



For Immediate Release  
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### **The Museum of Science and Industry Honors Black History Month with Annual Black Creativity Program and Signature Juried Art Exhibition**

(February 8, 2023 - CHICAGO) The Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago is honoring Black History Month with a variety of events for its annual Black Creativity program throughout the month of February. Black Creativity celebrates African American achievement through a wide range of experiences designed to inspire youth to pursue educational opportunities and careers in science, technology, engineering, the arts, and math (STEAM).

Conceived and organized by a group of local artists and Chicago Defender staff in 1970, Black Creativity grew out of an initiative called Black Esthetics- a tribute to the culture, heritage, and contributions of African Americans in the arts. In 1984, the program was renamed Black Creativity and soon expanded to celebrate the contributions of African Americans in the sciences. New experiences were added, including an exhibit, educational programs, and a gala to support the annual program.

“For more than 50 years, Black Creativity has highlighted the vast and impactful contributions made by Black Americans. By elevating the brilliance, intellect, and innovation of the Black diaspora, MSI inspires our guests in the fields of science, technology, engineering, the arts, and math,” said Dr. Rabiah Mayas, the Museum’s Ruth D. and Ken M. Davee Vice President of Education, Partnerships and Community. “MSI is a destination where dreams are sparked and Black Creativity is an exemplar of that.”

There are multiple events happening throughout the month for guests and friends of MSI to attend, including:

#### **Black Creativity Juried Art Exhibition**

The ***Black Creativity Juried Art Exhibition***, the longest, continuously running exhibition of African American art exhibit in the United States. The exhibit presents more than 100 works of art from professional and emerging Black artists from throughout the country. The exhibition includes paintings, drawings, fine art prints, sculpture, mixed media, and photography by African Americans, including youth artists between the ages of 14 and 17.

#### **Free and Paid Education Programs**

On February 25<sup>th</sup>, MSI will host the **Black Creativity Career Showcase**. At the event, families can talk with African American artists, scientists, and engineers about innovative work happening right here in Chicago. This is an opportunity to learn from experts during dynamic demonstrations, hands-on activities, and one-on-one conversations.

On Tuesdays in February, **Black Creativity Art Cafes** provide opportunities for students to hear personal stories from an African American artist and explore possible careers in the arts. On Thursdays in February, **Black Creativity Science Cafes** provide opportunities for students to learn from an African American innovator in the STEAM field.

### **Black Creativity Gala**

Held on February 18<sup>th</sup> is the beloved **Black Creativity Gala**, an annual celebration of the contributions of Black creators, innovators, artists, and geniuses. MSI is the hottest spot in town for this annual celebration as leaders from the worlds of industry, education, philanthropy, and civics come together to dine, dance, and demonstrate the power and possibility of the Black community in Chicago and beyond.

For more information about Black Creativity at the Museum of Science and Industry, visit <https://www.msichicago.org/blackcreativity>

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### **About MSI**

The Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago (MSI) offers world-class and uniquely interactive experiences that inspire inventive genius and foster curiosity. As one of the largest science museums in the world, from groundbreaking and award-winning exhibits to hands-on opportunities —a visit to MSI is guaranteed to connect fun and learning. MSI is committed to offering comprehensive educational programs - for students, teachers, and families - that make a difference in local communities and contribute to MSI's larger vision: to inspire and motivate children to achieve their full potential in STEM - science, technology, engineering, and math. The Museum is grateful for the support of its generous 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](https://www.msichicago.org) or call (773) 684-1414.