

# THE CANON CONNECTION



## ROAD TO 100

### What is the Road to 100?

We are seeking support to assist with the overhead costs to maintain the physical housing of the collection, as we continue to build resources for our historic preservation.

**The Road to 100 is our ask for a monthly tax-deductible donation of \$20 per month.**



The Black Canon Collection has over 40,000 artifacts spanning posters, film, vinyl, books, photographs, periodicals and more. The current archive totals 3,300.

## OUR JOURNEY COULD BENEFIT FROM YOUR SUPPORT

Join us on our **Road to 100** sustainer giving campaign! Every contribution brings us closer to preserving the invaluable pieces of Black history housed in The Black Canon collection. Your support helps us protect this cultural legacy for future generations to come, which is even more important than ever with the threat of the erasure of Black History.

**Let's make history together - donate today! ❤️**

### IN THIS ISSUE

Paper, Place, Power Exhibit  
(The Scarab Club - Detroit)

Teaching Diverse Histories Summit  
(Wayne RESA)

Portraits in Power  
(Detroit Historical Museum)

Art of the Ages Exhibit  
(Epiphany Art Gallery - Dallas)

Breakthrough in Black Traveling  
Exhibition with Exhibit Envoy

## PAPER, PLACE, POWER: THE GLOBAL LANGUAGE OF POSTERS

The Scarab Club | Detroit  
Sept 11 - Oct 5, 2025



On Display through October 5, 2025



Source: The Scarab Club, Pictured: Es-pranza Humphrey

### Hey Detroit! Save the Date!

We are proud to contribute a selection of posters from our collection to be featured amongst the great works of local artists. This is an exhibition that celebrates the power, beauty, and diversity of poster design. From bold street graphics to poetic typographic statements, posters have long served as tools for protest, promotion, celebration, and storytelling. This exhibition will highlight the poster's role as an international language — one that transcends borders and speaks to culture, politics, identity, and art.

Check out highlights from the opening reception on September 11<sup>th</sup> - [here](#).

In addition to the poster exhibit, the club is hosting **Es-pranza Humphrey**, Assistant Curator of Collections at **Poster House NYC** to discuss their upcoming exhibition *Act Black* (March 2026) featuring a deep selection of film posters from The Black Canon Collection. Our co-founder and director will be in the building to support and share her thoughts on the upcoming partnership.

**September 17, 6-8pm**

**WANNA KNOW WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE BLACK CANON? [READ HERE](#)**

The  
Black  
Canon

# ART OF THE AGES

TEACHING DIVERSE HISTORIES SUMMIT

ALIMA TRAPP

CO-FOUNDER, THE BLACK CANON

AUGUST 14, 2025

## THE BLACK CANON X WAYNE RESA

Special thank you to Wayne Regional Education Service Agency (RESA) for the invitation to present at the Teaching Diverse Histories Summit in August.

We were able to share highlights from our late-father's (James E. Wheeler) journey to becoming one of the most prominent Black memorabilia collectors in the world and leverage our Art of the Ages artifacts to tell the story of the evolution of the portrayal of Black Americans in the media from 1910 - 1990.



### THE VISIONARY: JAMES E. WHEELER

- Early Life
- Migration to Detroit
- Chasing His Passion
- Concept East II Emerges
- Highlights of the Collection
- Honoring His Life's Work

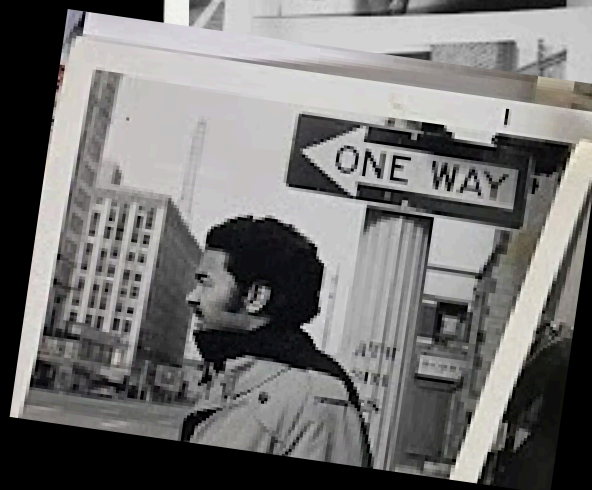
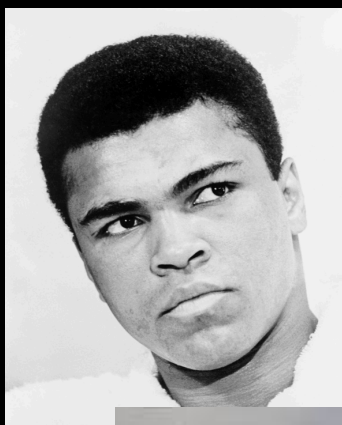


As the "New Hollywood" Era began in the late 1960s, the 1970s saw the rise of African-American representation in "Blaxploitation" films, which combined elements of the race films from decades prior with the "exploitation" genre of using famous stars or popular tropes to attract box office sales on a low budget.

