

BRIC JAZZFEST

Oct. 17 & 18, 2025 | BRIC House, Brooklyn



BRIC JAZZFEST 2025 INVITES YOU ON A JOURNEY THAT BEGINS AT BRIC HOUSE IN DOWNTOWN BROOKLYN AND RADIATES OUT INTO THE WORLD.

This year's genre-defying lineup embodies jazz as a global language — shaped by migration, innovation, and collaboration. With half the groups led by women and visionary producer and composer **Adrian Younge** as guest curator, the festival features artists blending jazz with traditions from Morocco, South Africa, Cuba, Ethiopia, the UK, and more. Known for bridging global Black musical traditions, Younge brings a curatorial vision shaped by recent collaborations with Brazilian artists on his 2025 album *Something About April III*, as well as with Ghanaian legend Ebo Taylor.

From the hypnotic fusion of **Saha Gnawa** to **Meklit Hadero's** Ethio-jazz storytelling, **OKAN's** Afro-Cuban fire, and **Nubya Garcia's** Caribbean-infused London sound — these artists aren't just playing jazz, they're expanding it. Add in iconic figures like **Dee Dee Bridgewater**, rising stars like **Endea Owens & The Cookout**, and boundary-pushers like **Chief Adjuah** and **Karriem Riggins**, and you have a lineup that reflects the power of diversity as jazz's creative engine.

Two nights of legendary performances, bold new voices, and a global celebration of sound — **from Brooklyn to the world.**

This year's lineup is curated by artist **Adrian Younge** along with **Brice Rosenbloom**, BRIC's Chief Programming Officer **Deron Johnston**, & Associate Producer **Penelope Gould**.

SCHEDULE

FRI, OCTOBER 17, 2025

TIMES	GALLERY	BALLROOM
5:30	DOORS 5:30PM	
6:00	PANEL: ARTISTS IN ACTION 6:00PM – 6:45PM	
6:15		
6:30		
6:45		
7:00		
7:15	DIDA PELLED 7:00PM – 8:00PM	
7:30		
7:45		VUYO SOTASHE & CHRIS PATTISHALL 7:30PM – 8:30PM
8:00		
8:15		
8:30		
8:45	MEKLIT HADERO 8:30PM – 9:30PM	
9:00		
9:15		ADRIAN YOUNGE 9:00PM – 10:00PM
9:30		
9:45		
10:00		
10:15	SAHA GNAWA 10:00PM – 11:00PM	
10:30		
10:45		CHIEF ADJUAH 10:30PM – 11:30PM
11:00		
11:15		
11:30		

SCHEDULE

SAT, OCTOBER 18, 2025

TIMES	GALLERY	BALLROOM
5:30		
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DOORS 6:00PM

ENDEA
OWENS &
THE COOKOUT
7:00PM –
8:00PM

NEW JAZZ
UNDERGROUND
7:30PM –
8:30PM

NUBYA
GARCIA
8:30PM –
9:30PM

OKAN
9:00PM –
10:00PM

WE EXIST!
THE DEE DEE
BRIDGEWATER
QUARTET
10:00PM –
11:00PM

JAZZFEST JAM
FEATURING
ADRIAN YOUNGE,
KARRIEM RIGGINS,
AND FRIENDS
11:00PM –
12:30AM



Adrian Younger (Guest Curator)

Adrian Younger is a self-taught multi-instrumentalist, composer, and orchestrator who has produced for entertainment greats such as Snoop Dogg, Kendrick Lamar, and Wu-Tang.

In 2007, Younger relinquished his position as a professor of law to find himself at the center of the Black Dynamite phenomenon. He served as the film's editor and composer. Hailed as a modern blaxploitation masterpiece, the soundtrack was listed in the top 10 best soundtracks of the year by the *LA Times*.

In 2011, Younger created the album *Something About April*, showcasing a dark mix of psychedelic soul and cinematic instrumentals. In 2013, the project was sampled twice by Timbaland for Jay-Z's *Magna Carta... Holy Grail*, solidifying Younger as a new sound in Hip-Hop. Younger's work has also been sampled by various artists including No I.D., DJ Premier, Schoolboy Q, and more.

