

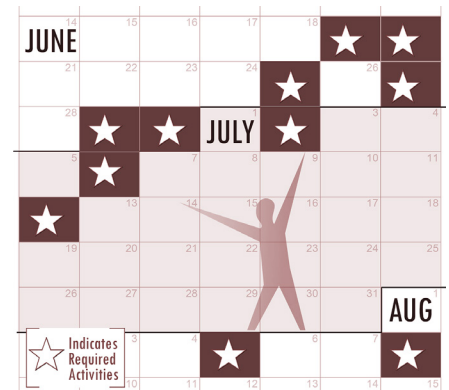
## Project eLEVate Application

**The Program:** 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. Project eLEVate is partially funded by Mass Humanities. The program includes:

- workshops exploring “Who Am I?” through poetry, short fiction and art;
- an individual identity project using art;
- seminars on history and African Americans and women;
- a day of service, tours, museums, libraries and films; and
- optional family activities (a contemporary dance concert with live music, an R&B/jazz concert and garden barbecue, a 4th of July parade, the oldest African American festival in the Berkshires, and an outdoor concert of contemporary West African pop music, a globe-trotting family circus).

There are 11 days of required activities beginning June 19 through August 8 (transportation and meals will be provided as needed). LEV encourages all participants to participate in other Lift Ev’ry Voice Festival activities, June 14 – August 5.

**Stipends and Scholarships:** Each participant who successfully completes the required activities will receive a \$500 stipend. Each participant who successfully completes the required activities may apply for the Lift Ev’ry Voice Pearl Fryar Scholarship to further advance through education or some other experience.



**Application Requirements:** Applicants must provide the requested information and provide answers to the listed questions. Parents of applicants must give written permission for their child to participate in Project eLEVate and complete Participant’s Permission Form.

**Deadline:** May 1; please submit completed applications to the Lichtenstein Center for the Arts, 28 Renne Ave, Pittsfield. No late or incomplete applications will be considered.

**Lift Ev’ry Voice** celebrates the freedom of all Americans through the celebration of African-American history, heritage and cultures in the Berkshires, the United States and the African Diaspora. Since 2011, the biannual **Lift Ev’ry Voice Festival** celebrates that freedom and builds community, educates all ages, and contributes to our regional economy through partnerships with **Mass Humanities; Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival; Mass MoCA; The Mount; WAM Theatre; DownStreet Art; the Martin Luther King Day Committee; the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Berkshire County Community College** and many others.

# Project eLEVate Calendar of Required Activities

(11 days from June 19 through August 8)

## June 19 - FESTIVAL OPENING [required day #1 for eLEVate participants]

Time: Afternoon/Evening; Location: Mass MoCA, North Adams

### Project eLEVate – Identity Workshop 1

Time: 4P

 *Mass MoCA, Mass Humanities*

This is the first of four workshops led by Frances Jones-Sneed, Ph.D., Professor of History and Director of Women's Studies at the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA). Participants explore their identities poetry, short fiction and art, using themes of forgiveness and justice, immigration, and making a difference. Filmmaker Karen Thorsen is a special guest for Workshop 1.

### Festival Opening Reception

Time: TBA

### *James Baldwin: The Price of the Ticket*, Film Screening and Talkback

Time: 8 PM

 *Mass MoCA, Mass Humanities, Multicultural Bridge*

Required for eLEVate Participant; Optional Family Activity

Mass MoCA will host a screening of the award-winning documentary, James Baldwin: The Price of the Ticket, by filmmaker Karen Thorsen, who will participate in a talkback after the screening. Using archival footage, newsreel clips, and interviews with writers Maya Angelou, Amiri Baraka, Ishmael Reed, William Styron, and biographer David Leeming, the film captures the passionate intellect and courageous writing of a man self-described as “born Black, impoverished, gay, and gifted.”


## June 20 [required day #2 for eLEVate participants]

### Project eLEVate – Identity Workshop 2

Time: 10A-12N; Location: Berkshire Athenaeum, Pittsfield

### Grand Opening – Samuel Harrison House

Time: TBA/Private Event; Location: Samuel Harrison House, Pittsfield.

