

**Philly Beat**

# Promise Neighborhoods Initiative

**Yanina Carter**



Mayor Michael A. Nutter; Philadelphia School Superintendent and Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Arlene C. Ackerman and Music Mogul and Founder of Universal Companies, Kenny Gamble held a

press conference to announce the newly created partnership to aid in the transformation of the Point Breeze and Grays Ferry sections of South Philadelphia.

The effort is sponsored in part by a \$10 million Promise Neighborhood Planning Grant from the United States Department of Education with Universal Companies being one of 21 organizations throughout the nation receiving \$500,000. Universal also raised additional matching funds for a total of \$1,000,000 to spearhead the planning process. The new initiative will bolster educational needs, assist in blight removal and offer new economic opportunities in two of the city's most distressed neighborhoods.

Those in attendance included: The Honorable Mayor Michael Nutter, Mayor of Philadelphia; The School District of Philadelphia Superintendent and CEO Dr. Arlene C. Ackerman; Universal Companies Founder & Chairman Kenny Gamble; the Honorable United States Senator Bob Casey (D-Pennsylvania); Honorable United States House of Representative Chaka Fattah (D-Pennsylvania); Honorable State Senators Anthony Williams (D-Philadelphia) and Larry Farnese (D-Philadelphia); Philadelphia City Council President Anna C. Verna; along with other elected officials and key stakeholders.

Mayor Michael A. Nutter received the "2011 Public Leadership in the Arts" Award at an awards ceremony

hosted by the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) and Americans for the Arts, a national nonprofit organization.

Mayor James Brainard of Carmel, Indiana and New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson were also presented with this award, which is given to public sector leaders who have demonstrated outstanding leadership in the advancement of the arts. Since 1997, USCM and Americans for the Arts have partnered to present the "Public Leadership in Support of the Arts" award to governors and mayors during the annual USCM Annual Winter Meeting in Washington, D.C. Other awardees at this morning's ceremony included 12-time Grammy award winner Herbie Hancock, who received the "2011 Legendary Artist Award" and actress, playwright and author Anna Deavere Smith, recipient of the "2011 National Artist Advocate Award". From March 18 to April 10, 2011, Ms. Smith will perform in "Let Me Down Easy" at the Philadelphia Theatre Company.

As the first ever female rap crew, Salt-N-Pepa, broke barriers and opened doors wide open that were once closed to women in hip-hop. They gave women a voice in a male dominated industry and transformed the way the music world saw women forever. With the hit songs "Push It," "Tramp," "Shake Your Thang," "Shoop" and "Whatta Man," Salt-N-Pepa would defy everyone's

expectations and catapult hip-hop to new levels. Just recently, Salt-N-Pepa have commissioned some of their closest friends and some of hip-hop's greatest artists to join forces with them for the 2011 installment of Salt-N-Pepa's "Legends of Hip-Hop Tour." The VH1 reality show, "The Salt-N-Pepa Show," officially reunited the ladies and made them realize that people really wanted to see them together again. After that, they decided to settle their differences and make this tour and several new ventures happen. Salt-N-Pepa's "Legends of Hip-Hop Tour" is the first of many for them.

Artists who will be coming together with Salt-N-Pepa on stages across the country include Kurtis Blow, Doug E. Fresh, Whodini, Kool Moe Dee, Slick Rick, MC Lyte, Rob Base, Naughty By Nature and Biz Markie. The tour will be in Philadelphia on February 18th, at the Liacouras Center. Each city on the tour will have different artist line-ups.

**IN THE MOVIES:** The wait is over, Twentieth Century Fox brings "BIG MOMMAS: LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON" that's right Big Momma is back – and this time he has big backup: his teenage stepson Trent (Brendan T. Jackson). Martin Lawrence returns as FBI agent Malcolm Turner and as Turner's deep-cover alter-ego Big Momma. Turner is joined by Trent, as they go undercover at an all-girls performing arts school after Trent witnesses a murder. Posing as Big Momma and as hefty coed Charmaine, they must find the murderer before he finds them.

I can't wait for this one, Well That's The Philly Beat!!!

## Attorney Michael Coard to speak at Lincoln University



**Michael Coard**

Lincoln University's Thurgood Marshall Law Society will host a special black history forum on Tuesday, February 1 entitled "Do You Know Your Rights?"

Held in the Student Union Building Theater, the program will feature

guest speaker Michael Coard, a Philadelphia defense attorney. Coard will examine the presence of racism and classicism in the criminal justice system.

Coard received his undergraduate degree in English Education and Political Science from Cheyney University and pursued his law degree from Ohio State University.

He took on the role as activist, serving as president of the Black Law Students Association while in law school. He led a group who influenced Ohio State University to

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**In the Photograph Standing: Rahim Islam, President/CEO of Universal Companies, Jim Helman, Representative of Grays Ferry Partnership & Mayor Nutter, Seated: Mr. Kenny Gamble, Founder of Universal Companies, Dr. Arlene Ackerman, Superintendent School District of Philadelphia, Dr. Walter Lomax; owner of WURD Radio Station and Claudia Sherrod, Point Breeze Community Development Corporation.**

Martin Regusters photo

Mayor Michael A. Nutter, Philadelphia School Superintendent and Chief Executive Officer Dr. Arlene C. Ackerman and Music Mogul and Founder of Universal Companies, Kenny Gamble announced the Promise Neighborhoods Initiative, a partnership designed to bolster educational needs, assist in blight removal and offer

new economic opportunities in the Point Breeze and Grays Ferry sections of South Philadelphia. The effort is sponsored by a \$10 million Promise Neighborhood Planning Grant from the United States Department of Education. Universal Companies is one of 21 organizations throughout the nation receiving \$500,000. Universal also raised matching funds for a total of \$1,000,000 to spearhead the planning process.

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