



The Newark Public Library  
5 Washington Street | Newark, NJ 07102 | [www.npl.org](http://www.npl.org)

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Event Contact:** Mary Gable, 973.733.7744 | [mgable@npl.org](mailto:mgable@npl.org)

**Contact:** Spencer Scott, 973.733.7735 | [sscott@npl.org](mailto:sscott@npl.org)

### ***Grand Opening Celebration of the Newly Renovated James Brown African American Room*** **Presented by The Newark Public Library and The Friends of The James Brown African American Room**

Newark, NJ – On **Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-8:00 PM**, all are invited to gather at **The Newark Public Library at 5 Washington Street, Newark, NJ 07102, Second Floor James Brown African American Room (JBAAR)** for a *Grand Opening Celebration* of the newly renovated **James Brown African American Room**. New Jersey Lieutenant Governor Sheila Oliver, Newark Mayor Ras J. Baraka, and Newark City Council President Mildred Crump are scheduled to attend and speak during the event.

The renovation of the James Brown African American Room was completed in late 2018. The space features modern furniture, research stations, and access to the library's stacks and reference materials nearby. The room is dedicated to African American Studies and Research.

The mission of the James Brown African American Room is to provide a dedicated space for the development, inspiration, and enrichment of all people; to serve as a repository and locale for cultural programming within the main branch of the historic Newark Public Library, and to honor the legacy of principal librarian, James Brown (1937-1991), for his insistence of institutional inclusion.

#### **About the Friends of The James Brown African American Room**

The Friends of the James Brown African American Room is a group of community activists, artists and arts administrators, entrepreneurs, teachers, and members of the public founded in 2016 by Dr. Anasa Maat. The organization raises funds to expand the collections and exhibitions of the JBAAR, and hosts programs and events relative to the African American (and African Diasporan) experience. To learn more about the James Brown African American Room, visit [www.npl.org/JBAAR](http://www.npl.org/JBAAR). To learn more about The Friends of The James Brown African American Room, visit <https://tinyurl.com/JBAARVideo>.

#### **About The Newark Public Library**

Since 1889, The Newark Public Library has been an anchor institution in Newark. It is New Jersey's most comprehensive public library, serving nearly 10,000 patrons per week and providing equal access for all to vast educational, cultural, literary, historical, and digital resources. Through its Main Library and seven branches, The Newark Public Library provides residents of Newark with reference help for job searches and accessing social services, ESL and computer classes, and family literacy programs. It also contains the New Jersey Hispanic Research and Information Center, the Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center, and the James Brown African American Room. To learn how to become involved with The Newark Public Library, please visit our website [www.npl.org](http://www.npl.org); or call Spencer Scott, Chief Development Officer at 973-733-7735.