

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**The Eubie Blake National Jazz Institute and Cultural Center
Features Baltimore artists Lauren Lyde,
Installs Rosa Parks Exhibit
In Collaboration with the Maryland Humanities Council
Drawn from the Archives of the AFRO-American Newspaper**

BALTIMORE, MD - The Eubie Blake National Jazz Institute and Cultural Center features two exhibitions in March in celebration of women's achievement in culture and the arts. Local artist Lauren Lyde presents an array of new works in the front gallery while the Center in conjunction with the Maryland Humanities Council, the Maryland Transit Administration and the AFRO-American Newspapers celebrates the life and legacy of Rosa Parks with *Sitting Down to Take a Stand — Remembering Rosa Parks*. The exhibit, produced by Maryland Humanities Council, is drawn from the archives of the AFRO-American Newspapers, follows Rosa Parks' life and details the events of the Montgomery Bus boycott. The exhibitions, which are both free and open to the public, are on display at the Eubie Blake Cultural Center at 847 North Howard Street in Baltimore from Sunday, March 1 to Tuesday, March 31, 2009. An opening reception for the artist and exhibition partners is on March 5 from 7 to 9 p.m.

Native Baltimorean Lyde has created art since she was a child. Drawing and painting was a creative outlet that allowed Lyde to express her emotions and interpret the communities and world around her. "I am inspired by everyone and everything that I love," says Lyde, "especially my dad, grandmother and aunt, who are no longer here with me."

In her works, Lyde exalts the spirits of her family as she creates at the easel. Through painting, she finds a greater connection with her family and heritage, which is manifested in love and peace in each painting.

Lyde gained a formal training in art earning a Bachelor of Science degree in visual communications from Towson University. During the same period, she pursued continuing education course at the Maryland Institute College of Art. She later took courses in illustration and painting at the Pratt Institute in New York.

In the second exhibition, articles and photographs that appeared in the AFRO-American from December 1955, when Rosa Parks chose to defy segregation practices in Montgomery, Alabama, through accounts of her funeral services in October 2005 are used as the basis for *Sitting Down to Take a Stand — Remembering Rosa Parks*.

"People always say that I didn't give up my seat because I was tired, but that isn't true...The only tired I was, was tired of giving in," said Rosa Parks in a 1956 interview about the events on December 1, 201955 in Montgomery, Alabama. Mrs. Parks' act sparked the infamous Montgomery Bus Boycott, which began as a one-day protest against her arrest and trial, and lasted for more than one year. It also thrust the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as leader of the boycott, into the

forefront of the African American struggle for justice and equality. In 1956, assigned bus seating based on race was ruled unconstitutional and officially outlawed in the United States.

The Eubie Blake National Jazz Institute and Cultural Center is open Wednesday 1 p.m. – 6 p.m., Friday from 12 noon to 6 p.m., Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Sunday by appointment.

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For more than three decades, the Eubie Blake National Jazz Institute and Cultural Center has sought to bring creative expression and urban consciousness to Baltimore through visual and performing arts education and development opportunities for children, youth and adults in our community.