

# ABOUT GAMMA XI PHI

MEMBERSHIP AND EXPANSION PROSPECTUS





#### RASHID DARDEN, NATIONAL PRESIDENT

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Dear Artists and Creators,

The members of Gamma Xi Phi have provided artistic service to the public and thoughtful leadership to creative communities for over a decade. This fraternity has grown from four students attending Ramapo College in New Jersey to over 100 elite artists and creators serving a dozen communities in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom.

I joined Gamma Xi Phi early on. Although I have been an active and fulfilled member of various fraternal organizations, none had yet recognized me as a total person: a man seeking his way as a literary artist with little support and no community to speak of.

To quote a dear Brother, joining Gamma Xi Phi "just made sense." Our fraternity ritual, to us, is an act of radical self-care—an anti-racist, decolonized, beautiful and uplifting experience that reminds us of our core values and who we were chosen to be.

My duty is to share Gamma Xi Phi's values of Philanthropy, Sodality, and Elevation with the world; to identify new members who seek more than recognition and a moment on social media. My goal is to see more artists performing more artistic service in more communities all around the world, from major urban centers like the one in which I was raised, to rural and remote areas, like the town in which I currently live.

I hope that this prospectus helps you understand Gamma Xi Phi better. We are interested in your interest.

Artistically and fraternally,

Daden .

Rashid Darden, National President

PS - Please reach out to me if you have any questions. My email address is president@gammaxiphi.com.







#### ABOUT GAMMA XI PHI

GAMMA XI PHI [pronounced GAM-uh ZYE FYE] is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization for men and women in the arts. It is an anti-racist, non-hazing, all-gender professional fraternity. Members are engaged in literature, visual arts, performing arts, architecture, gastronomy, crafts, design, production, arts management, arts education, arts administration, and intellectual property law.

Gamma Xi Phi was established on October 7, 2010, at Ramapo College of New Jersey, by four students who were interested in forging fraternal and professional bonds between established and aspiring artists. The cardinal principles of the fraternity are **Philanthropy**, **Sodality**, and **Elevation**.

#### PURPOSE MISSION VISION

The purpose of Gamma Xi Phi is to honor the achievements of artists through fellowship, philanthropy, social justice, and service.

Gamma Xi Phi promotes philanthropy and service to the arts, brotherhood among all artists, and leadership development in artistic professions through collegiate and community outreach to people of color across the world. Gamma Xi Phi creates a world in which artists are valued as thoughtful and justice-oriented leaders in their communities and in their careers.

Membership in Gamma Xi Phi is extended only to those who have received a formal invitation from a chapter of the fraternity or the National Board of Trustees. Those who gain the attention of Gamma Xi Phi typically possess artistic achievement and acclaim; have documented commitment to social justice, mentoring, and service; and possess a zeal for community and connection.

As a professional fraternity, Gamma Xi Phi welcomes potential members who are members of social fraternities and sororities, honor societies, and any organization that is not a fellow multi-disciplinary arts fraternity.

Those invited to membership in Gamma Xi Phi voluntarily commit to supporting the fraternity's program of service through their time, their leadership, and their financial investment.









#### NATIONAL PROGRAM: I SWEAR

I SWEAR is the permanent National Program of Gamma Xi Phi. Chapters of the fraternity implement artistic projects, programs, and activities under the topics of Service, Wellness, Edification, Advocacy, and Recognition.

#### **EDIFICATION** SERVICE **WELLNESS ADVOCACY** RECOGNITION Skills and Artistic service Promotion of Support of arts-Awards and to vulnerable physical and knowledge positive policies recognition of artists mental health, development at the municipal, communities. in the community. state, federal, museums, self-care, through and international and cultural and suicide conversations, seminars, and preservation prevention. levels. organizations. workshops



Beta Chapter of Gamma Xi Phi in Washington, DC continued its relationship in 2014 with the Life Skills Center of DC with an art supply drive. The Center provides an educational environment for adults with developmental disabilities.



Theta Chapter of Gamma Xi Phi, the fraternity for artists, presented a virtual panel discussion featuring three North Carolina-based filmmakers in May 2021. The artists' projects involved a traveling revue during the Jim Crow era, Afro-Indigenous residents of North Carolina, and the fight for justice through video and song.



During Black History Month 2022, the Beta Lambda Chapter of Gamma Xi Phi, serving rural and remote areas of the South Atlantic Region, partnered with the Mu Alpha Alumni Association of Alpha Phi Omega to provide over 90 books for the Northampton County (NC) Detention Center and to the Free Minds Book Club and Writing Workshop for incarcerated youth.









### GAMMA XI PHI MEMBERS ARE...

<b>Inspired</b> by their close work with fellow members.	Collaborators across disciplines.	Connected to each other through professional networking.	Friends across generations.
Mindful of the legacies they build in their communities.	<b>Deeply</b> connected to the community through artistic service.	<b>Prosperous</b> because of their enhanced profiles in the community.	<b>Supportive</b> of one another's projects.

