

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 20, 2006**

**Contact: Connie Fredericks-Malone**

Phone: 585 396-2995, 585 233-2426

Email: [cfm@cdfmusiclegacy.com](mailto:cfm@cdfmusiclegacy.com)

**Blues icon Taj Mahal and family members to attend a Springfield-based  
Black History Month Tribute to their late sister  
Carole Fredericks and the legacy of Robert M. Hughes**

*Springfield Black History Month Tribute to be held, Thursday, February 9, 2006 (6 pm) at the Pan African Historical Museum at Tower Square Mall (2nd floor)*

(AANEWSWIRE) Springfield, MA... Black History Month 2006 will hold special significance for residents of Springfield, Massachusetts. Two great people, one who was born and raised in Springfield, and one who spent many years in Springfield will be recognized during the Black History Month tribute celebration at Springfield's Pan African Historical Museum USA. With the theme of Education, Leadership and Community Service, this event will remember Carole Fredericks and Robert M. Hughes, two outstanding citizens who spent their lives educating others. Their legacies have had an impact on the education of students in the Springfield School System and their contributions will continue to inspire communities across Massachusetts and the country.

The celebration will also recognize present day African American inspirations (TBA) who are making a valuable contributions to Springfield as well. The event will begin at 6pm, on Thursday, February 9, at the Pan African Historical Museum USA (PAHMUSA), 1500 Main Street (Second Floor), Tower Square, Springfield.

In honor of Carole Fredericks, the event will highlight the Springfield School's Foreign Language Department adoption of Tant Qu'Elle Chante, Elle Vit (As Long as She Sings, She Lives), a French language unit based on her life and music. A native of Springfield and educated in the city schools, Carole Fredericks emigrated to France in 1979. She became an international recording artist in Europe and Africa. Her siblings, American blues icon Taj Mahal, Edward Fredericks, Richard Fredericks and Connie Fredericks-Malone will return to Springfield to participate in the Black History Month Reception at PAHMUSA.

"From humble beginnings in Springfield, Carole evolved into a consummate performer, humanitarian and citizen of the world in France," stated Connie Fredericks-Malone, Director of CDF Music Legacy. "To have this language unit, Tant Qu'Elle Chante, Elle Vit, adopted by the school system that first educated her is a great honor for our family."

In recognition of Robert M. Hughes, a new book about his extraordinary life will be unveiled. Hughes' efforts showed that, when given the opportunity, Springfield's urban students can achieve academic and personal excellence. Retired French teacher and wife of the Robert M. Hughes, Amy Hughes, will unveil a new book to be published in honor of her late husband.

This event is jointly sponsored by UnityFirst.com and the Pan African Historical Museum in cooperation with CDF Music Legacy and several community-based organizations and businesses.

"We believe that history has the power to positively impact the Springfield community and inspire both youth and adults across the city," says UnityFirst.com's Janine Fondon.

LaJuanna Hood, director of the Pan African Historical Museum, adds, "We hope to share valuable information about Springfield's Black history, thus contributing to our broader knowledge of the continent of Africa and local contributions to our shared world history."

**Event Schedule:**

**American Blues Icon, Taj Mahal will join Amy Hughes, the widow of Educator Robert M. Hughes to Celebrate Black History Month in Springfield, MA**

**Program: Speakers (TBA)**

**When: 6 pm, Thursday, February 9, 2006**

**Where: Pan African Historical Museum USA (PAHMUSA), 1500 Main Street, Tower Square, Springfield**

**For media and event confirmation please contact Janine Fondon, (413.734-6444, [jfondon@unityfirst.com](mailto:jfondon@unityfirst.com)); Connie Fredericks-Malone (585.396-2995, 585.233.2426, [cfm@cdfmusiclegacy.com](mailto:cfm@cdfmusiclegacy.com)).**

**# # #**