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BLAX MUSEUM TALENT SHOWCASE IS BACK FOR THE THIRD YEAR

Local tribute to Black American icons being held at two venues during February 2020

TWINSBURG, OHIO, January 2 – This year “**BLAX MUSEUM: A Tribute to Art & Excellence**” is happening at two different locations during February. This is the third consecutive year for the celebration, which will again be staged by creator and producer Michelle R. Smith and co-producer Josiah Quarles.

The first **BLAX MUSEUM** of 2020 will take place at the Twinsburg Public Library on Friday, February 7 at 6:30-8 PM. Then, the event will return to its “home” in the Greg L. Reese Performing Arts Center of the East Cleveland Public Library on Saturday, February 22 from 3-6 PM.

BLAX MUSEUM is a talent showcase created by Cleveland writer Michelle R. Smith that is open to all forms and dedicated to honoring notable Black figures in American history and culture. It is an annual event featuring Black artists from Northeast Ohio that pay homage through original art and honorary performances and presentations. This year, the event will honor Maya Angelou, Fannie Lou Hamer, Fred Hampton, Billie Holiday, Zora Neale Hurston, Mae Jemison, Nina Simone, Harriet Tubman, A’Lelia Walker, Carrie Mae Weems and a few amazing others.

The artists featured in this year’s **BLAX MUSEUM** will include poet Eva Barrett (Angelou); teacher and multimedia artist Melissa Candace (Jemison); singer Joy Ex (Simone); poet Raja Freeman (Tubman); photographer and filmmaker Jasmine A. Golphin (Weems); singer and multimedia artist Maita Morne (Holiday); writer and rapper Josiah Quarles/Zion of Muamin Collective (Hampton); journalist and bassist Afi Scruggs (Hamer); and English literature professor and writer Dr. Brenda R. Smith (Hurston).

Twinsburg Public Library is located at 10050 Ravenna Road, Twinsburg, OH 44087. East Cleveland Public Library is located at 14101 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44112.

Michelle R. Smith is a poet, blogger, educator, and cultural facilitator. She is the creator of BLAX MUSEUM and author of Ariel in Black and the upcoming Vagina Analogues. She has recently been a featured reader at Poetry+ at Art on Madison, a featured storyteller at This Improvised Life at the Maltz Museum, a panelist at Black Women Writing Cleveland, a judge for the America SCORES Youth Slam, and a course facilitator for Literary Cleveland.

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