

# HARLEM COMMONWEALTH

## NEWSLETTER

Volume 2 No. 2

Fall 2007

### Harlem Commonwealth Council Board of Directors

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## Publisher's Note

Some people may wonder why Harlem Commonwealth Council (HCC), which has a heralded track record in the arena of economic development, is now putting so much emphasis on helping members of the communities to which we are connected secure a quality education. Our response is that over 30 years of experience has taught us that achieving and sustaining lasting benefits from any economic development requires the support and participation of knowledgeable, learning-oriented communities. Otherwise, any success we achieve will be fleeting.

That is why HCC has launched the education-oriented programs featured in this newsletter. We are also aware that in emphasizing the importance of a quality education, we are continuing a tradition stressed by many prominent figures in African American history. For instance, David Walker, the author of *David Walker's Appeal*, one of the most revolutionary documents in African American history, wrote in the 1820's that "...I would crawl on my hands and knees through mud and mire to the feet of a learned man, where I would sit and humbly supplicate him to instill into me that which neither devils nor tyrants would remove, only with my life—for colored people to acquire learning in this country makes tyrants quake and tremble on their shaky foundations."

HCC's education-oriented programs won't require anyone to crawl on their hands and knees through mud and mire to participate in and benefit from them; but they do require one to possess some commitment to learning as did David Walker. Our commitment to providing learning opportunities, and the participants' commitment to learning as much as they can, are a formidable prescription for lasting success.



**DR. JOSEPH L. TAIT**  
PRESIDENT/ CEO

## Public Officials Lend A Helping Hand

Two of Harlem's most dedicated, active and vocal public officials have lent a financial helping hand to Harlem Commonwealth Council's educational initiatives and other programs held in the community. Assemblyman Keith L.T. Wright who represents New York State's 70<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, and Councilperson Inez E. Dickens who represents New York City's 9<sup>th</sup> Council District, have put their respective staffs and resources behind the organization broadening the scope of our program offerings.



With Assemblyman Wright's help, HCC was awarded \$50,000 toward the capital expense of renovations being undertaken in the ground level auditorium located in the Harlem Commonwealth Building at 361 West 125<sup>th</sup> Street. The renovations will allow a greater flexibility in the use of the present auditorium space.



When completed, the auditorium will be useful in accommodating Harlem Commonwealth's ever-growing space needs for its educational classes and activities, while retaining the ability to host larger cultural presentations to the community, town hall-type meetings and the like.

With Councilperson Dickens's help, HCC was awarded \$7,200 toward the operating expenses of the English as a Second Language (ESL), computer and career skills program offerings held in our building. Since 2006, every cycle of HCC's ESL programs has experienced significantly increased registration and enrollment for both day and evening classes.

Harlem Commonwealth Council greatly appreciates the assistance received from Assemblyman Wright and Councilperson Dickens and applauds their dedication and good work in the community.

## Rich Dad, Poor Dad:

### Harlem Commonwealth Council 2007 Youth Wealth Expo

Financial Literacy is an essential element for students to understand and a fundamental building block to achieve financial independence. Our young people must be equipped with information that supports self-sufficiency and wealth creation.

On Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007 Harlem Commonwealth Council will host its first **Youth Wealth Expo**. This free, fun and informative all-day conference will provide valuable information on the important topics of *financial literacy*, *entrepreneurship* and *planning for college and careers*. Our targeted audience is middle and high school students, ages 12 to 18.

Guest speakers include Andrew Morrison, CEO SmallBusinessCamp.com; Princess Jenkins CEO of the Brownstone; Terence Morris, Financial Center Manager Citibank N.A.; Trevor Jaha National Program Director of The Allen Houston Foundation; Vera Moore, President Vera Moore Cosmetics; Pamela Salaam Executive Director of GirlsSpirit-WomanSong and Harriet's Heart; John Bess, former Executive Director of The Valley; Debra Clarke President of Image Organized; and Audrey Smaltz, renowned former Ebony Fashion Fair model and CEO of the Ground Crew.

After a day chock-filled with information, we will end the day with a party for the attendees.

*Citibank, N.A.* is the financial sponsor of the Youth Wealth Expo.

