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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Broadway Star Kissy Simmons Headlines Annual Youth Bureau Performing Arts Benefit *This Year's Benefit to Focus on the Theme of Social Justice*

White Plains, NY – February 26, 2019. The title of the 1973 Marvin Gaye classic, *What's Going On?* remains a relevant social justice question today. The performers of the White Plains Youth Bureau's 14th Annual Performing Arts Benefit will give us their answers by *Sharing their Light* in a high energy show on Saturday, March 2nd at 7:00 p.m. at the White Plains Performing Arts Center.

Broadway star Kissy Simmons will share her singing and acting talents onstage as the Artistic Honoree of this year's program. Ms. Simmons' credits include Nala in Disney's 1997 Broadway production of *The Lion King* and in its 2002 National tour. In addition to her work on *The Lion King*, Simmons' other performing credits include television appearances on shows such as *Smash* and *30 Rock*, performances at Wolf Trap and the Atlanta Symphony and print ads for Revlon and Nars Cosmetics. Simmons says performing is her passion and that she feels most happy when she is on stage.

Ms. Simmons graduated from the University of South Florida with a B.A. in Speech Communications. She was also a NCAA division 1 Track and Field athlete. After graduating from the University Of South Florida, she made her professional theatre debut at the David A. Straz, Jr. Center for the Performing Arts.

Other performers in *What's Going On – Sharing Our LIGHT* include the O'Rourke Irish Dancers, youth from Play Group Theatre, a Youth Bureau community partner, and youth from the Harlem School of the Arts, led by Aubrey Lynch II, a former Benefit Artistic Honoree.

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The City of White Plains also will recognize community leaders Nick Wolff and Harry Bright at the event. Nick Wolff is well known about town. He is currently a Broker Associate with Better Homes and Gardens Rand in White Plains and prior to that was President of Century 21 Wolff for 40 years. But there is much more to Nick Wolff than just his profession. This White Plains High School Hall of Famer has established deep roots in our community with his service to a variety of organizations such as the White Plains and Westchester Chapters of the United Way, The Thomas Slater Center, the Rotary Club of White Plains and the White Plains Housing Authority. Mr. Wolff is also a friend of the arts. He is a board sponsor of Downtown Music at Grace Church and of the White Plains Beautification Foundation.

Harry Bright has three dominant strains that run through his life: Athletics, music and human/civic rights. Mr. Bright was an athlete-scholar at Seton Hall University and continued running track or working in the athletic field while in the military and later, during teaching/consultancy assignments in Cambodia and West Africa. He rounded out his athletic career with gymnastics instruction at a variety of institutions in Westchester. His musical interests began early in life. He was the concertmaster of his high school orchestra, a member of his college choir and orchestra and as a retiree, he plays the violin as a member of two orchestras. Mr. Bright's many civic accomplishments include serving as White Plains' first African American elected to the Common Council (1975-1979) and serving as the Commissioner of Human Rights. Also a White Plains High School Hall of Famer, Mr. Bright is a life time member of Omega Psi Phi, Inc., Beta Alpha Alpha chapter.

Tickets for *What's Going On? Sharing Our Light*, are available at the White Plains Performing Arts Center, wppac.com. For more information about the program contact Adrienne Rivers, arivers@whiteplainsny.gov, 914-422-1378.

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