



RODNEY L. BROWN

**Sheba Marcus-Bey**  
Executive Director

### *Message from the Director*

As we welcome 2017 as our New Year, we are all poised to learn about new ideas. Many of us have already committed to having a new set of resolutions that could range from losing weight, saving money, getting out of debt, and connecting with family, I could go on...

But at ECPL our New Year's resolution is to help our patrons enjoy our resources in a more connected way and to be able to learn something that is meaningful and valuable on a personal level. As such, we have developed a six month program guide that seeks to meet the broad programming needs of our community that will be available soon. Many of the activities that are in place are result of rich partnerships that we have established over the course of time.

So if you are looking to connect around new ideas we invite you to join our re-imagined ECPL Book Club for adults on Fourth Tuesdays—this February we'll

discuss *Behold the Dreamers* by Imbolo Mbue; or our Wednesday Writers creative writing group so you can finally get that book or play out of your head and onto the page. Bring the whole family to **Tell Me a Story** on February 18th to engage in an afternoon of storytelling and family fun with refreshments and giveaways. You won't want to miss **Keith C. Holmes**, CEO of Global Black Inventor Research Projects on February 27. Or maybe your children would enjoy participating in one of our innovative programs here at the Library to learn about chemistry, building with Legos, chess, or other topics. Check out the Save the Dates section, from Jazz concerts to movies and children's events, there really is something for everyone at ECPL. We have a lot to offer so don't delay, another year will be here before we know it! Thank you for taking time to read my thoughts... And Happy New Year!

SMB

### **Making Music Accessible to All Children, Free Music Education**

*East Cleveland Community Arts and Mentorship Bio, Reginald Bowens*



**Reginald Bowens**  
Mentor

Get to know Reginald Bowens, one of the talented musician mentors and educators of Making Music Accessible to All children, the innovative music education program at ECPL. A Cleveland, Ohio native, Reginald Bowens was born into a loving and musical family. Both of his parents, also musicians, always encouraged him to live up to his fullest potential, especially

concerning music. As a result, Bowens grew up singing in many church choirs and eventually started picking up instruments like the piano, trombone and flute, to play in church and in school bands. After completing a bachelor of music degree at Washington, DC's Howard University, he appeared on NBC's hit a cappella TV show "The Sing-Off" as a vocal bass con-

testant and arranger with Afro-Blue (now Traces of Blue). The group placed fourth out of sixteen a cappella groups from around the globe. Bowens later returned to Cleveland and joined the faculty at The Music Settlement, a community music school, where he helped further music education in Cleveland, especially with teenagers and young men. Reginald recent

## Cleveland's Own Muntu Poets –

February 25, 6 pm

The Muntu Poets were a powerful group of writers and poets in the 1960's literary scene of Cleveland. Though their styles were eclectic, this fluid group shared a strong vision and amplified the significant voices of dissent in this era of social changes and civil rights accomplishments. The last meeting of the Muntu Poets was July 23, 1968, marked by the beginning of the Glenville riots.

With the growth of the nationwide Black Lives Matter movement, the Muntu Poets message against oppression remains relevant as ever. Now 47 years later, their voices remind us of the incredible power and potential literary work has for social change. The release of this groundbreaking anthology is a tribute to Robert Atkins and Norman Jordan, the leaders of the Muntu Poets. Now traveling to colleges throughout the U.S., the East Cleveland Public Library invites you to join us in welcoming these powerful writers to the Greg L. Reese Performing Arts Center.

*Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.* –Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

## Ongoing Programs

### Children's Programs

- **Kid's Café**, Monday–Friday afternoon snack @ 3:30 pm
- **Storytime Monday**, Thursday @ 11 am
- **Pee Wee Reading Roundtable**, Tuesdays @ 4:30 pm
- **Lego Lab**,  
Second Tuesdays @ 4 pm



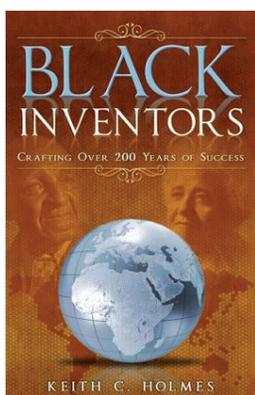
### Children & Youth Programs

- **Kid's Café**, Monday–Friday afternoon snack @ 3:30 pm
- **Chess Club**, 3:30–5:30 pm, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays. Learn and Play with Chess Mentor, Donald McClendon.
- **After School Tutoring**