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## The HCC Summer Internship Program 2007

Twelve high school students participated in Harlem Commonwealth Council's 2007 Summer Internship Program. The students were selected from a candidate pool of juniors and seniors from Frederick Douglass Academy, Frederick Douglass Academy II, Wadleigh Secondary School and A. Phillip Randolph High School. This is the second year that HCC has placed high school students with its business partners in meaningful paid summer internship positions that allowed the students to experience the realities of working in a professional work environment.

The firms that hosted HCC's summer interns were **Grid Properties, Inc.** (management/owner of Harlem USA), the **Gotham Organization** (real estate development and construction/owner of Harlem USA), the **Cogswell Realty Group** (real estate development and management), **Van Wagner Communications, LLC** (Advertising), **Harlem Hospital** (healthcare), **City National Bank** (retail banking), **AA Truck Renting Corp.** (transportation) and the **F.W. Honerkamp Co.** (wholesale wood products supplier).

To a person, each summer intern of the Class of 2007 expressed great appreciation for the opportunity they received to be exposed to their respective industries. The students seemed to grow in maturity, self-esteem and self-confidence as a result of their work experience. Indeed, when questioned, their responses proved illuminating:

"I loved the sense of responsibility and being an important part of a team."

"What I liked most about my internship was being able to observe the tasks and the variety of responsibilities that nurses have [at Harlem Hospital]. In addition, I was also able to understand the different positions in the hospital, allowing me to [be better informed to] choose a career for the future."

"The thing that I liked most about my internship was meeting different people and learning different things. I didn't realize that there were so many things that came with banking, like making sure that you have enough money in the vault, but at the same time making sure

you don't go over your limit. Things like that."

"I liked the fact that I learned new things and experienced the life of an everyday worker. Also, I loved the fact that I had my own office and computer."

"As a result of my internship, I have learned how to multitask effectively and also I have adopted [the] different qualities [and characteristics] of the nurses who were around me, the way they are patient, tactful and strategic."

HCC applauds and congratulates the Class of 2007 and wishes them the best in college and their future endeavors. For any high school juniors and seniors interested in participating in the summer internship program in 2008, see Harlem Commonwealth's website for information at [www.harlemcommonwealth.org](http://www.harlemcommonwealth.org).



HCC Summer Interns receive Certificates of Completion at celebration in their honor. Left to right: Brenda Goff, Tasha Ahmed, Ashley Morgan, Taisheena Hokett and Megan Ollivierre.

Missing from photo – Shakia Cook, Nia Allwood, Carmela Santos, Steven Mobley, Jr., Jazzmin Lewis, Christina Cruz and Jahi-Abasi Jabbar

**HARLEM COMMONWEALTH COUNCIL, INC.**  
[www.harlemcommonwealth.org](http://www.harlemcommonwealth.org)



**SAVE THE DATE**  
for  
HCC's Anniversary Celebration  
*Building for the Future*  
on  
Thursday April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
at  
The Essex House  
160 Central Park South New York City

**HONORING**  
*Congressman Charles B. Rangel*  
*Assemblyman Keith L. T. Wright*

*Robert C. Fauser*  
President /CEO  
Van Wagner Communications

*Joel Pickett*  
Chairman  
Gotham Organization, Inc.

*Elizabeth Jarret*  
Principal  
Harriet Tubman Learning Center  
(C.S. 154)

For more information please call Gogie Padilla at 212-752-4770

### Dress for Success Partnership

Harlem Commonwealth Council recently partnered with Dress for Success, an international not-for-profit organization, to provide female high-school students participating in HCC's 2007 Summer Internship Program with clothing appropriate for the professional workplace. Dress for Success' mission is to promote the economic independence needed by women by providing professional attire, a network of support and the career development tools to help women thrive in work and in life. Dress for Success serves clients referred to them from a continually expanding group of not-for-profits and governmental agencies. Generally, each Dress for Success client receives one suit when she has a job interview and a second suit or clothing separates when she finds work. HCC referred nine summer interns to Dress for Success. They were delighted to receive fashionable quality clothing from the organization to wear to their respective summer job placements. Dress for Success certainly alleviated the stress that typically burdens new workplace entrants having a insufficient wardrobe to cover the period of a normal work week.

