



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MANHATTAN'S LAST FARMHOUSE JOINS ARTISTS IN UNCOVERING SLAVE HISTORY

THE DYCKMANDISCOVERED INITIATIVE WILL DEBUT A 2020-2021 ART EXHIBITION BRINGING UNTOLD BLACK HISTORY TO LIGHT

New York, NY (August 13, 2020) – The [Dyckman Farmhouse Museum Alliance](#) announced the second year of the [DyckmanDISCOVERED](#) Arts initiative and exhibition. Through a grant from the [Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone](#) administered by the [Lower Manhattan Cultural Council](#), the museum will launch its second showcase of local contemporary artists who will respond to recently uncovered history about Manhattan's enslaved community.

In late 2020, the museum will debut an on-site and virtual exhibition of work by artists [Gwendolyn Black](#), [Sheila Prevost](#) and [Rachel Sydlowski](#), with assistance from [Marquise Foster](#) of Marquise Foster Inc. and [Project Runway renown](#). The exhibition will engage with research gathered in the past year by the DyckmanDISCOVERED program, which is shedding light on the stories of the enslaved and free black community that lived at the Dyckman Farmhouse and on the surrounding farms of modern-day Inwood.

"The Dyckman Farmhouse Museum has always shared the history of its namesake family, and now more than ever, it's time to share the history of the unheard," said Meredith Horsford, Executive Director of the Dyckman Farmhouse Museum Alliance. "We're eager to continue researching the lives of the enslaved and free peoples of historic uptown Manhattan, and we anticipate the impact our own local artists will have in further giving a voice to the voiceless."

Made possible with a grant from [The New York Community Trust](#), the DyckmanDISCOVERED initiative involves a part-time research assistant who has thus far compiled [biographical data on six people who were enslaved](#) by the Dyckman family: Hannah, Francis Cudjoe, Will, Gilbert, Harey and Blossum. These historical figures have inspired public programming at the museum, as well as encouraged efforts to honor a forgotten African slave burial ground that was ignored and rediscovered in the early 20th century, situated where today stands the parking lot of P.S. 98 on West 212th Street. The story of the burial ground was the impetus for the Dyckman Farmhouse Museum's 2019 exhibition *Ground Revision* by artist [Peter Hoffmeister](#).

"By presenting a second creative response to our neighborhood's black history," said Horsford, "we're paying homage to people who were forgotten and ignored. We especially acknowledge the importance of uplifting black narratives, both past and present, in a neighborhood that is predominantly made up of people of color, and during the historic moment we are currently witnessing as a culture."

For more information, visit www.dyckmanfarmhouse.org and follow the Dyckman Farmhouse Museum on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

About Dyckman Farmhouse Museum Alliance

The mission of the [Dyckman Farmhouse Museum Alliance](#) is to support the preservation of the historic namesake site, to be a catalyst for engaging, adventuresome programming and to be a good neighbor and a dynamic resource for the uptown Manhattan community. The Dutch Colonial-style farmhouse, perched above Broadway at 204th Street, was built on this site by William Dyckman around 1784 and was originally part of several hundred acres of farmland owned by the family. In 1915, family descendants purchased the farmhouse, restored it and donated it to the city. It has been open to the public since 1916. Today, nestled in a small garden, the farmhouse is an extraordinary reminder of early Manhattan and an important part of its diverse Inwood neighborhood.

About DyckmanDISCOVERED and Six Enslaved Individuals

The [DyckmanDISCOVERED](#) initiative investigates the stories of the people that were enslaved by the Dyckman family and the community that is now called Inwood. This initiative brings an inclusive history to the community, fosters a sense of transparency and, we hope, engages visitors who have not seen

themselves represented in the current narrative. With a grant from [The New York Community Trust](#), the Dyckman Farmhouse Museum works with a part-time research assistant to uncover truths about the people who worked on the Dyckman Farm and the other farms nearby. With new information, the museum is designing new educational materials, creating public programs and engaging local artists to produce site-specific installations that communicate the story of these underrepresented people. This project reinforces the importance of inclusive historical narratives in America's historical institutions, of all sizes. Thus far, biographical data on six of the people the Dyckman family enslaved have been compiled. Their names and the discovered information about each individual can be found [at this link](#).

About Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone (UMEZ)

UMEZ enhances the economic vitality of all communities in Upper Manhattan through job creation, corporate alliances, strategic investments, and small business assistance. For more information, please visit www.umez.org.

About Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (LMCC)

Founded as Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (LMCC), LMCC serves, connects and makes space for artists and community. Since 1973, LMCC has been the champion of independent artists in New York City and the cultural life force of Lower Manhattan. LMCC's Arts Center at Governors Island is a creative incubator featuring artist residency programs, and a space for exhibitions and public engagement. Work developed and presented at the Arts Center at Governors Island focuses on questions of ecology, sustainability, and resilience. For more information, please visit www.lmcc.net.

About The New York Community Trust

The New York Community Trust connects past, present, and future generous New Yorkers with vital nonprofits working to make a healthy, equitable, and thriving community for all. We are a public grantmaking foundation dedicated to improving the lives of residents of New York City, Westchester, and Long Island. For more information, visit us at www.nycommunitytrust.org.

Media Contact:

Juan Brizuela
juan@brizpr.com

###