 *Samuel Harrison Society, Mass Humanities*

The Samuel Harrison House is a national historic site. It was the home of Reverend Harrison the first pastor of Second Congregational Church in Pittsfield and the first chaplain of the 54th Regiment of African-American volunteers who fought in the Civil War.

## June 25 [required day #3 for eLEVate participants]

### Project eLEVate – Identity Workshop 3

Time: 4-6P; Location: North Adams

### DownStreet Art Festival Kick-Off – Blitz the Ambassador\*\*

Time: 6-9 PM; Location: 51 Main Street (outside), North Adams

 *MCLA and Berkshire Cultural Resource Center*

The kick-off of the DownStreet Art Festival features the artist Blitz the Ambassador and his 7-piece band. Blitz is originally from Ghana, “where he’d grown up listening to American soul, the highlife of his homeland, the Afrobeat of Fela Kuti, and the old-school hip-hop of Public Enemy, Rakim, and KRS-One.

\*\* Optional Family Activity

## June 27 [required day #4 for eLEVate participants]

### Project eLEVate – Identity Workshop 3

Time: 10A-12N; Location: Berkshire Community College

### Lift Ev’ry Voice Film Festival at BCC – Quilombo\*\*

Time: TBA; Location: Berkshire Community College, Pittsfield


 *Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at BCC*

This is the first of four film screenings and talkbacks with historian and filmmaker, historian and filmmaker, Dr. Don Quinn Kelley is Emeritus Professor, City University of New York, and Co-Chair of Lift Ev’ry Voice. Quilombo is a fictional account of the creation of Palmares, a republic of 10 communities (quilombos) created by Africans who escaped slavery in Brazil.

\*\* Optional Family Activity

## June 29-30

### Project eLEVate – W. E. B. Du Bois, Son of the Berkshires

 Mass Humanities, W. E. B. Du Bois Center, UMass, Amherst, W.E. B. Du Bois Historic Site, Great Barrington

Tours at UMass, Amherst and at the Du Bois home site are led by Whitney Battle-Baptiste, Ph.D., Director, W. E. B. Du Bois Center, and Associate Professor of Anthropology, UMass, Amherst.

### June 29 – UMass, Amherst Seminar and Tour [required day #5 for eLEVate participants]

Time: All day; Location: UMass, Amherst

This tour introduces eLEVate participants to the national and global significance of W. E. B. Du Bois and to a major resource for research and study about his life and times at both the W.E.B. Du Bois Center and W. E. B. Du Bois Library, UMass Amherst.

**Seminar: “Hip-Hop Feminism,”** is a conversation about feminism and Hip-Hop culture through music, film, and the written word led by Whitney Battle-Baptiste, Ph.D., Director, W. E. B. Du Bois Center, and Associate Professor of Anthropology, UMass, Amherst.

### June 30 - W.E.B. Du Bois National Historic Site, Tour and Seminar

Time: TBA; Location: Great Barrington

[required day #6 for eLEVate participants]

This tour is of the Great Barrington home site of W. E. B. Du Bois, an author, civil rights activist, advisor to international leaders, and a founder of both the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the Pan African Congress.

The **seminar** will be led by MaryNell Morgan, Ph.D., who will present an interactive lecture/performance placing Du Bois into the fabric of African-American culture as existing during his lifetime.

## July 2 [required day #7 for eLEVate participants]

### Flying to Freedom – Lift Ev’ry Voice Day at Jacob’s Pillow

Time: All Day; Location: Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival, Becket

Lift Ev’ry Voice Day at Jacob’s Pillow has activities for Project eLEVate youth and their families. Required activities for eLEVate participants begin at 11am and conclude after a performance in the historic Ted Shawn Theatre, which will begin at 8pm. Participants will observe and have lunch with dancers of The School at Jacob’s Pillow, receive tours of the historic site, picnic on the grounds, and attend a tap dance performance with a live band on stage.

 *Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival*

### Project eLEVate – Social Dance Workshop

Time: 1 PM

Project eLEVate – Social Dance Workshop. This workshop, led by scholar/historian/performer E. Moncell Durden, in social dance, from Jazz to Hip-Hop, will enable youth to learn dances from the Minstrel Era that remain embedded in current Hip Hop dance forms today.

## July 2 *continued*

### **Project eLEVate – Dance Interactive Seminar**

Time: 2:45 PM

Youth will explore aspects of Invisible Wings (about the Underground Railroad, choreographed on the Jacob Pillow's grounds) where dance segments display steps identifiable in those used by Tap and Hip-Hop artists today.

