

CARRBILL

Aaliyah Recital Hall at Detroit School of Arts
May 21, 2022

THE Gathering
ORCHESTRA NONET

Rodney Whitker
MUSICAL DIRECTOR

PATRICE RUSHEN

THE RESONATE SUITE
World PREMIERE





SOMETHING'S COMING

the
Carr Center
INSPIRE. ENTERTAIN. CHALLENGE. EDUCATE.

celebrating
Years
of artistic
excellence

COMING THIS FALL

The Carr Center Performance Studio



CELEBRATING

30

YEARS OF ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE

... *and Something's Coming*

Dear Friends and Patrons:

Welcome to **The Gathering Orchestra in Concert**, with musical direction by Detroit's own jazz maestro, Rodney Whitaker, and the world premiere of The Resonate Suite, composed by the iconic recording artist and multi-instrumentalist, Patrice Rushen.

This new work, commissioned as part of a collaboration with seven different Chamber Music presenters, kicks off a very exciting year-long partnership that you will hear more about soon.


As the Carr Center continues to celebrate its 30th anniversary as one of the nation's leading arts institutions, we remain committed to presenting and preserving innovative, Black-originated art forms including music, dance, poetry, film, and visual arts to a multicultural audience.

Coming this fall, the Carr Center will open its newly renovated space in Detroit's historic Park Shelton, located in the heart of the city's midtown cultural district. Our new space will include a full-time art gallery and a flexible performance studio.

Thanks to strategic planning and the creative use of digital technologies, the Center's footprint has deepened, not only within the region but across the country and around the globe. The Carr Center has also broadened its reach beyond live performances and exhibitions with broadcast and digital streams of our programs on Comcast and Detroit A&E Cable.

Yes, **something's coming** from the Carr Center!

Enjoy the concert!



Oliver Ragsdale, Jr.
President and CEO
The Carr Center



TERRI LYNE CARRINGTON

The Carr Center Artistic Director

Dear Supporters and Patrons:



Thank you for joining us tonight for another significant concert event from Carr Center.

When Oliver Ragsdale and I initially discussed what is now known as The Resonate Project and its collaborative efforts with other leading chamber music institutions, I immediately thought of Patrice Rushen, the Carr Center's Resident Artist.

With her expansive background as a multi-genre artist, educator, and composer of jazz, R&B, film/television, and significant symphonic works, Patrice is a perfect choice to lead this multi-faceted creative endeavor with her distinguished and unparalleled accomplishments.

The Resonate Project initiative is also an opportunity for us to collectively partner with other like-minded organizations whose goals and missions are similar: to expand the art community beyond Detroit and to bring innovative programming to serve our diverse audiences.

We are also excited that Carr Center Resident Artist Rodney Whitaker will lead our young adults in The Gathering Orchestra Nonet, along with special guests, Detroit giants Diego Rivera and Dwight Adams, who all have been instrumental in educating and helping to develop the students' artistic expression from the classroom to the concert stage.

Again, we thank you for your generous support, and enjoy the concert!

Regards,

Terri Lyne Carrington
Artistic Director, Carr Center

PATRICE RUSHEN

The Carr Center Resident Artist



Patrice Rushen is a three-time Grammy-nominated musician and composer,

who is also one of the most sought-after artists in the music industry. She is a classically trained pianist, vocalist, music director, producer, and educator, and is adept at the flute, clarinet, and percussions. She originally found success in the seventies and eighties with her signature fusion of jazz, pop, and R&B. She has released fourteen albums.

A Los Angeles native, Rushen has composed scores for movies, television, and symphonic works for several orchestras including the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Rushen was the first woman music director for the Grammy Awards, the NAACP Image Awards, the People's Choice Awards, and HBO's "Comic Relief V." She was the first woman in 43 years to serve as Music Director for the Emmy Awards and the first music director for a late-night television talk show, "The Midnight Hour," which aired on the CBS Network.

Considered one of the world's top jazz pianists, she has performed with many esteemed artists across musical genres including Stevie Wonder, Herbie Hancock, Prince, Lionel Hampton, Carlos Santana, Tom Jones, Nancy Wilson, Michael Jackson, Ndugu Chancler, Dianne Reeves, Christian McBride, and Lee Ritenour. She was the music director for Janet Jackson's world tour, "Janet." Rushen is the Chair of the Popular Music Program at USC's Thornton School of Music. In 2005, Rushen received an Honorary Doctorate of Music from Berklee College of Music.

