

NEWSLETTER

ARTS FORUM



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Editor: C Darrett

Mariella Owens



Abner Cope



Gem City Gems

Art Exhibition

EBONNIA GALLERY

Reception: Sunday, March 8

2 - 4 pm, 1135 W, Third Street

February 10 - April 10, 2026



Robert Neal



Tyrone Geter

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

FEBRUARY 28

Our next membership meeting will be at CSUD, 2 pm to 4 pm. Bring in some of your artwork, finished or works in progress.

SHARE YOUR ART INFO

LOOK FORWARD FOR YOUR MONTHLY ART NEWS MONTHLY

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You are receiving the monthly Arts Forum newsletter because you are a member of the African American Visual Artist Guild (AAVAG). To submit articles for the monthly newsletter, send to Conquero@aol.com before the 20th date of each month.

**Jeremy Henderson's
"...And The Ancestors Chose"**

AAVAG ART GALLERY
Central State University
Dayton
840 Germantown St.
Dayton, Ohio 45402

February 4, 2026 to February 27, 2026

ARTISTS' RECEPTION
February 21, 2026
2pm - 5pm

EXHIBIT OPEN:
MONDAY - THURSDAY
9AM-5PM

African American Visual Artists Guild

Next In the AAVAG Gallery
“Can You See Me” -
 Shirley Tucker

March 4 - May 2, 2026

Reception: March 15, 2026
 2 to 4 pm

She has an Associate of Arts degree from Rio Grande College, studied graphic design at Bowling Green State University, and earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Wright State University in 1989.



Active artist and a retired probation officer from the Montgomery County Juvenile Court and former facilitator for the courts art programs HAALO & SAG. Shirley has used her artistic skills to work with at-risk-youth, some who may lack access to strong art programming. Her 31 years working in the justice system and mentoring youth in our community reflects her life long commitment to supporting artistic expression with diverse and underprivileged communities.

Shirley Tucker is a Dayton-based artist who specializes in graphic design, acrylic oil painting and murals.

GEM CITY GEMS Art Exhibition

EBONNIA GALLERY

February 10 – April 10, 2026

Hours: Tuesday - Friday, 11:00 am to 5:00 pm,
 Saturday by Appointment

RECEPTION: Sunday, March 8, 2026, 2:00 – 4:00 pm
 EbonNia Gallery, 1135 W. Third Street, Dayton, OH 45402

Gem City Gems is a specially designed exhibit series highlighting familiar and unfamiliar African American visual artists with ties to the Dayton Miami Valley Region. This first series features the art of the late Robert Neal, 1926-1987; Tyrone Geter, a 1968 graduate of Roosevelt High School now residing in Brooklyn, NY; Mariella Owens, a master ceramic artist and teacher residing in Mapleton, Georgia and Abner Cope, originally from Savannah, Georgia and lived in Dayton, Ohio from 1980 to 2010, currently residing in Commerce, Georgia. These four gifted and highly creative artists who migrated to the Dayton area from the south, contributed greatly to the African American art and culture scene during the time they lived in Dayton, Ohio, leaving fond memories and lasting contributions, which several of them are continuing to do in their current home.



Black Life as Subject Matter III

Opening Reception: Sunday, February 1, 2026 2-4 pm

Exhibition Date: February 1 - May 17, 2026

Building upon the award-winning exhibition presented five years ago. Black Lives as Subject Matter III brings together exceptional works by twenty regional Black artists. Curated by Willis "Bing" Davis and organized by the Springfield Museum of Art, the exhibition centers Black life as both subject and framework, examining contemporary lived experience through diverse artistic practices and perspectives. Museum hours: W-Sat:9am-5pm, Sun:12:30-4:30.



SPRINGFIELD
MUSEUM OF ART
A Smithsonian Affiliate

107 Cliff Park Road

Springfield, Ohio 45504

937-325-4673

Springfieldart.net

Artist Opportunities

Professional Development Opportunity for Artists & Creatives from Arts Midwest

In early February, Arts Midwest kicked off "[Building Your Creative Career](#)," a free, four-part webinar series focused on helping artists find and connect with new audiences.

Through the series, artists will receive practical, real-world guidance to help them develop skills and tools to showcase their work, pursue funding, and increase visibility. Each session will be presented by artists and creatives from the across the Midwest.

Artist Opportunities: [Artist](#)

[Opportunities](#) grants support Ohio artists who have opportunities that will significantly impact their professional growth or have projects that will contribute to the vitality of their community. This grant is open to artists of all disciplines, at any stage of their career, and include all types of artistic practice.

Application Deadline: May 1, 2026

External - Art of Soul! 2026: The National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center is currently accepting submissions for their [11th biennial National Juried Arts Show, Art of Soul! 2026](#), with a theme of *America 250: Our Story*. Artists are encouraged to submit work which reflects the journey of the United States through the lens of the African diaspora and African American history, culture, and experience. **Submission Deadline:** May 1, 2026

Dayton (OH) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated Black Family Wellness Expo

Saturday, March 21, 2026

Premier Health YMCA

2649 Salem Avenue, Dayton, OH 45406

10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Sign up to be a vendor here by 2/6: [BFWE Vendor Application](#)

Share the invite with your networks:



RESILIENCE opens at the Edward A. Dixon Gallery on February 5th featuring several local artists ranging from a University Student to 30-year career artists. Please, mark your calendars for the Closing Reception on Sunday, March 15th from 2pm-4pm.