### **Project eLEVate – African-American History Tour\*\***

Time: 4 PM

Norton Owen, Director of Preservation, conducts a historic tour of the Pillow's grounds, focusing on its Underground Railroad history and on the African and African American artists who contributed to the success of Jacob's Pillow.

\*\* Optional Family Activity

### **Project eLEVate – The Blues Project\*\***

Time: 8 PM

Project eLEVate – The Blues Project. Project eLEVate and their parents or guardians will attend, The Blues Project, a performance created by renowned tap artist Michelle Dorrance with a score by award-winning musician/composer Toshi Reagon, which will be performed by her blues band BIGLovely.

\*\* Optional Family Activity for 1 or 2 Family Members

## July 3

### **Struttin' with Some Barbecue, Free Jazz Concert and Barbecue\*\***

Time: 5 PM Location: The Mount, Edith Wharton's Estate and Gardens, Lenox

 *The Mount, Edith Wharton's Estate and Gardens*


Struttin' with Some Barbecue is a community celebration of community and America being free in the gardens of The Mount, featuring the Wanda Houston Band. Wanda Houston is a professional singer, actress and song stylist who has traveled the stages of the world searching for the perfect song and performance.

\*\* Optional Family Activity

## July 4

### **Pittsfield July 4th Parade\*\***

Time: 10 AM Location: Intersection of South and East/West Housatonic Streets, Pittsfield

 *Pittsfield July 4th Parade Committee, Office of Representative Tricia Farley-Bouvier, Youth Alive Step Team and Drum Corps*

Lift Ev'ry Voice will join with Youth Alive Step Team and Drum Corps to participate in the Pittsfield July 4th Parade. Please join us and be a part of our contingency.

\*\*Optional Family Activity

## July 6 [required day #8 for eLEVate participants]

### **“What to the American Slave is Your Fourth of July?” A Community Reading\*\***

Time: TBA; Location: TBA

 *Pittsfield July 4th Parade Committee, Office of Representative Tricia Farley-Bouvier, Mass Humanities*

Everyone is invited to attend – and participate in – this community reading of an excerpt of Frederick Douglass' famous speech on human rights, African-Americans and the meaning of the Fourth of July and the federal Constitution.

\*\* Optional Family Activity

## July 12 [required day #9 for eLEVate participants]

### LEV-Martin Luther King Day of Service\*\*

Time: TBA; Location: North Adams

 *Martin Luther King Day Committee, MCLA*

The LEV-MLK Day of Service combines projects that benefit the community with an extension of a series of community forums began by the Martin Luther King Day Committee on King Day 2015. Facilitator: Thomas Alexander, Student Affairs Officer, MCLA.

\*\* Optional Family Activity

## July 25

### The GATHER-IN\*\*

Time: All day; Location: Pitts Park, 44 S John Street, Pittsfield

 *Berkshire County NAACP Branch*

This family-friendly event is the oldest African-American celebration in the Berkshires. Beginning 45 years ago, this free, fun-filled community event for all ages celebrates the rich cultural traditions and deep roots of the African-American community in Berkshire County.

\*\* Optional Family Activity

## August 5 [required day #10 for eLEVate participants]

### Remembering Hiroshima: Making Peace Today\*\*

Time: TBA; Location: South County TBA

 *TBA*


192,020 is the estimate of how many people died with the first nuclear bombing of Hiroshima on August 5, 1945. On the anniversary of that event, the Festival hosts an event bringing together people from across the Berkshires, to talk about making peace today, both here in the United States and across the world; program and participants still being determined.

\*\* Optional Family Activity

## August 8 [required day #11 for eLEVate participants]

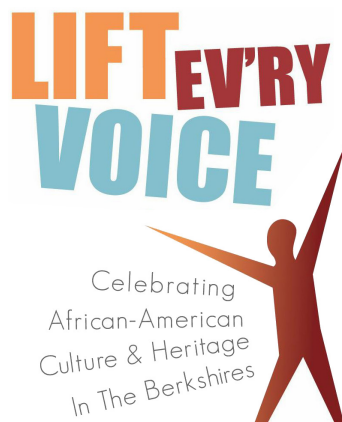
### “Who Am I”, eLEVate Multidisciplinary Art Show\*\*

Time: TBA; Location: Pittsfield

 *Mass Humanities*

The closing event of the 2015 Lift Ev'ry Voice Festival is a public art show of work completed by youth in Project eLEVate over the period of the Festival. There will be a reception for the youth as well as a certificate ceremony. All are invited.

