THE BLACK ARTS in the white west, were these practices whereby a man could harness the darker forces of the universe, to work at his bidding. Black Magic was what they worked, reaching out past what anybody said could be gotten, to pick up still deeper, still more elemental, more basic, blacker powers. The black man in this white west, especially American, needs these blacker powers, or more exactly, he needs to realize that these powers are his, are always at his disposal, to be used, the way they were always said to have been used, to change the world. Which is what magic does, changes the world into the magician's image of it. The black artist is a black magician. He has the powers of darkness at his disposal, they are the extension of himself into any anonymous world, the reason whereby he defines that world to be what he sees, wants, it to be. THE BLACK ARTS is a school for black artists: black magicians. It is also a center where the magic art of these black people can be seen. Music, Dance, Poetry, Drama, the Plastic Arts, are part of TBA's concerns, i.e., letting black people know what these are formally, so they may understand even more precisely, the strength of their minds. This is not "art for art's sake", this is art for the sake of world spirit, for the sake of restoring cultural understanding to the American black man, so that he may be better able to judge what's happening with the world, and so that he may discover how to take over his rightful place, master of the powers of darkness, powers that animate and give beauty to the world. As a repertory theatre The Black Arts will project images of black power, to move, delight, and instruct black people. The school will not only teach black arts but mathematics and reading and writing, as remedial courses, as well as special courses in practical job training, e.g., clerical skills and key punch and digital computer operations. There will also be a children's theatre, Saturday afternoons, where a new image of the world will be given to our youth, so that they may be better able to determine in the future how they want to live, despite the weakness and futility of their fathers. We will teach all black men to be black artists, and to grow even stronger in this image of themselves, for it is definitely time for the black man to look at himself, and judge himself in terms of his needs. We understand, though it is a painful recognition, that some men prefer to be weak and oppressed rather than face their enemies but we also understand that there are some men who would rather die than remain slaves. The Black Arts is addressed to the last group, with hopes that they will want to help us to help themselves.

Le Roi Jones, 1965