

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MAYOR BRANDON SCOTT TO ATTEND OPENING EXHIBIT OF PROJECT HONORING BLACK FEMALE LEADERS IN BALTIMORE

Saturday, November 6, 2021 / 3-8 pm / The Peale at Carroll Mansion 800 E Lombard St., Baltimore, MD 21202

Mayor Scott commits to celebrating the work and accomplishments of 13 Black Female Leaders from Baltimore City at the opening event of *The Guardians: Reshaping History* at The Peale Center at Carroll Mansion. *The Guardians* project is a photo documentary and storytelling project including photo portraits, large-scale banners and digital archives led by Whitney Frazier (Creative Director) and Kirby Griffin (photographer). Mayor Scott will be giving a speech at 5pm and distributing awards to the Guardians to acknowledge the community work they have been doing for decades in nine under-resourced neighborhoods across Baltimore City. The Guardians include: Antionette Mugar, *Harlem Park West*; Audrey Carter, *East Oliver*; Cherring Spence, *Park Lane*; Dorothy Cunningham, *Irvington*; Gwen Brown, *Govans*; Joy Ross, *Harlem Park West*; Pauline Charles, *Darley Park*; Samiriah Franklin, *West Baltimore*; Sharon Snow, *Cylburn*; Sheree Briscoe, *Deputy Commissioner, Mt. Washington*; Tayler Mugar, *Harlem Park West*; Terrye Moore, *Park Heights (NW)*; Yeshiyah Israel, *Pimlico/Park Heights*.

Attendees will be able to view the portraits of the Guardians, listen to their interviews, and meet them in person at the opening reception. Further remarks will be made by the artists, a representative from The Peale, and a few of the Guardians themselves. The opening reception will feature Baltimore-based jazz musician Brandon Woody (website).

Five Banners of *The Guardians* are featured on the facade of City Hall and will continue to travel to The Guardian's neighborhoods and other prominent locations around the city. All of the Guardians' stories are archived by The Peale and featured on Dept. of Planning's website.

The Guardians project is supported by the following partners listed below:

The Peale is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, non-profit corporation established to restore the historic Peale Museum building as a center to celebrate the unique history of Baltimore, its people, and places. By creating a more inclusive cultural record of the city, the Peale aims to help people everywhere see Baltimore in a new light. The Peale is currently closed to the public for much-needed renovations. Programs have been taking place at the Carroll Mansion, one of Baltimore's architectural gems and a museum that is open to the public on weekends. For more about the Peale, visit its website at <https://www.thePealeCenter.org>.

Whitney Frazier (WGF Studio) is an interdisciplinary artist, mother and educator with a community based public art practice in Baltimore, MD. She completed her BA in Painting, MA and MFA in Community Arts at the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA). In 2019, she created WGF Studio, a community engaged public art business based in Baltimore. Since 2002, Frazier has intentionally worked with diverse groups of people to implement community focused, concept driven public art projects that lead to relationship building, new resources for neighborhoods and

bringing to life the shared vision of community leaders. Her work pushes the boundaries of what “public art” looks like by celebrating the unique cultures and site-specific needs of each community and by providing vibrant, bold and creative skills in design, painting, visual storytelling and outdoor placemaking. <https://www.wgfstudio.com/>

***Kirby Griffin** is a self-taught cinematographer and street photographer from the West Baltimore area of Maryland. He shoots all forms of media from documentaries, music videos, weddings, commercials, live shows, short films, and feature length films. Kirby has worked for networks such as BET, Revolt Tv, and HBO. He went onto work with the same artists he studied rigorously, including Bradford Young, Shawn Peters, Malik Sayeed, Arthur Jafa, and Terence Nance. Despite knowing that Los Angeles is still considered the home base of cinema, Kirby made a conscious decision to stay in Baltimore and tell the stories of people who would otherwise have their image exploited, or not recognized at all. He is a vital part of [SixPointPictures](#) as they continue growing and work to demystify filmmaking for those throughout Baltimore City who are not able to afford schooling. <https://kirbygriffindp.com/>*

[Ruby’s Artist Award via RWD Foundation](#)

Department of Planning, Baltimore City

Downtown Partnership

[Baltimore National Heritage Area](#)

Maryland State Arts Council, Creativity Grant

For more information on the **Peale Center at Carroll Mansion** contact David London CXO@thepealecenter.org

For more information on **WGF Studio** contact Whitney Frazier at whitney@wgfstudio.com or **(443) 226-0454**

For more information on **Kirby Griffin** contact at 4theyediaries@gmail.com

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