



**Celebrating
African American Culture
and History in the Berkshires
June 14 – August 10, 2015**



www.liftevryvoice.org

Dear Nominator,

The 2015 Lift Ev'ryVoice Festival invites you to nominate Berkshire County youth to participate in Project eLEVate, a certificate program cosponsored by Mass Humanities, with programming partners including major cultural, civic and political leaders and organizations in western Massachusetts.

Project eLEVate will provide opportunities for 20 participants, ages 13-18, to explore who they are, empower themselves, participate in the community, enjoy the rich arts and culture found in the Berkshires, and celebrate African American history, culture and heritage. There are 11 days of required activities, June 19 through August 8. Transportation and meals will be provided as needed.

Each youth will receive a \$500 stipend in an award ceremony at the end of the Festival and be eligible for our Pearl Fryar scholarship. Parents or guardians must approve their child's participating. See application for details.

The program includes:

- workshops exploring "Who Am I?" through poetry, short fiction and art;
- seminars on African Americans and women;
- workshops and seminars are conducted by university faculty;
- an individual identity project using art;
- tours, museums, libraries, films, and a day of service;
- optional family activities: a contemporary dance concert, an R&B/jazz concert and garden barbecue, a 4th of July parade, the Gather-In (the oldest African-American festival in the Berkshires), an outdoor concert of contemporary West African pop music, and an internationally known circus.

Applications are available at www.liftevryvoice.org. Please review the application with your nominee(s), discussing eLEVate goals and the time commitment each applicant must make. The stipend is only given to those who complete the entire program. Please make copies of the application for your nominee(s). Applications may be submitted online (elevate@liftevryvoice.org) or by mail (Lift Ev'ry Voice, P.O. Box 2275, Pittsfield, MA 01201). The application deadline is May 15.

Please submit with each nominee's completed application, your letter of recommendation stating your relationship to the nominee(s) and how you think each nominee will benefit from the program. Contact me at elevate@liftevryvoice.org with any questions you might have.

Looking forward to hearing from you,

Marla Robertson
Program Manager, Project eLEVate