



## Four uptown Charlotte cultural institutions partner to launch new event series Wednesday Night Live

For Immediate Release

**Charlotte, North Carolina (October 25, 2021)** — The four institutions that comprise the Levine Center for the Arts in uptown Charlotte — The Mint Museum, The Bechtler Museum of Modern Art, The Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture, and the Knight Theater — are partnering to launch a new weekly event series known as Wednesday Night Live.

Presented by Bank of America, Wednesday Night Live will include free admission to the three museums between 5-9 p.m. every Wednesday, as well as live entertainment or programming at one of the four institutions each week. The special programming, which will rotate among the partners, includes everything from Brazilian dance performances to spoken-word artists to film screenings. The first Wednesday Night Live will be October 27 at Mint Museum Uptown, as the Youth Orchestras of Charlotte perform a series of Halloween-themed nocturnes — a nod to the Impressionist nocturnes on view in the Mint's *John Leslie Breck: American Impressionist* exhibition, currently on view.

While cross-collaborations and after-hour programs are not new to these cultural institutions, the idea of Wednesday Night Live grew out of a desire to further solidify partnerships between four of the city's key arts institutions and to rebuild engagement within the heart of uptown Charlotte, an area hit particularly hard by the economic impact of Covid-19. The concept was developed in conversations with Bank of America and the chief executives of each institution: Todd D. Smith of the Bechtler Museum of Modern Art; Todd A. Herman of The Mint Museum, David. R. Taylor of the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture, and Tom Gabbard of Blumenthal Performing Arts Center and the Knight Theater.

All organizations will follow CDC guidelines, as well as state and local regulations, with regard to Covid-19 protocols. In accordance, all attendees of indoor events must wear a mask. "We believe in the power of the arts to help communities thrive and to create greater cultural understanding," said Kieth Cockrell, president of Bank of America Charlotte. "Extending the hours and offering complimentary admission on Wednesday nights offers our community even more access to the city's best art and programming."



## Wednesday Night Live 2021 Schedule

**October 27:** The Mint Museum and the Youth Orchestras of Charlotte present a series of Halloween-themed nocturnes — a nod to the Impressionist nocturnes on view in the Mint's *John Leslie Breck: American Impressionist* exhibition, currently on view. Cash bar.

**November 3:** The Mint Museum presents a performance and videos by Cherrie Yu, a fall 2021 McColl Center artist-in-residence, in collaboration with the McColl Center and the dance department at UNC Charlotte dance. Cash bar.

**November 10:** Bechtler Museum of Modern Art presents a Brazilian dance performance and drop-in tours of *Isaac Julien: Lina Bo Bardi - A Marvellous Entanglement*.

**November 17:** Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture presents an evening of Spoken Word featuring Boris "Bluz" Rogers that will include a writing workshop and a live performance from several esteemed poets and spoken word artists.

**November 24:** Head to the Knight Theater lobby as Blumenthal Performing Arts shows off some of its nerdiest content from its new Nerdy Night Out series. Enjoy a sampling of the Heroes Debate show, the Ladies Who Rocked History Show and the new Science for Comedians Show. Start off with a little Biology 101 with Professor Andrew Goff as he discusses the biology of hops and barley, and then get a taste of history with Jenny Kabool and Tiffany Bryant Jackson, as they share about the unknown women from the first Thanksgiving. Then round out the night with a fun-filled debate about which superhero would host the best Thanksgiving meal featuring Charlotte's top local comedians.

**December 1:** The Mint Museum film showing of *Sisters with Transistors*, the remarkable story of electronic music's female pioneers, composers who embraced machines and their liberating technologies to transform how we produce and listen to music today. Enjoy popcorn and a cash bar.

**December 8:** The Bechtler Museum of Modern Art features music and performances and drop-in tours of all exhibitions.

**December 15:** Join Blumenthal Performing Arts for outdoor, holiday cheer at the Knight Theater Plaza and on Levine Avenue of the Arts. The evening will include Christmas carols performed by a local traditional choir, a local trap choir, and a few Blumenthal Performing Arts Acoustic Grace alumni performers. Stroll along Levine Avenue and do some "reverse caroling," where you visit different performance stations, rather than have carolers ring your doorbell. Make the experience complete with a cup of apple cider or hot chocolate.

