Smithsonian
Anacostia Community Museum

News

October, 2006

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Smithsonian's Anacostia Community Museum

October – December Calendar of Exhibitions and Public Programs

Calendar editors please note:
All events are held at the Smithsonian's Anacostia Community Museum located at 1901 Fort Place S.E., Washington, D.C. For information, call (202) 633-1000 or visit http://anacostia.si.edu. All public programs require reservations and take place at the museum unless otherwise indicated. For reservations, call (202) 633-4844. The museum is open every day from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., except Dec. 25.

CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

Last Chance – Closing Oct. 15
"New Orleans Black Mardi Gras Indians: Exploring a Community Tradition from an Insider's View"
This exhibition features selected portraits of Mardi Gras Black Indians and their unique masking traditions by New Orleans photographer J. Nash Porter. Also on view from the museum's collection are Mardi Gras Indian suits. Video recollections from costume makers and maskers offer a glimpse into this rich community cultural tradition.

Last Chance – Closing Oct. 15
"Through Their Eyes: Birney Elementary School Students Photograph Anacostia"
Thirteen students from James Gillespie Birney Elementary School in southeast Washington, D.C., document the Anacostia community and nearby neighborhoods in a photographic exhibition that includes everyday scenes, special events, residents and places of interest.

"Banding Together: 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.

"Two Hundred Years of Black Paper Dolls: The Collection of Arabella Grayson," Nov. 12 – 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," Nov. 12 – 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.

CANCELLED EXHIBITION: "The Art of Eric Scott," Nov. 12 – Feb. 11, 2007

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

October 2006

Black History Month Planning Clinic
Thursday, Oct. 12
10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Develop personal, family, community or organizational African American History Month programs. Museum staff will help participants research and develop a topic or design and produce their own mini-exhibition or program. Participants should bring their lunch.

Black Virtuosi: African American Stringed Musicians
Tuesday, Oct. 17
10:30 a.m.

Join violinist Phyllis Fleming as she discusses the role of African American string musicians and their role as contributors to the enhancement of Western classical music and the foundation of American music. The list of distinguished artists will include Will Marion Cook; Joseph Douglass, grandson of the honorable Frederick Douglass; Kemper Harreld; Leonard Jeter; Louis Vaughn Jones; Felix Weir; David I. Martin; and Clarence Cameron White.

Document Your Family's History
Saturday, Oct. 28
10:30 a.m.

Start now to investigate, interpret, and record your family's history. Historian Maria Goodwin shows where to look, what should be included in the search and creative ways to use what is found. Participants are encouraged to bring in examples of what they have accomplished and to share ideas and personal history with the group.

November 2006

Holiday Quilt Postcard Art
Saturday, Nov. 4
10:30 a.m.

Maria R. Goodwin, quilter, author and family historian presents this no-sew/low-sew workshop showing participants how to make postcard quilts using mostly scissors, fusible webbing, fabrics and beads. Make personal postcards for the holidays—maybe add a photograph. Some supplies will be provided, but registrants will receive a supply list. The workshop is limited to 15 participants, ages 15 to adult. To register, mail in the registration fee ($15 per person) with your name, address and daytime phone number by Nov. 1. Make check or money order payable to: Education Department; Anacostia Community Museum; 1901 Fort Place S.E; Washington, D.C. No telephone reservations will be taken, however, for more information, call (202) 633-4866.

Collecting the History of Black Paper Dolls – "200 Years of Black Paper Dolls" Exhibition Program
Saturday, Nov. 11
1:00 p.m.

Join Arabella Grayson, collector, as she discusses the history of black paper dolls through the display of her collection, currently on view at the museum in the exhibition "200 years of Black Paper Dolls: The Collection of Arabella Grayson."

Curtis Robinson: From Tuskegee Airman to Washington Pharmacist
Tuesday, Nov. 14
10:30 a.m.

Curtis Robinson, a former pilot of the famed Tuskegee Airmen, discusses how he used his military experience to open and manage a chain of pharmacies in Washington, D.C. Robinson, who currently owns Robinson's Apothecary at 10th and East Capitol Streets N.E., explains how his businesses made a difference in the communities of Southeast, Shaw and the U Street area of N.W., Capitol Hill and the Brentwood area of N.E. He also reflects on the many social changes that occurred during his tenure as a local entrepreneur. The story of his life is recounted in his book "A Pilot's Journey". Signed copies will be available for purchase.

Paper Doll Angel—"Just Like Me" – "200 Years of Black Paper Dolls" Exhibition Program
Saturday, Nov. 25
10:30 a.m.

Adults and children will work together to create a paper doll angel that looks like themselves. After hearing the story "An Angel Like Me" by Mary Hoffman, participants will decorate pre-cut paper dolls to celebrate the various winter holidays. The book's main character, Tyler, looks at a Christmas-tree angel and asks, "Why are they always pink? Aren't there any black angels?" Then, late on Christmas day, a surprise delivery convinces Tyler that there is "an angel just like me." For children ages 4 and older.

December 2006

A Pre-Kwanzaa Celebration
Saturday, Dec. 2
1 p.m.

Bring the entire family to this celebration and learn about the seven principles of living that make Kwanzaa an important African American holiday. Hear those principles come to life through a storyteller and a musician.

CANCELLED:
D.C. School Bands: Glorious Past, Challenging Future—Part I
Panel presentation
Friday, Dec. 8
7 p.m.
Location: Ballou High School, 3401 4th St. S.E., Washington, D.C.
A generation ago, D.C. high school bands shaped many young lives and were sources of school, neighborhood and city pride. Today, many east of the River bands have disappeared and most others are facing a difficult time ahead. What would bring them back? Join former and current band directors, school administrators, former and current band members, and others in this lively discussion on the D.C. school bands and their impact on the community. Also featured are video clips and a musical performance. Co-sponsored with Community Help In Music Education, this program is being presented in connection with the exhibition, "Banding Together: School Bands as Instruments of Opportunity" on view at the Smithsonian's Anacostia Community Museum through May 14, 2007. No reservations are required, but for more information, call (202) 232-2731 or (202) 633-4868.

A Kwanzaa Celebration Holiday workshop
Thursday, Dec. 28
10:30 a.m.

This is the third day of Kwanzaa and the principle is Ujima (collective work and responsibility). Artist and educator Julee Dickerson Thompson will teach you and your family how to work collectively to create many of the symbols of Kwanzaa and demonstrate how to set a Kwanzaa table. Participants also will learn about the seven principles that make Kwanzaa an important African American holiday.

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Note to calendar editors: Select images for publicity only are available for all exhibitions and some public programs at www. newsdesk.si.edu. Call (202) 633-4876 for additional information.