

Contact

Amy Patti, amy.patti@msichicago.org, (773) 941-6005
Isabel Morales, isabel.morales@msichicago.org, (773) 947-6003

2019 BLACK CREATIVITY PROGRAMMING KICKS OFF WITH OPENING OF LONGEST-RUNNING EXHIBITION OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN ART IN THE NATION

Annual program includes Juried Art Exhibition featuring more than 170 artworks, hands-on Innovation Studio honoring legacy of African-American innovators, and more

CHICAGO, Ill. (January 14, 2019)—The 2019 Black Creativity program, an annual staple at the Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago (MSI), since 1970, begins January 14 with the *Juried Art Exhibition*, the longest-running gallery of African-American art. The exhibition, the largest in the program's history, features more than 170 works of art from professional and student artists, with past alumni including Chicago's Harmonia Rosales and Hebru Brantley.

The *Juried Art Exhibition* kick off a series of experiences and events throughout January and February that celebrate the achievements of African-American creators and innovators. Guests can explore these rich contributions through hands-on experiences that are included with Museum Entry, and free for Illinois residents most of January and February through the Museum's Illinois resident free days.

Juried Art Exhibition

January 14 - February 24

This year this gallery is the largest in Black Creativity history, featuring more than 170 dynamic works from African-American professional and student artists that were chosen by a panel of five jurors. From the exhibition, the panel selects first, second and third place overall show winners, as well as a winner in each medium category and overall in the youth category. *Included with Museum Entry.*

Family Day + Innovation Studio

January 21 – February 24

On Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, guests are invited to celebrate during MSI's annual Black Creativity Family Day. Illinois residents receive free Museum Entry and can participate in a community art experience led by Chicago artist Shala., as well as design and test a prototype during the opening of the *Innovation Studio*.

The Innovation Studio, open through February 24, provides a creative space for guests to become innovators themselves! Powered by guests' own curiosity and inspired by our gallery spotlighting local innovators, guests will have access to a variety of materials and tools to create prototypes that solve everyday challenges using design thinking. Sessions are offered at various times throughout the day, and school and community groups may call (773) 684-1414 to reserve a workshop. *Included with Museum Entry.*

The Black Creativity Gala

January 26

The Black Creativity Gala, planned in collaboration with a committee of prominent African-American leaders, raises money to support the annual Black Creativity program at MSI. This black-tie event is a celebration of art and innovation, providing guests with late-night access to the Museum's world-renowned exhibits as well as exclusive experiences. *Additional ticket purchase required.*

Career Showcase

February 23, 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

The Career Showcase offers guests the chance to explore innovative careers by speaking straight to the innovators themselves. Dozens of professionals in art, science and engineering will be stationed throughout the Museum for hands-on activities and one-on-one discussions.

Included with Museum Entry

Jr. Science Cafés

Weekdays in February

School groups can reserve 30-minute sessions with a scientist, artist or engineer in the Jr. Science Cafés. Each session is an exciting opportunity for students to interact with professionals and participate in hands-on activities. To book a school group session call (773) 684-1414.

Visit the Museum's website at msichicago.org/blackcreativity for a full list of events.

Black Creativity season sponsors include The Allstate Insurance Company, NextLevel Health Partners, Inc. and TWG Partners, LLC.

The Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago (MSI), one of the largest science museums in the world, offers world-class and uniquely interactive experiences that inspire inventive genius and foster curiosity. From groundbreaking and award-winning exhibits that can't be found anywhere else, to hands-on opportunities that make *you* the scientist—a visit to MSI is where fun and learning mix. Through its Welcome to Science Initiative, the Museum offers a variety of student, teacher and family programs that make a difference in communities and contribute to MSI's larger vision: to inspire and motivate children to achieve their full potential in science, technology, medicine and engineering. Come visit and find your inspiration! MSI is open 9:30–4 p.m. every day except Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. Extended hours, until 5:30 p.m., are offered during peak periods. The Museum is grateful for the support of its donors and guests, who make its work possible. MSI is also supported in part by the people of Chicago through the Chicago Park District. For more information, visit msichicago.org or call (773) 684-1414.

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