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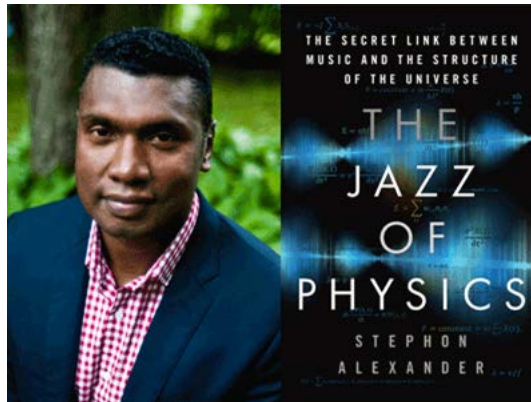
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**CCNY PREZ PRAISES HIRING OF PHYSICIST, COSMOLOGIST, EDUCATOR, MUSICIAN & AUTHOR
STEPHON ALEXANDER AS SCIENCE AND ARTS ENGAGEMENT NEW YORK'S EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR**



New York, New York – City College of New York President Vincent Boudreau praised the hiring of Stephon Alexander, Physicist, cosmologist, educator, musician, author and President of the National Society of Black Physicists, in his new role as Executive Director of the Harlem Gallery of Science.

“Dr Alexander is the perfect role model for the youth we are trying to reach through the college’s partnership with SAENY to create the Harlem Gallery of Science,” said Dr. Boudreau. “A theoretical physicist of great accomplishment, he is a major voice for diversifying talent working in and conducting research in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields. His own career path connects science and the arts and fuels his passion for *radical creativity* – a new way to see the world at a time when we are in the midst of major social change. We are thrilled to have him on board, and lucky for his willingness to turn his talents and attention to help us create new opportunities for our youth through the Harlem Gallery of Science.”

SAENY was created to support The City College of New York's (CCNY) efforts to address the impact of the digital divide and develop multiple approaches to engage black and brown youth, especially those between the ages of 13 and 24, to explore educational and career pathways the STEM fields. One vehicle for this exploration is the Harlem Gallery of Science being developed as an interactive free venue offering experiences that inform and inspire underrepresented youth to seek further education in one of the many programs at CCNY and throughout CUNY that prepare students for careers in the STEM fields.

Dr. Alexander is the author of the book, *The Jazz of Physics: The Secret Link Between Music and the Structure of the Universe*. He believes institutions like the Harlem Gallery of Science are a critical way of dealing with social and racial injustices.

"I am proud to join the SAENY team as the Executive Director of the Harlem Gallery of Science and, by extension the CUNY and City College family," said Alexander. "I look forward to bringing my experience and expertise to help move the needle in the fields of science, arts and technology for African Americans and Latinx students and the public."

Clayton Banks, co-founder of Silicon Harlem hailed the hiring of Alexander as both welcome and valuable to the Harlem community.

"Stephon's unique background that bridge the arts and sciences will be critical in helping to shape the future of these brilliant minds and steer them along intriguing paths in STEM," said Banks.

Alexander's journey from the Bronx public schools, including DeWitt Clinton High School will serve as a role model for Black and Latinx youth. His position as the Gallery's Executive Director makes a strong statement to young people in low-income communities that they too have what it takes to pursue educational and career opportunities in the STEM fields. He will also urge individuals, corporations and foundations to make targeted investments in Harlem and similar low-income communities throughout the city, helping programs like the Harlem Gallery of Science to become a reality.

A tenured full professor at Brown University, Alexander has straddled the worlds of theoretical physics and jazz music for the past two decades, working on the connection between the smallest and largest entities of the universe pushing Albert Einstein's theory of general relativity to include curved space time to beyond the Big Bang at the largest extreme to string theory at the smallest extreme.

SAENY President Stan Altman said Alexander's unique background makes him the ideal candidate to introduce students to the wonders of education in the fields of science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics. The story of his journey from the streets of the Bronx to the halls of academia and scientific communities is an inspiration and has led to his "improvisational innovation" approach to problem solving and entrepreneurial activities.

"We are delighted to have someone with Stephon's caliber and expertise onboard," said Altman. "We are excited to experience the creative ways he plans to engage the students, the Harlem community and the corporate world at large."

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The City College of New York has provided a high-quality and affordable education to generations of New Yorkers in a wide variety of disciplines since 1847. CCNY embraces its position at the forefront of social change. It is ranked #1 by the Harvard-based Opportunity Insights out of 369 selective public colleges in the United States on the overall mobility index.

The Harlem Gallery of Science conceived by Science and Arts Engagement New York, Inc , a not for profit organization, working in partnership with The City College of New York to serve as a vehicle to engage underrepresented youth in pursuing higher education and career pathways in the arts, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields.