

Price Institute

ON ETHNICITY, CULTURE, AND THE MODERN EXPERIENCE

Exhibit Remembers Newark's Ark Builder

Over three years ago, the Price Institute and Newark's Gallery Aferro began a collaborative research, archive-building, and exhibition project to tell the story of Kea Tawana and the three-story ark she built in Newark's Central Ward in the 1980s. After scouring numerous libraries and archives and interviewing dozens of people, we opened the exhibition at Aferro's space on Market Street in September. Our findings were enhanced by material loaned by the Up Front Exhibition Space in Port Jervis, NY, whose owner saved them from the trash bin when Kea passed away only



weeks before the opening. Over the course of the fall, hundreds of gallery visitors learned anew or revisited the story of Newark's lost ark and the extraordinary woman who built it. Many attended a series of public programs that included literary readings, artistic performances, and panel discussions.

The exhibition and related programs were the result of a new and close collaboration between the Price Institute and Gallery Aferro, combining their respective expertise, audiences, and resources to explore deeper questions about the role of arts and culture in urban development at a moment when they are often seen as crucial to the revival of American cities. Kea's story and the broader issues it raises continue to strike chords with an ever-expanding audience, and we are currently exploring opportunities to travel the exhibit to several other cities.

In This Issue

MTW 2

Honoring Professor Price 3

Baraka Fellows 4

L+M Lecture 5

Dance Symposium 6-7

Troublemakers 8

NEPHC 9

50th of 1967 10

Staff Updates 11

Upcoming Events 11

Marion Thompson Wright Lecture Series

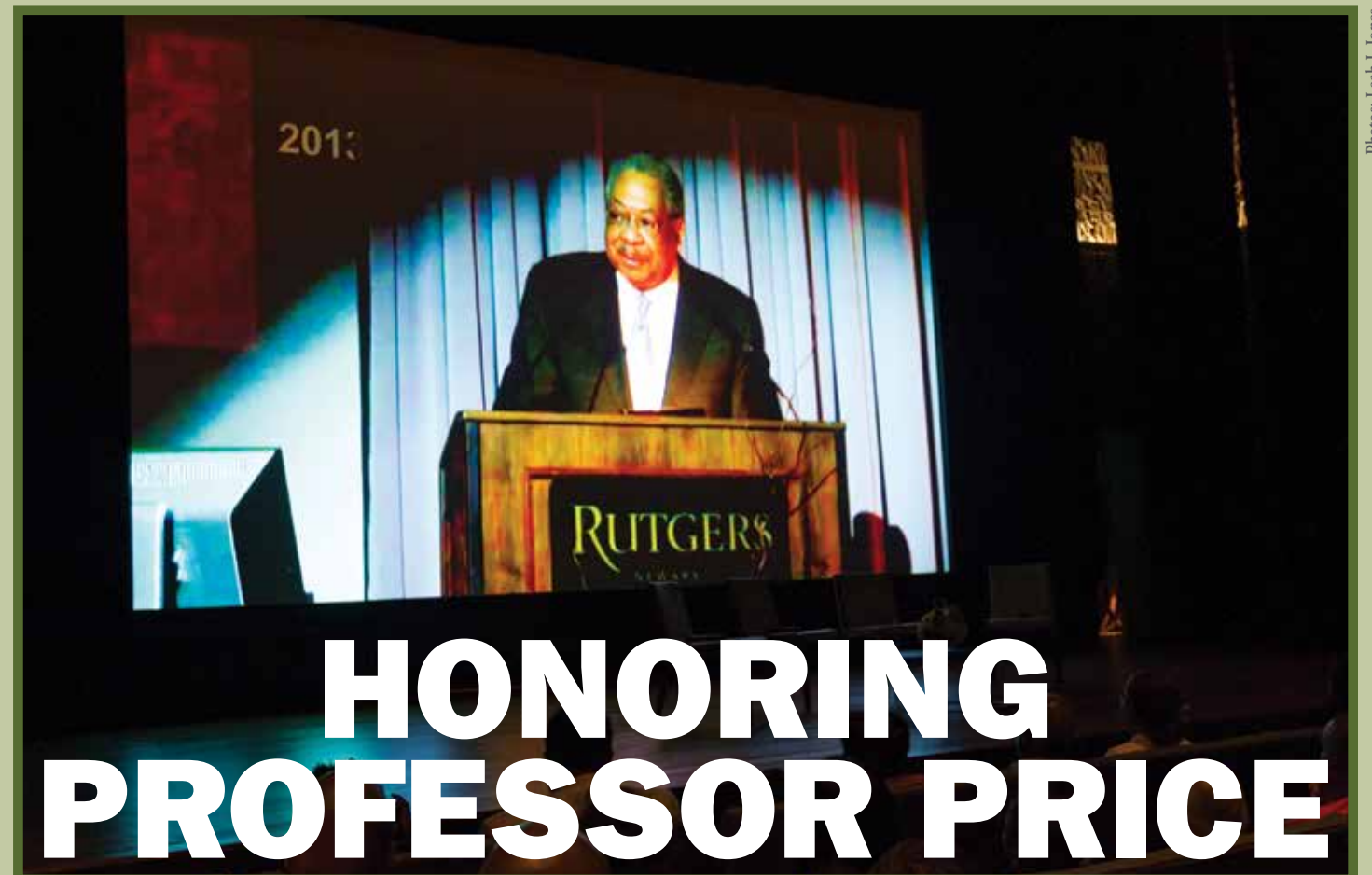
City Moves: *Black Urban History since 1967*, the 37th Annual Marion Thompson Wright Lecture Series, acknowledged the fiftieth anniversary of the 1967 uprisings in Newark, Detroit, and other cities by inviting a wide-ranging discussion of a half-century of urban settlement and development.

