



CINCINNATI  
**BLACK MUSIC  
WALK OF FAME**

DR. CHARLES  
FOLD

BOOTS  
COLLINS

THE ISLEY  
BROTHERS

HAMILTON COUNTY  
COMMISSIONER  
ALICIA REECE,  
FOUNDER

OTIS  
WILLIAMS

**FOUNDING 2021 INDUCTEES**

CINCINNATI  
**BLACK MUSIC  
WALK OF FAME**



WILBERT  
LONGMIRE

PENNY  
FORD

HI-TEK

MIDNIGHT  
STAR

**2022 INDUCTEES**

CINCINNATI  
**BLACK MUSIC  
WALK OF FAME**



LOUISE  
SHROPSHIRE

PHILIPPÉ  
WYNNE

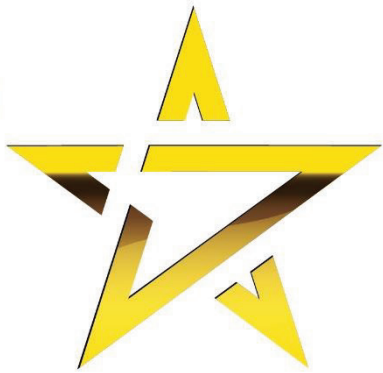
JAMES  
BROWN

THE DEELE

**2023 INDUCTEES**

**MEDIA KIT**

# CINCINNATI BLACK MUSIC WALK OF FAME



## BACKGROUND

The *Cincinnati Black Music Walk of Fame* is founded by Hamilton County Commissioner and former State of Ohio Tourism Director, President Alicia Reece. On April 26, 2021, President Reece introduced the concept to build a one-of-a-kind, interactive, and outdoor tourist attraction that would celebrate the contributions of Black musical artists, songwriters, and producers of various genres of music. These artists were either born, lived, or recorded major hit records in Cincinnati and the Southwest Ohio area, as well as impacted the music industry, both domestically and internationally. On July 1, 2021, the *Cincinnati Black Music Walk of Fame* unanimously passed by the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners, who include Stephanie Summerow Dumas, Denise Driehaus, and President Reece.



The *Cincinnati Black Music Walk of Fame* is located along the Ohio Riverbank across from the Paul Brown NFL Stadium – home of Cincinnati Music Festival and next door to the Andrew Brady Music Center. The *Cincinnati Black Music Walk of Fame* is a public/private partnership unanimously approved by the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners with \$18.5 million dollars for economic development, tourism, infrastructure for design/build/technology, along with the sponsorship of the official Inductee Stars provided by Procter & Gamble.



In 2021, the *Cincinnati Black Music Walk of Fame* hosted a privately funded kick-off ceremony honoring the Founding Inductees- **Bootsy Collins, Otis Williams, Dr. Charles Fold, and The Isley Brothers.**

In all, the *Cincinnati Black Music Walk of Fame* will be a free family tourist attraction that will feature LED screens with video content, a dance area, artists kiosks, and interactive augmented reality experiences. The attraction will also be able to accommodate 200 of the Inductee stars. The project is scheduled to be completed by the summer of 2023.