RODNEY WHITKER

The Carr Center Resident Artist



Internationally renowned bassist and Origin

Records recording artist,

Rodney Whitaker, currently holds the titles of Professor of Jazz Bass and Director of Jazz Studies at Michigan State University where he has built one of the leading jazz degree programs and performing faculty in the world. For more than 25 years, he has taught jazz at Michigan State University, so it comes as no surprise that he also uses the stage to educate his audiences about the music he loves so dearly.

Whitaker's relationship with the Carr Center spans 20 years. He founded the Jazz Education program and the MSU Professors of Jazz Ensemble. Whitaker has been the Resident Artist at the Carr Center for more than ten years. Currently, he also serves as artistic director for The Gathering Orchestra Nonet, the Geri Allen Fellows, a professional development program for gifted, early-career musicians.

Whitaker is considered one of the leading performers and teachers of the jazz double bass in the world. He has performed and toured with more than one hundred legendary jazz artists and is featured on more than one hundred recordings. He is also the Artistic Director of the Michigan State University Professors of Jazz, former Artistic Advisor of Jazz at the Wharton Center, Director of Detroit Symphony Orchestra's Civic Jazz Orchestra, and a former member of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis.

THE CARR

home of The Gathering Orchestra

In 2017, following the vision of our first Artistic Director the late, great Geri Allen, the Carr Center formalized and institutionalized The Gathering Orchestra.

A professional development program for early career musicians, The Gathering Orchestra is a two-year fellowship program, under the artistic direction of the Carr Center Resident Artist, Rodney Whitaker.



Selected via open auditions, the members of The Gathering Orchestra are composed of four seasoned mentors and a talented group of emerging musicians who study and perform as an ensemble with their mentors throughout the two-year program.

Tonight, The Gathering Orchestra Nonet returns to the Carr Center stage to perform the world premiere of an original composition, “The Resonate Suite,” composed by the renowned Grammy Award-nominated artist and pianist Patrice Rushen, commissioned as part of the Resonate Project collaboration.



THE RESONATE *Project*

A multi-year collaboration between Detroit Winds and Chamber and the Carr Center, **RESONATE**, is an exciting partnership that will explore the African Diaspora through the lens of contemporary American Chamber Music.

The project has commissioned seven American composers to create new works to be performed by each of the collaborators during the 2021-22 and 2022-23 seasons.

RESONATE brings together resources from seven prominent institutions in Michigan and Ohio:

- Detroit Chamber Winds and Strings
- The Carr Center
- Oberlin Conservatory
- Bowling Green State University
- The University of Michigan/Ann Arbor
- Michigan State University
- Western Michigan University

A panel comprised of musicians from each of the collaborators has selected the composers who will participate in the project. The commissioned works will be performed at each of the institutions over the next two years.

Participating **RESONATE** composers include: Courtney Bryan, Michael Frazie, Adolphus Hailstork, Nathalie Joachim, George Lewis, Patrice Rushen and Pamela Z.

RESONATE will conclude with a culminating symposium bringing together all of the composers and compositions in April 2023. Hosted by Detroit's Carr Center, the symposium will be chaired by Patrice Rushen.

DIEGO RIVERA

Gathering Orchestra Mentor



A world-class musician, composer, arranger, and educator, Diego Rivera has entertained audiences for more than 20

years. Rivera is known for his muscular tone and unique blend of straight-ahead jazz fused with music inspired by his Latino background and heritage. He is a tenured Associate Professor of Jazz Saxophone at Michigan State University where he also serves as Associate Director of Jazz Studies.

Rivera was born in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and raised 'just up the road' in East Lansing. Born into a Mexican American family, his Chicano heritage has always been important to him and shaped his creative endeavors. His parents named him after the famed muralist, Diego Rivera. A trip to the Detroit Institute of Arts at a young age inspired him to make his mark with the saxophone rather than the brush. He attended Michigan State University, where he studied with Andrew Speight, Branford Marsalis, Ron Blake, and Rodney Whitaker.