Since its inception, Dress for Success boasts it has served almost 300,000 women around the world. It estimates that each year it reaches more than 400,000 women in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and New Zealand. HCC looks forward to having a long and fruitful relationship with Dress for Success. For more information on Dress for Success, see [www.dressforsuccess.org](http://www.dressforsuccess.org)



### Dr. Tait Meets First Lady of Nigeria

Dr. Joseph L. Tait, President and CEO of Harlem Commonwealth Council presents to the First Lady of Nigeria, Mrs. Turai Umar Yar'Adua, an HCC publication, *Harlem: Precious Memories, Great Expectations*, on the occasion of her visit to Community School 154 in Harlem. Joining them is Dr. Delois Blakely (center).

## Save the Date

### Harlem Seniors Invited to Celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday

Harlem Commonwealth Council will host the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration on Monday, January 21, 2008. Seniors in the Harlem community are invited to the HCC Building to enjoy live entertainment that will include African drumming, live music and dance.

## Success through Effective Time Management

By Debra Clarke, Image Organized



DEBRA CLARKE

**"Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible!!!" --St. Francis of Assisi**

Time management, be it at home or in the workplace, is more than a tidy desk, an organized file system and efficient work habits. It is a continuing process that integrates technology with managerial and interpersonal skills directed toward a pre-determined goal in a way that maximizes the return on invested time.

In order for a time management process to work it is important to know what aspects of our personal management need to be improved. Below you will find some of the most frequent reasons for reducing effectiveness. These I refer to as your "Time Stealers".

#### Identifying your time stealers

- Interruptions – telephone & personal visitors

- Meetings without a plan
- Tasks you should have delegated
- Procrastination and indecision
- Acting with incomplete information
- Crisis management (fire fighting)
- Unclear communication
- Inadequate technical knowledge
- Unclear objectives and priorities
- Lack of planning
- Stress and fatigue
- Inability to say "No"
- Desk management and personal disorganization

Fortunately, there are strategies you can use to manage your time, be more in control and reduce stress; you can analyze your time and see how you may be both the cause and the solution to your time challenges.

**The telephone.** Have you ever had one of those days when you thought your true calling was in telemarketing? The telephone, our greatest communication tool, can be your biggest enemy to effectiveness if you don't know how to control its hold over you.

**Drop in visitors.** The five deadliest words that rob your time are "Have you got a minute". Everyone's the culprit - - - colleagues, the boss, and your peers. Knowing how to deal with interruptions is one of the best skills you can learn.

**Shifting priorities and crisis management.** Crisis management is actually the form of management preferred by most managers.

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## THE HCC NEW VENTURES PROGRAM : TAKING STEPS TO SMALL BUSINESS SUCCESS

On Tuesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 17 new and aspiring business owners started the third cycle of HCC's New Ventures Program. They began the nerve-wracking, yet rewarding, experience of attaining the knowledge necessary for business success.

Iain Sandy, one of the participants states, "My brief experience in the New Ventures Program has been extremely positive. I am very impressed with the level of thought and commitment put into the delivery of the program. I expect that my knowledge of core business basics will be significantly enhanced and I will be able to develop a thorough business plan that will attract investors to my business venture."

During the course of the 16-week program, participants will learn all the relevant business fundamentals necessary to launch and grow successful small businesses. The program curriculum includes courses on Business Planning, Marketing, Time Management and Recordkeeping. All courses are taught by business professionals who are specialists in their fields.

With a solid business idea, much hard work, determination and perseverance, these new participants will be on their way to small business success. The New Ventures Program is sponsored in part by the *JPMorgan Chase Foundation*.

For more information on the next New Ventures program, please call Elisa Moore at (212) 749-0900.



Seated (Left to right) Kim McCrae, Chris Holbrook, Rhonda Davis, Imani Muhammad and Iain Sandy.

Standing (Left to right) Derrick Johnson, Lorita Watson, Anthony Bright, Yale Merchant, Laurice Swain, Chy Mitchell, Michelle Hardy, Derrence Kellman, Alyce Smith, and Mark Anthony Jenkins

### New Ventures Program:

### Spotlight on Dusky Divas Productions



Jo Tanner New Ventures Program 2006

Dusky Divas Productions is New York's only theatre production company devoted to the creation and production of plays, lectures and multimedia presentations celebrating the remarkable lives and careers of African-American female pioneers. Currently, the Company is presenting one-woman performance pieces about powerful and positive female role models in black history that seek to inspire and motivate young people to pursue their dreams.

