

ORIGINS

CONTACT

Adam Kenney | Director of Creative Business Accelerator
Bridgeway Capital | 707 Grant Street, Suite 1920 | Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Email: akenney@bridgewaycapital.org | Phone: 615.275.9234

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | JUNE 6, 2021

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

ORIGINS partners with Kelly Strayhorn Theater and Handmade Arcade to showcase creatives with Virtual Marketplace and in-person Pop-Up Market

Over 20 Black-owned creative businesses will sell their artisanal products in two dynamic market opportunities to customers in Pittsburgh and beyond.

ORIGINS and Handmade Arcade will partner to present the ORIGINS Virtual Marketplace featuring a wide range of talented creative businesses. Running from June 17th to 20th, this online shopping event will take place on a platform designed and operated by the Handmade Arcade. It allows customers worldwide to support Black-owned creative businesses in our region that make beautiful handmade products. Below is a list of the makers participating in the ORIGINS Virtual Marketplace.

Djoi Designs
Emmanuelle Ceramics
Mmmm, Yes!
Rebel Bred Clothing
Naptural Beauty Supply
Kool Image Dolls

The Woven Kente
Triple Moon Alchemy
Island Fresh Skincare
Root 28 Clothing
Quiltstyle
Wellness Within

Social Living
Sha'Lari Couture
Blakbird Jewelry
MYND Scent Company
Arts and Crafts Botanica
Espirations Greeting Cards
Lost and Opinionated

"We developed the virtual marketplace to share it with other maker groups like ORIGINS," said Brancolini-Foley, Executive Director of Handmade Arcade. "We're excited to put a regional spotlight on these dynamic makers that generates meaningful sales."

In conjunction with the virtual marketplace, ORIGINS is partnering with the Kelly Strayhorn Theater to host a pop-up market where locals can meet and buy from these dynamic makers. The ORIGINS Pop-Up Market will feature 7 Black creatives on Saturday, June 19th, 2021, from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm, alongside the exhibition opening for MAGNIFICENT MOTOWN! from Women of Visions.



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ORIGINS | Creative Business Accelerator at Bridgeway Capital
707 Grant Street, Suite 1920, Pittsburgh, PA 15216
www.originspgh.org

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The ORIGINS Pop-up Market will be located outside in the entrance vestibule of the theater with tables hosted by Karen W Quilts, Espirations Greeting Cards, Rebel Bred Clothing, The Woven Kente, Sha'Lari Couture, Root 28 Clothing, and MYND Scent Company.

Both events will feature a wide range of products from Black creatives the Pittsburgh area. Each maker brings a different combination of handmade quality and compelling personal narrative to the products they offer.

Selima Dawson, the creative entrepreneur behind Blackbird Jewelry, creates stunning, handmade jewelry out of a range of metals. "I view my pieces as art that happens to be in the form of jewelry," states Dawson. "My approach to creating jewelry is similar to my approach to painting – I want to create a mood and tell a story with each piece."

"There aren't many brands that promote strong values and highlight historical African American figures, and I wanted to change that," observes Nathan Brooks, the designer behind Rebel Bred Clothing. "Building this brand has been therapeutic and opened up a window of creativity I never knew was possible for myself."

For more information on these two events, please visit the websites below:

ORIGINS Virtual Marketplace: <https://www.handmadedearcade.org/marketplaces/2021-origins-virtual-marketplace/>

KST Pop-Up Market: <https://www.originspgh.org/opportunities/pop-up-market-kelly-strayhorn-theater/>

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About ORIGINS: ORIGINS supports and celebrates Black makers, designers, artists, and craftspeople starting and sustaining creative businesses in the Pittsburgh area. It is a multifaceted effort driven by Bridgeway Capital's Creative Business Accelerator to foster personal pathways for Black creatives to maximize business success, creative growth, and community impact. More information at <https://www.originspgh.org>

About Creative Business Accelerator at Bridgeway Capital: Bridgeway Capital, a Pittsburgh-based social impact investor, operates the Creative Businesses Accelerator (CBA), which empowers makers, designers, artists, and craftspeople to grow and contribute to equitable economic growth. More information at www.bridgewaycapital.org/creative-business-accelerator

