

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JUNE 23, 2021

KARAMU HOUSE LAUNCHES NEW YOUNG PROFESSIONALS COUNCIL AND WILL HOST FIRST LIVE EVENT

The new Karamu Young Professionals Council (KYPC) engages Northeast Ohio professionals, ages 22-39, for leadership development, networking, and exposure to the performing arts.

(Cleveland, Ohio)— Young professionals seeking to engage more with the performing and visual arts, and hone their leadership skills can now join the new Karamu House Young Professional Council (KYPC). To support the Council’s launch, Karamu House is hosting a live networking event ,centered around its production of “Greenwood: An American Dream Destroyed” on Tuesday, June 29, 2021 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Karamu House.

The event is open to members and non-members alike, who are encouraged to view the production, in order to participate in a discussion about the Boley family story and the effect of the Black Wall Street Massacre of 1921. After doors open at 5:30 p.m., discussion will begin promptly at 6 p.m. followed by networking and light appetizers; a cash bar is also available. During the event, participants will have an opportunity to view the new Tulsa Race Massacre photography exhibit in the Karamu House George L. Forbes Gallery and also have a photographer take a complimentary, professional headshot.

“Greenwood: An American Dream Destroyed” was created by award-winning playwright Celeste Bedford Walker and shows an intimate and gut-wrenching look at one family’s story as they witnessed the lasting devastation of the Tulsa Race Massacre in 1921.

The new Karamu House Young Professionals Council will provide unique opportunities to network and socialize with other young professionals and the Board of Directors 10 times a year through a variety of activities. Also, through their membership, Council members will be able to take advantage of Karamu House special events, performances and classes, and receive discounts to select events and performances.

Members can participate in skill-building programs and activities to develop leadership skills, and will gain hands-on experience and knowledge on nonprofit governance and operations. There will also be volunteer and engagement opportunities throughout the year.

“We are always looking for ways to engage new and different audiences, and we hope that with our new Young Professional Council that we can cultivate a new generation of supporters of Karamu House,” said Aseelah Shareef, Director of Operations and Community Engagement.

Young professionals under 40 can join the Karamu House Young Professionals Council throughout the year for a rolling \$100 annual membership fee. Non-members can attend events for a fee. For more information about KYPC and to register for the June 29th event, visit karamuhouse.org/engage/ypc.

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About Karamu House

Recognized as the oldest African American performing arts institute in the nation, Karamu House is listed on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places and featured in the Smithsonian's African-American Museum. Legendary artists including Langston Hughes, Ruby Dee, Robert Guillaume, Ron O'Neal, Bill Cobbs, James Pickens, Jr., Vanessa Bell Calloway and Imani Hakim have been associated with the 106-year-old "place of joyful gathering" (the meaning of "Karamu" in Swahili.)

Today, Karamu is a beating heart for the entire community, regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identification, or age. Core programs include socially relevant and professional quality theatre; arts education programming for all ages; and community programming, such as comedy, live jazz, and spoken word performances, that invites participation and engagement, reflection, and a re-commitment to cultural values.

For more information, visit www.karamuhouse.org.