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For Immediate Release

MK Asante Speaks Oct. 25 As Part of Hip Hop Nation at Hartford Public Library

Oct. 12, 2016 — MK Asante, author of *Buck: A Memoir* speaks about his early years on Tuesday, Oct. 25, 5:30 to 7:30 pm, in the Center for Contemporary Culture at Hartford Public Library, 500 Main St. The event is part of the Hip Hop



Nation programming.

The bestseller recalls Asante's youth in Philadelphia, which he refers to as Killadelphia, Pistolvania. His older brother is arrested, Asante hates school, and his father is absent. But he learns to write, inspired by hip hop artists Tupac Shakur and Public Enemy.

Asante studied at the University of London, earned a B.A. from Lafayette College, and an M.F.A. from the UCLA School of Theater, Film, and Television.

Asante is a Distinguished Professor-in-Residence at the MICA School of Ideas in India, and a tenured professor of

creative writing and film at Morgan State University.

He also wrote *It's Bigger Than Hip Hop*, and two volumes of poetry, *Like Water Running Off My Back*, and *Beautiful. And Ugly Too*.

Books will be for sale and light refreshments will be served.

Other Hip Hop Events

Hip Hop Nation kicked off Sept. 17 as part of the city-wide Envisionfest, with a third stage featuring local musicians Kyle Young, Tang Sauce, Self Suffice, Orice Jenkins, Brittney Crush, performers from HPL's YOUMedia, and dancers from Studio 860.

Spoken Word Workshops with the Iron Poets are being held in the Barbour, Park, Blue Hills and Ropkins branches.

Hip Hop dance classes with Studio 860 performers are being held at Ropkins, Goodwin, Dwight, Camp Field, and Albany branches.

Kyle Young is running music production workshops , with teens in the YOUmedia center.

A graffiti mural project, run by Hartford artists Lindaluz Carrillo and John Massey, is being created in YOUmedia and the painted panels will displayed in Hartford History Center Nov. 1 through Dec. 2. The new work will be shown with archival images from the 1981 and 1991 Hip Hop Nation exhibitions at Real Art Ways.

On Nov. 3 , 6 to 7:30 pm, in the Hartford History Center, a conversation about Hartford Hip Hop history features Empress Nijuabi , a Hartford-based rapper who was part of the Real Art Ways 1991 Hip Hop Nation exhibition, and Seth Markle, associate professor of history and international studies at Trinity College, who is faculty advisor to the annual Trinity International Hip Hop Festival.

A Downtown Dance Battle, hosted by Zulu Nation 860, will feature a Bboy/girl breakdancing dance off and all styles battle in the Atrium of the Downtown Library on Saturday, Nov. 5, 11 am to 4 pm.

The closing event on Nov. 10, 5:30 to 7:30 pm in the Center for Contemporary Culture, is a performance with Empress Nijuabi and participants from the spoken word, dance, music production and graffiti/mural workshops.

Funders for Hip Hop Nation: iQuilt Partners, the Fund for Greater Hartford, and the Edward C. and Ann T Roberts Foundation.

For more information see: <http://bit.ly/2dJRqnE>

