**Cultural Preservation Leadership Summit**

**The Ford Foundation Center for Social Justice**

**March 29, 2019**

Join the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Ford Foundation, The JPB Foundation, the Andrew W. Mellow Foundation, and others for a dynamic and provocative dialogue with some of America’s most thoughtful and influential leaders. Our discussion will help set an innovative program agenda and social justice framework for the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund (AACHAF), a $25 million, multi-year initiative launched in November 2017 and the largest preservation campaign ever undertaken by a nonprofit organization in the United States.

This Summit brings together a diverse set of scholars, activists, entrepreneurs, and stakeholders to explore new approaches and tools for stimulating community revitalization, economic development, and grassroots empowerment. Visionary and creative leaders, including members of the AACHAF National Advisory Council, will discuss how to create transformational change and catalyze social action, deepen the connection between preservation and racial justice, protect more places representing the African American experience in America, and explore new forms of partnership, interpretation, and community that can grow and sustain the AACHAF as a social movement for today and into the future.

**The Summit meeting goals include:**

* Developing the AACHAF’s national vision and social justice messaging to advance the cultural preservation movement as a tool for justice, equity, and activism.
* Deepening and expanding the AACHAF’s capacity to meet the systems and infrastructure needs of a more diverse preservation movement in addressing issues of race, equity, and justice.
* Driving social innovation and action around needed preservation solutions for cities, and inspiring collaboration, innovation, and strategy development to increase the AACHAF’s impact
* Leveraging networks to expand the cadre of donors, allies, and partnerships supporting both the Fund and the preservation of diverse places writ large.
* Cultivating a diverse set of social impact funders and leaders to secure the AACAF’s $25M fundraising goal.

**Summit Agenda**

The Cultural Preservation Leadership Summit agenda includes a mix of interactive and engaging presentations, panel discussions, and community conversations to facilitate debate and innovative thinking.

**9:00 - 9:30 a.m.**

**Welcome & Opening Remarks**

* Welcome by AACHAF Co-Chairs Darren Walker & Phylicia Rashad

* Presentation & Summit Overview by Brent Leggs, Executive Director, AACHAF

**9:30 - 10:30 a.m.**

**Session One: Cultural Entrepreneurship, Arts Activism & Preservation Philanthropy**

A new generation of activists is linking together arts activism, cultural entrepreneurship, and preservation philanthropy to restore and transform national treasures like Madam C. J. Walker’s Villa Lewaro in Irvington, New York; Nina Simone’s childhood home in Tryon, North Carolina; and Carter G. Woodson’s home in Washington, D.C. Hear from visionaries Richelieu Dennis, Adam Pendleton, and Linda Wilson about their preservation philosophy, innovative ideas for the field, and why it is necessary to save the physical evidence of our diverse past. Together, these speakers and summit attendees will discuss the essential role of artists, business executives, and philanthropists in uplifting and empowering Black America through preservation practice and social justice.

Panelists

* Richelieu Dennis, Founder, New Voices Fund & New Voices Foundation
* Adam Pendleton, Co-Owner, Daydream Therapy, LLC
* Linda Wilson, Executive Director, Fund II Foundation

Moderator:

* Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Hutchins Center for African & African American Research, Harvard University; AACHAF National Advisory Council

Community Discussion at Large:  Following the panel discussion, panelists and summit attendees will brainstorm ideas for:

* Activating increased civic participation, site ownership, and private investment by other artists, entrepreneurs, and philanthropists in the cultural preservation movement and the AACHAF.

**10:30 – 10:45 a.m. BREAK**

**10:45 – 11:00 a.m.** **Program Spotlight**

* Preview of the AACHAF’s new equity research titled *Cultural Heritage, Affordability, and Displacement in historically African American neighborhoods* by Mike Powe, Director, Research & Policy Lab

**11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

**Session Two: Cities, Civic Leadership & Equitable Development**

Cultural preservation encourages cities to unleash the potential of older buildings to improve affordability, community agency, and well-being. In midsize and major cities, civic leaders are bringing this vision to life through social inclusion, equity, and creative deal-making to address years of environmental and economic inequities that disproportionately impact African American neighborhoods and communities. Hear from civic leaders Denise Gilmore, Irvin Henderson, Marimba Milliones, and Gina Nisbeth about the intersections of cultural heritage and preservation practice to drive community revitalization and economic development, the challenges and opportunities they encounter preserving Birmingham’s A. G. Gaston Motel and Pittsburgh’s New Granada Theater, and the role of targeted financing to achieve transformational change. Leaders and summit attendees will discuss the role of local and national partnerships and public and private investment to create equitable cities where African American residential and commercial districts are preserved and thrive.

