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ARTSEMERSON ANNOUNCES ITS NEW **COMMUNITY CURATORS PROGRAM**

FIVE COMMUNITY CURATORS ENVISION AND PRODUCE EVENTS
IN ARTSEMERSON'S DOWNTOWN SPACES

Email for more information, high resolution images, and interviews.

[Boston, MA – November 29, 2016] ArtsEmerson, known for its commitment to address gaps in Boston's cultural landscape by presenting the world on its stages and welcoming diverse communities as its audience, proudly announces its new **Community Curators Program**. For the 2016/17 season, the program engages five Boston artists and organizers to envision and produce events in ArtsEmerson's downtown spaces and includes events presented by Justin Springer/Outside the Box Agency, Jae Williams/Forever Ink Foundation, Bithiah Carter/New England Blacks in Philanthropy, Malia Lazu/Epicenter Community, and Susan Chinsen/Boston Asian American Film Festival. The Community Curators Program is supported by grants from the Fresh Sounds Foundation and Artplace America.



Justin Springer



Jae Williams



Bithiah Carter



Malia Lazu



Susan Chinsen

"At ArtsEmerson, we're glad to share our public downtown spaces with this cohort of community curators," says co-artistic director P. Carl. "The curators' work varies across music, film, and fashion – and speaks to important civic conversations like philanthropy, accessibility, and cultural-competency. We welcome these arts leaders to do their good work and share among the ArtsEmerson and Emerson College communities."

"We see great value," says Justin Springer, "in partnering with ArtsEmerson—to share our programming in their downtown community spaces. We hope to bring "uptown" to downtown, and strengthen our goal of promoting philanthropic giving. I define community as a village of common interests, goals, and experiences. Sharing resources is important—and working among Community Curators uplifts our arts community."

"I believe ArtsEmerson cares about how the arts enrich our community," shares Jae Williams. "I hope to create an audience that feels welcomed and acknowledged through my programming. Through open dialogue I hope that a theater full of people can feel like being in a living room with family--allowing people to feel comfortable in sharing their thoughts, values, and cultures. It's valuable to all the community curators to collaborate—it both deepens and broadens our collective hope to

make our world a better place through the arts.”

“Partnering with ArtsEmerson,” shares Susan Chinsen, “provides access to state of the art facilities as well as a great support in our work. ArtsEmerson roots for us to succeed each year. The ongoing partnership with ArtsEmerson allows me to better advocate for arts in Boston and help Boston Asian American Film Festival be a part of something bigger. Working with the other community curators helps build bridges between our varied communities.”

“ArtsEmerson helps us, the community curators, create a real bridge between high-level production and community creative dreams,” says Malia Lazu. They truly understand the benefits of grassroots organizing. Working with the other curators is vital to supporting all the events – and helping us all build broader audiences within the community.”

“Through partnering with ArtsEmerson,” shares Bithiha Carter, “allows New England Blacks in Philanthropy the opportunity to showcase experts and thought leaders who are committed to strengthening the black community through creative philanthropy. We hope to cross-pollinate by sharing resources with the other curators, and elevate diversity in the arts and across cultures.”

COMMUNITY CURATORS PROGRAM (upcoming 2017 events)

Justin Springer/Outside the Box Agency

BOSTON UNPLUGGED

Emerson/Paramount Center, Jackie Liebergott Black Box Theatre

February 25, 2017 | June 17, 2017

Live music concerts featuring local musical talent, benefiting local non-profits in need.

Jae Williams/Forever Ink Foundation

REEL LIFE EXPERIENCE

Emerson/Paramount Center, Bright Family Screening Room

April 22, 2017 | June 10, 2017

Film screenings accompanied by live DJs, music performances, art exhibitions, and panel discussions.

Bithiah Carter/New England Blacks in Philanthropy

NEBIP DIALOGUES

Semel Theatre, Tufte Building 3rd floor, Emerson College

June 9, 2017

Moderated discussions focused on black philanthropy and giving.

Melia Lazu/EpiCenter Community

FASHION ACCESSIBILITY PROJECT

Emerson/Paramount Center, Jackie Liebergott Black Box Theatre

June 24, 2017

A runway show spotlighting fashion trends for the disabled, celebrating beauty.

Susan Chinsen/Boston Asian American Film Festival

CHINESE EXCLUSION STAGED READING

Emerson/Paramount Center, Jackie Liebergott Black Box Theatre

March 17 and 18, 2017

A staged reading of Harry H. How's farce on immigration interrogation during the Chinese Exclusion Act, followed by a discussion.

