

### **FACILITY UPGRADES**

This year we took advantage of the downtime due to the COVID quarantine, to give the Bethune Center a much-needed cosmetic facelift. These renovations include a complete repainting of the second floor rooms and corridor; seating and sound system upgrade to our Black Box Theater; the addition of a weight and workout area; and the reorganization of our *Wall of Pioneer* gallery. We also made several other less noticeable, but important changes, such as an upgraded to our phone system, and new carts and transporting equipment.

#### **Black Box Theater**

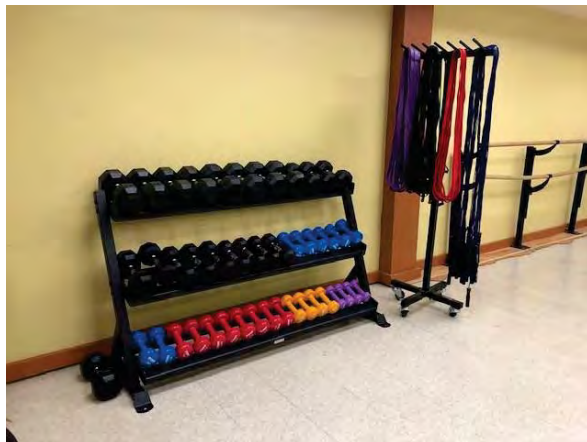


BEFORE



New Seating Installation

#### **Weight Training Area**

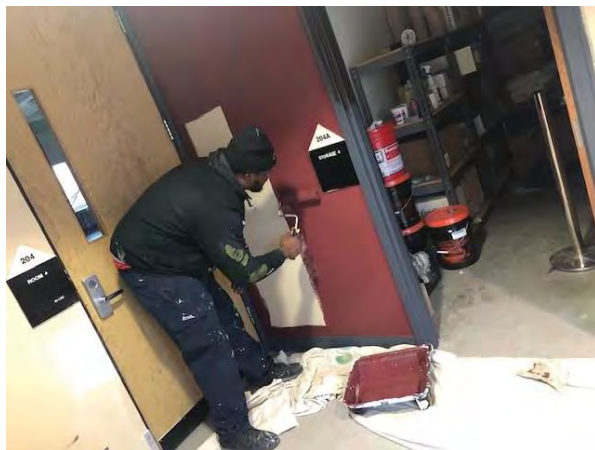


Resistance training is crucial to good health, especially for our seniors. Weights and strength training equipment have been an indispensable aspect to the majority of our fitness classes. This year, we have expanded our resistance equipment to provide a much more complete workout for beginners to advanced participants.

## Facility Upgrades (continued)

### Repainting Second Floor

Our guest and costumers expect a warm an inviting environment when visiting or renting space at the Bethune Center. One of the ways we provide that experience is by paying close attention to interior design details and ambience. This year we have used the downtime to enhance our event and gathering space with a fresh new coat of paint, and a new color scheme. The painting team is also doing wall repairs, patching, and ceiling tile replacements. Areas under renovation include rooms 201 – 208, as well as the entire second floor corridor.



### Renovation to Wall of Community Pioneers



For the last six years, the *Wall of Pioneers* has been one of the Center's major ongoing attractions. It features photographs of multi-generational community members who have, and are, making a difference in Jersey City. We have recently dismantled the exhibit in order to repaint the walls. Once the pictures are reinstalled, they will be arranged by categories based on the areas of contribution (e.g. Science, Arts & Culture...). Broken frames are being replaced with new, higher quality ones; and nameplates are being added and corrected.

## Mary McLeod Bethune Park

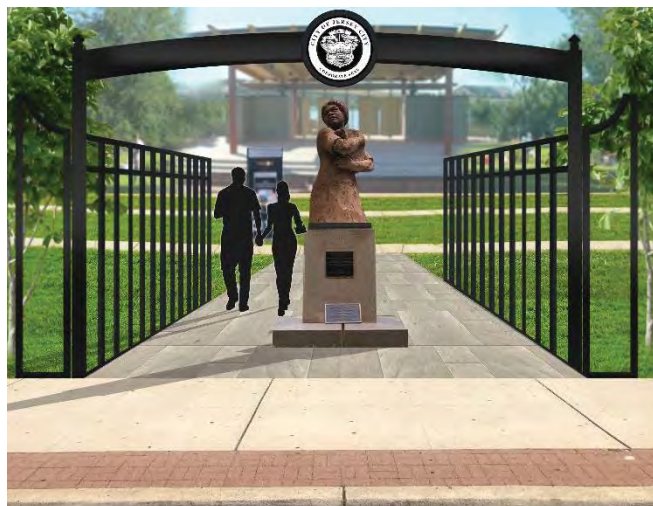
Construction is underway of the Mary McLeod Bethune Park, which will include a stage, picnic area, playground, gathering terrace, and relaxation area.



