

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MAYOR DELLUMS & FIRST LADY TO HOST OAKLAND'S FIRST MODEL CITY SUMMIT ON WOMEN

Community Kick-Off Reception Tomorrow

OAKLAND - Mayor Ron Dellums and First Lady Cynthia Dellums today hosted a reception to kick-off upcoming events culminating in a one-day Model City Summit on Women early next year. The theme for these events, focused on Bay Area women and families, is “*Enlighten. Engage. Empower.*”

This historic Oakland experience, which celebrates the many contributions of women in the Oakland Bay Area and our universal community, will provide participants with a one-of-a-kind forum to share knowledge, resources and an array of tools to empower their communities and their individual lives. The Summit commences with a series of “Wisdom Circle Symposiums” held throughout the city beginning on October 29th to promote intergenerational dialogue on current events around the issues of Youth, Safety, Health, and Families within the community.

“The brilliance of Oakland lies in the diversity of its people,” said Mayor Dellums. “Historically, the women of Oakland and the greater Bay Area have been great contributors to our society and it gives us great pleasure to host such an event that not only celebrates the power of women who have transformed our world, it provides them with the resources needed to improve our local communities.”

The inaugural Summit features unique workshops, a corporate luncheon, a Women’s Village Marketplace, and special guest speakers to enlighten, empower and engage women and families of Oakland and the greater Bay Area. The Summit will also present the highly anticipated 2009 Women of Greatness Awards ceremony, to recognize individual women for their exceptional contributions, especially within the counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Solano and San Francisco. Nominations are currently being accepted for women who have made a significant impact at the community, district, municipal, state and/or national levels.

For more than a century Oakland has been the birthplace, home and creative ground of many notable, outstanding women who have blazed trails in art, politics, music and architecture, including: internationally recognized architect **Julia Morgan**; U.S. Congresswoman **Barbara Lee**; author **Gertrude Stein**; District Attorney **Kamala Harris**, San Francisco’s first female District Attorney, the first African American district attorney elected in CA and the first Indian American district attorney in the United States; dancer/dance instructor/actress **Ruth Beckford**; Academy Award-winning actress **Rita Moreno**; best-selling author **Amy Tan**; nationally recognized advertising executive **Carol H. Williams**; author **Maxine Hong Kingston**; and countless others who have influenced the national conversation about women in politics and society.

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During the Kick-Off event, First Lady Cynthia Dellums and the Summit Committee discussed this endeavor and how the community can participate in Oakland's inaugural Model City Summit on Women. This regional effort to attract women from throughout Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco and Solano counties, promises to promote a diverse and multi-dimensional conversation on issues that are relevant and important to women, families and the entire community. Women (and men) of all ages and backgrounds will gain tremendous value from this event and are encouraged to attend. For more information and to RSVP contact the Summit Hotline at 510/238-7906 or email LaNiece Jones at ljones@oaklandnet.com.

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