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OFFICE OF
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**The City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs presents
WOKE: Rattling Bones, Conversations, Sacred Rites and Holy Places
at City Gallery**

Charleston, S.C. - The City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs presents *WOKE: Rattling Bones, Conversations, Sacred Rites and Holy Places*, curated by the Gullah Society. The exhibition will be held at City Gallery April 3–May 6, 2018.

When the remains of 36 African-descended individuals were unearthed during the 2013 remodeling of the Gaillard Center, so were a mountain of other curiosities: *Who were these people? How did they come to be buried here?*—and most importantly—*What are their stories?* Visitors to *WOKE* will learn about what is now known as the “Anson Street Burials Project,” as it prepares to facilitate conversations and programming surrounding family, history, research, and the reinternment of their skeletal remains. In conjunction with the City of Charleston, over the next year, the Gullah Society will work with the community to illuminate their lives and historical significance.

“We are excited about this significant opportunity to reconcile the past, and honor the people buried on this sacred ground,” says Gullah Society founder, Dr. Ade Ofunniyin. “We hope that future DNA research, in combination with long since completed archaeological research, will help us learn more about the individuals buried at this site.”

These individuals—buried in the mid-late 1700s—are the earliest-known burials in Charleston to date, and helped spotlight a dearth of knowledge concerning family history, DNA, and genealogy for African decedents in the Charleston Area. The exhibit also features the work of renowned photographers, Ida Berman and Leonard Freed, who captured life on Johns Island during the Civil Rights era and other important cultural images in South Carolina and throughout the South Eastern United States. Through “History Harvest” workshops, community engagement, educational, and artistic programs, the City Gallery hopes to foster a deeper understanding of who these people were—and how deeply they are connected to their descendants living in Charleston today.

WOKE: Rattling Bones, Conversations, Sacred Rites and Holy Places is curated by Dr. Ade Ofunniyin, Adjunct Professor College of Charleston, Executive Director of the Gullah Society, and Project Director of the Gullah Society Sacred Burial Ground Projects. Curatorial support was provided by A Backpack Journalist program. An opening reception will be held at the City Gallery on March 28 from 5pm-7pm.

About City Gallery

City Gallery, located at Joseph P. Riley, Jr. Waterfront Park, is owned by the City of Charleston and operated by the City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs, presenting an annual program of exhibitions and events featuring the finest contemporary art from local, regional, national and international artists, with a focus on the Lowcountry. City Gallery provides access to the visual arts for everyone in Charleston, visitors and residents alike, by offering exhibits that are all admission-free City Gallery is located at 34 Prioleau St. in downtown Charleston, and gallery hours of operation are Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. until 6 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, noon until 5 p.m. For more information and holiday closures, visit www.charleston-sc.gov/citygallery or call 843-958-6484.

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