

'A Line in the Sand'

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the harsh racial divide."

René said she spent several weeks researching before painting her work featured in the exhibit. The paintings include six new works and two reproductions from her original painting series.

"My family is from West Cape May and Cape May, and my mom would tell me that [segregation] is why we went to Grant Street beach," René said. "As I got older, I learned about where Blacks went to the beach for segregation, and it became tradition."

Using her family's photos for historical reference, René used acrylic paint for the backgrounds and oil paint for the people. Pictures of her grandmother and other family members are part of the CCA collection. René's family still visits the Grant Street beach today.

"Although it started as part of segregation, going to Grant Street beach was tradition, [people] would run into classmates, friends and spend family time together," she said. "[The paintings feature] the everyday joy of spending time with family and in the water. It's part of those beach moments that anyone can relate to."

Gaines and the Community History Committee were instrumental in organizing the CCA-provided photos.

"The pictures and quotes have been collected over a 30-year period of interviewing the Black community," Gaines said. "Some of the people we don't know other than the writing on the photos. They're beach pictures that everybody has, photos of their family on the beach, and that's what we like about them."

Gaines said there were thousands of photos, but the ones selected for the exhibit were among CCA's favorites. Much of the information in the exhibit comes from the book "Black Voices of Cape May," which CCA's Community History Committee published in 2022.

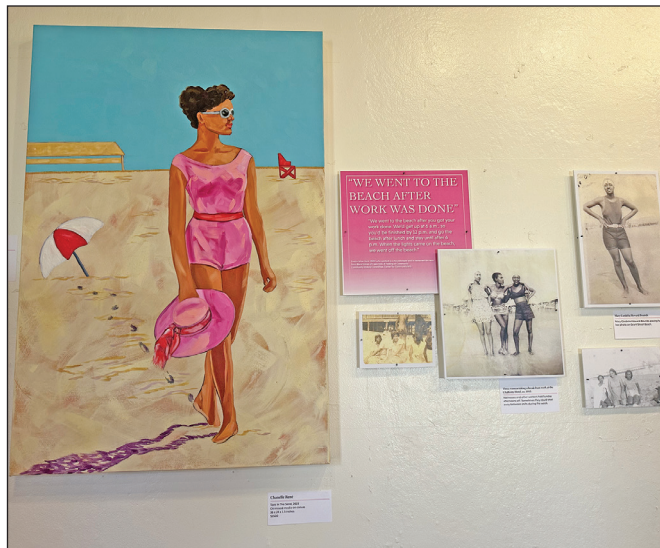
"The book helped provide some great content and context for what [life] was like at that time," Krysiak said. "We can only touch on it, everybody's experience is individual, and we can't simply say this is how it was for everyone."

The CBBHF provided the photos featuring Missouri Avenue beach in Atlantic City.

"It's always a pleasure to be involved in any exhibit," Chicken Bone Beach Historical Foundation copresenter Henrietta Shelton said. "It's my pleasure to honor the beach, because when I came back to Atlantic City, people didn't know how dynamite the north side used to be."

Shelton explained the name of the Missouri Avenue beach probably originated from the chicken bones left in the sand by beachgoers.

"People coming into Atlantic City didn't know what restaurants they could eat in, so to make sure their family had something to eat they would bring their own food to last all day long," she said. "When the beaches were cleaned, they must



Rachel Shubin/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

The exhibit includes original artwork by artist Channele Rene mixed with photos from the 1960s and interpretive signage.

have found bones in the sand and named it Chicken Bone Beach in a derogatory [way], but it became an affectionate name only the locals knew."

Preserving the rich Black history of Cape May is a shared goal between MAC and CCA.

"We are happy to have featured artist Channele René back again," MAC director and CEO Jody Alessandrine said. "[The exhibit] is a continuation of our partnership with CCA, something we do every year."

MAC's Diversity, Equality, Accessibility & Inclusion Team (DEAI) is "committed to telling the whole story of the happy

things, the not so happy things, the fair things, and the not so far things."

"We believe that's our mission, and this is one of the programmatic things we're doing to celebrate Black history," he said. "We continue to further those endeavors through grants, unconscious bias training for our employees and we're going to have another training grant we'll apply for to extend for our frontline employees."

Brainstorming a name for the exhibit was yet another collaborative effort among all the contributing parties. "A Line in the Sand" was Alessandrine's suggestion.

TIDES: Jan. 17-24, 2024

DATE	HIGH		LOW	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
17	12:22	12:39	6:21	6:45
18	1:20	1:39	7:28	7:39
19	2:23	2:47	8:38	8:38
20	3:29	3:55	9:48	9:37
21	4:29	4:55	10:50	10:33
22	5:23	5:49	11:46	11:26
23	6:13	6:40		12:36
24	6:59	7:26	12:15	1:20

MOON PHASES

First quarter, Jan. 18 • full moon, Jan. 25

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