



GREAT NECK ARTS CENTER

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Musicians Performance Trust Fund

Local 802

322 West 48th Street

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Dear Ms. James,

As the Executive Director of the Great Neck Arts Center, it has always been my pleasure to work with artists, performers and teachers involved in the cultural arts and arts education. Through our teacher training and development workshops at the Plainview/Old Bethpage Schools on Long Island, we produced a workshop that introduced this district to the music, dance, art and history of the Harlem Renaissance through a workshop called, "Harlem Swings!"

The workshop received glowing evaluations and requests for more workshops on African American scientists, artists and culture from a population of mostly white, middle class teachers and students. Much of the credit for the success of this workshop must be accorded to Wade Barnes and his Brooklyn Repertory Ensemble.

The professionalism, warmth, knowledge and love of their art shone through for the audience and contributed toward making this one of the highlights of the workshop experience. Mr. Barnes went out of his way to gather information that we could share with the participants and was careful to organize his presentation so that it would most effectively target these teachers. At no time did he, or any of his musicians, talk down to the audience and, as a result, many who had little or no interest in or information about jazz music as an art form were "converted" on the spot!

We thank you for the financial resources that helped to bring this group of talented people to Long Island and we hope to continue to bring them out for some time to come.

Sincerely,

Regina Keller Gil
Executive Director