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Public only: (202) 633-1000; <http://anacostia.si.edu>

Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum April – September 2007 Updated Calendar of Exhibitions and Public Programs

Calendar editors please note:

All exhibitions are at the Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum located at 1901 Fort Place SE, Washington, DC. For general information, call (202) 633-1000 or visit <http://anacostia.si.edu>. Most public programs take place at the museum unless otherwise indicated. The phone number for programs requiring reservations is (202) 633-4844. The museum is open every day from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., except Dec. 25.

CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

LAST CHANCE TO VIEW THESE EXHIBITIONS:

“Two Hundred Years of Black Paper Dolls: The Collection of Arabella Grayson,” – through April 29, 2007
(modified description)

This exhibition features the collection of Arabella Grayson, whose interest in finding paper playthings that look like her evolved into a passionate journey. The paper dolls presented provide an accurate reflection of social changes, illustrate attitudes and societal perceptions and too often depict the caricatures and ethnic stereotypes that define the place, role and status of people of African origin in society. Grayson’s intriguing exposition begins with, one of the early African American paper dolls, an image of Topsey, made in 1863 to promote the book “Uncle Tom’s Cabin,” and continues with current day representations. The collection includes paper dolls from Canada, Britain, Germany, Sweden and Italy.

“D.C. Undercover: Photographs by Steven M. Cummings,” – through April 29, 2007

Steven Cummings’ passion is photographing people in and around the city who, as it turns out, often wear caps and hats. In one section of “D.C. Undercover,” he captures the images of those engaged in a variety of daily activities including attending church, youthful play and neighborhood shopping. Cummings also has photographed African American women who attended a special “Hat Tea” that was held at the Anacostia Community Museum. These images attest to the special bond that is often forged between a hat and a proud wearer.

“Banding Together: School Bands as Instruments of Opportunity” – through May 14, 2007

This highly visual exhibition presents a century and a half of the history, community impact and support of instrumental music education in Washington, D.C., public schools from the 1880s to 2006. Special emphasis is placed on the story of the development of junior and senior high school cadet (military) bands and their evolution into the popular marching and show bands of today. “Banding Together” explores the challenges and benefits of band membership, and examines the state of public school band programs today. Band uniforms, historic photographs, instruments and recordings are among the items telling the story of this significant community tradition. Interactive displays allow the visitor to participate in the band experience.

UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS THOUGH 2007

A Creative Profile: Artists of the East Bank (Juried Exhibit) - May 13, 2007 – Aug. 12, 2007

In this juried exhibition, the Smithsonian’s Anacostia Community Museum and the Ward 7 Arts Collaborative present works by artists who live East of the River in the District of Columbia. The exhibition will include a variety of media reflecting the visual interests of a diverse community of professional artists. The Ward 7 Arts Collaborative is a

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Washington, D.C., arts organization that serves its community in the areas of arts advocacy and promotion, networking, capacity building, and youth/community development.

Voices & Visions of Tha Bloc: An Exhibition by Ellis L. Marsalis, III - June 10, 2007 – Aug. 12, 2007

(Note to editors: modified title and description) Using photographs, poetry, and essays, Ellis L. Marsalis III details the lives on one block in Baltimore City. Developed over the past decade, the exhibition exposes the paradoxes of the mythologies held by his neighbors and those off the block.

East of the River: Continuity and Change - Sept. 15, 2007 - April 27, 2008

The Anacostia Community Museum's 40th Anniversary Exhibition (Note to editors: modified opening date and title)

East of the River: Continuity and Change is a documentation and exhibition project that looks at the history and the community life of neighborhoods east of the Anacostia River on the occasion of the Anacostia Community Museum's 40th Anniversary. The exhibit, which will occupy all three of the Museum's galleries, focuses on the past, present, and future of Anacostia and the surrounding areas offering projections and visions of this evolving community.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

APRIL 2007

Doll Tea Party -Sat. April 7, 1:00 p.m.

Little girls and big girls are cordially invited to bring their best doll friend to a punch and cookies tea party. Participants will make a paper doll that looks like them or their doll. The event is appropriate for ages 5 to adult. Reservations are required by April 2.

Preserving the Music: The Safekeeping of Photographs, Documents, and Musical Instruments - Sat. April 21, 1:00 p.m.

Join Jennifer Morris, the museum's archivist and Habeebah Muhammad, the registrar, as they discuss the materials, supplies, and techniques for maintaining a musical archives and collection. Larry Jernagin and Chuck West, music service technicians of the District of Columbia Public Schools music department, offer valuable lessons on the safekeeping, basic maintenance, handling, and storage of musical instruments. Co-sponsored with Community Help In Music Education (CHIME) the event is appropriate for general audiences. Reservations are required.

The ABCs of Jazz: A Birthday Bash - Fri. April 27, 7:00 p.m.