#### "Inspiring Others to Dream"

By Jo Tanner, Ph. D, Founder/Executive Director,

For more than a decade, I was a tenured faculty member and head of the Black Theatre Program in the Drama, Theatre and Dance Department at Queens College, the City of New York. On September 11, 2001, I was en-route to the College when I heard the news about terrorist attacking the World Trade Center. Like so many other New Yorkers, I became acutely aware of my own mortality and reflected on what was truly important in my life. In 2003, I resigned my position at the College in order to realize my dreams which included

developing Dusky Divas Productions into a successful business enterprise.

During that time, the Company had two professional one-woman performance pieces that were available for touring entitled *Anita Bush: The Mother of Negro Drama* and *Madam C. J. Walker: America's First Black Female Millionaire*. Although I had been regularly performing both pieces in such venues such as colleges, high schools, libraries, museums, organizations, clubs, and churches, the Company was not as successful as I felt it should have been. Something was missing. In the Fall of 2006, I learned about Harlem Commonwealth Council's class offering "New Ventures Program for Entrepreneurs" and I was determined to enroll in this class. I had come to realize that I lacked the business acumen to take the Company to the next level.

During the course, I learned to brainstorm new business strategies and to develop better tools to analyze, assess and refine the marketing approach to my prospective audience base. More importantly, I learned how to create a business plan, my step-by-step road map to achieving my business goals. It became abundantly clear to me that I needed these skills to grow my business.

## Success through Effective Time Management

(continued from p. 2)

The irony is that actions taken prior to the crisis could have prevented the fire in the first place.

**Lack of priorities/objectives.** This is probably the biggest/most important time waster. It affects all we do both professionally and personally.

Those who accomplish the most in a day know exactly what they want to accomplish. Unfortunately, too many of us think that goals and objectives are yearly things and not daily considerations. This results in too much time spent on the minor things and not on the things which are important to our work/lives.

**Attempting too much.** Many people today feel that they have to accomplish everything yesterday and don't

give themselves enough time to do things properly. This leads only to half finished projects and no feeling of achievement.

**Ineffective delegation.** Good delegation is considered a key skill in both managers and leaders. The best managers have an ability to delegate work to staff and ensure it is done correctly. This is probably the best way of building a team's morale and reducing your workload at the same time. The general rule is this: if one of your staff can do it 80% as well as you can, then delegate it.

**The cluttered desk.** When you have finished reading this article look at your desk. If you can see less than 80% of it then you are probably suffering from 'desk stress'. The most

effective people work from clear desks. (This is currently being disputed by researchers who say just the opposite. It still has to be proven to me.)

**Procrastination.** The biggest thief of time is not decision-making, but decision avoidance. By reducing the amount of procrastinating you do, you can substantially increase the amount of active time available to you.

**The inability to say "no!"** The general rule is if people can dump their work or problems on to your shoulders they will do it. Some of the most stressed people around lack the skill to 'just say no' for fear of upsetting people.

**Meetings.** Studies have shown that the

average manager spends about 17 hours a week in meetings and about 6 hours in the planning time and untold hours in the follow up. It is widely acknowledged that about as much of a third of the time spent in meetings is wasted due to poor meeting management and lack of planning

Time management (or self management) is not a hard subject to understand, but unless you are committed to build time management techniques into your daily routine, you will only achieve partial (or no) results. The lesson to learn is that the more time we spend planning our time and activities, the more time we will have for those activities. By setting goals and eliminating time wasters and doing this everyday you may find you will have extra time in the week to spend on those people and activities that are most important to you.

*To be continued in our Winter 2007 Issue*

## "Who's The Boss" Conference

The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual "Who's the Boss" business conference took place on Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at the Harlem State Office building located at 163 West 125<sup>th</sup> Street. Princess Jenkins, President of Women in the Black, has been committed to the growth of African-American women-owned businesses for over twenty years. The conference was attended by over 200 small business owners and featured 16 workshops and two keynote addresses by successful entrepreneurs.

Following the conference, Harlem Commonwealth Council hosted a well attended evening networking reception in the auditorium of the Harlem Commonwealth Building. In attendance at the reception were conference participants, New York State Senator Bill Perkins, who provided words of encouragement to the participants, Bernadette Nation, Director of the City Business Assistance/Emergency Response unit of the New York City Department of Small Business Services (SBS), and Minister Kevin Muhammad, leader of Muhammad Mosque No. 7 in Harlem. The event was catered by the Harlem Tea Room.

