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## **MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY HOSTS 38<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL BLACK CREATIVITY GALA**

*Guests gather for MSI's first virtual Black Creativity Gala*

**CHICAGO, Ill.** (April 28, 2021) —The Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago (MSI) hosted its 38th annual and first-ever virtual Black Creativity Gala on Saturday, April 17, 2021 with over 600 unique viewers from seven countries. The Gala supports the annual Black Creativity program and its events, which pay tribute to the culture, heritage and scientific contributions of African Americans and help motivate youth in the sciences.

“Science, innovation, and inspiration are all around us and within each of us,” said Chevy Humphrey, president and CEO of the Museum. “MSI’s Black Creativity program celebrates African-American achievement in science, technology, engineering, art and medicine. Surfacing the contributions of all populations weaves together a beautiful fabric in which we can all see ourselves engaged in science.”

The special evening celebrated science, art and Chicago through both live and pre-recorded entertainment. Attendees were mailed exclusive Gala kits the day before that included Black Creativity memorabilia, Namaste Fresh Candle Tin from Math Flow Connection, a signature cocktail recipe from Do Well Brands, hand sanitizer from Tito’s Handmade Vodka and a salted caramel peach pie from Justice of the Pies. Hosted by WGN’s Demetrius Ivory, the Gala was chaired by Cheryl Harris, senior vice president of sourcing and procurement solutions at Allstate Insurance Company.

The evening began with a welcome from Chevy Humphrey followed by a moving opening act by the South Shore Drill Team inside of the U-505 exhibit. Following the welcome, virtual attendees enjoyed an inspiring spoken word performance by K-Love the Poet and a pair of exclusive prerecorded musical performances by Manasseh and the Fellas. Attendees also had access to an early look at the online *Black Creativity Juried Art Exhibition* gallery.

Performing live throughout the night, DJ Nick “Nonstop” Nicholson led attendees into the virtual after-party, where VIP guests could speak with this year’s Black Creativity Innovators Tonika Lewis-Johnson and J. Ivy and also Alexander Bostic, this year’s first-place *Black Creativity Juried Art Exhibition* winner.

**About the 2021 Black Creativity Program** The Museum of Science and Industry’s annual Black Creativity program invites students, teachers, families and the public to explore the legacy of rich contributions and achievements made by African Americans.

It encourages deeper interest in science and technology, inspiring children to become the innovators of tomorrow through experiences and events:

- **Juried Art Exhibition:** This exhibition features with more than 200 dynamic works from both professional and amateur African American artists from across the nation as well as local student artists. This longest running exhibition of African American art has been displayed annually at MSI since 1970 and a new feature this year will be an online art gallery, providing even more people the opportunity to view the artwork. The *Juried Art Exhibition* is included in Museum Entry and open through July 4.
- **Art and Activism:** This new exhibit showcases images of the artistic and public response within the Chicago community to the protests during the summer of 2020. The gallery will also feature commissioned artwork by muralist Jamiah Calvin and local teen artists.
- **Innovation Studio:** This past January and February, about 1,000 Chicago students participated in virtual Black Creativity programs. Programs included remote Innovation Studio workshops and streamed conversations with working STEM and arts professionals called Jr. Science and Art Cafes. These culturally relevant programs are designed to expose African American youth to opportunities in science, technology, engineering, art and medicine

Find more information on our website at [www.msichicago.org/bc2021](http://www.msichicago.org/bc2021)

Allstate Insurance Company is the exclusive season sponsor of Black Creativity.

**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 educational 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. The Museum is exceptionally 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](http://msichicago.org) or call [\(773\) 684-1414](tel:7736841414).

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