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ARTSEMERSON INVESTS IN LOCAL MEMBERSHIP NETWORK FOR BLACK PROFESSIONALS AS A PARTNER OF



[Boston, MA – Tuesday, June 08, 2021] – ArtsEmerson, Boston’s leading presenter of contemporary stage and screen artistry from around the world and the professional presenting and producing organization at Emerson College, today announced its partnership with Boston While Black, the first membership network for Boston-based, Black professionals, entrepreneurs and students who are seeking connection and community. Through this partnership, ArtsEmerson will sponsor a variety of programs and events with Boston While Black and provide the opportunity for all interested employees who identify as Black or of the African diaspora to join the Boston While Black membership network. The partnership provides an opportunity for more Black professionals to have access to mentors and leaders who they can relate to, culturally-relevant experiences, resources on how to navigate the city, and an authentic personal and professional network.

“ArtsEmerson’s focus has always been to create a place of belonging in the theatre landscape for all people and to foreground subordinated voices and stories that so often are untold,” says ArtsEmerson Executive Director David C. Howse. “We are proud to be the inaugural arts and culture partner of Boston While Black and honored to do our part as an arts/culture organization in attracting, retaining and making space for Black people and our experiences. I am thrilled that members of our team have the opportunity to be a part of the inspired Boston While Black community.”

Boston While Black is helping to create a city where Black people want to live and work because they have the spaces, tools, and relationships to find their tribe, grow their network, navigate the city, and have fun. Members have access to a private digital community, weekly professional and social events, influential leaders and experts, and unique learning opportunities.

“We are thrilled to have ArtsEmerson join as our first arts & culture partner, opening up further spaces and experiences within the arts community to Black people,” says Boston While Black Founder, Sheena Collier. “We see this partnership as key to our vision of a Boston that celebrates being a vibrant social and cultural hub for Black people. In just under one year, we are pleased to have built connections with leading institutions like ArtsEmerson and will continue to build partnerships that encourage our arts, culture, and business community to act now to make investments in Black joy and belonging.”

Boston While Black

Boston While Black is the first membership network for Boston-based Black professionals, entrepreneurs, and students who are seeking connection and community. Through programs, events, and a digital community, they connect members who are active in their local neighborhoods, working at the most innovative companies, building the businesses of the future, attending the area’s universities, and shaping the culture of the region. Boston While Black is creating a city where Black people want to live and work because they have the spaces, tools, and relationships to find their tribe, grow their network, navigate the city, and have fun. The Boston While Black community is powered by the experiences of the creator, Sheena Collier, who moved here 15 years ago

to attend Harvard and had her own challenges navigating Boston, particularly as a Black woman. Learn more at bostonwhileblack.com.

ArtsEmerson

ArtsEmerson's mission is to bring people together to experience powerful performances that delight, provoke, and inspire, celebrating both our differences and common humanity. Founded in 2010 by Robert J. Orchard — the year the U.S. Census confirmed there was no single cultural majority in Boston — ArtsEmerson is committed to building a cultural institution that reflects the diversity of our city. Our imaginative and globe-spanning live and digital performances, films, and conversations invites each of us to be part of a Boston that is more creative, equitable, and connected. ArtsEmerson is led by Executive Director, David Howse. For more information visit ArtsEmerson.org.

Emerson College

ArtsEmerson and HowlRound Theatre Commons both operate from within the Emerson College Office of the Arts. Based in Boston, Massachusetts, opposite the historic Boston Common and in the heart of the city's Theatre District, Emerson College educates individuals who will solve problems and change the world through engaged leadership in communication and the arts, a mission informed by liberal learning. The College has 3,780 undergraduates and 670 graduate students from across the United States and 50 countries. Supported by state-of-the-art facilities and a renowned faculty, students participate in more than 90 student organizations and performance groups. Emerson is known for its experiential learning programs in Los Angeles, Washington, DC, the Netherlands, London, China, and the Czech Republic as well as its new Global Portals, with the first program launching this fall in Paris. The College has an active network of 39,000 alumni who hold leadership positions in communication and the arts. For more information, visit Emerson.edu. For media inquiries specific to Emerson College, please contact Michelle Gaseau (E: Michelle_Gaseau@emerson.edu, O: 617-824-3547, C: 617-429-2624).

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