



STORY QUILTS

2023 PROJECT PLAN

ABOUT THE BLACC

OUR MISSION

The Black Life Arts & Culture Coalition (BLACC) is a committee of Black community leaders and allies committed to affirming and celebrating Black life and culture through the arts in Mobile. Through public-facing, artist-led projects and programs, we support cultural production that represents the diversity of our city, celebrates the rich cultural heritage of African American communities, and seeks to create equity in representation and affirmation of Black life. We work in and with the community to create understanding and build the cultural capitol of Black arts.

OUR METHOD

Through fundraising and collaboration, we create sustainable opportunities for Black artists in Mobile and surrounding areas to make new work. The projects and programs we support:

- Affirm the value and significance of Black voices in our community;
- Address the heritage and history of both the African American community and the African diaspora in Mobile;
- Uplift Black contemporary culture and visualization;
- Address existing inequities in underserved and under-resourced historically Black communities;
- Seek to build equity and access for Black artists;
- Empower new generations of Black artists to creatively engage our city; and
- Seed sustainable and meaningful change through the arts.

THE PROJECT

In 2023 the BLACC aims to select seven local visual artists of color to commission thematic 'story-quilts' based on outcomes of the 2021-2022 Photovoice project. If the fundraising goals of the project exceed expectations we will commission more quilts, but aim to commission at least one per theme at minimum.

THE SEVEN STORY QUILT THEMES ARE:

BLACK JOY | GATHERING
BLACK HAIR/FASHION
BLACK LOVE | NEIGHBORHOOD
SPIRITUALITY | WORK

ABOUT THE PROJECT

A “Story-Quilt” is defined by this project to be a 72 inch by 72 inch (6’ by 6’) picture plane that illustrates narratives and perspectives of the Mobile Black Community. These quilts may use any materials or method (fabric, paint, collage, or assemblage) to tell a story of a moment, an event, or a feeling that is important to one of the above themes. Artists and quilters must be POC who currently live in Mobile County and will be selected on the basis of work examples and community engagement.

The impact of this project is focused on two things:

1. Increasing Black representation in public art, and adding to the cultural lexicon of Mobile.
2. Creating opportunities of true career impact for local POC artists and creative producers.

We intend to schedule (~3) **outreach events** to maximize accessibility and participation in the Open Call for artists. These events are led by arts admin professionals, free to the public. BLACC committee members will select the final proposals in November.

A **culminating exhibition** is planned to open June 14, 2024. The intention of BLACC post-exhibition is to relocate the ‘quilts’ in public spaces throughout the City of Mobile on either a long-term loan by the artist, or a permanent basis if purchased or collected by an individual or organization willing to commit to the upkeep and preservation of the artwork, and to keeping it on view in public space for no less than 3 years.

Our **Exhibition Partners** (Alabama Contemporary & Mobile Arts Council) are contributing free labor and expertise to the culminating exhibition, as well as the relocation of each quilt afterwards:



EXAMPLE ONLY: Faith Ringgold, Woman on a Bridge #1 of 5: Tar Beach, 1988. Acrylic paint, canvas, printed fabric, ink, and thread. 74 5/8 × 68 1/2 in (189.5 × 174cm). Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York Gift, Mr. and Mrs. Gus and Judith Leiber, 88.3620.

PROJECT TIMELINE

OPEN CALL/OUTREACH	September 18 - November 3, 2023
PANEL REVIEW	November 6 - 10, 2023
CREATION PHASE	December 2023 - May 2024
EXHIBITION OPENING	June 14, 2024

VALUING CREATIVE LABOR

The commission of new work takes time. We are allowing artists six months to create each quilt, as well as paying honorariums and material stipends. Sponsoring a quilt only pays the direct costs of outreach, fundraising and creative labor. It’s important to us that the artists have the opportunity to get market rate for their labor, and that their work stays on display within the community. Individuals will have the separate opportunity to purchase quilts or negotiate long term loans to display them beyond 2025.

PUBLIC SPACE

The goal after the exhibition is for these quilts to remain in public space as representation of the community and its values. This can include but is not limited to:

- **Lobbies** at hotels, banks, and companies that have open doors to the general public;
- **Municipal Buildings** that are trafficked by the general public;
- **Storefronts** and shops that have a street-visible area;
- **Transit Locations** such as airports or train terminals;
- **Community Centers** of all kinds, so long as there are regular open hours and staff on site.

SUPPORT THIS PROJECT!

▶ SUPPORTER - UP TO \$2499

ACAC Membership & Donor Perks apply, please see the ACAC website for what tier of recognition your contribution warrants. Your contribution will be earmarked strictly for use by the BLACC.

▶ QUILT SPONSOR - \$2,500+

Pay the costs associated with the identifying of an artist and the creation of one quilt.

RECOGNITION: Quilt sponsors will receive label recognition in perpetuity, as well as recognition on the BLACC webpage, on all associated print matter, and in wall vinyl during the exhibition, January 4 – February 1, 2024. You may dedicate your sponsorship “This quilt is sponsored in honor/loving memory of...” or companies may provide logos for publicity and print purposes.

Additionally sponsors will receive recognition at an opening event, as well as special invitation to a ‘Meet the Artist’ dinner, held for Story Quilt Sponsors and Artists in line with the exhibition.

DISPLAY FOR ONE YEAR: By sponsoring a quilt you have the right to a one-year loan to display in public space that you own or manage. If you do not have such a space in mind you can work with ACAC and MAC staff to identify a location.

▶ SPONSOR + PURCHASE OF QUILT - \$7,500+

Pay the costs associated with the identifying of an artist, the creation of One Quilt, AND purchase it as part of a permanent or private collection.

RECOGNITION: Quilt sponsors will receive label recognition in perpetuity, as well as recognition on the BLACC webpage, on all associated print matter, and in wall vinyl during the exhibition, January 4 – February 1, 2024. You may dedicate your sponsorship “This quilt is sponsored in honor/loving memory of...” or companies may provide logos for publicity and print purposes.

Additionally sponsors will receive recognition at an opening event, as well as special invitation to a ‘Meet the Artist’ dinner, held for Story Quilt Sponsors and Artists in line with the exhibition.

We ask that purchases only come from buyers with the ability to keep the quilt in public view in Mobile for 3 years. Following the exhibition and public display period you will own the quilt. \$5,000 of your contribution will be paid directly to the artist.

To support this project, please fill out the form with your sponsorship and/or donation information and remit a check to:

ALABAMA CONTEMPORARY ART CENTER
C/O DIRECTOR OF FINANCE
PO Box 198
Mobile, AL 36601



IF SUPPORTING BY PAYING WITH A CARD,
please donate through our website and fill out
the online form at [alabamacontemporary.org/
blacc](http://alabamacontemporary.org/blacc) or scan the QR code.

Name _____

Organization (if applicable) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Email _____ Phone _____

SPONSOR LEVEL (Please check a box below and write in your donation amount.)

Donation Amount: \$ _____

SUPPORTER (<\$2499)

QUILT SPONSOR (\$2500)

SPONSOR + PURCHASE OF QUILT (\$7500)

TAX DEDUCTIBILITY

Centre for the Living Arts d/b/a Alabama Contemporary Art Center is a registered public charity (EIN: 63-1236563), contributions to which may be deducted up to 50 percent of adjusted gross income computed without regard to net operating loss carrybacks.