# CHRONOLOGICAL TIMELINE



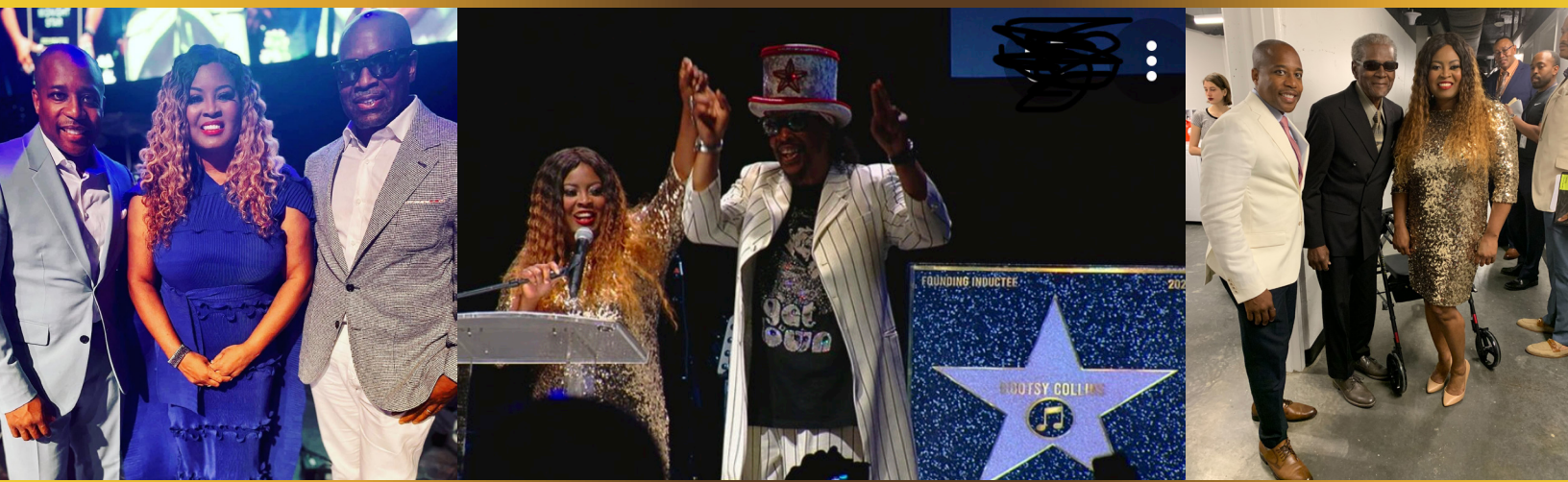
On **April 26, 2021**, Hamilton County Commissioner Alicia Reece announced the proposed *Cincinnati Black Music Walk of Fame* project in a press conference. With her on the day of the announcement stood Cincinnati Symphony CEO Johnathan Martin, MEMI CEO Mike Smith, Cincinnati Music Ambassadors Co-Chair Kent Butts, Patsy Collins, National Underground Railroad Freedom Center President Woodrow Keown, Jr. and talk show host Lincoln Ware, all in support of this visionary project.

The *Cincinnati Black Music Walk of Fame* will be located on Lot 28 across from the Paul Brown Stadium, which hosts the Cincinnati Music Festival and the NFL's Cincinnati Bengals. The *Cincinnati Black Music Walk of Fame* will be a connector to the Andrew J Brady Music Center, creating the first-ever music corridor on the Banks in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Later in the **Spring of 2021**, Procter & Gamble announced its support of this groundbreaking project and financed \$135,000 to build 200 stars for the *Cincinnati Black Music Walk of Fame*.

On **July 1, 2021**, the *Cincinnati Black Music Walk of Fame* unanimously passed by the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners.

On **July 24, 2021**, Hamilton County Commissioner Alicia Reece hosted a privately funded kick-off ceremony that launched the *Cincinnati Black Music Walk of Fame* at the new ICON Music Center and unveiled the first stars. The first four inaugural and Founding Inductees to receive stars are Rock & Roll Hall of Famer, **Bootsy Collins**, King Records icon, **Otis Williams**, and Grammy Award winners and Rock & Roll Hall of Famers, **The Isley Brothers**, and the late gospel great, **Dr. Charles Fold**.



In **October of 2021**, the construction began on the *Cincinnati Black Music Walk of Fame* on Lot 28 across from the Paul Brown Stadium.

On **November 17, 2021**, the inaugural four stars of the *Cincinnati Black Music Walk of Fame* were unveiled at the Cincinnati / Northern Kentucky International Airport as a tourism installation and attraction.

In the **Spring of 2022**, Hamilton County Commissioner and Founder of the *Cincinnati Black Music Walk of Fame*, Alicia Reece announced that the *Cincinnati Black Music Walk of Fame* Dedication and Induction Ceremony will take place at the Andrew Brady Music Center on Saturday, July 23, 2022, from Noon-3pm, during the Cincinnati Music Festival weekend, which is the largest annual financial impact weekend in Hamilton County, with an economic impact of \$107 million dollars each year.

The privately funded Induction Ceremony and celebration will be free and open to the public. Sponsors of this event are P&G, The Kroger Company, the Cincinnati Music Festival, Hard Rock Casino-Cincinnati, All in Cincinnati, and Alta Fiber. The 2022 inductees are Pop artist, **Penny Ford**, R&B Group, **Midnight Star**, Rapper and Hip- Hop Producer, **Hi-Tek**, and Jazz guitarist, **Wilbert Longmire**. During the July 23<sup>rd</sup> event, eight of the stars will be unveiled in the ground of the *Cincinnati Black Music Walk of Fame*. The full *Cincinnati Black Music Walk of Fame* attraction is expected to be completed by the Summer of 2023.