### Adult Programs

- **ECPL Book Club**, Fourth Tuesdays, 5:30–6:45pm, Register to reserve a library copy at the Reference Desk. Feb. 28: *Behold the Dreamers* by Imbolo Mbue
- **Wednesday Writers**, 5:30–6:45pm, Feb. 1 (characterization), Feb. 8 (poetics), Feb. 15 (writer's block), Feb. 22 (open mic)

## Black Inventors, A Presentation by Keith C. Holmes February 27, 4:15 pm



Black Inventors, Crafting Over 200 Years of Success, highlights the work of Black inventors from over seventy countries. The author, Keith C. Holmes, has spent more than twenty years researching Black inventors. The acclaimed book is currently held in over 1,500 school, state, university and public libraries, museums, and research centers in over 40 countries. Featuring content on early Black inventors from virtually every state in the U.S., the text offers a comprehensive view of

ground-breaking achievements, documenting the innovations and creativity of women and men inventors from the African diaspora. This work includes attention to the global diversity of black inventors providing a valuable asset to students, researchers, librarians, scholars, teachers, and general interest readers seeking detailed and thorough look at the scope and impact of African American inventions.

[www.globalblackinventor.com](http://www.globalblackinventor.com)

## Making Music Accessible, continued from page 1

ly finished a master's program at the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University where he majored in jazz studies with a focus on voice. His ability to arrange has flourished since he learned Finale Notation Software in the seventh grade, while still a student at the Cleveland School of the Arts. Some of his most recent arrangements and performances have received recognition in *DownBeat*

magazine's 2014 and 2015 Student Music Awards. Bowens currently serves as an Adjunct Lecturer of Contemporary Voice and Vocal Jazz Studies at the Tommy LiPuma Center for Creative Arts at Cuyahoga Community College. Additionally, he has worked with iconic musical artists performing multiple genres, proving that music is a universal language in which he is fluent.

The free music program, funded by Neighborhood Connections and Cuyahoga County Arts and Culture grants, is a result of a dynamic partnership between the Friends of ECPL and ECCAM (East Cleveland Community Arts Mentorship Program). Open to students in grades 4–12, it meets Monday afternoons from 4 to 6:30 pm in the Greg L. Reese Performing Arts Center.

## Friends of ECPL News: *Icabod Fleweller Book Sale featuring Black Heritage Books, February 16-18*

Stock up on very gently used library materials! Books, audiobooks, DVDs, and more the sale features items for children and adults. You will find lots of items of all ages that are being weeded from the collection with prices that can't be beat. Thanks to all the Friends of ECPL for

putting this annual book sale together.



**February 16:** 1 pm–5 pm;  
Friday & Saturday, **February 17 & 18:** 11 am–5 pm  
**Books, CDs, DVDs & more!**

### Children's Literacy Corner: *Cracking the Code*

A key skill to becoming a good reader is the ability to sound out words you don't know. This process is called decoding. Children usually begin learning to decode in kindergarten, but decoding skills can be practiced throughout the preschool years as well.

Beginning readers are starting to pull it all together, and are often excited to try reading on their own. There are some great ways that you can help your child practice decoding skills while reading at home.

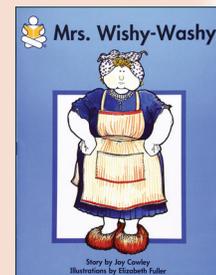
- *Choose books to read to your child that include repetitive texts.* A "repetitive text" contains phrases that appear in the story over and over again. Many classic fairytales contain repetitive phrases. When stories are repetitive, children can participate, and begin to feel successful in their quest to become readers.
- *Choose books that are "predictable."* Predictable stories have rhyming or repetitive word patterns, familiar concepts, and simple story lines. The illustrations and text in predictable stories allow children to anticipate words, phrases and events. They are also engaging and have easily understood sequence of events.
- *Model finger-pointing.* This entails following the words

on a page with your finger from left to right as you read them.

- *Give your child time.* Let her/him decode words and avoid jumping in too quickly.
- *Encourage attention to letter sounds.* If your child is stuck on a word, encourage them to look at the first letter in the word and make the letter's sound.
- *Read the pictures.* If your child is unable to figure out a word, ask them to look at the picture for a clue, then think about a word that would "make sense."
- *Praise successes.* Let them know how proud you are that they are becoming such wonderful readers!

Some fantastic books for strengthening decoding skills include:

- *Mrs. Wishy-Washy* by Joy Cowley
- *Fox in Socks* by Dr. Seuss
- *I Can't Said the Ant* by Matthew Polly
- *Clang! Clang! Beep! Beep!*
- *Listen to the City* by Robert Burleigh
- *A Huge Hog is a Big Pig* by Francis McCall
- *The Three Little Pigs* by James Halliwell-Phillipps
- *The Little Red Hen* by Dianne Muldrow



### Exploring the Black Heritage Collection at ECPL

February may be Black History Month, but East Cleveland Public Library offers patrons a comprehensive range body of work in the Black Heritage collection all year long. ECPL was among the early Cleveland area libraries to develop a special collection focusing on Black Heritage materials available for reference and circulation. Whether researching a project for school, reading for recreation, or looking for a movie, the Black Heritage collection is a significant resource ECPL is pleased to bring to the community.

