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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

YOUTH UPRISING TO HOST THE GRIOTS OF OAKLAND TRAVELING EXHIBITION

May 5, 2014 (Oakland, CA) –Youth UpRising (YU) will host *The Griots of Oakland – Voices from the African American Oral History Project’s* traveling exhibition from May 6-30. The display will be accessible for viewing in YU’s “Living Room” Monday – Friday from 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. at 8711 MacArthur Blvd., in East Oakland. On May 22 a reception will be held in the same location from 4-6 p.m. in celebration of the exhibition and the program’s equity based objectives.

Initiated by the Center for Healthy Schools and Communities, *The Griots of Oakland* exhibition and accompanying 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.

“Youth UpRising was a key location for many of the interviews that were conducted for this project. We are thrilled to have the traveling *Griots* exhibition with YU during the month of May,” said Tracey Schear, Director for the Center for Healthy Schools and Communities.

“We are truly honored and excited to host the Griots of Oakland exhibition at Youth UpRising,” said Youth UpRising CEO Olis Simmons. “From the outset, this project was intent on capturing the voices, faces, and personal stories of young men in a very raw and honest way, very different from the way they are portrayed in mainstream media, and they’ve succeeded. It is impossible to come away from this exhibition and not have a new, enhanced appreciation for the unparalleled resilience of these young men. ”

The main exhibit is currently on display at the Alameda County Office of Education.

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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. www.healthyschoolsandcommunities.org



Youth UpRising’s mission is to transform East Oakland into a healthy and economically robust community by developing the leadership of youth and young adults and improving the systems that impact them. www.youthuprising.org