



NEWFIELDS
A PLACE FOR NATURE & THE ARTS

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Images available upon request.

Newfields celebrates Indy's #BlackLivesMatter street mural and artists with exhibition opening 4/16



Portrait of the artists who painted #BlackLivesMatter on Indiana Avenue in downtown Indianapolis, 2020. Photo by Wildstyle.

INDIANAPOLIS, Jan. 27, 2021—Last summer in response to the #BlackLivesMatter movement, 18 Indianapolis-based Black artists painted #BlackLivesMatter on Indiana Avenue in downtown Indianapolis. The creative expression used art to amplify the messages of the Black Lives Matter movement, combat racial inequality and celebrate Black art, space and togetherness. Newfields is celebrating the 18 artists with a special exhibition called, [DRIP: Indy's #BlackLivesMatter Street Mural](#), which will be open from April 16 to October 3, 2021 in the Damon C. and Kay D. Davis Lab inside the Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields.

DRIP is curated by two guest curators, Malina 'Mali' Jeffers and Alan Bacon. Jeffers and Bacon are co-founders of [GANGGANG](#) a cultural development firm that focuses on elevating Indianapolis' creatives in an equitable way. Both were instrumental in the creation of the original #BlackLivesMatter mural on Indiana Avenue. Jeffers also sits on the Board of Governors at Newfields.

"Art has always been the storyteller of society," said Mali Jeffers and Alan Bacon, co-founders of GANGGANG. "From the civil rights movement of the 60's when music cried tears we couldn't, to today when visual artists have taken their brush to the streets—people of culture and art specifically, have always been the voice of the movement and a catalyst for change."

In the exhibition, guests will learn about the mural, why Black space is important, the life of Indianapolis' street mural, and about the individual artists and their creative process. An image of each letter will be accompanied by a short description of the artist, and a QR access code that directs guests to a two-minute video with more information about the artist. An audio component featuring Indy-base musicians and a spoken word artist will accompany the visual art. Newfields hopes that once guests learn about the artists and their work, they will be motivated to visit the #BlackLivesMatter street mural on Indiana Avenue, as that is truly the main exhibition.

Below are the names of artists associated with each letter. To learn more about the artists visit discovernewfields.org/drip.

#: Jarrod Dortch

B: Nathaniel Rhodes

L: Rebecca Robinson

A: Amiah Mims

C: Billy Hoodoo

K: Kevin West

L: John G. Moore

I: Gary Gee

V: Deonna Craig

E: Rae Parker

S: Ess McKee

M: Wavy Blayne

A: Harriet Watson

T: FITZ

T: Israel Solomon

E: Shamira Wilson

R: Ashley Nora

Fist: Fingercreations

IMA's show will be located steps away from Robert Indiana's *LOVE* sculpture, which will challenge guests to reflect on their own contributions and/or experiences with racial inequity and will encourage positive action. The Museum & Garden Shop will have a selection of items by the artists available for purchase.

Curatorial support for *DRIP: Indy's #BlackLivesMatter Street Mural* is provided by Newfields' Shelley Selim, Curator of Design and Decorative Arts and Interim Director of Curatorial Affairs, and Bryn Jackson, Assistant Curator of Audience Engagement and Performance. Support for *DRIP: Indy's #BlackLivesMatter Street Mural* is generously provided by Rae Malesh.

This exhibition is included in General Admission to Newfields and free for Members. Due to COVID capacity restrictions, all guests (members and public) are required to reserve a ticket online in advance of their visit. You can find more detailed information at discovernewfields.org/visiting-newfields.

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About Newfields

Newfields offers dynamic experiences with art and nature for guests of all ages. The 152-acre cultural campus features art galleries, lush gardens, a historic home, performance spaces, a nature preserve and sculpture park. From inspiring exhibitions in the IMA Galleries, to concerts in The Toby, to a stroll through The Garden with a glass of something cold, guests are invited to interact with art and nature in exciting new ways. Newfields is home to the Indianapolis Museum of Art, among the ten largest and ten oldest general art museums in the nation; the Lilly House, a National Historic Landmark; The Garden, featuring 40 acres of contemporary and historic gardens, a working greenhouse and an orchard; and The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park, one of the largest art and nature parks in the country. The Newfields campus extends outside of Indianapolis with Miller House and Garden in Columbus, Ind.—one of the nation's most highly regarded examples of mid-century Modernist architecture. For more information, visit DiscoverNewfields.org.

About GANGGANG

GANGGANG is a cultural development firm on a mission to produce, promote, and preserve culture in cities as a means to growing—and building equity within—the creative economy, beginning in the Midwest. A for-profit and nonprofit hybrid business model, GANGGANG supports cultural entrepreneurs across the spectrum through advocacy, funding, and an enhanced infrastructure for their work to thrive. For more information, visit www.ganggangculture.com or follow us on social media, @ganggangculture.

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