*"The Cincinnati Music Festival weekend is one of the largest African American music festivals in the country and has a major economic impact on our County. The State of Ohio and Hamilton County have a rich history of African American music artists, producers, and song writers and our Cincinnati Black Music Walk of Fame will ensure a permanent place to recognize their accomplishments for the entire world to see," says Commissioner Reece. "This partnership creates a mega music weekend!"*

# ARTICLES

---

## ESSENCE

---

### CINCINNATI'S BLACK MUSIC WALK OF FAME: MEET THE COMMISSIONER WHO PAVED THE WAY

Hamilton County Commissioner Alicia Reece Shares The Inspiration Behind Founding The Black Music Walk Of Fame.

BY MELISSA NOEL · UPDATED JUNE 8, 2022

Alicia Reece has been of service to the people of Ohio for over 20 years. She's served as the Cincinnati vice mayor, a state representative and as a councilwoman. She's made history as the first woman and African American to win city, state, and county races in Hamilton County, Ohio community.

[READ MORE](#)



## BLACK ENTERPRISE

---

### COMMISSIONER ALICIA REESE CREATES CINCINNATI BLACK MUSIC WALK OF FAME

Hamilton County Commissioner Alicia Reece Shares The Inspiration Behind Founding The Black Music Walk Of Fame.

JEROSLYN JOVONN · JUNE 11, 2023

Meet Commissioner Alicia Reece, a passionate Cincinnati native and politician who made it her mission to develop the city's first-ever Black Music Walk of Fame.

[READ MORE](#)

## VIBE ARTICLE

---

### JAMES BROWN TO BE INDUCTED INTO CINCINNATI BLACK MUSIC WALK OF FAME

A grand opening featuring a free concert by the Ohio Players takes place on July 22, 2023.

BY DEMICIA INMAN · JUNE 2, 2023 · 2:29PM

The Cincinnati Black Music Walk of Fame has announced its third class of inductees.

[READ MORE](#)



## YOUTUBE

---

### HAMILTON COUNTY COMMISSIONER ALICIA REESE GIVES A TOUR OF THE CINCINNATI BLACK MUSIC WALK OF FAME

By Hamilton County Commissioner Alicia Reece

[WATCH HERE](#)

# ARTICLES

## OPERA WIRE

### KATHLEEN BATTLE TO BE HONORED AT THE NEW CINCINNATI BLACK MUSIC WALK OF FAME

BY CHRIS RUEL · JUL 7, 2023

The highly acclaimed soprano Kathleen Battle will receive a prestigious honor at the upcoming Grand Opening of the Cincinnati Black Music Walk of Fame.

[READ MORE](#)



## BILLBOARD

### CINCINNATI BLACK MUSIC WALK OF FAME'S GRAND OPENING TO CELEBRATE 2023 INDUCTEES JAMES BROWN, L.A. REID & BABYFACE GROUP, MORE

Saturday's years-in-the-making event will kick off with a special free concert by The Ohio Players.

BY GIL KAUFMAN · JULY 21, 2023

Back before Cleveland was tapped to be the home of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, its downstate rival, Cincinnati, was also (briefly) in the mix for the honor of being the institution's host.

[READ MORE](#)

## WCPO ABC 9

### CINCINNATI BLACK MUSIC WALK OF FAME OPENS TO FANFARE NEAR PAYCOR STADIUM

The interactive display celebrates black excellence in music across the decades from Southern Ohio

BY SEAN DELANCEY · UPDATED JUL 23, 2023

CINCINNATI — The Cincinnati Black Music Walk of Fame on Elm Street and Mehring Way at The Banks opened to great excitement Saturday as the long anticipated celebration of black excellence in singing, song writing, producing and music composition officially welcomed guests for the first time.

[READ MORE](#)



## SPECTRUM NEWS 1

### CINCINNATI'S BLACK MUSIC WALK OF FAME OPENS WITH FREE CONCERTS

Saturday's years-in-the-making event will kick off with a special free concert by The Ohio Players.

BY STEVE OLDFIELD · JULY 24, 2023

CINCINNATI — Music fans in Ohio had a lot to celebrate in Cincinnati this weekend.

