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MEDIA CONTACT:  
Elizabeth Corkery  
Communications Associate  
Providence College Galleries /  
My HomeCourt  
pcgalleries@providence.edu  
info@myhomecourt.org

## MY HOMECOURT 2023 MURALS DESIGNED BY ARTIST SANFORD BIGGERS; RENOVATED BASKETBALL, TENNIS AND PICKLEBALL COURTS TO OPEN AT NINTH STREET IN OCTOBER 2023

### RELATED EVENTS

#### My HomeCourt Ribbon Cutting & Launch Event

October 4, 4:30 – 6:00pm  
Ninth Street Courts at 9th & Main Streets  
Providence, RI 02906

#### Sanford Biggers In Conversation

October 4, 7:00 – 8:30pm  
RISD Museum Auditorium FREE - [Register Here](#)



At a public launch, non-profit My HomeCourt [MHC] and Providence College Galleries [PCG], in collaboration with Providence Parks, will unveil newly refurbished and designed sports courts at the Ninth Street Courts in Providence’s Mount Hope neighborhood. The renovated basketball and tennis courts, along with new pickleball lines, will feature a court mural designed by the nationally renowned artist Sanford Biggers.

Over the last two decades, Sanford Biggers (b.1970) has developed a singular body of work deeply informed by American history and traditions, and their intersection with urban culture, sacred geometry, and abstracted symbolism. Biggers’ famous Codex series—mixed-media paintings and sculptures done directly on or made from pre-1900 antique quilts—draws from the long-debated narrative that during the 19th century, quilts doubled as signposts along escape routes of the Underground Railroad. Although the artist’s work begins with textiles more than a century old, their unusual yet exuberant color palettes and graphic compositions convey an urban pop sensibility that is distinctly contemporary.

Biggers’ mural design for the Ninth Street courts will build upon his past textile artworks and take inspiration from the unique cultural histories of the neighborhood’s past and present communities.

On being commissioned for My HomeCourt 2023, Biggers says, “I am very excited to receive the invitation to create a new mural at the Ninth St. Courts. I see it as an opportunity to integrate my interest in patchwork, not only as a visual technique, but also as a social platform and stage where members of the community can come together to practice, play, and interact.”



Sanford Biggers by Giancarlo  
Valentine, 2020.  
*Master Key*, 2022  
Courtesy the artist and Marianne  
Boesky Gallery, NYC.



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Jamilee Lacy, who is curating My HomeCourt 2023, explains that she “invited Biggers to design the artwork for this year’s court because of his ongoing interest in cultural intersections. Within the context of the Mount Hope neighborhood, rich with the ancestral narratives of Providence’s Black, Quaker, Jewish and indigenous communities, the artist’s signature quilt-inspired imagery has the capacity to be truly inclusive.”

The artist and organizers of My HomeCourt welcome public participation. Community members and groups who would like to join in the fun at the public launch should contact MHC by email at [info@myhomecourt.org](mailto:info@myhomecourt.org). Providence College students, staff, and faculty should contact PCG by email at: [pcgalleries@providence.edu](mailto:pcgalleries@providence.edu).

For in-progress photos of the mural design development and court construction, follow MHC/ PCG on Instagram: [@my\\_homecourt](https://www.instagram.com/my_homecourt/) / [@pcgalleries](https://www.instagram.com/pcgalleries).

#### **ABOUT SANFORD BIGGERS**

Sanford Biggers (b. 1970) was raised in Los Angeles and currently lives and works in New York City. Biggers has been honored for his work with awards and fellowships. In February 2023, he was honored by Morehouse College for the 2023 Bennie Achievement Award. In 2022, he was honored for his achievements by the Art Production Fund, Orange County Museum of Art and Studio Museum in Harlem’s Lea K. Green Memorial. In 2021, he was the recipient of 26th Heinz Award for the Arts; Savannah College of Art & Design’s deFINE Art Award; and the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Visiting Professor and Scholar in the Department of Architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA. In 2020, he was awarded the Guggenheim Fellowship and appointed Board President at Sculpture Center, Long Island City, NY. Biggers was inducted into the New York Foundation for the Arts Hall of Fame in 2019 and received the American Academy of Arts and Letters Award in 2018. In 2017, he was presented with the Rome Prize in Visual Arts. Biggers was Associate Professor of Visual Arts at Columbia University School of the Arts from 2009-2019.

