



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

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AWARD-WINNING PHOTOGRAPHER TALKS ABOUT HER WORK WITH BLACK LIVES MATTER Sheila Pree Bright Discusses Exhibit *#1960Now* and Capturing a Movement At Gantt Center

Charlotte, NC (May 16, 2016) – Award-winning fine art photographer Sheila Pree Bright comes to Charlotte on Friday, June 3 to share her experiences documenting the Black Lives Matter movement in 2015. The outcome of her work is captured in an exhibit, *#1960Now*, which is currently featured at the Harvey B. Gantt Center. Doors open at 5:00 pm for guests to view the exhibition and at 6:00 pm, Bright will lead a conversation about her involvement on the ground photographing Black Lives Matter protesters.

“The community has come to see us as a convener around important issues,” says Gantt Center President & CEO David Taylor. “Sheila Pree Bright’s work helps us to further dialogue and also supports the Center’s year-long theme, Art as Activism. We are looking forward to sharing her insight with the Charlotte community.”

In 2013, while photographing under-recognized living leaders of the Civil Rights movement, Bright made a connection between then-current issues and the climate of the 1960s. This observation inspired her groundbreaking project — now interactive exhibition — *#1960Now*. As she began documenting the

Black Lives Matter movement in Atlanta, Baltimore, Ferguson, and Washington, DC, Bright observed young social activists taking a stand against the same struggles their parents and grandparents endured during the Jim Crow era. This photographic series of emerging young leaders examines race, gender and generational divides to raise awareness of millennial perspectives on civil and human rights.

A self-described visual cultural producer, Bright believes that “art can be a form of activism to create awareness and bring shared communities together to look at ongoing social and political struggles.” “I would like to inspire dialogue in our country between races, genders and generations,” she says on her website.

Bright may be best known for her 2003 photographic series *Plastic Bodies* which combined images of real women’s bodies and faces with those of dolls, and explored the complex relationship women of color have to white beauty standards.

Her lecture, *#1960Now On the Ground*, is open to the public; tickets are \$10 and available online at www.ganttcenter.org. Admission for Gantt Center members is free. The exhibition closes Sunday, June 26.

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ABOUT HARVEY B. GANTT CENTER

Founded in 1974, Charlotte's Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture (formerly the Afro-American Cultural & Service Center) exists to present, preserve and celebrate the art, history and culture of African-Americans and people of African descent 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, please visit www.ganttcenter.org and join us on Facebook and Twitter: @hbganttcenter.