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BRONZEVILLE CENTER FOR THE ARTS TO HOST BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENTS

Three free, public events highlight influence of Black artists on Milwaukee, community culture

MILWAUKEE – To celebrate Black History Month, the Bronzeville Center for the Arts (BCA) is hosting events throughout the month of February at Gallery 507, the organization's headquarters and gallery space in Milwaukee's historic Bronzeville District. These community-based educational events are free and open to the public.

"The Bronzeville Center for the Arts exists to elevate the history and heritage of African American art while making it more accessible to the surrounding community," said Communications Manager Robyn Cherry. "We're proud to host these free, public events dedicated to exploring our city's rich history and the influence of Black artists on its community and culture."

The lineup of events and activities include:

Wednesday, February 12:

Murals in Bronzeville: *Why Murals Speak* Panel Discussion

5:30–7 p.m. at Gallery 507, 507 W. North Ave.

Not only is the Bronzeville neighborhood key to understanding early African American history, it is also rich with Black history that has shaped the present. Milwaukee's murals celebrate both historic and present-day Black lives while addressing current issues of civil rights, social justice and other issues that affect our Black communities. Join the BCA for a panel discussion featuring a variety of Milwaukee's muralists.

Monday, February 17:

"Valiant Vel" Book Signing and Discussion

5:30–7 p.m. at Gallery 507, 507 W. North Ave.

"Valiant Vel" by Jerriane Hayslett tells the story of Vel Phillips, the first African American and first woman to be elected to Milwaukee's Common Council. She spent her career fighting for fair housing policies to protect minorities from discrimination when buying or renting homes. Join us for a book signing and discussion with author Jerriane Hayslett and illustrator Aaron Boyd about her life and legacy.

Thursday, February 27:

Quilting in Contemporary Art: *Stitching our Stories*

5:30–7 p.m. at Gallery 507, 507 W. North Ave.

Today's quilt and fiber artists continue to lean into quilting's resourceful roots, able to carry on conversations and connections with African American ancestors to form their own stories through stitching squares of materials and fabric. These textile artists are building on the narrative potential of quilts to establish a new era that centers on history, cultural heritage and identity in communities where they live. Join us for an educational presentation and panel discussion.

Learn more about upcoming BCA events at <https://bcamke.org/community-events/>.

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ABOUT BRONZEVILLE CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Established in 2020, the Bronzeville Center for the Arts (BCA) seeks to establish a major new art museum in Bronzeville – a historically African American neighborhood in Milwaukee, Wisconsin - to highlight the work of African American artists. The BCA seeks to advance institutional equity, connect intergenerational and diverse audiences, and provide a place for everyone to experience and develop a greater understanding of and appreciation for African American art.

The BCA promotes current and future artists and art professionals by opening a lens to the history and heritage of Black artists. Central to the BCA's mission is removing barriers from the enjoyment of art and forging a future that is more creative, connected, and informed. Bronzeville's bustling entrepreneurial and artistic history serve as the foundation for the BCA, inspiring us to continue to honor and embody this multifaceted heritage. Learn more at www.BCAMKE.org.