1970



# PORTRAITS IN POWER: THROUGH THE LENS OF THE BLACK CANON ANNUAL FUNDRAISER | DETROIT



## **Portraits in Power | Through the Lens of The Black Canon**

Our annual fundraiser will feature exclusive images from The Black Canon Collection focused on the 1960's and 70's era in the City of Detroit, curated photographs from Naiel Wheeler and a capsule collection from Tarron Carter (sons of co-founders of TBC and grandsons of James E. Wheeler). In addition to the photography exhibit, the event will feature music, lite bites + spirits, a film screening, panel discussion, silent auction and full access to the Detroit Historical Museum. In partnership with [Motor City Cinema Society](#), we will be projecting four profound segments of powerful figures from the same time period as captured in our rare photography selections.

Sponsorships, silent auction and monetary donations are welcomed.

Saturday, October 4 | 7-11pm | Detroit Historical Museum



# ART OF THE AGES

## EXHIBIT AND OPENING RECEPTION | DALLAS



Art of the Ages is coming to Dallas!

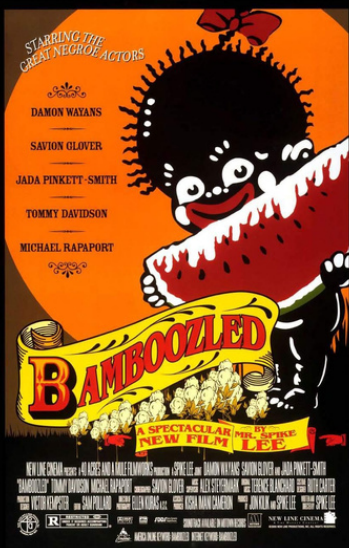
This November, The Black Canon brings Art of the Ages to Epiphany Art Gallery, showcasing rare artifacts from the 1910s -1990s that trace the evolving portrayal of Black Americans in media.

♥ Exhibit Dates: November 1-30

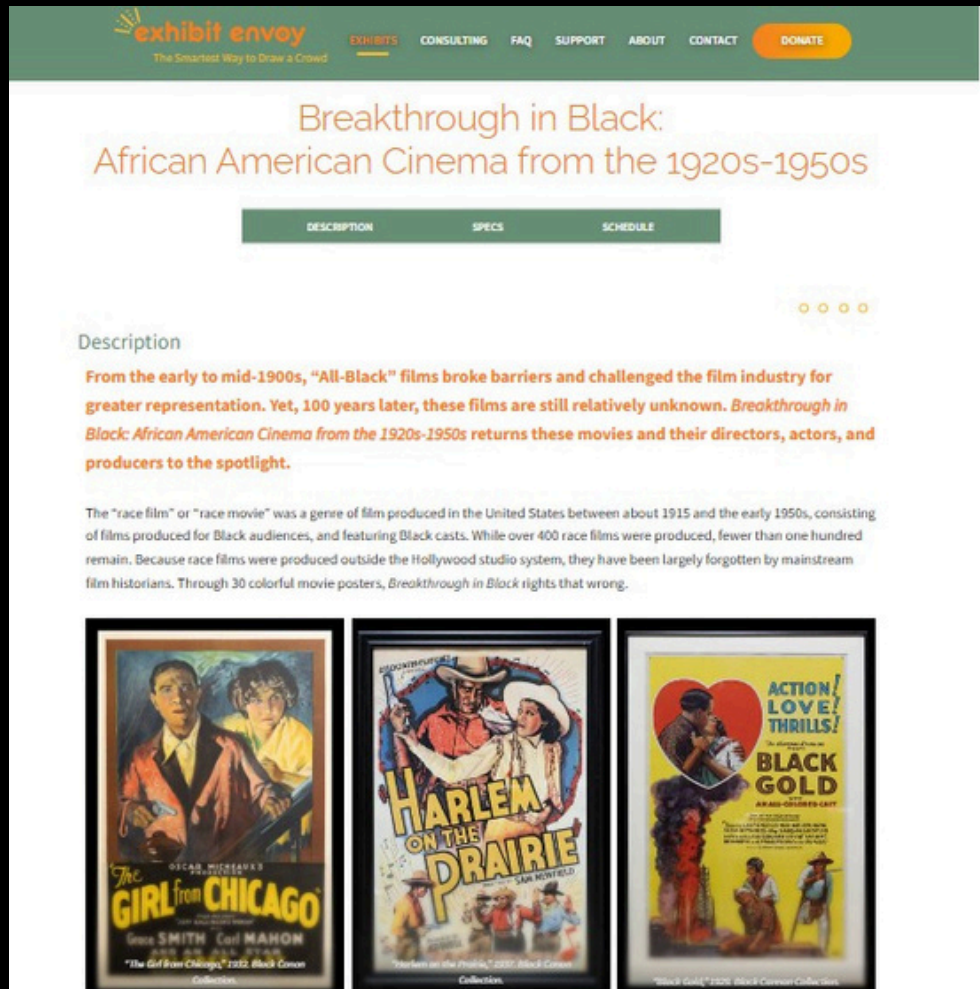
✦ Opening Reception: November 8 | 5-9 PM (CST)

🎫 Tickets available now

👉 Sponsorship and silent auction donation opportunities are now open.



