



BROOKLYN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

For Immediate Release

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New Fort Greene / Clinton Hill Audio Tour

January 4, 2011, Brooklyn, NY -- The Brooklyn Historical Society launches a new audio walking tour for the Fort Greene/Clinton Hill neighborhoods. The **Fort Greene / Clinton Hill Audio Walking Tour**, a project linked to the recently published neighborhood *Fort Greene / Clinton Hill Neighborhood & Architectural History Guide* will be available for download from the BHS website (www.brooklynhistory.org) and also through iTunes.

Join BHS, *Works In Progress*, The Fort Greene Association, The Civilians, Pratt Area Community Council, Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church and others at the Audio Walking Tour Launch Party. We will share audio from the various Fort Greene/Clinton Hill-based projects. Light refreshments will be provided by Madiba.

Thursday, January 13 at 7:30pm
Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church, 85 South Oxford Street, Brooklyn, NY

About the Audio Tour:

The Brooklyn Historical Society's new audio tour of Fort Greene / Clinton Hill is hosted by author, filmmaker, and longtime Fort Greene resident Nelson George. It features excerpts from oral history interviews from the Brooklyn Historical Society's collections: artists, community activists, and longtime residents both past and present including professional basketball player Albert King, WNYC's Jad Abumrad, and former *Freedomways* managing editor Esther Cooper Jackson. Historian Francis Morrone tells us about landmarks like the Prison Ship Martyrs Monument and Underwood Park and the poet Marianne Moore. And we learn more about keystones of the neighborhood like BAM, Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church, and Pratt Institute from the inside.

The Event Will Feature:

- **An episode of *Works In Progress***, a TV series about global literature and storytelling currently in development, on writers and artists from Fort Greene including former Sierra Leone child soldier Ishmael Beah, award-winning novelist Jennifer Egan, legendary jazz musician Bill Lee, Walt Whitman devotee Daryl Blaine Ford, creative genius Carl Hancock Rux, Def Jam poet Suheir Hammad, singer Nucommé, and star of stage and screen, actor Jeffrey Wright.
- **Excerpts from Nelson George's** forthcoming documentary on the black artistic history of Fort Greene / Clinton Hill.
- **Photographs** of Soul Summit over the years by Muema Lombe
- **Music** by Soul Summit Music
- **Light refreshments** by Madiba

About the Participants:

Nelson George is an author, filmmaker, television producer and critic with a long career in analyzing and presenting the diverse elements of African-American culture. He grew up in

Brooklyn as is detailed in his 2009 memoir *City Kid*. He is currently working on a documentary about Fort Greene, a neighborhood he has called home since the 1980s.

<http://nelsondgeorge.net>

Ina Howard-Parker is host of *A Global Piano and Literary Salon* for WNYC in The Greene Space and she is also the creator of *Works In Progress*, a TV series about global literature and storytelling currently in development – including an episode on writers and artists from Fort Greene including former Sierra Leone child soldier Ishmael Beah, award-winning novelist Jennifer Egan, legendary jazz musician Bill Lee, Walt Whitman devotee Daryl Blaine Ford, creative genius Carl Hancock Rux, Def Jam poet Suheir Hammad, singer Nucombe, and star of stage and screen, actor Jeffrey Wright.

<http://www.wnyc.org/people/ina-parker/>

Muema Lombe is a visual artist who has lived in Nairobi, Paris, Moscow, and now resides in New York City. He was recognized as one of the foremost photographic and video-based documentarians of nightclub culture by *Nueva Luz* magazine in 2009, and his photos have also appeared in *TimeOut New York*, *Vibe*, *Billboard* and *New York magazine*. He has been photographing the Soul Summit Music Festival in Fort Greene Park for many years.

<http://muemaphoto.com>

Francis Morrone is a historian and cultural journalist. He is the author of ten books including *An Architectural Guidebook to Brooklyn*, the *Park Slope Neighborhood & Architectural History Guide* and the recently release *Fort Greene Clinton Hill Neighborhood and Architectural History Guide*.

Plus music by Soul Summit DJ Tabu!

<http://soulsummitmusic.com/>

Brooklyn Historical Society began collecting oral histories in 1973 and now holds interviews with over 500 narrators talking about life in Brooklyn over the decades. Whenever possible, BHS gives researchers access to the audio/video of the interview, not just the transcript, because voice contains so much information that cannot be translated into text. You can find excerpts of Oral History interviews from BHS' collection being used in Exhibits and Education Programs and any audio that BHS produces for these purposes can be found on the BHS podcast (available for free through iTunes) and on the [BHS blog](#) (under the tag *Oral History Highlights*), including some full interviews. The BHS oral history collection can also be browsed for listening in the Othmer Library.

<http://brooklynhistory.org/blog/tag/oral-history-highlights/>

About the Guide:

[The Fort Greene Clinton Hill Neighborhood & Architectural History Guide](#) is a wide-ranging history of the Fort Greene, Clinton Hill and Wallabout neighborhoods. The story of these neighborhoods is a microcosm of New York City--institutions, industries, parks, churches, grand 19th-century architecture, one of the oldest African American communities in New York, the arts, urban renewal and gentrification. The guide details the history of Fort Greene Park; notable neighborhood personages including Walt Whitman, Marianne Moore, Richard Wright, Susan Smith McKinney-Steward, Charles Pratt, and Spike Lee; and the histories of local institutions such as Pratt Institute, the Brooklyn Academy of Music, Colored School No. 1, St. Joseph's College, Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church and more. The guide offers a tantalizing glimpse of the area's rich history through Mr. Morrone's superb narration, contemporary photographs by Etienne Frossard and numerous archival photographs from David Lee and the Brooklyn Historical Society's collection.

The mission of the Brooklyn Historical Society is to connect the past to the present and make the vibrant history of Brooklyn tangible, relevant, and meaningful for today's diverse communities, and for generations to come. Founded in 1863, BHS functions as a library, museum and urban education center dedicated to the people of Brooklyn, providing opportunities for civic dialogue and thoughtful engagement.