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Touring exhibit on Black giving traditions makes its way to Arkansas
The Soul of Philanthropy multimedia exhibition opens at Mosaic Templars Cultural Center during Black Philanthropy Month

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (August 1, 2024) — Following exhibitions in dozens of communities nationwide, “[Giving Back: The Soul of Philanthropy Reframed and Exhibited](#)” is making its way to the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center for a three-month run. The comprehensive, multimedia exhibit opens to the public with a ribbon-cutting and tasting event on Thursday, Aug. 22, at 5:30 p.m.

The *Soul of Philanthropy*, a reimagining of the book *Giving Back*, explores the Black American experience with philanthropy and elevates giving traditions grounded in faith, mutuality, responsibility and social justice. The groundbreaking exhibit, comprising narrative and photographic works from Valaida Fullwood and Charles W. Thomas, invites visitors of all ages to share their stories of giving and to contribute to “reframing portraits of philanthropy.”

The exhibit illuminates Black philanthropy through innovative and interactive presentations – luminous photographic prints on metal, digital apps with music, animation, poetry, photography, film and more.

The Arkansas Black Philanthropy Collaborative, with funding provided by Fidelity Charitable, is partnering with Mosaic Templars Cultural Center to bring the exhibit to Arkansas. Derek Lewis II, chair of the ABPC and president of the Derek Lewis Foundation, said the exhibit serves as an opportunity to change the narrative about what it means to be a philanthropist.

“August is Black Philanthropy Month, so we are excited to showcase the rich tradition of giving within Black communities,” Lewis said. “It is our hope that The Soul of Philanthropy exhibit will provide a springboard for conversations about social responsibility, civic leadership, strategic giving and community impact in our state.”

In conjunction with the exhibition, ABPC and the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center will host a series of educational and social programming called the Soul Series. The events are designed to highlight the exhibit, build awareness around Black philanthropy in Arkansas and serve as a vehicle for collaboration among communities.

The Soul Series kicks off with Soul Kitchen at 6 p.m. on Aug. 22, immediately following the exhibit's grand opening at 5:30 p.m. Described as a "soul-food tasting culinary experience," Soul Kitchen will feature samples from Black-owned restaurants and caterers in Arkansas. Proceeds from the ticketed event will support the ABPC's [Give Black Arkansas Fund](#).

The Soul of Philanthropy will be in Little Rock from through December 3. For more information about the exhibit and the associated Soul Series events, visit [TheABPC.org/TSOP](#).

About the Arkansas Black Philanthropy Collaborative

The Arkansas Black Philanthropy Collaborative is dedicated to crafting Black-led solutions for social change in Arkansas. Originating from a 2018 gathering of Black philanthropic leaders, ABPC envisions a future where Black people and philanthropic resources are organized for impactful change. Partnering with four Arkansas-based foundations, ABPC channels collective efforts toward addressing the state's most pressing challenges. Contributions to its [Give Black Arkansas Fund](#) bolster general charitable purposes with a focus on organizations and programs that support Black communities across the state. To learn more about ABPC, visit [theabpc.org](#).

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