



Josephine Herrick Project

Exploring Our World

Photographs by Members of the
Harlem Vet Center
Winter 2019-2020

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Presents

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The Harlem Vet Center
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Through its powerful photography programs, the Josephine Herrick Project (JHP) works to transform the lives of people facing social, physical, and economic barriers in life. We partner with schools, human service agencies, health care facilities, libraries, and community organizations to deliver customized and hands-on digital photography courses taught by professional photographers.

For JHP participants, the camera is a transformative tool, helping individuals build the skills to see and communicate creatively across cultures and neighborhoods, helping them to amplify their voices and advocate for their communities.

JHP was established in 1941 by pioneering photographer Josephine Herrick (bottom left) to teach photography to wounded service personnel returning from World War II. Since then, our programs have expanded to serve a variety of marginalized and underserved communities for whom photography provides a way to share their stories with a wider audience.



VA



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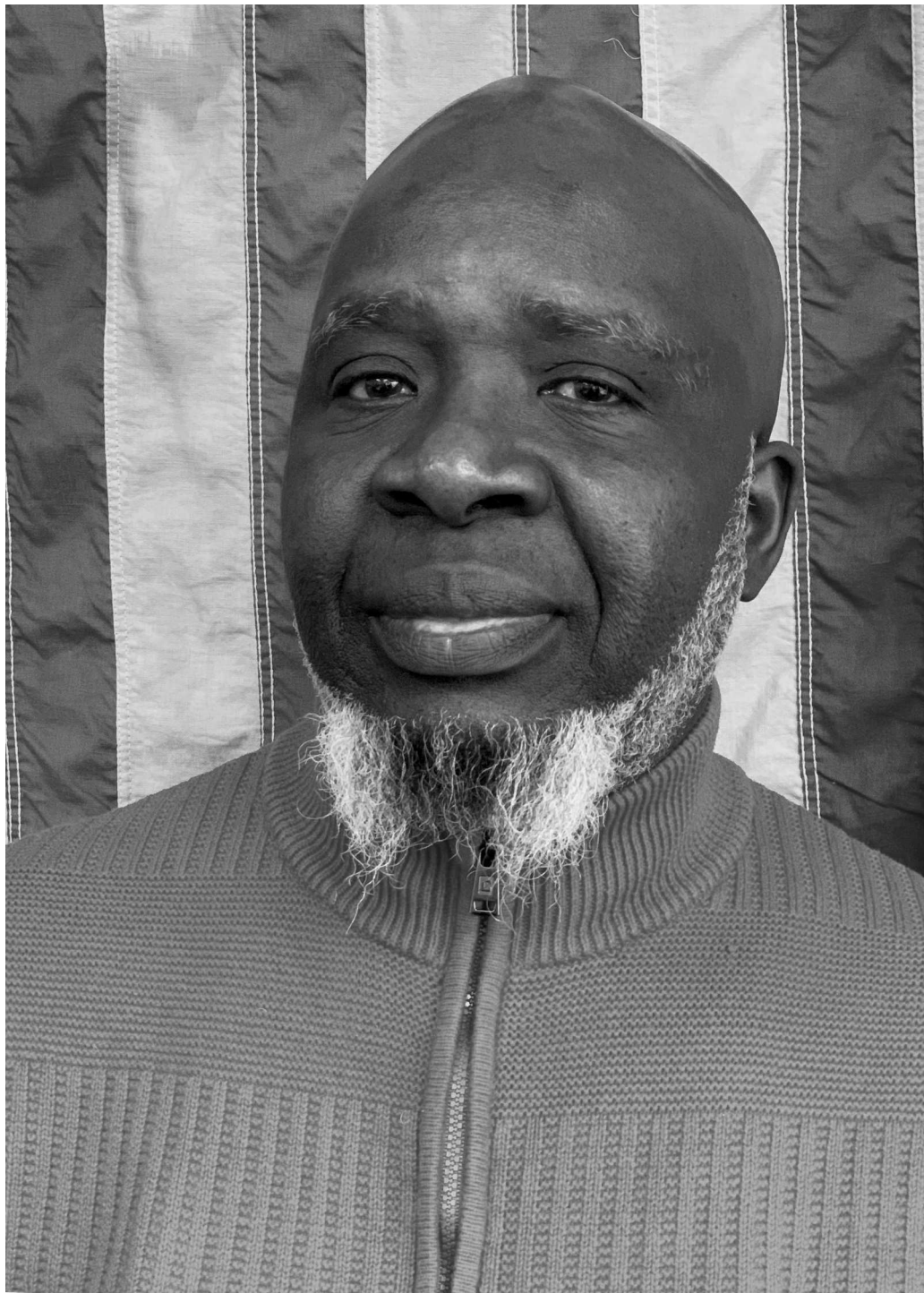
The Harlem Vet Center

Vet Centers are community-based counseling centers that provide a wide range of social and psychological services, including professional readjustment counseling to eligible Veterans, active duty service members, including National Guard and Reserve components, and their families. Readjustment counseling is offered to make a successful transition from military to civilian life or after a traumatic event experienced in the military. Individual, group, marriage and family counseling is offered in addition to referral and connection to other VA or community benefits and services. Vet Center counselors and outreach staff, many of whom are Veterans themselves, are experienced and prepared to discuss the tragedies of war, loss, grief and transition after trauma.

About the Program

In 2019, the Josephine Herrick Project partnered with the Harlem Vet Center to provide a three month course in photography. Throughout the course, veterans were able to form new relationships with one another, learn technical camera skills, and express themselves through new creative outlets. Over this period of time, the veterans have explored and learned how to use the camera as a storytelling device. The class included eight students with different military experiences and racial backgrounds. Each week, the students learned about the camera from teaching artists and fellow veterans Terry Karney and Yael ben-Zion.

The photographs in this book are a product of this program and give a voice to the veterans of the Harlem Vet Center. "Exploring Our World" refers to the ability of the camera to act as a tool for communication. By learning photography, each veteran gains the opportunity to share the way they see the world around them with a larger audience.



Vernon Hall, Ph.D.

I was born In Panama and moved to New York when I was 10 years old. My active service was from 1979 to 1982, and my non-active service was three years. I have been attending the Harlem Vet Center for about one year. I decided to join the Harlem Vet Center JHP photography class because I had recently gotten a camera and wanted to learn more about photography. I was a photo lab tech after I left the army and love photography. I loved everything that I learned about taking pictures in this class. My goal is simple, I take pictures of things that I like.



Vernon Hall



Vernon Hall



Scottie Daniels

I am from NYC. I served in the Army Special Forces in Vietnam in 1970. I have been attending the Harlem Vet Center for four years. I chose to take this course because I am an outdoorsman and want to take pictures of animals. I have enjoyed learning how to take pictures and how the camera works. This class has allowed me to take various photographs and see things in a different light.



Scottie Daniels



Scottie Daniels



Michelle A.H.

I am from the island of Jamaica. I served in CONUS, Ft. Bliss, Texas and Ft. Gordon, Georgia. I also served in Korea, 1997–1998 and Ft. Buchanan in Puerto Rico, April–September 2001. I have been working at the Vet Center for 11 years currently. I chose to take this photography course because I believe it's a great opportunity. I love to capture moments in time. I have enjoyed this class because I have learned how to operate the camera and use software to manipulate the picture. The instructors are very passionate about photography.



Michelle A.H.



Michelle A.H.



Mark B.

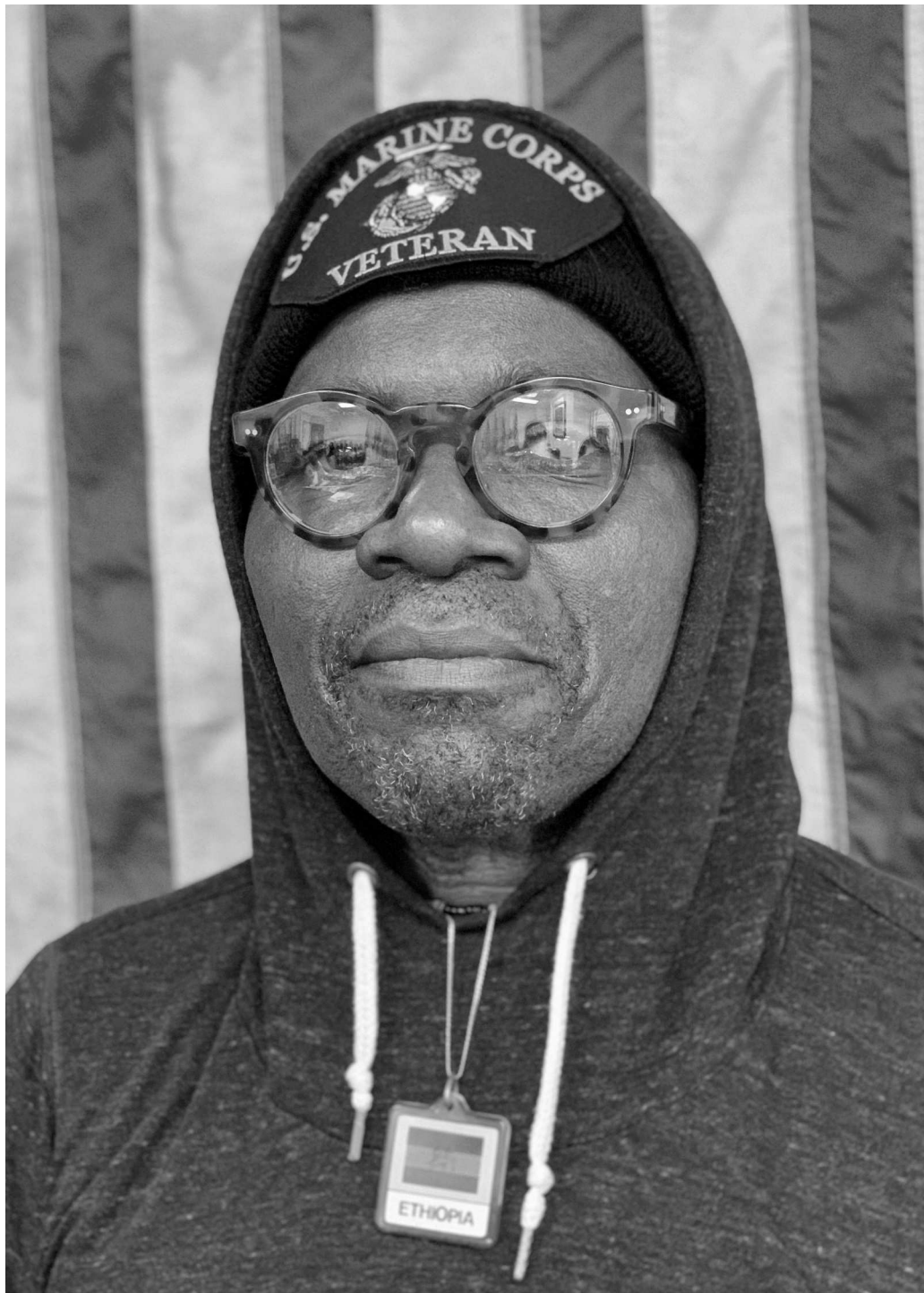
Central Florida was where I called home for the first half of my life. 30 days after graduating from high school I enlisted in the Army to be a Combat Medic (91w) as an 18-year-old kid. I did consecutive 13 months in theater during operations OIF/OEF before being discharged in 2005. In the fall of 2012 I was referred to a social worker at the Harlem Vet Center by BMCC's veteran resource personnel. I have been with them ever since. I'm grateful for taking this photography course, as it has allowed me to express myself to the world; something I have not been able to do since I left the military.



Mark B.



Mark B.



D.Wells

I am from Swainsboro, Georgia. I served as a USAF SSGT security police supervisor 1979–1985 worldwide, USMC CPL 1985–1990 in Okinawa, Japan. I have been attending Harlem Vet Center for five years. I decided to take photography because I believed it would help with diagnosed PTSD, reintegrate into society, and help with loneliness from being on military police posts worldwide. I like that photography allows me to have an outlet for creative self-expression. I have enjoyed this class because I am among like-minded veterans, the professionalism of the instructors, and safe environment. There is never any negative talk, which can happen in other places that I have sought help before.



D. Wells



D. Wells



David McMillan

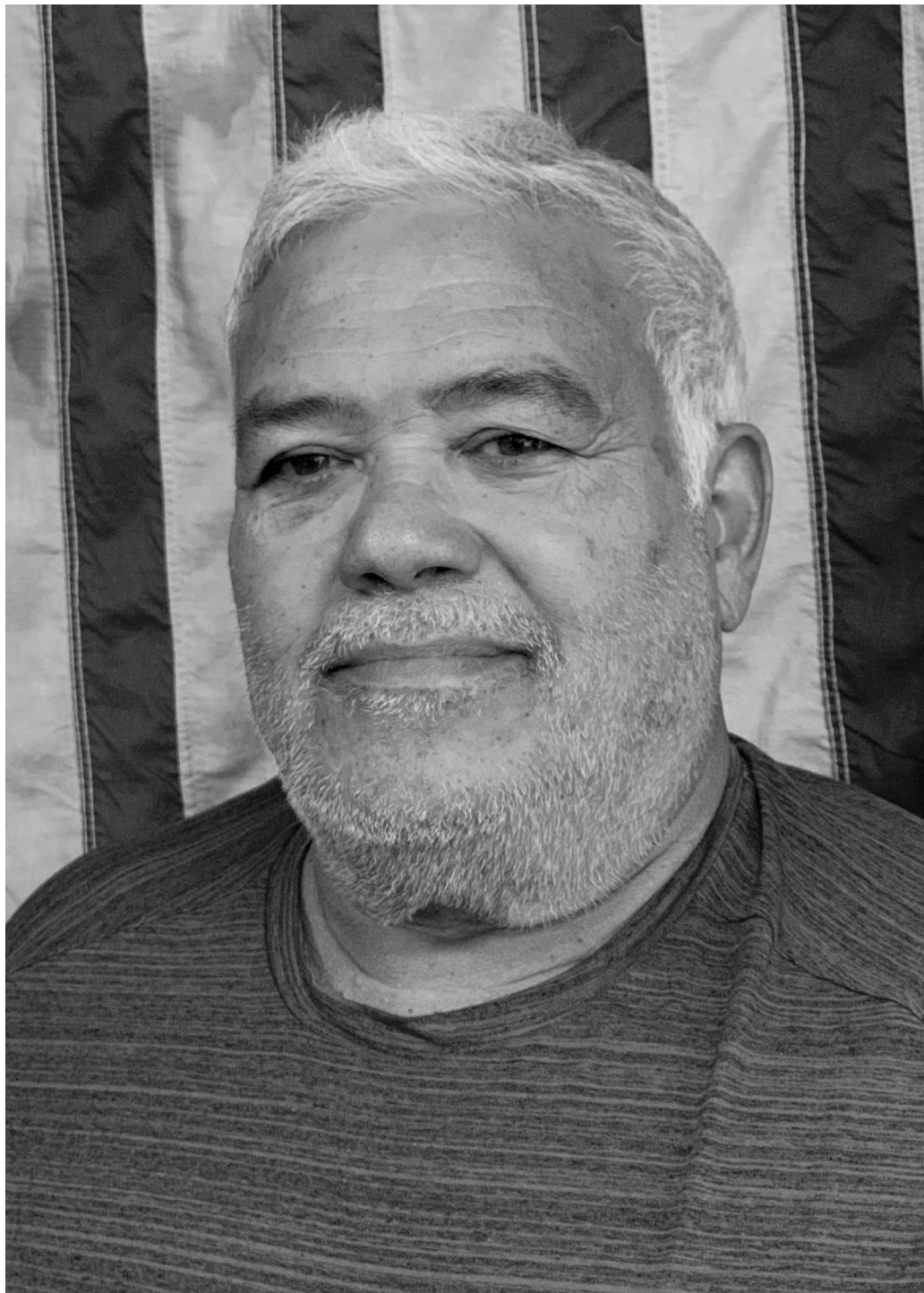
I am from Manhattan, New York City. I served in the USMC 01/1968 thru 09/1969. I have been attending the Harlem Vet Center since 10/2011. I chose to take this course because I wanted to learn more about photography. I like the people that I interact with in photography class and the pictures. I also love the topics and our assignments.



David McMillan

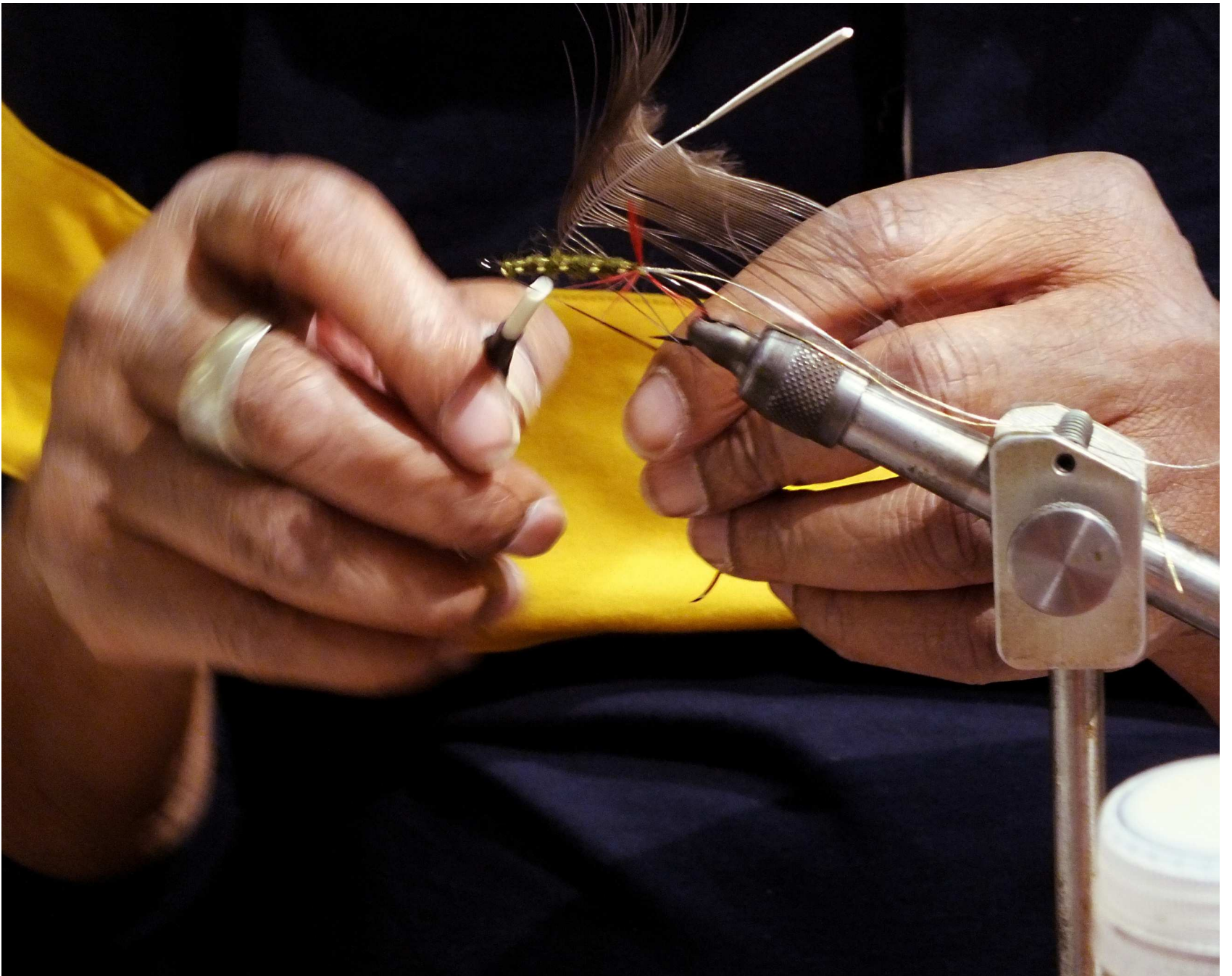


David McMillan



Jenaro Colon Rodriguez

I am originally from Puerto Rico. I served in the Army. I began attending the Harlem Vets Center in 2013. I chose to take photography because it was a new way to spend time and have a good time. The best part about photography is the quietness that comes with it. This class has helped me to explore something new and interesting.



Jenaro Colon Rodriguez



Jenaro Colon Rodriguez



Cesar J. Martinez Jr.

I am from Jersey City, NJ. My service was post 9/11 with USMC, 2006–2010. I have been attending the Harlem Vet Center for over two years. I decided to take the JHP photography course because it was offered by the studio via the Veteran Center. If this class were offered otherwise, I might not have known/attended it and received such appreciation from it. It's difficult to be out in the world after service and this proves that others are out to help. Because of this class, I am able to show others what I see from my point of view. Photography has helped me see things I was not able to see before. Different perspectives and angles. The same object can have many different meanings. Sometimes words can explain a situation, but sometimes there are no words to describe an emotion. With an eye in the camera, the world is my playground.



Cesar J. Martinez Jr.



Cesar J. Martinez Jr.



JOSEPHINE HERRICK PROJECT
TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHY

Staff

Miriam Leuchter
Executive Director

Olivia Hunter
Program Director

Teaching Artists

Terry Karney

Yael ben-Zion

Harlem Vet Center Staff

Nadine Mass
Director

Veterans

Cesar J. Martinez Jr.

Jenaro Colon Rodriguez

David McMillan

D. Wells

Mark B.

Michelle A.H.

Scottie Daniels

Vernon Hall

We would like to thank our major funders and sponsors whose support has made this program possible



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Special thanks to the Harlem Vet Center.
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