The annual Cincinnati Music Festival featured big names like Snoop Dog and Al Green. Along with the music from the festival, there were several free concerts Saturday, featuring the All Start Band and the Ohio Players. They were part of the celebration honoring the new Black Music Walk of Fame outside the Andrew J. Brady Music Center.

[READ MORE](#)





## OHIO COUNTY COMMISSION PRESIDENT & FOUNDER OF THE CINCINNATI BLACK MUSIC WALK OF FAME, ALICIA REECE, ANNOUNCES GRAND OPENING OF NEW TOURISM ATTRACTION

Black Music Month Kick-Off Event Today Announces James Brown, Bootsy Collins, Penny Ford, The Isley Brothers, Midnight Star, The Deele, Shirley Murdock, Sheldon Reynolds and More to be Featured in the New State-of-the-Art Outdoor Tourist Attraction Celebrating Black Music at its Historic Grand Opening on July 22, 2023 in Cincinnati, Ohio

By: L.A.I. Communications

**CINCINNATI - May 31, 2023** - PRLog -- Today, **Alicia Reece**, Hamilton (Ohio) County Commission President, and Founder of the Cincinnati Black Music Walk of Fame, led the announcement of the third class of Inductees for the new Cincinnati Black Music Walk of Fame at the Hard Rock Casino Cincinnati. The 2023 Cincinnati Black Music Walk of Fame Inductees are: **The Deele, featuring L.A. Reid and Babyface, Louise Shropshire, Philippé Wynne, and James Brown.**

"We are making history this year with the Grand Opening of the Cincinnati Black Music Walk of Fame," states President Alicia Reece, visionary Founder of the Cincinnati Black Music Walk of Fame. "This new state-of-the-art interactive tourism attraction celebrating the rich culture of Black musical artists, producers, and songwriters will educate, entertain, and attract tourists worldwide while bringing together multi-generations of families to enjoy this free park."

Special recognition was also given today during the press event to over 60 "Top Music Influencers." These individuals, groups, and organizations are also in the new Cincinnati Black Music Walk of Fame and have made significant contributions to the music industry and are from Southwest Ohio. All of these artists will join the 2021 Founding Inductees- **Bootsy Collins, The Isley Brothers, Dr Charles Fold, and Otis Williams.** Plus, the 2022 Inductees- **Midnight Star, featuring Reggie and Vincent Calloway, Penny Ford, Hi-Tek, and Wilbert Longmire.**

Hamilton County Commission President Reece was joined by **Stephanie Summerow Dumas**, Hamilton County Commissioner; **Denise Driehaus**, Hamilton County Commissioner; **Justin Wyborn**, President, Hard Rock Casino Cincinnati; **Lincoln Ware**, Radio One; Damon Jones, Chief Communications Officer, P&G; **Joe Santangelo**, Promoter of the Cincinnati Music Festival; **Kent Butts**, President, King Records Legacy Foundation; **Joe Mallory**, President, Cincinnati NAACP; **Christie Kuhns**, President and CEO, Urban League of Greater SW Ohio; and **Don Juan Fasho**, Radio One.

Originally conceived as students at Hughes High School in Cincinnati, Ohio, The Deele, was an R&B band formed in 1981. It originally comprised of local Cincinnati musicians such as drummer, Antonio "L.A." Reid, bassist, Kevin "Kayo" Roberson, vocalist/percussionist, Darnell "Dee" Bristol, lead vocalist, Carlos "Satin" Greene, guitarist/keyboardist, Stanley "Stick" Burke, and guitarist, Steve "Tuck" Walters. Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds, hailing from Indianapolis, later joined the band in 1981. Such memorable hits from The Deele include "Body Talk," which became The Deele's first hit, reaching #3 on the R&B Chart and #77 on the *Billboard Hot 100* pop chart. In 1987, The Deele reached the apex of their career with the release of their third album, *Eyes of a Stranger*, which produced two top-10 hit R&B singles, "Shoot 'Em Up Movies" and their best-known song, "Two Occasions," which reached #4 on the R&B charts and cracked the top 10 of the *Billboard Hot 100*.

