



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



MEN OF CHANGE

Power. Triumph. Truth.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition Profiling Revolutionary African American Men Coming to Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts+Culture and Levine Museum of the New South

Charlotte N.C, (September 26, 2022) - Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts+Culture and Levine Museum of the New South are proud to collaborate in bringing the dynamic exhibition *Men of Change: Power. Triumph. Truth.* to the Charlotte community, October 8, 2022 - March 12, 2023.

The exhibition from the Smithsonian presents the narrative of a nation through the profiles of significant African American men who are icons in the country's historical and cultural landscape. Created by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), *Men of Change* is made possible through the support of Ford Motor Company Fund, the philanthropic arm of Ford.

"In the spirit of our mission and legacy, bringing Men of Change to Charlotte is a great gift and honor," said David R. Taylor, president and CEO, Harvey B. Gantt Center. "We are excited to collaborate with Levine Museum of the New South to showcase the stories of these iconic men who have contributed greatly to the good of our society, and to celebrate the local Men of Change in our community."

"The Gantt and Levine Museum strive to ignite dialogue and engagement that connects the community through history, art, culture, and celebration." Said Kathryn Hill, President and CEO, Levine Museum of the New South. "Collaboration is one of the Museum's founding values and we hope this partnership around *Men of Change* inspires the community to visit both museums to hear the voices and share the stories of these extraordinary men."

A diverse group of artists, advisors, academics, curators, and museum professionals determined the men chosen as *Men of Change*. The exhibition highlights revolutionary men—including Muhammad Ali, James Baldwin, Ta-Nehisi Coates, W.E.B. DuBois, and Kendrick Lamar—whose journeys have altered the history and culture of the country through politics, sports, science, entertainment, business, and religion. Each biography is paired with original artwork by a noted artist that illustrates the subject’s unique contribution. The exhibition weaves a collective tapestry of what it is to be an African American man, past and present, and the legacy that only strengthens across generations.

“We hope that by experiencing *Men of Change* visitors will see a lesson for us all, regardless of gender, race or nationality,” said Myriam Springuel, director of SITES and Smithsonian Affiliations. “In these men we see an absolute ideal and a well of inspiration that encourages us to become our best selves.”

The Gantt and Levine Museum share this exhibition which revolves around seven themes. The Gantt will display *Storytellers*, *Fathering*, and *Imagining*, Levine Museum will display *Catalysts*, *Myth-Breakers*, and *Community*, and both museums will display *Loving*.

“Ford and the Smithsonian have a shared commitment to honoring people and achievements that reflect America’s diverse culture,” said Mary Culler, president, Ford Motor Company Fund. “Ford Fund is proud to bring *Men of Change* to Charlotte to help showcase the legacies of African American men who have changed the world for the better.”

During the exhibition’s run, both museums will partner on community programming aligned with the exhibition and each museum will feature a special temporary exhibition that highlights local Charlotte “men of change” who have inspired and influenced positive change in their communities. The *Men of Change* exhibition will feature a talk-back section, encouraging visitors to nominate local men in Charlotte who they would like to acknowledge.

With a generous gift from Wells Fargo, the Charlotte community sponsor, free admission is made possible to both institutions while this exhibition is on view. "We believe Wells Fargo has a tremendous opportunity to make a positive impact in the communities where we work, live and serve," said Michelle Lee, head of Regional Branch Banking for Wells Fargo and a member of the Gantt board of directors. "Our support for this exhibit, as well as arts and culture overall in Charlotte, connects directly with our commitment to advance diversity and inclusion in ways that will result in sustainable progress and lasting impact."

Men of Change opens Saturday, October 8 at both the Gantt and Levine Museum. For more information about the exhibition, visit menofchange.si.edu, ganttcenter.org, and museumofthenewsouth.org.

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About SITES

SITES has been sharing the wealth of Smithsonian collections and research programs with millions of people outside of Washington, D.C., for more than 70 years. SITES connects Americans to their shared cultural heritage through a wide range of exhibitions about art, science and history, which are shown wherever people live, work and play. For more information, including exhibition descriptions and tour schedules, sites.si.edu.

About Ford Motor Company Fund

As the automaker's philanthropic arm, Ford Motor Company Fund has been supporting local communities for more than 70 years. Working with nonprofit organizations, community partners and across the Ford network in the U.S. and in 43 countries, Ford Fund provides resources and opportunities that advance racial equity and empower people to reach their highest potential. Since 1949, Ford and Ford Fund have invested more than \$2.2 billion in initiatives that ensure basic needs are met, provide access to essential services, offer tools to build new skillsets and open pathways to high quality jobs. For more information, visit www.fordfund.org or join us at @FordFund on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

About the Gantt

The 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).

About Levine Museum

Levine Museum of the New South is the region's premiere history museum, telling the stories of the diverse people who have shaped and been shaped by this region. Through exhibits, dialogues, digital programs and celebrations that tell everyone's story, Levine Museum explores the world today through the lens of history in order to deepen understanding, ignite productive dialogue, and inspire civic engagement. Since its founding in 1990, Levine Museum has earned a national reputation for its innovative and compelling programming and its commitment to using history to build community.

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