

Friday FSU Appalachian Festival Symposium- Sept. 18th

African Americans in Appalachia, 6 pm-9 pm

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To explore the theme, "African Americans in Appalachia," this year's symposium incorporates a variety of live discussions interspersed with music, art, dance, and self-care activities. Participants are welcome to participate in all or some of the evening's virtual interactive program.

The symposium kicks off at 6 pm with a panel of seasoned social activists from who are working on various issues that promote racial equity in our local Appalachian region. Following that session, Dr. Sabrina N'Diaye, founder of the Heart Nest Center for Peace and Healing in Baltimore, will lead a brief mediation period.

At 7:00 pm the keynote speaker, Frank X. Walker, founder of the term and movement, Afrilachia, will speak on "Afrilachian Lives Matter, Too: Myths, Lies and Historical Truths," Walker will read from his new collection, "Masked Man, Black: Pandemic and Protest Poems," and discuss little-known significant histories that shatter deeply rooted caricatures and stereotypes about race in Appalachia.

Following a performance by musical artist and Cumberland resident, Black Guy Fawkes, at 8 pm, a panel of student activists will discuss their organizing efforts, highlighting ways that today's youth are working to create social change in the Appalachian region and beyond.

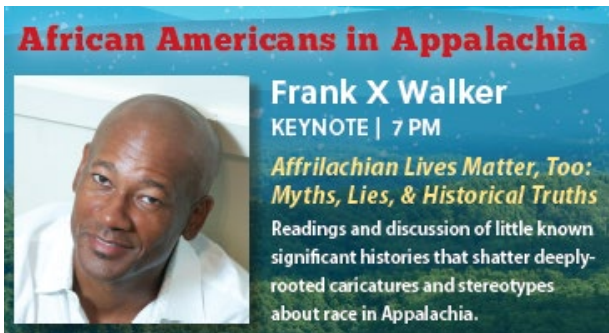
To address the ways in which racial inequities have been laid bare by the Covid-19 pandemic, Jacqueline Magbie, Wellness Ambassador for the Allegany Health Department, will present a short overview on, "Non-Hispanic Black or African American Health Disparities."

The symposium will draw to a close by 9 pm with a variety of activities including activist-oriented dance and art.

Featured Speakers

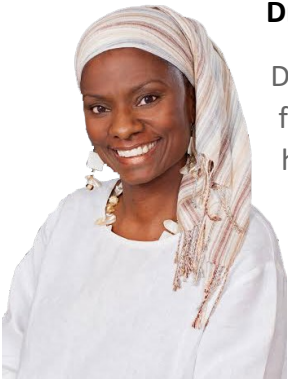
Frank X Walker, founding member of Afrilachian Poets

Multidisciplinary artist **Frank X Walker** is a native of Danville, KY, a graduate of the University of Kentucky, and completed an MFA in Writing at Spalding University in May 2003. He has lectured, conducted workshops, read poetry and exhibited at over 300 national conferences and universities including the Verbal Arts Centre in Derry, Northern



Ireland; Santiago, Cuba; University of California at Berkeley; Notre Dame; Louisiana State University at Alexandria; University of Washington; Virginia Tech; Radford University; and Appalachian State University.

A founding member of the Affrilachian Poets, he is the editor of *America! What's My Name? The "Other" Poets Unfurl the Flag* (Wind Publications, 2007) and *Eclipsing a Nappy New Millennium* and the author of four poetry collections: *When Winter Come: the Ascension of York* (University Press of Kentucky, 2008); *Black Box* (Old Cove Press, 2005); *Buffalo Dance: the Journey of York* (University Press of Kentucky, 2003), winner of the 35th Annual Lillian Smith Book Award; and *Affrilachia* (Old Cove Press, 2000), a Kentucky Public Librarians' Choice Award nominee.



Dr. Sabrina N'Diaye, founder of the Heart Nest Center for Peace and Healing

Dr. Sabrina N'Diaye is an integrative psychotherapist and founder of the Heart Nest Center for Peace and Healing in Baltimore. There, she lovingly serves women, couples, other healers, and small groups. Her approach to healing is a blend of wisdom, science, and ancient spiritual practices. She is a student of the late Sufi Master Sidi Muhammad al-Jamal of Jerusalem, and incorporates Sufi healing into her work with individuals, families, and communities. Sabrina received her PhD in Mind-Body Medicine from Saybrook University, where she studied the use of complementary and alternative interventions for physical, emotional, and spiritual growth. Her dissertation study focused on the use of guided imagery as a healing tool for African-American women with chronic STIs. She is also a proud faculty member of the Center for Mind-Body Medicine, where she teaches the art of self-care to healthcare professionals around the globe. She is currently serving the Center as a teacher and guide for Jordanian healthcare professionals who are in service to Syrian refugees.

