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RENOWNED ARTIST AND CURATOR CHRISTOPHER BLAY JOINS NATIONAL JUNETEENTH MUSEUM AS DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROGRAMS

FORT WORTH, TEXAS (September 10, 2024) – The National Juneteenth Museum is proud to announce a dynamic addition to its leadership team with the appointment of Christopher Blay as Director of Public Programs. A distinguished museum professional and renowned artist, Blay's arrival marks a significant step forward in the museum's mission to enrich public understanding of Juneteenth and African American history.

"This role represents a powerful opportunity to deepen the community's connection to the legacy of Juneteenth," said Blay. "I look forward to creating spaces that spark meaningful conversations, promote reflection, and engage with the vibrant history of the Historic Southside. There's so much potential to be unlocked, and I'm excited to contribute to this historic neighborhood's cultural and economic revitalization."

Blay brings a rich background in curating and community engagement, having previously served as Chief Curator at the Houston Museum of African American Culture (HMAAC) and as a curator at Tarrant County College. He is particularly noted for his work on the East Rosedale Monument Project, a significant Historic Southside initiative that honors pivotal moments in Fort Worth's Civil Rights history. His expertise in African American culture and history, coupled with his commitment to creating thought-provoking public experiences, will be invaluable as he takes on this new role.



Christopher Blay in front of the East Rosedale Monument project

In his new role as Director of Public Programs, Blay will play a crucial part in shaping the museum's vision for community engagement by leading the charge in crafting innovative and inclusive programs that not only educate but inspire. His work will be central to the museum's efforts to serve as a beacon of cultural and economic renewal in the Historic Southside.

"We are thrilled to welcome Christopher Blay to the National Juneteenth Museum," said Jarred Howard, NJM CEO. "His artistic vision, extensive experience, and deep connections in the museum sector make

him the perfect fit to drive our public programming efforts. We are confident that his leadership will elevate the museum's role as a vital cultural institution and a place of learning and reflection.”

The National Juneteenth Museum looks forward to the innovative contributions Christopher Blay will have, not only within the organization but also across the broader community.

About the National Juneteenth Museum

The National Juneteenth Museum is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and will be a 50,000 square-foot epicenter for education and celebration of Juneteenth that is dedicated to building opportunities to advance future generations. The museum will be located in the Historic Southside neighborhood of Fort Worth, Texas and is expected to open to the public in 2026.





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