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***The Black Beach* – An Exhibition Devoted to and Inspired by Black History in Northeast Florida
Opens February 20 at the Heather Moore Community Gallery**

Please join the Cathedral Arts Project for the opening reception of *The Black Beach*, an exhibition by local artists Dustin Harewood, Malcolm Jackson and Jordan Walter, on Thursday, February 20. The reception will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the Heather Moore Community Gallery, at 207 N. Laura Street, Suite 300, in Downtown Jacksonville. The event is free and open to the public.

The Black Beach is a contemporary art exhibition inspired by the story of the historic American Beach. Established in 1935 in defiance of segregation and the Jim Crow laws of the era, American Beach was the largest and most popular black-only beach community in Northeast Florida and became a safe haven for African Americans in the area. Abraham Lincoln Lewis, the first black millionaire in the state of Florida, purchased and led the development of the famous strip of land.

Harewood, Jackson and Walter hope to present a fresh look at an important piece of North Florida history through photography, graphic design and mixed media painting. The exhibition tells a story that begins with Lewis and ends with the heroic efforts of MaVynee Betsch, Lewis' granddaughter who spent the majority of her adult life educating the public on the history and environmental importance of American Beach.

The opening reception will include a brief presentation by the artists, which will begin at 6:30 p.m. The exhibition will run through Wednesday, May 27, 2020. The gallery is free and open to the public Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Heather Moore Community Gallery enriches the quality of life in Northeast Florida by providing a unique venue for emerging and established artists to exhibit original works of art. The purpose of the gallery is to nurture individual artistic expression, encourage the exchange of ideas and inspire a lifelong commitment to the arts. Exhibitions, related events and programs enrich the cultural footprint of our community by engaging the arts and educational communities, cultural organizations, and diverse audiences along the First Coast.

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The Cathedral Arts Project is the leading nonprofit provider of quality, comprehensive and ongoing instruction in the visual and performing arts for elementary and middle school students in Duval County. The driving force behind all CAP programs is the belief that the arts matter – they provide essential skills, like creative thinking, perseverance, teamwork and self-discipline, that benefit all people in all areas of their lives.

Too often, certain populations of students do not have access to an arts-rich education because of limited access and resources in their schools, communities or homes. Yet these are the students for which the arts can have the strongest and longest-lasting impacts. CAP needs your support to accomplish its vision for every child in Northeast Florida to have access to a well-rounded, arts-rich education that endows his or her spirit with the imagination, self-confidence and strength of character that inspires great leadership and a will to succeed. Learn more at capkids.org.

Dustin Harewood was born and raised in New York City in the 1980s. His parents recognized and nurtured his early artistic energy and at the age of 7 he became a junior member of the Brooklyn Museum. His family later moved to Barbados where he attended high school.

Harewood earned a Bachelor of Arts from North Carolina Central University and a Master of Fine Arts from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He has worked as a professor of art at Florida State College at Jacksonville since 2004, teaching drawing, design, computer imaging and painting.

Malcolm Jackson is a street photographer from Jacksonville, FL. His love for photography was learned from his uncle who worked as a freelance photographer. After multiple high school track and field injuries sidelined his athletic career, he turned to photography.

In 2018 he was recognized by the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville as the Visual Artist of the Year and his work has been featured on VSCO and in Street Dreams Magazine. Jackson's clients have included the Jacksonville Jaguars, Pharrell Williams' Billionaire Boys Club and Icecream clothing lines, and The Culture Crush.

Jordan Walter is a graphic designer and creative director from Jacksonville, FL. He recently graduated from Florida State College at Jacksonville where he studied under Dustin Harewood and earned a degree in digital media. Walter is deeply rooted in the Jacksonville community and is currently an art educator at Matthew W. Gilbert Middle School.