CALL FOR ARTISTS

TITLE: *RIGHTSTARTER: Resistance, Rap, and the Golden Era* Group Exhibition

ORGANIZER: A Village of Creatives / Spirithaus / Herndon Gallery at Antioch College

THEME: *Rightstarter* seeks artwork exploring the “Golden Era” (1986-1993) of Rap Music and its roots (Jazz, Funk, Soul, R&B etc.) as a cultural phenomenon and Black sub-culture. Art may include all elements; the arts, music, dance, and fashion. Artists are encouraged to create work that speaks to the consciousness that Rap music embodied and enabled including, Afro-centric awareness, cultural identity, political resistance, and social commentary. Work that time capsules the late 80’s early 90’s fashion, trends, and milestones, and that incorporates specific artists, elements, or references from the era is highly encouraged.

ELIGIBILITY: Open to all visual artists working in the following 2D or 3D mediums including (painting, mixed media, photography, sculpture) Also multi-media, video, music, installation art, and performance art.

MUSICAL ACTS: *Rightstarter* will book supporting acts and potential headliner. For a live musical performance. This is a call to musicians/rappers/singers please send copies of work / links to email below.

IMPORTANT DATES:

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: April 15, 2026

NOTIFICATION: APRIL 20th

DROP-OFF: MAY 5th

SHOW DATES: MAY 9th - JUNE 12th 2026

HOW TO SUBMIT: Email up to 3 hi res examples of your work, or link to a website or online portfolio to jwhitakerartist@gmail.com . Include *RIGHTSTARTER* and

Artist Name in the subject line. Examples do NOT need to be final pieces for the show, but should be a clear display of your work and skill set.

CONTACT: Joshua Whitaker – Curator - jwhitakerartist@gmail.com

ARTIST INFORMATION SHEET

RHYTHM OF THE CITY — FUNK-INSPIRED ART EXHIBITION

April 10-12, 2026 | Victoria Theatre & Online

WHAT IS THIS?

A community art exhibition celebrating Dayton's funk legacy alongside a collaborative dance concert by Dayton Contemporary Dance Company and Dayton Ballet, featuring live music by Deron Bell and The Funk All Stars.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

- » All artists welcome - professionals, students, hobbyists, all experience levels
- » All ages - artists 18+ may sell work; under 18 receive recognition awards
- » All mediums - painting, sculpture, photography, digital art, ceramics, fiber arts, etc.

KEY DATES

- » **March 10** Registration deadline
- » **March 17** Registration packets sent out
- » **March 23** Final artwork submission
- » **March 30** Selected artists notified
- » **April 7-9** Art drop-off (assigned time slots)
- » **April 10-12** Exhibition at performances
- » **April 13** Art pickup



SCAN TO REGISTER

ARTWORK REQUIREMENTS

THEME: Funk-inspired (music, culture, Dayton's funk legends, energy of funk)

SIZE LIMITS FOR IN-PERSON DISPLAY:

- » 2D Art: Maximum 24" x 24"
- » 3D Art: Maximum 2 feet tall, must be freestanding or include stand
- » Larger works: Featured in online gallery only
- » **CONTENT:** Must be appropriate for all ages and public viewing

WHAT YOU NEED TO SUBMIT

REGISTRATION (by March 10):

- » Basic artist info and description of intended artwork
- » **FINAL SUBMISSION** (by March 23):
- » High-quality photos of completed work
- » Title, medium, dimensions, artist statement (2-3 sentences)
- » Pricing (optional, 18+ only)

DISPLAY & EXHIBITION

WHERE:

- » Victoria Theatre lobby (selected works)
- » Online gallery with QR codes (all submitted works)
- » **HOW LONG:** Online gallery remains live for several months after exhibition

SALES (18+ ONLY)

- » You set your own prices
- » Buyers contact you directly via info on your label/QR code
- » No commission fees - this is a community celebration
- » You handle all transactions and delivery

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

YOU PROVIDE:

- » Completed artwork ready to display
- » Transport to/from Victoria Theatre

YOU HANDLE:

- » Drop-off during your assigned time slot (April 7-9)
- » Pick-up by April 13
- » All buyer communications and sales transactions
- » **IMPORTANT DISCLAIMERS**
- » Insurance: Neither DCDC nor Dayton Ballet insures artwork - you participate at your own risk
- » Liability: Artists assume all responsibility for damage, theft, or loss
- » Transportation: You must deliver and pick up your own work
- » No Guarantees: Limited lobby space means not all works can be displayed in-person (but all appear in online gallery)

WHAT YOU GET

- » Exhibition in premier Dayton venue
- » Feature in online gallery
- » Professional labels with QR codes
- » Promotion via DCDC & Dayton Ballet channels
- » Opportunity to connect with buyers
- » Celebration of Dayton's artistic community
- » Artists under 18: Recognition certificate and acknowledgment

NEXT STEPS

- » Register by March 10 at [QRCO.DE/FUNKART2026](https://qrcode/funkart2026)
- » Watch for your info packet within one week
- » Submit final artwork by March 23
- » Check email March 30 for selection notification

Have questions? Want more details? Request our comprehensive FAQ sheet from:

Michael Green Marketing Director Dayton Contemporary Dance Company MGREEN@DCDC.org

Celebrating Dayton's artists and the funk legacy that built our city.

DCDC

DCDC.ORG

RHYTHM OF THE CITY PERFORMANCE TICKETS

www.daytonlive.org/rhythm-city

DAYTON

DAYTONPERFORMINGARTS.ORG