



Project Healthy Living  
Advisory Board  
Presents:

# THE MANDATE

CONFERENCE

Sponsored by:





November 7-9, 2014  
Human Rights Campaign Equality Center  
1640 Rhode Island Ave., NW  
Washington, DC

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**WELCOME FROM THE PROJECT HEALTHY LIVING ADVISORY BOARD TO THE  
2014 ManDate Conference!**

We are pleased that you are joining us for this year’s conference. Last year’s ManDate was I AM: A MAN. It is a declarative statement in and unto itself, avoiding any association with a deficit model. Evoking association with the civil rights movement, it is neither a reaction nor a defense but, rather, an affirmation that every black gay man is valuable in the diversity of ways we express our individual and collective selves. As we gather to celebrate the success of this work, we also unveil to our community the ManDate of 2014-15. I AM: Coming Out Again.

The phenomenon of “coming out” is one that has been haphazardly limited to the identification of proclaiming an individual’s romantic interest. As a result of this limitation our community hasn’t been able to reach its full potential as a collective – with diverse interests and diverse identities. Each day we “come out”. We come out as affiliates of political parties and religious beliefs. We come out as connoisseurs of the arts, advocates for justice, survivors of health conditions; we come out each time we present our professions; and yes, we come out as gay men. The time to proclaim our vastness is now. This year’s conference sets the premise for disclosing all that we are. Welcome and enjoy!!!

**Project Healthy Living Advisory Board:**

- Robert Barrett
- Jabari Bruton-Barrett
- Brian LaBoard
- Jorge Lander
- Darryl! Moch
- Terrance Payton
- Ken Pettigrew
- Eric Pope

*Project Healthy Living is a working group consisting of African-American gay and bisexual men, with very close ties and direction from the District of Columbia Department of Health HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, STD and TB Administration (HAHSTA). The members of Project Healthy Living are representatives of the local African American MSM community, including an array of professional and educational backgrounds. The mission of Project Healthy Living is to improve sexual health outcomes and influence healthy life choices for African-American gay and bisexual men and their social and sexual networks. Project Healthy Living operates with logistical and fiscal support from HAHSTA and DC CARE.*

**The DC CARE Consortium staff  
would like to applaud  
the Project Healthy Living  
Advisory Board for the vision, dedication,  
and commitment that made this conference happen.**



**7059 Blair Road, NW, Suite 101, Washington, DC 20012  
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## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH		WeWORK WONDER BREAD FACTORY 641 S STREET NW
Welcome Reception: Open Bar from 7 - 8pm, Cash Bar available after 8pm		
6-7:30p	<b>NETWORKING</b>	
7:30-7:45p	<b>DANCE:</b> #BehindTheMask presents "Into Color Lines - Part 1"	
7:45-8:30p	<b>ManDate 2014 Conference Welcome:</b> Ken Pettigrew	
8:30-8:45p	<b>DANCE:</b> #BehindTheMask presents "Into Color Lines - Part 2"	
8:45-10p	<b>NETWORKING</b>	
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH		HRC EQUALITY CENTER 1640 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE
8:30-9:30a	<b>REGISTRATION &amp; BREAKFAST</b>	
9:30a	<b>ManDate Core Welcome</b> Opening guests: Michael Kharfen, Che Smith (Main Room)	
10-11:15a	<b>Inviting In: Sharing From a Place of Power</b> Leo Keith (Main Room)	
11:15-11:30a	<b>BREAK</b>	
11:30-12:30p WORKSHOP SESSION A	<b>Toys for Boys</b> Rebecca Hiles (Main Room)	
	<b>PrEP &amp; the City</b> Devin Barrington Ward, Chauncey Watson and Theo Hodge (Room A)	
	<b>Why We Play: Sports &amp; LGBTQ POC</b> Kenrick Ross (Room B)	
12:30-12:45p	<b>BREAK</b>	
12:45-2:30p PLENARY A	<b>Ask the Doc</b> Drs. Stephen Abbott, John Paul James and Leo Moore (Main Room)	
2:30-2:45p	<b>BREAK</b>	
2:45-3:45p PLENARY B	<b>I Am Ready for Love: Establishing and Maintaining the Loving Relationship You Want</b> Micheal Everett and Aunsha Hall Everett (Main Room)	
	<b>Coming Out and Coming Into Your Own</b> Kevin Taylor and John Paul (Room A)	
	<b>Be Brave: Ending HIV Stigma &amp; Shame</b> Robert Suttle, Russell Robinson and Kali Lindsey (Room B)	
3:45-4p	<b>BREAK</b>	
4-5p	<b>ManDate Session: Communities of Belonging</b> Darryl! Moch, Ken Pettigrew and Terrance Payton (Main Room)	
5-5:30p	<b>ADJOURN</b>	

## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH (CONTINUED)		MOUNT VERNON PLACE UMC 900 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE NW
7:20-7:25p	<b>#BehindTheMask presents</b> <i>Labels - Part I</i>	
7:25-7:30p	<b>Dissonance Dance Theatre presents</b> <i>Dream ... William Wilson</i>	
7:30-8p	Avery*Sunshine in <b>Concert</b>	
8-8:15p	<b>#BehindTheMask presents</b> <i>Positively in Love - Part I, Legendary House of Nowhere and Positively in Love - Part II</i>	
8:15-8:20p	<b>Dissonance Dance Theatre presents</b> <i>Reflect ... Damon Foster, William Wilson</i>	
8:20-8:30p	<b>#BehindTheMask presents</b> <i>Labels - Part II</i>	
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH		HRC EQUALITY CENTER 1640 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE
9:30-10:30a	<b>BRUNCH</b>	
10:30-11:30a CONFERENCE OPENING	<b>ManDate Core Welcome</b> Opening guest(s): Justin Hill, Testing Makes Us Stronger (Main Room)	
11:30a-12:15p WORKSHOP SESSION A	<b>Making the Most of Your Money with MJ</b> MJ Harris (Main Room)	
	<b>Ms. Phylis &amp; Her Girls</b> Dr. Theo Hodge (Room A)	
	<b>Authentic Professional Leadership</b> Rob Henry (Room B)	
	<b>Protected and Served?: Addressing Systemic Neglect and Misconduct by the Criminal Justice System</b> Aron Cobbs (Room C)	
12:15-12:30p	<b>BREAK</b>	
12:30-1:15p WORKSHOP SESSION B	<b>Giovanni's Room: "Out", and Intergenerational Dialogue</b> Rainey Cheeks, Teron Stocks, Micci Sainte-Andress, Joseph Williams (Main Room)	
	<b>Embrace Healing from Your Soul</b> Rev. Cedric Harmon and Imam Daayiee Abdullah (Room A)	
	<b>Creating a Powerful Black Gay Lobby</b> Justin Rush and Devin Barrington Ward (Room B)	
	<b>Common Bonds</b> Chris Barnhill and Guy Anthony (Room C)	
1:15-1:30p	<b>BREAK / LUNCH HORS D'OEUVRES</b>	
1:30-4p CONFERENCE CLOSING SESSION	<b>Film Screening and Discussion</b> Patrik Ian Polk	

## CONFERENCE SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

### SATURDAY

#### **Inviting In: Sharing from a place of power**

Presented by Dr. Leo Moore & Keith Green

Sharing personal aspects of one's self with others can be a difficult and traumatic process, sometimes met with judgment, disappointment, and degradation. Green and Moore will take the audience on a personal journey that will introduce the concept of "inviting in", which seeks to reframe traditional sexual orientation disclosure paradigms, as well as challenge same gender loving men to maintain or re-gain power that may have been taken from them in the past.

#### **Why We Play: Sports and LGBTQ People of Color**

Presented by Kenrick Ross

In the last few years, the sports world has changed dramatically as professional athletes like Jason Collins and Michael Sam have "come out", and the conversation about masculinity, homophobia, and sport has expanded. Yet, thousands of every day LGBTQ people involved in sports- weekend athletes, fans, scholars- are largely invisible in LGBTQ communities, despite the fact that cities like DC have sprawling LGBTQ sports leagues. This presentation focuses on the LGBTQ person of color who is involved in sports for the love of the game, how they are challenging prevailing notions of Black masculinity in sports and opening space for diversity and expression. I will explore why sports is "hegemonic Black space", particularly football and basketball, the growth of the LGBTQ sports world, and the benefits of involving of LGBTQ people of color in sports. In addition to data and scholarship, I will include sports video clips that discuss LGBTQ people, masculinity, and homophobia and potentially have several DC-area LGBTQ athletes of color share their stories and concerns. This workshop is a part of Urban+Out's WHY WE PLAY Initiative.

