



SMITH CENTER FOR HEALING AND THE ARTS

community. creativity. cancer support

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Smith Center For Healing and the Arts Unveils Beautified U Street Location, Introduces New Program Offerings

Increased demand for integrative health and wellness and cancer care programs lead to major renovation of Smith Center's facilities and expansion of program offerings

September 26, 2011 - Washington, D.C. – [Smith Center for Healing and the Arts](#) today announced the unveiling of its newly renovated and expanded U Street community center at 1632 U Street, NW in D.C. On Saturday, Smith Center reopened the doors to the U Street location to welcome the public into the transformed space, as well as to introduce new classes and program offerings that continue to center on empowering individuals to enhance their overall wellbeing.

“Smith Center is thrilled to welcome the community into our newly rejuvenated U Street location,” said Executive Director Shanti Norris at Saturday’s unveiling event. “This beautiful new space will now allow us to serve a greater number of individuals within the D.C. metro area who so need and desire the unique resources, support, tools and techniques that we offer. I look forward to welcoming many of you, your families, friends and colleagues into our upcoming programs, classes and workshops.”

Smith Center’s U Street community center now features more than 2000-square feet of additional program space, a tranquil rooftop terrace, a state-of-the-art teaching kitchen and much more. The newly renovated space also boasts a number of environmentally-friendly design aspects, including rescued & recycled wood floors, a plant wall and green roof, high-efficiency lighting and temperature control, low flush toilets, and BOC-free paints. The refurbished [Joan Hisaoka Healing Arts Gallery](#), a nonprofit space that showcases exhibits that support the mission of Smith Center, now serves as the entrance to the center’s program space.

Program offerings hosted at the community center now include therapeutic yoga and qigong classes, wellness and healthy living lectures, creativity workshops, and a *Living Well with Cancer* series. In addition, Smith Center is offering several healthy cooking and nutrition classes at the U Street center each week. Classes cover such topics as vegetarian cooking, eating for a lifetime, nourishing foods for people with cancer, and healthy takes on local favorites with celebrity chefs from the D.C. area. October will feature classes taught by celebrity chefs Matteo Vanini of Ristorante Posto and Elizabeth Petty, founder of Elizabeth’s Gone Raw.

Since 1996, [Smith Center has served the local cancer community](#) through a unique combination of educational and creative programs, retreats, classes and workshops that are designed to engage an individual’s innate physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual resources to achieve life-affirming change, hope and healing. With the expansion of its U Street space, Smith Center will now offer more programs to its core audience, as well as new health and wellness programs geared to the general community.

“Many of the techniques we utilize in our integrative cancer care programs are based on time-tested methods and traditions that empower the individual,” says Executive Director Shanti Norris. “Over the years, we have often been asked why we do not offer similar programs for every member of the community. Now that we have opened the doors to our expanded U Street space, we can offer both.”

All of the classes and programs at Smith Center are taught by a renowned collection of highly regarded facilitators, medical professionals and physicians, nutritionists, certified yoga and meditation instructors, artists and more. Smith Center is committed to making all of its programs affordable and accessible to anyone who could benefit from them. Many classes are free of charge or low cost. Scholarship and fellowship assistance is also available.

For a current schedule of Smith Center programs and classes, or to learn more about the organization, visit www.smithcenter.org or call 202-483-8600.

Editor's/Producer's Note: High-res photos and B-roll of Smith Center's newly renovated U Street space, as well as of the Saturday unveiling event, are available. Please contact Alaina Sadick at 202.483.8600 or alaina@smithcenter.org for a sample.

About Smith Center for Healing and the Arts

Founded in 1996, Smith Center for Healing and the Arts is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization located in the heart of Washington, D.C. Smith Center offers a variety of educational and creative resources and programs to enhance health and wholeness, with a special focus on serving those affected by cancer. Programs focus on cultivating each person's innate ability to heal, helping participants explore meaning and maintain hope—even in the face of life's greatest challenges. Now in its 15th year of service, Smith Center (formerly known as Smith Farm Center) has expanded its program offerings to serve more than 10,000 people each year in the D.C. community through weeklong Cancer Retreats, classes and workshops, community outreach events, Hospital-Based Artist-In-Residence programs, Integrative Patient Navigation Services. Smith Center also operates the Joan Hisaoka Healing Arts Gallery, a space dedicated to showcasing art that serves to educate, enlighten, empower, and cultivate healing.

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