



City of Charleston
South Carolina

JOSEPH P. RILEY, JR.
MAYOR

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DIRECTOR
PUBLIC INFORMATION

For Immediate Release: Dec. 21, 2009

**City Gallery Exhibit: *Chittlin Circuit Review* to Explore the History of Blues
in America**

CHARLESTON, S.C. — The City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs presents *The Chittlin Circuit Review* featuring oil paintings by Washington, D.C. artist Rik Freeman at the City Gallery at Waterfront Park from Jan. 29 to Feb. 28, 2010. The opening reception will be held Friday, Jan. 29, 2010, from 6 to 8 p.m. The artist will present a lecture on the history and development of his thematic work on Saturday, Jan. 30 at 2 p.m. Both events are admission-free and open to the public.

Created by Freeman in 1990, *The Chittlin Circuit Review*, features 25 paintings that follow the history of blues through cotton fields, juke joints, railroads and blues clubs throughout the American South and reaching northward into urban areas as well. Freeman's work includes vivid characters including various fictionalized blues musicians, Mud Paw Willie and Critter Gitter as they travel the "Chittlin Circuit," a term used to specify where black entertainers could perform during segregation.

"This thought provoking exhibition reflects the rhythm and movement at the heart of the birth of the blues," says Ellen Dressler Moryl, director of the City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs. "The OCA is honored to present Rik Freeman's vivid depictions of the evolution of the American civil rights movement. Our community will be greatly enriched and edified by this stunning show."

Born and raised Athens, Ga., Freeman attended The University of Georgia and Savannah State College in Savannah, Ga., where he majored in painting. He began his professional career as an artist/muralist in Washington D.C. in 1989. He started painting a number of murals throughout the metropolitan area of the nation's capital and producing a large body of oil paintings on canvas, all of which concentrated on this important subject. Over the years, Freeman's works have been featured in numerous group shows in galleries, museums and cultural centers.

The City Gallery at Waterfront Park, owned by the City of Charleston and operated by the City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs, is a venue for contemporary artwork that is new, vital and innovative, with a focus on broadening Charleston's arts outlook. The City Gallery provides

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access to the visual arts for everyone in Charleston, S.C., visitors and residents alike, by offering exhibits that are all admission-free. The City Gallery is located at 34 Prioleau St. in downtown Charleston, S.C., and gallery hours of operation are Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. For more information, please call or e-mail the City Gallery at (843) 958-6484 or CityGallery@ci.charleston.sc.us and visit www.charlestonarts.sc.

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