Participants- Regional Activists



Fred Chavis Hagerstown activist , teacher in public schools

"People always ask how I can be a teacher and an activist. I say how can you not? Everyday I ensure my classroom is equitable for all students. I ensure a culture of love and respect for the diversity of my students. I protest and advocate for the children I teach, for the children in my community. I live by the saying, 'Be who you needed when you were younger'. My fight for my people, especially our young people fortifies this statement in my life."



Brooke Harper, environmental activist

Brooke is the regional campaign strategist for 350 where she is campaigning to keep it in the ground and to justly transition to a 100% renewable energy economy. She also serves as Energy Foundation's Maryland State Director. Prior to joining 350, she served as Chesapeake Climate Action Network's Maryland Director, advocating for progressive climate policies in and around the state including Maryland's fracking ban and the Clean Energy Jobs Act. She has spent over a decade organizing and coordinating electoral, labor and anti-globalization campaigns.



Reggie Turner Commissioner at Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture

Reggie was appointed by Governor Larry Hogan to the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC) in 2017 and he serves on the Western Maryland Advisory Committee of the Maryland Civil Rights Commission (MCC). Turner co-founded and serves as the Chairman of the Western Maryland Community Development Corporation (WMCDC). Turner also serves on the Meritus Healthcare Foundation Board, the Maryland Symphony Orchestra (MSO) and the Washington Co.



Tifani Fisher, regional activist

"Seven generations of losing our breath. Now, we Demand to Breathe."

Tifani Fisher was born in Cumberland and has lived in Allegany County throughout her entire life. As a descendant of Brownsville, Tifani carries connections to all 7 core original black families from Cumberland. She serves as the Vice President of the local chapter of the NAACP, where she recently chaired the organization for the Safe Not Silent March/Juneteenth celebration. She also volunteers with many community organizations and is the driving force behind the initiative to restore the Carver Center. Community leadership runs deep with the women in Tifani's family: her mother, grandmother, and great-grandmothers were all leaders. If you listen to her speaking to crowds or telling stories, you can hear that she deeply honors those shoulders she stands on.



Robin Wynder, FSU Campus Leadership

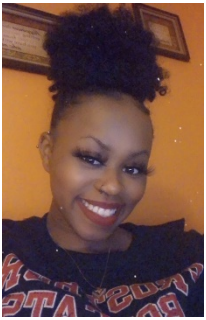
Robin V. Wynder serves the Frostburg State University (FSU) campus as the Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs/ Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer; the director of the FSU-National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI) Campus Affiliate; and as co-chair of the University Council on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. In the community she is currently serving on the Western Maryland Advisory Council for the Maryland Civil Rights Commission and with the NAACP. Ms. Wynder received her B.S. in Psychology and M.S. in Counseling Psychology from FSU. She has lived and worked in the community since her undergraduate years, serving the community through many agencies including local churches, the Allegany County PTA, the Family Crisis Resource Center, the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America. She also serves on the National Senior Leadership Team of NCBI, providing support to other college/university campus affiliates. She has devoted her life works to helping others gain the awareness, knowledge and skills needed to build inclusive communities.



Austin Gillens NGA Frostburg state local Activist

Austin Gillens is a senior at Frostburg State University studying political science and legal studies. At 27 years old, he's lived in Western Maryland 5 years. Austin has been active in his communities since his early teenage years and has been active in this community since 2017. He is the Speaker of the House for the National General Assembly at Frostburg and a member of the local NAACP. Austin hopes to use this opportunity to educate others on activism and inspire new leaders to take the first steps.

Participants- Student Activists



Lyric Mitchell, FSU Student

Lyric is a senior at FSU double majoring in psychology and law and society with a concentration in criminal justice. Originally from St. Mary's County in southern Maryland, Lyric is heavily involved on campus with 7 organizations and is always motivated to do more an help where she is needed.



Nakita Hall- Green, ACM Student Activist

Nikita Hall- Green, is a wife and mother of 4 born and raised in Baltimore, MD. She is a First Year Human Service Student at Allegany College Of Maryland with Plans to transfer to Frostburg State University to enter into the Social Work Program. She's been involved in activities with the NAACP Such as "Safe But Not Silent "march and upcoming activities that will also be hosted by the NAACP. Nikita has a passion for Social Activism and making Social Change. She realizes that in order to make a difference in Society, you must Become fully involved and be compelled to Change all of the flaws within our Society.