#### **Toys for Boys**

Presented by the Frisky Fairy

Sex toys, and lubricants, and anal play, oh yes! From the number of nerve ending in the anus, to the correct sex toys to use on your body, join the Frisky Fairy as she teaches you the Sex Ed you never got in school! Sit back, relax, and get ready to learn about the pleasure spots of the human body, and how to have the safest, sexiest, sex of your life!

#### **PrEP & the City**

Presented by Devin Barrington Ward, Chauncey Watson and Theo Hodge

Did you know that young black gay men are becoming infected with HIV at three times the rate of their white counterparts?

Did you know that a black gay man has approximately a 1-in-4 chance of being infected with HIV by age 25. By the time he is 40 years old, the odds a black gay man living with HIV increases to 60%?

Did you know there is a pill that HIV-negative men can take to prevent HIV infection (Pre-exposure prophylaxis PrEP)?

This provocative workshop aims to increase attendees knowledge surrounding PrEP. During this session,

## CONFERENCE SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

### SATURDAY (CONTINUED)

attendees will have the opportunity to engage with a Researcher that is conducting research on PrEP, a Physician that prescribes PrEP, and a black gay man that is on PrEP. Workshop attendees will walk away with a general understanding of PrEP, in addition to resources to access PrEP.

#### **Ask the Docs**

Presented by Drs. Stephen Abbott, John Paul James and Leo Moore

Facilitated by three physicians, this session will provide participants with opportunities to ask questions and get information in an informal setting. Discussion will focus on health care concerns specific to African American Gay men in particular, as well as health concerns of men overall. Topics may include general sexual health, "top" and "bottom" health, STDs, HIV/AIDS, as well as health issues specific to young and older men. The format will provide for submission of questions in writing to facilitate discussion of sensitive topics.

#### **I Am Ready for Love: Establishing and Maintaining the Loving Relationship You Want**

Presented by Michael Everett and Aunsha Hall Everett

With the rise of marriage equality, there is still a lack of relationship models that exist for Black LGBT people. We are often times forced to proscribe to the traditional hetero-normative model of intimate relationships used by heterosexual couples. Black LGBT people have and still face issues of homophobia, and heterosexism which have shaped and molded our life choices, often times forcing us to mimic sexist paradigms that can feel disempowering, confining, and even counter-productive for those of us seeking to identify our relationships for ourselves. Relationships are complex enough without all of the unique challenges that homosexuals experience and it is imperative to the survival of Black LGBT people that we are empowered and supported in developing relationships that address the needs of the individuals involved.

#### **Be Brave: Ending HIV Stigma & Shame**

Presented by Robert Suttle, Russell Robinson, & Kali Lindsey

Stigma, shame, and fear surrounding HIV/AIDS are major contributors to why many men don't know their status and are not getting the testing and treatment they need. This workshop will address various issues that contribute to HIV/AIDS stigma and shame, including harsh criminalization statutes and continued misinformation about the disease and current care and treatment options available.

The workshop will open with a short, eight-minute film, "HIV is Not a Crime," which details the experience of presenter Robert Suttle, who was prosecuted under Louisiana's HIV criminalization statute and served six months in prison in that state. This will lead to a broader discussion around public health information/misinformation and fear, stigma and legalized shaming, the risks and benefits of living openly as HIV-positive, and personal and collective responsibility.

#### **Coming Out and Coming Into Your Own**

Presented by Rev. Kevin Taylor & Dr. John Paul James

In this workshop, we will talk about the processes of coming out and the impact, on all levels, of the psychological, spiritual, physical and emotional well-being of Black gay men. Rev. Taylor and Dr. James will open the floor to real dialogue about where and why people still struggle with standing firmly in their truth and the weight of

## CONFERENCE SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

### SATURDAY (CONTINUED)

carrying something as a secret that is so germane to the daily life of one's wellness. The truth will set you free and that freedom will be discussed as we talk about COMING OUT as a self-declaration and an act of empowerment and not as a conflict or a fear about the invasion of personal business.

