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Karitos Celebrates 25 Years in Streator, Illinois

Streator, Ill: Chicagoland's Christian worship and arts conference is celebrating its 25th year with a theme of "ARISE!" on July 11 thru the 13 at Grace Community Church, 1634 N IL Route 23 Streator, and Church of the Open Bible, 701 S Sterling Street, Streator.

Karitos offers over 60 workshops in music, film, dance, visual arts, theatre, flags, literary and worship and has opportunities for every artist who desires to further their gifts in ministry. As seen through this year's theme, Karitos aims to equip artists to arise and grow in their artistic fields.

Thursday night of the event will begin a journey in an interactive History Timeline of Karitos with events showcasing how Karitos was created and has grown in the past 25 years. The Opening Worship Celebration at Grace Community Church will feature a number of creative performances and a powerful message entitled "Just Hope" by Alex Marestaing, International author, speaker and teacher that has worked with Disney, The Los Angeles Times and others.

Karitos provides a unique and specific track for youth attendees ages 10 to 13 where they will be able to experience every type of art available at the conference as well as participate in workshops featuring Chicago graffiti artist and educator Milton Coronado. Older youth may also participate in the general sessions and choose from the over 30 workshops in a variety creative areas available to them. A community service project is also featured this year as attendees will be invited to aid in the creation of a mural at Church of the Open Bible inside Oakland Park Commons.

New to the faculty this year is Elizabeth Agre, an educator, choreographer, flag instructor and performer of dance. Agre will be speaking Friday night during the free worship session at 7 pm at Grace Community Church. She graduated from the Eagles International Training Institute and Leadership Institute, the Ballet Magnificat! Training Company and the Jubilee Worship Institute, receiving training in the Word as well as techniques including ballet, modern, jazz, tambourines, flags, streamers, mantles and Davidic dance. Agre participated in the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem Company for the Feast of the Tabernacles Celebration and toured with Arrows International since 2008 ministering in Costa Rica, India, China, England and New Zealand.

Faculty includes "First Lady of Jesus Music" Nancy Honeytree, worship leader and author Vivien Hibbert, prophetic singer-songwriter, film and photography teacher Jay Peters, writer and actor Crystal Barnes, and veteran actor Howi Tiller. Visual Art instructors include Navajo artist Elmer Yazzie, prophetic artist and teacher Linda Harris-Iorio. Authors Jane Rubietta and Carmela Martino will be instructing literary workshops. Dance and flag workshop highlights include professional ballet and modern dance educator Ginny Ching-Yin Lo, choreographer and nutrition specialist Cynthia Newland, hip-hop educators Michael and Cecille Plurad and Elizabeth Agre.

The event will also host an art gallery, ministry showcase and late-night open mic on Thursday and Friday evenings for attendees to express their gifts and share in a time of networking and fellowship.

A marketplace is also featured at the event and vendor space is still available. Vendors may contact angel@karitos.org for more information.

Tickets for the event can be purchased at [www. Karitos.org](http://www.Karitos.org). Registration is required for the event and a group discount is available until June 15.

About Karitos Christian Arts Association: Karitos was co-founded by Bob Hay, a man that has traveled the world promoting the arts within the church. Hay has a passion to see the creative gifts of the church be used in all the ways they are designed. Hay served as the Executive Director of Karitos since a year after its founding in 1995. More information about Karitos Christian Arts Association, Karitos Christian Worship and Arts Conference, Karitos Nation and the Karitos Arts Community can be found on Facebook @KaritosConference, or by emailing info@karitos.org.