



*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

The Kennedy Center and Yo-Yo Ma Convene Day of Conversation and Action to Explore How Culture and the Arts Can Build Equity in Anacostia

Friday, November 30—Featuring Yo-Yo Ma & Esperanza Spalding

WHAT AND WHO: Day-long series of events designed to explore how culture and the arts can build equity in Anacostia, including a town hall “Think-In” and community conversation, followed by a small business happy hour and gallery opening. Events feature Anacostia civic leaders, local artists, and students in collaboration with jazz bassist and singer **Esperanza Spalding** and Kennedy Center Artistic Advisor-At-Large cellist **Yo-Yo Ma**.

The day is a partnership between [Yo-Yo Ma’s Bach Project](#) — a global series of concerts and days of action that explore how culture can help us to imagine and build a better future — and [Arts Across America](#), an initiative of the [John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts](#) that spotlights and celebrates cities and towns that are using the arts to promote connection, a strong creative economy, and increased cultural citizenship.

- Partner organizations include: Anacostia Arts Center, We Act Radio, Anacostia Playhouse, Anacostia High School, Turner Elementary, Project Create, Nubian Hueman, District Community Playback, HBC Theater Company, The Den Reading Room & Artist Exchange, Mahogany Books, Vintage and Charmed, and Check It.
- Kennedy Center leadership includes Artistic Advisor-At-Large Yo-Yo Ma, jazz bassist and singer Esperanza Spalding, President Deborah F. Rutter, among Anacostia leadership and other community representatives

WHEN AND WHERE: Friday, November 30, 2018

Please note that the following schedule may change without notice. Media are invited to attend the events in bold via prior arrangement with Brittany Laeger, Kennedy Center Public Relations (balaeger@kennedy-center.org or C: 202-439-5199).

9:30 – 12:00 p.m.: Mural Creation

Anacostia High School, 1601 16th St. SE, Washington, D.C. 20020

- Unveiling of mural celebrating Anacostia. The mural was created in partnership with students from Anacostia High School and Turnaround Arts school, Turner Elementary, with support from the Kennedy Center and Project Create.

12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.: Prelude to activities

- Yo-Yo Ma plays the *Prélude* from Johann Sebastian Bach’s first cello suite at We Act Radio to open the day in a moment of reflection on the past, acknowledgement of the present, and hope for the future

12:30 p.m.–1:00 p.m.: Imagining Equitable Futures

- An assembly at Anacostia High School will include a panel moderated by Deborah F. Rutter and performances by special guests, Yo-Yo Ma, Esperanza Spalding, local Hip Hop artist Konshens, Alexys Feaster, Director, Player Development at the NBA, among other special guests

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m: Town Hall “Think-In”

Anacostia Playhouse, 2020 Shannon PL SE, Washington, D.C. 20020

- District leaders, small business owners, artists, and community members come together to discuss building local equity in a conversation using Playback Theater models, which encourage personal storytelling and reflection. Representatives from across sectors, including business, government, and arts and culture, will participate in an engaging public forum followed by panel conversation.
- Moderated by Maryam Foye (founder of HBC Theater Company), discussion utilizes Playback Theater (facilitated by Jon Johnson) models, which encourage personal storytelling and reflection
- Ballou Marching Band to travel with attendees over to the Anacostia Arts Center for the Small Business Happy Hour and Gallery Opening

5:30 p.m.– 9:00 p.m.: Small Business Happy Hour and Gallery Opening: *In Between and Black Gold*

Anacostia Art Center, 1231 Good Hope Rd SE, Washington, D.C. 20020

- Double exhibit opening in partnership with Southeast D.C. galleries representing six local artists on themes of Afrofuturism and black equity, followed by a Happy Hour open house with local small businesses
- Pop-up performance featuring bassist **Esperanza Spalding** and local performers, Dev Duff
- Short Q&A with gallery artists about their work led by cellist **Yo-Yo Ma**

COVERAGE OPPORTUNITIES: Photo and b-roll opportunities are available; advanced arrangements are encouraged. Interview opportunities may be available upon request. To arrange coverage, please contact Brittany Laeger at balaeger@kennedy-center.org or C: 202-439-5199.

ABOUT ARTS ACROSS AMERICA

Arts Across America is a national recognition campaign of the Kennedy Center that uplifts and celebrates communities that are committed to using the arts to promote connection, a strong creative economy, and increased cultural citizenship. Through strategic community organizing and events, Arts Across America celebrates, connects, and energizes communities, and overtime weaves a national story about the power of the arts in communities across our country. The initiative is inspired by and aligned with the Kennedy Center’s mission as the national cultural center as well as the ideals of President John F. Kennedy: freedom, courage, justice, service, gratitude. Piloted in 2018, Arts Across America – Anacostia is the fifth site for the program.

#

PRESS CONTACT

Brittany Laeger

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

Cell: (202) 439-5199 | balaeger@kennedy-center.org