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June 3, 2019

KARAMU AWARDS VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS RESIDENCIES

(Cleveland, OH) **Tony F. Sias, Karamu House President + CEO**, announces the first six of twelve “Room in the House” artist residencies it plans in 2019. Funded through a Cuyahoga Arts & Culture “Support for Artists” grant, the residencies are designed to empower artists by providing space and support at Karamu’s theatre arts facility.

Each resident will receive a stipend, workspace and support from Karamu’s technical staff. The six selected artists include:

PERFORMING

Lexy Lattimore, a self-described black ballet dancer, teacher, performer, choreographer, writer, director and entrepreneur. Lexy plans to choreograph a performance based on “Salt,” a book of poems by Nayyirah Waheed.

Caleb A. Wright, a musician, singer and performer, plans to create a concert series exploring the contributions of African-Americans to the songbook of America, specifically in the genres of Jazz, Gospel and Opera/Classical Music.

VISUAL

Amanda King, a conceptual artist and activist on the front lines of the tension between the state and the state of black America, plans to create a photographic figurative tableau.

Joyce Morrow Jones, a self-trained artist who incorporates many disciplines including multimedia, sculpture and fiber art, plans to explore ancestry through the medium of doll sculptures.

Rickey Lewis, a visual artist who plans to paint his artistic activism for social equity project called, “I Care About My Life & I Care About Your Life” – the goal is to produce positive artwork between the polarized entities of Black teens and law enforcement; to help change the stigma of opioid use and foster sustained dialogue.

M. Carmen Lane, a Cleveland-based African-American and Haudenosaunee (Mohawk/Tuscarora) artist, plans to create a site specific installation (sacred space) with the participation of the local black community to depict the complexity and intersecting histories of the African-American experience in Cleveland.

Sias says, “Karamu has a long history of supporting emerging performing and visual artists. We are truly grateful to Cuyahoga Arts & Culture for providing Karamu with the opportunity to work with these talented individuals while strengthening our cultural offerings.”

Application for the fellowship is open to Cleveland-based artists with demonstrated excellence in and commitment to their visual arts or performance-based work. Each selected Room in the House resident will receive a monetary stipend (\$5,000 – visual; \$3,000 – performing), and access for eight weeks to space at Karamu House to create, work administratively, and show/perform. Upcoming application deadlines are June 14, 2019 and August 16, 2019. **Submissions received by June 14 will ONLY be considered for the July 29 residency start date. Submissions received by August 16 will ONLY be considered for the September 30 residency start date.** For more information, visit <https://karamuhouse.org/room-in-the-house-arts-residency>

Listed on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places and featured in the Smithsonian’s African-American Museum, Karamu House is a true national treasure. Artists including Langston Hughes, James Pickens, Jr., Ruby Dee, Robert Guillaume, Vanessa Bell Calloway, Ron O’Neal, Bill Cobbs and Imani Hakim have been associated with Karamu.

For more information about supporting Karamu House, visit www.karamuhouse.org/contributions.
Learn more about Cuyahoga Arts & Culture at www.cacgrants.org.