

# Sponsorship Prospectus

PRESERVE · PROTECT · PERPETUATE

*The Obsidian Legacy Photography Summit*  
A Five-City National Initiative

*“Your images documented history.  
Now we ensure history documents you.”*

Chicago Summit



Photo Credits: Jason Miccolo Johnson

## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Community Partner  
\$2,000

Advocate Partner  
\$5,000

Legacy Partner  
\$10,000

# The Opportunity

Why your organization should be part of this national initiative

## ABOUT THE OBSIDIAN COLLECTION ARCHIVES

The Obsidian Collection Archives is an Illinois 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving, protecting, and amplifying the life's work of Black photographers whose images have shaped the cultural and historical record of America and the world. Founded nine years ago, the Archives has grown into a recognized platform for Black visual history, connecting photographers, institutions, journalists, and global audiences through digital storytelling, publications, and curated exhibitions.

At the heart of our mission is a simple but urgent truth: the archives of Black photographers represent one of the most significant and underprotected bodies of cultural heritage in the United States. These collections document the Civil Rights Movement, the rise of Black political power, the full arc of Black cultural life across the twentieth century and into the twenty-first. Without deliberate intervention, many of these irreplaceable archives risk being lost, scattered, or permanently undervalued.

## THE OBSIDIAN LEGACY SUMMIT

The Obsidian Legacy Photography Summit is a five-city national initiative that brings together distinguished Black photographers in their 60s through 90s for intimate, professionally structured working sessions focused on preserving, protecting, and activating their life's work. Each summit addresses the legal, archival, financial, and storytelling dimensions of legacy planning for photographers who have documented history but have not always had access to the professional infrastructure their collections deserve.

<b>Chicago</b> April 11, 2026 Gallery Guichard	<b>New York</b> Coming 2026	<b>Atlanta</b> Coming 2026	<b>Los Angeles</b> Coming 2026	<b>Washington D.C.</b> Coming 2026
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## THE CULTURAL IMPERATIVE

Many of the photographers we serve began their careers during a time when they were excluded from mainstream institutions, yet they were present with cameras at some of the most consequential moments in American history. Their archives have not received the systematic professional attention that comparable collections in other communities have long enjoyed. The Obsidian Legacy Summit exists to change that — directly, practically, and at scale across five American cities.

*These photographers documented history. Now it is our collective responsibility to ensure history documents them. Your sponsorship makes that possible.*

# Impact by the Numbers

The reach, the scale, and the urgency of this work

5

Cities

Chicago · Atlanta · New York · Los Angeles · Washington D.C.

100+

Photographers

Distinguished Black photographers reached across the five-city tour

50+

Years

Average career span of participating photographers

1M+

Images

Estimated total images across all participating archives

## WHAT YOUR SPONSORSHIP SUPPORTS

### Summit Hosting & Logistics

Every summit requires a professional venue, AV equipment, catering, printed materials, and on-site coordination to deliver a world-class experience for photographers who have spent careers in rooms that did not always welcome them. Your sponsorship directly funds the hospitality and dignity these artists deserve.

### Digitization & Cataloging Support

Survey results from our inaugural Chicago summit revealed that the majority of photographers have digitized less than 25% of their collections. Sponsorship funds the equipment, staffing, and technical expertise required to systematically digitize and catalog irreplaceable historical images.

### Appraisal & Legacy Planning

Beginning in Q4 2026, the Archives will offer licensed professional appraisal services for significant collections. Sponsorship helps underwrite the cost of these services for photographers who need them most, ensuring that Black archives are valued accurately in the global cultural marketplace.

### Legal & Archival Education

Each summit brings in distinguished intellectual property attorneys and archival professionals to deliver practical, actionable guidance. Funding these expert voices ensures that photographers leave each session with real legal frameworks, licensing knowledge, and archival roadmaps they can act on immediately.

### Global Storytelling & Publication

The Obsidian Collection Archives distributes photographer profiles and archival content through digital platforms, Google Arts & Culture, the Obsidian Podcast, Obsidian Magazine, and curated print publications. Sponsorship supports the production and distribution of this content to a growing global audience.

*100% of surveyed photographers expressed interest in at least one Obsidian Collection Archives service. Your investment meets a need that is already clearly demonstrated.*

# Sponsorship Packages

Three investment levels. One enduring commitment to Black cultural heritage.

*All sponsorships are tax-deductible contributions to an Illinois 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.*

