

**From:** Leslie Hairston [<mailto:hairston5555@msn.com>]

**Sent:** Monday, September 28, 2015 7:53 AM

**To:** Berlin, Steve

**Subject:** Opening of the Stony Island Arts Bank

Dear Steve,

I attended the opening of the Stony Island Arts bank on Saturday, September 19, 2015. It is a project in my Ward, hosted by a resident of the Ward and in partnership with the City of Chicago. I have the event program for your records and will deliver it to you at budget.

Sincerely,

Leslie A. Hairston  
Alderman, 5th Ward

**Event Program**

**Opening the  
Stony Island Arts Bank**

**September 19, 2015**

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**Theaster Gates  
+ Rebuild Foundation**

**with**

**Honorary Co-Chairs**

Amy Rule and The Honorable Rahm Emanuel,  
Mayor of Chicago

**and**

**Rebuild's Builders**

Anita Blanchard, MD

Lisa Yun Lee

Liz + Eric Lefkofsky

Chance the Rapper

Sandy Reynolds

Cari + Michael J. Sacks

Chelsea + James Smith

Celebrate the opening of the Stony Island Arts Bank  
and support culture-based, artist-led, neighborhood-  
driven community revitalization

**Made possible by the generous support  
of White Cube**

September 19, 2015

Dear Friends:

As Mayor, and on behalf of the City of Chicago, it is my pleasure to extend warm greetings to everyone gathered for the grand opening of Stony Island Arts Bank.

Built in 1923, Chicago's South Side became home to the Stony Island Trust & Savings Bank. For decades this 17,000-square-foot building served as a community savings and loans, but by the 1980's the branch had closed its doors. The space would remain vacant until fall of 2012 when Chicago-based social practice artist Theaster Gates and his non-profit the Rebuild Foundation would purchase the property and save it from a path of deterioration. Determined to reconstruct the cultural foundations of the neighborhood, Gates and Rebuild have transformed this abandoned bank into a library and cultural center that will be artist led, and neighborhood driven. The Stony Island Arts Bank will play many roles as a gallery, community center, library, and performance venue, but most importantly, as an archive of African American culture and history. Whether you live across the country or down the street, all are welcome at the Stony Island Arts Bank to learn and grow as artists. Scholars and artists will travel here to study and immerse themselves in Chicago's South Side history, while residents of the neighborhood will have the opportunity to share and preserve their storied heritage.

Stony Island Arts Bank could not have arrived in Chicago at a more perfect time as its opening coincides with the inaugural Chicago Architecture Biennial, the first international survey of contemporary architecture in North America. This inaugural event, titled *The State of the Art of Architecture*, will explore how imagination can juristically transform lived experiences and asks the public to look at architecture in a new light just as Mr. Gates and Rebuild have done with the Stony Island Arts Bank. Mr. Gates and Rebuild continue to inspire and revitalize the South Side community as we have watched a once unused space develop into one of the most unique venues for contemporary art both in Chicago and across the United States. Their work is a true testament to Chicago being at the forefront of architectural innovation and it is a great privilege to see the marriage of artistic practices and urban planning come to life at Stony Island Arts Bank.

I hope you have a truly enjoyable evening and extend heartfelt congratulations as you celebrate this special occasion.

Sincerely,

Mayor Rahm Emanuel

7:00pm

## Check-In & Cocktails

8:00pm

## Dinner

2nd Floor

### Highlights from the Collections

A curated slideshow featuring mass cultural books, periodicals, and objects housed at the Stony Island Arts Bank, including works from the Edward J. Williams collection of 19th and 20th century *negrobilia*.

1st Floor

### Dinner Menu by Chef Erick Williams

Executive Chef at m+k and frequent collaborator with Theaster Gates, Chef Erick also serves as a volunteer mentor and educator for at-risk youth. Tonight he presents a four-course, family-style menu developed to celebrate the opening of the Stony Island Arts Bank.

3rd Floor

### Hauntologies: Past/Present Continuum

A program of short experimental films curated by Erin Christovale and Jacqueline Stewart was presented in conjunction with Black Artists Retreat (August, 2015):

*Sugarcoated Arsenic*  
(Claudrena Harold and Kevin Jerome Everson, 2014, 20 minutes)

*An Ecstatic Experience*  
(Ja'Tovia Gary, 2015, 6 min)

*Swimming in Your Skin Again*  
(Terence Nance, 2015, 23 minutes)

*Crow Requiem*  
(Cauleen Smith, 2015, 11 minutes)

1st Floor

### Under the Skin by Carlos Bunga

Carlos Bunga creates process-oriented works in various formats — sculptures, paintings, drawings, performances, videos, and above all *in situ* installations that refer to and intervene in their immediate architectural surroundings.

