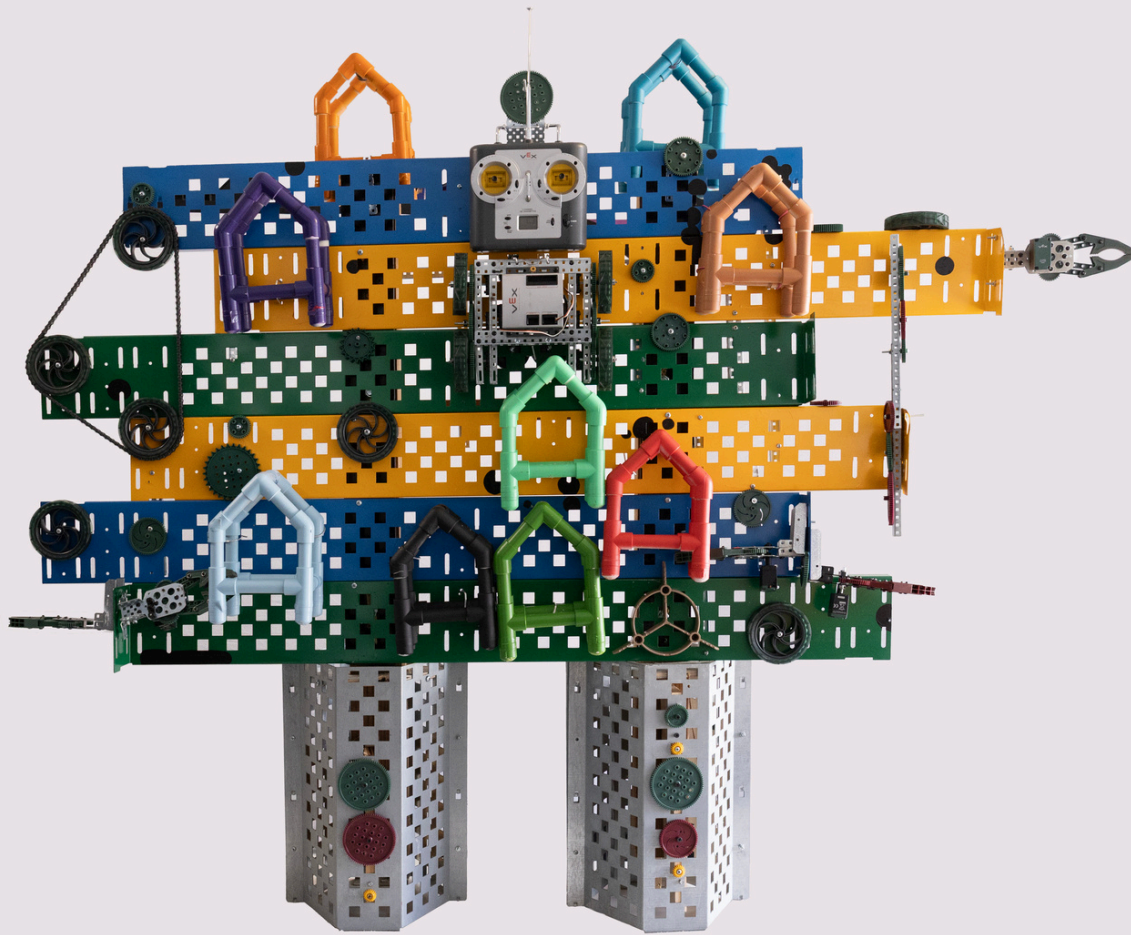


# *Becoming to Empowering:* Commemorating 400 Years of STEM



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**THE CITY OF HOUSTON**  
THROUGH  
**HOUSTON ARTS ALLIANCE**





### **The Inspiration**

C-STEM has developed informative curatorial and public programming to commemorate 400 Years of African American History and Culture using abstract art to bring a compelling C-STEM+Arts exhibition to our community.

