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# Press Release

## WHILE WE ARE STILL HERE ANNOUNCES SIGNS OF THE TIMES: HARLEM HERITAGE MARKERS PROJECT

**Designed to preserve history in the Harlem community**

*Harlem, New York, July 25, 2023* – **While We Are Still Here, Inc.**, a heritage-preservation organization, founded in 2015, announces **SIGNS OF THE TIMES: Harlem Heritage Markers Project**, which will install and dedicate 25 historic markers throughout the famed community. The initiative is intended to honor individuals, organizations and events that imbue Harlem with its unique character. The unveiling ceremonies and dedication of the markers will take place over two years beginning in August of 2023. Each event will feature a notable figure to dedicate the markers and a special performance. One marker dedication will be followed by an art exhibition.

“There are some factions throughout the country that are attempting to erase our history and silence our voices,” says **Karen D. Taylor**, founder and executive director of While We Are Still Here. “But here, in Harlem, we want to make sure that the citizenry and visitors alike are aware of the rich heritage that made this part of New York so unique.”

**Brent Leggs**, executive director of the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund, a major supporter of SIGNS OF THE TIMES states “Harlem is a monument to African American life, culture, activism, and artistic expression. Imbued in this historic cityscape are a multitude of stories that must be remembered. We are proud to support While We Are Still Here as they do the important legacy work within the community to ensure both the physical history and cultural legacy of Harlem is retained.”

The scheduled events for the unveiling of the markers in 2023 are as follows:

*Sunday, August 13*

### **Lift Ev’ry Black Voice of Fire**

The daylong event pays homage to four exemplars of Black pride. This bus tour will take guests to the four markers being dedicated that day: Jamaican-born Black nationalist **Marcus Garvey**; Leader and activist **Malcolm X**; American composer **J. Rosamond Johnson**; and poet and playwright **Larry Neal**.

*MORE*



**FOR IMMEDIATE  
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*Saturday, September 9*

**The Man Who Changed the Sound of Black Music**

Renowned jazz tenor saxophonist **Coleman Hawkins'** marker will be unveiled at this event, which coincides with the annual Sugar Hill Music Festival. This year, it will include a tribute to music of the "Hawk" performed by an intergenerational summit of saxophonists.

*Saturday, September 30*

**Regina Anderson Andrews: Harlem Renaissance Librarian**

The first African American woman to head a branch of the New York Public Library, Regina Anderson Andrews's career began during the Harlem Renaissance. At the 135<sup>th</sup> Street branch, she created writing spaces for the era's most promising writers to hone their craft and played a pivotal role in the work of great literary figures such as Langston Hughes and Countee Cullen. There will be a reception at the library following the dedication.

*Sunday, November 5*

**Honoring the Lenape Nation**

This event will also serve as the opening of **Lenapehoking Algonquian Artists In the Homeland** curated by Powhatan/Cherokee/Sioux visual artist **Nadema Agard**, at the Spitzer School of Architecture Atrium Gallery at CCNY/CUNY. The Algonquian nations of the Northeastern Woodlands call their ancestral homeland Lenapehoking, or "Land of the Lenape," which includes New York, Connecticut, Eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Northern Delaware, with New York City as its heart.

There will be 18 more markers unveiled in 2024.

The SIGNS OF THE TIMES: Harlem Heritage Markers Project is made possible by the generous support of the African American Heritage Action Fund, New York Life, New York Community Trust, Humanities NY, the Mellon Foundation, West Harlem Development Corporation, Harlem Community Development Corporation, Medical Center Neighborhood Fund.

Special thanks to the following partners: New York Public Library, the CUNY Spitzer School of Architecture, and the Jazz Foundation of America.

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**About While We Are Still Here:** A community-based organization founded in 2015 and committed to the safeguarding and celebration of Harlem's history and culture. Its mission is to educate, enshrine and preserved the extraordinary legacy of Harlem as an influential incubator vital to the intellectual, cultural, social, and political advancements of the Harlem community and the African Diaspora.

For more information log onto [www.harlemnyc.org](http://www.harlemnyc.org)