gospel, blues, soul, and hip-hop. Among the countless legendary performers who launched their careers at the Apollo are Michael Jackson, Ella Fitzgerald, Stevie Wonder, Billie Holiday, James Brown, D’Angelo, Lauryn Hill, Dave Chappelle, Machine Gun Kelly, Miri Ben Ari, Sarah Vaughan, Gladys Knight, and Luther Vandross; and the Apollo’s forward-looking artistic vision continues to build on this legacy. For more information visit <https://www.apollotheater.org/>.

Support

The Apollo's season is made possible by leadership support from Coca-Cola, Citi, Ford Foundation, Howard Gilman Foundation, and the Jerome L. Greene Arts Access Fund in the New York Community Trust.

Public support for the Apollo Theater is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the

New York State Legislature, and from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.

Apollo Uptown Hall: Harlem's Culture – Past. Present. Future. is sponsored by Spectrum News NY1.

Special support for Apollo Theater Community Programs is given by New York City Council Member Mark Levine.

###

Contact:

Apollo Theater

press@apollotheater.org