### **The Journey**

C-STEM was awarded two grants from the 400 Years of African American History Commission to develop an art exhibit as part of a national cohort dedicated to planning, developing, and implementing programs celebrating African American history and contributions. Additional funding was provided by the Houston Arts Alliance and Education Consulting Services, LLC, further supporting the creation and expansion of the exhibit.

The artwork featured in this exhibit is inspired by the creativity and ingenuity of PreK-12 students who have participated in C-STEM programming. Utilizing leftover materials from more than two decades of hands-on STEM education, these materials have been repurposed to create a compelling and immersive artistic experience that reflects the transformative power of STEM and the arts



## The Need

African Americans have played a **profound yet often overlooked role** in shaping **science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM)** fields. There is a critical need to **redefine and highlight** this history, recognizing **historical pioneers** and **modern-day innovators** whose contributions continue to shape the world.

The **C-STEM Exhibition** bridges the past and present, tracing the **evolution of African American contributions to STEM** since **1619**. This exhibit is not just a celebration but an **educational tool**, shedding light on African Americans' resilience, ingenuity, and groundbreaking achievements in STEM. By exploring this history through **C-STEM's journey**, the exhibit acknowledges the shoulders upon which the organization stands, inspiring the next generation to **think it, dream it, and do it**.

As a **traveling exhibit**, each installation honors the **long-lasting legacy of African Americans in STEM**, showcases abstract contributions, and provides an **evergreen learning experience** for diverse audiences. The exhibit features a **dynamic blend of visual storytelling**, utilizing various artistic media to explore **education, innovation, and social impact** themes.

Beyond the artwork, this traveling exhibit has **education programming** available for integration to foster a deeper appreciation for STEM as a **transformative force** in education and society.

## The Exhibit

- Recognizes and highlights the resilience and cultural contributions of Africans and African Americans over 400 years as can be seen through the artifacts produced by African American students;
- Acknowledges the impact that slavery and laws that enforced racial discrimination had through symbolism, creativity, innovation, and community;
- Encourages educational, artistic, and the community at large to organize and take part in commemorative activities.



## About the Curator and Artists

**Reagan Flowers, PhD** (Curator, Artist, and a leading voice in STEM Education) is based in Houston, Texas. She is from Cleveland, Mississippi by way of Detroit, Michigan. She lives by the montra that “Everyone is an Artist and an Engineer”, and believes that there is a little Benjamin Banneker in us all and that African Americans have always leaned on their ingenuity, creativity, and innovation to persist, more than 400 years.

**Darrell Williams** (Fabricator) has been with the C-STEM organization for more than 18 years and is a Houston native. Darrell works closely with Dr. Reagan Flowers to fabricate her ideas, refine, and complete her vision whether it is with creating sculptures or intallation of robotic fields.

**Mathieu JN Baptiste** (Artist) is based in Houston, Texas. He spent his early years in Haiti and St Paul, Minnesota. Mathieu uses paint and metal as tools to unite the world around him. He states, ‘This world is filled with confusions and misunderstandings as people struggle and strive in this beautifully, complex, maze of life.’ Mathieu’s art reflects the good, the hopeful, and the interconnectedness for a better world.



Reagan Flowers, PhD

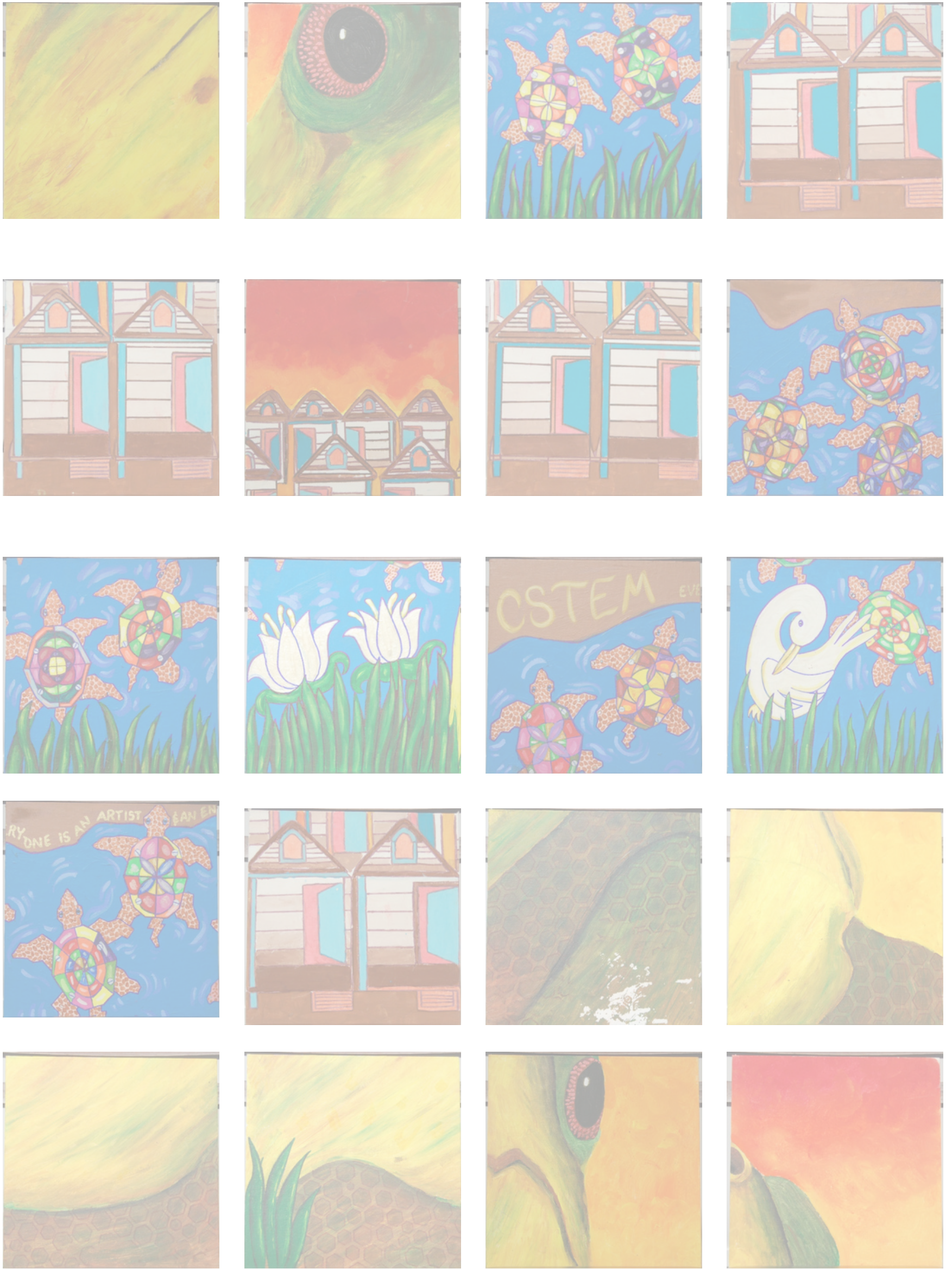


Darrell Williams



Mathieu JN Baptiste







## **Schedule**

Exhibit Opening Day ~ September 27, 2025 at the African American Research Center at the Gregory Campus and closes January 3, 2026.

## **Exhibition Contents**

Size: Average 10 ft X 10 ft

Number of works: 4

- The Gathering - 4 ft x 4 ft
- Light the Way - 12 in x 12 in each
- The Feeder Pattern - 8 ft x 4 ft
- Interdisciplinary - 8 in x 10 in each

**Supplemental:** Didactic material including wall labels, and credit lines

## **Photo Credit:**

Emile C. Browne

Marc Newsome

## **Contact**

For information about traveling the exhibition, please contact:  
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rflowers@cstem.org | 713-443-4521

## **C-STEM Teacher and Student Support Services, Inc.**

Our mission is to support teachers in delivering project-based learning that ignites curiosity and teaches Communications + STEM (C-STEM) + art skills to all students.

We are working to create a world where economically disadvantage students have high quality communication and STEM experiences that catapult them into transformative spaces, creating opportunities for economic and social mobility.