



An Evening Celebrating Dance Theatre of Harlem:

40 YEARS OF FIRSTS

Gala

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Ford Motor Company Fund and Community Services builds communities through volunteerism and partnerships with nonprofit organizations that focus on education, preserving America's heritage, and automotive safety.

**Thanks to you, our community is a stronger, better place. Ford salutes the
Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History and the Dance Theatre of Harlem.**



Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History
along with
Yvette Bing,
Jo Coleman, Jennifer Fischer, Cynthia Ford, and Kim Reuss
Welcome you to

Dance Theatre of Harlem:
40 YEARS OF FIRSTS
Gala

Friday, September 9, 2011

Gala Host Committee

Yvette Bing

Jo Coleman • Jennifer Fischer • Cynthia Ford • Kim Reuss
Betty Brooks • Serena Cockrell • Peggy Daitch • Retha Douglas • Linda Forte
Mary Anne Gargaro • Sharon James • Marion Jones • Florine Marks • Sharon Madison Polk
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Lorna Thomas, M.D. • Roberta Hughes Wright, Ph.D.



Message from the President

Juanita Moore

President & CEO, Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History

On behalf of our Board of Trustees and staff, *Welcome* to the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History. We like to say it's the world's largest museum of its kind, which it is. But more importantly, it's an institution that's homegrown, and very much a part of the fabric of the City of Detroit. Since its founding over 45 years ago by obstetrician Dr. Charles H. Wright in his home on West Grand Boulevard, the Museum has educated, entertained, and enlivened countless visitors from around the world. The Museum also produces one of the City's largest events, African World Festival, which celebrates its 30th anniversary next August on Hart Plaza. The evolution of the Museum to its current stature is a testament to your support and hundreds like you all across the region, and for that, we are most grateful. Our stories and the history of African Americans are an integral and vital part of American history, and as such, involve us all. I invite you to revel in that history, and, to quote the title of one of Dance Theatre of Harlem's signature works, to "*Return,*" again and again.



Programme

6:30 PM • **Arrival**

7:15 PM • **Dance Theatre of Harlem: 40 Years of Firsts Exhibition**

7:15 & 9:00 PM • **Performance, New Bach**
Dance Theatre of Harlem Ensemble

Welcome & Recognition of Sponsors
Juanita Moore, President & CEO,
Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History

Performance, Return
Dance Theatre of Harlem Ensemble

8:00 PM • **Dinner Hour**

Special Performance: *Grammy Award Winner, Miri Ben-Ari*

9:00 PM • **The Muse**
After Event
DJ JP Rigaud, Miami



Message from the Chairperson

Yvette Bing, First Lady, City of Detroit

Chair, Dance Theatre of Harlem Host Committee

Since joining the Board of Trustees for The Wright Museum, a focus of mine has been broadening the awareness of this cultural jewel that is truly one of a kind. The *Dance Theatre of Harlem: 40 Years of Firsts* exhibit provided the catalyst for this event of which you are a cherished part tonight. The history of this amazing dance company, and the vision of its founders, Arthur Mitchell and the late Karel Shook, is one that encompasses artistry, passion, pride, diversity, education, and achievement – all virtues exemplified by this very institution, the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History. Dance Theatre of Harlem and The Wright are examples of the strength of multicultural inclusivity and a collective aspiration to excellence. These institutions are an inspiration to us as a city and region. They remind us to demonstrate perseverance as we rebuild and grow towards greatness, and form stronger ties with one another across boundaries of race, class, and geography.