The new Bethune Center parking lot was completed in September. It provides two points of entry, as well as two EV charging stations.



The new park will include a monument of Mary McLeod Bethune at the entrance. The 9ft' sculpture is currently in progress.



## Response to COVID

Throughout the COVID shutdown, the Bethune Center has continued to remain functional on various levels. We have played a role as a COVID information resource for the community. We have worked also worked with HHS to become one of Jersey City's main designation points for COVID testing. Within the last eight months, our facility has been upgrade to provide visitors and staff with the best tools possible to ensure safety.

### Testing



Our courtyard, located behind the facility, has provided an ideal location for testing and other activities during COVID. It allows entrance and exit through our Fulton Ave. and Dwight St. Gates. The Center has also assisted with mask distribution, and has increased the number of hand sanitizer stations throughout the facility.



### Safety Installments

Safety alterations like temperature scanners and booth shields have been installed.

## Community Activities through COVID

Over the last eight months, the Bethune Center has had to find a balance between safety and functionality. We have continued our use as a public meeting facility, by allowing community groups, organizations, and public safety departments to congregate under reduced capacity. We have also taken full advantage of our courtyard and parking lot, for low-crowd activities such as back-to-school drives, toy drives, book signings, and street festivals.

### REVEREND AL SHARTON'S BOOK SIGNING



### ON-LINE CLASSES (Starting this month)

THE BETHUNE CENTER

CO-SPONSORED BY:

**Young Masters**  
CHILDREN'S ART PROGRAM

**TUESDAYS 5:30PM - 6:30PM**  
FREE CLASSES • FREE MATERIALS • AGES 6 - 12

We believe that the creative spirit within children should be nurtured at an early age. Instructor Kristen De Angelis specializes in motivating and inspiring kids to think outside the box and unlock their artistic abilities.

THE BETHUNE CENTER | 140 MARTIN LUTHER KING DRIVE | JERSEY CITY, NJ 07305

**CITY JERSEY MAKE IT YOURS**

THE CITY OF JERSEY CITY  
MAYOR STEVEN M. FIOROP  
THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL AND  
THE MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE LIFE CENTER

JerseyCityNJ  
JC\_GOV  
jerseycitynj

THE BETHUNE CENTER

**MORNING BOOT CAMP FITNESS**

- CARDIO
- STRENGTH TRAINING
- FAT BURNING
- CORE STRENGTHENING
- IMPROVE FLEXIBILITY

**SATURDAYS AT THE BETHUNE**  
**9:00AM - 10:00AM**

Hosted by Trainer:  
**SENSEI DARREN**

140 Martin Luther King Drive  
Jersey City, New Jersey 07305  
201.547.4565

BETHUNECENTER@JCNJ.ORG

Community Activities through COVID (Continued)

**BLACK BUSINESS MLK STREET FESTIVAL**



**Firemen & Police Training**



**Monique's Thanksgiving Food Prep**



**Ward F Christmas Toy Drive**

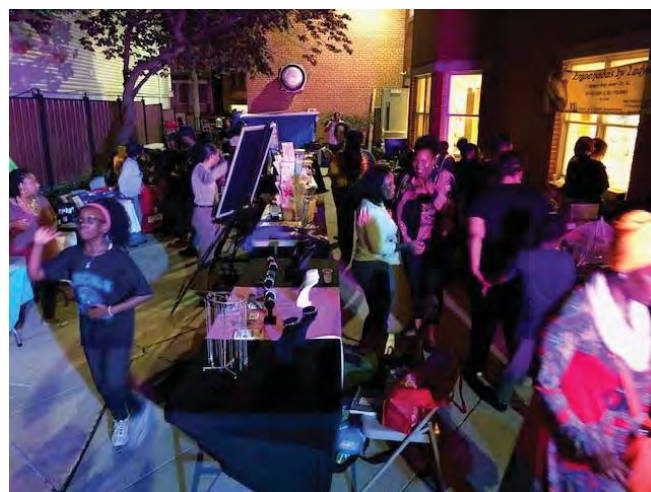


## ACTIVITIES POSTPONED (Due to COVID)

Over the course of the pandemic, we have postponed most of our normal weekly activities, which include educational classes, fitness training, events, meetings, and any other activities that attract large crowds. Below are a few examples of some of our regular activities that are currently on hold.

