



African American Cultural Center Inc.

gatekeeper for urban generations [since 1958]

350 Masten Avenue Buffalo NY 14209 716.884.2013 www.africancultural.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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TWO NEW AACC PROGRAMS HELP YOUNG PEOPLE DEFINE POSITIVE LIFE, COMMUNICATIONS SKILLS

(Buffalo, NY) The African American Cultural Center has two new, free programs to help Buffalo young people develop the life skills needed to become future gatekeepers for urban generations.

“These programs are designed to help our young people enhance critical thinking skills, develop positive decision-making skills, decrease risky behavior and learn to show empathy for their peers and others. Our goal is to boost academic achievement and teach viable skills that will help them find employment in whatever career field they choose to pursue,” AACC Assistant Director Alicia M. Banner said.

The new AACC **Theatre Arts Program** – funded by the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo – includes instruction in stage presence, memorization skills, lighting design, set design and construction, costume design, blocking, play writing and acting for students ages six to 18. Classes are held 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays; and 1 to 2 p.m. on Saturdays. The program is administered by AACC Paul Robeson Theatre Artistic Director Paulette D. Harris; instructors are Craig Freudenthal (light design), Ibn Shabazz (drama), Richard Williams (sound design) and LaDoris Burton (costume design).

Positive Productive Sisters meets every other Wednesday from 6 to 8 p.m. to promote self-esteem, decision making and communications skills among young girls ages 10 to 17. The next meeting is Wednesday, December 8, 2010.

“We want to elevate their self-awareness to making positive decisions to that negative consequences are not in their future. Participants learn to express feelings and emotions in journals, and engage in fund-raising and civic activities to achieve their goals,” Positive Progressive Sisters director and AACC Board Member Paulette S. Counts said.

For enrollment information contact Paulette D. Harris for the Theatre Arts Program and Paulette S. Counts for Positive Progressive Sisters at (716) 884-2013. Both programs are free and held at the African American Cultural Center, 350 Masten Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14209.

The African American Cultural Center is a not for profit 501 (c) 3 organization supported through public funds from the United Way of Buffalo & Erie County, City of Buffalo Community Development Block Grant, the County of Erie, NYS Council on the Arts (a State Agency), NYS Office of Children and Family Services and the State of New York - and through the generosity of community, corporate and private friends and supporters.