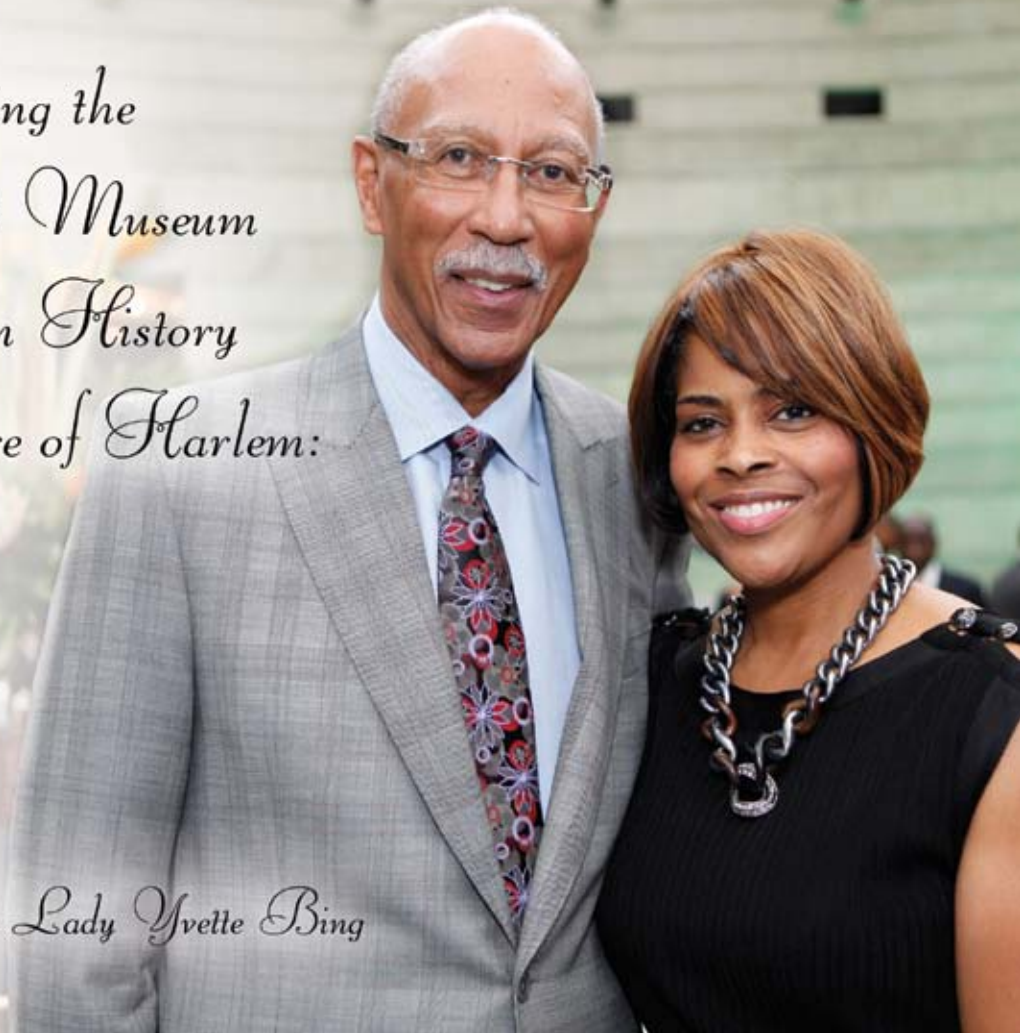
Your support for these great legacies, Dance Theatre of Harlem and The Wright Museum, make the continued growth, exploration, and enjoyment of the arts possible for all of Metropolitan Detroit.

Thank you,

Yvette Bing

*Thank you for supporting the
Charles H. Wright Museum
of African American History
and the Dance Theatre of Harlem:
40 Years of Firsts
exhibit & gala.*

Mayor Dave Bing & First Lady Yvette Bing



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Theatre of Harlem for
"40 YEARS OF FIRSTS"

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About Dance Theatre of Harlem

Dance Theatre of Harlem is a leading dance institution of unparalleled global acclaim whose mission is to maintain a world-class school that trains young people in classical ballet and the allied arts, to provide arts education, community outreach programs and positive role models for all, and to present a ballet company of African-American and other racially diverse artists who perform the most demanding repertory at the highest level of quality. The DTH Ensemble is the first step towards the return of the Company.

Founded in 1969 by Arthur Mitchell and Karel Shook, Dance Theatre of Harlem is considered "one of ballet's most exciting undertakings" (The New York Times, 1971). Shortly after the assassination of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Mr. Mitchell was inspired to start a school that would offer children - especially those in Harlem, the community in which he was born - the opportunity to study dance and allied arts. Mr. Mitchell, who was the first African American male to become a permanent member of a major ballet company, felt he was able to change the world of dance because he was given an opportunity and wanted to provide the same chance for others.

About Dance Theatre of Harlem Ensemble

Dance Theatre of Harlem Ensemble is the second company of the Dance Theatre of Harlem, the world-renowned ballet company of African American and other racially diverse artists. DTHE repertoire is comprised of classical, neoclassical and innovative contemporary ballet presented with freshness and vitality by a group of young and talented artists.

