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Dayton Metro Library

**Dayton Metro Library Celebrates  
The Local Roots of a National Phenomenon**

(February 11, 2014) -- Dayton, Ohio, was in many ways the epicenter of funk music in the 1970s and 80s. Local funk bands achieving national success include the Ohio Players, Slave, Lakeside, Heatwave, Sun, Zapp, and Faze-O. The Dayton Metro Library celebrates the local roots of funk music with local musicians, teachers and others who will share their experiences and reflect on the era. The free program takes place on Saturday, February 15, 1:00-3:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium, 215 E. Third Street, downtown Dayton. The short film *Dayton, Ohio: The Land of Funk* by Adam Greaser will also be shown.

Featured guests at the program will be:

**Dr. John "Turk" Logan** was a disc jockey and program director at WDAO Radio who promoted funk music, gave air time to local bands and helped propel them to national success.

**Marshall "Rock" Jones** was a founding and long-time member of the Dayton's first nationally renowned funk band, the Ohio Players. Although they toured the world and gained 14 gold and platinum awards for their music, the Players kept Dayton as their home base and mentored many of the future funk musicians from Dayton.

**Larry Lee** was a former student mentored in music at Roosevelt and Roth High Schools. He played with members of several local funk bands before becoming an NFL player with the Detroit Lions, Miami Dolphins and Denver Broncos. After retiring from football, he returned to music and created the band Back in the Day.

**Kweku Ayangade** (formerly Donald Sutton), a former music teacher at Roosevelt and Roth High Schools, mentored many of Dayton's outstanding funk musicians, including Larry Lee who said he was "instrumental in my life"

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**Basim Blunt** is host of the funk music radio show *Behind the Groove* on WYSO. He helped train students from Dayton Public School's Ponitz Career Technology Center to interview artists and musicians in connection with the exhibit *Visual Voices: Visions of the Funk* at the Schuster Center. "I hope Dayton will realize that fans from all over the world revere the music that came from this city," he says.

The library event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the library's External Relations Department at 937-496-8901.

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### **ABOUT DAYTON METRO LIBRARY**

*The Dayton Metro Library is one of the oldest and largest public library systems in Ohio, consistently ranking among the best in the nation. The DML consists of 20 branch locations in Montgomery County, Outreach Services and the Main Library in downtown Dayton. In order to fulfill its mission to inform, inspire and enrich the community, the DML offers programs, materials and services for all ages and stages of life. It is funded in part by a portion of the state income tax and local levy support.*

*Specialized services and resources are available for schools, small businesses, nonprofit organizations, literacy providers and job seekers. The library houses a unique collection of local history materials. Computers are available free of charge for public use and computer instruction is available at many library locations.*

*In November, 2012, Montgomery County voters passed a \$187 million bond issue to fund new construction and renovations for the DML. Highlights of the multi-phase, multi-year project include consolidating branches from 20 to 16, establishing an offsite operations center and completely renovating the Main Library. When the project is complete in 2017, library users will enjoy modern, efficient facilities providing superior services and technology for the 21st century. Progress on the project is posted regularly on the DML website at [DaytonMetroLibrary.org](http://DaytonMetroLibrary.org).*