## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## REIMAGINED JOY: A Festival of Creativity & Learning May 6 | 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. More Info & Free Tickets



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'Reimagined Joy' aims to recharge youth, families after pandemic slump Free festival to fuse arts, health and wellness at ArtsXchange

**East Point** — After the past few years, many communities need resources to counter the mental and physical toll of adjusting to a world changed by the pandemic.

The ArtsXchange's *REIMAGINED JOY: A Festival of Creativity & Learning* aims to help youth, families and seniors find relief and reinvigoration by exploring the arts, physical health and mental wellness all at once.

The festival will be from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. May 6 at the ArtsXchange, 2148 Newnan St. in East Point. It is free and open to all ages.

"We believe that a strong extended family unit is key to increasing the wellbeing of children," said Executive Director Alice Lovelace. "This program allows us to focus on each participant's ability to improve their physical health, reduce stress and anxiety, and explore their creativity."

Reimagined Joy's various offerings include Sanskrit Moon Yoga, West African dance and drumming class and performances by I Am Arts, a Blues Legacy presentation by legendary photographer Jim Alexander, art by 7 Stages, beading with Sista Shaman, Tai chi, martial arts and Capoeira with Tabala Research Institute, trapeze and circus arts with Steve Seaberg and Earth to Sky Youth Aerialists, artmaking with Lisa Tuttle, seed planting with the Champion Gardeners Youth Entrepreneurs, an East Point Grown gardening class "Food as Medicine," a sculpture installation, music, food, door prizes and more.

"Art making and creative pursuits focus your attention while engaging multiple parts of the brain. We know that this type of cognitive challenge increases the feelings of self-worth and wellbeing," Lovelace said. "This festival is a source of creative healing after being isolated by the pandemic. We want people to feel that sense of connection, to know they're not alone."

The festival will also be the backdrop for the opening of our next exhibition, *Now is the Day: A Life Well Lived*, which celebrates the poetry, photography and collections of the late civil rights activist, SNCC Free Southern Theater founder and Georgia State professor Dr. Doris Derby.

Reimagined Joy is funded by a grant from the Georgia Council for the Arts, which includes appropriations from the Georgia General Assembly and National Endowment for the Arts.

For more information or to get free tickets, see our event page.

## **ABOUT THE ARTSXCHANGE**

The ArtsXchange, d/b/a the Southeast Community Cultural Center, was incorporated in 1983 and opened The Arts Exchange In 1984 in Grant Park, reshaping the landscape of Metro Atlanta's arts scene. In East Point since 2017, the ArtsXchange is home to 14 multidisciplinary artist studios, ranging from photographers and muralists to djembe drummers and textile artists. We empower artists, social justice activists and creative entrepreneurs to engage communities with innovative artistic learning experiences and cultural exchange. Our programming is designed to be inclusive, diverse, and to encourage positive change as participants come to a better understanding of themselves and others. Our art is our activism.

Visit www.artsxchange.org for more information.

## **ABOUT GEORGIA COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS**

Georgia Council for the Arts (GCA) is a division of the Georgia Department of Economic Development whose mission is to cultivate the growth of vibrant, thriving Georgia communities through the arts. GCA provides grant funding, programs, and services statewide that support the vital arts industry, preserve the state's cultural heritage, increase tourism, and nurture strong communities. Funding for Georgia Council for the Arts is provided by appropriations from the Georgia General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Visit <u>www.gaarts.org</u> for more information.