



Media only: Marcia Baird Burriss (202) 633-4876

January, 2007

Public only: (202) 633-1000

Smithsonian's Anacostia Community Museum

January – June 2007 Calendar of Exhibitions and Public Program

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

“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,” – 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.

May 13, 2007 – Aug. 12, 2007

A Creative Profile: Artists of the East Bank (Juried Exhibit)

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

June 10, 2007 – Aug. 12, 2007

Voices and Visions of Tha' Bloc: An Exhibition by Ellis L. Marsalis, III

A culmination of seven years of work, this exhibition combines a photo documentary essay on youth in a Baltimore community with original poetry. "Voices and Visions" portrays one man's journey into his own evolving neighborhood and into the lives of his neighbors. Designed to engage African American youth in creative expression, educational programming will include photo projects, poetry slams and other creative media.

Sept. 16, 2007 - April 27, 2008

The Anacostia Community Museum's 40th Anniversary Exhibition

East of the River: Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow

East of the River: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow 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

January 2007

Art Dolls from Paper

Sat. Jan. 3

10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Francine Haskins, doll artist and children's book author and illustrator, will lead a workshop showing participants how to use paper to create art dolls. Participants are encouraged to bring buttons, laces and other notions to inspire and enhance their creations. The activity is appropriate for ages 6 and up. Register by mailing a \$10.00 fee per person, and indicate your name, address and daytime phone number by Jan. 26. Make check or money order payable to: Education Department, Anacostia Community Museum and send to 1901 Fort Place, SE, Washington, DC 20020.

"From Civil Rights to Black Power"

Spoken word event and panel featuring in concert "The Last Poets" and "Amiri Baraka"

Thurs. Jan. 11

7:00 p.m.

Location: Baird Auditorium National Museum of Natural History's at 10th St. and Constitution Avenue NW.

Before there was spoken word, there were "The Last Poets" and "Amiri Baraka" who are featured together in this rare appearance at the Museum's 22nd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. program on t 7 p.m. at the Laini Mataka is mistress of ceremony for this historic event presented in collaboration with the DC WritersCorp.

Admission is free but seating is limited and tickets are required. Besides the Museum, free tickets can be picked up in advance at Busboys and Poets at 2021 14th St. NW and at Karibu Books stores located at Bowie Town Center, Iverson Mall, Pentagon City, Forestville Mall and Prince George's Plaza. For more information, call (202) 633-4875.

Mardi Gras Family day Art and Music Festival

Sat. Jan 24

10:30 a.m.

Mardi Gras was Tuesday, but let's keep the celebrations going on a bit longer. Join us for an afternoon of story telling, music making, dressing in fine costumes, creating your own masks, seeing videos of New Orleans Mardi Gras celebrations and learning more about Mardi Gras Black Indians. The activity is appropriate for ages 6 and up.

February 2007

Art Dolls from Paper

Sat. Feb. 3

10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Francine Haskins, doll artist and children's book author and illustrator, will lead a workshop showing participants how to use paper to create art dolls. Participants are encouraged to bring buttons, laces, and other notions to inspire and enhance their creations. To register, mail in: a registration fee (\$10.00 per person), your name, address, and daytime phone number by January 26. Make check or money order payable to: Education Department; Anacostia Community Museum; 1901 Fort Place, SE; Washington, D.C. No telephone reservations will be taken but for more information, call (202) 633-4866.

Mardi Gras Family Day—Art and Music Festival

Sat. Feb. 24

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Mardi Gras was Tuesday, but let's keep the celebration going a bit longer. The event features an afternoon of storytelling, music making, dressing in fine costumes, creating your own masks, seeing videos of New Orleans Mardi Gras celebrations and learning about the Black Mardi Gras Indians.

March 2007

Ballou High School Band Performs

Sat. March 10

11:00 a.m.

Join Ballou High School's drum line, K-Phi-Boom, as it showcases award-winning drumming techniques using intricately performed percussion styles. The band is led by Darrell Watson. This program is co-sponsored with Community Help In Music Education (CHIME). The rain date is March 17. The event is appropriate for general audiences.

National Quilt Day – “Learn To Quilt”

Sat. March 17

11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

In celebration of National Quilt Day, join the Daughters of Dorcas and Sons for a “Learn to Quilt” session. Participants will learn how to make the basic 9-patch quilt, or the Amish Diamond. For those with some quilting experience, lessons on basic appliqué techniques will be offered. Walk in any time from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There will also be quilting books on display featuring the heritage/ and history of quilting in the African American community. This free program is co-sponsored with the Daughters of Dorcas and Sons quilting organization and appropriate for ages 10 to adult.

Video showing: Drumline

Sat. March 24

10:30 a.m.

Devon Miles, a talented young Harlem drummer, is recruited by a southern university for his musical talent. He initially flounders in his new environment, but ultimately leads the marching band’s drum line to victory. The film is appropriate for general audiences and is two hour in durations.

Create your “Family Cloth” Heirloom—A No-Sew/Low-Sew Workshop

Sat. March 31

10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Maria R. Goodwin, quilter, author, and family historian, bases this workshop on “The Collectibles Quilt” pattern by Wendy Etzel. Goodwin presents her version of this pattern for the non-quilter or person who does minimal machine sewing by fusing fabric to fabric with special webbing. Participants will be able to put together a small piece in a couple of hours. Most supplies will be furnished but registrants will be sent a list of supplies to bring with them. To register, mail in: a registration fee (\$20.00 per person), your name, address, and daytime phone number by March 15. Make check or money order payable to Anacostia Community Museum. Mail to Education Department, Anacostia Community Museum, 1901 Fort Place SE, Washington, DC, 20020. Workshop is limited to 12 participants, ages 15 to adult. No telephone reservations will be taken; however, for more information, call (202) 633-4866.

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. Call for reservations 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.

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 S.E

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). Call for reservations.

Shaw Junior High School Performs

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. Call for reservations.

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. Call for reservations.

June, 2007

Gallery Talk: Voices and Visions of Tha Bloc: An Exhibition by Ellis L. Marsalis

Sat. June 9

11:00 a.m.

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 and Visions of Tha Bloc: An Exhibition by Ellis L. Marsalis.” Marsalis will also read poems from the book, “Tha Bloc,” which are featured in the exhibition. The event is appropriate for general audiences. Call for reservations.

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 and 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 and Visions of Tha Bloc” through written exercises. The event is appropriate for young adults and adults. Call for reservations.

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. Call for reservations.

Renamed the Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum in 2006, the museum documents, preserves and interprets the cultural expressions and social experiences of African Americans from a community perspective. What started as the nation’s first federally funded neighborhood museum in 1967, is now recognized a national resource, creating critically acclaimed exhibitions, engaging public programs, and innovative community documentation initiatives. Its collection of holdings in art, religion, photography and family history dates to the early 1800s. Located at 1901 Fort Place S.E., Washington, D.C., the museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5p.m. daily, except Dec. 25. Admission is free. Information: (202) 633-4820. Tours: (202) 633-4870. Web site: <http://anacostia.si.edu>

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