This year's speakers have collectively done an immense amount of work – and a real service to history – by complicating narratives of urban decline, by recovering the complexity and heterogeneity of urban communities, and by documenting the ways in which they not only were transformed by the challenges of the past fifty years, but also adapted their work and their activism to meet those challenges head on. Key-note speaker Thomas J. Sugrue of New York University looked back at the revolutionary year of 1967 for ideas to help us navigate the country's current crises. Northwestern University's Mary Pattillo revisited the sociological classic *Black Metropolis* and updated its key insights for early twenty-first-century America, while Alondra Nelson, dean of social sciences at Columbia University, provided a compelling and complicated portrait of the Black Panther Party's health and wellness work in urban communities. The day concluded with Johns Hopkins University historian Nathan Connolly's energetic overview of his research into the historical ebbs and flows of black property ownership.

“MTW was part academic symposium, part community forum, and part family reunion... Inspiring!” -Mary Pattillo



“The Price Institute models what all institutions of higher education should aspire to: research and teaching for the public good.” -Alondra Nelson



Photos: Leah J. Jones

In June 2017, Institute founder and longtime director Clement A. Price was posthumously given the Outstanding Citizenship award at the annual New Jersey State Governor's Jefferson Awards ceremony at the Newark Museum. Professor Price was recognized both for his expansive knowledge of our nation's past and for his ability to apply its lessons in the pursuit of alliance building and the advancement of civil rights. On hand to accept the award and celebrate Professor Price's legacy were his wife Mary Sue Sweeney Price and Rutgers University-Newark dean of arts and sciences Professor Jan Ellen Lewis.



Washington, D.C., hosted the first entry in the Clement A. Price Lecture series. Made possible through the support of Prudential Financial, the inaugural event explored Newark's 1967 uprising. Three panel discussions comprised of both eyewitnesses and students of the uprising provided context for a deeper understanding of its roots, meanings, and legacies in contemporary Newark. Before the discussions

began in earnest, a proclamation from the Office of the Mayor, Washington, D.C., in honor of Professor Price, a native son of the city who served on several federal bodies, including the scholarly advisory committee at the NMAAHC, was read. At their conclusion, attendees were honored with access to the museum history galleries, which Professor Price had helped shape.

