

*The Heart of
Gainsboro*

**Berglund Center
Wednesday, February 15, 2023**

**The Heart of Gainsboro
Mural**

Dedication of Parlors

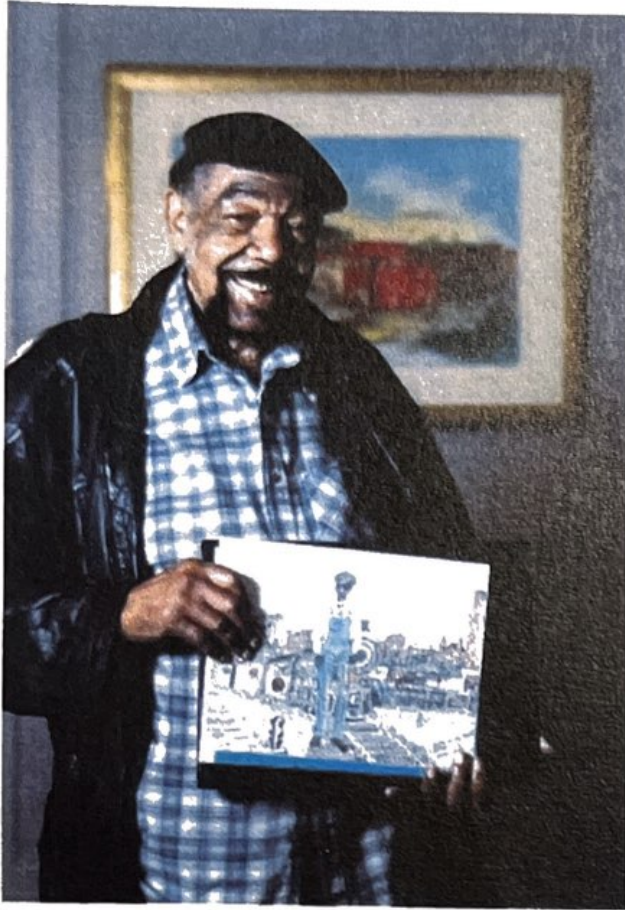
**Dedication of the
Tank Town Tree**

The Heart of Gainsboro

The Roanoke Urban Renewal projects of the 1960's and 1970's displaced many African American families and businesses in the Gainsboro neighborhood and changed the overall urban fabric and character of the area. One such project was the construction of the Roanoke Civic Center, now Berglund Center, in the neighborhood called Tank Town. This was one of those areas hit hardest by urban renewal in Roanoke, as homes, churches, businesses, and even a cemetery, were either moved or demolished to make way for the venues.



We are here to remember and honor this community, and to reach our hands across the road to let those who experienced this dark time in our history know that while we can't remove the pain of the past, we will do our best to ensure that future generations will not forget that the heart of Gainsboro still beats.



David Ramey, Sr.

Photo: The Roanoke Times

David Alexander Ramey, Sr. (January 10, 1939 – May 17, 2017), was an American artist. He was born in Ridgeway, Virginia, but moved to Roanoke in 1949, where he later became a Conductor (rail) on the Norfolk and Western Railroad in 1974. His art continues to inspire

In 2014, Ramey received a Citizen of the Year award in the arts from the Roanoke branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

In 2017, "Henry Street" by David Ramey was chosen to one of the "Art on the Bus" images to promote Roanoke on the sides of the city bus.

Ms. Kathleen Ross may be best known for refusing to leave her house while the Roanoke Civic Center was being built. She stood her ground and showed great strength for what she believed in.



Mr. Richard Chubb (May 28, 1936) Chubb was a teacher, coach and guidance counselor at Roanoke schools including Monroe, Booker T. Washington, Harrison Elementary and Hurt Park Elementary., where he was a Principal for 16 years. In 1971, Chubb became principal of Harrison Elementary, his former school, which closed due to integration. Mr. Chubb is a mentor, friend and father figure to many people throughout the Roanoke community.

Photo: Jennifer Hayward



Bryce Cobb, Artist

"The Heart of Gainsboro"

Born in Roanoke Va. Bryce Cobbs is an aspiring artist and avid creator. The interest in art first started to arise as a kid and grew to much more of a passion than a hobby in the years to follow. Having just taken his first art class during his junior year of high school, it became apparent that a career in the arts was waiting in the future. Two years later, Bryce found himself attending Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia; majoring in Communication Arts.

While focusing heavily on portraiture and anatomy, Bryce attempts to keep a common narrative with all of his work- *Celebrating the beauty and the life of being black*. Every piece created has a personal goal behind it. The materials in use commonly range from: graphite, charcoal, marker, oil paints, and even digital. Each with its own way of conveying the intended message of each piece. The future can expect Bryce to grow and thrive as an artist with new mediums, talents, and works of art.

Jordan Bell, Educator, Historian, and Community Activist

Jordan works for Roanoke City Public Schools, Boys & Girls Club, and Apple Ridge Farm where he is summer camp director. Jordan believes in being an active member of his community. He serves on the Berglund Center Commission and is the artist-in-residence on The Heart of Gainsboro project.

Robyn Schon, General Manager, Berglund Center

Robyn has been with Berglund Center for twenty-five years, managing all aspects of the entertainment and sports venue. She founded and launched The Heart of Gainsboro project in 2021, working **with Doug Jackson, Arts & Culture Coordinator for the Roanoke Arts Commission**. Both Robyn and Doug worked together to recruit Jordan and Bryce to bring this project to life.