# THE BLACK CANON X EXHIBIT ENVOY



In partnership with Exhibit Envoy, we are excited to announce our **“Breakthrough in Black: African American Cinema from the 1920s-1950s”** traveling exhibit is being made available to museums, cultural centers, schools and galleries across the U.S.

From the early to mid-1900s, “All-Black” films broke barriers and challenged the film industry for greater representation. Yet, 100 years later, these films are still relatively unknown. New traveling exhibit “Breakthrough in Black: African American Cinema from the 1920s-1950s,” returns these movies and their directors, actors, and producers to the spotlight via 30 vibrant movie posters spanning decades and genres.

Learn more about booking this exhibit [here](#).



Dates Available across March 2026 - August 2028.

Posters photographed courtesy of **The Black Canon**: “The Girl From Chicago,” 1932, “Harlem on the Prairie,” 1937; “Black Gold,” 1929.



## MAKERS AND BUILDERS COLLECTION

Legacy Loading! We stay committed to the work of preserving and archiving our vast collection to share with the world. To further support our mission, we are introducing the **Makers and Builders Collection**. All proceeds directly benefit the housing and archiving of our artifacts.

**[Shop here](#) to support the cause!**

#HistoryMaker #LegacyBuilder #ArtDealer #CultureCreator #GoodTroubleMaker

## The Vinyl Store on Discogs

Did you know The Black Canon has over 15,000 vinyl records?

As we consolidate our artifacts, we are selling an array of titles on Discogs to help fund the housing and preservation of the collection.

**[Shop Here!](#)**



## COMING SOON

### Speaker Series: Paper, Place, Power Exhibit

September 17, 2025

6-8pm

The Scarab Club - Detroit

We will be in attendance as Es-pranza Humphrey from Poster House NYC talks about their upcoming exhibit, Act Black: Posters from Black Stage and Screen, where TBC will be art lending a variety of posters from our collection to be a part of this historic exhibit.

### Portraits in Power: Through the Lens of the Black Canon (Annual Fundraiser)

October 4, 2025

7-11pm EST

Detroit Historical Museum

This event will feature rare photographic artifacts from decades past, a film screening, and artist panel. The strolling atmosphere allows for full museum access and networking opportunities for both speakers and attendees. Our exclusive, curated exhibit and silent auction will provide a rare opportunity to see, learn and potentially own a piece of history.

### Art of the Ages Exhibition and Opening Reception

November 8, 2025 (exhibit is month-long)

5-9pm CST

Epiphany Art Gallery - Garland, Texas

We are excited to bring our signature exhibition and fundraising event to the Dallas area! The Art of the Ages exhibition is a walk through of the decades beginning with the 1910s through the 1990s showcasing elements of how Black Americans were depicted in the media during the various decades. All proceeds from this event will support The Black Canon mission.

A BENEFIT, EXHIBIT AND EXPERIENCE »

# ART OF THE AGES

TO PRESERVE BLACK ART AND HISTORY

THE EPIPHANY ART GALLERY - GARLAND, TX  
NOVEMBER 1 - 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
RECEPTION: NOVEMBER 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025



# The Black Canon

## OUR MISSION

The Black Canon is an arts collective dedicated to preserving and promoting African American literary, performing, visual and media arts.

We are always looking to connect with like-minded individuals and institutions (inclusive of educators, students, Schools and Universities, museums, filmmakers, libraries, tastemakers, arts and culturists). We are open to exploring custom exhibitions, content creation, licensing, contributions and art lending.

## WAYS TO CONNECT

*We'd love to connect and stay in touch. Please follow us on social and feel free to reach out! If you want to support the mission, you can donate, shop our store or engage with us online.*

## Engage with us!

Connect with us on social.

## Shop our Store

We offer a range of impact-driving merch from tees, hoodies and hats to mugs and notebooks, with all proceeds benefiting the housing and preservation of our collection.

## Donate

Donations are tax-deductible and directly benefit the housing and preservation of The Black Canon Collection.



Source: The Black Canon, Pictured: James E. Wheeler

## ABOUT US

*"The Black Canon" was inspired by the root definition of canon: a body of the most important, influential, or superior works in music, literature or art.*

*We are a brother and sister duo dedicated to preserving not only Black Art in the form of our vast collection, but also our father's legacy.*