The following month, the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) in



“There is no depth to education without art.”
- Amiri Baraka

Amiri Baraka Fellows

This fall, in partnership with the RU-N chancellor's office, the Price Institute will convene its first class of Amiri Baraka Fellows. Though best known as a poet and playwright, Baraka drew no lines between art and activism, between cultural criticism and political mobilization, between the life of the mind and the larger social and civic lives that he led. As the world confronts challenges old and new, we might look to his example to study the possibilities and limitations, the promises and pitfalls, of a creatively and politically engaged life.

To that end, a small group of dedicated and interdisciplinary RU-N students, graduate and undergraduate, will meet regularly over the academic year to explore the challenges and possibilities of civic work in Newark and to design and execute a public project that leverages their unique skills and interests to promote the continued viability of local Newark communities. Using the city's recently launched Hire.Buy.Live Campaign as a foundation, the fellows will meet with a range of civic leaders from both on and off campus to more deeply consider how publicly facing work in the arts, humanities, and social sciences might promote a diverse and just city in the midst of rapid development and population growth.

L+M LECTURE SERIES



Since its opening, Express Newark, RU-N's arts hub in the former Hahne & Co. department store building, has become an artistic and intellectual meeting ground for students, teachers, and community members interested in how creativity and self-expression help drive community understanding and development. With a portrait studio, print shop, exhibition space, classrooms, and multimedia workshops, it provides a good deal of the energy driving the university's commitment to helping anchor Newark's intellectual, artistic, and economic life.

On May 5, 2017, Express Newark hosted its grand opening celebration, which featured open houses, hands-on activities, and the Price Institute's newest regular public program, the L+M Development Partners Lecture Series. The inaugural speaker was Wellesley College art historian and Newark native Professor Nikki A. Greene. Known as an expert in African American art history and the arts of the African diaspora more broadly, Professor Greene provided a personal portrait of her development as a student and scholar. Her lecture, "Newark: My Home in the Arts," spoke to the impact the arts can have on one life, especially when they are organized into powerful community institutions like the Newark Museum, which Greene credits as her earliest introduction to her life's passion. As a personal reflection on the foundations and aims of a critical arts practice, her lecture was an ideal launch of the L+M Lecture Series.



New Jersey Tap Ensemble's joyfilled performance of *Tapping*

Through Time with the Price Institute was a priceless experience!

- Deborah Mitchell, Executive/Artistic Director NJTAP

Dance Symposium Series

Since 2005, the Price Institute has mounted the Dance Symposium Series with the mission of bringing exceptional dance artists directly to an urban audience, including diverse groups of students, families, and lifelong learners. As the only regularly produced dance program at Rutgers University-Newark, the Series has, over the years, brought a variety of dance styles and traditions to campus and the larger Newark community. In addition to an evening performance, each entry in the Series includes a public engagement activity, such as a workshop or lecture/demo, with one of the Institute's community partners. Last year's season was supported by grants from the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation and the Essex County Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs.



NJTAP Ensemble

In the fall, the Price Institute hosted a two-day engagement with the New Jersey Tap Ensemble, a Bloomfield-based professional tap dance company founded by Deborah Mitchell in 1994 and dedicated to providing tap resources to a broad public via its outreach program. It included a full evening performance and a daytime residency activity with one of the Institute's community partners. On November 9, NJTAP performed *Tapping Through Time* in the Bradley Hall Theater at RU-N. A compelling blend of history lesson and artistry, the performance showcased key moments in the growth of this uniquely American art form, from its golden age during the Harlem Renaissance, through its increasing popularity in the postwar years and its late-century renaissance. Among the artists whose work and contributions were detailed and celebrated were Duke Ellington, Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, and Newark's own Savion Glover. In December, NJTAP returned to the Newark metro area to present an interactive workshop with students, staff, and faculty at the Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy in Elizabeth. Before a packed house in the school's gymnasium, ensemble members presented highlights from their show and invited the students to learn and dance with them.

