This exhibit features photographs taken by native Oklahoman, Ron Tarver. He explored and focused his lens on 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 1930s, 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, including doctors, educators, entrepreneurs, and activists who 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.