

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Michelle R. Smith

Phone: 330-622-0606

Email: [MRSQ0927@gmail.com](mailto:MRSQ0927@gmail.com)

**BLAX MUSEUM WILL HOLD SECOND ANNUAL PERFORMANCE**

*Local tribute to black Americans icons being held February 2, 2019*

**EAST CLEVELAND, OHIO, January 6** – This year “**BLAX MUSEUM: A Tribute to Art & Excellence**” is happening on February 2, 2019 from 1:00-3:00 PM at the East Cleveland Public Library in the Greg L. Reese Performing Arts Center.

**BLAX MUSEUM** is an artistic 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 presentations and electrifying performances.

This year, **BLAX MUSEUM** will honor James Baldwin, Frederick Douglass, George Clinton, Nikki Giovanni, Billie Holiday, bell hooks, Alberta Williams King (mother of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.), Eartha Kitt, Audre Lorde, Gordon Parks, Richard Pryor, Paul Robeson, Assata Shakur, Ntozake Shange, and Nancy Wilson.

The artists featured in this year’s **BLAX MUSEUM** will be activist and poet Alana Belle (Shakur); poet and community activist Jamie Nyennoh Konmlan Keaton (Lorde); writer and educator Rosary Kennedy (Wilson); performance poet and singer Robb “Frostbyte” King (Robeson); singer and songwriter Donnie Lynee (Kitt); singer and multimedia artist Maita Morne (Holiday); painter and rapper James Quarles/Jungle of Muamin Collective (Pryor); writer and rapper Josiah Quarles/Zion of Muamin Collective (Douglass); writer and photographer Vince Robinson (Parks); writer and performance consultant Staci Jordan Shelton (hooks); professor and writer Dr. Brenda R. Smith (Giovanni); creator and producer/director of **BLAX MUSEUM** Michelle R. Smith (Shange); composer and guitarist Eriq Troi (Clinton); writer and nonprofit coordinator RA Washington (Baldwin); and social worker and community organizer Samantha Williams-Pierce (King).

The East Cleveland Public Library is located at 14101 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44112. You can call the library for more information about **BLAX MUSEUM** at 216-541-4128.

*Michelle R. Smith is a poet, blogger, educator, and cultural facilitator. She is the creator of BLAX MUSEUM and author of a collection of poetry Ariel in Black. She has recently been a featured poet and panelist at the Coast Line Poetry Series at Lakewood Public Library, the Ekphrastic Poetry Invitational at the Cleveland Museum of Art, and Great Lakes Black Authors Expo and Writers Conference.*

###