

Thursday, May 19, 2005



**80th Birthday Celebration for
El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz, Malcolm X
Rebirth of the Legacy**

The Malcolm X & Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Educational Center

Located at the historic Audubon Ballroom, the site of Malcolm X's assassination, the Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Educational Center, in conjunction with institutional partners, Columbia University and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, along with support from the City of New York and the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone and technical assistance provided by LandAir Project Resources, Inc., will serve as a platform for the continuation and expansion of their life's work and establish educational programs that reflect the passion for civic justice exuded by Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz.

The Center, designed by architectural firm, Davis Brody Bond, LLP, will serve as a cultural, educational, and ethical resource for the Harlem community and those individuals intrigued by the lives of these two dynamic individuals by hosting programs, events, and forums in partnership with academic and cultural institutions, the public and private sectors, and community based organizations.

About the Multimedia Kiosks

Columbia University's Digital Knowledge Ventures (DKV) designed and executed the three multimedia kiosks that comprise the largest exhibition on Malcolm X available anywhere in the world. The multimedia presentations invite citizens and scholars alike to experience and learn about the lives and work of two important social leaders of the 20th century, Malcolm X and his wife, Dr. Betty Shabazz. Featuring a series of kiosks designed to be accessible to a wide range of visitors, from school children to adults, the exhibition includes a wealth of photographic and archival footage, as well as documents and interviews spanning their lives and contributions. Visitors have access to more than one and a half hours of short videos, never-before-seen photos—including images of Malcolm X with his family—historic scenes of Harlem, travel photos taken by Malcolm X and postcards that he wrote to friends. The kiosks also include interviews with scholars and contemporaries of Minister Malcolm, as well as interactive, interpretive features: a timeline about the lives of Malcolm X and Dr. Betty, a map of his activities in Harlem and an interview with late actor and activist Ossie Davis, a personal friend of his. DKV gathered the content for the exhibit with the assistance of the Shabazz family.

About the Exhibition

The images and quotations selected for this tribute exhibition, *Messages from the Heart: Words of Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz*, (curated and installed by the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture) help shed some light on the concerns and motivations that mattered most to Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz as they carried out their lives of service, nurturing the growth of a stronger African American community. Their comments offer insights into living a principled, committed life and gems of wisdom for meditation and reflection to all who visit the Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Educational Center.

Program

Ceremonial Drumming featuring Ajaja, an invocation to the spirits of our ancestors

Mwagale Olatunji-Babumba
Ayodele Olatunji
Kutendereza Olatunji-Babumba
Monisola Olatunji-Vaughan

Recitation of the Qur'an

Shaikh Ahmed Dewidar, Islamic Society of Mid-Manhattan

Welcome and Remarks

Howard Dodson – Master of Ceremonies,
Director, The Schomburg Center for Research
in Black Culture
Dennis M. Walcott, Deputy Mayor for Policy,
City of New York
Lee Bollinger, President, Columbia University
Malaak, Gamilah and Ilyasah Shabazz

Birthday Tributes

Selected Words of Malcolm X

Avery Brooks

Musical Tribute

Akua Dixon & Her Swing Quartet

Closing Remarks

Howard Dodson

About the Performers

Avery Brooks

Avery Brooks is an accomplished actor, director, musician and teacher. He most recently appeared in the title role in The Shakespeare Theater's production of *The Oedipus Trilogy* performed in Athens, Greece and in the title role of the Yale Repertory Theater's production of *Lear*. Mr. Brooks sang the role of Malcolm X in the American Music Theater Festival production of Anthony Davis' opera, *X: The Life and Times of Malcolm X*. Mr. Brooks has also done extensive work with the Smithsonian Institute's Program in Black American Culture. He also starred as Captain Sisko in Paramount Studio's Star Trek series, *Deep Space Nine*. In 1994 he was inducted into the College of Fellows of the American Theater.

Akua Dixon & Her Swing Quartet

Award-winning composer-arranger-cellist-vocalist, Akua Dixon, and her string quartet take Jazz strings to new heights! Dixon, Kenny Davis (bass), Marlene Rice (violin) and Richard Spencer (viola) perform original and classic Jazz compositions.

Yacouba Sissoko

Kora player Sissoko, was born in Kita, Mali and trained by his grandfather in the griot tradition of his heritage. After graduation from the Institut National des Arts du Mali, he played with such artists as Ami Koita, Kandia Kouyate and l'Ensemble Instrumental Mali. In 1993, he was recruited and spent the next 5 years with the Ensemble Koteba of Abidjan. Today, at ease in Jazz, Latin, R&B music and in traditional African repertoire, he is known as one of the most versatile Kora Players and is very much in demand.

Olatunji 3rd Generation

Trained by their grandfather, Dr. Babatunde Olatunji, world renowned "Master of Drums," are committed to continuing his legacy. The members of the group are, Mwangale Olatunji-Babumba, Ayodele Olatunji, Kutendereza Olatunji-Babumba and Monisola Olatunji-Vaughan, performing a piece entitled, "Ajaja", an invocation to the spirits of our ancestors.

Major support for the Center provided by The City of New York; NY City Economic Development Corporation; Columbia University; The Schomburg Center for Research In Black Culture; Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone; Spike Lee; Inner City Broadcasting Corporation; Essence Communications Partners; LandAir Project Resources, Inc.; Kandace V. Simmons; X Café; Women in Islam, Inc.; Special thanks to our partners, supporters, friends, volunteers and to Bovis Lend Lease and Jaros Baum & Bolles.

Greetings of Peace!

We are honored to welcome each of you to The 80th Birthday Celebration for El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz, Malcolm X: Rebirth of The Legacy. As a result of the commitment of our mother, Dr. Betty Shabazz, our father's legacy of love, compassion and sacrifice, lives on in the light of truth. Her passion to ensure the accurate portrayal of her husband's selfless dedication to the cause of human rights has inspired us all as evidenced at this launching of the Center today. We thank you for embracing her vision of a permanent living memorial that is worthy of his life and work.

The Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Educational Center at the Audubon stands as a testament to her foresight and devotion to their shared vision of freedom and justice for all humanity.

We extend our deepest appreciation to the City of New York, Columbia University, the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Project Executive Julio Peterson, architect Max Bond of Davis Brody Bond LLP, Kandace V. Simmons, Project Manager and Lorna Harris, Event Producer of LandAir Project Resources, Inc., and Media Specialist Gerard Carney, and each of you for your support in transforming our mother's dream in honoring and preserving the memory of her husband's legacy into a triumphant reality.

Let each of us leave this place empowered with a renewed commitment to our objective: global freedom, justice, and peace.

Respectfully,

Attallah, Qubilah, Ilyasah, Gamilah, Malikah, Malaak Malcolm, Malik, Bettih-Bahiyah, and the entire Shabazz Family