Keaira Illiano, ACM Student Activist

Keaira Illiano was born and raised in Keyser, WV. She is a wife and mother of two. She is currently in her second year of the Human Service program at Allegany College of Maryland. Keaira is Historian of the Human Service Program and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society. She has recently become a member of Peace Club and hopes to help support an on-campus movement to reestablish an ACM NAACP chapter. Keaira was given the opportunity to be a member of the Allegany County Community Relations Board. Keaira's hopes are to support an open dialogue and help organize projects withinthe community and colleges to help create awareness and to bring the community together.



Tawnisha Arthur, ACM Student Activist

Tawnisha Arthur was born and raised in Keyser, WV. Tawnisha is of African, Native American, Irish, and German descent. She proudly embraces all of her ethnicities and wishes to continue to learn about the cultural heritage of each. Tawnisha is a mother of three young children and is currently pursuing a Human Services degree with an Addictions Certification at Allegany College of Maryland. She is currently a member of the ACM Peace Club, hopes to join a campus NAACP, and has attended local Peace Marches in protest of police brutality. Tawnisha desires to see communities come together to resolve racial issues and wants our country to correct the systems that are currently structured in a way that oppresses minorities.



Angel Young, FSU Student Activist

Angel Young is a sophomore at Frostburg State University, majoring in psychology and political science. Her campus involvement includes Spectrum, Black Student Association, and the Psychology Club, all of which work to help bring awareness to certain issues within and outside the campus community. Outside of college, Angel is a student activist who spends the majority of her time reading and becoming knowledgeable about issues that impact the black community, so she can educate and inspire others. She is the creator and founder of, "A Seat at the Table" - a podcast designed to invite youth and young adults to the airwaves to discuss trending topics in the black community. Angel also enjoys self-expression through poetry.



Sidonie Brown, FSU Student Activist

Sidonie Brown is a senior in her final semester at FSU. She's always been passionate about being able to advocate for herself and others in the best way(s) possible. Recently, she was able to do just that as a member on a team of students and staff, to lead a BLM vigil/sit-in. She is a Liberal Studies major with a concentration in Health Science; her goal is to one day work in public health policy.

Additional Voices



Carmen Jackson, NAACP Branch President

Carmen is president of the Allegany County National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Branch 7007. During and after her long career in higher education at FSU, she was a member of professional organizations such as the Mid-Atlantic Association of College and University Housing Officers; the Association of College and University Housing Officers; the National Association of Black Social Workers and the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators. In this election year, Carmen is passionate about Voter Registration.



Black Guy Fawkes, Musician

Black Guy Fawkes is a Folk Singer-Songwriter born and raised in Baltimore, MD. He currently resides in Cumberland MD. Growing up in the DIY music scene, he is now taking his music on the road for all to experience. Drawing influence from artists such as: Against Me!, Frank Turner, Green Day and Bob Dylan; Black Guy Fawkes creates a sound that is heartfelt folk yet energetic and punk driven.

Black Guy Fawkes currently has his full length album "Trying Times" available everywhere. Recorded by Derek Shank, Produced by Kenny Tompkins, and recorded with his backing band members Jeff Davis (Drums) and Corey Mackereth (Guitar).



Fresh Academicz with Peter Arizmendi “BAM”

Our mission is to inspire lifelong learning in the community through creative development for youth and adults. We do that using the four elements of hip hop and its culture through a curriculum-based program that is easy to understand and stimulates human expression.

Born in the Lower East Side of Manhattan, BAM “THE LIQUID ROBOT”, has been performing since the age of nine. “I was amazed by the way the street dancers on the Lower East Side expressed themselves through dance, and I quickly became inspired to learn these techniques”. Through urban dance BAM

was able to avoid the perils of the streets while growing up. To learn more visit:

<https://www.freshacademicz.com/>



Parris Ashley

Parris Ashley was born in Baltimore, Maryland of West African, Chinese, English and Cherokee descent. He started creating art at the age of two and has since never stopped. He graduated from Frostburg State University in 2016 with a degree in Painting, minor in Art History. He still resides in Frostburg.

Since 2012, Parris has painted dozens of murals in Allegany County. He can be found most days working at his studio in Frostburg at 71 High Street. In 2019, Parris started the private company **Moki**, which strives to merge murals, graphic design and philanthropic works. The first Moki endeavor, still ongoing, is **The Garden Gifts Project**, which creates portable and community gardens for underserved communities

of color in Baltimore and DC.

Email or direct message him on Facebook or Instagram for painting prices, commissions, or to purchase artwork. parrisashleyart@gmail.com moki.artists@gmail.com Instagram @parrisashleyart

Facebook: Parris' Art, Moki

And More!!!

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