#### **ManDate: Communities of Belonging**

Presented by Darryl! Moch, Ken Pettigrew, and Terrance Payton

In 2014 being gay seems to be very much a part of mainstream culture. Today we want to discuss this phenomena from the perspective of affirmation, allowing the concept of the Institutions of Belongings to be our filter for our discussion.

1. Do you feel affirmed in any of these places/institutions: family, community, place of worship, school, fraternity, job, relationships? Why/Why Not?
2. Affirming to whom: The masses? The "get-withs"? People who are not of color?
3. How important is that you feel affirmed in these places now?
4. How important will this be for you in ten years?
5. Are we in the closet? If so, which way are we going, in or out?

#### **Dance performance by Dissonance Dance Theatre**

Ngoma Center for Dance is a 501(c)(3) arts organization that provides minority youth, adults, and their enthusiasts with a deeper understanding of dance as an art form and a discipline. Its mission is to produce and refine competitive level dance artists in a multicultural environment through its resident dance company, Dissonance Dance Theatre. Their cutting-edge repertoire features works that are socially and visually appealing to audiences while remaining true to their mission to challenge the audience's assumptions about the human experience through dance.

Their feature performances tonight will be:

*Reflect ...* Damon Foster / William Wilson (running time – 6 minutes)

*Dream ...* William Wilson (running time – 3:13 minutes)

#### **Theatrical performance by Brother2Brother: #BehindTheMask**

Brother2Brother is the only program in Washington, DC that utilizes performing arts to address the issues, challenges and concerns surrounding gay/bisexual/same gender loving men of color in the DC metro area. Through intense workshops and exercises, these men were able to explore issues important to them, produce positive conflict-resolution, and face themselves, when it always seemed easier to run. Through theatre, music, dance, and spoken word these men are telling their TRUE stories in a raw and emotional fashion in a journey of finding themselves, and uplifting our own marginalized community by finally taking off their mask.

#### **Musical performance by Avery\*Sunshine**

Avery\*Sunshine is without a doubt one of the most dynamic voices on the creative music scene, known for her invigorating and combustible live performances, compelling and revealingly honest song writing and impeccable instrument. Rooted in gospel, she reaches deep into that cornucopia of style and sound and sings a song which articulates the complexities of life with luminous insight. Fluent in many languages from soul and house to classical and hip hop, AVERY\*Sunshine expresses with a voice that speaks boldly and tells a uniquely familiar story ... a story about love and loss ... healing ... and finding the newness of oneself in the midst of it all.

## CONFERENCE SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

### SUNDAY

#### **Ms. Phylis and Her Girls**

Presented by Dr. Theo Hodge

Ms. Phylis is a bad you-know-what, and so is the gang of five girls she hangs with. There's:

- Phylis (syPHYLLIS)
- Rhea (gonoRHEA)
- Mydia (chlaMYDIA)
- Loma (Human PapilLOMA Virus)
- Hera (HERpes Simplex Virus)
- Uma (hUMAN Immunodeficiency Virus)

This interactive session will provide participants the opportunity to engage with a physician that specializes in gay men's health. The session will focus on overall sexual health. Participants will be provided with practical information about symptoms of STIs and treatment options, along tools that will decrease a person's risk of contracting and/or transmitting a STI. The session will also provide recommendations for the STI screenings that should be routinely asked for when visiting a healthcare provider.

#### **Authentic Professional Leadership**

Presented by Rob Henry

There is an array of literature that exists on leadership, but not much collected work on being a gay black leader. As black gay professionals, we are a double (sometimes triple) minority which begs the question: "Is leadership different for the Black LGBT community?" This presenter argues that there is a difference. This session will:

- Inform on the impact of LGBT buying power
- Share current data/trends of black leadership
- Equip participants with the balance of leadership skills (while being your authentic self) in the workplace.

#### **Protected and Served?: Addressing Systemic Neglect and Misconduct by the Criminal Justice System**

Presented by Aron Cobbs

Whether profiled by police, "outed" in court, abused by homophobic police or school security, denied medical care in prison, or numerous other injustices, our community faces serious discrimination and abuses of power from the government institutions that are supposed to protect us. In this workshop, we will examine the data and policy recommendations from Lambda Legal's Protected and Served? Survey of LGBT/HIV Contact with Police, Courts, and Prisons and share and discuss strategies to address the discrimination, violence and misconduct and make these institutions more culturally competent and accountable to LGBT community members.

