



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 31, 2025

CONTACT:

Grace Aucella

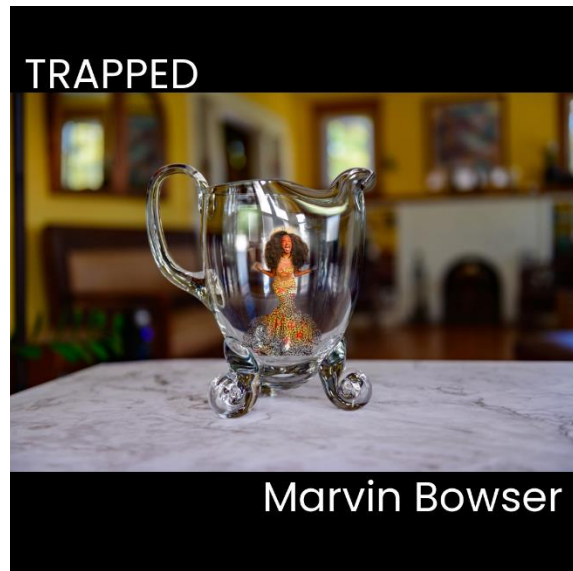
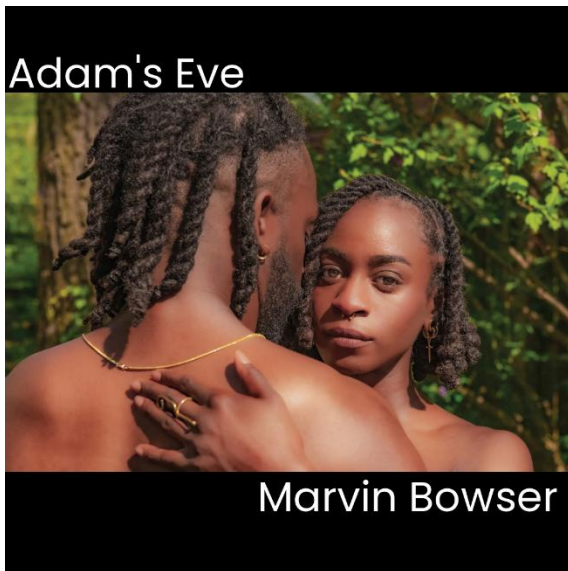
Mount Vernon Triangle CID

(443) 768.1412

grace@mvtcid.org

Mount Vernon Triangle CID Announces Launch of Marvin Bowser's *BlackHair* at MVT Photo Walk

Celebrate Black History Month with Marvin Bowser's BlackHair in Mount Vernon Triangle



Washington, DC – Mount Vernon Triangle Community Improvement District (MVT CID) is pleased to announce the launch of Marvin Bowser's *BlackHair* outdoor photo exhibit at the MVT Photo Walk located on the 400 block of K Street NW and Prather's Alley. The installation is central to MVT CID's annual celebration of Black History Month. *BlackHair* uplifts and celebrates Black culture through the lens of Black hair and speaks to "Black joy, love, beauty, strength, resilience, expression, and fantasy."

In a statement from Bowser: "I hadn't envisioned *BlackHair* as a public art installation when I curated the collection; however, I'm delighted to have it accessible to everyone for their enjoyment."

With photo backdrops ranging as near as Washington, DC's Union Station and as distant as Nice, France, *BlackHair* is Bowser's "love letter to Black people and Black culture." The six-month process to create *BlackHair* started in February 2023, when more than 3,000 images were carefully curated into 41 images – 40 of which are featured in the MVT Photo Walk – that provide Bowser's point-of-view on Black hair and by extension,

Black culture. HEMPHILL Artworks (434 K Street NW) will host an in-person, in-depth artist talk with Q&A on Saturday, February 15 at 11am, with a tour of the photo exhibit led by Bowser to follow. More information on the event will be released via MVT CID's Triangle Times newsletter on Thursday, February 6.

“As an organization we constantly seek new opportunities to maximize use of our public space assets in ways that increase economic opportunity for our businesses while also contributing to the destination appeal of being downtown in Mount Vernon Triangle,” said Kenyattah A. Robinson, President & CEO of the Mount Vernon Triangle Community Improvement District. “We believe that *BlackHair* optimizes our economic and cultural development objectives and are honored that Marvin agreed to display his remarkable work in our Mount Vernon Triangle community in such a significant and public-facing way.”

Funding for *BlackHair* was provided by the DC Office of Planning's [Streets for People Grant Program](#), which seeks to support economic recovery through greater foot traffic on and within DC's streets, sidewalks, alleys, and parks. For more information about the Streets for People Grant Program, visit <https://publicinput.com/dcstreetsforpeople>. *BlackHair* is the fourth MVT Photo Walk exhibit, following “[Through the Looking Glass](#),” “[24 Hours of #LifeInMVT](#),” and “[Mount Vernon Triangle: Community In Detail](#),” the most recent exhibit featuring crowdsourced photos that celebrate #LifeInMVT from the perspective of everyday Mount Vernon Triangle residents and community members.

###

Artist Statement from Marvin Bowser - *Having curated two solo gallery exhibitions, participated in group shows in New York and Art Basel Miami, and created a large-scale public art installation, I love challenging myself with new avenues of creative expression. These opportunities feed my artistic soul and inspire growth; and it's where I feel most alive. Ultimately, my work is about seeing and hearing—acknowledging the stories, lives, and experiences of those often overlooked with a particular focus on the African diaspora. I hope it resonates with people, offering space for reflection, connection, and appreciation for the beauty and richness of every chapter of life.*

About Mount Vernon Triangle Community Improvement District - *The Mount Vernon Triangle Community Improvement District is a private, 501(c)(6) nonprofit organization established to enhance the overall quality of life for residents, workers, and visitors, and to increase commercial opportunities for business and property owners, in the Mount Vernon Triangle neighborhood in downtown DC. A vibrant neighborhood in the heart of the city both geographically and culturally, Mount Vernon Triangle is considered one of Washington DC's best examples of a mixed-use community. Its boundaries include 17 blocks within the East End of downtown Washington, DC, bordered by 7th Street NW to the west, Massachusetts Avenue NW to the south, New York Avenue NW to the north, and New Jersey Avenue NW to the east. Mount Vernon Triangle is a welcoming, authentic, and centered neighborhood that mirrors the city's unique mix of historic and modern buildings, long-time and new residents, and diverse cultures, restaurants, and experiences. For more information about #LifeInMVT, we invite you to explore our website at MountVernonTriangle.org or engage with us on social media on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [Flickr](#).*

For More Information on Marvin Bowser's *BlackHair* at the MVT Photo Walk:
<https://www.mountvernontriangle.org/initiatives/mvt-photo-walk/>