



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 24, 2023

**Announcing the Gantt Golden Year • 1974-2024
Celebrating 50 Years with Exciting Programs and Events**

[Charlotte, NC]— Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture, will mark its 50th anniversary in 2024 with the Gantt Golden Year, a yearlong celebration of Black joy, genius, and excellence. Illuminating the Gantt’s fifty-year evolution from an idea to an institution, the Gantt will honor the people and culture since the founding in 1974.

The Gantt Golden Year will feature a series of premier performances, gala events, exceptional exhibitions, and outstanding programs. During this epic year of celebration, the Gantt will:

- Engage the community through multidisciplinary programming across generations, interests, backgrounds, faith traditions, and neighborhoods
- Ensure local artists and creatives are prominent and inspired
- Present local, national, and international artists across various platforms
- Collaborate with an array of groups, institutions, and partner organizations

“We are thrilled to mark our 50th anniversary throughout 2024, with programs and events across visual, performing, literary, and culinary arts,” said David R. Taylor, president and CEO, Harvey B. Gantt Center. “In the spirit of our mission and in honor of our founders’ vision, celebrating this landmark year will ignite community engagement while trumpeting the contributions of the Gantt to the arts and cultural landscape of the Charlotte region.”

Gantt Golden Year Highlights

The Gantt Golden Year will be celebrated throughout 2024 and across five arts + cultural pillars:

- Dance
- Afro-Culinary Foodways
- Literary Talks and Community Forums
- Art Exhibitions
- Music

The Gantt and **Blumenthal Arts** partner to present the world's first Black classical ballet company, **Dance Theatre of Harlem** on February 9 and 10, 2024, with a gala reception prior to the Saturday, February 10 evening performance. An American professional ballet company and school based in Harlem, NY. Dance Theatre of Harlem was founded in 1969 under the directorship of Arthur Mitchell. The Gantt will also offer a dance education series, led by local dance instructors and dance organizations, that will be available for K-12 students and the wider community. In partnership with Blumenthal Performing Arts, the Gantt will host a gala reception on Saturday, February 10th prior to the evening performance.



Dance Theatre of Harlem, with portrait of Arthur Mitchell, Courtesy, Dance Theatre of Harlem

Revel in **Afro-Culinary Arts** with nationally-renowned **Stephen Satterfield** and regional award-winning chefs and culinary experts. Extraordinary food experiences will be curated by Stephen Satterfield, the 2024 Gantt Scholar-in-Residence. Satterfield is an American food writer, producer, and TV host of the Peabody Award-winning docuseries *High on the Hog: How African American Cuisine Transformed America* on Netflix. As the Gantt's Scholar-in-Residence,

Satterfield will curate three (3) farm-to-table community dinners in March, May, and October 2024. For these food experiences, he will partner with regional Black farmers, local restaurateurs, and caterers, as well as renowned chefs, such as Brian and Subrina Collier's BayHaven Food Festival collaboration.



Stephen Satterfield, Courtesy of Stephen Satterfield

The Gantt will feature incredible **Literary Talks and Community Forums**, like the **1619 Project Public Talk** featuring Pulitzer Prize-winning writer, **Nikole Hannah-Jones**. On July 11, 2024 at Knight Theater, the Pulitzer Prize-winning creator of the *1619 Project* and staff writer at *The New York Times Magazine* will host a public talk on the 1619 Project, discussing its implications, impact, and impetus for Black futures. Her *1619 Project* illuminates the legacy of slavery in the contemporary United States and highlights contributions of Black Americans to every aspect of American society. It is also an Emmy® Award-nominated six-part Hulu docuseries.



Left: Nikole Hannah-Jones: James Estrin, *The New York Times*
Right: Yaa Gyasi: Courtesy of Yaa Gyasi

The Big Read: *Homegoing* will be the center of the community-wide reading of one of Oprah's 'Best Books of the Year' and PEN/Hemingway award-winning novel by Ghanaian-American author, **Yaa Gyasi**. National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) selected the Gantt to lead The Big Read in the Charlotte region during the Gantt's 2024 fiscal year.

Due to the book's themes and myriad of opportunities for community building, *Homegoing*, is a natural selection for the Gantt and its collaborators, particularly the three library partners -- Charlotte Mecklenburg Library, Cabarrus County Library, and J. Murrey Atkins Library at The University of North Carolina at Charlotte. On February 23, 2024, the kick-off celebration will feature the Kankouran West African Dance Company and distribution of books. On June 27, 2024, The Big Read community-wide program will culminate with *Homegoing* book talk featuring Yaa Gyasi.



The Big Read will have robust programming on topics relevant to celebrations each month, including: February - Black History, March - Women's History, April - National Poetry, May - African World Heritage Day, June - Immigrant Heritage and Juneteenth.

Music will be a common theme interwoven throughout many of the Gantt Golden Year activities. Award-winning gospel and soul musician and community leader, **Dennis Reed, Jr.**, will be the Gantt's Musical Artist-in-Residence to steward music experiences during 2024. Reed and his music group, GAP, were finalists on NBC's *America's Got Talent*, performed for President Obama at the 2012 Democratic National Convention, and many more accolades. Reed will curate a series of music performances and experiences with the objective to present fresh, interactive cultural experiences, *with music*, that illuminate the rich talents, contributions and impact of African-Americans on society.

Major activities include a Juneteenth concert at Knight Theater; a concert series that will feature local and national artists, with pre-concert conversations; gospel brunches; master classes and programming, with panel discussions that will explore the art and business of being a musician and creative professional.



Dennis Reed, Jr: Courtesy of Dennis Reed, Jr.

Powerful works by exceptional Black artists from the region and around the globe will be on view at the Gantt during 2024. **Art exhibitions** will include celebratory opening and closing events; artist visits and talks; student tours and panel discussions with national and local artists, curators, and art enthusiasts.



