

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Public Art Dedication: Ebon Heath's *Waverly Griots*
at Enoch Pratt Free Library, Waverly Branch**

The Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts (BOPA), in collaboration with the **Enoch Pratt Free Library** and the **Baltimore City Department of General Services** celebrate the dedication of ***Waverly Griots***, the latest artwork commissioned through Baltimore's Percent-for-Public Art program. *Waverly Griots* is a typographic sculpture created by **Ebon Heath**. A dedication for the artwork will be held on **Friday, December 9, 2016 from 6 to 8pm** at the Waverly Branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, 400 E. 33rd St., Baltimore, MD 21218.

The Department of General Services completed renovations on the Enoch Pratt Free Library, Waverly Branch in early 2016. In March 2016, the Baltimore Public Art Commission selected Ebon Heath to receive a \$30,000 budget to create a new artwork, permanently located within the renovated library. Ebon worked closely with historians and community residents to gather locally relevant text in the form of quotes, verse, and family names to use in his artwork. The collected text was then organized into compositions that were then laser cut out of stainless steel plates layered to form an intricate, undulating, glistening wall relief behind the main circulation desk. On December 9, the artwork will be celebrated with a special after-hours open house at library. Local residents, especially those who contributed text, are encouraged to attend this dedication along with members of the library staff, the public art commission, and the artist.

Through commissioning new artwork for public spaces, the city's Percent-for-Public Art program seeks to engage the individual and collective imaginations of the citizens experiencing the art, while enabling and inspiring people of all backgrounds to better understand their community and themselves. In *Waverly Griots*, Ebon Heath has surely fulfilled both of these goals.

Ebon Heath lives and works between Brooklyn and Berlin. He received his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Graphic Design from Rhode Island School of Design in 1994. He founded his first company ((stereotype)) the same year. He subsequently co-founded Cell Out in 2003. He has an Art Director for the Mindpirates collective in Berlin (2004-2010). He has exhibited internationally with his typographic mobiles, installations, jewelry, and performance art making type come alive since 2002. Ebon does not sleep often yet tries to remember his dreams every day.

For more information on Ebon Heath's *Waverly Griots* and other Public Art projects, call 410-752-8632 or visit <http://www.promotionandarts.org/arts-council/public-art>.

The Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization which serves as Baltimore City's arts council, events agency, and film office. By producing large-scale events such as Light City, Artscape and the Baltimore Book Festival, and providing funding and support to artists, arts programs and organizations across the city, BOPA's goal is to make Baltimore a more vibrant and creative city.



Detail of the typographic sculpture Waverly Griots by Ebon Heath

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