

**THE  
AFRICANA CENTER**



**50<sup>TH</sup>**

**ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATION**

**OCTOBER 18 - 20, 2019**



**Tufts**

## OUR HISTORY:

During the fall of 1969, the Afro-American Cultural Center opened in Carpenter House. While serving as one of the campus' coeducational residence facilities, the Center also consisted of a director and office staff that helped to plan educational, academic, and social programs for the Tufts black student population. The mission of the Center, according to one of its early directors, was to "help the students whom it serves to understand their responsibility as students to themselves, to their families and to their nation." During its early years, the Center sponsored public lectures, art shows, panel discussions, film series, career consultation, and advising workshops, and academic support programs. Among its early accomplishments was the Center's co-sponsoring of the National Black Solidarity Conference, a weeklong series of meetings, lectures, and plenary sessions that brought national as well as local activists, scholars and spokespersons to Tufts in the spring of 1976. From the time of the first directors, William Wright and Allen Colon, to the mid-70s, the African American Center, renamed in 1977, continued its original intent and sought to reach out to more members of the campus community.

Located in Capen House since 1977, the Center continues to create a supportive and welcoming environment through the promotion of the traditions and history of people of African descent. Renamed the Africana Center in 2001 to more accurately portray the diversity of the members of Tufts' African Diaspora, it works with students, faculty, and staff across ethnicities, nationalities, gender, and sexual orientation to celebrate, recognize, and honor the significant contributions of people of African descent to Tufts and the community at large.



## **CELEBRATION EVENTS:**

**Friday, October 18, 2019**

**6 P.M.**

**TUFTS UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY**

### **Welcome Back Opening Reception**

Join the Africana Center as we welcome back the herd to their beloved space of community and personal growth: Tufts University. Register, reunite with friends and classmates, and take in an historical timeline of the Africana Center's legacy while listening to the styling of Joel Larue Smith's Tufts Jazz Quartet as we kick off the celebration of 50 years of Black Excellence at Tufts.

**6:30 - 9 P.M.**

**REMIS SCULPTURE COURT**

### **Alumni Networking**

The weekend would not be complete without some time for networking and connecting. Please join us for drinks and light refreshments while catching up with alumni and others who share your professional interests.

## Saturday, October 19, 2019

**11 A.M. - 12 P.M.**

### **AFRICANA CENTER LOUNGE**

#### **Bruce Griffey Reception**

Come enjoy a buffet-style breakfast and hear the amazing recipients of the 2019 internship grant talk about their internship experience.

**11 - 4 P.M.**

### **AFRICANA CENTER LAWN**

#### **Tufts Black Alumni Association Homecoming Tailgate Affair**

The Tufts Black Alumni Association is excited to host its fifth annual Tufts Black Homecoming Tailgate Affair in conjunction with the Africana Center's 50th Anniversary weekend celebration. The success and growth of this tradition allows Black alumni, administrators, professors, and current students the chance to connect and enjoy Homecoming festivities as only we know how. Embrace the food, spirit, and culture of our growing community with us.

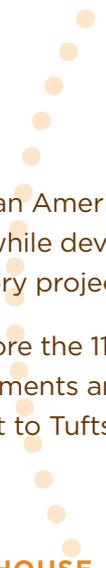
**12 - 1 P.M.**

### **LEAVING FROM AFRICANA CENTER**

#### **African American Trail Walking Tour**

The African American Trail Project is a city-wide organizational network and community-based archive housed at Tufts University. Driven by faculty and student research, the project





maps African American public history sites, known and unknown, while developing collaborative, community-based public history projects across greater Boston.

Come explore the 11 markers on our campus that document the accomplishments and contributions of African Americans past and present to Tufts University.

**7 - 10 P.M.**

**GIFFORD HOUSE**

### **Tuftonian Wakanda Gala on the President's Lawn**

Come dressed in your best Wakandan wares and showcase the regality of Black pride. With an aesthetic to make you feel like you're actually in Wakanda, the gala features a red carpet for you to strut your style. You'll also be served a specialty drink and buffet dinner.

**10:30 P.M. - 1:30 A.M.**

**HOTUNG CAFE**

### **Throw It Back After Party**

Join the Africana Center as we walk down memory lane—but you may remember it as Professors Row—to end the evening! Let's boogie down/groove/jam/get lit to the tunes of yesteryear and today for a throwback party in Hotung Café! No need to change clothing, but we all remember what the party scene was in Capen/Dewick/Hotung afterhours...proceed with caution, but just make sure you make it!

**Sunday, October 20, 2019**

**10 - 11 A.M.**

**SOPHIA GORDON HALL**

**Food for the Soul: A Celebration of Black Joy and Resilience at Tufts, and Closing Jazz Brunch**

Join the Tufts Black Alumni Association and Africana Center for a celebration of Black spirituality, music, and culture at Tufts in honor of the 50th Anniversary of the Tufts University Africana Center. A dynamic group of current students and alumni will share stories that inspire hope and healing with special musical performances.

**Ongoing**



**SLATER CONCOURSE GALLERY,  
AIDEKMAN ARTS CENTER**

**Black Excellence Exhibition  
Celebrating 50 Years of Black  
Excellence at Tufts:  
Student-Facing, Student-Focused**

This exhibit is a comprehensive look at the Africana Center's efforts over the past five decades to be both student-facing, providing a deep and broad range of support directly to students in the Tufts' Africana community, and student-focused by serving as a strong voice for students—collaborating with Tufts administration, admissions, faculty, and staff to create a more inclusive and equitable experience for all.



## SPONSORS

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### Schools/Departments

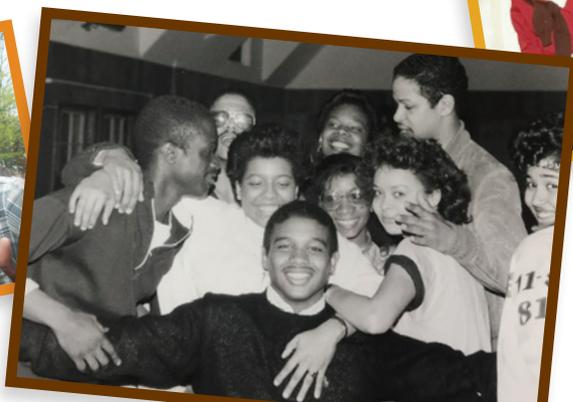
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### Community Partners

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Residential Life and Learning  
Tufts Career Center

## MEMORY BOOK

This Africana Center 50th Anniversary Memory Book is a wonderful way to maintain a link with your classmates—filled with memories and updates from the members of your class. Use these pages to share a treasured memory, meaningful relationship or reflection of your time at Tufts.







**#TuftsBlackExcellence #BlackJumbosCelebrate #TAC50**





# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Africana Center and Tufts Black Alumni Association would like to thank all the individuals and members of the Tufts community who have contributed to the success of this 50th anniversary celebration. We are deeply grateful for your financial leadership and support.

