

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



Corey Carrington | Photo: James Schaffer

**Corey Carrington Selected As Inaugural Emerging Black Arts Leaders Apprentice**  
*Contemporary Craft Program Promotes Increased Diversity in Museum Employment*

- The Society for Contemporary Craft's (SCC) Emerging Black Arts Leaders Apprenticeship – now in its inaugural year – addresses the staggering underrepresentation of African-Americans on museum staffs by awarding a one-year, paid apprenticeship to a talented emerging arts leader of color.
- The 2016/2017 apprenticeship recipient, Corey Carrington, will be embedded within the day-to-day, interdepartmental operations and artistic programming at SCC from Wednesday, September 7, 2016 through August 2017.
- Carrington is a writer, artist, and change-maker living in Pittsburgh, PA. He has experience working in nonprofit administration, arts education, and community outreach.
- The Emerging Black Arts Leaders position is generously funded by the Opportunity Fund.

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PITTSBURGH, PA – September 6, 2016 – The Society for Contemporary Craft (SCC), a Strip District-based arts nonprofit committed to providing creative experiences through contemporary craft, today announced the selection of Corey Carrington as its first Emerging Black Arts Leaders Apprentice. This new position builds upon the organization’s demonstrated success in enhancing the development of future arts leaders through a variety of scholarship and internship programs. Through on-the-job training in a professional arts organization, Carrington will gain the artistic and business skills required to succeed in a highly competitive field. The program also provides mentoring from SCC staff and artists, professional development, and networking opportunities within the regional arts community.

The creation of the Emerging Black Arts Leader program is in direct response to a 2015 survey of diversity in American art museums conducted by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in partnership with the Association of Art Museum Directors and the American Alliance of Museums. The report illustrated a troubling underrepresentation of people of color on museum staffs, with only 4% of museum curators, conservators, and educators identifying as African-American. SCC’s new apprenticeship addresses this staggering disparity by awarding this one-year position, which pays a monthly stipend, to a talented emerging arts leader of color.

“We are committed to providing employment and mentoring opportunities for young individuals of color,” says SCC Executive Director Janet McCall. “By ensuring these emerging arts managers are prepared to successfully enter the leadership pipeline, we are ensuring a future where the demographics of museum employees more closely match the vibrant diversity of our society as a whole.”

#### ABOUT COREY CARRINGTON

Corey Carrington is a writer, artist, and change-maker living in Pittsburgh’s North Side neighborhood. Carrington’s background includes experience in nonprofit administration and arts education. He has held positions with the Three Rivers Workforce Investment Board, Community College of Allegheny County, Allegheny Youth Development, and GTECH Strategies among others. An accomplished poet and visual artist, Carrington is deeply involved with Pittsburgh’s spoken word community, and uses his creative practice to effect positive social change while exploring themes of identity and connectivity. He received his high school diploma from Perry Traditional Academy (Pittsburgh, PA) in 2006, and earned a BS in Communications and Creative Writing from Slippery Rock University in 2011.

“The Emerging Black Arts Leaders Apprenticeship is a career enhancing and potentially life changing opportunity that I am truly thankful for,” says Carrington. “The apprenticeship will help me accomplish my goals of becoming a professional arts administrator, expanding my network, and increasing the visibility of Black people and people of color within the arts community.”

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The Emerging Black Arts Leaders position was advertised nationally beginning in June 2016. The final applicant pool was small but mighty, with the impressive caliber of the candidates serving as a clear testament to the necessity of programs like this to offer a level playing field at critical career entry points.

"The A.W. Mellon Foundation's report on museum diversity was a call-to-action that Contemporary Craft is perhaps the first to strategically answer through the Emerging Black Arts Leaders Apprenticeship," says the Opportunity Fund's Executive Director, Jake Goodman. "We are thrilled to support the inaugural year of this pioneering program, which will help build the pipeline of talented Black arts leaders, like Corey Carrington."

#### ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITY FUND

The Emerging Black Arts Leaders program is generously supported by the Opportunity Fund ([www.theopportunityfund.org](http://www.theopportunityfund.org)). The Opportunity Fund awards grants to organizations and initiatives that advance the arts, and social and economic justice. At least 75% of its grants are awarded to projects that benefit the Greater Pittsburgh Community. Funding areas include: performing arts, with an emphasis on theater, dance and music, especially classical chamber music and jazz, presented by small to mid-sized arts organizations; visual arts, with an emphasis on craft and small to mid-sized arts organizations; civil liberties; civil rights, with special interest in equality for African-Americans, LGBTQ people, and other minorities; human rights; reproductive freedom; and safety net resources for people in need, including social services, economic independence, housing, tangible aid, transportation, and healthcare.

#### ABOUT CONTEMPORARY CRAFT

Presenting contemporary art in craft media by regional, national, and international artists since 1971, the Society for Contemporary Craft (SCC) offers cutting edge exhibitions focusing on multicultural diversity and non-mainstream art, as well as a range of studio workshops, community outreach programs, and a retail store. Through its mission of engaging the public in creative experiences through contemporary craft, SCC offers meaningful art opportunities for more than 145,000 people a year through four core values: providing vital support for artists; filling critical gaps in public education; sharing cross cultural perspectives; and using art to build community. SCC is located at 2100 Smallman Street in the Strip District of Pittsburgh, PA. Hours are Monday through Saturday, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. The satellite gallery is located in the "T" station lobby of BNY Mellon Center in downtown Pittsburgh, and is open daily from 6:00 am through midnight. Exhibitions and informal, hands-on art activities in the Drop-In Studio are always free to the public. For more information, visit [www.contemporarycraft.org](http://www.contemporarycraft.org) or call 412.261.7003.