

# harlem is . . . HEALING: Celebrating Heroes of the Pandemic

## An Outdoor Public Art Exhibition - Part 2

St. Nicholas Ave. between 120<sup>th</sup> and 121<sup>st</sup> Streets

On View May 4-August 1, 2023

## EXHIBITION GUIDE



A Project of **Community Works & New Heritage Theatre Group** in partnership with the **NYC Department of Transportation's Art Program**

WELCOME to **harlem is...HEALING**: a public art and education program by Community Works NYC and New Heritage Theatre Group to celebrate local heroes of the pandemic and social justice movements. This second exhibition highlights a new group of 9 honorees from the front lines of health care, environment, community, religion, youth & education, and arts & culture. Over the past two years, through our online exhibition and social media posts, we have spotlighted over 50 people who seek to help heal the disproportionate effects on Harlem from Covid and the turmoil over social justice by distributing food, creating jobs and offering spiritual, financial and emotional well-being. For more than 32 years, our mission has been to connect neighborhoods through the arts and education.

"This sidewalk exhibit is an invitation for the public to acknowledge that our heroes are local, people who work daily towards a better community," said Barbara Horowitz, Founder & President of Community Works.

The honorees include: **Vy Higginsen**, Executive Director, Mama Foundation for the Arts; **Janet Rodriguez**, Founder and CEO, SoHarlem Collective; **Melba Wilson**, restaurateur, President NYC Hospitality Alliance; **Aurora Flores**, Cultural Activist, Journalist, Band Leader; **Rhina Valentin**, TV Host, Actor, Activist, Producer; **Dr. Lena Green**, social worker and Executive Director, Hope Center; **Tony Hillery**,

Founder and CEO, Harlem Grown; **Phyllis and Dodji Gbedemah**, owners, Kente Royal Art Gallery; and **M. Scott Johnson**, Sculptor, Artist, Arts Educator.

"What better way to celebrate Harlem than to note the best contributions of our own people," said Voza Rivers, Executive Producer, New Heritage Theatre Group and HarlemWeek executive producer.

**harlem is...HEALING** is a project of **Community Works & New Heritage Theatre Group** in partnership with the **NYC Department of Transportation's Art Program**. The outdoor exhibit was designed by Clara Alonso and features the photography of Tau Battice, with project management by Connie Lee of Art Lives Here. Support for photography and public programming provided by **Con Edison** and **Humanities New York**.

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*This exhibition is dedicated to the memory of Michael Davidson, Community Works' beloved Board Chair for over 25 years.*

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**Learn more about harlem is... and stay connected with Community Works!**

Website: [www.harlem-is.org](http://www.harlem-is.org)

Instagram: [@harlemislegacy](https://www.instagram.com/harlemislegacy)

Facebook: [@communityworksnyc](https://www.facebook.com/communityworksnyc)

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## SELF-GUIDED TOUR ACTIVITIES

We invite you to tour this exhibition and find inspiration in these community stories that you can build upon for further learning and social action. You can also connect to the full **harlem is...HEALING** digital exhibition and curriculum guide online at [www.harlem-is.org](http://www.harlem-is.org).

**EXPLORE:** Read each of the tribute panels and learn about the dynamic ways these individuals are doing sustainable healing work in the Harlem community. Scan the QR codes to view the full online exhibition.

**DISCUSS:** What does Harlem mean to you? What does your community need to support its ongoing healing from this health crisis and racial inequality? How can you and others work collectively to support community renewal where you live?

**CREATE:** Take inspiration from these honorees and draw portraits of them. Write haikus or found word poetry using their bios and quotes. Create a vision board for community healing in Harlem or wherever you live.

**SHARE:** Capture photos of you next to an honoree that you are inspired by and share it on social media to inform others about their story. Tag us on your posts @communityworksnyc #harlemishealing

**RESEARCH:** Identify the local heroes in your neighborhood who are making a difference in the fields of health, education, art, economic empowerment, and justice. Interview them and write an article or mount an exhibit to honor their contributions and spread good news.

## GUIDED TOURS AND WORKSHOPS

Community Works and New Heritage Theatre will be organizing free group tours of the exhibit with artist educator Daniel Carlton. For more information or to schedule a group tour, call Barbara Horowitz at 917-757-2242 or email [bh@communityworksnyc.org](mailto:bh@communityworksnyc.org)



Scan this QR code to visit *harlem is...HEALING* digital exhibition online! The digital exhibition features 50 profiles, video dialogues, and a rich curriculum guide. Visit [www.harlem-is.org](http://www.harlem-is.org) for lots more, including our exhibitions on theater, music, and dance



**COMMUNITY WORKS**  
BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH ART AND EDUCATION

