



HILL CENTER
AT THE OLD NAVAL HOSPITAL
APRIL 6-9, 2017

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Producer

Benjamin Drummond Emancipation Day Celebration

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hill Center Commemorates First Freed Slaves with 3rd Annual Benjamin Drummond Emancipation Day Celebration, April 6-9

Washington, D.C. March 8 -- Hill Center at the Old Naval Hospital will honor America's first liberated slaves with free celebratory and scholarly programs that bring together a diverse group of prominent experts, artists, and public figures April 6, 7, 8, and 9, 2017.

Named for the Old Naval Hospital's first patient, a young African American seaman taken prisoner by Confederated ships, Benjamin Drummond Emancipation Day Celebration marks 155 years since President Abraham Lincoln signed The District of Columbia Emancipation Act, which freed D.C.'s 3,000+ slaves, nearly nine months before the Emancipation Proclamation.

"I appreciate the work of Hill Center to illuminate and celebrate Washington, D.C.'s historic role in the abolishment of slavery," says D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser. The Celebration's programs include a walking tour of LeDroit Park and Bloomingdale, neighborhoods which played a pivotal role in ending racial covenants on real estate. Distinguished scholars from across the country will present discussions on Georgetown University's slave past, the 13th Amendment and the history of policing black Americans since slavery, and a critical reconsideration of the life and activism of former D.C. Mayor, Marion Barry. The celebration will conclude with a free concert by the Sweet Heaven Kings, the spiritually powerful trombone shout band from the United House of Prayer for all People.

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HillCenterDC.org



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This year, in partnership with The Washington Post's podcast *Historically Black*, a session will be devoted to *Uncovering the Past: The Story Behind a Slave's Bill of Sale*. Audience members will be invited to share their own family stories online following the discussion. The Benjamin Drummond Emancipation Day Celebration is sponsored by the Executive Office of the Mayor, Humanities Council of Washington, D.C., American Historical Association, and Association for the Study of African American Life and History. For more information and to reserve FREE tickets to most events, visit www.hillcenterdc.org/partner/benjamin-drummond-emancipation-day-celebration/. *Hill Center at the Old Naval Hospital offers quality programming in a restored Civil War-era medical facility commissioned by President Abraham Lincoln in 1864. It is a vibrant home for culture, education and city life and serves a hub for community and personal enrichment.*

Contact:

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Benjamin Drummond Emancipation Day Celebration
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