Younger owns and operates Linear Labs, a recording studio and label. Linear Labs reflects his dedication to the art of analog recording, utilizing analog tape and live instrumentation exclusively.

In 2017, Younger and Ali Shaheed Muhammad (A Tribe Called Quest) formed the band The Midnight Hour. In addition to musical releases and touring, they've teamed to score a myriad of television and film projects. In 2019, Younger, Muhammad, Andrew Lojero, and Adam Block created Jazz Is Dead (JID): a multimedia company specializing in the production of live concerts, studio albums, television, and film.

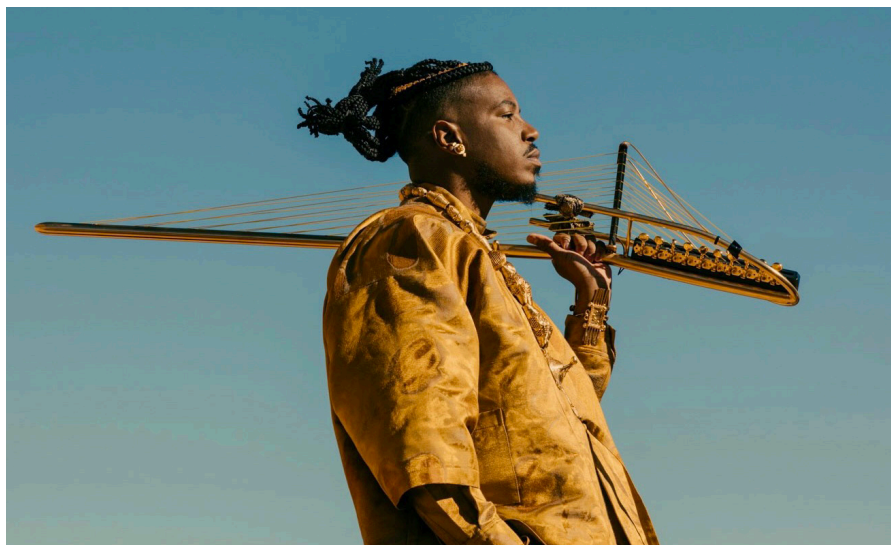
In February 2021, Younger released the seminal album, *The American Negro*. This project, in tandem with his Amazon original podcast, *Invisible Blackness* and short film *TAN*, provides an unapologetic critique on the evolution of racism in America. For Younger, the message is more important than the music.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17



BRIC JazzFest opens with **Artists in Action**, a panel featuring **Vuyo Sotashe** (JazzFest 2025 performer), **Samora Pinderhughes** (JazzFest 2017 performer), and **Sarah K. Khan** (current BRIC House exhibiting artist), moderated by artist and organizer **Niama Safia Sandy**. They will explore the intersections of jazz and activism, and discuss how their practices adapt and respond to rapidly changing social and political landscapes. The audience will hear first-hand stories of resilience, experimentation, and collaboration. This is a chance to witness artists shaping not just music, but the moment we're all living through.

Across mediums, Samora Pinderhughes, Vuyo Sotashe, and Sarah K. Khan's work allows us to see the world around us in new ways. Sarah K. Khan writes and makes art — paper, books, prints, photography, porcelain, and films — about food, culture, women, and migrants. Her work is informed from fieldwork and research globally. Vuyo Sotashe is an acclaimed jazz vocalist and scholar, moving to the United States as a Fulbright Scholar, and has since performed with celebrated jazz legends as well as at prominent festivals and venues. Samora Pinderhughes is a prolific composer, pianist, vocalist, filmmaker, and multidisciplinary artist also known for using his music to examine sociopolitical issues and fight for change. Set inside of Sarah K. Khan's exhibition, *Speak Sing Shout: We, Too, Sing America*, this conversation is a unique opportunity to learn about their influences and artistic process.