Panelists:

* Denise Gilmore, Director of Cultural Preservation, City of Birmingham
* Irvin Henderson, Principal, Henderson & Company; AACHAF National Advisory Council
* Marimba Milliones, President & CEO, Hill Community Development Corporation
* Gina D. Nisbeth, Director, Citi Community Capital
* U.S. Rep. Terri Sewell, AL-07; AACHAF Council

Moderator

* Dana Bourland, Vice President, Environment, The JPB Foundation; AACHAF National Advisory Council

*Community Discussion at Large:*  Following the panel discussion, panelists and summit attendees will brainstorm ideas for:

* Coalition-building and partnership development by preservation institutions, city government, and lending institutions to achieve scalable, targeted, and high-impact investment in African American communities.

**12:00 – 1:00 p.m. LUNCH**

**1:00 – 1:15 p.m.** **Program Spotlight**

* Overview of the AACHAF’s HOPE Crew program and its positive impact on young adults and diverse communities by Monica Rhodes, Director, HOPE Crew

**1:15 – 1:45 p.m.**

**Session Three: Next Generation & The Future Cultural Preservation Movement**

Student activists and emerging professionals are critical to the future Black cultural preservation movement and the AACHAF. Their leadership and vision can inform how traditional practice should be reimagined for increased cultural relevance and social impact. Hear from a diverse group of students and social impact leaders about their ideas for diversifying the field, amplifying social justice messages, and instilling a national cultural ethic for preserving African American historic places.

Panelists:

* Jenna Dublin, Columbia University; AACHAF Research Manager, Research and Policy Lab
* Jessica Pumphrey, Georgetown University; Mildred Colodny Diversity Scholar & AACHAF Fellow
* Monique Robinson, Morgan State University; HOPE Crew Preservation Practicum
* Daniela Tai, University of Maryland; Mildred Colodny Diversity Scholar & AACHAF Fellow

Moderator:

* Dr. Lonnie G. Bunch, III, Director, National Museum of African American History and Culture, Smithsonian Institution; AACHAF National Advisory Council

**1:45 – 2:00 p.m. Program Spotlight**

* Overview of the AACHAF’s public relations campaign and cultural influencer engagement by Germonique Ulmer, Vice President, Public Affairs

**2:00 – 2:45 p.m.**

**Session Four: How Narratives Shape Public Engagement**

The U.S. Cultural Preservation Movement is dependent on a wide spectrum of people who envision and lead social change in their communities. Through traditional and nonconventional means, these committed and savvy activists are raising awareness about the importance of saving African American historic places and the diverse stories they embody. As pathways for civic participation, community empowerment, and creative storytelling, these thought leaders are advancing a social justice agenda rooted in civil rights activism, cultural heritage, and public engagement. Hear from Ifa Bayeza, Amy Freitag, Michelle Lanier, and Yoruba Richen about the challenges, opportunities, funding needs, and role of collaborative partnerships to ensure sustainable grassroots activism.

Panelists:

* Ifa Bayeza, Playwright and Producer, *Bunk Johnson: Out of the Shadows*
* Daniel Beaty, Founder, Productions, Inc. & I Dream
* Amy C. Freitag, Executive Director, J. M. Kaplan Fund
* Michelle Lanier, Founding Director, North Carolina African American Heritage Commission
* Yoruba Richen, Filmmaker and Director, *Green Book: A Guide to Freedom*, Smithsonian Channel

Moderator:

* Sherilyn Ifill, President, NAACP Legal Defense Fund; AACHAF National Advisory Council

*Community Discussion at Large:*  Following the panel discussion, panelists and summit attendees will brainstorm ideas for:

* Framing and positioning the movement and AACHAF through the lens of social justice.
* Identifying the untold stories of Black activism, achievement, community, and beyond.
* Discussing tactics for institutional collaboration and new techniques for growing public engagement.

**2:45 – 3:00 p.m. RECAP & CLOSING REMARKS**

* Call to Action & Next Steps (AACHAF Co-chairs & Executive Director)

**3:00 – 3:15 p.m. BREAK**

**3:15 – 4:00 p.m. AACHAF National Advisory Council Meeting (Private)**