

PRESS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Denee McCloud or Jude Hill
PHONE: 206-323-4032

Central District Forum for Arts & Ideas Presents

Which Way Seattle? Series: The State of Young Black Men

Seattle, WA – The Central District Forum for Arts & Ideas presents ***Which Way Seattle? Series: The State of Young Black Men*** on Thursday, March 15, 2007 at 7pm at the Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center, 104 17th Ave. S (Near Yesler) Seattle, WA.

Which Way Seattle? is an ongoing series of civic dialogues about local and political affairs that directly impact Seattle's African-American community. This program will discuss the current state of African-American boys in Seattle.

Young black male culture continues to be described as "negative" and recent scholarly studies "show the condition of poor, young black men has worsened in the past decade despite the generally strong economic conditions of the 1990s." (*The Washington Post*, June 2, 2006). **Seattle is not immune to these trends and our young black men are facing the same issues in a region generally touted as liberal and open-minded.** Despite these "issues" and the peril predicted by studies, there is progress.

Individuals, organizations and African-American men are supporting the success of African-American boys. Join moderator Carl Livingston Jr., (Attorney and Professor of Political Science at Seattle Central) and panelists Deandra Anderson (Sophomore at Federal Way High School), Reco Bemby (Bemby Consulting and Founder of the Late Night program for youth), Spencer Brooks (Junior at Lake Side High School), Jamal Farr (Artist and Tutor at the G.R.A.C.E Academy), and Judge LeRoy McCullough (Juvenile Justice Court) in this open forum as we discuss how we defy convention and support the success and progress of African-American boys.

Additional Information: This event is part of **Outside the Hype: Exploring the Representation of Black Males in Society** series. The CD Forum in partnership with ITVS Community Cinema is proud to present this provocative series on African-American men and boys. Films, live performances and discussions will be used to delve into the representation of black males throughout America. The series runs for

three months, beginning in January 2007 with the film *Hip-Hop: Beyond Beats and Rhymes*, and ends with a community panel in our *Which Way Seattle? Series* addressing the state of Seattle's young black men. *This series is sponsored by the Rising Oak Foundation and the Fales Foundation Trust.*

Ticket Information: Tickets are \$5 for Adults and Free for CD Forum Members/Students/Seniors. Order Tickets at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/9713> or call 1-800-838-3006.

The Central District Forum for Arts & Ideas is a 501 (C) (3) non-profit organization that advocates and promotes greater awareness of African-Americans in the arts, humanities and public affairs. We offer a glimpse into the lives and accomplishments of African-Americans contributing to the vibrancy of contemporary American thought and culture.

For more information, contact Denee McCloud or Jude Hill at 206-323-4032 or via email at info@cdforum.org

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