

## For Immediate Release

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# VIVID



## 40 ACRES DEFERRED AND 7/8...9 EXHIBITION OPENING

North Brentwood, MD (October 5, 2018) – The Prince George’s African American Museum and Cultural Center and Vivid Gallery’s collaborative exhibitions, *40 Acres Deferred* and *7/8 ...9*, look at regional migratory patterns and explorations of the contrived “American Dream.” The significance of this collaboration is further contextualized by the importance of the African American history within North Brentwood, Maryland and the Anacostia Neighborhood of Washington, DC. North Brentwood, the first incorporated Black township in Prince George’s County, was founded as a safe haven for African Americans during the Jim Crow period. North Brentwood was uniquely self-sustained, providing communal essential services, cultural amenities, and rich social activities for its residents. North Brentwood remains under Black governmental leadership, a trend that has reverberated Countywide. Prince George’s County is an anomaly for its substantial Black political leadership.

Located in Southeast Washington, DC, Anacostia is a predominantly Black neighborhood that is continually fighting a narrative that centers around poverty and crime. However, the neighborhood is vibrant. In 2017, Anacostia was named the New Black Wall Street by the Washington Informer because of the heavy concentration of Black-owned businesses in the historic corridor. With growing Black businesses and a population made up of long-time Washingtonians as well as new residents who have moved from all over the world, Anacostia has a rich story to tell. Part of that story is the influence of Black home ownership in community-building as well as the decision to stay in the neighborhood or voluntarily move to the suburbs (most commonly Prince George's County).

Gentrification is word heard daily in the District, and the effects of the displacement are felt across the region. *40 Acres Deferred* and *7/8 ... 9* make connections between intentional migration to the suburban landscape and the forcible displacement into undeveloped and under-resourced pockets of the city and suburbs. Whether intentionally or forcibly occupying space; whether in the city, country, or suburbs – Black Americans have developed culture, traditions, and communal values that echo our connection across the Diaspora and create a sense of home and belonging.

*40 Acres Deferred* highlights the ways in which, even with oppressive systems actively dismantling the rights outlined in our constitution, Black Americans have created spaces that affirm liberty, justice, and happiness. The presenting artists apply varied mediums and stylization in the interpretation of their individual and collective narratives. These narratives follow in the legacy of African American artists who have explored personal, regional, and national trends within the historical moments that shape American culture. The featured artworks explore Black American migratory patterns, the process of homemaking, and socio-economic autonomy. These contemporary pieces have embedded remnants of the past in subtle influence, narrative, or stylization. For African Americans, the 40 Acres Promise has been deferred, just as our governmental right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Yet, Black Americans thrive in their spaces; with each passing year, the power of ownership is communicated in the pursuit of legacy building, economic mobility, and cultural preservation. The artists featured in *40 Acres Deferred* are paving a new legacy informed by their experience within landscape; their work is derived from the footsteps of their forebears and the environment that has shaped them. Featured artists include Guy Miller, Lionel Frazier, Monique Muse Dodd, Tim Davis, Zsudayka Nzinga Terrell, Joan Gaither, Kimberly Cunningham, Lloyd Foster, David Cassidy, and Beverly Price.

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The Prince George’s African American Museum and Cultural Center is recognized nationally and internationally for its innovative approach to the documentation, interpretation, preservation, and presentation of local and regional African American history, art, and culture. PGAAMCC is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10am-5pm. Admission to the museum is free. For more information, call (301) 809-0440, email [programs@pgaamcc.org](mailto:programs@pgaamcc.org), or visit the Museum’s website at [www.pgaamcc.org](http://www.pgaamcc.org).