Community Partner	Advocate Partner	Legacy Partner
<p data-bbox="248 411 423 468"><b>\$2,000</b></p> <p data-bbox="264 476 407 499"><i>per city summit</i></p> <ul data-bbox="147 533 500 1031" style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Named sponsor recognition at one city summit</li><li>• Organization name and logo in printed summit materials</li><li>• Acknowledgment on The Obsidian Collection Archives website</li><li>• Recognition in post-summit social media campaign</li><li>• Invitation for two representatives to attend the summit</li><li>• Access to post-summit survey results report</li><li>• Certificate of Cultural Partnership</li></ul>	<p data-bbox="721 411 896 468"><b>\$5,000</b></p> <p data-bbox="737 476 880 499"><i>per city summit</i></p> <ul data-bbox="623 533 943 1157" style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Everything in Community Partner, plus:</li><li>• Named sponsorship of one program segment or speaker session</li><li>• Full-page feature in the summit program booklet</li><li>• Inclusion in Obsidian email campaign reaching subscribers nationally</li><li>• Invitation for four representatives to attend the summit</li><li>• Organization profile in one Obsidian storytelling platform</li><li>• Quarterly impact updates from the Executive Director</li><li>• Priority consideration for multi-city sponsorship renewal</li></ul>	<p data-bbox="1179 411 1386 468"><b>\$10,000</b></p> <p data-bbox="1154 476 1411 499"><i>national presenting sponsor</i></p> <ul data-bbox="1094 533 1425 1255" style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Everything in Advocate Partner, plus:</li><li>• Title sponsorship across all five city summits</li><li>• Premier logo placement on all summit materials and signage</li><li>• Dedicated feature in Obsidian Magazine</li><li>• Google Arts &amp; Culture co-branded exhibition opportunity</li><li>• Invitation for six representatives to any or all summits</li><li>• Private briefing with Founder Angela Ford and photojournalist Jason Miccolo Johnson</li><li>• Commemorative inclusion in the Obsidian Annual Collectible Book</li><li>• Recognition as a founding national partner of the summit series</li></ul>

*Custom sponsorship packages are available. Please contact us to discuss opportunities tailored to your organization's goals.*

# Why Partner With Us

The alignment, the audience, and the legacy of your investment

## ALIGNMENT WITH YOUR MISSION

The Obsidian Legacy Summit represents a rare convergence of cultural preservation, equity, community impact, and intergenerational storytelling. For philanthropic foundations committed to arts, culture, racial equity, or historical preservation, this initiative offers a direct and demonstrable investment in an underserved community with documented, measurable outcomes. For organizations like AARP, the summit speaks directly to the dignity, legacy, and professional recognition of Americans over 60 who have made extraordinary contributions to their fields.

## YOUR AUDIENCE IS IN THE ROOM

### Black Photographers 60+

Every summit is an intimate gathering of distinguished Black photographers in their 60s through 90s — an audience that has rarely been the beneficiary of organized professional investment. Your sponsorship signals clearly that your organization sees, values, and invests in this community.

### Cultural Institutions & Archivists

Summit content and outcomes are shared with a growing network of museums, libraries, universities, and cultural organizations engaged in Black history preservation — extending your visibility into the institutional cultural sector.

### Journalists & Media Professionals

The Obsidian Collection Archives maintains relationships with journalists, documentary filmmakers, and media organizations seeking authentic Black historical content. Your partnership is visible within this community of storytellers.

### Global Digital Audience

Through Google Arts & Culture, the Obsidian Podcast, email campaigns, and social media, summit content reaches a global audience of history enthusiasts, educators, collectors, and cultural professionals who follow the Archives' work year-round.

## THE ENDURING LEGACY OF YOUR INVESTMENT

- Photographic archives preserved through your partnership will remain accessible for generations of researchers, educators, and storytellers.
- Photographer profiles and collections supported by your sponsorship enter permanent digital archives, ensuring attribution and visibility in perpetuity.
- Your organization's role as a founding partner of this national initiative will be recognized in the Obsidian Annual Collectible Book and in the archival record of the summit series.

The legal and archival frameworks established through summit programming create lasting protections for collections that document irreplaceable chapters of American history.



Jason Miccolo Johnson

# How to Become a Partner

Simple steps to formalize your support and begin the partnership

01

## Express Interest

Contact us by email or phone to indicate your organization's interest in sponsoring the Obsidian Legacy Summit. We will schedule a brief call with Founder Angela Ford to discuss the initiative, your organization's goals, and the right partnership level for you.

02

## Select Your Package

Choose from our three sponsorship tiers — Community Partner (\$2,000), Advocate Partner (\$5,000), or Legacy Partner (\$10,000) — or work with us to design a custom arrangement that serves your philanthropic objectives. Multi-city and multi-year commitments are warmly welcomed.

03

## Formalize the Partnership

We will provide a simple sponsorship agreement, an IRS acknowledgment letter confirming your tax-deductible contribution, and a full briefing on the specific summit(s) your partnership supports. Your organization's materials and representatives will be integrated into planning immediately.

04

## Join Us at the Summit

Your representatives are invited to attend as guests, witness the impact of your investment firsthand, and connect with the photographers, archivists, and legal professionals who make this work possible. Post-summit, you will receive a comprehensive impact report on the outcomes of the gathering.

### TO DISCUSS SPONSORSHIP

**Angela Ford**

Founder & Executive Director  
The Obsidian Collection Archives

**Email:** [angela@theobsidiancollection.org](mailto:angela@theobsidiancollection.org)

**Web:** [theobsidiancollection.org](http://theobsidiancollection.org)

**Tax ID:** Available upon request · Illinois 501(c)(3)

*Summit convened by photojournalist Jason Miccolo Johnson*

*Together, we will tell these stories to the world.*

CHICAGO · ATLANTA · NEW YORK · LOS ANGELES · WASHINGTON D.C.