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COMMUNITY

Community Music Center Honors Four Women Who Helped Shape Houston’s Musical Legacy



The Firey String Sistas will make their Houston debut during CMCH’s Legacy Project.

CMCH will honor Dr. Anne Lundy for helping shape generations of Houston musicians.

The organization’s 11th Annual Black Music Month Legacy Project will celebrate four pioneering women whose work helped preserve and pass on Houston’s rich musical heritage while welcoming the acclaimed Firey String Sistas to the historic Eldorado Ballroom.

By: Chelsea Lenora Small, Forward Times Associate Publisher and Editor-in-Chief

Every musician has a beginning. Before the spotlight, before the applause and before the performance, there is often a teacher, mentor or community leader helping cultivate talent, preserve traditions and inspire the next generation. This Black Music Month, the Community Music Center of Houston (CMCH) is celebrating four women whose contributions have helped shape Houston’s musical landscape for decades. As part of its 11th Annual Legacy Project, CMCH will honor Dr. Anne Lundy, Dr. Ruth Stewart, Ina Zellers and Dr. Gloria Quinlan, educators, musicians and cultural stewards whose work has strengthened Houston’s Black musical heritage through teaching, performance and

community engagement. Through classrooms, performance spaces, churches and community institutions, Lundy, Stewart, Zellers and Quinlan have helped shape Houston’s cultural landscape. Their influence extends far beyond individual accomplishments, reaching generations of students, artists and community members.



Dr. Ruth Stewart is being recognized for her lasting impact on music, education and community.

Their collective impact serves as a reminder that music is not only performed. It is taught, preserved, remembered and passed on.



Dr. Gloria Quinlan is being honored for helping shape generations of Houston musicians.

The celebration will take place Sunday, June 7, at the historic Eldorado Ballroom in the heart of Third Ward’s Cultural District. The afternoon will begin with the opening of “Music Is My Sanctuary,” a collaborative art exhibition presented with Community Artists’ Collective, followed by the Legacy Project concert and honoree celebration.

Founded in 1979 by Ron Scales and Patricia Johnson, the Community Music Center of Houston has spent more than four decades serving as a cultural anchor for musicians, students and families throughout the region. Through music education, community programming



Ina Zellers is being honored for helping shape generations of Houston musicians and music lovers.

and live performances, the organization has worked to ensure that Black musical traditions continue to thrive across generations.

The Legacy Project will also welcome a special guest performance from the Firey String Sistas, an acclaimed ensemble making its Houston debut.

Performing at the Eldorado Ballroom, the New York-based group brings together a blend of jazz, soul, world music and global influences. At its core are three accomplished musicians: founder and cellist Nioka Workman, violinist Marlene Rice and pianist-vocalist Mala Waldron. Collectively, members of the ensemble have performed alongside renowned artists including Aretha Franklin, Beyoncé, Lauryn Hill and India Arie. Critics have described the group as both “supremely talented” and “poignant.”

The setting itself carries special significance. For generations, the Eldorado Ballroom has served as one of Houston’s most important cultural landmarks, hosting legendary performers such as Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald, B.B. King and Houston’s own Jewel Brown. By bringing this year’s Legacy Project to the historic venue, organizers hope to connect the city’s musical past with its future.

“CMCH’s Legacy Project is not just about looking back,” said Tweed Smith, singer, CMCH vocal instructor, former member of the funk group WAR and Hollywood Walk of Fame honoree. “It is about recognizing the people who built the cultural ground we stand on, and making sure their work continues to live in the present.”

That commitment will extend beyond the June 7 celebration.

This year, CMCH has partnered with the Rutherford B. H. Yates Museum and Freedmen’s Town Museums Houston to expand Black Music Month programming throughout June. Through exhibitions, cultural activations and public programs, the organizations aim to highlight the connections between music, history and community memory while creating opportunities for residents to engage with Houston’s rich cultural heritage.

As Houston celebrates Black Music Month, the Legacy Project shines a spotlight on the educators, mentors and cultural pioneers whose contributions have helped shape generations of musicians and music lovers throughout the city.

The Community Music Center of Houston’s 11th Annual Black Music Month Legacy Project begins Sunday, June 7, at the Eldorado Ballroom, 2310 Elgin St. The opening art exhibition begins at 2 p.m., followed by the Legacy Honoree Celebration and concert at 4 p.m.

CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICE

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage and Wine and Malt Beverage Retail Dealer’s on-Premises Permit by Arnoldo H Ramirez dba La Colombiana, to be located at 1101 Spencer Hwy Ste I South Houston Tx 77587, Harris County, Texas. Owner of said business Arnoldo H Ramirez.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Request for Proposal – Houston-Galveston Area Council – Enterprise Solutions – HGACBuy/Cooperative Purchasing Program – Medium and Heavy Trucks, Truck Bodies, and Trailers – HT07-26A

H-GAC is soliciting responses for selecting qualified manufacturers, dealers and distributors of Medium and Heavy Trucks, Truck Bodies, and Trailers and to make these types of products available to Customers of the HGACBuy Cooperative Purchasing Program under blanket type contracts. **NOTE: This solicitation is a supplement to the previously offered Request for Proposal (RFP) #HT07-26. Current HT07-26 awardees do not need to submit a response.**

To view the solicitation documents, visit <https://www.h-gac.com/procurement> or ESBD@txsmartbuy.com

Response Deadline: June 18, 2026 @ 12:00 P.M. CT

HUB SUPPLIER OPPORTUNITY

Let’s Talk About It Speech Therapy, PLLC is bidding on Project 26-05-01 – Special Education Services - Independent Educational Evaluations (IEE), Evaluation Services, Special Education Service Providers, and Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) and Behavior Therapist Services for Houston Independent School District.

We are seeking possible HUB-certified subcontractors to provide:

- Speech-Language Pathology Services
- Occupational Therapy Services
- Evaluation and Assessment Support Services
- Translation and Interpretation Services

Interested HUB-certified businesses should contact:

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281-690-8289

COMPUTER PROFESSIONALS

Computer Professionals for TX based Firm : “Software Engineer to Dsgn, dvlp, create, test & modify computer s/w applications & specialized utility programs in complex computing environment using latest tools & technologies on different O/S. Software Engineer to Dsgn, dvlp, test, enhance, customize & co-ordinate activities to implement advance s/w module components in complex computer environments using latest tools & technologies on different O/S. Analyze user requirements & dvlp s/w solutions. Project Manager to Plan, execute, & manage end-to-end projects, including scope, schedule, resources, & deliverables. Lead cross-functional teams & coordinate with business & technical stakeholders to ensure timely delivery. Monitor project progress, risks, & dependencies; implement mitigation & change management strategies. Manage project budgets, timelines, & quality standards. Prepare project documentation, status reports, & executive-level updates. Travel to various unanticipated worksite loc’ns with frequency dependent on Project and/or Client requirement throughout the U.S. may be required.” Apply w/2 copies of resume to ITG Technologies Inc, 10998 S Wilcrest Dr, Ste #144, Houston, TX 77099.