Chief Adjuah

Chief Xian aTunde Adjuah [formerly Christian Scott] is a two-time Edison Award-winning, six-time Grammy Award-nominated, Doris Duke Award in the Arts awardee. He is a sonic architect, trumpeter, multi-instrumentalist, composer, producer, designer of innovative technologies and musical instruments (including The Stretch Music app, Adjuah Trumpet, Siren, Sirennette, Chief Adjuah's Bow and Chief Adjuah's N'Goni). He is also the founder and CEO of the Stretch Music App and Recording Company. Adjuah is Chieftain and Oba of the Xodokan Nation as well as the current Grand Griot of New Orleans. He is the grandson of Louisiana luminary and legend, the late Big Chief Donald Harrison Sr., Guardians Institute founder and Grand Griot, Herreast Harrison. He is also the nephew of Jazz innovator and NEA Jazz Master saxophonist-composer, Big Chief Donald Harrison Jr. Adjuah (and his twin brother Kiel) joined his grandfather's Guardians of the Flame banner in 1989 at the age 5.

Since 2001, Adjuah has released thirteen critically acclaimed studio recordings, four live albums, and one greatest hits collection. He is widely recognized as the progenitor of the "Stretch Music" style, a 21st-century approach that asserts genre blindness and an ethnomusicological approach to limitless fusion that heralded NPR to hail him as "Ushering in a new era of Jazz" and *JazzTimes Magazine* to mark him as "Jazz's young style God" and "the architect of a commercially viable fusion."



Vuyo Sotashe & Chris Pattishall

In this highly-anticipated collaboration, South African vocalist Vuyo Sotashe and American pianist/composer Chris Pattishall come together for an intimate and soulful evening of duets. Mainstays of the NYC music scene over the last decade, Sotashe and Pattishall have each contributed to a wide range of projects spanning jazz, gospel, theater, and film.

Since moving to the United States as a Fulbright Scholar, Sotashe has performed with celebrated jazz legends including Wynton Marsalis, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Jimmy Heath, George Benson, Al Jarreau, Barry Harris, and Winard Harper. He has appeared at Montreux Jazz Festival, Monterey Jazz Festival, Cape Town International Jazz Festival, Newport Jazz Fest, Joy of Jazz, and Arcevia Jazz Festival. Described as “a bright tenor that can easily spring from sonorous depths to the full-bodied top of his impressive range” (*The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*), Sotashe made his off-Broadway debut in the Public Theater’s production of *Black Light*.

Chris has established himself as “an expert at using the jazz tradition as a jumping off-point for experimentation” (*JazzTimes*) and his debut album *Zodiac* was called “a startling achievement” (*The New York Times*) and “a hell of a debut album” (*Stereogum*). He is a featured performer on a wide range of recordings, from the GRAMMY-nominated debut album of Jamison Ross to the film scores of *Knives Out*, *Nightmare Alley*, and the indie sensation *Everything Everywhere All At Once*. He co-composed the score to the Emmy-winning documentary *Going To Mars: The Nikki Giovanni Project* with Samora Pinderhughes.

Together, Sotashe and Pattishall make music with a hushed vulnerability, a quiet invocation of community in turbulent times. In a program that will range from the American masters of Duke Ellington and Nina Simone to South African Xhosa hymns and Stevie Wonder, Sotashe and Pattishall bring the healing power of music to the forefront.



Saha Gnawa

Saha Gnawa brings North African futurism to the US, uniting the founders of Innov Gnawa with leading figures from New York City's jazz and contemporary music scenes to reimagine modern Gnawa music.

Often referred to as “Sufi Blues,” Gnawa is rooted in Morocco’s ancient history. Over centuries, infectious rhythms and polytheistic spiritual beliefs originating from West African slaves integrated with Islam and the indigenous culture of Morocco, giving birth to a hybrid spiritual sect and musical community. The lyrics of Gnawa songs are prayers invoking saints and spirits for freedom and liberation. Gnawa music is revered and treasured throughout Morocco for its soulfulness and healing power.

The ensemble is co-led by MAÂLEM HASSAN BEN JAAFER, a master musician carrying forward generations of Gnawa tradition as the son of esteemed Maâlem Abdullah Benjaafar of Fes. Trained in his father’s officially recognized Gnawa school and by master musicians throughout Morocco, Ben Jaafer earned the title of Maâlem (master) as a teenager—an honor bestowed only by consensus of other masters. He performs on vocals and guembri (a three-stringed bass lute) and has collaborated with artists like Randy Weston and leads the Grammy-nominated group Innov Gnawa.

Co-leader DANIEL FREEDMAN, a drummer and composer, brings decades of experience collaborating with artists like David Byrne and Angelique Kidjo, as well as deep knowledge of traditions from Africa, the Middle East, and beyond. The ensemble also features AMINO BELYAMANI (Innov Gnawa, Dawn of Midi) and DAVID LIZMI (Innov Gnawa, Bombino) on qraqebs and backing vocals, JASON LINDNER (David Bowie, Now vs Now) on keys and synths, and GUILHERME MONTEIRO (Gal Costa, Forro in the Dark) and GILAD HEKSELMAN on guitars.



Meklit Hadero

Meklit is an Ethiopian-American vocalist, songwriter, and composer, known for her electric stage presence, innovative Ethio-Jazz sound, and vibrant cultural strategy.

Meklit's performances have taken her to stages across the globe, and to the top of world music charts across the US, Europe, and Ethiopia. She is a visiting artist and lecturer at Stanford University, a National Geographic Explorer, a TED Senior Fellow, a Taproot Fellow, and the winner of the globalFEST Artist Award. Meklit is the co-founder, host, and co-producer of *Movement*, a podcast, radio series and live show telling stories of music and migration, broadcasting monthly on PRX's *The World* to 2.5 million listeners.

Meklit has done creative collaborations with renowned artists Wangechi Mutu, Kronos Quartet, Andrew Bird, Preservation

Hall Jazz Band, the late musical legend Pee Wee Ellis, and NASA's Jon Jenkins. She has been commissioned to create new works by Lincoln Center, MAP Fund, Creative Work Fund, and many more. She is the former Chief of Program at YBCA.

Meklit has been an artist in residence at Harvard, a featured voice in UN Women's theme song, and the co-founder of the Nile Project. Meklit's work has been featured in *The New York Times*, BBC, CNN, NPR, *LA Times*, *Sunday Times UK*, *Wired Magazine*, *Washington Post*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Vibe Magazine*, *Boston Globe* and many more.



Dida Pelled

When Dida Pelled walks into a room, music begins to move differently. A magnetic presence on stage and off, she brings voices together—instrumental, lyrical, communal—and shapes them into a sound entirely her own.

A fixture of New York City's creative music community, Pelled is a guitarist, singer, and songwriter whose work draws from jazz, blues, folk, and the murkier spaces in between. She trained in bebop guitar and earned a scholarship to The New School, where she quickly gained recognition for her technical fluency and singular voice. Early collaborations with jazz legends like Roy Hargrove and Gregory Hutchinson established her as a formidable player. Over time, her songwriting began to take center stage.

Her 2022 release *Love of the Tiger*—recorded live to tape with producer Phil Weinrobe (Adrianne Lenker, Damien Rice)—revealed her gift for crafting subtle, subversive torch songs: music that lingers, surprises, and resists easy classification. Her forthcoming album *DIDA BLUE* (La Reserve, 2026), featuring Sullivan Fortner, Tony Scherr, and Kenny Wollesen, deepens her exploration of blues as a form—earthy, imagistic, and emotionally unguarded. Pelled leads with vision and generosity, building bands and curating nights that make space for surprise.

She holds a monthly residency at Ornithology in Bushwick and is a familiar presence in NYC's most storied clubs, where she plays regularly with a rotating cast of top-tier improvisers. Off-stage, she hosts *The Dida Show* on Radio Free Brooklyn, inviting fellow musicians into playful, often profound dialogue.

With every performance, Dida Pelled reshapes what it means to blend virtuosity with vulnerability. She doesn't just cross genres—she bends them toward her own frequency, and invites you to tune in.



We Exist! The Dee Dee Bridgewater Quartet

Over the course of a multifaceted career spanning four decades, Grammy and Tony Award-winning Jazz giant Dee Dee Bridgewater has ascended to the upper echelon of vocalists, putting her unique spin on standards, as well as taking intrepid leaps of faith in re-envisioning jazz classics.

A multi-hyphenate polymath and fearless voyager, explorer, pioneer, and keeper of tradition, the three-time Grammy-winner most recently won the Grammy for Best Jazz Vocal Album for *Eleanora Fagan (1915-1959): To Billie With Love From Dee Dee*. Bridgewater's career has always bridged musical genres.

