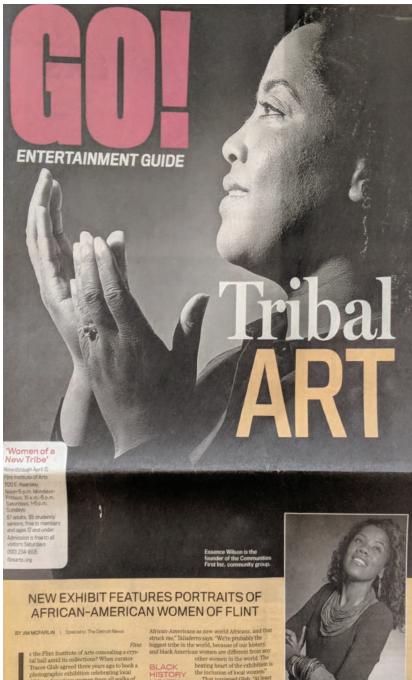
## The Detroit News

## FEBRUARY 9, 2017 SECTION D





Natasha Thomas-Jackson is a co-founder of the RAISE IT UPI Youth Arts & Awareness organization.

## 'New Tribe'

Continued from Page 1D

In the interim, of course, Flint became the national synonym for urban decay as its contaminated city water supply threatened its residents - nearly 60 percent of whom are black - with long-term health hazards.

"There's been very little progress," says "New Tribe" model Claudia Perkins-Milton. "We still have to go pick up our bottled water. It just seems like we're spinning our wheels. They broke us from the inside out." Perkins-Milton, a UAW

trailblazer, was one of more than 100 women recommended for the exhibit through community-wide nominations. Finalists were chosen by a random drawing. "That was the most fair way to do it," says Glab.

Taliaferro came to Flint to photograph the women over eight days last May. Several of the images may be incorporated into his core

Even the subjects themselves concede the results are remarkable.

"I thought it was magnificent," Perkins-Milton says. "He really did a work of art. I said, 'Is that me?' The exhibit is just dynamic because there is such an array of women from all diverse backgrounds that have so much to offer."

Does "Women of a New Tribe," with its focus on the African-American woman who forms the backbone of the black community, have the power to boost Flint's sagging spirits?

"My honest answer? Depends on who's looking," opines Audrey Dismond, a retired residential builder who owned two construction companies, both of

which were staffed entirely by disadvantaged women she trained in the construction trades. "To so many, it's just another, 'Oh, a Black History thing, the African-Americans, it's their month, let's support them.' It's the 'in thing' to do.

"However, for many it's very inspiring, very uplifting. It's what our people need. It helps feed hungry souls."



Samaj Brown is an accomplished poet who has worked with Broadside Press.



Dr. Sharon A Simeon, a retiree, works with the Red Cross and also helps people with disabilities.