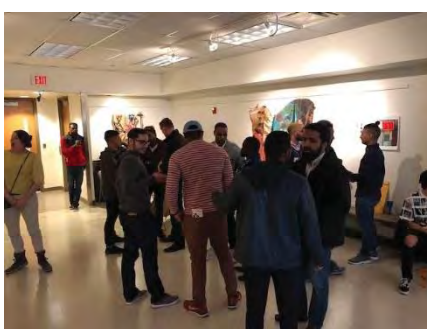
### BETHUNE NIGHT OUT

We created an event that inspired community members to interact and share ideas; as well as showcase the Center's vast array of activities. *Bethune Night Out* welcomes folks to experience a warm and inviting atmosphere where community members can mingle, network, and socialize, while enjoying an abundance filled with art, film, live music, and culture. This event was held quarterly.



### ART GALLERY EXHIBITIONS

Art exhibitions have been a staple of the Center's programming since 2013. Our outreach attracted many local artist as well as those from the Tri-State area and abroad. We also provided a venue for local student exhibitions.



## ACTIVITIES POSTPONED (Due to COVID) continued

### COMEDY NIGHT

The Bethune Comedy Night has proven to be one of our most successful events. We hire top-notch renowned local comedians, who bring their A-game for a one-night event that the public can enjoy free of charge. This event is normally held quarterly.



### CLASSES & PROGRAMMING



African Dance



Boot Camp Fitness



Art for Teens



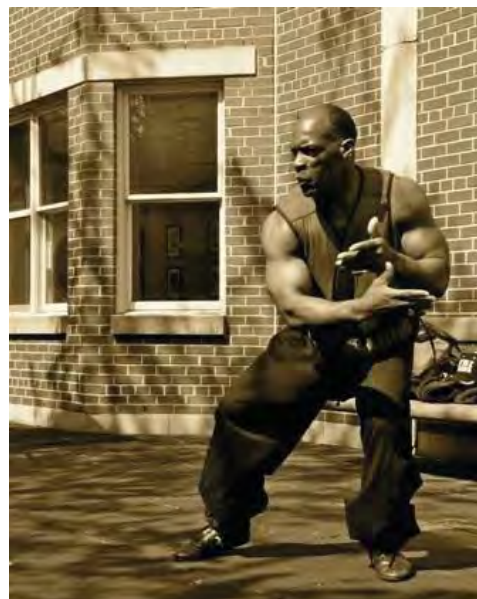
Art for Seniors



ACTIVITIES POSTPONED (Due to COVID) continued.



Kids Tae Kwon Do



Tai Chi

WEEKLY SENIOR LUNCH & MOVIE



At the start of 2020, the Bethune Center partnerd with HHS to created a daytime activites wehere seniors could enjoy a free hot lunch, mingle, shoot pool, watch TV, and enjoy the movie of the day.



## ACTIVITIES POSTPONED (Due to COVID) continued

### PRIVATE & PUBLIC EVENTS

Prior to COVID-19, the Center has always served as an open community space for private events such as birthday parties, baby showers, and wedding banquets. We also often provide space for public functions such as job fairs, community meetings, public debates, press conferences and health fairs.



Annual Line Dance Celebration (paid private event)



Black History Month Event (open to the public)

Example of normal pre-COVID weekly programming schedule (Does not include events, meetings, etc.)




