

Online talk to tackle violence against black women, girls

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Winston-Salem native Candice Benbow is hosting "Virtual Vigil for Black Girls and Women" on Monday, Oct. 20 at 6:30 p.m.

Log on to her web site, candicebenbow.com/live to take part.

The online event was sparked by the recent murders of Hiawayi Robinson, an Alabama eight-year-old found dead on Sept. 19; and Mary Spears, a 27-year-old Detroit woman allegedly killed by a man whose advances she rejected.

Benbow, a Duke Divinity School graduate student, says their deaths are emblematic of the victimization experienced daily by black girls and women.

The following panelists will take part:

- Rev. Dr. Valerie Hugsy Bridgeman, founder and president of WomanPreach!, Inc.;
- Dr. Keri Day, assistant profes-



Hiawayi Robinson



Mary Spears

sor of Theological and Social Ethics and director of Black Church Studies at Brite Divinity School;

- Kimberly Foster, publisher and Editor-In-Chief of For Harriet;
- Courtney Omega Taylor Porter, owner and artistic director of Winston-Salem-based Positive Image Performing Arts, Inc.; and

• Linda Thomas Poindexter, Ed.S., a school counselor and author.

"With an esteemed panel of guests, this virtual vigil aims to provide sacred space to remember those whose lives have been taken due to violence and offer strategies of resistance and support," Benbow said in a statement.



Photo courtesy of C. Benbow

Candice Benbow is hosting Monday's talk.

City will explain new grants process at meeting

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The mayor and City Council have adopted a new process by which grant requests from community agencies will be reviewed and approved. The city will hold a workshop to explain the new procedures Tuesday, Oct. 21, from 2 to 4 p.m., at the Mazie S. Woodruff Center, 4905 Lansing Drive.

Non-profits and other organizations seeking financial support from the city should attend this workshop.

The mayor and City Council approved the change Sept. 15 in order to standardize the process by which the city makes grants to outside agencies. Under the new process, every agency requesting city funds must submit an application with an audited financial statement and its most recent IRS Form 990.

Applications will be evaluated by one of seven review panels, based on the nature of the grant. The panels' recommendations will then be reviewed by an allocation committee drawn from citizens who served on the review panels.

The allocation committee will make final recommendations to the city manager

and the City Council's Finance Committee. Final recommendations for Successful Outcomes After Release (SOAR) grants (for recently released inmates) also will be sent to the City Council's Public Safety Committee.

Panels comprising citizens and members of the city staff will review applications in five grant categories: Arts, Culture and Education; Human Services; Community and Business Development (operating assistance); Community and Business Development (redevelopment & projects); and SOAR.

The existing review process for federally funded Continuum of Care grants will stay in place because of their specific nature and federally mandated timeline. Grants for transportation funds under the Job Access/Reverse Commute program and Section 5310 (mobility for seniors and the disabled) will also follow the existing process.

More information about the grant application process, including a timeline for submitting grant requests for the 2015-16 fiscal year, can be found on the Budget page at CityofWS.org.

Latest Neighborhood Network gathering will be Oct. 23

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Neighbors for Better Neighborhoods (NBN) is inviting leaders of resident-led community groups, local businesses and organizations to its Neighborhood Network gathering on Thursday, Oct. 23 from 6 - 8 p.m.

Neighborhood Network meetings convenes a diverse group of community leaders working together to connect, strengthen and leverage resources to promote safe, just and more self-determined neighborhoods where residents can better achieve desired outcomes.

The meetings provide monthly opportunities to meet, share and connect on important community issues.

Neighborhood Network meetings are held the fourth Thursdays of each month in the Hickory Room at Bib's Downtown, 675 West Fifth St. Food and refreshments are provided by NBN.

RSVP by 5 p.m. on Oct. 20 by calling 336-602-2519 or aruc@nbncommunity.org.

Neighbors for Better Neighborhoods, founded in 1991, is a neighborhood support organization whose mission is, "to connect people, strengthen voices and leverage resources with community to create safe, just and self-determined neighborhoods." Paula McCoy is the executive director, and Cornelius Graves is chair of the board. NBN's office is located at 502 N. Broad St. in the Augsburg Community Center.



Neighbors for Better Neighborhoods



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