In 1999, Rivera began his professional and touring career with the Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra on their Big Band '99 tour. Since that maiden voyage, he has performed concerts at the most prestigious venues and festivals across the United States, Canada, Europe, and Asia. He currently, leads his group, The Diego Rivera Quartet. He has also toured with Grammy Award-winning vocalist, Kurt Elling, Juno Award-winning Canadian Jazz vocalist, Sophie Milman, and The Rodney Whitaker Quintet. He is a member of The Ulysses Owens, Jr. Big Band (New York, NY), the Jazz at Dr. Phillips Center Orchestra (Orlando, FL), and The Gathering Orchestra (Detroit, MI). He has also performed with such artists as Ellis Marsalis, Christian McBride, Wycliffe Gordon, PRISM Saxophone Quartet, the Gerald Wilson Big Band, and the Lincoln Center Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra.

DWIGHT ADAMS

Gathering Orchestra Mentor



Known as a soul-inspired jazz trumpeter, Dwight Adams' musical training came later in life. The Detroit native didn't pick up the trumpet until he was a junior in high school. With natural talent, hard work, and unshakable faith and dedication to be the best, Adams landed his first gig as a member of fellow Detroiters Teddy Harris' New Breed Bebop Society at the age of sixteen.

Adams is now one of the brightest stars on the Detroit Jazz scene. He earned a full scholarship to Kentucky State University where he majored in music education and performance. He is best known as a longtime member of Stevie Wonder's touring band for two decades. In addition, he has toured and recorded with jazz artists such as Marcus Belgrave, Rodney Whitaker, James Carter, Shawn Wallace, and Donald Walden, and he also performs with the Columbus Jazz Orchestra.

In 2015, he joined the Detroit Bop Quintet for a special reenactment session at the world-renowned United Sound Studio. The group came together to recreate the acoustic footprint of four historic tracks. The tunes were recorded at the same studio more than seventy years ago by Charlie Parker and his quintet for the Savoy Record label. The resulting tracks by the Detroit Bop Quintet prove if there's anyone in Detroit that can invoke the spirit of Miles Davis, it's Dwight Adams.

Adams has a heart for education and young people. He has served as a professor of jazz studies at Ohio State University, Michigan State University, and Wayne State University.

MUSICAL SELECTIONS

Seven Steps to Heaven (Miles Davis)

Tin Tin Deo (Dizzy Gillespie/Gil Fuller)

Dos Gardenas (Isolina Carrillo)

Whims of Chambers (Paul Chambers)

*featuring Dwight Adams, Diego Rivera and
Rodney Whitaker*

Mope (Geri Allen) arranged by Michael Reed

Simón (Diego Rivera)

Speak Like A Child (Herbie Hancock)

Riot (Herbie Hancock)

The Resonate Suite (Patrice Rushen)

Contusion (Stevie Wonder) Arranged by Kevin Harris

Rodney Whitaker, Musical Director

Diego Rivera, saxophonist

Dwight Adams, trumpeter

The Gathering Orchestra Nonet

Gina Benalcazar, trombonist

Kasan Belgrave, alto saxophonist

Kevin Brewster, baritone saxophonist

Sequoia Snyder, pianist and keyboardist

Adam Kahana, guitarist

Michael James Reed, drummer

Brandon Rose, acoustic bassist

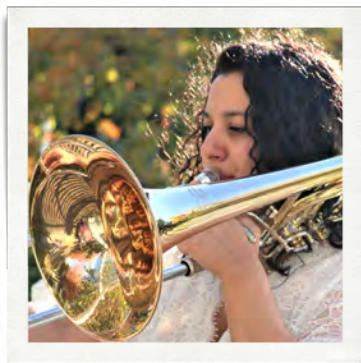
Erin Law, saxophonist and flutist

Stephen Grady, tenor saxophonist

Austin Muthyala, trumpeter

MEMBERS

The Gathering Orchestra Nonet



GINA BENALCAZAR

Trombonist

28 years old

Queens, New York

Why music as a career path? The people I considered my family were all in this music community with me and this is how we spoke, how we interacted with the world together. I never imagined I'd make a career out of it, but I'm glad I had what I felt was family.

Why Jazz? It's about what you love. I love playing the trombone and I love playing in big bands. I love to write, so I'm doing more of that these days.

What are your short-term goals? I'm recording my first record soon, so I'm excited about that opportunity!

What are your long-term goals? I hope to contribute more to the jazz community with my music, and with projects that will help me put money into people's pockets. I want to contribute to my community's economy.

What are your career highlights to date? Some of my career highlights thus far have been traveling to South America and Europe. It's where I've learned to take myself seriously and where I take myself the least seriously.

Who inspires you musically, and why? There are too many to count, so I'll talk about Rodney Whitaker, who is the fearless leader of The Gathering Orchestra. He has influenced me by always encouraging me to ask questions, to speak up if I disagree, and he inspires me to remain curious and open.

