CONTACT:
Shannon Brunette
shannon@officeofculturalwork.org; 718.541.0285

Jeff Hayden
jhayden@fredlaw.com; 612.492.7872

THE BLACK GATE

About *The Black Gate…*

- Located in the heart of the Frogtown neighborhood in Saint Paul, *The Black Gate* will build awareness and momentum for preserving and archiving the legacies of creatives of color.

- Conceptualized by renowned Saint Paul artist, Seitu Ken Jones, the idea for *The Black Gate* arose from Jones' and other established Black artists' struggle to find the space and support to appropriately preserve their artistic practices.

- *The Black Gate* will be a space rooted in a diverse, vibrant community created for Black artists by Black artists:

  - contributing to **job-creation** and adding important **housing** for working artists;

  - creating indoor and outdoor community space to facilitate creative placemaking;

  - supporting asset-building and wealth-creation in historically low-wealth communities; and

  - stimulating the local economy as an accessible destination place via the library and archives.

- *The Black Gate* aims to be a place that will fill the gap in storytelling, archive-building, and legacy-making for artists of color – modeling a practice of place-keeping for histories yet untold.

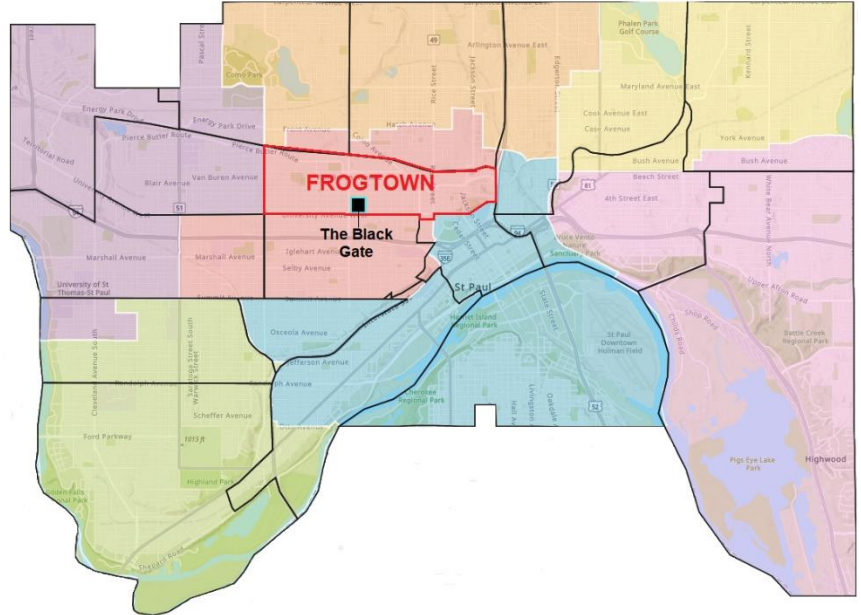## *The Black Gate* will be 3 stories + a lower level, and will include:

Level	Program/Feature	Description
Rooftop	**Garden + Solar Panels**	A rooftop garden provides 400 sq. ft. for growing space, community education and peaceful contemplation.
3rd Floor	**Apartments + Additional Garden**	Two on-premises apartments will be provided to visiting community-builders as part of The Black Gate fellowship program.
2nd Floor	**Archive + Library**	The sitting room, library, and research center where academics, artists and the public can directly engage with the archival materials.
1st Floor	**Studio Workshop + Kitchen**	A 1000-sq.-ft. studio workshop for artistic creation and collaboration with an adjacent commercial kitchen as a laboratory for food justice, exploration, and education.
Basement	**Archival Storage**	The basement will be designed with a state-of-the-art archival storage system to support the research center above.

Sources & Uses

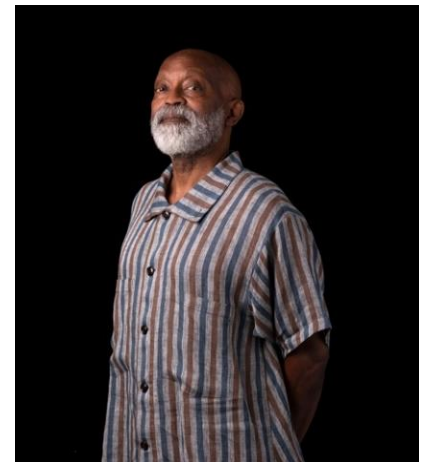| Source	Amount
State of Minnesota	**$3,000,000**
Private Fundraising	$3,000,000
Total:	**$6,000,000**
Use	Amount
Land (acquisition, site prep, etc.)	$200,000
Professional Fees (design, legal, fundraising, etc.)	$500,000
Construction + Contingency + FF&E	$5,300,000
Total:	**$6,000,000**

seitujonesstudio.com/legacy

LOCATION DEMOGRAPHICS

Frogtown is one of the most diverse neighborhoods in St. Paul, 25% Black, 30% Asian, 11% Latino, approximately 30% are foreign-born and nearly 45% speak a language other than English. Frogtown's median household income is $46,000, in comparison to $65,000 for Ramsey County overall and 25% of Frogtown households have incomes below poverty level. The Black Gate is designed to serve as a community asset that brings new people to the area–generating economic impact and connecting new communities to creatives of color.

KEY PROJECT LEADERSHIP

Artist and advocate **Seitu Ken Jones** has been tending the soil of community through art for more than 40 years. Throughout his career, he has harnessed the tools of visual art, infrastructure, and civic engagement to create work that links history to the present and honors the community's assets—from its historic figures to natural resources to cultural traditions.

In his public art and events, Jones pushes beyond traditional art spaces to reach people in the context of their lives and communities. His large-scale sculptural installation Turnip Greens was dedicated in 2019 in the Nashville Farmers Market, inspired by the city's bounty of food and black culture. First

enacted in St. Paul in 2014, A Community Meal convened two thousand people over dinner at a table half a mile long. Jones's site-specific art installations for the Twin Cities Light Rail Transit system blend visual beauty with local history. In 2013, Jones co-founded Frogtown Farm, a five-acre urban farm in a St. Paul city park created with and for neighborhood residents.

seitujonesstudio.com/legacy