"I enjoyed the artistry of dance and the wonderful narration NJ Tap provided."

- Audience Member

Calpulli Mexican Dance Company

In March 2017, the Price Institute presented its spring symposium featuring the New York City based troupe Calpulli Mexican Dance Company. The company's mission is to engage audiences in Mexican and Mexican-American heritage through dance, while emphasizing the arts through education, cultural enrichment programming, and outreach activities in underserved communities.

On March 28, Calpulli conducted a lecture/demo for approximately 500 schoolchildren at the Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy where they demonstrated dances from several different regions of Mexico. The following evening Calpulli presented an hour-long evening performance at the Jim Wise Theater at the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) where they debuted *Boda Mexicana* (Mexican Wedding), a universal love story of courtship and marriage told through the dance and music of the many different ethnic groups, eras, and traditions throughout Mexico's rich cultural history, complete with live music. The theater was filled with 200+ audience members, many of them local families attending the symposium for the first time.



"I loved the vibrancy of the culture and courtship traditions displayed in *Boda Mexicana*."

- Audience Member

"There are no restrictions to what you can dance to."

- Audience Member



“AS A TEACHER OF AMERICAN HISTORY AND COLD WAR CIVIL RIGHTS, THIS STORY IS IMPORTANT FOR CONNECTING THE PAST AND PRESENT OF THIS CITY.” -Audience Member

Troublemakers 50th Anniversary Film Screening

In 1966, two radical filmmakers spent months in Newark documenting the work of the Newark Community Union Project, a New Left community empowerment movement that tackled housing problems, school discrimination, police brutality, and other ills experienced by residents of the Lower Clinton Hill neighborhood. Those residents, especially black women, joined college students and recent graduates to confront the inertia and the violence of local power structures. City and police officials dubbed them mere “troublemakers.”

Fifty years later, the Price Institute invited filmmakers Robert Machover and Norm Fruchter and descendants of two key neighborhood activists from that period – Dazzare Jefferson, granddaughter of Terry Jefferson, and Tyler McClain, son of Wyla McClain – to screen *Troublemakers* in RU-N’s John Cot-



ton Dana Library. In attendance were members of the Rutgers community and, most significantly, current Newark community organizers who remarked on the film’s thoughtful and complex presentation of one Newark organizing effort on the eve of the 1967 uprising. Following the keynote film, they were all treated to a screening of the even rarer *We Got to Live Here*, Machover and Fruchter’s visually poetic portrait of Lower Clinton Hill in the mid-1960s, and footage of the Newark Freedom Singers. Following a lively discussion, moderated by Professor Whitney Strub of the RU-N history department, about the history depicted in these landmark works and its lessons for current social movements, the filmmakers encouraged Price Institute staff to make *Troublemakers* more widely available to the Newark community. A copy is now available at the Dana Library at RU-N and another in circulation among community organizers in the Ironbound.



“I ATTENDED THIS EVENT TO REVISIT A TRAUMATIC, BUT INSTRUCTIVE, PERIOD IN NEWARK’S HISTORY.”

-Audience Member

3rd Annual Meeting of the North East Public Humanities Consortium



Three years ago, the Price Institute joined colleagues from universities across the region at the first meeting of the North East Public Humanities Consortium (NEPHC). Representatives from twelve institutions of higher learning, public and private, met at Yale University for the symposium. The bulk of the time was spent getting to know one another and each other’s institutions and programs; discussing common questions, interests, and obstacles; beginning to establish a governing structure for the Consortium; and determining and assigning next steps.