MEMBERS

The Gathering Orchestra Nonet



KASAN BELGRAVE

Alto saxophonist
Detroit, Michigan

Why music as a career path? My peers and family lived a life of music, it was the only foreseeable path for me growing up.

Why Jazz? The legacy of jazz is important to continue.

What are your short-term goals? My short-term goal is to assure myself that the music I play is solely for healing people and making them feel good.

What are your long-term goals? My long-term goal is to have a base in multiple cities and to live freely.

What are your career highlights to date? In 2017, I've had the privilege of performing with Aretha Franklin at Detroit's Music Hall. I had the privilege of sharing the stage with Nicholas Payton at the 2015 Detroit Jazz Festival. I'm also in the music video for Icewear Vezzo's new single "BMF."

Who inspires you musically, and why? My father inspired me the most.

MEMBERS

The Gathering Orchestra Nonet



SEQUOIA SNYDER
aka REDWOOD

Pianist & Keyboardist
Washington, D.C.

Why music as a career path? I fell in love with music as a child, and after falling in love with the piano in the ninth grade, I knew I wanted to do it for the rest of my life at the highest level. At first, I chose jazz because it was the alternative available to playing classical music at the time. But learning what jazz is and the history of the art form over time changed that for me.

Why Jazz? I chose to play jazz now because it is a musical and social tradition of my culture which I hold so dear to my heart.

What are your short-term goals? To continue broadening my horizons musically and absorbing as much knowledge and experience as I can.

What are your long-term goals? To share my music with the world, play with my favorite artists, and be regarded highly among them.

What are your career highlights to date? I participated in the Betty Carter Jazz Ahead Residency. I performed with Dee Dee Bridgewater, Rodney Whitaker, Kenny Barron, and Corey Henry; and I played at the City Center in New York City with world-renowned dancer Tiler Peck.

Who inspires you musically, and why? Stevie Wonder is my greatest musical inspiration. The sheer amount of timelessness, genius, and distinctly unique songs are impressive, but his ability to move people with his music is how powerful I hope my music can be one day.

MEMBERS

The Gathering Orchestra Nonet



ADAM KAHANA

Guitarist

25 years old

Ann Arbor, Michigan

Why music as a career path? Music is the main way that I connect with art, and art is one of the main ways that we connect as people.

Why Jazz? Jazz is the deepest way that I know of through which humans communicate and connect through sound. This music is a language that keeps evolving and changing with the times.

What are your short-term goals? To learn something new every day, to write something new every day, and to be a better listener today than I was yesterday.

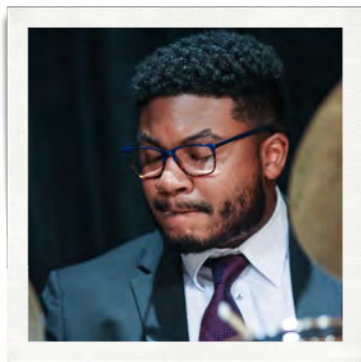
What are your long-term goals? To continue developing solid relationships, to continually seek guidance and advice from my mentors, and to continue finding ways in which I can make the world a better place through music.

What are your career highlights to date? Being a member of The Gathering Orchestra and studying under world-class musicians like Rodney Whitaker, Patrice Rushen, and Terri Lyne Carrington. I also had the opportunity to arrange and conduct an original arrangement at the Detroit Jazz Festival in honor of the late, great Geri Allen.

Who inspires you musically, and why? My father is one of my biggest musical inspirations; he was my first music teacher, and he is still one of my best music teachers. My favorite guitarists are Charlie Christian, Wes Montgomery, Pat Metheny, and Miles Okazaki.

MEMBERS

The Gathering Orchestra Nonet



MICHAEL JAMES REED

Drummer

26 years old

Toledo, Ohio

Why music as a career path? I chose music because I feel that I can express myself, without words, which allows me to connect with people. To me, music is the language of the spirit.

Why Jazz? All music is connected in many ways, but jazz is reminiscent of the church, which is where I first started playing music as a kid.

What are your short-term goals? Starting my LLC, exploring the world of songwriting, and arranging for other artists as well as film scoring, touring, and recording more music.

What are your long-term goals? To have my record label and publishing company; be a professor or run my jazz studies program and mentor the next generation of artists and educators.

