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Hip Hop-themed exhibit to be featured at Artisan Center

WHEELING, W.Va. – Jan. 18, 2019 – Wheeling Heritage will host an opening reception for Hip Hop: A Black Tie Affair, on Feb. 1, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Artisan Center, 1400 Main Street. The exhibit will feature more than a dozen artists displaying photos, graffiti, and mixed-media pieces, as well as a video featuring area hip-hop artists performing acapella.

The project, a partnership between the YWCA Wheeling and Wheeling Heritage, seeks to break down stereotypes and assumptions.

Ron Scott, who focuses on cultural diversity and community outreach at the YWCA, created this event with the goal of showcasing hip hop as a culture instead of a genre.

“Hip-hop is more than just music,” he said. “This exhibit will feature art that is not always associated with hip-hop, like photography and graffiti. I’m hoping this event will bring a new understanding of what hip-hop is, for anyone who’s interested.”

He stressed that while the title suggests that this is a formal event, there is no dress code. The idea is to elevate the perception of hip-hop as a culture, Scott explained.

“This exhibit is a great opportunity to showcase art and community,” said Chris Villamagna, project manager at Wheeling Heritage. “This event is unlike those we typically host, as it features not only art, but also music and education components as well.”

The exhibit will run until Friday, Feb. 15. The Artisan Center gallery is open to the public Monday through Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

About YWCA Wheeling:

YWCA Wheeling is on a mission to eliminate racism, empower women, stand up for social justice, help families and strengthen our community. The organization offers programming for family violence prevention, cultural diversity and community outreach, residence and emergency homeless sheltering and non-treatment recovery. For comprehensive information, visit www.ywcawheeling.org.

About Wheeling Heritage:

[Wheeling Heritage](http://www.wheelingheritage.org) is a catalyst for the revitalization of Wheeling. Through historic preservation, community development, and the arts, we help to tell Wheeling’s story and shape its future. We seek to improve the quality of life in Wheeling by preserving and investing in our city, collaborating with others, and engaging the citizens of Wheeling in our work.