

Benefit Concert Sponsorship Opportunities

Honoring the Legacy of Sculptor Richard Hunt and
Featuring Vocalist Lizz Wright and Pianist/Organist Kenny Banks Sr.

Event Date:	**September 17, 2027 at 7:30 pm**
Venue:	Rockefeller Memorial Chapel, University of Chicago
Organization:	Proceeds benefit the Richard Hunt Legacy Foundation (501(c)(3) Public Charity, EIN 99-3118777
Contact:	Jon Ott, Executive Director jon.ott@richardhuntsculptor.org 925-558-5899
Sponsor Registration:	www.richardhuntsculptor.org/benefit-concert

Event Overview

The Richard Hunt Legacy Foundation (RHLF) invites forward-thinking corporate leaders, philanthropic foundations, and community partners to co-sponsor a landmark fundraising concert celebrating the life and monumental artistic achievements of American sculptor **Richard Hunt (1935–2023).**

Richard Hunt maintained a lifelong, transformative connection to the South Side of Chicago and the University of Chicago, and your sponsorship will directly contribute to his lasting legacy.

Overview | Richard Hunt Legacy Foundation

Richard Hunt (1935-2023) was a celebrated American metal sculptor who was the subject of more than 250 solo exhibitions, more than 500 group exhibitions, and featured as the first African American sculptor to have a retrospective at the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in 1971. His metal sculpture is notable for its widespread presence in more than 130 museum collections. Hunt made the largest contribution to public sculpture in the United States, with 160 public commissions gracing prominent locations in 24 states and Washington, D.C.

Hunt considered artistic freedom to be the most important aspect of his career:
"I am interested more than anything else in being a free person. To me, that means that I can make what I want to make, regardless of what anyone else thinks I should make."

Hunt served on dozens of boards, committees, and councils during his lifetime, including serving as a Commissioner for the National Museum of American Art, part of the Smithsonian Institution, and as the first African American visual artist to serve on the National Council on the Arts. In addition, Hunt received more than 45 major awards, including the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship, the Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Sculpture Center, the Fifth Star Award from the City of Chicago, and the Legends and Legacy Award from the Art Institute of Chicago.

Among his works, Hunt paid tribute to some of his nation's greatest heroes, including Martin Luther King, Jr., Mary McLeod Bethune, Jesse Owens, Hobart Taylor, Jr., and Ida B. Wells-Barnett. In 2022, Hunt was the first artist President Barack Obama commissioned to create a sculptural work for the Obama Presidential Center (OPC) in Chicago. *Book Bird* (2023) now graces the OPC's Library Reading Garden outside the new Chicago Public Library branch.

About the Richard Hunt Legacy Foundation

As a 501(c)(3) public charity, the Richard Hunt Legacy Foundation's mission is to ensure that future generations fully appreciate the life and art of the American sculptor Richard Hunt by encouraging, inspiring, facilitating, educating, and supporting the public's understanding of his work and his place in American and art history. In addition, the foundation aims to inspire the next generation of sculptors and artists.

The Richard Hunt Legacy Foundation's key initiatives include:

- **Exhibitions and Curation:** Coordination with major art museums and organizations to support solo and group exhibitions;
- **Scholarship:** Producing new scholarship through deep research to bring new discoveries to light about Richard Hunt's art and life;
- **Archives:** Partnering with the Getty Research Institute as it processes the Richard Hunt archive and providing access to the foundation's digital archive;

- **Awards and Fellowships:** Supporting two awards for emerging artists in sculpture and printmaking.
- **Educational Partnerships and Outreach:** Sharing the story of Richard Hunt with the public through public platforms such as Bloomberg Connects and Public Art Archive, universities, and other public institutions.
- **Catalogue Raisonné:** Compiling a comprehensive catalogue raisonné of all of Richard Hunt's artworks.

Fueling Impact in Chicago

By sponsoring this benefit concert, your organization directly supports the preservation and public celebration of Richard Hunt's historic legacy while advancing arts access across Chicago. Your key presence for the Benefit Concert will directly contribute to Richard Hunt's legacy and the Chicago community.

Honoring a World-Renowned Legacy
As the first African American sculptor to receive a solo retrospective at MoMA in 1971, Richard Hunt's pioneering open-form steel and bronze sculptures cemented the artist into the canon of art history. Throughout Hunt's prolific seven-decade career, movement and song often shaped his inspiration. Live music honors this cross-disciplinary synergy.

