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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### RACIAL JUSTICE FRONT AND CENTER AT ONE OF NYC'S OLDEST LANDMARKS

#### *LOCAL ARTS ORGANIZATIONS ENGAGE WITH COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN DIALOGUE ABOUT RACE, SOCIAL JUSTICE, AND CULTURE*

**New York, NY (January 25, 2022):** [The Dyckman Farmhouse Museum](#), in partnership with the [Classical Theatre of Harlem](#), will host a virtual lecture series entitled [Talking About Race Matters: Join the Conversation](#) next month. Beginning on Thursday, February 10, 2022, and continuing weekly on Wednesday nights through March 2, local arts and culture organizations will present their perspectives on how racial justice relates to museums, theatre, youth, and food equity.

*Talking About Race Matters: Join the Conversation* began in August 2020, with the intent to create space for conversations about race and facilitate meaningful discussions that stem from the past but have strong implications for the present. This upcoming series will address how advocacy groups and arts and cultural organizations participate and lead in social justice movements.

"We started this lecture series in 2020 at a time of much unrest in the wake of the murder of George Floyd and other senseless murders of unarmed black men and women, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic," said Meredith Horsford, Executive Director of the Dyckman Farmhouse Museum Alliance. "This series has created an opportunity for the Dyckman Farmhouse Museum to bring professionals from various fields to our community and beyond to have important discussions that lift up underrepresented stories and bring us together as a community."

This bi-annual lecture circuit is one of several programs inspired by the [DyckmanDISCOVERED Initiative](#), launched in 2018, which has uncovered biographical information on [six black people, enslaved and free](#), who lived on the Dyckman Farm and since then has shaped public programming at the museum. Through this initiative, the Dyckman Farmhouse Museum brings an inclusive history to the community and engages visitors who have not seen themselves represented in the current narrative.

The upcoming series includes the following lectures:

[Week 1, Thursday February 10th at 6pm](#)

***Museums Respond to the Demand for Social Justice: Are We Creating A Sustainable Mash Up?***

By **Deborah Schwartz**, Independent Consultant for Arts and Cultural Organizations.

Some cultural institutions are setting their sights on democracy and social justice. What does it look like in our programming, our governance structures, and our community relationships? In this talk, Ms. Schwartz will look at some well received examples of exhibitions, oral history projects, and community driven programs that reflect the current push to bring the forces of equity from the street into the hallowed halls of our museums. As our democracy is threatened will we face censorship? What will happen if funders tire of the push for equity? Together, we will talk about the challenges ahead for museums who would like to create a consistent and sustainable engagement with the moral and ethical dilemmas of our time.

[Week 2, Wednesday February 16th at 6pm](#)

***Courageous Conversations***

By **Ty Jones**, Producing Artistic Director of The Classical Theatre of Harlem and **Michael Dinwiddie**, Associate Professor of Dramatic Writing, Gallatin School of Individualized Study, New York University.

This will be a moderated discussion centered around the intersection of art and social justice. Seeking to uphold our founding commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, our goal is to foster community maintenance through art and conversation. We create art, not for arts' sake, but for the community. As such, we believe that the arts are the perfect forum to codify, message, and act upon the needs of the community – before those needs and concerns hit a tipping point.

[Week 3, Wednesday February 23rd at 6pm](#)

***Flow y Movimiento in the Heights: Social Justice & Advocacy in High School***

By **Susan Natacha Gonzalez**, MA, ATR, MS Ed and Deputy Director of Institutional Growth at Fresh Youth Initiatives and **Beatriz Oliva**, LMHC, PhD student and Clinician at Fresh Youth Initiatives.

The daily practice of social justice requires discerning the needs of those we serve. How can organizations assess, and respond to community demands to develop programs and provide support for participants and families? The provision of academic programs, non-traditional social-emotional and mental health services within the academic setting will be explored.

[Week 4, Wednesday March 2nd at 6pm](#)

***The American Plate: Race, Place, Taste and the Future of Food Equity***

By **Ora Kemp**, MPH, Director of Nutrition, NY Common Pantry.

Sowed from seeds of fertile grounds, sweat drenched brows and broken backs, the flavors of the American plate are seasoned with slavery's bitterness. Salted with segregation and smoked in stacks of racial injustice, the hunger pangs that linger in the gut of black and brown folks has fully grown into an insatiable desire for change. The future of food equity will not be one carved by the unsavory nature of our past, but inspired by the diversity of our people and the places and spaces that shape and nurture



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us. Join us as we explore the American plate and the flavors that define the future of food equity.

Those wishing to join the events can find the links above, on the Dyckman Farmhouse Museum website, or [Facebook](#). Recorded versions of these lectures will be available to the public after the events on the [Dyckman Farmhouse Museum website](#), in addition to [Youtube](#) and [Facebook](#).

This program is supported, in part, by public funds from the [New York City Department of Cultural Affairs](#) in partnership with the City Council, the Honorable Ydanis Rodriguez, New York City Council, District 10, and the [Manhattan Borough President's Office](#). Additional funding is provided by TD Bank.

For more information on the Dyckman Museum Farmhouse Alliance, visit <https://dyckmanfarmhouse.org/> or follow us on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#).

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### **About the 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 204<sup>th</sup> 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 the Classical Theatre of Harlem**

The Classical Theatre of Harlem, founded in 1999, provides theatrical productions and theatre-based educational and literary programs at little or no cost to underserved communities in Harlem and beyond. CTH is the only professional theatre company above 96th Street dedicated to the classical canon, revivals, new works and musicals.