After a second meeting at Brown University in 2016, the NEPHC came to Newark this past April, for its third annual gathering, hosted by the Price Institute. Members were treated to a tour of Express Newark and its Shine Portrait

Studio, as well as sessions in the Paul Robeson Campus Center and 15 Washington. Activities included lightning presentations by graduate students from several of the schools represented and breakout sessions on creating public humanities curricula, collaborations among member institutions, and humanities advocacy. The meeting ended with a full-group session to revise a proposed NEPHC white paper. It will soon be posted to the consortium’s website: neph.org

The consortium’s aim is to provide an innovative structure for sharing ideas, determining best practices, strategizing funding and resources, and to serve as a powerful advocate for the importance of public humanities both within our institutions and across the region. Next spring, we will meet at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, PA.

1967

50th Anniversary of Newark's 1967 Uprising



Clement Price often called the 1967 uprising Newark's defining moment, when the tensions and violence that underlay so much of the city's history were bared for the world to see. Ten years ago, Professor Price was one of the leaders of the committee organized to commemorate the uprising's fortieth-anniversary. Among the public events held that year were a conversation between county prosecutor Paula Dow and Brendan Byrne, who held the office in 1967, and a convening of the surviving members of the Governor's Select Commission on Civil Disorder. The Price Institute has now digitized the recordings from those two events and made them available via its website: ethnicity.rutgers.edu

To mark the fiftieth anniversary of the uprising this year, the city's storied jazz station WBGO asked the Price Institute to host a panel discussion on the Rutgers campus. On July 13, interim director Mark Krasovic joined Mayor Ras Baraka, RU-N's Junius Williams, Dr. Linda Carter of Essex County College, and Essex County Sheriff Armando Fontoura for a wide-ranging discussion of the uprising's historical contexts and its legacy. The panel, held before a packed lecture hall in Express Newark, was live-broadcast on WBGO and was one of a weeklong series of events sponsored by the Ad Hoc Committee for Newark's History.

During the spring semester, interim director Krasovic's undergraduate course on the uprising undertook a Twitter-based project wherein they "live-tweeted" the uprising through the eyes of a host of eyewitnesses to the events of July 1967. Using media coverage and, especially, first-person testimony, the class wrote 350 tweets detailing events as they played out fifty years ago. You can see the results at <https://twitter.com/NewarkUprising>

Staff Updates

- In the fall, the Price Institute welcomed **CHERAE BOYCE** for a yearlong position as program coordinator. A two-time Rutgers alum, she earned her BA in psychology and women's and gender studies from Rutgers University-Newark in 2014 and her EdM in college student affairs from RU-New Brunswick in 2016. As a student affairs professional, Cherae is most passionate about working with first-generation and underrepresented populations, with the goal of providing them with personal and academic support as they navigate through challenging issues. In an effort to continue to promote access and educational equity for all students, Cherae plans to pursue a doctoral degree in Urban Education in the near future. After her year at the Price Institute, Cherae became a director of resident life at William Paterson College.
- Former Price Institute Fellow and director of Newark Celebration 350, **DR. JOHN J. JOHNSON**, is now an assistant professor of history at Saint Peter's University in Jersey City, where he teaches courses in American and urban history and western civilization.
- Acting senior program coordinator **LAURA TROIANO** completed and successfully defended her dissertation, "Give Me a Ball Park Figure: Creating Civic Narratives through Stadium Building in Newark," this past spring. Dr. Troiano is the latest inheritor of the RU-N history department's popular "History of Newark" class, which was created and taught for many years by Professor Price.

Upcoming Events

10 HAIRY LEGS



On October 18, 2017, the Price Institute welcomes 10 Hairy Legs, an all-male repertory dance company founded by choreographer Randy James, to the Jim Wise Theater on the NJIT campus.

THE 38TH ANNUAL MARION THOMPSON WRIGHT LECTURE SERIES



Save the date for next year's Marion Thompson Wright Lecture Series! On February 17, 2018, we'll welcome to RU-N's Paul Robeson Campus Center significant scholars of and figures in African American musical traditions.

NRITYAGRAM DANCE COMPANY



On April 25, 2018, the Price Institute will host the Nrityagram Dance Company, an award-winning Odissi dance troupe, at NJIT's Jim Wise Theater.

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