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IN CELEBRATION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH
**Traveling *Griots* Exhibit to Visit McClymonds Youth Center and Alliance and
Elmhurst Middle School**

February 17, 2014 (Oakland, CA) – A traveling version of the popular exhibit, *The Griots of Oakland – Voices from the African American Oral History Project*, will be making its way into a school and youth center for the remainder of Black History Month.

McClymonds Youth & Family Center (Alternatives in Action) and Alliance and Elmhurst Middle School will each host the exhibit at different times for the remainder of the month to celebrate Black History Month and to highlight their equity work and programming.

The exhibit and book are the first project of its kind where over the course of a year a group of African American male youth were trained in oral history methodologies and videography to conduct peer-to-peer interviews with about 100 African American boys and men aged 6-24 throughout Oakland. The goal of the project is to highlight aspects of these young men's realities that are often misunderstood and ignored by mainstream media, and to change the discourse on how they are perceived to uplift their beauty, brilliance, and humanity.

“Having this exhibit at our youth center will enable us to tell the stories of Black people in the United States. It's a powerful and reinforcing project that instills a lot of pride in our students. We're happy to have such a resource available to us that originated here in Oakland”, said Kharyshi Wiginton, Youth Leadership and Administrative Coordinator at McClymonds.

The main exhibit is currently on display at the African American Museum and Library at Oakland through March 1, 2014.

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The Center for Healthy Schools and Communities fosters the academic success, health, and well-being of Alameda County youth by building universal access to high quality supports and opportunities in schools and neighborhoods. The Center's overarching objective is that healthy youth graduate from high-school, college and career ready.