



EXPLORATION PLACE

THE SEDGWICK COUNTY SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTER

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African-American STEM Leaders Honored with Exploration Place Outdoor Display

WICHITA, Kansas - In collaboration with The Kansas African American Museum, Exploration Place is once again celebrating Black History Month with a large-scale outdoor display.

Each night during February, Exploration Place will honor African-American scientists and STEM leaders by projecting giant portraits onto the side of its iconic island building. The display will be freely viewable from the path along the Arkansas River. Visitors also may take in the display from inside Exploration Place on Thursday nights, when the museum is open until 8 p.m. Admission is not required to view the display from the Exploration Place promenade.

This year, the leaders selected are all connected to Wichita. Changing weekly through the month, the display will honor:

- Week 1: **Roy Moya III** is a trained aerospace engineer who is also a Grammy-nominated urban gospel singer, community leader and founder of STEMusic, which combines music and STEM to reach a diverse range of students.
- Week 2: Sisters **Deborah Gladney** and **Angela Muhwezi-Hall** are the creators and founders of WorkTorch, a hiring platform that connects job seekers to service and skilled trade jobs in Wichita and the Kansas City area.
- Week 3: **Dr. Larry Mitnaul** is a dual board-certified child and adolescent psychiatrist practicing in Wichita. His work takes a unique approach to community health by using technology, creativity and music to help connect with patients.
- Week 4: **Lakesha Bates** is a Wichita native who is a leading engineer and technical branch head at NASA in flight systems integration and testing, which has earned her multiple technical and supervisory awards.

"This is our fourth year for this project, and our building is a great canvas for celebrating African-Americans' accomplishments in STEM fields," said Adam Smith, Exploration Place President and CEO. "We've featured scientists from across history previously, but this year we decided to focus on contemporary leaders connected specifically to Wichita."

Added Amy Williams, interim executive director of The Kansas African American Museum: "We are incredibly proud to recognize each of these Kansas STEM Trailblazers and hope this display serves as a spark of inspiration for the next generation in our community."

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About Exploration Place

The mission of Exploration Place, Kansas' premier science center, is to inspire a deeper interest in science and technology through creative and fun experiences for all. Exploration Place is from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily and through 8 p.m. on Thursday evenings. For general information, visit www.exploration.org. For more information about African American scientists, visit www.exploration.org/bhm or www.tkaamuseum.org.