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Smithsonian's Anacostia Community Museum Benefit Luncheon Features Johnnetta Cole as Keynote Speaker

Johnnetta Betsch Cole, director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of African Art, is the featured keynote speaker for "Jubilee," the 42nd anniversary luncheon of the Smithsonian's Anacostia Community Museum. The luncheon, which is a fundraiser for the museum, will take place Tuesday, Sept. 15, at noon at the National Press Club Ballroom.

Colbert I. King, a Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist at the Washington Post, will be awarded the John R. Kinard Leadership in Community Service Award during the event. Kinard was founding director of the Anacostia Community Museum from its inception until his death in 1989. Dorothy I. Height, chair and president emerita of the National Council of Negro Women, is honorary chairperson for the benefit, which also features a silent auction of a piece by renowned artist Sam Gilliam. Bruce Johnson, weekend anchor for WUSA Channel 9, is the master of ceremonies.

Among her many achievements, Cole has served as president of two southern colleges, Bennett College for Women in Greensboro, N.C., and Spelman College in Atlanta, where she generated a \$20 million gift from Bill and Camille Cosby. Most recently, she held a distinguished professorship at Emory University. She is currently the board chair of the Johnnetta B. Cole Global Diversity and Inclusion Institute founded at Bennett College, which supports diversity in the workplace.

"Jubilee" is the culminating event of "Jubilee: African American Celebration," the museum's original and insightful exhibition on view through Sept. 20. Through a colorful, season-organized examination of historical and contemporary holidays and traditions, the exhibition offers a clever discussion of accomplishment and triumph in African American history and culture. The luncheon is organized by the museum's advisory board, chaired by Gloria Herndon, and tickets are \$125. For information on tickets call (202) 633-4875 or visit anacostia.si.edu.

Major sponsors for the benefit are CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield, GB Herndon and Associates, Lynne and Joseph Horning Jr., Diane Scott-Jones and John E. Jones Jr., The Washington Informer and Pepco.

The Anacostia Community Museum opened in southeast Washington in 1967 as the nation's first federally funded neighborhood museum. Adopting its current name in 2006, the museum has expanded its focus from an African American emphasis to documenting, interpreting and collecting objects related to the impact of historical and contemporary social issues on communities. For more information on the museum, the public may call (202) 633-1000 or (202) 633-5285 (TTY); for tours, call (202) 633-4844. Web site: anacostia.si.edu.

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