



PRESS RELEASE

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PORTRAIT OF DR. ALICE P. GREEN JOINS AMERICANS WHO TELL THE TRUTH NATIONAL SERIES BY ARTIST ROBERT SHETTERLY

Unveiling Ceremony to be held at the Alice Moore Black Arts and Cultural Center

ALBANY, NY—A new portrait of Dr. Alice P. Green (1940–2024) will be unveiled at the Alice Moore Black Arts and Cultural Center. Painted by Maine-based artist Robert Shetterly, the portrait will be the newest addition to Americans Who Tell the Truth, Shetterly’s ongoing series of portraits celebrating “truth tellers”—individuals throughout U.S. history who exemplify courageous citizenship and democratic ideals.

“Many people pay lip service to the sinister ways in which racism is woven into the fabric of this country’s economy, laws, educational system, housing, healthcare, prisons, culture and conflicted psyche,” says Robert Shetterly, Americans Who Tell the Truth.

“Few people successfully change those systems for the better. Dr. Alice P. Green dedicated her life to doing just that. And did.”

Organized by a partnership between the Albany Institute of History & Art (AIHA), the Alice Moore Black Arts and Cultural Center (AMBACC), the Center for Law and Justice (CFLJ), and New York State Writers Institute, the portrait will be unveiled in a public ceremony on Thursday, May 22 at 6PM, and will include remarks by Shetterly. The portrait of Dr. Green will remain on view at AMBACC during a free open house on Friday, May 23 from 3–7PM. It will then be installed at AIHA from May 29 through July 20, 2025, as part of the Americans Who Tell the Truth exhibition currently on view at the museum.



Following the exhibitions in Albany, the portrait of Dr. Green joins a pantheon of more than 275 illustrious Americans, from pioneers of the Civil Rights movement such as Martin Luther King Jr., Bayard Rustin, and Ella Baker, to activists at the forefront including Alicia Garza, Bree Newsome, and Tarana Burke, to scholars and champions of education access including Michelle Alexander, Colman McCarthy, and Betty Morgan. Exhibitions and educational events featuring these portraits are organized at museums, schools, libraries, and community centers throughout the country.

“Dr. Green epitomizes the values of the Americans Who Tell the Truth project,” says AIHA Executive Director Kayla Carlsen. “Now, audiences across the country will be introduced to Dr. Green and learn about her legacy.”

Born in South Carolina and raised in the Adirondacks, Dr. Alice P. Green began her career as a secondary school teacher and social worker. For many years, she directed Trinity Institution, a youth and family services center in Albany’s South End. While there, she also did community organizing and founded the South End Scene, one of the longest published Black newspapers in Albany. Dr. Green served as legislative director of the New York Civil Liberties Union in the early 1980s and in 1986 was appointed by Gov. Mario Cuomo as deputy commissioner of the state Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives.

In 1985, Dr. Green founded the Albany-based Center for Law and Justice, a nonprofit civil rights organization, where she served as executive director for almost four decades. The Center provides community education on civil and criminal justice, legal guidance and advocacy, crisis intervention, and community planning and organizing around criminal justice, civil rights and civil liberties issues of particular concern to poor communities and those of color.

“The unveiling of Dr. Alice P. Green’s portrait is not just a tribute to a remarkable woman—it is a powerful reminder of how one voice, rooted in truth and justice, can transform an entire community,” says Ta-Sean Murdock, CFLJ Executive Director. “Her work lives not only in history, but in every act of courage, every fight for equity, and every soul she’s inspired to stand up and speak out.”

Dr. Green was the author of several books, including her 2023 memoir *Outsider: Stories of Growing Up Black in the Adirondacks*. She wrote and lectured on racism and criminal justice, and frequently contributed commentary and analysis for several newspapers and television and radio programs. Dr. Green was an adjunct professor at the University



at Albany, has also taught at Russell Sage and Siena College. Dr. Green earned three master's degrees and a Ph.D. in criminal justice from the University at Albany.

Dr. Green co-founded the Alice Moore Black Arts and Cultural Center, whose mission is to advance the appreciation of Black art and culture, foster artistic and cultural expression, and serve as a dynamic community hub.

The community is invited to the Alice Moore Black Arts and Cultural Center for the portrait unveiling ceremony on Thursday, May 22, at 6PM and a public open house on Friday, May 23, from 3–7PM.

Starting Thursday, May 29, the portrait of Dr. Green will be on view at the Albany Institute of History & Art as part of the exhibition *Americans Who Tell the Truth* through July 20, 2025. The museum is open Wednesdays through Saturdays from 10AM–5PM and Sundays from 12–5PM. There will be a free public reception on Thursday, May 29, from 5–7PM.



ABOUT AMERICANS WHO TELL THE TRUTH

Americans Who Tell the Truth promotes strong citizenship, positive change, and the common good through the integration of art, history, education, and civic engagement. Working with artist Robert Shetterly's portraits and narratives of courageous citizens, AWTT crafts collaborative educational and community experiences that illuminate the ongoing struggle to realize America's democratic ideals and model the commitment to act for the common good.

Robert Shetterly was born in 1946 in Cincinnati, Ohio. He graduated in 1969 from Harvard College with a degree in English Literature. Shetterly's paintings and prints are in collections throughout the United States and Europe. Since 2002, he has been painting the series of portraits, Americans Who Tell the Truth. Exhibitions of the portraits have been organized for over 20 years across 35 states at venues including university museums, grade school libraries, the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine in New York City, and the Superior Court in San Francisco. *Truth Tellers*, Richard Kane's film about the project, premiered in 2021 and continues to be screened, including at the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C.

Visit americanswhotellthetruth.org for more information.

ABOUT THE ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

Founded in 1791, the Albany Institute of History & Art is New York's oldest museum. Its collections document the Hudson Valley as a crossroads of culture, influencing the art and history of the region, the state, and the nation. With more than 35,000 objects in the collection and one million documents in the research library, it is a resource for the region. Permanent exhibitions include one of the largest collections of Hudson River School paintings, a history of Ancient Egypt, and other fine art, ceramics, and furniture, as well as rotating temporary exhibitions.

Visit albanyinstitute.org for more information.

ABOUT THE ALICE MOORE BLACK ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTER

Located in Albany's South End Neighborhood, the Alice Moore Black Arts and Cultural Center provides opportunities and space for artistic and cultural-related activities and events including community conversations and exhibits for all ages. The Center's mission is to advance the appreciation of Black art and culture, foster artistic and cultural expression, and serve as a dynamic community hub.

ALBANY INSTITUTE
OF HISTORY & ART



Center for
Law and Justice



Visit alicemoorecenter.org for more information.

ABOUT THE CENTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE

The Center for Law and Justice was founded in 1985 by Dr. Alice P. Green to serve as a voice for marginalized communities and a catalyst for social change. For more than three decades, the Center has been a leading advocate for justice, working tirelessly to address systemic inequities, support individuals impacted by the criminal justice system, and uplift low-income and disadvantaged communities in New York's Capital Region.

Visit cfj.org for more information.

ABOUT THE NEW YORK STATE WRITERS INSTITUTE

New York State Writers Institute's mission is to explore and teach the writing craft; to celebrate diverse voices in all genres; to honor the power of literature as a force for individual growth and social good; and to foster a vibrant community of readers and writers who engage in meaningful dialogue.

Visit nyswritersinstitute.org for more information.

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