

Press Release...

November 17, 2008

Contact: Troy Burton
Executive Director
Office: 410-225-3130 Office
Fax: 410-225-3139 Fax

The Eubie Blake National Jazz Institute and Cultural Center Features an Exhibition of Baltimore Native Belle Massey

BALTIMORE – Belle Massey transforms ideas, prayers and daydreams into strong statements of purpose and realism in her works of fine art, which captures the imagery of life's joys and struggles in uniquely whimsical explorations. In a new exhibition, Dare to Imagine, featured at the Eubie Blake National Jazz Institute and Cultural Center, Massey examines the realities of the human spirit in her newest art works. The exhibition, which is free and open to the public, is on display at 847 North Howard Street in Baltimore from Thursday, December 4 to Saturday, January 3, 2009; with an opening reception on December 4 from 7 to 9 p.m.

In her works, Massey paints in vibrantly bold colors, using as her medium oil and acrylic on paper and oil on canvas, beautiful impressions of contemplation that brings to life the human experience through emotionally charged, yet diversified subjects. She conceives every painting with a strategic calculated approach that is carefully mastered prior to any execution. "While I never know in my head how each work of art will turn out," says Massey, "I do understand that in my heart there is a purpose for each paint stroke to speak loud enough for viewers to hear, or perhaps find a message that inspires in some way."

For Massey, a basic tenet of artistic realism is searching for spiritual meaning or truths that often prevail. In our grandest minds can come emotional whimsy that brightens and adds hope and meaning to our life. Each painting offers viewers a private journey, which is outlined in paint strokes accompanied by an obvious love for the deeply rich and penetrating pigments on canvas. Massey conveys the many layers of complex meanings that she constructs by her combinations of visionary and realistic imagery.

A native Baltimorean, she received formal art training from the Maryland Institute College of Art. While she never took formal training in portraiture, today she feels obliged to capture the essence of the human spirit on canvas and captivate viewers with visual messages.

###

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.