

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Contact: Suzetta Parks  
(816) 914-3151  
sparks8003@aol.com

## **18th & Vine District hosts 6th Annual American Jazz Walk of Fame Saturday, June 1, 2019 – 7:00 PM**

**Kansas City, MO-** On June 1st, the Historic 18th & Vine District will celebrate its sixth year of honoring jazz artists by immortalizing their names in 30-inch bronze medallions embedded in the sidewalks on 18th Street.

The Induction Ceremony, open to the public and free of charge, will take place on 18th street between the Blue Room and the Jazz Museum where five medallions will be revealed. The five artists honored this year will be:

**Leon Brady  
Oleta Adams  
Quincy Jones  
Dr. Nathan Davis  
Harry Belafonte**

Honorees and/or family representatives of the honorees will participate in the ceremony and receive replicas of the medallions.

A concert featuring **Oleta Adams** and **Raheem DeVaughn** will follow the unveiling. Tickets are \$50 and are available through Eventbrite.com.

**Congressman Emanuel Cleaver, II, representing Missouri's Fifth Congressional District, and former Mayor of Kansas City** said, "The American Jazz Walk of Fame will enhance the world class jazz music experience of visitors and Greater Kansas City residents. This annual event honors the world's greatest stars of jazz, in the city where this music matured and contributes to the tourist attractions of the Historic 18th and Vine Entertainment District, furthering its role as a destination location. The greatest jazz musicians have come from Kansas City, have played in Kansas City, or have been inspired by musicians with Kansas City roots. The American Jazz Walk of Fame honors those talented musicians and celebrates this great Kansas City tradition. We invite you to participate in honoring this tradition in the historic 18th & Vine entertainment district where it all began."

The event is made possible by the generous support of The Missouri Arts Council, Neighborhood Tourist Development Fund, in-kind support from the City of Kansas City, and others, and with the leadership of the Jazz District Renaissance Corporation whose mission is to revitalize the Historic 18th & Vine District through the expansion of programs that stimulate activity and tourism in the area.

Since 2014, The American Jazz Walk of Fame has commemorated the legends who have contributed to the jazz culture of Kansas City and the world by immortalizing their names in 30-inch bronze medallions installed in the sidewalks on 18th Street. For the inaugural event, the inductees were: William "Count" Basie, "Charlie" Parker, Jr., Mary Lou Williams, Jay McShann, Pat Metheny and Bobby Watson. Their medallions were placed in front of the American Jazz Museum. Previous years have honored 29 additional artists and their medallions were placed in front of the Gem Theater and near the Blue Room. Those artists included: Bennie Moten, Claude Fiddler Williams, Coleman Randolph Hawkins, Myra Taylor, Lester Young, Everette DeVan, Melba Liston, Ben Webster, Queen Bey, Louis Armstrong, George Benson, Nina Simone, Luqman Hamza, Thelonious Monk, Ramsey Lewis, Ella Fitzgerald, Oliver Todd, Ben Kynard, Ida McBeth, Sonny Kenner, Jerry Leiber & Mike Stoller, Marilyn Maye and David Sanborn..

Our ultimate vision is the Historic Jazz District's sidewalks paved in bronze....a walking, living Jazz history tour.

The annual event includes a reception for sponsors followed by the induction ceremony which is free and open to the public. The Induction Ceremony takes place outside in front of the medallion installation location, The names of the inductees are unveiled on bronze medallions before a large audience, including representatives of the honorees who are presented replicas of the medallions. For the past five years and for the next few years, the induction activities will take place on 18th street between Paseo and Woodland in Kansas City, Missouri. The bronze medallions are a permanent feature that is not tied to the annual event date. Visitors have the benefit of enjoying this history and culture for many years.

Following the induction, a concert, featuring top shelf entertainment, has been presented to a sold-out crowd of 500 at the Gem Theater in the 18th & Vine District. Over the years, concert headliners have included the **Count Basie Orchestra, Bobby Watson, the American Jazz Orchestra, Regina Belle, Paula Saunders, Kevin Mahogany, Norman Brown, Queen Bey, Al Jarreau, Ellis Marsalis, Ramsey Lewis, Ida McBeth, Marilyn Maye & David Sanborn.**

During the concert, a video, acknowledging the role Kansas City and specifically 18<sup>th</sup>& Vine played in the evolution of jazz and the development of jazz artists in history, was presented to an audience of 500 in the Gem Theater. Portions of this video were provided courtesy of the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz.

Visit [www.americanjazzwalkoffame.com](http://www.americanjazzwalkoffame.com) for more information.

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