



For Immediate Release

Contact: Tim'm T. West

Phone: (513) 226-8720

Email: [t.west@braveeducator.com](mailto:t.west@braveeducator.com)

### **Black Boy Magic Tour: Cincinnati Launch**

Two Cincinnati natives collaborate to celebrate the release of a Hip Hop Anthology and Visual Art show.

Saturday, October 6, 2018 between 5pm - 8pm will mark a monumental collaboration between two native-born artists who've made their marks in the world of Hip Hop and Visual Art, respectively.

Tim'm West's forthcoming *Prodigal Son (An Anthology)* captures nearly two decades of his music as an independent Hip Hop artist and scholar who was first celebrated as a co-founder of the pioneering DDC--a pioneering queer Hip Hop group who travelled internationally and were most prominently featured in the critically acclaimed documentary "Pick Up The Mic" by Alex Hinton. Tim'm's release party will notably feature Derrick's Bell's first art show in Cincinnati: *Lost Boy Found*. Derrick also critically inspired the cover of *Prodigal Son*-- the imagery of a chubby face Cincinnati kid in OTR in the 70s crowned as marker of his prophetic return to the city as a King.

The coordinated release of *Prodigal Son* and *Lost Boy Found* at Switch Lighting and Design (312 West Fourth Street) will mark just one event among many that will be sponsored by Cincinnati Black Pride, an organization long defunct that Tim'm helped resurrect with a number of influential colleagues and leaders who've wanted social and political outlets at the intersection of Black and LGBTQ+ work in our city. Both Tim'm and Derrick showcase the potential and promise of what some frequently hashtag as #BlackBoyMagic. The weekend, affectionately called, *Black Cincy Magic*, is our community's celebration and pride in what these two natives have accomplished in the art world and the celebration of inclusiveness and diversity that Switch Lighting and Design is proud to host.

Tim'm West and Derrick Bell initially met in New York City in 2005, both unaware that the other was a Cincinnati native, but both having some familiarity with each others' art. Tim'm West is most notably known as a celebrated Renaissance man given his impact in the poetry, Spoken Word, Hip Hop landscapes and as notably, his work as an educator and youth advocate. Though back for almost a year, he joined the Board for WordPlay Cincy, sits on the Local School Decision Making Committee for Chase Elementary School, is on the Strategic Planning and Engagement Committee for Cincinnati Public Schools, and is in a promising cohort of leaders in education who are in the People's Liberty supported School Board School founded by former CPS School Board member, Elisa Hoffman. Professionally, Tim'm leads Teach For America's LGBTQ+ Community Initiative across all 50+ of the organization's regions.

In recent years, Derrick moved to the Bay Area. Since being in California he has had the honor of exhibiting five art shows in San Francisco and Oakland. He currently is an art teacher with the Oakland Unified School District and an artist working out of his studio in East Oakland. He was recently selected to be on the Vanguard Leadership Council for the Museum of the African Diaspora in San Francisco. He believes his calling is much bigger than just creating art. He explains, "My role as an artist and art educator is bigger than providing basic knowledge. I am called to be a moving ambassador for the arts".

Those interested in joining this celebration must RSVP for the event at Switch at <http://bit.ly/BlackCincyMagicRSVP>. Tim'm's set will feature several musicians affiliated with School of Creative and Performing Arts, as well as performances by Nhojj (Cleveland, OH) and Cincy's own TRIIIBE. Space will be limited for many of the weekend events, but notably the party at Switch Lighting and Design.

Release party event link:

<http://bit.ly/BlackCincyMagicRSVP>

For other events and parties related to Black Cincy Magic Weekend visit:

[www.cincinnatiblackpride.com](http://www.cincinnatiblackpride.com)