EXHIBIT OF RENOWNED DETROIT ARTIST M. SAFFELL GARDNER TO OPEN FEBRUARY 15 AT WAYNE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT’S BROWN AND JUANITA C. FORD GALLERY AT CURTIS L. IVERY DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

DETROIT, Mich. – Feb. 14, 2023 – An exhibit featuring the paintings and sculpture of renowned Detroit-based artist M. Saffell Gardner will open with a 5:30 p.m. reception Wednesday, February 15, 2023, at Wayne County Community College District’s Brown and Juanita C. Ford Gallery at the Curtis L. Ivery Downtown Campus. The campus is located at 1001 West Fort Street in Detroit. The reception and exhibit are open to the public at no cost. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. through 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

M. Saffell Gardner holds BFA and MFA degrees in painting from Wayne State University, where he is now a professor, and has exhibited his paintings, sculpture, murals, and mixed
media art throughout the U.S., Jamaica, Brazil, and Ghana, Africa. Gardner was honored with the prestigious Kresge Artist Fellowship in 2015.

His sculpture “Lost Kings” was included in the 2021 Regional Biennial at the Marshall M. Fredricks Sculpture Museum at Saginaw Valley State University. Gardner was selected for ArtPrize for 2014 and was invited to show in The Venice Biennale 2013. Gardner’s work is in the permanent collection of the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, Henry Ford Hospital, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Detroit Medical Center, Total Healthcare, The Federal Reserve, as well as Chicago and the Detroit Public Schools Community District.

His art pays homage to the fundamentals of abstract painting, featuring bold color palettes and shapes that serve as a meditation on history and culture to “bring the knowledge of the past forward.” Gardner’s sculptor uses bold metallic forms, broad strokes of color, and personal iconography to explore a variety of themes on African American identity, ritual, and ancestry.

The exhibit will be on display through March 22, 2023 and is presented in partnership with the WCCCD School of Continuing Education. For more information regarding the exhibit, email artgallery@wcccd.edu, call 313-496-2704 or visit www.wcccd.edu.

About WCCCD:
WCCCD, one of the largest urban community colleges in Michigan, is a multi-campus district with six campus locations and educational centers, including the Mary Ellen Stempfle University Center, the Heinz C. Prechter Educational and Performing Arts Center, the Michigan Institute for Public Safety Education (MIPSE), the Curtis L. Ivery Health and Wellness Education Center and the Outdoor Careers Training Center. The District serves students across 32 cities and townships, and more than 500 square miles. WCCCD is committed to the continued development of innovative programs, workforce transformation, hosting community-based training sessions, and improving student facilities and services. www.wcccd.edu.