Women in the Black will host its 12<sup>th</sup> annual fundraiser - - - **Men Cooking for Change - Cuisine with a Cause** - - - on Saturday, November 3, 2007 at the Great Hall at City College of New York, at 141<sup>st</sup> Street and Convent Avenue. Proceeds from the fundraising event will go to GirlsSpirit - WomanSong, a non-profit organization which features the "Harriet's Heart" program. Harriet's Heart is a four-year leadership program for young girls and provides each Harriet's Heart program participant matriculating in college with a four-year full-tuition scholarship.

For more information on the **Men Cooking for Change** event, visit [www.womenintheblack.com](http://www.womenintheblack.com), or call

(212) 631-1022.



*Dr. Joseph L. Tait joins NYC Comptroller William C. Thompson, Jr. (left) and Princess Jenkins at the "Who's the Boss" Conference*

## ESL Program: Another Year of Success

August 2007 will mark the first anniversary of Harlem Commonwealth Council's English Language programs. Since the start of these programs, the demand for English studies programs increased tremendously and ESL/ EL-Civics evening programs were added in January, 2007 to meet those needs. Indeed, in October, 2007, HCC will complement the standard ESL/EL-Civics offerings with its newest evening program called Computer ESL. The course will involve adult students in the traditional ESL program curriculum supplemented by a skills training program that prepares students for the job market. The job skills will include resume writing, interview techniques and hands-on basic computer literacy training.

The ESL/EL-Civics day and evening programs are held in 12-week cycles. With each cycle, HCC sees greater demand from a target audience that lives and works in New York City; and who want to improve their grammatical and conversational fluency in English.

To date, HCC has graduated nearly 200 students from the ESL and EL-Civics Program. In the near future, HCC hopes to expand its educational offerings to include G.E.D. test preparation, Adult Basic Education and advanced computer skills training to aid the Harlem community and the surrounding areas in enhancing their life skills and pursuing their educational goals. For more information or to register for an upcoming class, please call Brenda Simmons or Wendy King at (212) 749-0900, Extension #23 or #24, or visit [www.harlemcommonwealth.org](http://www.harlemcommonwealth.org)

### HCC Receives Federal Grant To Assist Small Businesses

Harlem Commonwealth Council recently received approval of its request for a Community Economic Development (CED) Program award from the U.S. Office of Community Services to assist small businesses in the Harlem community. The funds from the HCC award will be used to make commercial loans to creditworthy business borrowers. The purpose of the commercial loans will be to provide gap financing to local businesses that have the intention of creating jobs and providing meaningful employment.

HCC is in the process of negotiating with Citibank, N.A. to act as our partner in administering the loan program.

### IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

The following is a list of all elected officials representing Harlem Residents:

Eliot Spitzer	Charles Schumer
Governor	United States Senate-NY
518-474-8390	212-486-4430
Michael Bloomberg	Inez Dickens
Mayor	Councilwoman-District 9
212-663-3900	212-788-7397
Charles Rangel	Robert Jackson
Congress	Councilman-District 7
212-928-3900	212-928-1322
Eric Schneiderman	Adam Clayton Powell IV
New York State Senate	State Assembly man
212-928-5578	212-828-3953
Hillary Rodham Clinton	Keith L. T. Wright
United States Senate-NY	State Assemblyman
212-688-6262	212-866-5809
Scott Stringer	
Manhattan Borough President	
212-669-8300	

Dial 311 for non-emergency government information and services.

Harlem Commonwealth Council 212-749-0900 [www.harlemcommonwealth.org](http://www.harlemcommonwealth.org)

## Think and Create! Version 2.0

After an auspicious beginning in 2006, Harlem Commonwealth Council's Think and Create! program has evolved from its beta version to be more effective in bringing public school elementary students the tools necessary to advance their self-esteem, self-awareness, critical thinking and creativity. Think and Create! an after-school enrichment program, the brainchild of Dr. Jama Adams sponsored by Harlem Commonwealth Council and Principal Elizabeth Jarrett, is held on the school grounds at C.S. 154 Harriet Tubman Learning Center (CS 154) located between Seventh and Eighth Avenues on West 127<sup>th</sup> Street.

