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NEWS RELEASE

Music, culture and community in spotlight at inaugural

Rhythm & Roots: Jazz, Blues and You event

Carolina Theatre hosts Foundation For Black Philanthropy fundraiser, highlighting Black giving

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Foundation For Black Philanthropy will host an exciting night of blues, jazz, community and culture with its Rhythm & Roots: Jazz, Blues and You event, taking place from 7-9 p.m. on Nov. 13, at the Carolina Theatre in Uptown Charlotte. The evening will honor the legacy of Black philanthropic pioneers and highlight how Foundation For Black Philanthropy is investing in the future of Charlotte's communities.

Headlining the event is blues great Mac Arnold, a member of the South Carolina Entertainment & Music Hall of Fame and the Alabama Blues Hall of Fame. To kick off the evening, some of Charlotte's very own local jazz artists will perform a selection of jazz pieces to set the tone for the night.

Celebrating more than 30 years of giving, Foundation For Black Philanthropy is a collective-giving fund that celebrates and uplifts the strong tradition of Black giving in our community. Proceeds from the evening will benefit organizations addressing key areas of need in the Charlotte community including education, health and economic development.

"We are creating a classy evening to remember," said Carlenia Ivory-Cantey, an instrumental planning committee member and respected educator and civic leader. "One that celebrates the pioneers who paved the way for generations of people in our city. Their legacy is our foundation, and this event is a call to continue building on it with purpose and pride."

The event will also spotlight the historic Excelsior Club, founded in 1944, a cornerstone of Black social and political life in the city. Guests will enjoy a culturally inspired gathering that pays tribute to the lives and legacies of four generous leaders and visionaries whose philanthropy helped shape Charlotte and the region:

- **Attorney James E. Ferguson II**, a trailblazing civil rights lawyer and co-founder of North Carolina's first integrated law firm, is recognized for his lifelong commitment to justice, mentorship and community empowerment.
- **Elizabeth Randolph**, a pioneering educator and the first Black woman in CMS leadership, instrumental in desegregation and seeded Foundation For Black Philanthropy through her endowment fund.
- **Lethia Jones Henderson**, a visionary entrepreneur and philanthropist, opened Charlotte's earliest beauty salon in 1906 and used her success to invest in real estate and community uplift. She established a fund that continues to support Black health initiatives in Charlotte today.
- **Jimmie and Minnie McKee**, founders of the historic Excelsior Club, created a dignified space for Black professionals to gather, organize and celebrate.

Tickets for the event start at \$75 and can be purchased at: [ticketmaster.com/event/2D006339B48F60E4](https://www.ticketmaster.com/event/2D006339B48F60E4)

For more information Foundation For Black Philanthropy and to explore sponsorship opportunities, please visit www.fftc.org/FFBP.

About Foundation For Black Philanthropy

Founded in 1993, Foundation For Black Philanthropy is a grantmaking affiliate of Foundation For The Carolinas. Its roots lie in two visionary endowments: the Lethia Henderson Fund (1981) the Elizabeth S. Randolph African American Fund (1993). Together, they laid the groundwork for FFBP's mission to celebrate and advance Black philanthropic traditions across the Charlotte region.

Today, FFBP supports nonprofits focused on health, education and economic development, empowering individuals and communities while inspiring the next generation of Black philanthropists. Learn more at www.fftc.org/FFBP.

Individuals or groups interested in contributing to the Henderson and Randolph Funds, or opening a new fund, may contact Qiana Austin at 704.973.4535 or qaustin@fftc.org. All contributions are tax-deductible.

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Media Contact: Jowette Bobray, Assistant Vice President Scholarships, Foundation For The Carolinas, 704.973.4503 or jbobray@fftc.org