Location: THEARC (Town Hall Education Arts & Recreation Campus) 1901 Mississippi Avenue SE

Join Kwelismith and her trio in celebrating the April births of many of our jazz greats in this performance and discussion: Alberta Hunter, born April 2; Billie Holiday, born April 7; Bessie Smith, born April 15; Carmen McRae, born April 9; Duke Ellington, born April 28; and Ella Fitzgerald, born April 25. Kwelismith and her trio will perform many of their standards and discuss why they are the Jazz Masters. Event is appropriate for general audiences.

MAY 2007

The Portfolio: A Professional Guide to Presenting Your Art and Yourself

Tues. May 8, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

This program is designed to assist emerging and professional artists develop the tools necessary to present and promote their work to professional galleries and museums. Camille Giraud Akeju, director of the Anacostia Community Museum, shares her insights on the winning processes necessary to have your work considered and exhibited in professional arts forums. College-bound students can also benefit from this guidance on portfolio development, documentation of work, bio preparation, and how to talk about the products of your creative process. Feel free to bring actual or photo portfolios of your work and a willingness to participate in a discussion and critique. Ms. Akeju is former president and CEO of the Harlem School of the Arts, instructor of fine art at Fisk University, and director of the AC-BAW (Association of Community-Based Artists of Westchester) Center for the Arts (Mt. Vernon, NY). Reservations are required.

Shaw Junior High School Performs CANCELLED

Sat. May 12, 11:00 a.m.

The Shaw Junior High School Marching Band, known as “the baddest of all middle schools,” presents energized popular music and dance routines. This program is co-sponsored with Community Help In Music Education (CHIME) and is for general audiences. The rain date is May 26. Reservations are required.

The D.C. Caribbean Carnival - Tues. May 15, 10:30 a.m.

Laughton Sargeant, executive director of the annual D.C. Caribbean Carnival, Inc., discusses annual Carnival celebration and its importance in recognizing the cultural heritage of the Washington, D.C., Caribbean community. Included in this yearly celebration are bands and marching groups representing Trinidad, Haiti, Grenada, the Bahamas, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Sargeant uses video, photographs, and costumes to present this unique offering of the African Diaspora. The event is appropriate for general audiences. Reservations are required.

JUNE, 2007

Gallery Talk:

Voices & Visions of Tha Bloc: An Exhibition by Ellis L. Marsalis III - Sat. June 9, 11:00

Join poet and photographer Ellis L. Marsalis III as he shares his perspectives on the stories behind the people and subjects chosen for the photographs and poetry in “Voices & Visions of Tha Bloc: An Exhibition by Ellis L. Marsalis III.” Marsalis will also read poems from the book, “Tha Bloc,” which are featured in the exhibition. The event is appropriate for general audiences. Reservations are required.

Workshop: “Telling Stories” - Sat. June 23, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Photographer and poet Ellis L. Marsalis III leads a multidisciplinary writing workshop based on the role of mythology as seen in the stories about a people and community. The artist will begin with a tour of the exhibit “Voices & Visions of Tha Bloc.” Following the tour Marsalis will offer a photo-reading presentation of his work completed under the name “t.p. Luce” for the book “Tha Bloc,” with an emphasis on Parts One and Two. Marsalis will engage participants in a discussion about myths and truths as they pertain to community life. Participants will share their own interpretations about the stories in “Voices & Visions of Tha Bloc” through written exercises. The event is appropriate for young adults and adults. Reservations are required.

Getting the Most Out of Acrylic Painting - Sat. June 30, 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon

Dianne Bugash, artist and painting instructor at Montgomery College (Maryland), discusses the versatility of acrylic paints. Bugash shows how acrylic paint can be successfully applied to paper, canvas, glass, wood, and metal surfaces with little effort. Through a hands-on session with participants, she also shares how acrylic paints can be mixed with gels and pastes to achieve textured surfaces and other special effects. Free resources, handouts, and sample bags are available. The event is appropriate for general audiences and art enthusiasts. Reservations are required.

JULY, 2007

The African American Experience in Alexandria, Virginia - Tues. July 17, 10:00 a.m.

Louis Hicks, director of the Alexandria Black History Museum, presents the rich history of the District’s sister city, Alexandria, Virginia. Hicks explains the rich historical legacy of those who contributed to making this northern Virginia city a special place to live and work. Alexandria is home to historic churches, parks, the site where the first sit-in was staged, places where enslaved Africans were sold—attesting to the diversity of African American heritage and the triumph of the spirit. The event is appropriate for general audiences. Reservations are required.

AUGUST, 2007

Friday Night Poetry Slam - Fridays, August 10 and 24, 7:00 p.m.

Kenneth Carroll, DC WritersCorps director and member of the 1996 DC National Slam Team, is the mastermind behind this series of poetry slams. Formulated primarily for teens and young adults, these open mic poetry competitions will be judged by audience members and surprise judges on some nights. Prizes for the poetry competition are sponsored by Borders Books & Music, DC WritersCorps, and the Anacostia Community Museum. This program is hosted by Isaac

Colon, 2000-2002 DC Youth National Slam Team member, and other DC WritersCorps poets.

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Note to Editors: Images are available for the exhibitions and selected public programs at newsdesk.si.edu.