



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Hannah Armenta – Engagement Manager  
harmenta@nearwesttheatre.org  
216-961-9750

**The West Clinton Historic Haunts Walking Tours Return**  
***Bank of America Presents a Haunting Journey into Cleveland's Mysterious Past***

CLEVELAND – September 3, 2024 – Get ready to step into a world of chilling mysteries, historical intrigue, and spine-tingling tales as Near West Theatre, in collaboration with West Clinton Block Club and Bank of America, proudly presents the 4th annual West Clinton Historic Haunts. Taking place on October 3, 4, and 5, this family-friendly interactive walking tour is set to captivate and entertain audiences.

Held in the charming residential areas surrounding the Gordon Square Arts District, Historic Haunts offers an immersive experience that blends Cleveland's rich history with spine-tingling urban legends. Beloved figures such as Ray Caldwell, Garrett Morgan, May Dougan, and even Bessie will return to haunt the area. They will be joined by some of Ohio's most infamous legends, including Moth Man and Bloody Mary, promising an unforgettable night of eerie encounters.

"Near West Theatre is honored to once again partner with the residents of our neighborhood to produce this event for our fourth year," says Mike Obertacz, executive director of Near West Theatre. "Historic Haunts has become a signature community event bringing artists, families and the Gordon Square Arts District neighborhood closer together through creative and accessible storytelling."

"The neighborhood is buzzing with excitement for this year's three-day West Clinton Historic Haunts event where spooky Cleveland stories will be shared on neighbors' front porches," says David Mitalksi, member of the West Clinton Block Club. "Everyone is eagerly anticipating the festive atmosphere and the chance to come together for some Halloween fun!"

The Walking Tours is a ticketed event with limited days and available timeslots and has sold out the past three years. It is recommended to purchase your tickets as soon as possible to ensure your participation. Tickets are only \$12 for Ages 10 & up and \$5 for Ages 2-9.

Historic Haunts is made possible through generous support from our sponsors, Bank of America, Northwest Neighborhoods Community Development Corporation, the Gordon Square Arts District Special Improvement District, and Councilmember Jenny Spencer, make Historic Haunts possible. It is also supported by generous donations from local businesses and residents. It is a grassroots neighborhood collaboration tapping the immense potential of the Gordon Square Arts District and all its creative forces.

###

#### About the West Clinton Block Club

Steps from the Gordon Square Arts District, West Clinton Avenue is a residential street in the Detroit Shoreway neighborhood featuring turn-of-the-century historic homes. As one of the oldest active block clubs in Cleveland, the West Clinton Block Club is passionate about community building, improving the quality of life for residents, and finding ways to strengthen and improve the area we call home. The Block Club is proud of its myriad contributions to the neighborhood, including the West Clinton Labyrinth pocket park, its designation as both a nationally and locally recognized Historic District, and, of course, Historic Haunts.

#### About Near West Theatre

Near West Theatre builds loving relationships and engages diverse people in strengthening their sense of identity, passion, and purpose, individually and in community, through accessible, affordable, and transformational theatre arts experiences. Since 1978, Near West Theatre has been shaping, changing, and even saving the lives of children, teens, and adults. The community theater hosts a variety of free community events and free after-school programs to underline its commitment to accessibility for all people. The organization serves people of all ages, but a focus on youth goes back to its founding and continues to this day. Near West Theatre is a member of Community Shares and generously funded by the Ohio Arts Council and by the Citizens of Cuyahoga County through Cuyahoga Arts & Culture.

#### Suggested Performance Listing

**Near West Theatre**, 6702 Detroit Ave., Cleveland's Gordon Square Arts District. Box Office: 216-961-6391 or [nearwesttheatre.org](http://nearwesttheatre.org). West Clinton Historic Haunts runs **October 3 from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm, and October 4, and 5 from 6:30 - 9:30 pm** with tours leaving every 10 minutes. The family-friendly tours run approximately 1 hour. General Admission: Tickets: Ages 10 & up - \$12, Ages 2-9 - \$5. West Clinton Historic Haunts is presented through sponsorship with Bank of America, Northwest Neighborhoods Community Development Corporation, the Gordon Square Arts District Special Improvement District, and Councilmember Jenny Spencer.