FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Myrtle Avenue Brooklyn Partnership presents
Black Artstory Month on Myrtle: A Celebration of African American Art, Culture and Creativity

Fort Greene/Clinton Hill, Brooklyn (January 22, 2013): The Myrtle Avenue Brooklyn Partnership's (the Partnership) Public Art Initiative is proud to present ***Black Artstory Month on Myrtle: A Celebration of African American Art, Culture and Creativity*** to coincide with February's recognition of Black History. The month's events includes art exhibitions, film screenings, lectures, performances and hands-on art making activities taking place in the businesses along Myrtle Avenue in Brooklyn in partnership with Brooklyn-based arts organizations.

The Partnership's goal for the month is to highlight and honor the contributions African Americans have made, and are making, within the arts community. In order to make *Black Artstory* a community effort, the Partnership collaborated with local businesses, local artists and organizations across the color field who are inspired by or share correlations with African American culture. Highlights include:

- *Myrtle Windows Gallery show, "A Patchwork Story" in eight Myrtle Avenue Storefront windows, with accompanying lecture by Dr. Myrah Green, Executive Director of Art and Culture in the Office of Government and Community Affairs at The City College of New York (CUNY) on the presence of African symbols in North American quilts (Saturday, February 23 at 4pm).*
- *A night of performance with Trumpeter Roy Campbell Jr. and theatrical readings of the words of poet James Baldwin, pioneering dramatist Alice Childress and emerging playwright Thais Francis; sponsored by JACK at Five Spot Soul Food Restaurant (Tuesday, February 5 at 7pm).*
- *A talk by Black Professionals in the Film Industry (Tuesday, February 19, 6:30pm - 9pm), an all ages workshop devoted to Family Storytelling through film (Sunday, February 10, 1:30pm - 4pm), and a conversation exploring the differences and similarities between The Wizard of Oz and The Wiz (Tuesday, February 26, 7pm - 9pm); all sponsored by Brooklyn Young Filmmakers at Trilok Fusion Center for Arts and Education.*


"Black Flag", Daonne Huff

Additional events include art exhibitions sponsored by South of the Navy Yard Artists and Coup d'etat Arts, short film screenings by ACT NOW Foundation and MOCADA at Ingersoll Community Center, family-friendly art-making workshops by SONYA and FOKUS, a lecture on the state of Menswear Style by Randal Jacobs, and conversations on the roles barbershops and food play in creating community sponsored by FOKUS.

"A Patchwork Story" is curated by Daonne Huff, who also spearheaded development of the month's full calendar. According to Ms. Huff, "Fort Greene and Clinton Hill are neighborhoods with long standing reputations as supporters and incubators for artists and creative thinking. *Black Artstory Month* is an opportunity to invite a diverse selection of Brooklyn-based visual and performing artists and organizations onto Myrtle Avenue to share with first-time and recurrent audiences the inspiring work these parties produce every day. In light of February being Black History Month, the schedule of programming highlights the ongoing creative and cultural contributions made by African Americans yesterday, today and tomorrow." For a comprehensive list of *Black Artstory Month on Myrtle* programming, dates, times and locations, visit http://www.myrtleavenue.org/BlackArtstoryMonthOnMyrtle.pdf.

Myrtle Avenue's Public Art Initiative represents a multifaceted initiative to establish the avenue as an access point to cultural activities for community members of diverse socio-economic backgrounds. The program aims to bring public sculpture, art installations, studio art, and creative street furniture elements to the public spaces and sidewalks of the 20-block retail district, increasing access to art for the entire community. *Black Artstory Month* is sponsored by the Myrtle Avenue Brooklyn Partnership, with support from the Decentralization Program of the New York State Council on the Arts, administered in Kings County by Brooklyn Arts Council (BAC).

Myrtle Avenue Brooklyn Partnership
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