Dance Theatre of Harlem

Artistic Director: Virginia Johnson • Executive Director: Laveen Naidu

Director, Dance Theatre of Harlem Ensemble: Keith Saunders

Dance Theatre of Harlem: 40 Years of Firsts Exhibition Curator: Judy Tyrus

Dance Artists

Renee Bharath Kim • Flavia Garcia • Ashley Murphy

Mayuko Shoka • Danielle Thomas • Alexandra Wilson

Fredrick Davis • DaVon Doane • Taurean Green

David Kim • Anthony Savoy • Samuel Wilson

Performance

New Bach, 2nd Movement

Choreography: Robert Garland • Music: Johann Sebastian Bach

Costumes: Pamela Allen-Cummings

Return

Choreography: Robert Garland

Music: James Brown, Alfred Ellis, Aretha Franklin, Carolyn Franklin

Costumes: Pamela Allen-Cummings



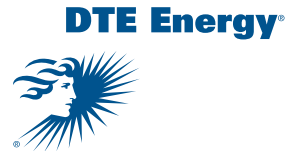


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for touching so many lives in such a positive way.

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Congratulations on 40 Years of Firsts

Cynthia and Edsel Ford and the employees of Pentastar Aviation are proud to support the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History. It is with great admiration that we offer our hearty congratulations to the Dance Theatre of Harlem on their innovative contributions to the world of dance throughout their “40 Years of Firsts.”



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The GM Foundation is proud to support the Dance Theatre of Harlem: 40 Years of Firsts Exhibition. We would like to thank Arthur Mitchell for creating such passionate American classics that express the difficulty, the emotion and the beauty of our nation's history.

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Welcome to a night of firsts. General Motors is proud to sponsor the Dance Theatre of Harlem: 40 Years of Firsts Gala. We welcome you to enjoy the iconic costumes, extraordinary art and evolution of America's dance history.

G E N E R A L M O T O R S

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AND IN THE SOUL OF
ITS PEOPLE.

- Mohandas Gandhi

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Jennifer & David Fischer

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to the

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of African American History

&

Dance Theatre of Harlem
on its 40 Years of Firsts!

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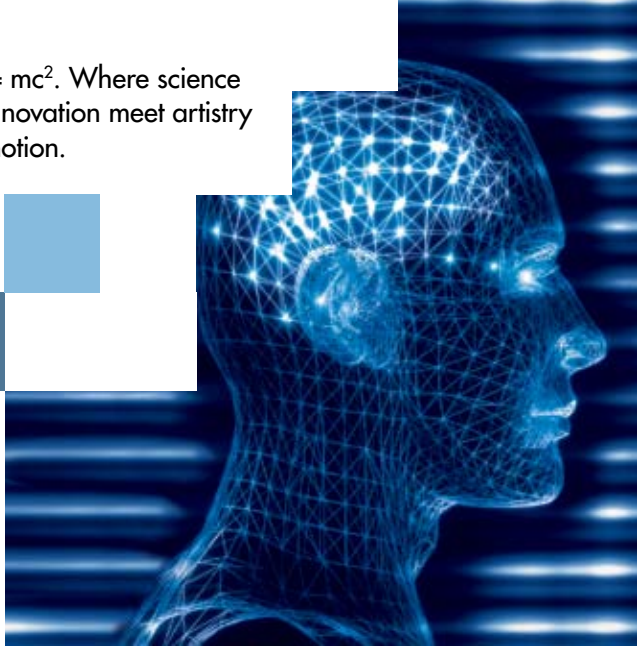
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Original photo by Eduardo Patino

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With a heritage of automotive “firsts” such as the industry’s first dash-mounted radio and first underhood air conditioning system, Delphi is no stranger to innovation. We applaud the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History and its salute to “The Dance Theatre of Harlem – 40 Years of Firsts”. delphi.com

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**Fifth Third Bank proudly supports
The Charles H. Wright Museum's
Dance Theatre of Harlem: 40 Years of Firsts**



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Photo by Joseph Ruckman

Danielle and Peter Karmanos, Jr., proudly support the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, its Dance Theater of Harlem: 40 Years of Firsts exhibit and its many other contributions to the community.

