



Community Planning and Economic Development Department

Media Advisory

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Minneapolis City Goals: A Safe Place to Call Home ▫ *Jobs & Economic Vitality* ▫ *Eco-Focused* ▫ *Livable Communities, Healthy Lives* ▫ *Many People, One Minneapolis* ▫ *A City That Works*

17 John Biggers' Seed Project Artists to Participate in Meet and Greet Event

Event includes presentation on John Biggers' *Celebration of Life Mural*

WHAT: The City of Minneapolis and partners Obsidian Arts, Chicago Avenue Fire Arts Center, and the University of Minnesota's Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center (UROC) will host a community event featuring the 17 master and emerging artists selected to participate in the John Biggers Seed (Seed) project on Thursday, January 23 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at UROC.

Seed is inspired by Biggers' "*Celebration of Life*" mural and the role the mural played in launching the careers of young artists and organizations and planting artistic "seeds" on the Northside. The project is designed to teach the emerging artists about African American art and community history, while providing them with career development and transferable skills. For the next eight months, they will be working closely with four master artists to create a sense of place that speaks to the culture of North Minneapolis. The new artwork will be installed at Interstate 94 at Highway 55 in October.

The January 23 event will officially kick-off the Seed project and feature visiting master artists Willis Bing Davis of Ohio and Jon Onye Lockard of Michigan and a short presentation about the "*Celebration of Life*" mural and the work of John Biggers.

Community members are encouraged to attend to meet Davis, Lockard, and the other Seed artists: Tacoumba Aiken, Seitu Jones, Mica Anders, Chrys Carroll, Roger Cummings, Patrick Cunningham, Angela Davis, Loretta Day, Christopher Aaron Deanes, Adrienne Doyle, Jeremiah Bey Ellison, Jordan Hamilton, Chris Harrison, Esther Osayande, and Chris Scott.

The event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

WHEN: Thursday, January 23, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

WHERE: Urban Outreach-Engagement Center (UROC), 2001 Plymouth Ave N, Minneapolis.

MORE:

The Bigger's Seed Project is funded by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Our Town program, the McKnight Foundation's Region and Communities program, the City of Minneapolis' Art in Public Places program and the Pohlad Foundation.

The community is also invited to participate in a series of four art history workshops taking place on Saturdays in February and March. The events will be free, hosted at UROC, and open to the public. Details will be published closer to the event dates.

For more information on Seed, including biographies and photos of the project artists, visit the City of Minneapolis website at www.minneapolismn.gov/dca/.