**Second Symposium**

**Announcement and Call for Papers**

**The Humanities Department at**

**Columbus State Community College (CSCC)**

**Thursday, February 23-Saturday, February 25, 2017**

**Challenging the Boundaries: Gladys Bentley and The Harlem Renaissance**

The 2017 Defining Herself event will take as its focus the life and work of Gladys Bentley (1907-1960), whose remarkable musical performances are matched only by her equally remarkable persona. Bentley was headlining singer/pianist, performing in clubs in Harlem during the 1920s and 1930s. This era saw the burgeoning of the Harlem Renaissance, a dynamic outpouring of creative energy by the African-American population, and Bentley, in a number of ways, typifies that creative drive. At a time when gender roles were still quite circumscribed, Bentley was openly lesbian. Her preference for male attire, and her embracing (and enhancing) of the double-entendres inherent in blues lyrics became drawing cards for her performances, and her presence at the Clam House or Ubangi Club guaranteed large crowds in attendance. Examinations of her contributions and the larger contexts of The Harlem Renaissance, issues of sexuality and sexual identity, and social class and social identity are part of this symposium.

We welcome scholarship on performance and identity (and performative identity), challenges to gender and sexuality during the Harlem Renaissance, and the relationship between artist/audience in race and gender.

**Open to scholars across all academic disciplines.**

**Symposium Registration Form**

First Name:

Last Name:

Name on Name Tag:

Position:

Department:

Academic Institution or Organization:

Address:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

Title of Paper:

Abstract: Please send a page long abstract of your presentation by **January 17, 2017** to:

Dr. Patrice Ross at pross@cscc.edu or Dr. K. Sandy Drakatos, at kdrakato@cscc.edu