Louise Shropshire (February 15, 1913 – November 26, 1993) was a composer of hymns and best known as the original composer of the iconic Civil Rights anthem, "We Shall Overcome." The granddaughter of slaves, Mrs. Shropshire as a young girl demonstrated a gift for music and composed many hymns as a member of the African American Baptist Church. In the early 1950s, Louise Shropshire met Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rev. Fred

Shuttlesworth and eventually become lifelong friends. She penned the song, "If My Jesus Wills," which was the basis for the song, "We Shall Overcome," that Dr. King adopted for his Civil Rights marches and activism.

Originally from the Cincinnati neighborhood of Madisonville, Philppé Wynne (April 3, 1941 – July 14, 1984) was best known as the lead vocalist for the famed musical group, The Spinners. Mr. Wynne voiced such notable hits as "Love Don't Love Nobody," "How Could I Let You Get Away," "The Rubberband Man," and "One of a Kind (Love Affair)." After leaving The Spinners, Mr. Wynne was featured in hits by other artists such as "(Not Just) Knee Deep" by Funkadelic.

James Brown (May 3, 1933 – December 25, 2006) was an iconic musician who recorded many of his hit songs at King Records located in Cincinnati, Ohio. The primary originator of Funk music, Mr. Brown was known as "the Hardest Working Man in Show Business" and the "Godfather of Soul." In an illustrious career that spanned for more than 50 years, Mr. Brown voiced such memorable hit songs as "Papa's Got a Brand New Bag," "I Got You (I Feel Good)," "It's a Man's World," "Get Up," and "Say It Loud – I'm Black and I'm Proud." Mr. Brown was one of the first ten Inductees into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame on January 23, 1986. He is an Honorary Inductee for the Cincinnati Black Music Walk of Fame.

The Cincinnati Black Music Walk of Fame is Ohio's newest tourism attraction that will feature augmented reality activations, an experiential drum machine, a musical waterfall, nightly jam sessions, as well as interactive kiosks that honor the contributions of Black musical artists from Southwest Ohio (i.e., Cincinnati, Dayton, Hamilton, Middletown, and Springfield). The historic Grand Opening on July 22, 2023 will feature the 2023 Induction Ceremony, guided tours of the attraction as well as a free concert by the Ohio Players. The Cincinnati Black Music Walk of Fame sits on the Ohio Riverbanks next to the Andrew Brady Center and across from Paycor Stadium, home of the NFL's Cincinnati Bengals and the Cincinnati Music Festival.

The 2023 sponsors of the historic Grand Opening of the Cincinnati Black Music Walk of Fame are P&G, The Kroger Company, Hard Rock Casino Cincinnati, All in Cincinnati, First Financial Bank, Greater Cincinnati Foundation, Cincinnati Music Festival, and the Cochran Firm. For more information on the Cincinnati Black Music Walk of Fame, visit <https://www.cincyblackmusicwalkoffame.org>.

#### Contact

L.A.I. Communications

\*\*\*@laicomunications.com

#### Photos:

<https://www.prlog.org/12967064/1>

<https://www.prlog.org/12967064/2>

<https://www.prlog.org/12967064/3>

<https://www.prlog.org/12967064/4>

<https://www.prlog.org/12967064/5>

End

Source : [L.A.I. Communications](#)

Email : \*\*\*@laicomunications.com Email Verified

Tags : Black Music, Black Music Month, Ohio, Cincinnati, Cincinnati Black Music Walk of Fame, Walk Of Fame, Tourist, Tourism, Alicia Reece, James Brown

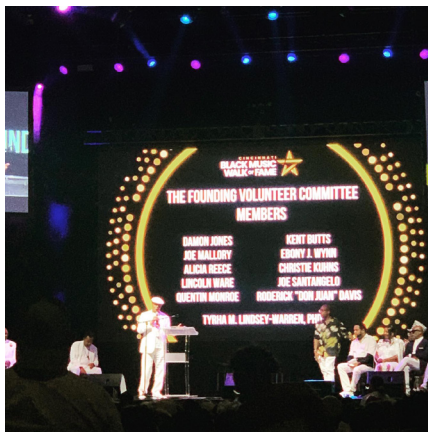
Industry: Tourism, Music, Government

Location: Cincinnati - Ohio - United States

Subject: Events



# CAMPAIGN IN ACTION



*Historic Grand Opening* SATURDAY JULY 22, 2023 | 12 NOON  
FREE EVENT  
25 RACE ST. CINCINNATI, OHIO 45202  
ALL WHITE ATTIRE