**December 22:** No programming. Free admission 5-9 p.m. at the three museums.

**December 29:** Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture will celebrate Ujamaa (or cooperative economics), the fourth principle of Kwanzaa, with a candle-making workshop, an African dance class, and an informational session about the history and traditions of Kwanzaa. The Gantt will also feature local artisans and an array of hand-crafted treasures for sale during the evening.

**For 2022 programming, visit [mintmuseum.org](http://mintmuseum.org), [bechtler.org](http://bechtler.org), [ganttcenter.org](http://ganttcenter.org), or [blumenthalarts.org](http://blumenthalarts.org)**



## About the Wednesday Night Live Partners

### Bechtler Museum of Modern Art

The Bechtler Museum of Modern Art is the only museum in the Southern United States exclusively dedicated to European and American Modern Art and its legacies. Capturing a remarkable era of art history from the collection of the Zürich-based Bechtler family, the Bechtler Museum of Modern Art collection includes works by some of the most important and influential figures of modernism, including Alexander Calder, Le Corbusier, Edgar Degas, Max Ernst, Alberto Giacometti, Barbara Hepworth, Jasper Johns, Paul Klee, Alfred Manessier, Joan Miró, Kenneth Noland, Pablo Picasso, Bridget Riley, Nicolas de Staël, Andy Warhol and a wealth of other 20th-century notables. The museum, designed by Swiss architect Mario Botta, prominently features the Niki de Saint Phalle's iconic *Le Grand Oiseau de Feu sur l'Arche* on its entrance plaza. Located in the heart of Uptown, the Bechtler is a light-filled community space created to inspire and engage first-time visitors and long-term supporters alike.

### Blumenthal Performing Arts

Blumenthal Performing Arts serves the Carolinas as a leading cultural, entertainment and education provider. For more information, call 704.372.1000 or visit [BlumenthalArts.org](http://BlumenthalArts.org). Blumenthal Performing Arts receives operating support from the North Carolina Arts Council. Blumenthal Performing Arts is also supported by PNC Bank, sponsor of the PNC Broadway Lights.

### Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture

The Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture is a multidisciplinary arts institution located in the heart of Charlotte, North Carolina. Founded in 1974, the Gantt Center's mission is to present, preserve, and celebrate excellence in the art, history, and culture of African-Americans and those of African descent through visual and literary arts, dance, music, film, educational programs, theatre productions, and community outreach. The Gantt Center features fine art exhibitions from around the world and is home to the nationally celebrated John and Vivian Hewitt Collection of African-American Art, which was generously donated by Bank of America, and is accessible online.

Named for Charlotte civic leader and former mayor Harvey Bernard Gantt, the Gantt Center is housed in an iconic, award-winning structure designed by architect Philip Freelon, co-designer of the Smithsonian National Museum for African American History and Culture (NMAAHC). For more information about the Gantt Center, visit [ganttcenter.org](http://ganttcenter.org) and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

### The Mint Museum

Established in 1936 as North Carolina's first art museum, The Mint Museum is a leading, innovative cultural institution and museum of international art and design. With two locations — Mint Museum Randolph in the heart of Eastover and Mint Museum Uptown at Levine Center for the Arts — the Mint boasts one of the largest collections in the Southeast and welcomes all to be inspired and transformed through the power of art and creativity. [mintmuseum.org](http://mintmuseum.org)



## Media contacts

### Bechtler Museum of Modern Art

Hillary Hardwick, Deputy Director for Marketing and Communications  
hillary.hardwick@bechtler.org | 704.353.9204 (o)

Lauren Bunch, Assistant Director for Marketing  
lauren.bunch@bechtler.org | 704.353.9208 (o)

### Blumenthal Performing Arts

Stephanie Dowds, Director of Programming  
sdowds@blumenthalarts.org

Danny Knaub, Vice President of Marketing  
danny.knaub@blumenthalarts.org

Rebecca Bereiter, Communications and Creative Content Producer  
rbereiter@blumenthalarts.org

### Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture

Bonita Buford, Chief Operating Officer  
704.547.3700

### The Mint Museum

Caroline Portillo, Senior Director of Marketing and Communications at The Mint Museum  
caroline.portillo@mintmuseum.org | 704.488.6874 (c)

Michele Huggins, Communications and Media Relations Project Manager at The Mint Museum  
michele.huggins@mintmuseum.org | 704.564.0826 (c)