Straddling the divide between sculpture and painting, Bunga's deceptively delicate works are characterized by an intense study of the combination of color and materiality, while at the same time emphasize the performative aspect of the creative act.

*Under the Skin* was commissioned as part of the inaugural Chicago Architectural Biennial.

3rd Floor

### My Beauty is Political, Theaster Gates

(Sound and color video, TRT, 3 minutes)

9 : 30pm

## Performances + Afterparty

3rd Floor

### Meshell Ndegeocello

A Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter, bassist, producer, Meshell will perform a series of duets with longtime collaborator, pianist Jebin Bruni.

3rd Floor

### Surfaces (Marco G. Ferrari, 2015, 45 minutes)

A film project about the Greater Grand Crossing area, *Surfaces* is made up of images crafted by Ferrari and inspired by workshop participants, with the assistance of local filmmakers Joshua Jackson and Jabari Gross. It was projected on the Saint Laurence School building on June 21, 2015.

2nd Floor

### Jason Moran

Jason Moran is an African American jazz pianist, composer, and educator heavily involved in multimedia art and theatrical installations.

2nd Floor

### Kinosonik #3 selected films (43 minutes)

In collaboration with Experimental Sound Studio, The Nighthingale, and Chicago Film Archives; KINOSONIK is a project that pairs up local musicians to collaborate on the composition of live scores to accompany selected archival films. This sequence, shown with live music by Mwata Bowden and Coppice on August 30, 2015, features the films:

3rd Floor

### DJ Alan King

"Lawyer by day, DJ by night," Alan King is one of Chicago's original house music DJs and one of the early members of The Chosen Few DJs, a group that included 'godfather of house music' Frankie Knuckles.

Tonight King will be spinning vinyl from Frankie Knuckles' vinyl collection, which was entrusted to Theaster Gates after Knuckles' death in 2014.

The collection will be housed at the Stony Island Arts Bank and made available to music scholars, artists-in-residence, and local DJs for research, installations, and youth workshops.

*Inland Steel Company "Monstress"*  
(Goldsholl Design & Film Associates, 1960s)

*Licht Spiel Nur I*  
(Robert Stiegler, c. 1967)

*Chicago & North Western Railway Co. "Great Train Robbery"*  
(Goldsholl Design & Film Associates, 1960s)

*Rhythm*  
(Len Lye, 1957)

*Traffic*  
(Robert Stiegler, c. 1960)

## BUILD | REBUILD Donors

## Thank You

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		Theaster Gates Studio
		Rebuild Foundation Staff, Board + Volunteers
		Our Greater Grand Crossing Neighbors

## About Rebuild

Founded in 2010, Rebuild Foundation is the brainchild of Chicago-based artist Theaster Gates. While living in the Greater Grand Crossing neighborhood on Chicago's South Side, Gates began to renovate vacant homes on the 6900 block of South Dorchester Avenue. To date, Gates and Rebuild Foundation have restored a 32-unit public housing complex, a former Anheuser Busch warehouse, and a historic bank.

Rebuild was founded to produce programs that reactivate and reimagine these buildings and incite culture-based, artist-led, neighborhood-driven community revitalization:

### B U I E L R D BLACK CINEMA HOUSE

Designed as a beer distribution warehouse, repurposed as an incubator for future filmmakers, Black Cinema House hosts screenings and discussions of films by and about people of the African diaspora — and free video and photography workshops.

### B U I E L R D ARCHIVE HOUSE

#### Dorchester Projects

An abandoned home and garden, a shuttered candy store, and the adjacent vacant lot — all restored and reimaged, today they serve as a micro-gallery and intimate music venue, a destination for curatorial residencies, and a site for experiments in urban agriculture and community gardening.

### B U I E L R D DORCHESTER ART + HOUSING COLLABORATIVE

Once a blighted block of vacant public housing, today the DA+HC is home to 32 mixed-income rental units, artists' studios, and a newly-built arts center, site of Rebuild's artist residency program and free dance, music, movement, and visual arts education programs for South Side youth, adults, and seniors.

### B U I E L R D STONY ISLAND ARTS BANK

A platform for site-specific installations and exhibitions, artist and scholar residencies, and the preservation and activation of archival collections of black culture, the Arts Bank is also a primary venue for Black Artists Retreat and the future home of a residency program for archivist-thinking artists.