What are your career highlights to date? Being able to share the stage with artists such as Rodney Whitaker, Terri Lyne Carrington, Patrice Rushen, Wycliffe Gordon, and Dwight Adams, just to name a few.

Who inspires you musically, and why? Musically, I am inspired by so many artists like Greg Hutchinson, Eric Harland, Rodney Whitaker, Terri Lyne Carrington, and Geri Allen, to name a few, because they give so much of themselves to the music but also are accessible and open to impart wisdom and advice.

MEMBERS

The Gathering Orchestra Nonet



BRANDON ROSE

Acoustic Bassist

24 years old

Clinton Township, Michigan

Why music as a career path? Music has always been my passion.

Why Jazz? Initially, I was not a jazz fan or a jazz musician. It wasn't until I started studying at Michigan State with Rodney Whitaker that I even played acoustic bass. All of this has been new for me but as I dove deeper into jazz's rich history, I felt a connection to my culture and grew a deeper appreciation for this amazing art form.

What are your short-term goals? To complete my master's program at Michigan State University and make a big move to Los Angeles or New York upon completion.

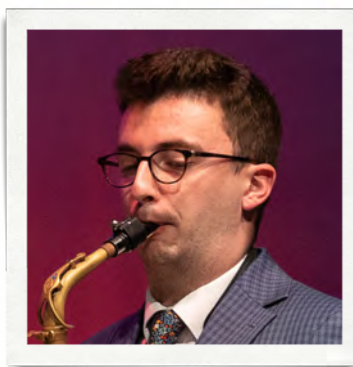
What are your long-term goals? To become one of the most well-known and respected musicians, artists, composers, and producers in the world. I would love to become an in-demand music director for major artists and events in the entertainment industry.

What are your career highlights to date? I have performed a tribute for The Jackson's as part of Detroit's music weekend; worked with Patrice Rushen and Terri Lynn Carrington as part of The Gathering Orchestra and won the 2022 Jack Rudin competition with the Michigan State Jazz Orchestra, under the direction of Rodney Whitaker.

Who inspires you musically, and why? My biggest inspiration musically is Michael Jackson. As a performer and artist, he was never afraid of trying something new and was completely comfortable being himself regardless of what people would say or think, which is something that I strive to do whenever I play or write music.

MEMBERS

The Gathering Orchestra Nonet



ERIC LAW

Saxophonist & Flutist

22 years old

Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Why music as a career path? I love to play, write, and perform music and was lucky to have some great teachers throughout middle and high school that encouraged me.

Why Jazz? I love the feeling that I get when I hear music that is swinging, and to be a part of that, whether through playing, improvising, or writing with my favorite musicians.

What are your short-term goals? To get my master's degree, record an album, and be a bandleader.

What are your long-term goals? Play and write at a high level with both my musical heroes, mentors, and friends.

What are your career highlights to date? Winning the 2022 Jack Rudin Jazz Championship with Michigan State University Jazz Orchestra in April.

Who inspires you musically, and why? Cannonball Adderley, John Coltrane, and Charlie Parker, for being virtuosic saxophonists that inspire me every time I hear them play. My professors, for being models of how I shape my career as a musician, educator, and human being.

MEMBERS

The Gathering Orchestra Nonet



Stephen Grady

Tenor Saxophonist

26 years old

Detroit, Michigan

Why music as a career path? Music found me at an early age, and I haven't been able to see myself doing anything else. I don't think a person can choose to pursue music as a career path, as music chooses the person and calls them to embark on the journey.

Why Jazz? The music historically referred to as "Jazz" is more of a craft than a genre. The style and tradition of this music are rich, dense, and present a lifetime's worth of challenges.

What are your short-term goals? My short-term goal is to connect with more musicians across the country and internationally.

What are your long-term goals? My long-term goal is to continue to perform live music at a high level.

What are your career highlights to date? My career highlights include performing with legends such as Marcus Belgrave, Rodney Whitaker, and the late Geri Allen. I also performed at venues such as Hill Auditorium, Boston Conservatory Hall, and the Kennedy Center.

Who inspires you musically, and why? I'm musically inspired by every single musician that comes from or has claimed Detroit as home. Detroit musicians are students, performers, and people of the highest caliber!

MEMBERS

The Gathering Orchestra Nonet



AUSTIN MUTHYALA

Trumpeter

22 years old

Byron Center, Michigan

Why music as a career path? First, I chose music because, at the highest level, it's one of the things that makes me feel closer to God. Secondly, I chose this profession because I love music, the people, and the community.

