FY IMEDIATE RELEASE

A Tribute to Aretha Franklin

(SYRACUSE, NY)—In honor of the Queen of Soul, Syracuse University will recognize the singer’s presence and contribution to the world with a Tribute to Aretha Franklin! The tribute is Friday, November 30, held at Community Folk Art Center (805 East Genesee Street, Syracuse, NY 13210) at 6:30 pm.

Aretha Franklin was a musical genius that transcended multiple musical genres. Her voice was a treasure, and her music was empowering and resonated with people of all ages and cultural backgrounds.

To cover a portion of Franklin’s life, there will be a moderated panel discussion on Franklin’s community involvement, activism, spirituality, and career in the music business. Afterwards, audience members will have an opportunity to ask questions to the panelist and/or comment on the Queen of Souls impact on their life.

The tribute will close out with an hour-long concert featuring local R&B/Soul band Brownskin to highlight songs that have touched five generations. The doors will open at 6 pm. It is free and opened to the campus and general public.

Panelists includes:

• Dr. Roosevelt “Rick” Wright, Syracuse University Professor Emeritus in Television, Radio & Film.
• Dr. Joan Hillsman, Director of the Syracuse Chapter of Gospel Music Workshop of America (GMWA).
• Jackie Grace, author, storyteller, educational consultant and motivational speaker.
• Dr. James Williams, assistant professor/ musicologist in the department of African American Studies at Syracuse University.
• Dr. Juhanna Rogers, motivational speaker, commentator, artist, and education activist.
• Rev. Phil M. Turner, Pastor of Bethany Baptist Church, Syracuse, NY.
• Dr. Janis Mayes, Associate Professor in the Department of African American Studies at Syracuse University as a respondent.

This event is sponsored by the Department of African American Studies, Office of Multicultural Affairs, Community Folk Art Center, Department of Women’s and Gender Studies, and Student African American Society.

For more information visit CommunityFolkArtCenter.org, multicultural.syr.edu, or contact Tamar Smithers, CFAC Education Coordinator at (315) 442-2230.