All events at the Detroit Center are free and open to the public and include complimentary parking and light refreshments.

**Work: Detroit-Black Detroit 21: SideBar Black Art Theatre of Detroit**

**Date:** Friday, March 8, 2013  
**Time:** 7 – 9 p.m.

SideBar Black Art Theatre of Detroit presents a combination of monologues and short scenes by established and up and coming dramatists. SideBar embraces Community, Culture and Entertainment. Sidebar provides theatre artists with a home to explore and develop their craft in a professional artistic environment and through this; educate, empower, uplift and unite the Detroit Community.

**Detroit Center Event Page:** [http://detroitcenter.umich.edu/news/2013/1/march-8-12-and-22-event-information-black-detroit-21](http://detroitcenter.umich.edu/news/2013/1/march-8-12-and-22-event-information-black-detroit-21)

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**Work: Detroit-Black Detroit 21: Panel Discussion and Gallery Tour**

**Event Date:** Tuesday, March 12, 2013  
**Event Time:** 7 – 9 p.m.

**Gallery Tour:** Odie Rynell Cash, Curator of Black Detroit 21, will lead a tour of the exhibition.  
**Panel Discussion:** Moderated by Curtis Lipscom (Executive Director, KICK), the panel will discuss issues surrounding LGBT African Americans.

**About KICK –** The Agency for LGBT African Americans, a Michigan non-profit business, was founded in 2003 with the help of Detroit LGBT residents. The aim of KICK is to continue to implement LGBT affirming programs, services, projects and special events; and to partner with other social justice organizations and allies with similar beliefs. In 2011 The Center in Detroit opened and provides the LGBT and allied community a safe space in Detroit in which to discuss, learn and offer support to one another.

This workshop is part of a free, weekly workshop series entitled "**Talk Tuesdays.**" The topics for this special session are 'the search for a LGBT identity within Detroit’s (overall) black community and the desire for acceptance in Detroit and beyond.
RaceHarmony.com: It's Black, It's White, It's Funny: an Understanding Race Comedy Show

Date: Thursday, March 14, 2013

Time: 6:30 - 9 p.m.

The University of Michigan Detroit Center is proud to present the comedy show, It's Black, It's White; It's Funny, from 6:30-9 p.m., Thursday, March 14. Serving as programming of the University-wide theme semester, Understanding Race, the performance will be followed by an audience discussion of the topics evoked by the piece. The event includes complimentary admission, parking and opening reception for all attendees.

It's Black, It's White; It’s Funny features the comedic duo of Black Pedro and Johnny Walker, two of America’s brightest, up-and-coming comedians. Through a series of stand up routines and comedy sketches, Pedro and Johnny use the art of humor to address commonly avoided racial issues in our society.

Black Pedro is a Detroit-native and graduate of Cass Tech High School. He pursued higher education at Princeton University where he founded one of the schools’ most popular comedy troupes. Black Pedro currently resides in Los Angeles as a resident comedian at The Hollywood Improv and world famous Laugh Factory. In addition to drawing thousands of laughs while touring America’s college campus scene, he also appeared on season one of the hit BET television show, Hell Date. For more information on Black Pedro, visit: http://www.pedroisfunny.com

Johnny Walker, a graduate of Yale University, has become a familiar figure in the comedy world. His stand-up resume includes all 50 states in addition to 250 college campuses across the country. Like Pedro, Walker is a seasoned veteran with The Hollywood Improv and Laugh Factory. His television and radio appearances include National Public Radio (NPR), The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, TBS Las Vegas Comedy Show and the Dr. Demento Show. In addition to his stand-up and musical comedy performances, Johnny appeared on the television shows, Hell Date, Scare Tactics, Boys Behaving Badly and Breaking Up with Shannen. For more information on Johnny Walker, visit: http://www.johnnywalkercomedy.com

In addition to Black Pedro and Johnny Walker, Images of Identities, a U-M student comedy group, will perform. To learn more about Images of Identities, visit: http://maizepages.umich.edu/organization/imagesofidentities

The goals of the Understanding Race Project includes an exploration of the idea of race as a social construct that has no biological basis, and as an idea that grows in meaning when examined at the intersections of other identities, such as gender, sexuality, socioeconomic status, and religion. The Understanding Race Project offers numerous opportunities for conversations about race, emphasizing
student engagement, highlighting local experience and expertise, and looking beyond the struggles of the black/white ideology.

The Understanding Race Theme Semester receives additional support from the Office of the Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs.

**Detroit Center Event Page:** [http://detroitcenter.umich.edu/news/2013/1/amandla-revolution-four-part-harmony](http://detroitcenter.umich.edu/news/2013/1/amandla-revolution-four-part-harmony)

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**Sankofa Film Series Presents – Sweet Honey in the Rock: Raise Your Voice**

**Event Date:** Friday, March 15, 2013  
**Event Time:** 6 – 8 p.m.

The University of Michigan Detroit Center continues its 2012-2013 Sankofa Film Series with *Sweet Honey in the Rock: Raise Your Voice*. The film will be shown on Friday, March 15 beginning at 6 pm. After the showing, Chorale Director and musician Lamar Willis will give a brief talk on the African American sacred music tradition and answer questions about the documentary. The event includes complimentary admission, parking and light refreshments to all attendees.

*Sweet Honey in the Rock: Raise Your Voice* is a 2005 PBS documentary that uses concert, rehearsal and tour bus footage, along with photographs and interviews to chronicle the history and music of Sweet Honey in the Rock, a Grammy Award-winning African American female a cappella group.

Founded in 1973, the group has featured more than 20 different members in its 40-year history. The current ensemble consists of Ysaye Maria Barnwell, Nitanju Bolade Casel, Aisha Kahlil, Louise Robinson, Carol Lynn Maillard and Shirley Childress Saxton.

Although the faces have changed with time, *Sweet Honey in the Rock* has stayed true to its musical roots to create a sound all their own by combining jazz, blues and sacred songs, such as spirituals, hymns and gospel music.

**Lamar Willis** is a general music teacher at the MacArthur K-8 University Academy (Southfield Public Schools) and Minister of Music at the Plymouth United Church of Christ. Lamar is also the President of Wills Entertainment Group LLC, providing vocal and piano lessons for children and adults and Musical Director for the Corporation for Artistic Development (CAD), a nonprofit musical theater company.

The 2012-2013 Sankofa Film Series is a collaborative effort between U-M Dearborn’s African American Studies Program and the U-M Detroit Center.

**Work:** Detroit-Black Detroit 21: The EchoVerse Vibe Performance Series

**Event Date:** Friday, March 22, 2013

**Event Time:** 6 – 9 p.m.

Featured Poets and Open Mic

6:30 p.m. - Satori Circus *Oh Happy Day Trilogy* (part two and three)

7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. - The EchoVerse showcases urban art and expression through literature, performance and music. It provides emerging and seasoned artist a forum to explore, innovate and create. The EchoVerse, hosted by JyObadele, SoundCircle and DJ Andre Royster, are producers of this popular Poetry Slam Series.

8:30 p.m. - Final Thoughts - Odie Rynell Cash, Curator, *Black Detroit 21*

**Detroit Center Event Page:** [http://detroitcenter.umich.edu/news/2013/1/march-8-12-and-22-event-information-black-detroit-21](http://detroitcenter.umich.edu/news/2013/1/march-8-12-and-22-event-information-black-detroit-21)

More Information Coming Soon on these April Events

- Semester in Detroit Speaker Series: Right to Work *for What?* - April 4
- Opening Day Open House - April 5
- Sankofa Film Series: Colored Frames - April 19

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