Bridgewater began self-producing with her 1993 album *Keeping Tradition* (Polydor/Verve) and created DDB Records in 2006 when she signed with the Universal

Music Group as a producer (Bridgewater produces all of her own CDs). Releasing a series of critically-acclaimed CD's, all but one — including her wildly successful double Grammy Award-winning tribute to Ella Fitzgerald, *Dear Ella* — have received Grammy nominations. Bridgewater also pursued a parallel career in musical theater, winning a Tony Award for her role as “Glinda” in *The Wiz* in 1975.

2020 found Dee Dee hosting the first virtual NEA Jazz Masters Virtual Tribute Concert. Following the success of the event, in 2021, she again hosted the 2021 Jazz Masters Virtual Tribute Concert, this time alongside venerable actor Delroy Lindo. In 2022, Lindo again joined Bridgewater to host the inaugural Jazz Music Awards. In 2023, Bridgewater oversaw the 4th year of The Woodshed Network program and can be found touring worldwide with her Dee Dee Bridgewater Big Band, Quartet, and in duo with Grammy-winning pianist Bill Charlap.



Nubya Garcia

Nubya Garcia isn't an artist you can easily classify. Is it jazz? Sure, the London-born saxophonist, composer, and bandleader grew up studying the genre under the noted pianist Nikki Yeoh at Camden Music. But it isn't until you listen to albums like 2020's *Source* and 2024's *Odyssey* that you hear broader creativity shining through: It's jazz, classical, dub, R&B, and whatever else Garcia wants to convey. It all comes from a place of exploration and self-study, of wanting to do all the things across all disciplines while ignoring arbitrary boxes that don't fit.

Garcia's sophomore album *Odyssey*, out in September 2024 via Concord Jazz, is a majestic feat on which she blends orchestral arrangements with R&B, jazz, broken beat, and dub, resulting in a grand, nuanced record that feels airy and celestial without sacrificing the groove. It's a deeply personal offering about her trek to falling back in love with musical composition over the past four years.

Source, her 2020 debut album, was released via Concord Jazz to massive critical acclaim, an NPR Tiny Desk (Home) Concert, a *Pitchfork* "Best New Music" review, and a *Rolling Stone* "Album of the Month" mention. In a profile, *The New York Times* called *Source* "a sweeping set of jazz with Afro-Caribbean influences that funnels a life's worth of experiences into an hourlong listen." Also upon release, the album entered the UK charts in the Top 30, and she was just one of three artists selected to perform live at Glastonbury's 2020 Experience, which aired on the BBC to thousands of viewers. *Source* was also nominated for the Mercury Prize, a prestigious award given to the best albums from the UK or Ireland.



Endea Owens & The Cookout

Known as one of Jazz's most vibrant emerging artists, Endea Owens is a Detroit-raised recording artist, bassist, and composer. She has been mentored by Jazz icons the likes of Marcus Belgrave, Rodney Whitaker, and Ron Carter. She has toured and performed with Wynton Marsalis, Jennifer Holliday, Diana Ross, Rhonda Ross, Solange, Jon Batiste, Jazzmeia Horn, Dee Dee Bridgewater, and Cyrus Chestnut, to name a few.

In 2018, Endea graduated from The Juilliard School, and joined *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert* as a member of the house band, *Stay Human*. Since then, Endea has won an Emmy, Grammy Award, and a George Foster Peabody Award. Endea's work has appeared on Jon Batiste's Grammy Award-winning

album *We Are*, Oscar-nominated film *Judas and the Black Messiah*, and H.E.R.'s widely acclaimed Super Bowl LV performance.

Endea has a true passion for philanthropy and teaching. She has taught students across the United States, South America, and Europe. In 2020, Endea founded The Community Cookout, a non-profit organization birthed out of the Covid-19 pandemic that provides meals and music to underserved neighborhoods worldwide. To date, Endea's organization has helped feed over 6,000 people.

In 2022, Endea composed an original piece about the life of Ida B. Wells entitled "Ida's Crusade" for the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra that was also performed by the NYO Carnegie Hall Orchestra. Endea has written for brands such as Pyer Moss and Glossier. Endea's debut album "Feel Good Music" was released in 2023 to rave reviews. Most recently, she has released a collaborative album with rapper Juicy J.



