

THE
AFRICAN AMERICAN
HERITAGE & CULTURAL CENTER
OF NEW BERN

PRESS RELEASE

For Release Immediately

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See attached photos of Presenters & Gallery Art

**“Jazz & Blues History, A Musical Journey to *Pass It On*”
presented by The African American Heritage & Cultural Center of New Bern**

New Bern, North Carolina (September 27 2019) - On Saturday, October 12 2019 Willie Atkinson, Jazz and Blues Vocalist, Composer and Lyricist with Jacqueline B. Atkinson, Jazz and Blues Historian will present “**Jazz & Blues History, A Musical Journey to *Pass It On*”**. The African American Heritage & Cultural Center of New Bern will host the event in the Gallery of the New Bern Arts & Wellness Center at 919 Broad Street. The event is 3:30 to 5:30pm and free to the community – registration is required due to space constraints.

During the program “we’ll travel through ‘America’s Classical Music’ Jazz as we present an historic glimpse into one of the musical genre’s royals, The Duke” says Jacqueline. “Edward Kennedy (“Duke”)

Ellington traversed the early development of Jazz, and into its modernization, while greatly contributing to it as he mentored and promoted varied stylistic musical artists.”

“Jacqueline and Willie promise that this presentation” comments Ann Herndon, AAHCC Vice President “will illuminate some aspects of the USA musical soundscape during the Duke’s lifetime, with an emphasis on North Carolina Jazz innovators connected to him.” Following the presentation, Willie and Jacqueline will be available for questions and guests may tour The Gallery which features a solo exhibit of 24 original pieces through end October by New Bern artist Lee Hood.

The AAHCC is partnering with the New Bern Arts & Wellness Center to present its monthly COMMUNITY FORUMS. Each event will be the second Saturday of the month, 3:30pm to 5:30pm. “The Five Points Neighborhood is a link for the diverse neighborhoods of New Bern” said Kathy Adolph, one of AAHCC’s founding Board Members and its elected Secretary. “Ann Herndon and I are coordinating the AAHCC’s monthly COMMUNITY FORUMS which are free to the community. Registration is required due to space constraints. Details and registration for the events are on EventBrite.com. Search EventBrite for events in New Bern and The African American Heritage & Cultural Center of New Bern for all event registrations.

ABOUT AAHCC

A strategic group of community leaders, elected officials and nonprofit organization leaders gathered early in 2018 to discuss the continuing need to increase the visibility of the heritage of eastern North Carolina’s African American community. AAHCC became a 501C3 nonprofit organization registered in

the State of North Carolina in early 2019. The founding Board of Directors and Officers were elected. Officers are Rick Fisher – President, Ann Herndon – Vice-President, Kathy Adolph – Secretary, Jim Copland – Treasurer, and Board Directors are Carol Bonner Becton, Maria Cho, Tahira Coble Copland, Eric Smith and Mike Williams. AAHCC is staffed by Executive Director Carrie Gallagher.

Future AAHCC programs will include developing an oral history library with universal access, and presenting creative performances, seminars and lectures, exhibitions of artwork including murals, artifacts and personal collections, along with music, food and live art events.

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The African American Heritage & Cultural Center of New Bern is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in New Bern North Carolina and serving communities throughout Eastern North Carolina. Contact information: Post Office Box 1354, NBNC 28563-1354 or TheCenterofNewBern@gmail.com.

Images for Atkinson Presentation October 12 2019



Image of Willie and Jacqueline Atkinson



Gallery Art includes "Independence Day" by Lee Hood