Through a commission from the Art Production Fund, Biggers presented, *Oracle*, a monumental bronze sculpture and multimedia public art installation at Rockefeller Center in New York City in 2021. *Oracle* traveled to the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA on March 26, 2023 and is currently on view until March 24, 2024. In 2022, Biggers debuted a 24-foot-wide-by-16-foot-tall multimedia outdoor sculpture that operates as a combination and continuation of Biggers’ *Chimera*, *Shimmer*, and *Codex* series at the grand opening of Orange County Museum of Art. His solo museum exhibition, *Codeswitch*, a survey of his *Codex* series of mixed-media paintings and sculptures made with antique quilts was presented at the Bronx Museum of the Arts, Bronx, NY (2020); the California African American Museum, Los Angeles, CA (2021); and the Speed Art Museum, Louisville, KY (2022).



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He has also had solo exhibitions at The Phillips Collection (2021), SCAD Museum of Art (2021), Chazen Museum of Art (2019), Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (2018), the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit (2016), the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (2012), and the Brooklyn Museum (2011), among others. His work has been shown in several institutional group exhibitions, including The Studio Museum in Harlem (2001), Whitney Biennial (2002), the Menil Collection (2008), The Tate Modern (2007), Metropolitan Museum of Art (2017), the Barnes Foundation (2017), Museum of Art & Design, New York (2020), Rubins Museum of Art, New York (2021), and The Centre Pompidou-Metz, Metz, France (2022). Biggers' work is held in the collections of numerous public institutions including the Smithsonian, Museum of Modern Art, Brooklyn Museum, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Whitney Museum of American Art, the Art Institute of Chicago, Los Angeles County Museum of Contemporary Art, National Museum of African American History and Culture, Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, The Bronx Museum of the Arts, among others.

#### **ABOUT MY HOMECOURT**

My HomeCourt [MHC] is a non-profit organization with the mission to foster community engagement through the revitalization of city basketball courts, facilitated by cutting-edge contemporary art. In collaboration with Providence College Galleries, Providence Parks, and various local and international partners, MHC invites internationally-recognized contemporary artists to transform blank basketball courts into colorful, living works of art. MHC came from the idea that we all have our own homecourt; a place to get creative with play, build friendships, and find safety from the chaos beyond the park fences. We believe that revitalizing basketball courts empowers the very people who utilize them. The renewed courts become public artworks that inspire the community, neighborhood, and city alike.

*For more information about MHC, visit [myhomecourt.org](http://myhomecourt.org)*

#### **ABOUT PROVIDENCE COLLEGE GALLERIES**

Providence College Galleries [PCG] presents the art and artists of our time. With its international collection of contemporary art, dynamic exhibitions, public art commissions, and multidisciplinary academic and public programs, PCG showcases contemporary art to affirm and advance aesthetic appreciation, freedom of expression, global diversity, and creative community as hallmarks of a liberal arts education. PCG is free and open to the public.

*For more information about PCG, visit [pcgalleries.providence.edu](http://pcgalleries.providence.edu).*



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### ABOUT PROVIDENCE PARKS

Providence Parks maintains 120 diverse public parks throughout the city, ensuring that every citizen of Providence has access to a safe place to gather, play and explore. Each year, Providence Parks guides MHC in selecting a basketball court to renovate, and helps plan the production schedule. Parks also facilitates dialog between MHC and city officials as well as neighborhood stakeholders.

### ORGANIZERS & SUPPORTERS

In collaboration with Providence Parks, MHC manages one new My HomeCourt project every year. J.H. Lynch and Sons, Scotts Corporation, and JG Coffey Company excavated and resurfaced this year's court site. PCG commissions, curates, and oversees the production of the artwork. Elevated Thought paints the court mural.

Lead funding is provided by MHC, PCG, Providence Parks, and The City of Providence. Generous grants were received from Walmart, The Robbins de Beaumont Foundation, and RISCA. Additional support from The Flanagan Family Fund, The Desert of Maine Fund, Friends of Friar Basketball, Fran Loosen and The Revolver Fund, Pete & Theresa Peterson and Jamilee & Stephen Lacy.

**Are you or your organization interested in sponsoring My HomeCourt now or in the future? Please get in touch!**

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Open Hours  
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