OKAN

Fusing Afro-Cuban roots with jazz, folk, and global rhythms in songs about immigration, resistance and love, OKAN takes their name from the word for heart in their Afro-Cuban religion of Santeria. With vocals in Spanish, Yoruba, and Spanglish, OKAN is led by the Cuban-born violinist and vocalist Elizabeth Rodriguez and percussionist and vocalist Magdelys Savigne, both Grammy and Latin-Grammy nominees.

Having performed and recorded with Bomba Estereo, Lido Pimienta, The Halifax Symphony Orchestra, Hilario Duran, and Dayme Arocena, OKAN's recent release *Okantomi* was awarded the 2024 Juno Award (the band's second Juno recognition) and included in NPR's *Alt.Latino*, *Le Monde*, and CBC Music's "Best of 2023" lists, garnering critical praise from *Songlines UK*, *Billboard*, *Pop Matters*, and *JAZZIZ*.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18



New Jazz Underground

New Jazz Underground, an American trio known for their innovative blend of traditional jazz with modern influences, gained prominence through viral videos showcasing their fresh sound and chemistry. Comprised of Abdias Armenteros, Sebastian Rios, and TJ Reddick, the trio met at The Juilliard School and quickly grew their audience on YouTube, amassing over 90k subscribers. The music the trio puts forth reflect their reverence for jazz icons while pushing boundaries in genre exploration.

Winners of the 2023 DCJazzPrix™ and earning individual accolades such as Rios' 2024 ASCAP Herb Alpert Young Jazz Composer Award, highlight the trio's ambition in sound. Their demand as young musicians speaks to their captivating talents – Armenteros is the youngest member of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, and Reddick and Rios have played alongside renowned musicians such as Jon Batiste, Wynton Marsalis, and Emmet Cohen. Rios, in particular, showcases his composition skills by crafting pieces that transcend individual efforts and elevate the collective's musical identity.

Beyond their performances, New Jazz Underground pioneers a new standard for jazz presentation through independently produced online videos. These videos, often attracting millions of viewers, offer an authentic musical expression that blends modernism and tradition. Moreover, the trio's commitment to mentorship and education, exemplified by Rios' development of educational programs such as "Creative Video in Modern Music," underscores their dedication to nurturing the future of jazz. With their dynamic performances and multifaceted talents, New Jazz Underground emerges as a benchmark for the future of jazz, revitalizing the contemporary music landscape.



JazzFest Jam featuring Adrian Younge, Karriem Riggins, and Friends

Born in Detroit, Michigan, Karriem Riggins found sanctuary in music from an early age. His father, Emmanuel Riggins, played with the renowned Grant Green Band; he introduced Karriem to many jazz greats and their shared passion for creativity and precision. With a foundation of work ethic, and a flair for the playful, Karriem developed his art into an industrious career as a drummer, record producer, rapper, and DJ.

Karriem's depth of sound, ranging from the pioneering to the nostalgic, can only come from a deep understanding of the human experience. He feels that the blessing of music is found in the sincere care put into its creation, and its ability to touch people and inspire.

Whether he's working with his Hip-Hop supergroup collective, August Greene (alongside Common and

Robert Glasper), or as Jahari Massamba Unit (his jazz duo with Madlib), Riggins is sure to show his far-reaching range. Among his prolific list of collaborations and accolades, Riggins holds an Emmy award for Outstanding Original Music and Lyrics, was nominated for an Album of the Year Grammy for his production with H.E.R., and has also lent his talent to Paul McCartney, Ray Brown, Stevie Wonder, J. Dilla, The Roots, Norah Jones, and Erykah Badu. His work with these cultural giants places Riggins among the few producers with the balance of vision, style, and technical prowess to steer effortlessly between the most revered players in jazz, Hip-Hop, and R&B.

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Founded in 1979, BRIC is a leading arts and media institution anchored in Downtown Brooklyn whose work spans media, contemporary visual and performing arts, and civic action. For more than forty years, BRIC has shaped Brooklyn's cultural and media landscape by presenting and incubating artists, creators, students, and media makers. On September 30, 2025, in recognition of its vital contributions to New York City's cultural landscape, BRIC was named to the New York City's Cultural Institutions Group, making it the first media and arts organization to join the CIG in the 150+ year history of this prestigious coalition. Join us at **BRICartsmedia.org**.



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