**THE MANORS CONGRATULATE THE CHARLES H. WRIGHT MUSEUM
& THE DANCE THEATRE OF HARLEM: 40 YEARS OF FIRSTS**



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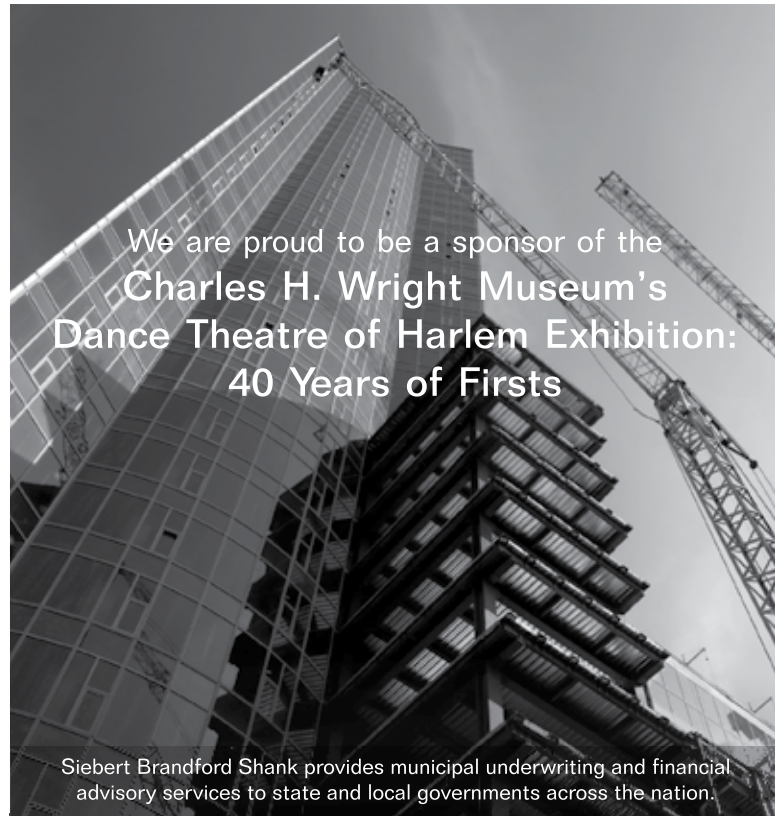
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About Tony Roko

Tony quickly emerged as one of the Motor City's most sought after artists. His work can be found at some of Detroit's premiere exhibitions and most influential galleries. Self taught, he made his own path into the art world through the unique use of automotive paints and industrial enamels. These methods have positioned Tony Roko as an innovative and vernacular visual artist. His medium and its application is a direct by-product of working within the Motor City. Roko's work can be seen at the Motown Museum, and he has been commissioned by Coca-Cola to create original pieces. His work can also be viewed in the permanent private collections of the Michigan State Capital building and the Ford Motor Company. Roko has also recently been commissioned by the prestigious Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History to paint an original piece in honor of the 40th anniversary celebration of the Dance Theater of Harlem.

From the floors of the factory to the museum walls, Roko's signature industrial grit can still be found in his work today.

www.tonyroko.com

Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History

Founded in 1965 and located in the heart of Midtown Detroit's Cultural Center, the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History is the world's largest institution dedicated to the African American experience. The museum provides learning opportunities, exhibitions, programs and events based on collections and research that explore the diverse history and culture of African Americans and their African origins. Housing over 30,000 artifacts and archival materials, The Wright Museum features:

- 125,000 square feet and seven exhibition areas devoted to African Americans and their stories
- *And Still We Rise: Our Journey Through African American History and Culture*, the museum's 22,000 square foot, interactive core exhibit
- The Ford Freedom Rotunda and its 65-foot high glass dome; this architectural wonder is two feet wider than the State Capitol dome
- *Ring of Genealogy*, a 37-foot terrazzo tile creation by artist Hubert Massey surrounded by bronze nameplates of prominent African Americans in history
- 92 flags displayed alphabetically by country and origin; these nations are places where significant numbers of African descendants reside
- The Louise Lovett Wright Library and Robert L. Hurst Research Center
- The General Motors Theater, a 317-seat facility for live performances, film screenings, lectures and presentations
- A museum store that sells authentic African and African American art, books and merchandise.



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Cover: *Dance of the Firebird*, painting by Beth Martin