

TO: Rochester City School District Educators

FR: Moka Lantum (Talk2moka@gmail.com), Founder of the Baobab Cultural Center

RE: Social Discovery Lab – A Series of Professional Development Workshops

The Baobab Cultural Center in partnership with the West Irondequoit School District and the Social Studies Department of the Rochester City School District (RCSD)* invites educators to participate in a professional learning program that explores African and African American history and culturally responsive practices on the following topic:

How do the forces of power and freedom shape black identity and what are the consequences? Analyzing the creation, recognition, affirmations, and expressions of black identity through artistic and historical works.

Participants in this program will engage with scholars, community experts, colleagues from surrounding districts and institutions of higher education to create instructional materials to use in their classrooms. This opportunity for professional learning has been made possible through a grant from the William & Sheila Konar Foundation and the Max & Marian Farash Charitable Foundation.

The series of professional development sessions for EDUCATORS will be held at the **Baobab Cultural Center, 728 University Ave, Rochester, NY 14607 from 4:15-6:15p.m.**

Rochester City School District educators wishing to register should contact:

- Stephen LaMorte, Director of the Social Studies Department of the Rochester City School District: stephen.lamorte@rcsdk12.org.
- All are welcome to register, however, priority will be given to social studies teachers, ELA and arts teachers.

*RCSD teacher-participants will receive up to 17 hours of professional development incentive credit for completion of this program. Credit will only be awarded to participants who successfully complete the program. Successful completion includes:

- Attending at least 5 of the 6 content (educator only) sessions
- Participating and presenting in the final celebration and sharing session
- Submitting a complete three-lesson mini-unit plan

Additional sessions that are also OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY are scheduled on February 1 & 15, March 8, April 12, 18 & 26, from 7-9 PM. Please bring your family members and neighbors to these events!

Non-educators planning to attend the sessions open to the community should contact:

- Joan Lee Gordon at joan.gordonlee@gmail.com

The dates and topics of the professional learning series are listed below:

Baobab Cultural Center, 728 University Ave, Rochester, NY 14607

Social Discovery Lab – Series of Professional Development workshops: February – April 2019

How do the forces of power and freedom shape black identity and what are the consequences? Analyzing the creation, recognition, affirmations, and expressions of black identity through artistic and historical works.

Join us:

Session 1: Wednesday February 6, 2019 (Educators Only) 4:15-6:15 p.m.

What's at Stake for the Female Black Child? Getting to Her and Building Trust

- ***Presenter: Professor Vivian Yenika-Agbaw, Penn State College of Education***

Session 2: February 15, Friday (OPEN TO COMMUNITY) 7 – 9 p.m.

Black Identity through the Lens of French and Caribbean Literature and Historical Context

- ***Dr. Cilas Kemedijo, Director of the Frederick, Douglass Institute, University of Rochester***

Session 3: Thursday February 28, 2019 (Educators Only) 4:15 - 6:15p.m.

Panel Discussion: Black Identity and Its Representation in Curriculum

- ***Moderated by Kim Cristal, West Irondequoit Central School District and Stephen LaMorte, Rochester City School District***

Session 4: March 8, 2019 Friday (OPEN TO COMMUNITY) 7 – 9p.m.

Black Identity - Reflections of the dynamics in African mind through African Literature, Fiction, and Folktales. How does where we live influence what we believe (about others and ourselves)?

- ***Dr. John Karefah Marah, SUNY Brockport***

Session 5: Thursday March 14, 2019 (Educators Only) 4:15 - 6:15p.m.

The Arts Right Now: Afro-Futurism

- ***Presenter: Dr. Jeffery Tucker, University of Rochester***

Session 6: Wednesday March 20, 2019 (Educators Only) 4:15 - 6:15p.m.

Teaching Black Resistance: Passive v. Aggressive, Enablers & Disablers, Great Stories, Lame Stories

- ***Presenter: Dr. Meredith Roman, SUNY Brockport***

Session 7: Thursday March 27, 2019 (Educators Only) 4:15 - 6:15p.m.

Deep Dive into Roots of Excellence through Black Art: Protest, Creativity, Assimilation, and Expressions of Freedom

- ***Presenter: Dr. Omobowale Ayorinde, Rochester Institute of Technology***

Session 8: Wednesday April 5, 2019 (Educators Only) 4:15 - 6:15p.m.

Religion and Fraternities and the Shaping of Black Identity, Reliance, and Rhetoric

- ***Presenter: Dr. Joshua Dubler, University of Rochester***

Session 9: Friday, April 18, 2019 (OPEN TO COMMUNITY) 7 - 9 p.m.

Black Identity in History and Literature. What story do we tell? Teachers will analyze the impact of historical and social forces on Black Identity through the analysis of literature.

- ***Dr. Jeffery Tucker, University of Rochester***

Session 10: Wednesday April 24, 2019 (Educators Only) 4:15 - 6:15p.m.

Celebration, Sharing, and Reflection*

- ***All participants from the previous sessions are welcome***

Session 11: Friday, April 26, 2019 (OPEN TO COMMUNITY) 7 - 9 p.m.

Deep Dive into Roots of Excellence through Black Music and the Performing arts. A discourse on black identity on the theatre stages and performance halls.

Presenter: Dr. Carl Atkins, Rochester Institute of Technology

*The Social Discovery Lab series is presented to the Greater Rochester Community thanks to the generous support from the **William & Sheila Konar Foundation**, the **Max and Marian Farash Charitable Foundation**, and many volunteers and advocates like you. Partners include the Rochester City School District, and the West Irondequoit Central School District.*