



For Immediate Release

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The October 15th Passaic Street Classic

A Block Party for All Ages Highlighting some of Trenton’s Best Hidden Assets

October 12, 2016, Trenton, NJ – From hip hop to antique cars; from jazz to motorcycles and comedy; from art to craft brews; even a place to race paper boats: it will all be on Passaic Street this Saturday. On Saturday, October 15th, the Passaic Street Business Association, the Trenton Historic Development Collaborative, and Isles, with financial support from Wells Fargo and New Jersey Manufacturers via New Jersey’s Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Credit Program, will host the Passaic Street Classic, a block party for all ages to celebrate one of Trenton’s oldest commercial strips. The half-block of Passaic Street between Willow and Kafer Streets will be closed off from noon to 8 pm.

“It’s not placemaking – it’s place *appreciation*,” explains Julia Taylor, Deputy Operations Officer at Isles. The event is part of a series of pop-up events Isles is organizing in the neighborhood as part of the Trenton Historic Development Collaborative revitalization plan – the most recent of which was the pop-up parklet at Café 128.

Jazz aficionados from all over the region are already used to spending their Saturdays at the **Candlelight Lounge** – the last of Trenton’s historic jazz clubs – for the Jazz Masters live show, which brings in top acts on the New York and Philadelphia circuit. Neighboring barbershop **Razor Sharp** is also a community hub tapped into Trenton’s music scene. Building on the regular hum of the block courtesy of **Mason Brothers Auto** comes will be a display of motorcycles by the **Cycle Kings**, based just up Calhoun Street, and vintage cars from their own collection – amplified with an additional automobile display from **Capitol City Cruisers**. Activities for youth will include **pendulum painting and interactive art** by Graham Apgar of the SAGE Coalition, Isles’ **T-Recs recreation truck**, and the **Great Trenton Paper Boat Race** on the D&R Canal (boatmaking at 1 p.m., race at 1:30).

The Candlelight will also debut its **new outdoor garden and the LightBox**, a converted shipping container that serves as an indoor-outdoor lounge and art/performance space. The outside of the container will feature an installation of lightboxes with photographs of jazz performances at the Candlelight by **photographer Steve Shilling**. Additional lightboxes facing the Razor Sharp barbershop feature work by **Bentrice Jusu**, a young poet and filmmaker from the neighborhood.

The first art exhibit inside the LightBox showcases “RIFFS”, a selection of **Kathleen Hurley Liao**’s abstract work inspired by jazz music, and



Rapture by Kathleen Hurley Liao. From her exhibit “RIFFS”.



A piece by Demond Williams from “Divine Tree Urban Art”.

“Divine Tree Urban Art”, a selection of music-themed work by **Demond Williams** of the **Trenton Community A-TEAM**.

Live performances will include:

- R&B/soul artist **Showtyme** (2 pm)
- Rapper **Big Ooh** (3 pm)
- A comedy showcase from **Laff Out Loud by Nina and Landy** (6 pm)
- **Jerry Weldon** at the CandleLight (3:30 pm)
- Poetry by **Todd Evans** and **Maya** (5:30 pm)
- DJ **ItsJustAhmad**

The block party showcases the vibrancy of the street, and continues a growing tradition of community events that the business owners have been organizing for years, including the Unity in Community Day hosted by the Candlelight and the annual Back-To-School event at Razor Sharp that features free haircuts and backpacks for schoolchildren. “This is a great neighborhood,” says Rufus Law of Razor Sharp, “and I know Saturday will be a good time.”



Photographs by **Steve Shilling** of the Candlelight’s Saturday jazz shows are integrated into the design of the LightBox, the Candlelight’s new indoor-outdoor art and performance space in a converted shipping container.

About Isles:

Founded in 1981, Isles, Inc. is a community development and environmental organization in Trenton, New Jersey. With a mission to foster self-reliant families and healthy, sustainable communities, Isles designs and develops effective services that support this mission and share what they learn with others who can make a difference. Beyond its central New Jersey base, Isles

works to influence policy and practices that support healthy, self-help agendas. For more information, visit www.isles.org.

About THDC

The Trenton Historic Development Collaborative (THDC) is a coalition of stakeholders convened by Shiloh Community Development Corporation in 2006. **The collaborative includes more than** 40 neighborhood organizations, business, and residents who are committed to working together to revitalize their community.

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