About Justin Springer, Outside the Box Agency

Justin is president of Outside The Box Agency, a creative think-tank agency that pairs cutting-edge ideas with revolutionary talent to offer clients unparalleled services in branding, public relations, and consulting. He also recently launched BREAD (Boston's Racial + Economic Activated Dialogue), the Dream Builders Youth Project, and sponsored a visual art mural of 5-time Grammy award-winning artist and disco queen, Donna Summer.

otbagency.com

About Jae Williams, Forever Ink Foundation

Jae Williams is an award-winning filmmaker (Kay Borne Emerging Filmmaker award, Brother Thomas Artist Fellowship Award), and arts advocate. Born in Southside Chicago, raised in West Medford, Massachusetts Williams left high school and pursued a degree from Emerson College. Graduating with a bachelor's in media production and master's degree in Integrated Marketing, he serves as Digital Media Producer at Emerson College. In his role he is also fortunate to act as a mentor for film and media production students who have hopes of building a successful film career in the future. In 2008, Williams founded Forever Ink which produces short films and executes a monthly film series called the Reel Life Experience as well as an annual charity event called Celebration of the Arts Red Carpet Experience.

ReelLifeExperience.com

About Bithiah Carter, New England Blacks in Philanthropy

Bithiah Carter is the President of New England Blacks in Philanthropy. She is the former Executive Director of Grand Circle Foundation and has also served as a consultant in the philanthropic sector focusing on the needs of children and families in the greater Boston community. Before entering the non-profit world, she worked for nearly ten years in the financial services industry in New York and Boston. In addition, she serves as a member of the board of directors of several local and national non-profit organizations. Ms. Carter lives in Milton, MA with her husband and daughter.

nebip.org

About Malia Lazu, Epicenter Community

Upon completing a two-year fellowship at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Malia Lazu returned to Boston to build nonprofit models for the 21st century. With over two decades of experience establishing grass roots involvement in political advocacy and civic engagement, Malia felt the nonprofit industry was too dependent on money and was in need of disruption. This belief led her to create Future Boston Alliance and then Epicenter Community, organizations working to change the world by being intentional when building diverse communities and celebrating the beautiful ways we are different.

epicentercomm.org

About Susan Chinsen, Boston Asian American Film Festival

Susan Chinsen is the establishing director of the Boston Asian American Film Festival (a project of Asian American Resource Workshop), seeking to use films to elevate the awareness of issues impacting Asian Americans. In 2013, she joined the Chinese Historical Society of New England/CHSNE as the Managing Director, focusing on documenting, promoting, and preserving the experiences of Chinese in the region--with a priority focus on Boston's Chinatown neighborhood. She also serves on the Board of Directors at South Cove Community Health Center, with an interest in contributing back to a community center that was critical in helping her family access needed healthcare upon immigrating to the U.S. She was raised in the greater Boston area and graduated from Tufts University where she majored in American Studies with a focus on Media and Asian Americans.

baaff.org

About the Fresh Sounds Foundation

The Fresh Sounds Foundation supports building vibrant and viable communities through the arts, economic development, and stewardship of the environment.

freshsoundfoundation.org

About Artplace America

ArtPlace America (ArtPlace) is a ten-year collaboration among a number of foundations, federal agencies, and financial institutions that works to position arts and culture as a core sector of comprehensive community planning and development in order to help strengthen the social, physical, and economic fabric of communities. ArtPlace focuses its work on creative placemaking, which describes projects in which art plays an intentional and integrated role in place-based community planning and development. This brings artists, arts organizations, and artistic activity into the suite of placemaking strategies pioneered by Jane Jacobs and her colleagues, who believed that community development must be locally informed, human-centric, and holistic. In practice, this means having arts and culture represented alongside sectors like housing and transportation – with each sector recognized as part of any healthy community; as requiring planning and investment from its community; and as having a responsibility to contribute to its community's overall future.

artplaceamerica.org

About ArtsEmerson

ArtsEmerson is the professional presenting and producing organization of the Office of the Arts at Emerson College, and aims to address gaps in Boston's cultural landscape by putting the world on stage and inviting diverse audiences from across the region into its historic downtown venues. Founded in 2010 by Robert J. Orchard under the auspices of Emerson College, ArtsEmerson quickly established a reputation for putting great work from diverse cultures on its stages — work that emanates from the language of theater, yet pushes the boundaries into dance, music, and opera. The organization is committed to building a cultural institution that embraces and reflects the changing demographics of the City of Boston. ArtsEmerson operates from the core belief that the arts are for everyone. In 2015, Orchard moved into the role of Creative Consultant. Currently ArtsEmerson is led by Co-Artistic Directors, David Dower and P. Carl, and Executive Director, David Howse. This shared leadership model reflects the organization's values — that multiple voices are essential to leading a 21st century arts organization. Click [here](#) for more information.

About Emerson College

Based in Boston, Massachusetts, opposite the historic Boston Common and in the heart of the city's Theatre District, with sites in the Netherlands and Los Angeles, Emerson College educates individuals who will solve problems and change the world through engaged leadership in communication and the arts, a mission informed by liberal learning. The College has 3,750 undergraduates and 750 graduate students from across the United States and 50 countries. Supported by state-of-the-art facilities and a renowned faculty, students participate in more than 90 student organizations and performance groups. Emerson is known for its study and internship programs in Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., the Netherlands, London, China and the Czech Republic. The College has an active network of 32,000 alumni who hold leadership positions in communications and the arts. Click [here](#) for information.

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