\*\* Optional Family Activity



#### Contact Info

[eLEVate@LiftEvryVoice.org](mailto:eLEVate@LiftEvryVoice.org)

#### Festival Info

Lift Ev'ry Voice

P.O. Box 2275, Pittsfield, MA 01202

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

[Facebook.com/LiftEvryVoice](https://www.facebook.com/LiftEvryVoice)

[info@LiftEvryVoice.org](mailto:info@LiftEvryVoice.org)

# Application Form

You must complete all information and have your parent(s) or guardian(s) sign where required.

## Applicant Information

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Nominated By: \_\_\_\_\_

T-shirt size: S M L XL Student Special Needs: \_\_\_\_\_

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In addition to the participant, family members may attend the following events at no charge. Only 2 additional family members can attend the Jacob's Pillow event. Please indicate the number attending below:

Jacob's Pillow Tap Dance Concert: \_\_\_\_\_ Struttin' With Some Barbecue: \_\_\_\_\_

Gather-In Festival: \_\_\_\_\_ DownStreet Art Festival Kick-off: \_\_\_\_\_

## Family Information

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) email: \_\_\_\_\_

Family Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Applicant Agreement:** I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read the calendar of all required activities and agree to participate in all of them. Lift Ev'ry Voice will provide a \$500 stipend to me upon completion of all requirements listed on the accompanying application materials.

Applicant's Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Parent/Guardian Releases and Permission:** I, \_\_\_\_\_, give permission for my child(ren) to participate in all programs provided by Lift Ev'ry Voice and other collaborating agencies. I will not hold Lift Ev'ry Voice or the MCLA Foundation responsible for injuries.

Parent's Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*continued on reverse*

I give LIFT EV'RY VOICE permission to contact the local hospital and EMTs in case of an emergency. I understand that LIFT EV'RY VOICE will contact me as soon as possible to notify me of any medical needs of my child. I understand that Lift Ev'ry Voice and its partners are not responsible to any injuries incurred by my child during participant activities.

Parent's phone (best number(s) to reach in case of emergency): \_\_\_\_\_

Pediatrician Name & Number: \_\_\_\_\_

First Alternate Emergency Contact name and number: \_\_\_\_\_

Second Alternate Emergency Contact name and number: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

I give LIFT EV'RY VOICE permission to photograph and video my child, \_\_\_\_\_. I give LIFT EV'RY VOICE permission to use my child's name and image in any publicity for the programs provided during the three week session.

Parent's Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Stipend Payment:** I enter into contract that LIFT EV'RY VOICE will provide a stipend of \$500 to my child, \_\_\_\_\_, upon completion of a minimum of all the 4 workshops and 7 other activities, between June 19 and August 8. The stipend will be paid no later than August 12, 2015. I understand that upon completion of these requirements, my child will be eligible to apply for the Lift Ev'ry Voice Pearl Fryar Scholarship to complete an action of my child's choice that will further her/him in self advancing.

Parent's Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Be sure to answer the questions on the attached page so your application is complete; incomplete applications cannot be considered.

**Return completed applications to:**

Project eLEVate  
Lift Ev'ry Voice  
PO Box 2275  
Pittsfield, MA 01202

(email eLEVate@LiftEvryVoice.org or visit www.LiftEvryVoice.org for drop off options)

www.LiftEvryVoice.org :: Facebook.com/LiftEvryVoice

All applicants will receive an email following the participant selection process as to whether accepted, wait listed, or unable to be considered.

Program and dates subject to change.

**Applicant name:** \_\_\_\_\_

In the space provided, please answer the following four questions. The purpose of these questions is to introduce us to who you are and some of the ways you see yourself, your community and the world.

*What would you be doing this summer, if you were not participating in Project eLEVate?*

*What do you hope to gain from participating in Project eLEVate?*

*How do you define community?*

*Who would you include in your community?*

*How do you define freedom?*