Emphasis is placed on activities and subject offerings that aim to expose and raise the level of fluency of young students residing in Central Harlem through hands-on access to the latest computer hardware technology and software applications, that will be absolutely crucial to their ability to compete globally in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

In addition, Think and Create! offers its students the more traditional forms of a well-rounded education based on self-expression, creativity and play through such activities as team athletics, wellness nutrition cooking, photography and African drumming. Harlem Commonwealth Council and its sponsors believe that Think and Create! will provide the fundamental building blocks and template for these young people to be successful and productive citizens in their society.

Think and Create! is partially underwritten by a grant from Goldman Sachs and the New York City Board of Education in cooperation with the Apollo Theater Foundation..

HARRIET TUBMAN LEARNING CENTER – PS 154M  
250 West 127<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, N.Y. 10027  
(212) 864-2400

**THINK AND CREATE SCHEDULE (3:00 – 5:30)**

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
3:00 – 3:20	Snack/Bathroom	Snack/Bathroom	Snack/Bathroom
3:20 – 4:25	Photography (Group I)  Oral History Project (Group II)	Science & Technology (Group I)  Drumming (Group II)	Soccer (Group I)  Cooking: Food for Thought- An Integrated Approach to Nutrition (Group II)
4:25 – 5:30	Photography (Group II)  Oral History Project (Group I)	Science & Technology (Group II)  Drumming (Group I)	Interactive Technology (Group II)  Cooking: Food for Thought- An Integrated Approach to Nutrition (Group I)



Jonnie Marshall, HCC board member addressing students and audience at the end of year celebration of the Think and Create! Program.

## Harlem USA 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebrity Read-a-Thon

On June 14, 2007, Harlem USA hosted its 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebrity Read-a-Thon for 300 NYC public elementary school students at the retail and entertainment complex located at 300 West 125<sup>th</sup> Street. Small group readings were held in areas throughout the complex, including the AMC Magic Johnson Theatres, by public celebrities, business persons and civic personalities in the New York area community who volunteered their time and energy to encourage young people to prepare themselves for their future in the global market workplace by actively engaging their minds through reading. It is well known that "reading is fundamental" and it cannot be emphasized enough to each of the young people residing in our community the value and importance of learning by being exposed to information about the world around them through literature and reading.

Among the volunteer readers on hand to deliver that message loud and clear was Doug Bailey (of WBLS), Elisa Moore (Director, Special Projects, Harlem Commonwealth Council), Alysha Renee (BET), Adam Irby (Independent Website Designer), Jerry Craft (Cartoonist), Spry (Celebrity Fashion Stylist), Nathan Williams (Film and Television Producer), Eric B. (Hip Hop Artist), Tweetie (Choreographer/Host of MTV's "Dances from the Hood"), Shalik Harford (Style Starz Entertainment), Nik (American's Next Top Model), Anita Watkins (Fashion Designer/Stylist), Darnell Jefferson (Actor) and Steve Marcano (CEO, My Lil Star productions).

As a part of its continuing commitment to the Harlem community since the opening of Harlem USA, this is the seventh consecutive year the management and ownership team of Harlem USA has hosted this reading event. Harlem Commonwealth Council and Harlem USA were included among the underwriters for this event which was coordinated by Ricky Day, Director of Marketing, Harlem USA coordinated this event.

Harlem USA is a major economic development project initiated by Harlem Commonwealth Council, Inc.



2007 HARLEM USA CELEBRITY READ-A-THON June 14, 2007  
Participating Readers (front row, from L to R): Doug Bailey (Music Choice and WBLS), Shalik Harford (Style Starz Entertainment), Elisa Moore (Harlem Commonwealth Council, Inc.), Tweetie (choreographer/host of MTV's "Dances from the Hood"), Nik (American's Next Top Model), Alysha Renee (BET), Adam Irby (Web Designer), Steve Marcano (CEO, My Lil Star). Back row (from L to R): Jerry Craft (cartoonist), Anita Watkins (fashion designer & stylist), Spry (celebrity fashion stylist), Nathan Hale Williams (film and television producer), Darnell Jefferson (actor), Eric B. (hip hop legend).



Elisa Moore reads to NYC elementary school children at the Harlem USA Read-A Thon

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For more information about any of the articles found in this newsletter please visit our website:

[www.harlemcommonwealth.org](http://www.harlemcommonwealth.org)