

Harris County Cultural Arts Council
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Harris County Cultural Arts Council Presents Artistically Speaking with Victoria Christopher Murray

(Houston, Texas) The Harris County Cultural Arts Center (HCCAC) is proud to present the next edition of their **Artistically Speaking conversational program** that addresses various issues impacting the community from the eyes and perspectives of creative artists. Tickets range from \$125.00 to \$200.00 and can be purchased on [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com). HCCAC is located at 1334 Wallisville Road in Houston, Texas.

Victoria Christopher Murray, is the co-Author of ***The Personal Librarian***, the book which “tells the story of J. P. Morgan’s personal librarian, Belle da Costa Greene, an African American woman who hid her true identity and passed as white.”

[Belle] was hired by J. P. Morgan in the early 1900’s while in her 20’s to curate a collection of rare manuscripts, books, and artwork for his newly built Pierpont Morgan Library, currently the Morgan Museum in New York.

Belle da Costa Greene was actually born Belle Marion Greener, the daughter of Richard Greener, the first Black graduate of Harvard University, civil rights activist, contemporary of Frederick Douglas, and advocate for equality.

The Personal Librarian has received critical acclaim, including being listed on the New York Times Best Selling List, Good Morning America’s Books to Read, NPR’s Best Books of 2021 and the Washington Post’s 50 Best Books of the Year. Murray herself is a 7 time NAACP Image Award Nominee. **Roker Entertainment recently picked up the option for a mini-series based on the book.**

An invitation-only VIP reception will precede the event and will also serve as the opening of an art exhibit by **Romeo Robinson** highlighting empowered women. Guests will also enjoy a vendor market with women’s apparel and accessories from local artisans.

(more)

HCCAC believes that the arts are essential to the healthy development of the mind, the body, and the soul, and are a means of understanding ourselves and others. We believe that one cannot fully benefit from the human experience apart from the arts and that the arts help break through cultural barriers and create a stronger, more connected, more just society. We further believe that the earlier and more frequently people are exposed to the arts, the more they will benefit. Therefore, we exist to ensure that residents in Unincorporated East Harris County are represented by and can experience the arts within their home community. Learn more at harriscountycac.org.

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