Ms. Love, who currently works in Acquisitions and Technical Services, joined ECPL in 1979. Sharing a piece of not-so-distant local history, she recalls the early stag-

es of ECPL's Black Heritage collection being cultivated under the leadership and vision of Robert Southgate by the early 1980s. Today, the collection continues to grow, offering more than 10,000 Black Heritage items available in circulation and reference. ECPL's Black Heritage materials bring patrons all the latest in popular fiction and literature, nonfiction, and biographies. With materials for adults and children, the Black Heritage collection is as dynamic and inspiring as ever, always growing to meet the community interests and needs. But the collection includes more than just books, with feature movies, documentaries, audiobooks, the ECPL Black Heritage collection offers an incredible array of materials for patrons to use. Check them out—literally!

# Tell Me A Story

Saturday, February 18  
1:00–2:30 pm

Gregory L. Reese  
Performing Arts Center

This fun program for preschool children (under age six) and their families features local storytellers that will bring books alive for young children. The storytelling program will also include refreshments, entertainment and free giveaways. Program is funded by a **Bold Beginning!** grant from the Ohio Department of Education.



*Striving to fulfill the educational, recreational, and informational needs of patrons of all ages in the community.*

14101 Euclid Avenue  
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(216) 541-4128

#### HOURS:

Monday – Thursday  
10:00 am – 7:00 pm  
Friday & Saturday  
10:00 am – 6:00 pm

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

## Save the Dates & Join Us!

### Children's Events

- **Jazzy Sounds**, Weds., February 1 with Literacy Specialist, Ms. Heidi Cohen. Listen to jazz and write jazz inspired poems @ 3:45 pm
- **Take Your Child to the Library Day**: February 4  
Visit with your parent and get a prize!
- **Center for Arts Inspired Learning**, February 7 from 4–5 pm
- **Valentine's Day** pop up card February 14 @ 4:30 pm
- **Mardi Gras**, February 28 @ 4:30 pm Make a festive Mardi Gras mask

### Children's Black History Month Events

- **Special afternoon storytime** about a famous African American Every Thursday @ 4:30 pm with Ms. Henderson
- Read our **Black History fact of the day** each day this month!
- **Black History Trivia Contest**, February 13–17  
Prizes awarded for answering our question of the day!
- **Black History Scavenger Hunt**, February 8 @ 4:30 pm

### All Ages Events

- **Nancy Redd Jazz Concert**,  
February 4 @ 3 pm.
- **ECPL Capital Asset Sale**, February 2 & 3,  
February 9 & 10

Looking for computers, monitors, printers, chairs, or other items?

Visit ECPL Capital Asset Sale, Lower Auditorium. THU., FEBRUARY 2: 2–7 pm; FRI., FEBRUARY 3: 12–6 pm; THU., FEBRUARY 9: 2–7 pm; and FRI., FEBRUARY 10: 12–6 pm

- **Friends of ECPL Icabod Flewellen Book Sale** featuring Black Heritage Books! FEBRUARY 16: 1–5 pm; Fri. & Sat., FEBRUARY 17 & 18: 11 am–5 pm *Books, CDs, DVDs & more!*
- **Tell Me A Story**, Saturday, February 18, 1:00-2:30 pm This fun program for preschool children and their families features local storytellers that will bring books alive. The storytelling program will also include refreshments, entertainment, and giveaways. Greg L. Reese Performing Arts Center.
- **Life Essentials with Ruby Dee** movie and discussion with Greater Cleveland Urban Film Festival, February 23 @ 6 pm. An intergenerational nontraditional documentary on love, art, & activism.
- **The Trials of Willie Lynch**, a play by Fam Fest February 25 @ 1 pm, Greg L. Reese Performing Arts Center.
- **Cleveland's Own Muntu Poets**, February 25 @ 6 pm. Readings, meet and greet, book release event for these revolutionary writers.
- **Black Inventors: Presentation by Keith C. Holmes** of Global Black Inventor Research Projects, Inc. February 27 @ 4:15 pm. The paperback, *Black Inventors, Crafting Over 200 Years of Success*, is available internationally in 1,500 school, state, university and public libraries, museums, and research centers in more than 40 countries.



Nancy Redd