



**Tennessee
TECH**

Annual Winchester Lecture

"20th Century Migration Patterns of African American Tennessee Musicians"

Bryan Pierce, Ph.D.



Dr. Bryan Pierce is the current chief curator of the National Museum of African American Music (NMAAM). He previously held the position of digital archivist at Philander Smith College in Little Rock, Arkansas. In both his academic work and as a museum professional, Pierce has specialized in subterranean African American aesthetics in music and decorative arts. He pursued a Ph.D. from Arkansas State University and throughout his time at ASU, Pierce worked at the Southern Tenant Farmers Museum. He was also on the exhibition development team for the Boyhood Home of Johnny Cash. After completing the doctoral program, Pierce accepted an assistant registrar/curator position with the Department of Arkansas Heritage.

**April 18, 2024
6 p.m.**

**Stonecipher
Lecture Hall,
Room 113**

During his time at NMAAM, he has developed exhibitions that have featured Janet Jackson, Lil Wayne, James Brown, Dr. Bobby Jones, New Edition and the Tennessee State Aristocrat Band. For the 50th anniversary of Hip Hop in 2023, Pierce developed NMAAM's yearlong campaign called "This is Hip Hop," which celebrated Hip Hop culture through programming and exhibitions. One of the museum's premiere temporary exhibition spaces is the lobby exhibition cases. The four cases welcome guests at the 5th Avenue entrance of the museum. Beginning in January of 2023, the museum has been proactive in featuring Tennessee musicians within this lobby exhibition space. In preparation for the exhibitions, a significant amount of information has been gathered regarding migration patterns concerning African American musicians in the state of Tennessee. Pierce's presentation will explore the museum's research regarding the migration patterns of various African American musicians connected to the state between Reconstruction (Fisk Jubilee Singers) to modern day artists (Glorilla).

Free and open to the public.

#CASR377-SEL-24