Celebrating the Nation's Most Prolific Public Sculptor
With 160 monumental public art commissions across 24 states and Washington, D.C.—more than any other sculptor in U.S. history—Hunt's work transformed public landscapes. The Richard Hunt Legacy Foundation's Benefit Concert reinforces Chicago as the epicenter of Hunt's global artistic legacy, with more than 50 of his public sculptures sited in museums, universities, parks, and other public spaces throughout Chicago and nearby suburbs.

Delivering Direct Community Impact: Driven by Hunt's conviction that he was "a sculptor for all people," public art removes barriers to entry. A live concert attracts diverse, non-traditional art audiences beyond typical museum goers, broadening community access to his life's work.

Preserving Civic Art Archives
Revenue generated from the event supports long-term archival projects, including expanding free public digital access to his creations.

Awards and Fellowships
As a Chicago-based nonprofit, the foundation uses concert proceeds to directly finance initiatives like the Chicago Sculpture Exhibit biennial Richard Hunt Award, Chicago State University's Richard Hunt Printmaking Fellowship, and educational outreach in partnership with local institutions.

Benefit Concert

Align your brand with world-class artistry and transformative community impact by sponsoring an extraordinary Benefit Concert for the Richard Hunt Legacy Foundation featuring acclaimed jazz and soul vocalist Lizz Wright alongside master pianist Kenny Banks Sr.

The Music | Lizz Wright and Kenny Banks Sr.

The soaring voice of Lizz Wright and master keyboardist Kenny Banks Sr. will lift the artistic spirit of Richard Hunt and his place in not only Chicago history but art history.



Renowned for their soul-stirring musical dialogue—showcased on their duo project *Nearness*—Wright and Banks embody the same deep rhythm, improvisation, and expressive freedom that define the monumental sculptures of legendary Chicago artist Richard Hunt. Sponsoring this premier event during Chicago Exhibition Week positions your organization in front of an influential audience of global art patrons, civic leaders, and cultural tastemakers. More than a night of music, your partnership directly fuels the Richard Hunt Legacy Foundation's mission to preserve Hunt's monumental contributions to American art, expand youth educational programming, and invest in the next generation of diverse artists across Chicago.

The Venue | Rockefeller Memorial Chapel, University of Chicago

Inside the towering Neo-Gothic sanctuary of Rockefeller Memorial Chapel, music doesn't merely reverberate—it ascends.



With its 100-foot vaulted stone ceilings, monumental limestone nave, and breathtaking stained-glass vistas, the chapel possesses a warm, expansive acoustic envelope built to transform raw sound into something transcendent.

When Lizz Wright's velvety, soul-drenched contralto fills the hall, her rich lower register will ground the audience in deep gospel and

jazz roots, while her rising vocal lines linger in the high arches. Alongside her, Kenny Banks Sr.'s nuanced piano touch—from delicate blues flourishes to thunderous, orchestral chords—will ring across the vast hall with crystalline clarity, every note reverberating gracefully against the ancient stone.

This soaring interplay carries a profound aesthetic parallel to Richard Hunt's art. Hunt's monumental bronze and steel sculptures frequently reach dynamically upward, breaking through spatial boundaries with heroic rhythm and open-form energy. Wright and Banks's music will fill the cavernous vertical space with physical warmth and emotional freedom.
In a hall engineered for awe, their performance turns sound into sculpture, letting music soar through the same historic space where Chicago's highest artistic and intellectual ideals have resonated for nearly a century.

The Date | Friday of Chicago Exhibition Week

September 17, 2027 at 7:30 pm

Hosting the Benefit Concert during Chicago Exhibition Week 2027—organized by the civic and cultural platform Gertie—offers sponsors unprecedented brand visibility and targeted engagement at the epicenter of Chicago's contemporary art movement.

By embedding your brand into a premier citywide event that attracts tens of thousands of international collectors, curators, civic leaders, and culturally curious patrons, sponsors gain direct access to a highly influential, high-net-worth demographic.

Partnering within Gertie's dynamic ecosystem amplifies corporate social responsibility and marketing impact through shared press coverage, high-profile cross-promotion, and elite VIP touchpoints—positioning sponsors not just as corporate donors, but as vital champions of Chicago's rich artistic heritage and next-generation creative economy.

Sponsorship Opportunities

We invite you to align your brand with world-class artistry and civic impact by becoming a sponsor of the Richard Hunt Legacy Foundation's premier Benefit Concert. This historic evening offers unprecedented brand visibility among a captive audience of global art collectors, cultural tastemakers, and civic leaders.

By securing one of our sponsorship packages, your organization will not only enjoy prominent co-branding and elite hospitality—including premier front-section seating and invitations to an intimate VIP artist meet-and-greet with the musicians at The Hunt at Logan—but you will also be permanently celebrated as a foundational champion of Chicago's rich artistic heritage.