# CAMPAIGN IN ACTION



# COMMERIALS

---

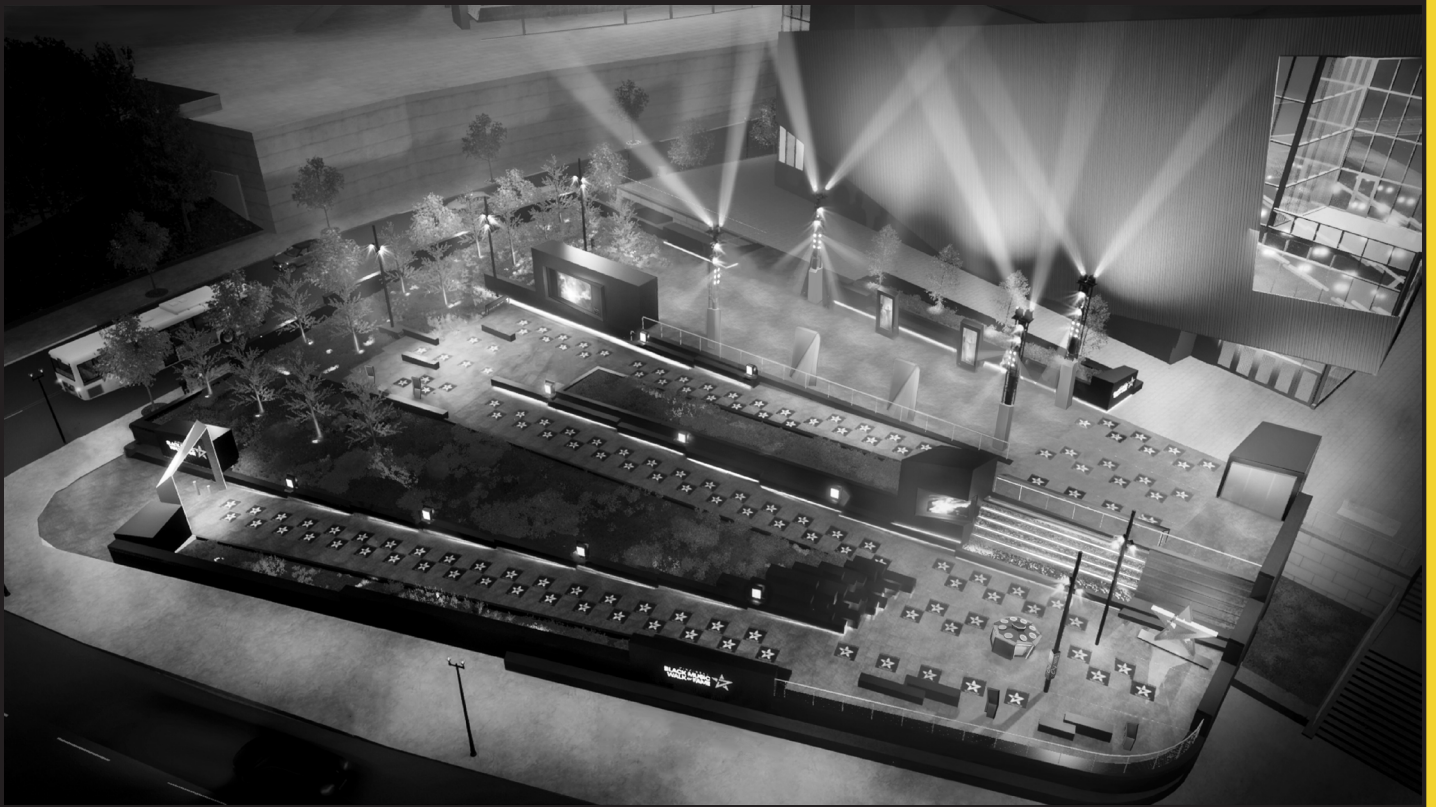


# SIZZLE REEL

---



CINCINNATI  
**BLACK MUSIC  
WALK OF FAME™**



**CONNECT**



---

Media Contact: Olivia Almagro  
O + Media Group, LLC  
[Oplusmediagroup.com](http://Oplusmediagroup.com)  
[olivia.almagro@gmail.com](mailto:olivia.almagro@gmail.com)  
786.351.0299

Designed by [Jamerican Creations](#)