Patrick Alston, *Past Tense*, 2023, Courtesy of the artist

Post-Traumatism: In Search of Freedom is a solo exhibition curated by Dexter Wimberly featuring works by Patrick Alston, and will be on view November 10, 2023 through May 12, 2024. Alston is a painter whose art practice focuses on gesture and materiality. Through abstraction, his work reflects on socio-politics, identity, language, and the psychology of color. The exhibition seeks to illuminate the profound interconnectedness of human existence and the universality of our struggle for emancipation. In this exhibit, eight large-scale abstract paintings take center stage, adorned with visceral and emotive gestures that lay bare the raw intensity of trauma and triumph.



Photo courtesy of James Cohan Gallery

Christopher Myers' solo exhibition will feature the installation, *Let The Mermaids Flirt with Me* (2022), and will be on view February 2 through July 21, 2024. In addition, the exhibition will incorporate works demonstrating the scope of Myers' creative process. He is an artist and writer whose work across disciplines is rooted in storytelling and delves into the past, to build narratives that speak to the slippages between history and mythology. His diverse practice spans textiles, performance, film, and sculptural objects, often created in collaboration with artisans from around the globe.



Qualeasha Wood, *'FOREVA' by Cardi B*, 2021

Qualeasha Wood's solo exhibition will be on view May 24 through September 2024. Wood is a next-gen textile artist whose work contemplates realities around Black female embodiment that do and may possibly exist. Inspired by a familial relationship to textiles, queer craft, Microsoft Paint, and internet avatars, Wood's tufted and tapestry pieces mesh traditional craft and contemporary technological materials. She navigates an internet environment saturated in Black Femme figures and culture with a political and economic environment holding that embodiment at the margins.



Hale A. Woodruff, *The Card Players*, 1978, Permanent Collection of the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture. Generously donated by Bank of America Corporation.

The John & Vivian Hewitt Collection of African-American Art is an assemblage of fifty-eight two-dimensional works celebrating the expression and passion of twenty artists, including Charlotte-born Romare Bearden and other master artists, Margaret Burroughs, Jonathan Green, Hale A. Woodruff, Jacob Lawrence, Elizabeth Catlett, Ann Tanksley, and Henry Ossawa Tanner. The Gantt is the permanent home of the Hewitt Collection and is delighted to have this collection on view August – September 2024. Acquired by Bank of America and pledged to the Gantt in 1998, the Hewitt is a cornerstone of the Gantt's permanent collection.



Artists-in-residence Devin Johnson and Zohra Opoku overlook the ocean by Rock Black Sénégal © 2023 Kehinde Wiley and Black Sénégal, Photographer: Abdoulaye Ndao.

Black Rock Global Arts Foundation will present a group exhibition of selected alumni artists from the **Black Rock Sénégal** artist residency program, which will be on view August 9, 2024 – January 20, 2025. The Foundation was established by renowned artist Kehinde Wiley to support initiatives that connect artists and creative thinkers throughout the world with opportunities to collaborate, create, and live in locations of cultural significance on the African continent and throughout the African diaspora. The Foundation’s primary grantee is the multidisciplinary artist residency program, Black Rock Sénégal, which is located in Dakar and has hosted over 60 artists since it opened in 2019. This exhibition serves as the launchpad for a five-year partnership with the Gantt.

After a five-year absence due to COVID, the Gantt is excited to announce the **annual Jazzy Gala will return December 2024** as a grand culmination of an incredible year of celebration and commemoration.



Gantt Golden Year Schedule

November 2023

- Patrick Alston *Post Traumatism: In Search of Freedom* | November 10, 2023-May 12, 2024

January 2024

- Black Carolina Artist Residency | January 22 – July 26
- *A Superlative Palette: Contemporary Black Women Artists* | January 26 – July 28

February 2024

- Dance Theater of Harlem with Blumenthal Performing Arts | February 9 – 10
- Launch The Big Read: *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi | February 23
- Christopher Myers solo exhibition | February 2 – July 21, 2024

March 2024

- Stephen Satterfield: Foodways Community Dinner Celebrating Women's History Month

April 2024

- Jazz Appreciation Month concert

May 2024

- Stephen Satterfield: Foodways Community Dinner
- Qualeasha Wood exhibition | May 24 – September

June 2024

- Big Read Culmination | *Homegoing* Author Yaa Gyasi
- Juneteenth Celebration
- Black Music Month

July 2024

- A Night at the Gantt – Kids Edition
- Nikole Hannah-Jones *1619 Project* | July 11

August 2024

- Open *Hewitt Collection* | August – September
- Black Rock Senegal exhibition | August 9, 2024– January 20, 2025

October 2024

- Foodways: BayHaven Food & Wine Festival collaboration | October 4

December 2024

- Golden Year culminates with *Jazzy 2024*



About the Gantt

Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts+Culture is a multidisciplinary arts institution located in the heart of Charlotte, North Carolina. Founded in 1974, the Gantt Center's mission is to present, preserve, and celebrate excellence in the art, history, and culture of African-Americans and those of African descent through visual and literary arts, dance, music, film, educational programs, theatre productions, and community outreach. The Gantt Center features fine art exhibitions from around the world and is home to the nationally celebrated John and Vivian Hewitt Collection of African-American Art, which was generously donated by Bank of America, and is accessible online.

Named for Charlotte civic leader and former mayor Harvey Bernard Gantt, the Gantt Center is housed in an iconic, award-winning structure designed by architect Philip Freelon, co-designer of the Smithsonian National Museum for African American History and Culture (NMAAHC).

For more information about the Gantt Center, visit ganttcenter.org and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

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