

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 6, 2023

Contact: Dayna Snell 860-805-6169

qancinc@gmail.com



QUEEN ANN NZINGA CENTER CELEBRATES 15TH ANNUAL CONSTANCE "CONNIE" RENEE WILSON COLLINS EXCEPTIONAL WOMEN CONCERT

New Britain, CT - The Queen Ann Nzinga Center, Inc. is proud to announce its 15th annual Constance "Connie" Renee Wilson Collins Exceptional Women Concert, scheduled for April 6, 2024. This event will honor outstanding women from New Britain, Plainville, and Bloomfield, paying tribute to their remarkable contributions. The celebration, to be held at the New Britain Museum of Art, promises an evening of live musical performances, poetry, dance, and heartfelt tributes to the honorees. Live performances by singer Ronnie Jenkins, Lauren Horn//Subira Vs Movement, Nzinga's Daughters and the Nzinga's Daughters R&B Band.

Originally named in 2014 in honor of Constance "Connie" Renee Wilson Collins, a Harvard graduate and African American woman whose impact on the Greater New Britain community was immeasurable, the event recognizes women who exemplify Collins' spirit of service and community dedication.

"Collins is an exemplary role model for the children and teens who participate in the Queen Ann Nzinga Center programs," says Executive Director Dayna Snell, "and she continues to inspire youth to reach their full potential and use their talents for the good of the community."

The 2024 celebration will honor four exceptional women:

- Christine "Chris" Bryant, is a retired factory worker (Emhart later Corbin and Rustin) and currently a crossing guard
- Mallory Deprey, Community Services Program Manager for the City of New Britain

- Jodi Hill-Lilly, current Commissioner Designate of the Connecticut Department of Children and Families, leader and subject matter expert in racial justice and workforce development
- Rebecca Martinez, a nurse and member of the Plainville Board of Education and chair of the Plainville Democratic Town Committee

To kick off the festivities, a private luncheon will be held on March 9, 2024, at the New Britain Museum of American Art, offering honorees and guests a chance to enjoy live music, delicious food, and meaningful fellowship. The Queen Ann Nzinga Center's program participants eagerly anticipate meeting their assigned honorees, having learned about their accomplishments and goals. The luncheon serves as an opportunity for honorees and guests to familiarize themselves with the center, its board members, and volunteers.

The public is warmly invited to attend the concert and celebration on Saturday, April 6, 2024, at 2 pm at the New Britain Museum of American Art, located at 56 Lexington St, New Britain, CT. Tickets, priced at \$20 for adults and \$15 for students and seniors, can be purchased on the Queen Ann Nzinga Center's website (www.qanc.org) or at the door on the day of the event. Concert ticket holders enjoy complimentary entry to the museum before the event. The event will be livestreamed, see the QANC website for details.

All proceeds from the event contribute to funding programming for the Queen Ann Nzinga Center, a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering youth through the arts. The center focuses on promoting unity, confidence, and personal accountability while emphasizing artistic expression and teamwork to build participants' leadership skills. For further information, please contact the QANC at qancinc@gmail.com.

This event is proudly sponsored by: State of CT Office of the Arts, CT Humanities, City of New Britain, the American Savings Foundation, the Community Foundation of Greater New Britain, The Prosperity Foundation, Tomasso Family, J. Walton Bissell Foundation, Elizabeth H. Norton Trust, and Walmart.