



PRESS RELEASE

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The Black Women's Expo Returns to McCormick Place July 30 to Aug 1 *Expo Forms Partnership with National Urban League Annual Convention*

(Chicago) July 15, 2009 – The Black Women's Expo, the number one national destination event for the summer, returns to Chicago from Thursday, July 30 to Saturday, August 1, 2009 at McCormick Place West. Presented by State Farm, The Black Women's Expo offers empowering and enlightening seminars, workshops, exhibits, pavilions, insightful speakers, bestselling authors, and live entertainment to its vast audience. The three-day event is being held in conjunction with the National Urban League's annual convention.

"The Black Women's Expo has something for everyone," said Merry Green, founder and executive producer of the popular event now celebrating its 16th year. Although the focus is primarily on the concerns of African American women, the Expo has always included events of interest for the entire family and this year is no exception.

"Due to the economic downturn, we've expanded our reach to businesses of all sizes to encourage widespread participation and exposure, Green stated. "Because many businesses have limited or no budgets to market or advertise during the year, the Expo is the perfect marketplace for presenting their products and services to a large audience of decision makers."

As in previous years, The Black Women's Expo features national experts in a variety of fields to address topics that are particularly important to African American women. On tap this year are seminars and workshops covering economic management, health and wellness, business ownership, male/female relationships, urban living and decorating, financial literacy, and teen life. Well-known speakers include Lisa Nichols from "The Secret" and The Oprah Winfrey show fame, syndicated radio host Michael Baisden, HGTV television hostess Lauren Lake, and women's health and relationship expert Dr. Hilda Hutcherson who is also an obstetrician/gynecologist.

Television Judge Glenda Hatchett will provide insight on many of the issues currently facing our youth as a part of the Teen Summit and will talk to parents about raising inspired children. Also joining in the dialogue about the plight of our youth will be Chicago's Father Michael Pfleger and psychiatrist Dr. Carl Bell. Motivational speaker Les Brown will uplift attendees with his special brand of enthusiasm while entrepreneur George Fraser will discuss the art of networking.

Many local non-profit organizations as well as city, county, and state agencies will also participate in the Expo and present their services and products to consumers. Information will be available on a wide range of subjects to assist consumers in their daily lives.

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Live entertainment will be presented on several stages throughout the Expo. R&B sensations Dru Hill and hip hop artist Heavy D will perform on Saturday evening. Local artists include Slique and Phoenix Phenom. Daily fashion shows, poetry readings, a comedy showcase featuring Damon Williams, and the Best Unsigned Talent Show round out the entertainment

Ten Chicago area women will be honored for contributions in their specific fields of endeavor and for their community involvement during the Phenomenal Woman Awards at the 2009 Gala on Friday, July 31 at the Chicago Hilton beginning at 6:30 p.m. Popular motivational speaker Susan L. Taylor, former editorial director of *Essence* magazine and founder of National CARES Mentoring Movement, will deliver the keynote address.

The following women will receive Phenomenal Woman Awards: Brenda Palms Barber, community service; Dr. Javette C. Orgain, health; Robin E. Beaman, communications; Debra Sawyer, business; Pamela McElvane, entrepreneurship; Dr. Blondean Davis, education; Bishop Connie Crawford, faith; Eratharin Cousin, politics; Elizabeth Thompson, philanthropy; and Tania Sanford, youth organization. These outstanding women were nominated by members of the community and selected by an advisory panel of The Black Women's Expo based on their qualifications and service.

The National Urban League will hold its 99th annual convention in Chicago after a 30-year hiatus here. Held at McCormick Place concurrently with The Black Women's Expo, many of the 10,000 registered convention attendees will also spend time at the Expo, making it the ultimate destination event.

For additional information on The Black women's Expo, call 312-243-3554 or visit www.theblackwomensexpo.com.

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