



Media only: Marcia Baird Burris (202) 633-4876; (202) 320.1735 cell
bairdburrism@si.edu

Nov. 2009

Media Web site: newsdesk.si.edu; anacostia.si.edu

December 2009 Calendar for the Smithsonian's Anacostia Community Museum

All exhibitions and programs, unless otherwise indicated, take place at the Smithsonian's Anacostia Community Museum at 1901 Fort Place S.E., Washington, D.C., which is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. except Dec. 25. For more information, call (202) 633-4820, (202) 633-1000 or visit anacostia.si.edu for updated program schedules.

Public Programs: All events are free, open to the public and require reservations which can be made at (202) 633-4844 unless otherwise indicated.

Exhibitions

On View

The African Presence in Mexico: From Yanga to the Present **

Nov. 8 - July 4, 2010

This is a traveling exhibition developed by curators Sagrario Cruz-Carretero and Cesáreo Moreno at the National Museum of Mexican Art in Chicago. The exhibition looks at the history, culture, and art of Afro-Mexicans, and begins in the colonial era and continues to present day. Included in the presentation is the companion exhibition, "Who Are We Now? Roots, Resistance and Recognition" curated by Elena Gonzáles. Highlights of the exhibition include "casta" paintings—paintings used to delineate racial categories and the ever-increasing complexity of racial mixture; discussions of African slavery in Mexico and the hero/slave rebel Yanga; artifacts related to the traditions and popular culture of the Afro-Mexicans; and many paintings, masks, photography, and other works of art.

On View Indefinitely

Separate and Unequaled: Black Baseball in the District of Columbia

After a recent successful run at the Historical Society of Washington, D.C., a condensed version of this popular exhibition is on view at the museum. From Reconstruction to the second half of the 20th century, baseball—the great American pastime—was played in Washington, D.C., on segregated fields. "Separate and Unequaled" looks at the phenomenal popularity and community draw of this sport when played by African Americans. Featured are such personalities as Josh Gibson and "Buck" Leonard, star players of the Negro Leagues' most celebrated team, the Washington Homestead Grays. The show also highlights community teams that gave rise to the various amateur, collegiate and semi-pro black baseball teams and leagues.

SI-525-2009

Public Program Calendar

Film

Tuesday, Dec. 8; 10:30 a.m.—Film

Against the Odds: The Artists of the Harlem Renaissance

The period of the 1920s and 1930s encompassed an extraordinary outburst of creativity by African American visual artists. Racial prejudice and segregation threatened the very core of their personal artistic expression. "Against the Odds" tells how black artists triumphed over formidable odds. Robert Hall, head of the museum's Education Department, will facilitate a discussion of the film. (60 min.)

Music

Various Sundays though Sept. 12, 2010—Lecture/Demonstration, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Rhythm Café

Featured is a lecture and performance jazz series in a café setting that focuses on a specific genre or time frame within the jazz culture. The two-hour program will be led by a guest lecturer providing historical information during the first hour followed by a musical group performing that music during the second hour. Visit anacostia.si.edu for updated series schedule.

Sunday, Dec. 13; 11 a.m.—Discussion/Demonstration

Rhythm Café - Afro-Mexican Music from Costa Chica and Veracruz

This session presents an historical discussion and a live demonstration about the birth and development of music from the areas of Mexico where there is a strong African presence. Featured is a live music demonstration by the group, Cosita Seria, illustrating how synthesized musical forms draw from two distinctly different countries. Space is limited. Reservations required by Friday, Dec. 11. Call (202).633-4866. Visit anacostia.si.edu for updated series schedule.

Workshops, Talks and Books

Saturday, Dec. 5; 1 p.m.—Presentation

Africa's Legacy in Mexico and Central and South America

Photographer Tony Gleaton examines the African Diaspora in Mexico, Belize, Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, Peru, Bolivia, Uruguay, and Brazil. Gleaton's photographs, provocative images taken primarily in Mexico's Costa Chica with some time spent in Veracruz and the mountainous regions west of Oaxaca, speak to the social construction of race. He will discuss his work in Mexico within the context of his larger project, "Tengo Casi 500 Años (I Have Almost 500 Years): Africa's Legacy in the Americas."

Wednesday, Dec. 9; 7: p.m.—Talk

Casta Paintings and the Image of Race in Mexico

Sagrario Cruz-Carretero, professor of anthropology at the University of Veracruz and co-curator of The African Presence in Mexico exhibition, discusses casta painting and the caste system images that document the presence and socio-economic roles of Africans, Indians, and Spaniards in colonial Mexico. She also offers insights on contemporary presentations of Afro-Mexican images.

Saturday, Dec. 12; 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.—Workshop

Make a Free-Form Art Quilt!

All thumbs with a needle and thread? Make a small art quilt with fabric, pencils, scissors, fusible webbing, beads, thread, a pressing iron, and your imagination. Quilting skills are not required. Reserve your space by Dec. 1.

Six Saturdays: Dec. 19 - Sept. 18, 2010—Jewelry-Making Workshops

10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Making Bling!

Bedazzled jewelry designer Kathleen Manning leads a series of seven workshops on creating jewelry using semi-precious stones including onyx, malachite, lapis, jasper, and fresh water pearls. Participants will make three pieces of jewelry during each of the sessions. Cost for the first session, including tool kit, is \$100.00. Subsequent sessions are \$75.00 each. Space is limited; reservations required. Call (202) 633-4866. Visit anacostia.si.edu for updated series schedule.

Saturday, Dec. 19; 10:30 a.m.—Jewelry-Making Workshop

Making Bling!

Design and create a bracelet, necklace and earrings. Reservations required. Call (202) 633-4866.

Kwanzaa Series

Saturday, Dec. 26; 10:30 a.m.—Kwanzaa Workshop

Kwanzaa: Umoja (Unity)

Join in this festive, hands-on musical workshop by world renowned music historian Brother Ah as he explores the Kwanzaa unity principle through musical instruments. This Unity celebration is designed for the whole family.

Monday, Dec. 28; 10:30 a.m.—Kwanzaa Workshop

Kwanzaa: Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility)

Participate in an arts and craft workshop while learning about the collective work and responsibility principle of Kwanzaa. The focus will be on crocheting and using marbles, acrylics, jewelry making, and 3-D art to explain the Kwanzaa principle of Ujima.

Wednesday, Dec. 30; 10:30 a.m.—Kwanzaa Workshop

Kwanzaa: Nia (Purpose)

Three storytellers—Baba-C, Jose Grevis and Ayo Handy-Kendi—use the spoken word to restore the African American community and its people to their traditional greatness. This interactive literary experience will embrace the young and the young at heart.

** **“The African Presence in Mexico”** exhibitions project was organized by the National Museum of Mexican Art, Chicago. The Washington, D.C. presentation received federal support from the Latino Initiatives Pool, administered by the Smithsonian Latino Center. Exhibition programs and special events are presented in collaboration with the Smithsonian Latino Center, the National Museum of African Art, the Mexican Cultural Institute, and the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage. Chase is the national sponsor for the traveling exhibitions. ###

Note to editors: Images for some public programs are available and may be obtained by calling (202) 633-4876.

.