### NOTABLE MEMBERS OF GAMMA XI PHI INCLUDE

	<b>E. Ethelbert Miller</b> , poet, activist, and co-editor of <i>Beyond the Frontier: African American Poetry for the 21st Century</i>	Nette Forne Thomas, visual artist and president of Pen + Brush, a nonprofit organization fighting for gender equity in the arts.	Seyi Peter-Thomas, Emmy award-winning director.
Nadia Fisher, illustrator and justice advocate.  Steven Van Patten, African American Literary Award-winning novelist and television stage manager.		Allen Uzikee Nelson, sculptor	Melanie S. Hatter, author of Malawi's Sisters and The Color of My Soul
		V. L. Cox, visual artist known for her "End Hate" project.	Thomas DeFrantz, Professor in the Department of African and African American Studies at Duke University.
	Rain Pryor, actress, comedian, singer, and writer.	<b>B.J. Simmons</b> , saxophonist and composer.	<b>La Toya Hankins</b> , author of <i>SBF</i> Seeking and <i>K-Rho</i> : The Sweet Taste of Sisterhood.









#### ΓΞΦ PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Professional membership in Gamma Xi Phi is the predominant pathway to membership in the fraternity. It is extended only to those who have received a formal invitation from a chapter of the fraternity or from the National Board of Trustees in the case of new chapters. Artists and arts-serving professionals who hope to charter a new chapter of Gamma Xi Phi in their communities should contact <code>ExecutiveDirector@gammaxiphi.com</code>.

#### ΓΞΦ AT-LARGE MEMBERSHIP

At-large membership is a type of professional membership in Gamma Xi Phi. It is extended only to those who have received a formal invitation from the National Board of Trustees and reside in rural, remote, or international areas. At-large membership is not extended to individuals living in areas that could otherwise sustain a chapter.

#### ΓΞΦ COLLEGIATE MEMBERSHIP

Collegiate membership in Gamma Xi Phi is conferred exclusively through collegiate chapters. Collegiate chapters only exist at colleges and universities which both the fraternity and the host institutions agree may sustain a chapter.

Collegiate membership is extended only to those students and their advisors who have received a formal invitation from a collegiate chapter or the National Board of Trustees.

Prospective collegiate members have excellent grades in their artistic majors or minors and are already entrenched in the campus arts. They are known for their achievements in the arts; commitment to service and social justice; and possess a zeal for community and connection.

As a professional fraternity, Gamma Xi Phi welcomes potential members who are members of social fraternities and sororities, honor societies, and any organization that is not a fellow multi-disciplinary arts fraternity.

Those invited to membership in Gamma Xi Phi voluntarily commit to supporting the fraternity's program of service through their time, their leadership, and their financial investment, both as collegiate members and after their graduation.

## SUMMARY OF COLLEGIATE CHARTERING PROCEDURES

GAMMA XI PHI requires collegiate chapters to have **two on-campus advisors** who are devoted to the success and longevity of the chapter and are likewise interested in membership in the fraternity. Once those advisors have been secured from the faculty or staff of the institution, the following steps are followed:

- Ten students (or the minimum required by the institution) are recruited from among English, Architecture, Fine Arts, Dance, Music, and Theater majors, and from among any student who has a demonstrable career or interest in the arts or an arts-supporting field.
- The students and advisors form a temporary club that is established for the purposes of becoming a recognized interest group of Gamma Xi Phi.
- The students and advisors submit a petition for a charter which include individual member applications, a roster of members, and letters of support from the university.
- The National Board of Trustees provides the final say on membership for all petitioners.
- If the charter is approved, the interest group becomes an official interest group, pays a charter fee of \$750, and begins planning a chartering celebration in tandem with the National Board of Trustees.
- The detailed chartering procedures are available upon request.







#### **IMPORTANT QUESTIONS**

### I received an invitation to membership, but I am not a full-time artist. Am I eligible?

Gamma Xi Phi membership is open to artists (visual, performing, literary, culinary, and architecture) *and* arts-serving professionals, including administrators, entertainment lawyers, agents, and educators.

#### How much does it cost?

Except for a nominal registration fee, Gamma Xi Phi does not charge dues. We believe that members should donate as they are able, and as they are led.

#### What is the time commitment?

Chapter members are encouraged to volunteer two hours a month in service to the fraternity. Chapter officers volunteer up to six hours a month, and national officers volunteer up to ten hours a month.

### Am I eligible for membership if I am already a member of a fraternity or sorority?

Yes. Except for other multidisciplinary arts fraternities, Gamma Xi Phi does not discriminate based on other fraternal or sororal affiliation.

#### What does the membership process entail?

There is no membership intake process. Membership is by invitation only. All relevant member education occurs within the initiation ceremony.

## Can I become a member of Gamma Xi Phi if I have not completed, or have never attended college?

Professional chapters are open to adults who are working artists or arts-serving professionals, regardless of college experience.

### Gamma Xi Phi is predominately African American, but I am not. Am I still eligible?

The fraternity does not discriminate on the basis of race. Potential members should be committed to anti-racism in their craft and in their lives.

#### I am currently a full-time college student, but there is no active chapter on my campus. What are my options?

Please visit the Collegiate Expansion section of this prospectus. If a chapter on your campus is not viable, please contact the National Executive Director for guidance.

#### **NEXT STEPS**

If you have received an invitation to membership, please respond to it with your answer as soon as possible. If you have not received an invitation to membership, we welcome you to attend fraternity events which are open to the public.

If you have further questions, please contact ExecutiveDirector@gammaxiphi.com.

