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ASBURY PARK AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSIC HERITAGE PROJECT TO BE FEATURED AT 2018 NEW JERSEY HISTORY FORUM AND 2018 NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONFERENCE

10/25/18 Asbury Park – The Asbury Park African American Music Heritage Project will be featured at the 2018 New Jersey History Forum and the 2018 National Trust for Historic Preservation Conference. The ongoing project aims to shine a light on Asbury Park’s African American music heritage, specifically on the history of Springwood Avenue. In conjunction with partners such as the City of Asbury Park, AP Historical Society, and the Bruce Springsteen Archives & Center for American Music, the project is creating accessible resources that document Asbury Park’s African American music heritage for the City and give voice to the stories of the African American community.

This year’s NJ History Forum by the New Jersey Historical Commission, “Greetings from New Jersey: Popular Culture & the Garden State,” will take place on November 2, 2018 at Monmouth University. The forum highlights the importance of studying and sharing local history and helps facilitate greater public awareness of New Jersey history. Councilperson Yvonne Clayton and Asbury Park Library Trustee Jennifer Souder will present as part of the panel “New Jersey Rocks, Rolls and Swings: Documenting Musical Spaces Around the State.” The panel will highlight the AP African American Music Heritage Project, as well as projects by the New Brunswick Music Scene Archives and the Institute of Jazz Studies at Rutgers University—Newark.

The annual conference for the National Trust for Historic Preservation is the premier educational and networking event for “those in the business of saving places.” This year’s conference, “PastForward,” will take place in San Francisco on November 13-16, 2018. Ms. Clayton and Ms. Souder will present the AP African American Music Heritage Project as part of the Learning Lab: “Jimi, Billie, and the Dead: Sites of Creativity,” a session that will also include projects from Woodstock and Haight-Ashbury, all communities working to preserve our Nation’s intangible creative heritage.

“There are challenges with documenting history that’s not recorded in conventional ways,” said Asbury Park Library Trustee Jennifer Souder, “but preserving and celebrating the cultural heritage of Springwood Avenue is essential to inspiring future generations. We look forward to sharing our community’s stories with others who are also looking to record important history.”

“Jennifer and I are proud to be representing the Asbury Park African American Music Heritage Project,” said Councilwoman Yvonne Clayton, “We’ve learned a great deal from the musicians

and community members who have shared their stories and contributed to the vibrant culture of Asbury Park. Sharing our learnings at these esteemed conferences is a great honor.”

For more information on the 2018 NJ History Forum,
“Greetings from New Jersey: Popular Culture & the Garden State,” on November 2, 2018,
visit https://nj.gov/state/historical/dos_his_forum-2018-1102.html

For more information on the 2018 National Trust for Historic Preservation Conference,
“PastForward” on November 13-16, 2018, visit <https://savingplaces.org/conference>.

For information on the Asbury Park Public Library, visit www.asburyparklibrary.org.

For more information on the City of Asbury Park, visit www.cityofasburypark.com.