

ART & SOUL: Hamptons Partners with Southampton African American Museum and Hamptons Hiatus to serve a soulful Juneteenth

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Southampton, New York Jun 25, 2023 ([Issuewire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - The Hamptons experienced a packed day filled with soulful events attended by artists, art curators and collectors, corporate executives, business owners, entrepreneurs, and the cultural elite of the Hamptons. The Juneteenth celebration consisted of a panel discussion, live music, art exhibition, soul food BBQ, and a VIP experience. [ART & SOUL: Hamptons](#) was created by Yaya Reyes to celebrate influential and emerging BIPOC artists living in the Hamptons community and beyond. The summer series of events supports and connects artists with art curators, collectors, and supporters.

The Southampton African American Museum (SAAM) kicked off the day with Juneteenth festivities. The museum was previously a barbershop owned by Emanuel Seymore, a beauty parlor owned by Evelyn Baxter, and “Fives” which is a juke joint and restaurant owned by Arthur “Fives” Robinson. The location was an iconic local gathering place for Blacks in the late 40’s, where locals were part of the Great Migration secured it as their safe haven. Brenda Simmons, Founder and Executive Director of SAAM, helped to keep the legacy alive by helping to preserve the land, as she was born and raised in Southampton, and is the niece of Evelyn Baxter, the beautician who shared the building with Mr. Seymore.

SAAM spread out their “HOMECOMING” series of Juneteenth events over multiple days throughout Southampton. Simmons gave recognition to SAAM architect Siamak Samii, NY State Assemblyman Fred Thiele, Executive Editor of Press Newspaper Group Joe Shaw, landscape architect Perry Guillot, and Founder and Event Producer of ART & SOUL: Hamptons Yaya Reyes. A discussion followed, which included a group of panelists (who grew up on the East End) engaged in a “How Has Our World Changed” discussion, including ‘A Different World’ actress Charnele Dozier, former Up the Academy and Sesame Street child actor Wendell Brown, Broadway actor Kenneth Browning, and Truist VP Mark Johnson. There was a special live music performance by award-winning gospel singer Nah-tarsha Cherry who wowed and entertained the crowd. Special appearances by newly elected Southampton Village Mayor Bill Manger, re-elected Southampton Village Trustee Robin Brown, and granddaughters of the late Emmanuel Seymore: Hope Dorsey and Crystal Seymore. Guests traveled from Texas, Florida, Virginia, Maryland, D.C., Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York City, to celebrate the Juneteenth festivities.

Live music entertainment was provided by local band [Certain Moves](#), and soul food barbeque was catered by H&S Catering, Inc. Guests also made their way into the museum to view all the exhibits including a fabulous art exhibition, Kindred, by Brooklyn artist [Demarcus McGaughey](#). The artist completed a residency at Ma’s House & BIPOC Art Studio on the Shinnecock Reservation last summer and made a striking series of collaged portraits featuring generations of his family layered in paper, fabric and other materials. A closing reception for the exhibition will be held on July 21, 2023 at the Southampton Arts Center, and the last day to view the exhibition at SAAM will be on July 22, 2023.

ART & SOUL: Hamptons hosted a VIP Lounge with reserved seating, summertime refreshments prepared by [The Party Perfectionists](#), networking amongst VIP guests, red carpet photo experience, and a 360 camera photo booth sponsored by VBA the Media Group. Guests walked away with luxury swag bag products. Luxury Gift Bag Sponsors included: stylish and functional hats for golf, resort, and travel by [Carkella by Wallaroo Hat Company](#), boozy tea cocktails by Owl’s Brew, collagen sparking beverages by RĀD8 by Gnu Santé, fermented beverages made from pineapples by De La Calle!, leave-in hair conditioner by Andrew Fitzsimons, and body oils by Fountain Pimento Oil.

EVENT AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS

[SOUTHAMPTON AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM](#) was founded and created by Brenda Simmons to

promote an understanding and appreciation of African American culture by creating programs that will preserve the past, encourage learning and enhance the life of the community.

[HAMPTONS HIATUS](#) is a private membership association designed for artisan entrepreneurs and those who support them; creating, socializing and experiencing brand awareness in a community space is the vision.

[VBA THE MEDIA GROUP](#) is an award-winning event service brand based in Uniondale, NY. Customized photobooths are available for all types of celebrations, including birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, galas, festivals, social events, and more.

[SOUTHAMPTON ARTS CENTER](#) provides a dynamic venue to present the highest quality programming to the entire community through partnerships with a diverse slate of world-class artists, performers, educators and cultural institutions.

[BLACK WOMEN OF LONG ISLAND](#) is an established community within the Black women of Long Island. Our purpose is to network, partner, and build with one another.

100 BLACK MEN OF EASTERN NEW YORK, INC. is a membership-based organization that was formed to address the current issues of our day in our community, and to build upon the illustrious foundation of the men who have paved the way for a more just, and equitable society. Our mission is to serve the African American community in Eastern New York in various areas such as Education, Health and Wellness, Advocacy, Mentoring, and Community Development, Leadership Development, and Economic Development.

LONG ISLAND AFRICAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE is a civic & social organization company with a mission to advance and promote the economic development for business and to advocate responsive government and quality education, on behalf of all small businesses, with an emphasis on African Ancestry, while preserving the unique characteristics of the Nassau, Suffolk, Queens and Brooklyn Counties that serve our membership.



Media Contact

ART & SOUL: Hamptons

team@yaindiegroundhouse.com

New York, NY 10036

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