



**For Immediate Release
July 15, 2011**

Media Contact:

Glen-Michael Francis, E.D.
Telephone: (718) 246-2775
Email: Glen@griotcircle.org

**FIRST NATIONAL CONVENING OF AGING PROFESSIONALS
Addressing disparities in services to LGBT POC older adults.**

[New York, NY] On October 12 – 13, 2011, GRIOT Circle, in collaboration with the POC Committee of the LAIN/American Society on Aging, as well as, generous support from AARP, and funding from Atlantic Philanthropies, will bring together national leaders in aging for the first National Convening of its kind, highlighting the needs/concerns of this traditionally underserved population.

Hosted by AARP at the Brickfield Center at 601 E Street NW, Washington, DC 20049 – on October 12 – 13, 2011. The National Convening of Aging Professionals will provide insight into economic and health disparities that are services/care based to the LGBT POC (People of Color) elder communities, a population that continues to heavily bear the brunt of stigmatization and social isolation.

Areas to be covered include: Social Security, housing, supportive services, HIV/STD prevention, culturally competent research and training, health literacy disparities, ethno-geriatrics, and other challenges for LGBT POC seniors, policy reform (LGBT POC specific), and the creation of a National Professional Network around POC LGBT Aging.

Confirmed participants/attendees include: **Kathy Greenlee**, U. S. Assistant Secretary for Aging, Administration on Aging (AoA), **Jay Blackwell**, Director, Office of Minority Health–Resource Center (OMH-RC), **Christopher Bates**, E.D., Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA), **Tony Sarmiento**, E.D., Senior Service America, Inc., (SSAI), **Mandy Carter**, Co-founder of National Black Justice Coalition (NBJC) and 2005 Nobel Peace Prize nominee, **Senator Benjamin J.F. Cruz**, Vice Speaker, 31st Guam Legislature, **Mario Tapia**, CEO, Latino Center on Aging, (LCA), and **Aisha C. Young**, CEO, African Americans in Gerontology (AAIG.)

“I am delighted you are doing this historic convening” — renowned social justice activist, former Arcus Foundation Executive Director, **Urvashi Vaid**.

GRIOT Circle, Inc., a non-profit 501(c)3 organization founded in 1995. It addresses the needs and concerns of LGBT elders of color in New York City. Fifteen years later, GRIOT Circle continues to be the only LGBT organization in the nation that exclusively serves LGBT POC elders 50 and older. GRIOT is proud to be one of the leading voices on this historic occasion marking a decided shift in the health care paradigm for LGBT POC elders.

#####