

Newark Symphony Hall Presents the Black Creative Economy Summit, Empowering Black Artists and Entrepreneurs

Three-day conference to foster investment, equity and cultural ownership for Black and Brown creators

NEWARK, N.J. (May 23, 2023) – Newark Symphony Hall, New Jersey's largest and oldest Black arts institution, is proud to announce that it will host the city's first-ever Black Creative Economy Summit from June 20-22. The three-day event aims to foster investment opportunities for artists in technology, film, media and performing arts, while promoting the power of the Black creative economy.

The Black Creative Economy Summit, hosted in partnership with Lincoln Park Coast Cultural District, Newark Arts Council and City of Newark Division of Arts & Cultural Affairs, will feature a diverse lineup of sessions and events designed to empower and inspire creatives at every stage of their careers. The schedule includes:

Day 1: Convene – The Summit kicks off with the Culture Investors Dinner, an exclusive event bringing artists, industry leaders and investors together to network and explore creative sector investment opportunities.

Day 2: Collaborate – Attendees will discover and engage in insightful sessions led by local and industry leaders, propelling creativity and collaboration.

- *Know Your Stage* – Networking breakfast.
- *Thriving in the Arts* – Fireside chat led by Newark Symphony Hall.
- *Creative Placemaking for the Culture* - Fireside chat led by Lincoln Park Coast Cultural District.
- *Own the Culture* – Keynote address by David Banner, Grammy Award-winning rapper, record producer and philanthropist.
- *Revolutionizing Content Consumption* – Featuring the founders of Polaris, the first Black-owned, free-ad supporting streaming channel.
- *Straight to the Money* – Fireside chat led by Newark Arts Council.
- *Funder's Speed Dating* – 1:1 sessions with regional art investors.

Day 3: Connect – A night of networking, creativity and humor to close out the Black Creative Economy Summit experience.

- *Behind the Scenes & Artist Mixer* – music, cocktails courtesy of Uncle Nearest Premium Whiskey & private tour of Newark Symphony Hall's production ability.
- *Bob Sumner Comedy Tour Show* - a Newark International Film Festival feature.

"The Black Creative Economy Summit is designed to acknowledge the financial impact of artists, and promote ownership, while celebrating the rich heritage and contributions of Black creators in Newark, throughout New Jersey and beyond," shares Talia L. Young, president and CEO of Newark Symphony Hall. "The event will provide a platform for artists, industry professionals and investors to come together, exchange ideas and drive positive change within creative industries."

The Summit will feature a distinguished lineup of speakers from diverse career backgrounds, including:

- Jean Pierre Brutus, senior counsel, New Jersey Institute for Social Justice.
- Lenny The Barber, film, concert and event producer.
- Sway, American journalist, radio personality and executive producer.
- Jeffrey Page, Emmy-nominated director and choreographer.
- David Banner, Grammy Award-winning rapper, record producer and philanthropist.
- Chris Watson, director of planning and development services, Murphy Schiller & Wilkes LLP.
- Shaheem Reid, author, journalist and co-founder of Polaris.
- David Byer-Tyre, scholar, professional artist and educator.
- Anthony Smith, executive director, Lincoln Park Coast Cultural District.
- Talia Young, president and CEO, Newark Symphony Hall.
- Andrew Binger, artistic director, Yendor Theatre Company.
- Lyvan Munlyn, charge scenic artist, Creative Producer.
- Marjorie Perry, president and CEO, MZM Construction & Management Company, Inc.

To purchase tickets and for more information on the Black Creative Economy Summit, please visit <https://newarksymphonyhall.org/events/black-creative-economy/>.

About Newark Symphony Hall

Born in 1925, Newark Symphony Hall (NSH) has been the home of almost a century of arts and culture in what is now one of New Jersey's oldest and largest arts and entertainment venues. NSH remains as committed as ever to providing an artistically rich experience for art lovers of all ages, while creating career pathways for people of color from around the world – and bettering both its community and the Greater Newark region. The venue recently began production on “The Soul of Newark Symphony Hall,” its celebration of “Black Newark” developed by scholar and composer Guthrie Ramsey, told through narration, reenactments, music and cinematic and photographic montage. Its “Symphony of Survival,” a creative project led by Newark poet Jasmine Mans as part of the venue's #EmbraceNewark initiative, features writings, footage and photos by 10 talented local Black artists documenting their pandemic experience. For more information, visit: www.NewarkSymphonyHall.org.

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