 THE BETHUNE CENTER <small>COMMUNITY • CULTURE • WELLNESS</small>		140 Martin Luther King Dr. Jersey City, NJ 07305 201.547.4565			 BETHUNE PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE	
MONDAYS	TUESDAYS	WEDNESDAYS	THURSDAYS	FRIDAYS		
<b>SOUL LINE DANCING</b> WITH VARIOUS INSTRUCTORS (AGES 18+) 10:00AM – 11:00AM	<b>TAI CHI</b> WITH REV. LAWRENCE RIVERS (AGES 18+) 10:00AM – 11:00AM	<b>KUNDALINI YOGA</b> WITH FELIX GOSSE (AGES 18+) 10:00AM - 11:00AM	<b>FITNESS TRAINING</b> WITH GERI MONTESANO (AGES 18+) 10:00AM – 11:00AM	<b>TAI CHI</b> WITH REV. LAWRENCE RIVERS (AGES 18+) 10:00AM – 11:00AM		
<b>SEATED STRENGTH &amp; CARDIO WORKOUT</b> WITH YOSHEFIT (AGES 18+) 11:00AM - 12:00PM	<b>BOOT CAMP FITNESS</b> WITH SENSEI DARREN (AGES 15+) 7:00PM - 8:00PM	<b>SOUL LINE DANCING</b> WITH VARIOUS INSTRUCTORS (AGES 18+) 10:00AM – 11:00AM	<b>CINEMA SHOWCASE</b> LOCATED IN BLACKBOX THEATER ROOM (See marquee for movie of the day) 11:30AM - 1:30PM	<b>LIFE DRAWING (COMING SOON)</b> WITH GREGG ROSEN and ALVIN PETTIT (AGES 18+) 11:30AM – 1:30PM		
<b>SENIOR LUNCH AND CINEMA SHOWCASE</b> (Co-Sponsored by Health and Human Services) SEE MARQUEE FOR MOVIE OF THE DAY 12:30PM - 2:30pm	<b>CREATIVE PAINTING</b> WITH ELAINE JAMES (AGES 18+) 2:00PM – 5:30PM	<b>SEATED STRENGTH &amp; CARDIO WORKOUT</b> WITH YOSHEFIT (AGES 18+) 11:00AM - 12:00PM	<b>BOOT CAMP FITNESS</b> WITH SENSEI DARREN (AGES 15+) 7:00PM - 8:00PM	<b>CREATIVE PAINTING</b> WITH ELAINE JAMES (AGES 18+) 2:00PM – 5:30PM		
<b>TAE KWON DO</b> BEGINNER CLASS (AGES 7+) 4:45PM - 5:30PM	<b>**SPOKEN WORD (Next class Oct. 8th)</b> WITH ORTAVIA JACKSON (AGES 8+) 7:00PM - 8:00PM	<b>HIPHOP DANCE</b> WITH DV8TORS (AGES 12+) 5:00PM - 6:30PM	<b>SOUL LINE DANCING</b> WITH DANIELLE INMAN (AGES 15+) 6:00PM – 8:30PM	<b>SATURDAYS</b>		
<b>BELLY DANCING</b> WITH TARIK SULTAN (AGES 15+) 6:30PM – 7:30PM	<b>YOUNG MASTERS Children's Art Class</b> WITH KRISTEN DE ANGELIS (AGES 5 thru 12) 5:30PM - 6:30PM	<b>ZUMBA FITNESS</b> WITH ALTON BROWN (AGES 18+) 6:30PM – 7:30PM		<b>BOOT CAMP FITNESS</b> WITH SENSEI DARREN (AGES 15+) 9:00AM - 10:00AM		
		<b>TAE KWON DO</b> BEGINNER CLASS (AGES 7+) 4:45PM - 5:30PM		<b>PRACTICAL SELF DEFENSE</b> WITH SENSEI DARREN (AGES 15+) 10:00AM-11:00PM		
		<b>AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE CLASS</b> WITH THYSON T. HAILEY (AGES 8+) 6:00PM – 8:00PM <b>CLOSED</b>		<b>CAPOEIRA ANGOLA</b> WITH ANDREA CAMPBELL (AGES 8+) 11:30AM – 1:00PM		
				<b>AFRICAN FUSION DANCE FITNESS</b> WITH NIA REID-ALLEN (AGES 15+) 10:30AM - 11:30AM		
				<b>TAE KWON DO</b> OPEN CLASSES SESSION 1: 10AM - 10:45AM SESSION 2: 10:45AM - 11:45AM		

\* Activity held every other month.

\*\* Activity held every other week.

All classes are free to attend. Free parking is available.

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For more information or questions, please feel free to contact me:

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