Explore the tailored investment opportunities below to find the perfect tier for your organization to support the enduring legacy of Richard Hunt.

Sponsor Registration is available here: www.richardhuntsculptor.org/benefit-concert

Sponsorship Level	Investment	Key Benefits
Presenting Sponsor	**$100,000**	• **Co-branding:** "Concert Presented by [Sponsor Name(s)]" on all digital/print assets. • 16 VIP concert tickets with premier front section seating. • 10 invitations to meet and greet VIP Reception with the artist(s) at The Hunt at Logan. • Co-branding inclusion on promotional flyers, press releases, and digital campaigns. • Prominent feature as the presenting sponsor(s) in event program, on-site signage, and printed/digital tickets (if applicable). • Recognition on the foundation's website and in the 2027 annual report as a founding member ("Founder's Circle") for the Richard Hunt Legacy Foundation.
Legacy Sponsor	**$50,000**	• 12 VIP concert tickets with premier front section seating. • 8 invitations to meet and greet VIP Reception with the artist(s) at The Hunt at Logan. • Prominent logo inclusion on promotional flyers, press releases, and digital campaigns. • Logo feature in event program and on-site signage. • Recognition on the foundation's website and in the 2027 annual report as a founding member ("Legacy

		Circle") for the Richard Hunt Legacy Foundation.
Benefactor Sponsor	**$25,000**	• 10 VIP concert tickets with premier front section seating. • 6 invitations to meet and greet VIP Reception with the artist(s) at The Hunt at Logan. • Logo inclusion on promotional flyers, press releases, and digital campaigns. • Logo feature in event program and on-site signage. • Recognition on the foundation's website and in the 2027 annual report as a founding member ("Benefactors Circle") for the Richard Hunt Legacy Foundation.
Patron Sponsor	**$10,000**	• 8 VIP concert tickets with premier front section seating. • 4 invitations to meet and greet VIP Reception with the artist(s) at The Hunt at Logan. • Logo inclusion on promotional flyers, press releases, and digital campaigns. • Logo feature in event program and on-site signage. • Recognition on the foundation's website and in the 2027 annual report as a founding member ("Patrons Circle") for the Richard Hunt Legacy Foundation.
Community Partner	**$5,000 (or in-kind equivalent)**	• 4 concert tickets (general seating). • 2 invitations to meet and greet VIP Reception with the artist(s) at The Hunt at Logan. • Logo inclusion on promotional flyers, press releases, and digital campaigns. • Logo feature in event program and on-site signage. • Recognition on the foundation's website and in the 2027 annual report as a "Community Partner" of the Richard Hunt Legacy Foundation. **Note:** In-kind equivalency includes hospitality and service contributions to the event, including hotel accommodations, food and beverage, and similar services.
Ambassador	**$1,000**	• 4 concert tickets (general seating). • Recognition on the foundation's website and in the 2027 annual report as an "Ambassador" donor for the Richard Hunt Legacy Foundation.

Payment Terms & Conditions

To secure your sponsorship and guarantee inclusion in promotional materials, Sponsor agrees to pay the Richard Hunt Legacy Foundation the sponsorship fee outlined below within 30 days of registering as a sponsor. Total payment must be received no later than 60 days prior to the Event.

- **Presenting, Legacy, Benefactor, and Patron Sponsors** must pay a minimum of 50% non-refundable deposit within 30 days upon executing the **Master Sponsorship Agreement** and the remaining 50% due no later than 60 days prior to the event.
- **Community Partners** offering in-kind sponsorships must provide a formal quote or itemized list detailing the goods or services offered and their standard retail rate. Please include these items in **Exhibit A: In-Kind Contribution Schedule,** included in the **Master Sponsorship Agreement**.
- **Ambassador Sponsors** must pay the Richard Hunt Legacy Foundation 100% of the sponsorship fee upon sponsor registration.

Payment must be remitted via ACH transfer, wire transfer, or check payable to the Richard Hunt Legacy Foundation. Fulfillment of sponsorship benefits—including logo placement, print signage, and event recognition—is contingent upon receipt of full payment.

All sponsorship fees are non-refundable; if the benefit concert is postponed due to unforeseen circumstances, this sponsorship will transfer in full to the rescheduled date. Upon receipt of payment, the Richard Hunt Legacy Foundation will issue a written donation acknowledgement detailing any goods or services provided in exchange for the sponsorship in accordance with applicable tax regulations.

If you have any questions, please contact us.