

THE CENTER FOR COLLABORATIVE CHANGE

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For Immediate Release

CENTER FOR COLLABORATIVE CHANGE TO HOST INAUGURAL EVENT

Newark Mayor Cory Booker and Guests to Celebrate Center's Official Launch

NEWARK, NEW JERSEY (September 28, 2009)—[The Center for Collaborative Change](#), a non-profit consulting firm serving the Newark community, is hosting its official launch event at [Calçada](#) in the New Jersey Performing Arts Center at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 30, 2009. The event will be attended by Mayor Cory A. Booker, and will feature performances by the Honorable Julien Neals (Newark's Corporation Counsel) & Nick Pablo Thang, the Integrity House Choir, and students of the American Dance Theater. A VIP reception with Mayor Booker will begin at 6:30 p.m.

"The power of collaborative change comes from bringing local intelligence and outside resources together for a common purpose, and placing civil servants and the people they serve on the same team," said Executive Director [Laurel Dumont](#), who founded The Center in February of 2009. With the help of a dedicated and growing staff, The Center has undertaken its inaugural project with funding from the [Living Cities Foundation](#)—to map and identify Newark's most pressing problems, research proven and promising practices, and implement policy and program solutions in Newark in collaboration with policymakers, local nonprofits, and community leaders.

[Newark Mayor Cory A. Booker](#) praised The Center and its Executive Director. "Laurel [Dumont] has succeeded at eliciting the often-neglected views of local residents beyond the typical community leader level—including voices of youth, elders; English, Spanish and Portuguese speakers; residents of each ward of the City and of public housing as well as university campuses," Booker said. "By connecting people and ideas from within and outside of our City, The Center for Collaborative Change will create strength, unity, and partnership, energizing all of Newark."

By working closely with municipal government but free of the strictures of day-to-day governance, The Center is uniquely situated to identify efforts within the government that can be coordinated with one another and/or with outside efforts and ideas for greater impact.

The event has received strong support from individuals and organizations in Newark and beyond. Committed sponsors at the "Amethyst" level include [McCarter & English](#) (which has also contributed The Center's office facilities and equipment), [Gilbane Inc.](#), [Nowell Klein Amoroso & Bierman](#), and [Newark Now](#). Sponsors at the

“Purple Topaz” level include [Genova Burns & Vernoia](#), [Gibbons P.C.](#), [Gluck Walrath LLP](#), [Greenberg Healthcare](#), [Northwestern Mutual](#), [PNC Bank](#), [Sax Macy Fromm & Co.](#), [Scarinci Hollenbeck](#), [Tritonic](#), and [Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer](#).

The event will feature a silent auction with bid items including tickets to the NY Jets, the NJ Nets, and Rutgers Football; tickets to the [Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater](#) in New Jersey and New York; tickets to the [New Jersey Symphony Orchestra](#); a dinner with Newark Police Director Garry McCarthy; dinner for two at chic new Newark restaurant, [MiSaVi](#); a painting of Michael Jackson by local artist [Bernard](#), the Sundance Channel’s new documentary series, [Brick City](#), on DVD; a party for 30 at [The Spot](#); and homemade bottles of wine featuring The Center’s “Purple C” logo (“Vino de Cambia”).

About The Center for Collaborative Change

The Center for Collaborative Change is a nonprofit community-based consultant that will identify Newark’s most pressing problems and forcefully take on those challenges. Consulting the City’s residents, civil servants, and other community members about the issues they find most critical to their quality of life and the City’s well-being, The Center will find, import, tailor, and support effective practices to achieve measurable results in addressing those challenges. www.newarkchange.org

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