



**AUGUST WILSON AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER TO REOPEN
SEPTEMBER 18, 2020**

**WITH NEW VISUAL ARTS EXHIBITION
*DOMINIC CHAMBERS: LIKE THE SHAPE OF CLOUDS ON WATER***

**New safety procedures to ensure the health and wellbeing of
visitors, staff, and artists also announced**

August 18, 2020 – Pittsburgh, PA – The August Wilson African American Cultural Center (AWAACC) announced today that it will reopen to the public on **Friday, September 18, 2020** with the solo exhibition *Dominic Chambers: Like the Shape of Clouds on Water*, in the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation Gallery. As one of the largest cultural centers in the country focused exclusively on the African American experience, in conjunction with the opportunity for patrons to visit the exhibition in-person, the Center will again offer a virtual tour of the art exhibition on its website, allowing audiences in Pittsburgh and around the globe the opportunity to experience the work. Both the in-person and virtual exhibition remain free of charge. Additional details about the Center’s new gallery hours and reopening safety procedures can be found below and online at aacc-awc.org/welcome-back.

“On behalf of the staff and Board, we are pleased to open the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation Gallery this September and welcome the community back to experience the work of a dynamic young artist, Dominic Chambers, whose art and expression is both timely and relevant. We are committed to reopening in a safe manner,” said AWAACC President and CEO **Janis Burley Wilson**. “We have been working with state and local officials, as well as our cultural partners around the region to ensure our visitors, staff, and artists with whom we work have a safe, and enjoyable experience when returning to the Center. Chambers’ art feels kindred with August Wilson’s writings and takes inspiration from literary narratives, various mythologies, and African American history. It is what we need now as a community to heal through art.”

“AWAACC is thrilled to organize Dominic Chambers’ first solo exhibition at a cultural institution and debut a series of paintings that he’s been working on over the past year,” says Visual Arts Curator **Kilolo Lockett**. “Foregrounding Black figures in moments of contemplation and leisure, Chambers paints real people inhabiting imagined dreamscapes, and I look forward to the conversations that his work will spark within our community.”

About Dominic Chambers

Chambers is a New Haven-based artist from St. Louis, MO, and received his BFA from the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design and an MFA from the Yale University School of Art in 2019. Chambers has exhibited his work in exhibitions in the United States and Europe. He has participated in many artist residencies, including The Yale Norfolk summer residency and the New York Studio residency Program in Brooklyn, NY.

COVID-19 Safety Policies and Procedures

In accordance with new guidelines and protocols set by state and local officials, AWAACC has developed safety procedures to ensure that all who visit have an enjoyable and stress-free experience. Upon reopening, all patrons are required to submit a temperature check and capacity in the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation Gallery will be reduced to 10%, allowing all to remain socially distant. As required by Pennsylvania state regulations, staff and visitors to the AWAACC are required to wear protective face masks while inside the building, and new cleaning procedures have also been implemented. AWAACC encourages guests to review the new safety procedures prior to visiting, and the complete list of policies can be found at aacc-awc.org/welcome-back.

New Gallery Hours:

Thursday 3–8 p.m.

Friday 3–8 p.m.

Saturday 12–5 p.m.

Sunday 12–5 p.m.

AWAACC Galleries are free and open to the public.

About August Wilson African American Cultural Center

The August Wilson African American Cultural Center is a non-profit multidisciplinary arts center located in Pittsburgh's cultural district that generates artistic, educational, and community initiatives that advance the legacy of Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright August Wilson. One of the largest cultural centers in the country focused exclusively on the African American experience and the celebration of Black culture and the African diaspora, the non-profit organization welcomes more than 80,000 visitors locally and nationally. Through year-round programming such as the annual Pittsburgh International Jazz Festival, Black Bottom Film Festival, AWCommunity Days, TRUTHSayers speaker series, and rotating art exhibits in its two galleries, the Center provides a platform for established and emerging artists of color whose work reflects the universal issues of identity that Wilson tackled and which still resonate today. Opening in 2021, the Center will continue to expand its commitment to August Wilson's legacy with August Wilson: A Writer's Landscape, the first-ever permanent exhibition dedicated to the life and work of August Wilson.

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