#### **Making the Most of Your Money with MJ**

Presented by MJ Harris

Malcolm Harris is the VP of Financial Services for The Hurston Group. Within his role, he leads a team of licensed financial services professionals who specialize in designing customized financial strategies for individuals, families, and business. This includes:

- Estate Planning
- Retirement Planning

## CONFERENCE SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

### SUNDAY (CONTINUED)

- Insurance and Asset Protection
- Cash Accumulation Strategies

Malcolm's team is a national leader in providing Special Care Financial Planning. This is a specialized service that is specifically designed to help chronically ill clients (including those who are HIV positive), as well as clients who are responsible for disabled dependents, plan for long-term care and financial protection.

This workshop is designed to empower attendees to take actionable steps towards protecting and growing their financial future.

#### **Common Bonds**

Presented by Chris Barnhill and Guy Anthony

The Common Bonds Experience will allow HIV positive gay black men a space where they can talk freely on topics that are related to their status and beyond. The goal of this session is to support those who may need a safe space to share. This session is confidential and only open to HIV positive gay men.

Common Bonds, is a bi weekly support group for HIV positive gay/bi men between the ages of 18-29. This support group is held at Us Helping Us at 7:00PM every 1st and 3rd Tuesdays.

#### **Embrace Healing for Your Soul**

Presented by Rev. Cedric Harmon and Imam Daayiee Abdullah

Have you enabled your spiritual abuser(s)? How can you heal from religious intolerance, oppression, and homophobia? What's the truth you can live with? This interactive workshop will explore the religious/spiritual trauma too often experienced by Black LGBTQ people and their families in places of worship. It will examine how we traumatize ourselves and present solutions that mean change and making changes that are livable. Ample time will be provided for questions and response. This presentation is intentionally designed to help move you on your journey to spiritual wholeness and health.

#### **Creating a Powerful Black Gay Lobby**

Presented by Justin Rush and Devin Barrington Ward

The purpose of this workshop is to examine issues impacting the health, wellness, and holistic needs of Black gay men, particularly young Black gay men and to create an intersectional action-plan or policy agenda that includes recommendations and action items for participants. This workshop aims to identify ways that national public health, clinical, policy, social justice, LGBT, and political leaders can collaborate and accelerate efforts to further the implementation of effective public policy, programs, research, medical, prevention interventions, and social media strategies for young Black gay men with a priority on advocacy initiatives and mobilization for public health action. Attendees will leave with practical advice and tools for their own and collaborative advocacy efforts.

Participants will:

- be able to acquire a beginner to intermediate level of knowledge concerning the legislative process.
- be able to understand how to engage in local and state level advocacy.

## CONFERENCE SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

### SUNDAY (CONTINUED)

- see examples of good and bad state sexual health public policy from across the country
- see examples of meaningful community engagement and mobilization.
- engage in dialogue around developing policy recommendations to improve the lives of Black gay men.

