

THE CANON CONNECTION

ROAD TO 100

We are on a quest to archive and preserve over 40,000 artifacts related to African American performing, film, and visual arts.

Please support our giving campaign.

All profits directly support our initiatives specific to housing, archiving and preserving our collection and creating powerful educational exhibits.

THE BLACK CANON

OUR JOURNEY COULD BENEFIT FROM YOUR SUPPORT

Join us on our Road to 100K 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.

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

RECENT PRESS AND MEDIA LINKS

Check out our interview: [Five Minutes with The Black Canon, from Outlier Media](#). We had a great time visiting their space in TechTown, and shared some insight into the Black Film in Focus event held at Michigan Central.

5 MINUTES WITH ...



ANNOUNCING... PORTRAITS IN POWER: THROUGH THE LENS OF THE BLACK CANON | COMING OCTOBER 4, 2025



Tickets will go on sale soon!

Save the Date!

We are excited to announce our upcoming annual fundraiser - **Portraits in Power**, featuring 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).



Source: The Black Canon, Pictured: 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.

Saturday, October 4
7-11pm
Detroit Historical Museum

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

The
Black
Canon



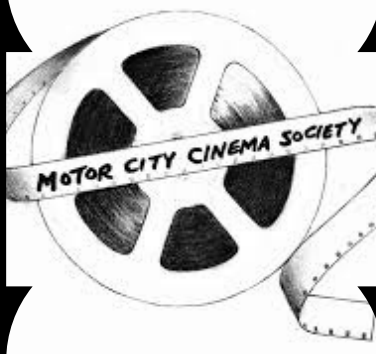
THE BLACK CANON X MICHIGAN CENTRAL

Special thank you to Michigan Central and Motor City Cinema Society for an amazing event: Black Film in Focus: 16mm Treasures from the Black Canon (curated by John Monaghan). Hosted at the Newlab, we presented a deep dive into Black cinematic storytelling as a cultural and artistic lead-up to Juneteenth. The event was dedicated to honoring the legacy, freedom, and the incredible richness of the Black film archive.

(Pictured on the left is John Monaghan (MCCS), Alima Trapp and Ali Wheeler at Newlab)



**MICHIGAN
CENTRAL**



The
Black
Canon



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

Teaching Diverse Histories Summit

August 13 - 14, 2025

The Icon - Detroit

In partnership with Wayne County RESA, this session will include a mini-exhibit and highlights of the untold story of James E. Wheeler - Detroit native and cultural trailblazer.

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

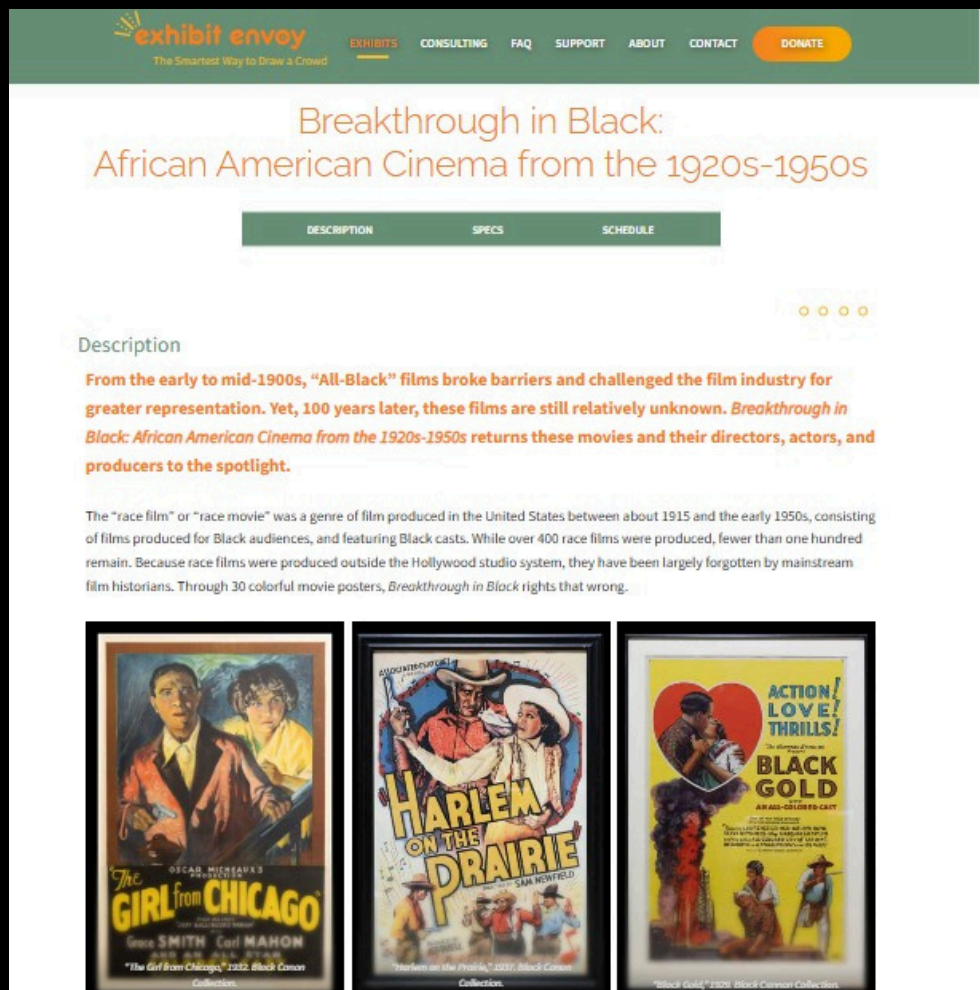
TO PRESERVE BLACK ART AND HISTORY

THE EPIPHANY ART GALLERY - GARLAND, TX
NOVEMBER 1 - 30TH, 2025
RECEPTION: NOVEMBER 8TH, 2025



The
Black
Canon

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.

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.



Ali J. Wheeler

Alima Wheeler Trapp

