



For Immediate Release

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2016 Lantern Walk

Commemorating African-American families who built their homes in historic neighborhoods east of the Anacostia River by candlelight

Washington, D.C. (August 17, 2016) – The 11th Street Bridge Park and Washington Performing Arts present the Lantern Walk, a commemorative community event inspired by the story of African-American families who built their homes in the historic Barry Farm/Hillsdale neighborhoods east of the Anacostia River by candlelight after returning home from a long day's work. Participants of this free event will begin in The Yards Park, continuing down the river walk trail in front of the Navy Yard, crossing the 11th Street Bridge and ending at the Anacostia Arts Center. Partners including ArtReach at THEARC, The Phillips Collection and the Ward 8 Arts & Culture Council will lead [workshops](#) in the weeks preceding the event for participants to construct their own lanterns.

Lantern Walk

When: Saturday, September 17, 2016; 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm

Where: Beginning at The Yards Park (355 Water Street SE) and ending in Anacostia Arts Center (1231 Good Hope Road SE)

Who: FREE and open to the public.

For more information and to RSVP: bridgepark.org/lanternwalk

Events will begin at The Yards Park with a lantern-making workshop from 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm and live performances by local musicians and dancers. The walk will commence at 7:30 pm from The Yards Park where participants will walk west along the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail, across the local 11th Street Bridge and to the Anacostia Arts Center. The walk will culminate at the Anacostia Arts Center with a celebration that includes a reception, interactive activities for all ages and live performances by East of the River artists from 8:30 pm – 9:30 pm. In addition, participants will enjoy a display of lanterns made by residents from across the city and a presentation on the historic Barry Farm/Hillsdale communities

by the Anacostia Community Museum. Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable footwear and appropriate clothing for the walk.

“The 11th Street Bridge Park aims to reconnect long-divided communities on both sides of the Anacostia River,” said 11th Street Bridge Park Director Scott Kratz. “The Lantern Walk is an exciting opportunity to physically connect these nearby neighborhoods while celebrating their rich history.”

The Lantern Walk kicks off additional activities this fall hosted by Washington Performing Arts and The Phillips Collection that ties into the larger theme of African-American migration. Washington Performing Arts, together with D.C.-based dance company Step Afrika! and in cooperation with The Phillips Collection, will present the return of *The Migration: Reflections on Jacob Lawrence*, Step Afrika!’s critically acclaimed multi-media work. *The Migration* will take place at the University of the District of Columbia Theater of the Arts in three performances from Friday, September 30 – Sunday, October 2, 2016. Tickets can be purchased [here](#) and go on sale Wednesday, August 24. From Saturday, October 8, 2016 through Sunday, January 8, 2017, The Phillips Collection will present the complete Migration Series in the exhibition “People on the Move: Beauty and Struggle in Jacob Lawrence’s Migration Series.” More information on this exhibition can be found [here](#).

The Lantern Walk is presented by the 11th Street Bridge Park and Washington Performing Arts. Funds for this event are provided by ArtPlace America and the Washington Performing Arts’ Mars Urban Arts Initiative, generously supported by Jacqueline Badger Mars and Mars, Incorporated. Additional partners include Anacostia Arts Center, ArtReach at THEARC, Capitol Riverfront BID, The Phillips Collection, Smithsonian’s Anacostia Community Museum and Ward 8 Arts & Culture Council.

About the 11th Street Bridge Park

The 11th Street Bridge Park, a project of Ward 8 based nonprofit Building Bridges Across the River at THEARC will be Washington, D.C.’s first elevated public park located on the piers of the old 11th Street Bridge spanning the Anacostia River: a new venue for healthy recreation; environmental education and the arts. After a seven-month design competition, the design team of OMA+OLIN was selected in October 2014. With the ongoing capital campaign securing more than \$11 million to date, Bridge Park draws on extensive community outreach and consultative process, anchored by more than 700 stakeholder meetings for design development and impact. The park is expected to open by 2019.

About Washington Performing Arts

For 50 years, [Washington Performing Arts](#) has had a foundational role in the arts in our nation’s capital, creating profound opportunities that connect community and artists, in both education and performance. Through live events in nine venues that span the D.C. metropolitan area, the careers of emerging artists are launched and nurtured,

and established artists return to develop closer relationships with Washington Performing Arts audiences and creative partners.

As one of the leading presenters in the nation, Washington Performing Arts embraces a broad spectrum of the performing arts, including classical music, jazz, gospel, contemporary dance and music, international music and art forms, and new work. Dynamic education programs in the public schools and beyond are hallmarks of Washington Performing Arts, as are the Embassy Adoption Program, the Mars Urban Arts Initiative, and two resident gospel choirs.

Washington Performing Arts has been honored for its work at the intersection of arts presenting and education. The organization has received Mayor's Arts Awards for Outstanding Contribution to Arts Education (2015) and Excellence in Service to the Arts (2012) and was honored by President Barack Obama with a 2012 National Medal of Arts (becoming the fourth D.C.-based arts group and the first arts presenter of its kind to be so honored). In a testament to its substantial impact on the arts in D.C., Washington Performing Arts continues to garner ever-increasing support from District agencies.

About the Mars Urban Arts Initiative

In May 2014, the Mars Urban Arts Initiative (MUAI) was created by Washington Performing Arts with the generous support of Jacqueline Badger Mars and Mars, Incorporated. The Mars Urban Arts Initiative currently works to fuel joint planning between Washington Performing Arts and grassroots neighborhood arts makers, local businesses, local arts institutions, and local residents. Washington Performing Arts utilizes its resources and connections with national and international artists to facilitate artist-to-artist dialogue, the sharing of artistic principles, and programs that amplify the voice and prominence of artists (performance/visual) living in the Washington, D.C. community.

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