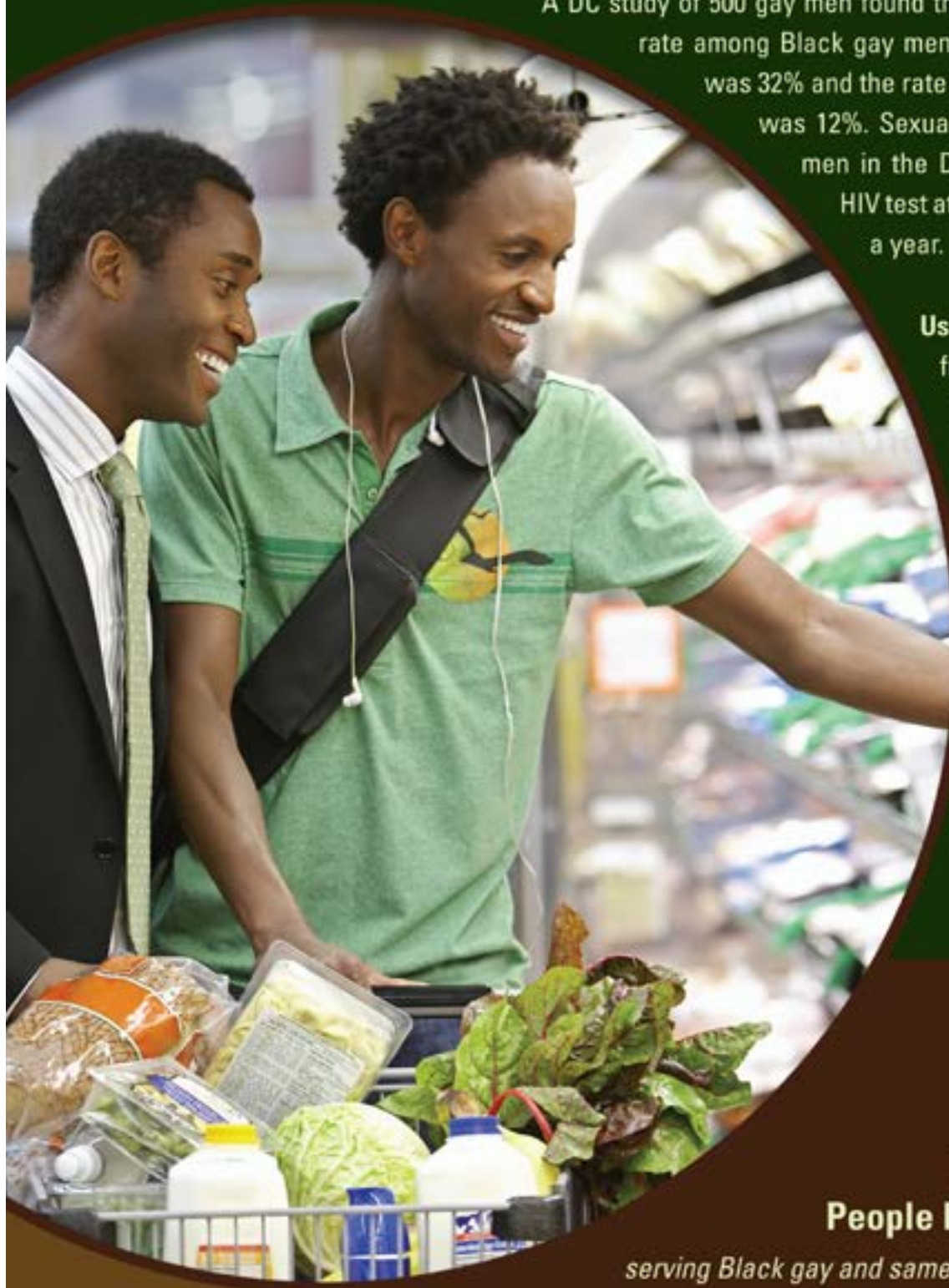
#### **Giovanni's Room: "Out", An Intergenerational Dialogue**

Presented by Teron Stocks, Rainey Cheeks, Micci Sainte-Andress, and Joseph Williams

Coming out and being out has meant different things at different points in history; especially as it relates to black gay/bi/same gender loving men. This workshop will explore the generational experiences of each of the generations (i.e. Baby Boomers, Generation X, Millennial) and discuss what the social environment (also political, nightlife, etc.) was like for Black gay men of their generation—especially during adolescence and early adulthood. The dialog will also explore the present day conditions including marriage equality, the political climate, social media, etc.

#### **Movie Screening and Q&A with Patrik-Ian Polk**

If you enjoyed the on-again/off-again dramatics of Noah and Wade's relationship on Noah's Arc, then you know you have Patrik-Ian Polk to thank. He's made waves in the industry by bringing our stories to both TV and the big screen. This immensely talented director of Noah's Arc: Jumping the Broom, Punks, and The Skinny will be joining us for what is sure to be a highly entertaining and informative movie screening and Q&A session.



A DC study of 500 gay men found that the HIV infection rate among Black gay men 30 years and older was 32% and the rate for men less than 30 was 12%. Sexually active Black gay men in the District should get a HIV test at least three (3) times a year.

**Us Helping Us** provides free HIV testing, Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

If you're positive, we can help you to have a long and healthy life. And if you're negative, we can help you stay that way.

Call 202 446-1100 for more information.

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