This exhibition, featuring the photography of native Oklahoman Ron Tarver, explores the legacy of Deep Deuce through its architecture. From the grand historical edifice of Calvary Baptist Church to the clapboard frame of the Open Hand Mission, the images evoke the essence of the area, and the people who created it. Akin to Harlem of the 1930’s, Deep Deuce spawned such legendary figures as jazz guitarist Charlie Christian, “blues shouter” Jimmy Rushing, and the internationally acclaimed writer, Ralph Ellison. Deep Deuce attracted African-American professionals of every stripe – Roscoe Dunjee, Dr. Frederick Douglas Moon, Mrs. Lucy Tucker, Dr. William Lewis Haywood, Mary and Sydney Lyons. These doctors, educators, entrepreneurs, and activists came together, creating a critical mass that transformed 2nd Street and the surrounding neighborhood into a thriving corridor of Oklahoma City.

Born and raised in Fort Gibson, Oklahoma, photographer Ron Tarver has devoted much of his professional career to documenting the African American Experience. A staff photographer for the Philadelphia Inquirer for over 20 years, Tarver has earned numerous awards, grants, and fellowships, including: a 2001 Pew Fellowship in the Arts; the 2001 Margaret Danby Visual Arts Award from the Black Liberated Arts Center, Oklahoma City; and a 1993 Pennsylvania Council on the Arts grant to explore the lives of modern day African American cowboys.