Why Jazz? Jazz music was the first form of music that I fell in love with, and the music deeply and accurately reflects the culture and the people that created it, which is another beautiful thing.

What are your short-term goals? To graduate with my master's degree, as well as record and release my first album as a leader.

What are your long-term goals? To create a space for me in the music industry that allows me to play music with my band consisting of my best friends. I also hope to begin touring across the country with my ensemble soon.

What are your career highlights to date? To be a member of The Gathering Orchestra; playing as a sideman with Rodney Whitaker, and accompanying Djembe drummer Weedie Braimah at the Lyric Theater in Miami.

Who inspires you musically, and why? Etienne Charles is an incredibly important mentor to me; he inspires me musically because he is constantly expanding his repertoire to connect deeper with his Afro-Caribbean roots. Brian Lynch, my newest teacher, and mentor inspires me because he embodies the most incredible work ethic; and Rodney Whitaker is a true example of what this music represents and a pillar in the jazz community.

MEMBERS

The Gathering Orchestra Nonet



KEVIN BREWSTER

Baritone saxophonist
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Why music as a career path? From a young age, I knew that music would be a part of my life. From dancing to singing to playing the saxophone when I was eleven, music has always been a way of expressing myself emotionally and a way to release stress and anxiety. My love for music is indescribable.

Why jazz? Singing in the choir in church, playing drums and the saxophone in the band, all helped me get a good start learning to play jazz. I was first introduced to jazz when I was in the eighth grade and I thought that jazz was gospel, but of course, it is a lot more than that. Then, I started to play in the jazz band at school which made my love for jazz increase daily.

What are your short-term goals? My short-term goals are to continue to be a better musician and person than I was yesterday, continue to build connections, and always be quick to learn and keep an open heart. Continuing to accomplish these goals daily will help me overall.

What are your long-term goals? My long-term goals are to graduate from Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in Jazz Studies and then go to graduate school and receive my master's degree in Jazz. My goal is to also become a touring musician either with my group or work as a sideman with another group. Eventually, I would like to secure a record deal and, in the future, become a college professor.

What are your career highlights to date? One of my recent career highlights was life changing. In the fall of last year, I was selected to perform with the Next Generation Jazz Orchestra at the Monterey Jazz Festival.

Who inspires you musically, and why? The people who inspire me musically are all my mentors and peers at Michigan State University including my professors in the jazz studies department, my high school band director, and my friends and mentors back home in Grand Rapids.

THE CARR CENTER

the Staff

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Debbie Allen	Resident Artist
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the Carr Center
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THANK YOU

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Summer Dance Intensive

SAVE THE DATES:

The Carr Center Summer Dance Intensive

July 11 – July 24

The Carr Center is proud to present the fifth year of our Summer Dance Intensive in partnership with the acclaimed Debbie Allen and the Debbie Allen Dance Academy (DADA).

As a Resident Artist of the Carr Center, Debbie Allen brings her world-class faculty from Los Angeles and New York to Detroit, where they teach dance students from across the Metropolitan area in a comprehensive two-week early professional dance and musical theater experience.

Dancers between ages 8–21 will receive training in ballet, modern, tap, jazz, African, Dunham and hip-hop dance. This summer will also be the second year we are offering a concurrent two-week Musical Theater Intensive in partnership with DADA.

The intensives will run Monday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with a final performance on July 24, in the Ford Theatre at Detroit School of Arts.



*To register or for more information about all our education
and training opportunities visit our website at:*

www.thecarrcenter.org

the Carr Center
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CALL for ENTRIES

Visual Artists

The Arts League of Michigan and the Carr Center is celebrating its 30th Anniversary! To mark thirty years of excellence and thirty years of Carr we are creating a series of exhibitions featuring artists who have exhibited with the organization during the past 30 years. We encourage all visual artists, both adults and youth exhibitors and former students of the arts academy program who have continued their practice, to submit their work for this incredible opportunity.

If you are an artist who has exhibited with us in the past, please apply using submittable at:

**The Carr Center Submission Manager — Carr Center
30th Anniversary Exhibition (submittable.com)**

For questions or inquiries please send an email to:

exhibitions@thecarrcenter.org

Exhibitions are scheduled for
July 13, 2022 — September 10, 2022 and
September 28, 2022 — November 26, 2022.

Deadline for entries is June 3, 2022.

**4750 Woodward Avenue / Detroit, Michigan 48201
thecarrcenter.org**