



PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Torcha Jeffrey-Evans

Phone: (718) 360-5971

Email: Outreach@HABNET.com

Website: www.HABNET.com

HABNET CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HOSTS 10TH ANNUAL TOUSSAINT L'OUVERTURE SYMPOSIUM AND SMALL BUSINESS EXPO

BROOKLYN, NY— On Friday, April 25 HABNET Chamber of Commerce hosted its 10th Annual Toussaint L'Ouverture Symposium and Small Business Expo at Brooklyn Borough Hall. The Symposium was co-hosted by Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, 45th District Councilmember Jumaane D. Williams and 40th District Councilmember Mathieu Eugene. The Masters of Ceremony were Ms. Elsie Saint Louis, Executive Director of Haitian Americans United for Progress (HAUP) and Mr. Rubain Dorancy, Chairman of the Haitian-American Association for Political Action (HAAPA-PAC). The event began with an invocation by Pastor Samuel Nicolas of Evangelical Crusade of Fishers of Men and a stellar performance of the national Anthems by the quartet group *Reconcile*. Mr. Gerard Cadet, Vice-President of 1199 SEIU spoke about the greatness of Toussaint L'Ouverture and our current plight. Minister of Commerce of Haiti, Mr. Wilson Laleau spoke about challenges and investment opportunities in Haiti; and Councilmember Jumaane D. Williams spoke about the debt owed to Toussaint L'Ouverture and Haiti. The Keynote Speaker was the prominent scholar, Prof. Jean-Germain Gros, PhD of University of Missouri-St. Louis. Prof. Gros spoke eloquently of Toussaint L'Ouverture and the 200+ attendees wanted to hear more of his speech.



**J.G. Gros, J. Rockingster
And Marie-Yolaine Eusebe**

**East Flatbush Village
Steppers**

Prof. Jean-Germain Gros

The 2014 Toussaint L'Ouverture Entrepreneur of the Year Award Recipient was Mr. Marc Agustin of Tenelus Services. The Leadership and Service Award Recipients were: Hon. Rodneyse Bichotte of the 42nd Assembly District Leader; Ms. Marie-Yolaine Eusebe of Community2Community; Mr. Kenneth Marable of AXA-Advisors; Ms. Michelle McClymont of the Flatbush Nostrand Junction Business Improvement District; Reverend Mullery Jean-Pierre of Beraca Baptist Church; Mr. Samuel Pierre of the Haitian-American Caucus; Mr. Jean Petrus of Go Accredited Solutions; and Dr. Herold Simon of Aesclepius Medical Society. The Organization of the Year Award went to Community2 Community. All the honorees were selected for the great work that they do here the U.S. and in Haiti.

The Evangelical Crusade of Fishers of Men Youth Choir, the Tilden Triple Threat and the East Flatbush Village Steppers made the event more elegant with musical performances. HABNET Chamber of Commerce President Jackson Rockingster states "I am thankful for the overwhelming support from the community; it's great for us to come together for the tenth year to celebrate Haiti's rich history as it relates to our national hero, Toussaint L'Ouverture."

The Toussaint L'Ouverture Symposium & Small Business Expo is organized by HABNET every year since 2005. It is a recreational and educational program involving discussions about the historical and personal achievements of the great 19th century Haitian revolutionary leader Toussaint L'Ouverture and his impact on the United States. It is also a celebration of the co-naming of Nostrand Avenue to Toussaint L'Ouverture Blvd. In addition, it is recognition of leaders in the community who have demonstrated the L'Ouverturian principle of emphasizing the importance of civics and economics as a means to empowerment; and those whose work have had a positive impact on the lives of others.