



**Harvey B. Gantt Center**  
for African-American Arts+Culture

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**GANTT CENTER TO HOST 2<sup>ND</sup> JAZZY HOLIDAY GALA WITH A BIG THEME –  
Presented by PNC Bank**

**(CHARLOTTE, N.C, October 29, 2015)** – The Harvey B. Gantt Center will host its second black-tie Jazzy Holiday Gala affair on Saturday, December 5, beginning at 6pm, at the Charlotte Convention Center, with presenting sponsor PNC Bank.

“Because of the great success of our Jazzy 40th Anniversary Gala, we decided to host another evening event,” said President & CEO David R. Taylor. “We are very excited about our 2015 award recipients who have made valuable contributions to the arts. We also appreciate the Charlotte community for coming together again in support of the Gantt Center.”

As the Center’s major annual fundraiser, Jazzy is one of the longest running annual traditions in the Charlotte area that boasts excellence in the arts, culture, history and community; annually celebrating established arts patrons and community leaders. Individual seats are \$175 per person. Tables of eight begin at \$2000 and include a graduated series of benefits for civic and corporate table sponsors. The proceeds from the event benefit the Gantt Center Annual Fund which enables the Center to provide programming to present, preserve and celebrate the arts, history and culture of African-Americans and people of the African Diaspora.

“The arts are a crucial element in Charlotte’s quality of life and the Gantt Center is a leading institution in this community,” said Weston M. Andress, PNC regional president, Western Carolina. “As a bank with predecessor institutions that date back more than 160 years, we share the Gantt’s commitment to share history, teach students and guide conversations that explore important issues such as diversity and inclusion.”

In keeping with the 2015 theme, BIG, the Gantt Center will present the Spirit of the Center Awards to three honorees who have made remarkable contributions to the Gantt Center, the arts and the greater Charlotte community; as well as the world.

***Philanthropy and Arts Advocacy***

**Dr. Yele Aluko and Dr. Shirley Houston-Aluko**

Dr. Yele Aluko and Dr. Shirley Aluko-Houston, major philanthropists, dedicated physicians and arts patrons with big hearts for African and African-American art and artists.

"We are honored to be recognized as recipients of the Gantt Center's 2015 Spirit of the Center Award, for simply engaging in a twenty-five year passion of art collecting. What began as an innocuous pastime of occasional art purchases from flea markets in New York City has evolved into a very deliberate and discriminatory art assimilation process over the years. We focus on aesthetically pleasing authentic African and African American master artists that weave a story of connectivity and commonality between the African and African American experience. The very nature of the artists' pedigree ensures value appreciation of our collection over time." - **Yele Aluko, MD and Shirley Houston-Aluko, MD**

***Corporate Citizenship and Partnership***

**Duke Energy**

Duke Energy, the largest electric utility company in the United States and generous corporate partner of the Gantt Center's big 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary membership challenge that resulted in a three-fold increase in membership.

"Arts and culture are powerful tools that connect people and help communities thrive. Duke Energy's investment in the Gantt Center is an investment in preserving and celebrating African-American arts and culture — not only in Charlotte, but across the country. Cultural enrichment is one of our core investment priorities, and we proudly support organizations like the Gantt Center that share this commitment." –

**Duke Energy Corporation**

***Art and Culture***

**Mr. Lonnie G. Bunch III, Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture**

Mr. Lonnie G. Bunch III, one of America's leading historians and Director of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, which is part of the world's biggest museum and research complex.

"America so often looks like a nation taking great pride in its ability to forget the past. It is an honor beyond description to lead the charge to create a museum to help America remember—to call her attention to the powerful story of the AFRICAN American and to help this great nation live up to its promises of liberty and justice for all. We at the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture find our work much easier because we have as our collaborators—and our guides—the visionaries and the foot soldiers at the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture. Together we can see where we have been and where we still need to go. And a fine journey this is!" – **Mr. Lonnie G. Bunch, III**

Individual seats and table purchases are available online at [www.ganttccenter.org](http://www.ganttccenter.org), by phone at 704.547.3781 or in person at the Center. Organizations and corporations should contact Gantt Center Development Associate, Cathy Templeton at 704.547.3781 for information about corporate sponsorships or group accommodations.

## **ABOUT HARVEY B. GANTT CENTER FOR AFRICAN-AMERICAN ARTS + CULTURE**

Founded in 1974, Charlotte's Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture (formerly the Afro-American Center) exists to present, preserve and celebrate the art, history and culture of African-Americans and people of the African Diaspora through dance, music, visual and literary arts, film, educational programs, theatre productions and community outreach. Named for Harvey Bernard Gantt, the prominent architect, community leader and former mayor of Charlotte, the Center is housed in an inspired and distinguished award-winning structure and is home to the nationally celebrated John and Vivian Hewitt Collection of African-American Art, which was generously donated by Bank of America.

For more information on the Gantt Center and to view the John & Vivian Hewitt Collection of African-American Art online, please visit [www.ganttcenter.org](http://www.ganttcenter.org) and join us on Facebook and on Twitter: @hbganttcenter.

## **ABOUT PNC**

PNC Bank, National Association, is a member of The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. (NYSE: PNC). PNC is one of the largest diversified financial services institutions in the United States, organized around its customers and communities for strong relationships and local delivery of retail and business banking; residential mortgage banking; specialized services for corporations and government entities, including corporate banking, real estate finance and asset-based lending; wealth management and asset management. For information about PNC, visit [www.pnc.com](http://www.pnc.com).